

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

CO-ORDINATING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

FRIDAY, 17 MAY 2024 AT 10:00 HOURS
IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 3 & 4, COUNCIL HOUSE, VICTORIA
SQUARE, BIRMINGHAM, B1 1BB

A G E N D A

1 NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chair to advise/meeting to note that this meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Public-I microsite ([please click this link](#)) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

2 APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Members are reminded they must declare all relevant pecuniary and other registerable interests arising from any business to be discussed at this meeting.

If a disclosable pecuniary interest is declared a Member must not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless they have been granted a dispensation.

If other registerable interests are declared a Member may speak on the matter only if members of the public are allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless they have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', Members do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that they have an interest.

Information on the Local Government Association's Model Councillor Code of Conduct is set out via <http://bit.ly/3WtGQnN>. This includes, at Appendix 1, an interests flowchart which provides a simple guide to declaring interests at meetings.

- 3 - 8**
- 4 **MINUTES OF THE LAST COMMITTEE MEETING**
- To confirm the public minutes from the Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 19 March 2024.
- 9 - 10**
- 5 **COMMISSIONER'S REVIEW AND COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA**
- To note the comments received from the Commissioner on this agenda.
- 11 - 16**
- 6 **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE SAVINGS DELIVERY TASK AND FINISH GROUP MEETINGS**
- To consider savings delivery Task and Finish Group recommendations.
- 17 - 30**
- 7 **TASK AND FINISH GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE: CURRENT PRACTICES AND FUTURE USE OF INFORMATION TO INFORM WORK OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**
- To consider the proposed terms of reference for the Task and Finish Group
- 8 **REQUEST(S) FOR CALL IN/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION/PETITIONS RECEIVED (IF ANY)**
- To consider any request for call in/councillor call for action/petitions (if received).
- 9 **OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**
- To consider any items of business by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) that in the opinion of the Chair are matters of urgency.

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

COORDINATING O&S COMMITTEE – PUBLIC MEETING

1100 hours on Tuesday 19th March 2024, Committee Rooms 6,

Council House, Victoria Square, B1 1BB

Minutes**Present:**

Councillor Sir Albert Bore (Chair)

Councillors: Deirdre Alden, Mick Brown, Shabrana Hussain, Mohammed Idrees, Katherine Iroh, Morriam Jan, Kerry Jenkins, Ewan Mackey, Lee Marsham and Alex Yip

Also Present:

Max Caller CBE, Lead Commissioner

Christian Scade, Head of Scrutiny and Committee Services

Johane Gandiwa, Scrutiny Officer

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chair advised that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast via the Council's Public-I microsite ([please click this link](#)) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

2. APOLOGIES

No apologies were given.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

4. MINUTES – 26th January 2024

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 26th January 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5. CO-ORDINATING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ACTION TRACKER

The Chair, Cllr Sir Albert Bore, outlined the proposed amendments to the work programme. The Chair reiterated the need for scrutiny to focus on improvement and

recovery. Two workshops were held with the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS). A Draft Blueprint from Ed Hammond of CfGS had been received and would be shared with all Coordinating Committee members as well as Commissioners. The blueprint report sets out the proposed future work programme for Scrutiny Committees. Comments would be made on the Draft. The Chair also advised members of the meetings held with the Section 151 Officer, the Monitoring Officer, and the Lead Commissioner to set out the programme on budgetary issues.

The Chair proposed that in April, each Overview and Scrutiny Committee would hold Task & Finish Group meetings to consider Delivery Plans that sat behind every budget line. The Delivery Plans contained exempt information relating staffing, legal risks, Council commercial elements. As such, Task and Finish Groups would meet in private to consider such information as it cannot be published. The Chair had received legal advice on this matter. Cabinet Members and the Corporate Leadership Team, as appropriate, would be invited to attend these informal meetings.

The Chair further proposed that the Co-ordinating O&S Committee would convene a public meeting in May 2024 prior to the Annual Meeting of Council for a report back session by Scrutiny Committees. The advantage of May meeting was that it would bring some information into the public domain as soon as was practical possible. Beyond May meetings, each O&S Committee would hold meetings, in public, to review the implementation of the savings identified for 2024-25. The successor Coordinating OSC Committee would then consider a scrutiny contribution to the 2025-26 Budget.

