

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE PARTNERSHIP
REVENUES & BENEFITS JOINT COMMITTEE**

19 JANUARY 2023 AT 3.30 PM

PRESENT: Cllr P Dann - Chairman
Cllr R D Bayliss – Vice-Chairman
Cllr KWP Lynch

Also in attendance:

Officers in attendance: Andy Barton, Sophia Baldwin, Carolyn Bland, Julie Kenny, Sally O'Hanlon, Rebecca Valentine-Wilkinson and Ashley Wilson

28. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor DC Bill, and Councillor Ashman.

29. Declarations of interest

No interests were declared at this meeting.

30. Minutes of previous meeting

It was moved by Councillor Bayliss, seconded by Councillor Dann and

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

31. Budget Setting

The draft budget was presented for 2023/24.

In response to a question from members around other contributors, it was confirmed that the BID areas were also making contributions to the scheme.
It was

RESOLVED - the 2023/24 budget proposals for the Partnership were approved.

32. Financial Performance Report

The report presented the financial performance of the Partnership for the period April to December 2022 and it was confirmed that the budget showed an underspend on the current year. A further report would be submitted to this committee at the July meeting with the final financial position and what to do with the savings over the coming year. It was

RESOLVED – the financial performance report be noted.

33. Service Plan

The report presented the service plan 2023/24 for the three Local Authorities within the Partnership.

Better use of IT along with automated systems was an objective for the Partnership and those projects were already underway looking at alternative methods not requiring human intervention.

A number of risks were also identified within the report and this included the effects of the cost of living crisis on collection and increase in benefit claims. The Head of Partnership confirmed they would continue to promote the availability of council tax support and discretionary discounts to mitigate these issues.

In response to a question from members around their concern for self service options, it was confirmed that although some people wanted digital options of choice there were still those vulnerable people that would require help and support and there would still be options for staff to be able to provide this support. It was

RESOLVED – the service plan report be noted.

34. **Performance Report**

This report provided data from April to November 2022 on the performance of the Partnership.

It was confirmed that there was an increase in caseload, with no budget for additional staffing and there were already significant issues with recruitment to the team.

In addition the Partnership was expecting two new schemes coming into effect (“Alternative Energy” and “Alternative Funding”) and these schemes would also have significant impact on resources. It was

RESOLVED – the performance report be noted.

35. **Forward Plan**

Members discussed the forward plan. It was

RESOLVED – the forward plan be noted.

36. **Dates of future meetings**

Members discussed the dates and venues for future meetings and it was

RESOLVED – the dates and venues of future meetings be noted.

37. **Matters from which the public may be excluded**

38. **Confidential item**

The Head of Partnership provided an update. It was

RESOLVED – the verbal update be noted.

The meeting closed at 16.08.

(The Meeting closed at 4.08 pm)

CHAIRMAN