

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

15 January 2025

Impacts of the 2025/26 Budget on Children's Services and Education

Report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To scrutinise the potential service impacts of the budget proposals that fall within Children's Services and Education.
- 1.2 To note that the overall financial impact of the budget, and the service impact of proposals that fall outside of the remit of this Committee will be scrutinised by the other Scrutiny Committees at their meetings in December / January as these matters fall outside the terms of reference for this Committee.

2 Action required

- 2.1 To discuss the service impact of proposals put forward from the Peoples Directorate concerning Children and Young People Services with the officers and Executive Councillors present, to gather information and draw conclusions.
- 2.2 To provide feedback to the relevant Executive Members.

3 Background information

3.1 The Role of Overview and Scrutiny

All Council's operating Executive Governance arrangements are required to establish Overview and Scrutiny Committees. These Committees act as a check and balance to the power of the Executive, holding decision makers to account for their decisions, reviewing proposals and supporting the development of policy. When operating effectively Overview and Scrutiny supports effective decision making and good governance through processes of supportive but robust challenge and transparent public accountability.

3.2 Scrutiny of the Budget – 2025/26

All Councils are legally required to agree a balanced budget, outlining how resources will be allocated to enable them to deliver their statutory responsibilities within their financial means. The Council continues to face significant budget pressures in future years and uncertainty, including the continuing level of support from Central Government, over the medium term. Due to an increased demand for services councils continue to operate in a challenging resource environment where changes to demands on services can lead to material budget variances.

3.3 In Nottingham, proposals have been drawn up by the Council's Executive Councillors and Senior Officers. At its meeting on 17 December 2024, Executive Board agreed to put these proposals to the public with a formal consultation process for those proposals requiring it.

3.4 Scrutiny of the Impact of Individual Proposals

This Committee is responsible for scrutinising the service impact of individual proposals put forward from the Peoples Directorate concerning Children and Young People Services. Matters to consider could include:

- a) What impacts the proposals will have on service users / citizens and how these impacts might be mitigated.
- b) How effectively equalities have been considered as part of the proposals.
- c) The robustness of the proposals.
- d) The impact proposals may have on each other.

Any comments or feedback should be fed back to the Executive Member.

3.5 As part of building on the existing Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) approved at Full Council on 04 March 2024, at its meeting on 25 January 2024, the Committee considered the 2024/2025 savings proposals which affected Children and Young People services and provided feedback to the Executive Member. The Committee further requested an item as part of its Work Programme for this municipal year that covered the impacts of the 2025/26 proposals. £2 million in savings are proposed to Children's Integrated services over the 2025-2029 period.

3.6 The service impact of the individual proposals put forward from the Council's other directorates will be scrutinised by the four other Overview and Scrutiny Committees at their meetings in December/January with comments fed back to the relevant Executive Members. In addition, the Corporate Scrutiny Committee, as the Scrutiny Committee responsible for finance, will provide feedback to the Executive on the overall budget once proposals have been finalised at its meeting in February. These matters fall outside of the Terms of Reference for this Committee and should not form part of the considerations at this meeting.

4 List of attached information

4.1 None.

5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information

5.1 None.

6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

- 6.1 [Budget Savings 2025/26 -2028/29 Report considered by Executive Board on 17 December 2024.](#)
- 6.2 [2024/25 Budget and Council Tax Resolution Report considered by City Council on 04 March 2024.](#)
- 6.3 [Meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, 25 January 2024.](#)

7 Wards affected

- 7.1 All

8 Contact information

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