Following deliberations on the proposals by the Chair, and assurances on the advantages of the private sessions for Task and Finish Groups, it was unanimously agreed as follows: -

RESOLVED:

- i. That the Co-ordinating OSC revised action tracker be noted.**
- ii. That Scrutiny Committees would convene informal Task and Finish Groups in April 2024 to discuss delivery plans and budget items.**
- iii. That a public meeting of Coordinating OSC Committee would be held in May 2024 to receive reports from Scrutiny Committees.**

6. COMMISSIONER'S REVIEW AND COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA

There were no comments.

7. LEAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

The Lead Commissioner, Max Caller CBE, updated the Committee on the progress recorded since government intervention in October 2023. He explained that Commissioners had been in post since 05th October 2023 and had assumed some of

the powers of Council as provided by the law. The Lead Commissioner explained that Commissioners exercised oversight of Council and were accountable to the Secretary of State and ultimately to Parliament. They were not accountable to the Council.

The Lead Commissioner added that as Commissioners, they were ready to work and engage with overview and scrutiny committees to ensure that Council performed better to come out of intervention. The Lead Commissioner emphasised that, in some areas, commendable progress had been noted and some of the services were improving. He reiterated the need for a culture change so that Members and Officers could work together for the good of the Council. A new report on the Member/Officer Relationships Protocol would be submitted to the Standards Committee on 28 March.

The Lead Commissioner outlined the various reports that the Commissioners had shared with the Secretary of State. The Lead Commissioner highlighted that the work that had been done by Scrutiny Committees on the budget was impressive. The work gave confidence to the Commissioners that the budget savings were deliverable. The Commissioner urged scrutiny to ensure that there was delivery and implementation of the budget as the historic challenge for Birmingham had been failure to deliver on the approved budgets.

The Lead Commissioner emphasised the need for Council to systematically address, amongst other issues, the revenue challenges, financial controls, spiralling adult health, and social care, equal pay liabilities and Oracle implementation. A Job evaluation needed to be done in close consultation with Trade Unions ahead of the 2025 deadline. The Lead Commissioner further called for focus to be placed on regeneration, service delivery and getting the basics right.

The Lead Commissioner informed the Committee of the advice that had been given to the Secretary of State. Following receipt of expert advice, he had recommended to the Secretary of State that the Audit Committee would be chaired by an Independent Member. The recommendation was informed by the size and scale of the budget of Birmingham City Council as well as a consideration of the specialist skills, and independence required to chair the Audit Committee. The Constitution would be amended to provide for the chairing of the Audit Committee by an Independent Member.

The Lead Commissioner encouraged Members to work at pace as more was expected of them. There were numerous opportunities for Council to deliver savings and move forward. Commissioners would adopt an interventionist approach to make things right. A culture change between Members and Officers would deliver the required positive change underpinned by mutual confidence, openness, and respect.

A discussion was then held, and the following were the responses provided by the Lead Commissioner.

- Effective scrutiny should lead to improved service delivery. This entailed, amongst others, working at pace using a variety of methods, including Task and Finish Groups. The benefits of working informally were highlighted along with the need for findings to be reported to formal committee meetings where key issues could be discussed in public.
- Scrutiny should also make use of people outside council, and not just rely on reports from Officers. This would bring a new perspective on the examination of issues. It was important for scrutiny to learn from and understand how things were done in other places as this would add to new insights and sharing of lived experiences.
- Commissioners would continue to provide the necessary guidance and oversight, and they would be watching budget implementation closely.
- The Secretary of State would continue to provide the necessary guidance, including on the way forward on the recruitment of the Chief Executive Officer.
- Experts would lead the process of resolving Oracle implementation and scrutiny must keep a close eye on this matter.
- Reports by Officers would be realigned so that there would be more focus on the big issues that members needed to know. There was a lot of material in the reports that was not crucial in supporting effective decision making.
- The Commissioners would actively engage with Scrutiny Committees so that the role of scrutiny would be amplified. The Lead Commissioner would continue sharing information, reports, and responses from the Secretary of State as and when they became publicly available so that scrutiny committees would be able to play their roles effectively.

The Chair of Coordinating O & S Committee stated that a meeting had been diarised with the Chair of the Audit Committee to discuss the working modalities between Audit and Scrutiny.

