

Birmingham City Council

Neighbourhood Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date 1 November 2023



Subject: Scrutiny of Delivery of 2023/24 Budget Savings

Report of: Christian Scade, Head of Scrutiny and Committee Services

Report author: Sarah Fradgley, Overview and Scrutiny Manager
Sarah.fradgley@birmingham.gov.uk
0121 303 1727

1 Purpose

- 1.1 It was agreed at Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 15 September 2023 that all O&S Committees will continue to scrutinise the delivery of existing 2023/24 savings.
- 1.2 Appendix 1 sets out the red, amber, green (RAG) rated savings for 2023/24 by Committee progress on delivery of savings at Quarter 2.
- 1.3 This information (set out in 1.1 and 1.2) was initially presented to the Committee on 4 October 2023 and members requested that greater detail be provided on each of the savings areas, specifically that:
 - Additional information for each saving to be provided.
 - Relevant officers attend future committee meetings to provide the details of the savings and respond to Members questions.
- 1.4 The purpose of this report is to enable members to scrutinise the delivery of savings including the following questions that were raised at the meetings on 6 September and 4 October:
 - What was the rationale for each of the identified savings areas?
 - What progress has been made towards achieving the medium-risk and high-risk savings?
 - What is the expected impact on Pest Control services to the public?
 - Do Green Waste rebates for missed collections impact on the anticipated savings?
 - What alternatives are being considered for savings classified as Potential Write Off at Quarter 2?

- 1.5 Members are asked to note that a Task and Finish Group to be led by Finance and Resources OSC has been established by Co-ordinating OSC and will look at budget and savings across the council in further detail.

2 Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 2.1 Notes the information set out in the appendices and the updates provided by officers in relation to in year savings including those issues set out in 1.4 above.
- 2.2 Identifies future issues regarding delivery of 2023/24 savings within the remit of the Committee's terms of reference (outlined in the [Council's Constitution, Part B, section 11.5](#)) and agrees any comments.

3 Any Finance Implications

- 3.1 Following the review of the savings, if these are deemed deliverable then this will help reduce the budget gap from 2023/24 onwards. If there are deemed unachievable then alternative saving ideas/options will need to be put forward to reduce the council's budget gap from 2023/24 onwards.

4 Any Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report, however the proposed Task and Finish Group led by Finance and Resources may require legal advice and support on specific issues as its work progresses.

5 Any Equalities Implications

- 5.1 The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:
- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
 - advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 5.2 The protected characteristics and groups outlined in the Equality Act are: Age; Disability; Gender Reassignment; Marriage and Civil Partnership; Pregnancy and Maternity; Race; Religion and Belief; Sex, and Sexual Orientation.
- 5.3 The Committee should ensure that it addresses these duties by considering them during work programme development, the scoping of work, evidence gathering and making recommendations. This should include considering: How policy issues impact on different groups within the community, particularly those that share a relevant protected characteristic; Whether the impact on particular groups is fair and proportionate; Whether there is equality of access to services

and fair representation of all groups within Birmingham; Whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people are being realised.

- 5.4 The Committee should ensure that equalities comments, and any recommendations, are based on evidence. This should include demographic and service level data and evidence of residents/service-users views gathered through consultation.

6 Appendices

- 6.1 Appendix 1: Update on Delivery of 2023/24 Savings During Q2 O&S Committee