

Birmingham City Council

Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date 15 September 2023



Subject: Scrutiny Contribution to Budget Savings and Recovery Plan

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

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1 Purpose

- 1.1 To update the Committee on the report of the Section 151 Officer (the Chief Finance Officer), made under section 114 (3) of the Local Government Act 1988, published on 5 September, and for the Committee to consider the implications for the scrutiny work programme.
- 1.2 This agenda item also includes the Medium-Term Financial Plan, agreed by Cabinet in July, and a list of savings agreed as part of the 2023/24 budget setting process with RAG ratings.
- 1.3 This additional information, including the slides from the training delivered in July, is provided to assist with the discussion. However, it should be noted that this item was prepared, and shared with the other Overview and Scrutiny Committees, ahead of the Section 114 notice being issued.

2 Recommendations

The Committee:

- 2.1 Receives and notes a verbal update on the report (attached at Appendix 4) of the Section 151 Officer (the Chief Finance Officer) made under section 114 (3) of the Local Government Act 1988.
- 2.2 Considers the financial issues that are relevant to the Committee's terms of reference (outlined in the [Council's Constitution, Part B, section 11.5](#)) and what this means for the scrutiny work programme.

3 Any Finance Implications

3.1 Financial implications in relation to the report made under section 114 (3) of the Local Government Act 1988 are set out in Appendix 4.

4 Any Legal Implications

4.1 Legal implications in relation to the report made under section 114 (3) of the Local Government Act 1988 are set out in Appendix 4.

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: Medium Term Financial Plan – Report to Cabinet, 25 July 2023.

6.2 Appendix 2: Slides from Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee training session delivered by Fifield Training Ltd, 26 July 2023.

6.3 Appendix 3: Agreed Savings 2023-24, Q1.

6.4 Appendix 4: Section 114 Report