

Birmingham City Council

Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date 13 October 2023



Subject: Scrutiny of Delivery of 2023/24 Budget Savings and Update on Council's Response to Section 114 Notice and Financial Recovery Plan

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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. Appendix 1 sets out the red, amber, green (RAG) rated savings for 2023/24 by Committee and Directorate at the end of Quarter 1. Appendix 2 sets out the progress on delivery of savings during Quarter 2 and 3.
- 1.2 This agenda item also provides an opportunity for the Committee to consider the following and implications for the Committee's work programme:
- The report considered at City Council on 25 September on the Council's Response to the Section 114 Notice and Financial Recovery Plan.
 - The announcement made by the Secretary of State for the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities in the House of Commons on 19 September and the Section 5 Notice and supplementary Section 114 Notice issued on 21 September.
- 1.3 To assist with the task above the Scrutiny Team are in the process of contacting other authorities with similar experiences. Feedback on themes identified will be provided at the meeting.

2 Recommendations

The Committee:

- 2.1 Notes the Quarter 1 2023/24 savings set out in Appendix 1.

- 2.2 Receives the update for Q2 / Q3 attached as Appendix 2 and examines progress on delivery of the 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.
- 2.3 Considers the implications of recent events (highlighted in Section 1) on the scrutiny work programme.

3 Any Finance Implications

- 3.1 Financial implications are set out in the relevant appendices.

4 Any Legal Implications

- 4.1 Legal implications are set out in the relevant appendices.

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: 2023/24 Savings Q1 Position by O&S Committee
- 6.2 Appendix 2: Update on Delivery of 2023/24 Savings During Q2 and Q3 by O&S Committee
- 6.3 Appendix 3: Council's Response to the Section 114 Notice and Financial Recovery Plan
- 6.4 Appendix 4: Birmingham City Council, Letter to Chief Executive 19 September
- 6.5 Appendix 5: Section 5 Report - 21 September
- 6.6 Appendix 6: Supplementary Section 114 Notice – 21 September