



Extract

Leicester  
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Held: TUESDAY, 17 JANUARY 2023 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T :

Pantling (Chair)  
Councillor O'Donnell (Vice-Chair)

In Attendance:

Councillor Aldred  
Councillor Khan  
Councillor Nangreave

Councillor Pantling  
Councillor Sangster

In Attendance:

Councillor Dempster, Assistant City Mayor – Health

Also Present:

Ivan Browne – Director of Public Health

**43. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

**44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**53. DRAFT GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET**

The Director of Finance submitted a report setting out the City Mayor's proposed budget for 2023/24. The Commission was recommended to consider and comment on the Health and Wellbeing element of the report. The Commission's comments would be forwarded to the Overview Select Committee as part of its consideration of the report before being submitted to the Budget Council meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023.

Martin Judson, Head of Finance presented the item.

It was noted that:

- The budget for 2023/24 was £345m, with the expected spend to be £378m.
- To balance the budget, the Council's managed reserves would need to be used.
- The reserves were currently £55m, with £33m being used to support the 2023/24 budget.
- Following the usage of reserves for 2023/2024 budget, only £22m remained in reserves to support 2024/25 where a £44m gap was estimated. In 2025/26 there would be no reserves at all, with an estimated gap of £65m.
- In order to address the lack of reserves, savings would be brought forward throughout 2023/24 with appropriate consultation, to reduce the gap over the next coming years. To support the Council being reliant upon reserves to balance the budget.
- To date £6m of savings had been identified for the financial year ahead.
- The background to this severe financial position is due to the 10 years of austerity, the rising social care costs for both adults and children and that costs have not been matched by increases in income.
- There had not been any additional money in the settlement for inflation.
- The Government's autumn statement outlined that there would likely be further austerity from 2025/26.
- New funding had been made available for Councils to use for social care this year, due to the delay in adult social care reforms on capping the individual's social care costs over their lifetime.
- Although additional funding of £12m had been received for social care, this would not exceed the additional costs that the Council would face in terms of adult social care which were £19m.
- The Government had allowed the Council to increase Council Tax by 5%, which included 2% social care levy, as recommended in the report.
- The public health grant for next year, was not currently known, the national position was a 2% increase overall.

In response to Member's questions, it was noted that:

- There was no suggestion that there could be a reduction in the Public Health Grant, the suggestion proposed was to incorporate the grant within the overall Local Authority Funding.

**AGREED:**

That the Draft Revenue Fund Budget Report for 2023/24 be noted.