RESOLVED: -

- **That the update by the Lead Commissioner be noted.**

8. REQUEST(S) FOR CALL IN/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION/PETITIONS RECEIVED (IF ANY)

There were no requests for Call In for Co-ordinating OSC.

9. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee was scheduled for 19th April 2024.

The meeting ended at 12:28 pm.

Birmingham City Council
Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny
Committee

17th May 2024



Subject: Recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny
Committee Savings Delivery Task and Finish Group
meetings

Commissioner Review

The delivery of 2024/25 savings is critical to achieving what is a narrow path to financial sustainability. The 2024/25 budget is balanced as a result of the Exceptional Financial Support provided by Government. Of the £1.25bn provided, £240m was made available to balance the residual budget gap after budgeted savings of £150m. This financial support will need to be paid back through asset sales.

It is essential that the Scrutiny function continues to focus on savings delivery over coming months as non-achievement of savings will mean further asset sales will be required over and above the current target.

Birmingham City Council

Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee

17 May 2024



Subject: Recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Committee Savings Delivery Task and Finish Group meetings

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

Report author: Fiona Bottrill, Senior Overview and Scrutiny Manager
fiona.bottrill@birmingham.gov.uk
 07395884487

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To enable Co-ordinating OSC to consider the key issues, comments and recommendations from the 8 Savings Delivery Task and Finish Group meetings held in April 2024.

2 Recommendations

That the Committee considers the recommendations from the Task and Finish Group meetings and requests the relevant Cabinet Members and Directorates to respond to the recommendations set out below:

- 2.1 The Cabinet member for Digital, Culture, Heritage, and Tourism should engage Cabinet Member for Transport to ensure that the necessary discussions take place to achieve delivery of savings under 175 (5G small cell and LoRaWan)
- 2.2 That there is a robust corporate process to monitor the use of Public Health funds and ensure compliance with the 7 Memoranda of Understanding, including how risks are escalated to the Corporate Risk Register (Savings 211,89,96,35,155,156,163).
- 2.3 There is a comprehensive assessment of the impact of the Adult Social Care savings on carers. This is an issue where the Health and Adult Care OSC could add value during the 2024/25 work programme.

- 2.4 That assurance is provided to the Health and Adult Care OSC as part of the 2024/25 work programme that the delivery of the savings 126 and 130 (Review of Care Centre Model, Review of Day Centre Model) is based on best practice, assessed needs as well as delivery of the financial targets.
- 2.5 That Adult Social Care identifies best practice from other areas relating to Shared Lives and this informs the implementation of this saving. Members also want assurance that the delivery of saving 139 takes account of the drop-out rate for some people recruited as Shared Lives Cares.
- 2.6 That Leisure Services continue to monitor and update the equalities impact assessment and the members requested copies of The Active Wellbeing Society service specification (saving 56) and to be updated on the development of the systems approach to leisure services funding.
- 2.7 Savings 10: That in delivering saving 10 Revenues and Benefits continues to develop the holistic and preventative approach to collect outstanding council tax and business rates ensuring staff are able to sign post residents and businesses to other sources of support.
- 2.8 Saving 10: That Revenues and Benefits monitors the productivity of the new staff to ensure that working from home arrangements do not restrict the sharing of good practice within the team and information sharing.
- 2.9 Saving 4: That within the new enforcement staff team recruited to undertake the enforcement work resource is dedicated to building relationships and communication with the Business Improvement Districts and that this work is linked with other services across the Council that also work with the BIDs.
- 2.10 Saving 3: That the Council continues to seek alternative funding to provide non-statutory benefits advice.
- 2.11 Saving 3 (Review of Benefits Advice Team): That while the non-statutory Benefits Advice Team does not function, services across the Council work collaboratively to provide early help and intervention advice including benefits advice. These include the Neighbourhood Advice and Information Service and work delivered through the Cost of Living Crisis programme.
- 2.12 Saving 3 (Review of Benefits Advice Team):: That Council communications include information to signpost residents to places where advice of benefits is available.
- 2.13 Saving 105 (Business Improvement and Support Re-design) : That work should continue at pace on delivery of saving 105 and where possible delivery should be brought forward to 2024/25.
- 2.14 Saving 9 (Additional income generated through the Government's New Homes Bonus (NHB) scheme): That there is a joined up approach across Council services to maximising the opportunities from bringing empty homes back into use e.g. working with the temporary accommodation to use properties to address the shortage of long term accommodation in the City.

