

Birmingham City Council

Report to Cabinet

20 April 2021



Subject: DELIVERY PLAN RESERVE

Report of: Rebecca Hellard,
Interim Chief Finance Officer

Relevant Cabinet Member: Cllr Tristan Chatfield - Finance and Resources

Relevant O &S Chair(s): Cllr Sir Albert Bore - Resources

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Are specific wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – All wards affected
If yes, name(s) of ward(s):		
Is this a key decision?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, add Forward Plan Reference:		
Is the decision eligible for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential:		

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The City Council's Delivery Plan for 2020-2022 has set in train a significant programme of work and this investment is planned to be funded from the Delivery Plan Reserve.
- 1.2 This paper sets out a proposal to release the £5m from the Delivery Plan Reserve to enable the swift funding of key work to avoid delay.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To agree the release of £5m from the Delivery Plan Reserve to a corporate budget and that allocations from this budget are delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, the Chief Finance Officer and the City Solicitor.

3 Background

- 3.1 The Birmingham City Council Delivery Plan for 2020-2022 sets out a work programme for the next 18 months, with a continued focus on the six priority outcomes for Birmingham:
- An entrepreneurial city to learn, work and invest in
 - An aspirational city to grow up in
 - A fulfilling city to age well in
 - A great city to live in
 - A city whose residents gain the most from hosting the 2022 Commonwealth Games
 - A city that takes a leading role in tackling climate change
- 3.2 There are three priority areas in the Delivery Plan which are fundamental to tackling the critical challenges of creating a more equal and inclusive city whilst managing demand on council services to a more affordable level. These areas need to be shaped now and continue to develop beyond 2022.
- Area 1 – Shifting our focus from crisis to prevention
 - Area 2 – Increasing the pace and scale of growth, for those that need it the most, working while delivering our climate change objectives
 - Area 3 – Delivering new ways of working
- 3.3 A Delivery Plan Reserve (DPR) has been established in 2020 to enable the necessary investment required by the three priority areas. The balance on the reserve at 1 April 2021 is forecast to be £60.4m.
- 3.4 Delivery Plan business cases are now expected in June 2021, instead of March 2021. They will be reported to Cabinet together with their investment requests from the Delivery Plan Reserve. There is an urgent need to facilitate enabling expenditure to support the finalisation of these business cases. The budget for Delivery Plan programme management in 2020/21 was £4m. The 2021/22 budget contains a further £1.25m for programme management. To date that expenditure has been on external consultancy and specialist support. The 2021/22 budget was predicated on business cases being completed in March 2021 with only the need

for some residual consultancy support in 2021/22. Additional resources will be now needed to continue the programme management and enabling work through to conclusion in June 2021.

- 3.5 The proposal in this report is for Cabinet to release £5m held in the Delivery Plan Reserve into a corporate budget and delegate allocations from this budget to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources the Chief Finance Officer and the City Solicitor.
- 3.6 The Corporate Programme Management Officer will oversee allocations, keep proper records and report to the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, the Chief Finance Officer and the City Solicitor on the allocations made alongside progress with the programme.

4 Options considered and Recommended Proposal

- 4.1 The approach outlined in this paper is the recommended option to enable the swift progressing of Delivery Plan business cases.
- 4.2 An alternative would be to make regular requests of Cabinet to release funding based on individual requests. However, this is could lead to delays in funding decisions, would be impractical and would likely lead to some non-delivery of business cases for the June deadline.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 Consultation has not been necessary on this proposal.

6 Risk Management

- 6.1 The Council has an established approach to risk management which is set out in the Strategic Risk Register. The approach recommended in this report is intended to mitigate risks around timely progress of the Delivery Plan business cases.

7 Compliance Issues:

- 7.1 The plans detailed within this paper are in line with the Financial Plan 2021-2025 agreed by the City Council on 23 February 2021.

7.2 Legal Implications

- 7.2.1 The spend of the delegated £5m must be in accordance with the decision-making processes as set out in the Council's constitution. It is advisable that the City Solicitor is consulted alongside the Chief Finance Officer.

7.3 Financial Implications

- 7.3.1 The financial implications are set out in the report. The recommendation is in line with the purpose of the Delivery Plan Reserve set out in the Financial Plan 2021-2025.

7.3.2 Corporate Programme Management Office proposal elsewhere on the Cabinet agenda is intended to provide proper governance and control of the programme and to ensure value for money in the use of these resources.

7.4 Human Resources Implications

7.4.1 There are no direct human resource implications in this proposal.

7.5 Public Sector Equality Duty

7.5.1 Full equality impact assessments under the Equality Act 2010 will be completed for any Delivery Plan proposals that require it. This duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities. Please note the obligation on the Council to comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty is set out within the Equality Act [2010].

8 Appendices

8.1 None

9 Background Documents

9.1 Financial Plan 2021-2025 City Council 23 February 2021