

Birmingham City Council

Report to Cabinet

27 February 2024



Subject: Response to Budget Scrutiny Task & Finish Group

Report of: Leader, Councillor John Cotton

Relevant Cabinet Member: Leader, Councillor John Cotton
Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources, Councillor Brigid Jones

Relevant O&S Chair(s): Chair of Coordinating Overview & Scrutiny, Councillor Sir Albert Bore
Chair of Finance & Resources Overview & Scrutiny, Councillor Jack Deakin

Report author: Fiona Greenway, Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer

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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 type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| If relevant, add Forward Plan Reference: | | |
| Is the decision eligible for call-in? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" 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: N/A | | |

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report responds to the work completed by the Budget Scrutiny Task & Finish Group, and the report of the same name (Budget Scrutiny Task & Finish Group Report) which was presented to Finance & Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee in January 2024 (Appendix 1 refers).

1.2 This work was completed between November 2023 and January 2024, and over this period a cross section of Members from political parties challenged key elements of the live budget process. This facilitated openness and transparency in the budget process for Members, providing an additional level of credibility to the presented 2024/25 budget.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

- a) Note the Response to Budget Scrutiny Task & Finish Group, specifically the responses outlined at Appendix 2, and agrees to take in to account the recommendations in consideration of the draft 2024/25 budget.

3. Background

3.1 The recommendations created in the Task & Finish Group can be found at Appendix 1. The proposed response to each of the recommendations can be found at Appendix 2 of this report.

3.2 Cabinet acknowledges the value added to the 2024/25 budget setting process by the Budget Scrutiny Task & Finish Group.

4. Public Consultation and Engagement

4.1 This report has been written in consultation with Statutory Officers, Commissioners, and the Leader, Deputy Leader, and Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources.

4.2 The 2024/25 budget will be subject to legal advice and guidance regarding the Council's legal duties including on the duty to consult on individual savings proposals and other statutory obligations under the Equality Act 2010.

5. Risk Management

5.1 Risks and mitigations will be considered within the proposals put forward for the 2024/25 budget report.

6. Compliance issues

- 6.1 **How are the recommended decisions consistent with the City Council's priorities, plans and strategies?** This report supports the budget presented for the 2024/25 financial year.
- 6.2 **Legal Implications:** There are no specific legal implications for this report. All matters contained within the recommendations which have a legal consideration have been addressed in specific savings Delivery Plans.
- 6.3 **Financial Implications:** There are no specific financial implications for this report. All matters contained within the recommendations which have a financial implication have been addressed in specific savings Delivery Plans.
- 6.4 **Public Sector Equality Duty:** The Council will ensure that all actions taken in response to these recommendations are in line with the Public Sector Equality Duty.

7. Appendices

- 7.1 Appendix 1 – Budget Scrutiny Task and Finish Group Recommendations
- 7.2 Appendix 2 – Budget Scrutiny Task and Finish Group Recommendations - Responses