- 2.15 Saving 216 (Debt recovery consolidation): That members are kept informed to monitor progress of the work during 2024/25 to ensure delivery of the saving in 2025/26 including an assessment of the level of risk for the debt types to be recovered.
- 2.16 Saving 216 (Debt recovery consolidation): Once the saving starts the delivery should be monitored to ensure financial delivery of the saving and also customer satisfaction.
- 2.17 Saving 216 (Debt recovery consolidation): That the Council builds on the learning from this savings to identify areas across the Council where services can be consolidated resulting in a more joined up service, better outcomes for residents and efficiencies that deliver financial savings.
- 2.18 Saving 188 (Contract Management Efficiencies) : That the results of the analysis of contracts across the organisation is shared with the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- 2.19 Saving 228 (Fees and Charges): That City Operations explores the opportunity to charge for damage to pavements as a result of construction work on adjacent properties.
- 2.20 Saving193 (Early Intervention and Prevention – Library and NAIS re-design) : The consultation process should be well managed and executed properly to enable residents and other key stakeholders to contribute meaningfully.
- 2.21 Cross cutting recommendation: As a principle, where possible, savings identified for 2025/26 should be brought forward to the current financial year to compensate for savings where slippage may occur.
- 2.22 That there is a robust corporate process to ensure that documentation on the delivery of savings is up to date and shared with Overview and Scrutiny Committees in a timely way. Where actions / risks are not completed, as they are dependent on the outcome of consultation or other processes, this should be clearly explained.

3 Background

- 3.1 During the 2023/24 financial year all Overview and Scrutiny Committee’s reviewed the delivery of in year savings. Following the agreement of the 2024/25 budget at City Council on 5 March 2024 the Overview and Scrutiny Committees will continue to monitor the delivery of the savings identified in the budget.
- 3.2 It was agreed at Co-ordinating OSC on 19 March 2024 that all Overview and Scrutiny Committees would hold Task and Finish Group meetings ~~during April~~ to consider the savings within the Committees’ terms of reference..

4 Savings Delivery Task and Finish Group Meetings

- 4.1 The Savings Delivery Task and Finish Group meetings were held between 9 – 25 April 2024 and the recommendations from this work are set out in Section 2 of

the report. During these meetings members considered progress in delivery of savings, risk and impact.

4.2 The work of the Task and Finish Group provided a forum for robust challenge and benefited from the organisational knowledge members had of previous strategies, policies and programmes when many senior officers are relatively new to the organisation.

4.3 Cabinet members along with Senior Officers, attended the Task and Finish Group meetings, to provide updates on the savings proposals for their areas.

5 Any Finance Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. Progress on the delivery of the 2024/25 savings will be reported to future Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings.

6 Any Legal Implications

6.1 The delivery of some of savings proposals, are subject to public consultation; the Council maintains an open-minded approach during these consultations, considering feedback to shape final proposals presented to decision makers.

7 Any Equalities Implications

7.1 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.

7.2 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.

7.3 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; and whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people are being realised.

7.4 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.

7.5 The Task and Finish Groups made comments / recommendations relating to the impact of savings on the following groups:

- Vulnerable adults (Saving 6)
- Carers (Adult Social Care Savings)
- Access to leisure services and the effect on health and wellbeing for those on low incomes (Savings 52 and 56)
- Impact for families and mitigating actions relating to the review of non-statutory transport packages (Post 16) (Saving 150)

8 Appendices

None

9 Background Papers

9.1 Budget agreed at City Council 5 March 2024: [CMIS > Meetings](#)

Birmingham City Council

Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee

17 May 2024



Subject: Task and Finish Group Terms of Reference: Current practices and future plans on use of information to inform work of Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

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

Report author: Fiona Bottrill, Senior Overview and Scrutiny Manager
fiona.bottril@birmingham.gov.uk
 07395884487

1 Purpose

- 1.1 This report sets out the proposed terms of reference for a Task and Finish Group that will consider practices and future plans on use of information to inform work of Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Effective use of information will enable the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to respond to the challenges arising from the Governance Stabilisation Plan as well contribute effectively to the Council's Improvement and Recovery Plan (IRP).

