

**HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**17 JANUARY 2024**

**MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2024/25-2027/28**

**MINUTE EXTRACT**

**Public Health Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25-2027/28.**

The Committee considered a joint report of the Director of Public Health and the Director of Corporate Resources which provided information on the proposed 2024/25 to 2027/28 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) as it related to Public Health. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda Item 8', is filed with these minutes.

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

Arising from discussion, the following points were noted:

- (i) The Public Health Department had 118 members of staff and this figure included the inhouse services that the department provided such as the Quit Ready scheme. Members commended the work that had been carried out by Public Health with that level of staffing.
- (ii) Members welcomed the role the Public Health department played in adding value to the work of other County Council departments and the NHS. It was emphasised that more needed to be done to publicise this.
- (iii) Members noted the large amount of savings that were projected for the MTFS period 2024/25 to 2027/28 and queried whether these numbers were achievable. In response it was explained that most of those savings had already been achieved for example with the difficult decisions that had been made around the homelessness support service, sport and physical activity programmes and school food.
- (iv) A member queried whether Public Health was spending the correct proportion of its budget on tackling obesity. In response the Director of Public Health acknowledged that more needed to be done in this area particularly as the percentage of adults aged 16 and over in Leicestershire that were meeting the '5 a day' recommendations was not as good as hoped. However, there were budget constraints and core costs such as the health visiting service had to be met. The weight management service received more Public Health funding than general obesity campaigns. On the whole the Director of Public Health felt that the balance was the correct one under the circumstances.

- (v) In 2023 a procurement process had taken place for the Integrated Sexual Health Service. Whilst there had been expressions of interest at the soft market testing stage, no providers had bid at the final stage. Therefore, a decision had been made to extend the contract of the current provider for a further 12 months.

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 29 January 2024.