

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council's response to your questions is shown below.

You asked:

We are conducting research into the financial performance of Local Authorities relative to their 2011/12 budgets and medium term financial strategies. In order to help us with this research, please provide information on the following:

1. For the financial year 2011/12 what are your planned savings in expenditure relative to the previous financial year? (Please give your answer in cash terms)
2. For the financial year 2011/12 how much of these savings (in cash terms) would you describe as efficiency savings (i.e. savings that do not impact on frontline service delivery or involve charging customers more for existing services)?
3. Using your most recent financial outturn data for the financial year 2011/12, what is your projected under/over spend relative to your budget for the year? What is the reason for this?
4. If the actual savings projected for the financial year 2011/12 fall short of planned savings, could you describe how you intend to fill this shortfall?
5. Could you briefly describe the systems you have in place for monitoring your financial performance through the year and how under/over spends are dealt with?
6. For the financial years 2012/13 and 2013/14 what are your planned savings in expenditure in cash terms relative to the previous financial years?

For your information this letter constitutes a refusal notice under Section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because an exemption under Section 21 of the act is being applied, namely the information is accessible by other means, e.g. The Council Website, as it is already in the public domain.

Please refer to documents namely the 2011/12 General Fund Budget report and the recently published monitoring reports:

<http://www.cabinet.leicester.gov.uk:8071/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=81&MIId=3805&Ver=4>

<http://www.cabinet.leicester.gov.uk:8071/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=654&MIId=4613&Ver=4>

In addition, the presentation to the OSC on 13th October providing an overview of the budget and listing the savings in each Division may be helpful and is attached.

It should also be noted that the Council is currently preparing its 2012/13 budget strategy and the forecast level of reductions is being reviewed. As part of the 2011/12 budget setting process, the Council identified that savings of £17m would be required in 2012/13 rising to £23m in 2013/14.

The legislation allows you to use the information supplied for your own personal use. Please be aware that any commercial or other use, for example publication, sale, or redistribution may be a breach of copyright under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 as amended unless you obtain the copyright holder's prior permission.

Not all the information that is supplied which is covered by copyright will be the Council's copyright, for example it may be the copyright of a government department or another Council. You should seek either the Council's consent or their consent as appropriate. The Council is willing to advise you of any such potential issues on request. In order to make a request to re-use the information please contact the Head of Information Governance using the details below.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please write to:

Head of Information Governance
Information and Support
Leicester City Council
FREEPOST (LE985/33)
New Walk Centre
LEICESTER LE1 6ZG
e-mail: foia@leicester.gov.uk

Your request for internal review should be submitted to the above address within 40 (forty) working days of receipt by you of this response. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at the Council's absolute discretion.

You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545 700
www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please be aware that the Information Commissioner does not normally consider appeals or complaints until the internal appeals and complaints processes of the public authority which is answering the request have been exhausted. You are therefore advised to complain or appeal to Head of Information Governance before contacting the Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

Lynn Wyeth
Head of Information Governance