2 Recommendation

That the Committee:

- 2.1 Agrees the terms of reference for the Task and Finish Group attached as Appendix 1: Current Practices and Future Plans on use of information to inform work of Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

3 Background

- 3.1 In December 2023, the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny produced an Independent Review of Governance. This highlighted significant weaknesses around governance within the Council. The new Improvement and Recovery Plan incorporates its findings into its workstreams.
- 3.2 Following this, the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny has provided support to the Council to co-produce a framework for Overview and Scrutiny. While this has not been finalised, there is recognition that there is a piece of work to be done to identify how members understand the Council's change and improvement plans

and work towards a sustainable approach to information sharing / management which gives members confidence that they can maintain a watching brief over emerging issues.

4 Scrutiny Task and Finish Group: Current Practices and Future Plans on use of information to inform work of Overview and Scrutiny Committees

4.1 The purpose of the Task and Finish Group will be to make recommendations as to how Overview and Scrutiny Committees better use information to identify critical and 'by exception' issues for consideration. This work will help inform the development of Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programmes in 2024-25.

4.2 This work will be undertaken in two parts:

4.2.1 Part 1: During May - June, the work will focus on setting the scene as regards the core information system. Specialist officers encompassing performance, delivery and risk management will support this to refine the scope of the Task and Finish Group.

4.2.2 Part 2: During June – September, working towards confirming a sustainable approach to information sharing/management which gives members confidence and certainty that they can maintain a “watching brief” over emerging issues.

5 Any Finance Implications

5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report.

6 Any Legal Implications

6.1 When issuing the Directions, the Secretary of State was satisfied that the Authority was failing to comply with the requirements of Part I of the Local Government Act 1999 (“the 1999 Act”).

6.2 The Secretary of State, having considered the representations made by the Authority as required by section 15(9) of the 1999 Act considered it necessary and expedient, in accordance with his powers under section 15(5) and (6) of the 1999 Act, to direct the Authority to secure the Authority’s compliance with the requirements of Part I of the 1999 Act, in particular:

a. To address systemic weaknesses in the Authority’s governance function, to secure improvements in transparency and formal decision making.

b. To deliver financial sustainability, including by closing any short or long term budget gaps - which should include taking action to expediate the closure of the equal pay liability.

c. To ensure compliance with all relevant rules and guidelines relating to the financial management of the Authority.

d. To agree as necessary any changes needed to the Authority's operating model and redesign of council services to achieve value for money and financial sustainability.

e. To achieve improvements in relation to the proper functioning of the Authority's IT.

f. To address the serious failings and ensure conformity with the best value duty, thereby delivering improvements in services and outcomes for the people of Birmingham.

7 Any Equalities Implications

7.1 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.

7.2 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.

7.3 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; and whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people are being realised.

7.4 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.

8 Appendices

8.1 Appendix 1: Terms of Reference – Current Practices and Future Plans on the use of information to inform.

9 Background Papers

- 9.1 Independent Governance Review of Birmingham City Council by Centre for Governance and Scrutiny, December 2023



Work Outline / Terms of Reference

Current Practices and Future Plans on use of information to inform work of Overview and Scrutiny Committees

Reporting to Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee

<p>Our key question:</p>	<p>How can Overview and Scrutiny Committees better use information to identify critical and exceptional issues?</p>
<p>1. How is O&S adding value through this work?</p>	<p>Since October 2023, the Council has been under Government Intervention. As part of this, the Council, as required, has recently approved an Improvement and Recovery Plan (IRP). The key findings and recommendations from the Independent Governance Review of the Council and produced by Centre for Governance Scrutiny (CfGS), were incorporated into the IRP.</p> <p>Like all parts of the Council, Overview and Scrutiny Committees will play an important role in driving corporate improvements across the Council. In order to do this effectively though, O&S Committees will need to be focused on the right things and deliver them in the right way. This will ensure that O&S Committees will add value and not duplicate existing activity. This is essential given the scope of change required across the Council, and the pace in which it will need to be delivered.</p> <p>Initial discussions with the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny identified the importance of baselining members' understanding of the Council's change and improvement plans and work towards a sustainable approach to information sharing / management which gives members confidence that they can maintain a watching brief over emerging issues.</p>
<p>2. What needs to be done?</p>	<p>This work will be undertaken in 2 Parts.</p> <p>Part 1 will focus on setting the scene and consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does the 'ideal' model for Scrutiny using information look like? • What is the Council's core information system? • What activity is being undertaken to redevelop this? How will members use the information available to inform the issues that will be considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committees? • Where are the Council's strengths and weaknesses around information?



