

HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
18 JANUARY 2023

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2022/23-2026/27

MINUTE EXTRACT

Public Health Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24-2026/27.

The Committee considered a joint report of the Director of Public Health and the Director of Corporate Resources which provided information on the proposed 2023/24 to 2026/27 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) as it related to Public Health. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda Item 9', is filed with these minutes.

The Chairman welcomed Mrs. L. Richardson CC, Cabinet Lead Member for Health, to the meeting for this item.

Mrs. Richardson CC stated that the budget had been challenging and services had been reviewed to ensure the best service for residents was provided. The department's funding came from the ringfenced Public Health Grant which meant there was a criteria for what the money could be spent on. The 2023/24 Public Health Grant allocation had not yet been announced and were it to be reduced compared to the previous year further cuts could have to be made.

In response to a question as to why savings had to be made if the Grant was ringfenced it was explained that Public Health Grant money could be spent in other County Council departments as long as it met the criteria. Decisions had to be made on whether to spend the money on the Public Health Department's own schemes or to use the money to support the work within other departments. If the money was to be spent in other County Council departments then savings would have to be made from the Public Health Department's own budget.

In response to a question from a member it was confirmed that due to rising inflation there was a concern that the Public Health Grant would be consumed by costs rather than on delivering services.

Members acknowledged the difficulties the department had faced in setting a budget and commended officers for their work.

With regards to the Homelessness Contract it was clarified that the contract was to provide support and improve the health and wellbeing of homeless people. Whilst many of the homeless people that received the support were based at the Falcon Centre in Loughborough, the contract did not fund the hostel itself. Therefore, were

the contract value to be reduced there would be no impact on the Falcon Centre core service. Members asked for a briefing note explaining this position to assist them.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report and information now provided be noted;
- (b) That the comments now made be forwarded to the Scrutiny Commission for consideration at its meeting on 30 January 2023.
- (c) That officers be requested to provide members with a briefing note regarding the situation with the Homelessness Contract.