



# Rutland County Council

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Minutes of the **JOINT MEETING of the PEOPLE (ADULTS AND HEALTH) AND PEOPLE (CHILDREN) SCRUTINY PANEL** held in the Council Chamber on Wednesday, 18 January 2017 at 7.45pm

**PRESENT:**

Mr J Dale (in the Chair)	Mr M E Baines
Mr N Begy	Mr O Bird
Mr K Bool	Mrs R Burkitt
Mr G Conde	Mr W Cross
Mr R Gale	Mrs D MacDuff
Mr A Mann	Miss G Waller
Mr A Walters	

**APOLOGIES:**

Mr M Oxley	Mr C A Parsons
Mrs L Stephenson	

**ABSENT:**

**OFFICERS PRESENT:**

Dr T O'Neill	Director for People
Mr M Andrews	Deputy Director for People
Mr S Della Rocca	Assistant Director – Finance
Miss D Greaves	Finance Manager
Mr A Merry	Finance Manager
Ms R Wilshire	Head of Service - Children's Safeguarding
Ms B Caffrey	Head of Service Families Support – Early Intervention
Ms G Curtis	Head of Service – Lifelong Learning
Mrs S Ramsay	Corporate Support Officer
Mr K Silcock	Administrative Assistant (Corporate Support)

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr R Clifton	Portfolio Holder for Health and Adult Social Care
Mr R Foster	Portfolio Holder for Safeguarding Children and Young People
MR D Wilby	Portfolio Holder for Lifelong Learning

The meeting commenced at 7.52pm due to the previous Joint Scrutiny Panel finishing at 7.42pm.

## **516 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest from members.

## **517 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS**

No petitions, deputations or questions had been received.

## **518 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS**

No questions with notice had been received from Members.

## **519 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET 2017-18 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN**

Report No. 8/2017 was received from the Director for Resources. The purpose of the report was to present a draft budget for consultation prior to the budget being formally set in February 2017.

The Acting Leader, Mr Mathias, gave a brief overview of the report. He advised members that the Council was in the second year of a four year settlement from government which significantly reduced funding provided to local authorities. A further reduction was due to changes in the New Homes Bonus. Payments previously received for 6 years were being reduced to four years and a baseline of 0.4% is being introduced. This baseline represented the percentage of new housing the government expected and authority to build therefore the New Homes Bonus would now only be paid for new builds after a deduction for the baseline. He advised that Rutland's MP, Sir Alan Duncan, had written to the Government on the council's behalf requesting more funding. He summed up stating that the 2017/18 budget was robust but that there was uncertainty beyond 2020.

During the discussion the following points were noted:

- a. That the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) is being consulted on early in 2017 and not 2018 as the report indicated.
- b. The Better Care Fund (BCF) was used increasingly to try and prevent people from needing hospital services. Action taken to date has resulted in people leaving hospital quicker with delays reduced and a significant reduction in admissions to hospital through lower number of falls. Mr Andrews advised that social care delays had been reduced by 80% over a 2 year period. Investing in prevention has seen less complex cases for the authority.
- c. Members asked if the Council received recognition from either the NHS or Government for this performance. Mr Clifton advised that the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) was using Rutland as an example of good practice in this area.
- d. That maintained schools would be liable for the cost of the Apprenticeship Levy due to be introduced in April 2017. Members noted that education redundancies were no longer funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and sought clarification as whether this applied to all schools., Ms Greaves confirmed that this applied to maintained schools only.

- e. Statutory duties currently funded from the Education Services Grant include the Director of Children's Services, Welfare Services and, Asset management. With Government plans to cut this funding it was thought that there may be pressure on the General Fund. Dr O'Neill advised that policy is still evolving and the funding position is still under review. There was an intention to be more flexible around budgeting for statutory duties and that the aim would be to avoid creating a pressure on the General Fund but it was too early to tell.. He would welcome a robust scrutiny conversation on this at a later date.
- f. Members asked whether there may be some cost pressures as a result of the BCF being frozen but no issues were anticipated as there are some under spends in the existing programme.
- g. Members asked if officers were confident that each person receiving Council funded homecare were getting value for money and were reviewed on a regular basis. Mr Clifton advised that a review was currently being done and that the success in keeping people at home did increase pressure on domiciliary care. , A case by case review was also carried out a minimum of once per year depending on the nature of the case. If improvements were shown in any of those cases then a review would be done more often.
- h. The budget showed an increase in funding for Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards, Mr Andrews advised members that this was not an actual increase in the budget, but a consolidation of provision into one cost centre.

Mr Dale reminded members that they could still present feedback to Cabinet until 13 February 2017 with regard to the budget proposals.

**AGREED:**

- 1. That the Panel **NOTED** the Report.

**520 FEES AND CHARGES 2017/18**

Report No. 23/2016 was received from the Director for Resources. The report set out the proposals for fees and charges for services provided by the Council for the financial year 2017/18.

**AGREED:**

- 1. That the Panel **NOTED** the contents of the report.

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**The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.50pm.**

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