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What support do Members need to access and effectively use information? <p>Part 2 will be informed by the work undertaken above, and the terms of reference may be updated.</p>
<p>3. What timescale do we propose to do this in?</p>	<p>This work will be completed within 5 months. Part 1 will take place during May - June; Part 2 will take place, July - September.</p>
<p>4. What outcomes are we looking to achieve?</p>	<p>Outcome 1: Baseline Members’s understanding of the Council’s change and improvement plans, with specific regard to information proposals.</p> <p>Outcome 2: Develop a sustainable approach to information sharing/management which gives members confidence and certainty that they can maintain a “watching brief” over emerging issues</p> <p>Outcome 3: Members are supported and equipped to access and use information more effectively.</p>
<p>5. What is the best way to achieve these outcomes and what routes will we use?</p>	<p>For Part 1, the Task and Finish Group will meet at least two times in May – June in an informal setting. It will receive evidence from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birmingham City Council – Strategy, Equalities and Partnerships (SEP) directorate and specifically City Observatory; Corporate Portfolio Management Office; Corporate Performance and Public Participation. <p>At Coordinating OSC in May, the Committee will consider the terms of reference for the Task and Finish Group and receive an update on the preparatory work undertaken in May. This will inform and shape the further work in June – September.</p> <p>A final report including key findings and recommendations will be presented at the September Committee of the Corporate Finance Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It will then be taken forward by individual Overview and Scrutiny Committees under the leadership of Overview and Scrutiny Chairs.</p>

Member / Officer Leads

Lead Member:	Chair: Councillor Sir Albert Bore
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Members of the Task and Finish Group:	Cllr. Albert Bore, Cllr. Mick Brown (named substitute Cllr. Kerry Jenkins), Cllr. Morriam Jan, member tbc
Lead Officer and support:	Richard Brooks, Strategic Director (Strategic, Equalities and Partnerships) Overview and Scrutiny: TBC



Work Outline / Terms of Reference

Current Practices and Future Plans on use of information to inform work of Overview and Scrutiny Committees

Reporting to Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee

<p>Our key question:</p>	<p>How can Overview and Scrutiny Committees better use information to identify critical and exceptional issues?</p>
<p>1. How is O&S adding value through this work?</p>	<p>Since October 2023, the Council has been under Government Intervention. As part of this, the Council, as required, has recently approved an Improvement and Recovery Plan (IRP). The key findings and recommendations from the Independent Governance Review of the Council and produced by Centre for Governance Scrutiny (CfGS), were incorporated into the IRP.</p> <p>Like all parts of the Council, Overview and Scrutiny Committees will play an important role in driving corporate improvements across the Council. In order to do this effectively though, O&S Committees will need to be focused on the right things and deliver them in the right way. This will ensure that O&S Committees will add value and not duplicate existing activity. This is essential given the scope of change required across the Council, and the pace in which it will need to be delivered.</p> <p>Initial discussions with the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny identified the importance of baselining members' understanding of the Council's change and improvement plans and work towards a sustainable approach to information sharing / management which gives members confidence that they can maintain a watching brief over emerging issues.</p>
<p>2. What needs to be done?</p>	<p>This work will be undertaken in 2 Parts.</p> <p>Part 1 will focus on setting the scene and consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does the 'ideal' model for Scrutiny using information look like? • What is the Council's core information system? • What activity is being undertaken to redevelop this? How will members use the information available to inform the issues that will be considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committees? • Where are the Council's strengths and weaknesses around information?



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What support do Members need to access and effectively use information? <p>Part 2 will be informed by the work undertaken above, and the terms of reference may be updated.</p>
<p>3. What timescale do we propose to do this in?</p>	<p>This work will be completed within 5 months. Part 1 will take place during May - June; Part 2 will take place, July - September.</p>
<p>4. What outcomes are we looking to achieve?</p>	<p>Outcome 1: Baseline Members’s understanding of the Council’s change and improvement plans, with specific regard to information proposals.</p> <p>Outcome 2: Develop a sustainable approach to information sharing/management which gives members confidence and certainty that they can maintain a “watching brief” over emerging issues</p> <p>Outcome 3: Members are supported and equipped to access and use information more effectively.</p>
<p>5. What is the best way to achieve these outcomes and what routes will we use?</p>	<p>For Part 1, the Task and Finish Group will meet at least two times in May – June in an informal setting. It will receive evidence from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birmingham City Council – Strategy, Equalities and Partnerships (SEP) directorate and specifically City Observatory; Corporate Portfolio Management Office; Corporate Performance and Public Participation. <p>At Coordinating OSC in May, the Committee will consider the terms of reference for the Task and Finish Group and receive an update on the preparatory work undertaken in May. This will inform and shape the further work in June – September.</p> <p>A final report including key findings and recommendations will be presented at the September Committee of the Corporate Finance Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It will then be taken forward by individual Overview and Scrutiny Committees under the leadership of Overview and Scrutiny Chairs.</p>

Member / Officer Leads

Lead Member:	Chair: Councillor Sir Albert Bore
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Members of the Task and Finish Group:	Cllr. Albert Bore, Cllr. Mick Brown (named substitute Cllr. Kerry Jenkins), Cllr. Morriam Jan, member tbc
Lead Officer and support:	Richard Brooks, Strategic Director (Strategic, Equalities and Partnerships) Overview and Scrutiny: TBC



ADDENDUM

Work Outline / Terms of Reference Current Practices and Future Plans on use of information to inform work of Overview and Scrutiny Committees Reporting to Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee

<p>Our key question:</p>	<p>How can Overview and Scrutiny Committees better use information to identify critical and exceptional issues?</p>
<p>1. How is O&S adding value through this work?</p>	<p>Since October 2023, the Council has been under Government Intervention. As part of this, the Council, as required, has recently approved an Improvement and Recovery Plan (IRP). The key findings and recommendations from the Independent Governance Review of the Council and produced by Centre for Governance Scrutiny (CfGS), were incorporated into the IRP.</p> <p>Like all parts of the Council, Overview and Scrutiny Committees will play an important role in driving corporate improvements across the Council. In order to do this effectively though, O&S Committees will need to be focused on the right things and deliver them in the right way. This will ensure that O&S Committees will add value and not duplicate existing activity. This is essential given the scope of change required across the Council, and the pace in which it will need to be delivered.</p> <p>Initial discussions with the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny identified the importance of baselining members' understanding of the Council's change and improvement plans and work towards a sustainable approach to information sharing / management which gives members confidence that they can maintain a watching brief over emerging issues.</p>
<p>2. What needs to be done?</p>	<p>An initial paper to present:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What should be the model for Scrutiny using information in relation to performance, delivery and risk? 2. What are the sources of this information? <p>A first meeting to discuss:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. How will members use the information to inform the issues that will be considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committees? 4. Where are the Council's strengths and weaknesses around the use of this information? <p>A final meeting including Ed Hammond, to discuss:</p>



	5. What support do Members need to access and effectively use this information?
3. What timescale do we propose to do this in?	This work will be completed between May – August 2024, with the two task and finish meetings taking place in June and July.
4. What outcomes are we looking to achieve?	<p>Outcome 1: Develop a sustainable approach to information sharing which gives members confidence and certainty that they can maintain a “watching brief” over emerging issues.</p> <p>Outcome 2: Members are supported and equipped to access and use information more effectively.</p>
5. What is the best way to achieve these outcomes and what routes will we use?	<p>Task and Finish Group will meet at least two times in June and July in an informal setting. It will receive evidence from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birmingham City Council – Strategy, Equalities and Partnerships (SEP) directorate and specifically Corporate Performance; City Observatory; Corporate Portfolio Management Office; and Risk Management. <p>At Coordinating OSC in May, the Committee will consider the terms of reference for the Task and Finish Group and receive an update on the preparatory work undertaken in May. This will inform and shape the further work in June – August.</p> <p>A final report including key findings and recommendations will be presented at the September Committee of the Corporate & Finance Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It will then be taken forward by individual Overview and Scrutiny Committees under the leadership of Overview and Scrutiny Chairs.</p>

Member / Officer Leads

Lead Member:	Chair: Councillor Sir Albert Bore
Members of the Task and Finish Group:	Cllr. Albert Bore, Cllr. Morriam Jan, Cllr. Ewan Mackey & TBC (Labour)
Lead Officer and support:	Richard Brooks, Director (Strategy, Equality and Partnerships) Overview and Scrutiny: TBC