

# **BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

## **CO-ORDINATING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**FRIDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 12:00 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.

- 5 - 14**                      4                      **MINUTES – CO-ORDINATING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**
- To confirm the public minutes from the Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 14 July 2023.
- 15 - 18**                      5                      **CO-ORDINATING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ACTION TRACKER**
- To review and note the actions from previous Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings.
- 19 - 64**                      6                      **FINANCIAL CHALLENGES – SCRUTINY CONTRIBUTION TO THE BUDGET SAVINGS AND RECOVERY PLAN**
- To update the Committee on plans to meet the Council's financial liabilities relating to Equal Pay following the publication of a Section 114 notice, and for the Committee to consider the implications for the Committee's work programme.
- 65 - 132**                      7                      **CO-ORDINATING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24**
- To consider the attached work programmes and to agree any updates / amendments.
- 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.
- 10                      **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**
- To note that the next meeting will take place on 13 October 2023 at 1000 hours.

11 **AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS**

Chair to move:-

'In an urgent situation between meetings, the Chair jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee'.



BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**COORDINATING O&S COMMITTEE – PUBLIC MEETING**

1000 hours on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2023, Committee Rooms 3 and 4,

Council House, Victoria Square, B1 1BB

**Action Notes**

**Present:**

Councillor Albert Bore (Chair)

Councillors: Akhlakq Ahmed, Jack Deakin, Mohammed Idrees, Lee Marsham, Ewan Mackey, Kerry Jenkins, Alex Yip, Morriam Jan.

**Also Present:**

Richard Brooks, Director (Strategy, Equality & Partnerships) - Online  
Wendy Griffiths, Assistant Director (Customer Services and Business Support)  
Nikki Spencer, Digital Projects Manager - Online  
Sheraz Yaqub, Business Change Manager  
Christian Scade, Head of Scrutiny & Committee Services  
Ed Brown, Committee Officer

**1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST**

The Chair advised the meeting to note that this meeting will 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 are confidential or exempt items.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors, Mick Brown, Shabrana Hussain and Darius Sandhu.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

None.

#### **4. MINUTES – CO-ORDINATING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED:**

That the public minutes of the Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 16 June 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.

#### **5. CO-ORDINATING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ACTION TRACKER**

It was requested that where there had been a change in the relevant Cabinet member or Scrutiny Chair that it be ensured that issues were carried through.

The Action tracker reflected that there had been some Terms of Reference Changes and as such relevant actions were being picked up by the relevant committees, such as actions pertaining to the Domestic Abuse Strategy being considered by the Neighbourhoods OSC.

With regard to the action on the Cabinet Member Social Justice, Community Safety & Equalities meeting with the Board of Deputies and the Jewish Leadership, the issue had been raised with the Leader and it was hoped that there would be an update by the next meeting of the Committee.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Action Tracker was noted.

#### **6. CUSTOMER SERVICE PROGRAMME TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

It was noted that Appendix B (Customer Service Programme Task & Finish Group Supplementary Report (Highway Repairs)) and Appendix C (Highway Repairs – Recommendations Presented to Service Leads) had been circulated via a second agenda despatch.

The Assistant Director (Customer Services and Business Support) introduced the report providing an update to the 9th December and supplementary 27th January report on the actions of the Co-ordinating Overview & Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group, established following the Customer Service Programme update report to Co-ordinating Overview & Scrutiny Committee in September 2022.

The Chair noted that there was one issue of outstanding activity for the Task and Finish group on governance workshops to look at issues raised at these workshops could be understood in terms of lessons that could be learned.

The Chair thanked the Digital Projects Manager for her work on the issue.

Cllr Marsham, Chair of the Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny committee stated that the Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee were happy to look at the transport element again.

The Chair suggested that a number of relevant issues were raised and if the recommendations were fully acted on then there should be an improvement in the service and perhaps a transformation in the services, particularly with regard to waste management and housing repairs. However, this would be dependent on reports being followed through in the detail of the recommendations. This was echoed by members of the Committee.

The Digital Projects Manager was again thanked for her work and the Assistant Director (Customer Services and Business Support) and the Business Change manager were also thanked for their work and the Task and Finish Group was held up as an example of how Scrutiny could make a difference.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- That the Committee note that the Task & Finish Group has completed its review of the recommendations submitted to service leads for Bereavement Services, Housing Repairs, Waste Management and Highway Repairs.
- That the Committee agree that the Task & Finish Group should ask service owner Committees to follow up any further action required to ensure that the identified end-to-end customer service improvements are implemented:
  - Neighbourhoods: Waste and Bereavement Services.
  - Sustainability and Transport: Highway repairs.
  - Homes: Housing repairs.
- That the Committee support the further work of the Task & Finish Group to scrutinise how senior managers are responding to feedback from the Customer Standards Workshops to embed the Customer Service Strategy.

#### **7. CO-ORDINATING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24**

During the discussion the following issues were raised:

- With regard to the issue of the Elections Act, it was suggested that the upcoming neighbourhood referendums could be explored in terms of how the requirement

of voter ID impacted these elections, particularly given the demographics of the areas. This would give an opportunity for the Committee to learn from elections within the Council as well as those from other authorities.

- The Cost of Living Task and Finish Group needed to be considered.
- It was suggested that where food banks were mentioned in the terms of reference of the Cost-of-Living Task and Finish Group that food pantries, the wider food Justice network and community fridges could be added.
- With regard to the terms of reference of the Cost-of-Living Task and Finish Group, the Chair would sit with Officers to explore the possibility of meeting before the end of July to set out a work programme. Officers would need to bring in people who represented community issues from September onwards.
- There had been offers of interest in the Cost-of-Living Task and Finish Group. The Chair had also requested that a Co-opted person be part of the Group. He noted that a member of the Labour Group was a Chief Executive of a community organisation in Castle Vale who was knowledgeable about issues surrounding the cost of living. As such a note had been put to the City Solicitor, as if he was asked to join, it would help the group to understand the issues, but a dispensation would be needed. The secondment of members who were not on Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSCs) was being considered and would be followed up once a response was received from the City Solicitor.
- The Chair would consider how the issue of Equal Pay claims and their effect on the Council could be addressed.
- It was suggested that the Committee needed to discuss how the individual OSCs could contribute to looking at how the Council could save money in the long term in a way that would not affect the services delivered to citizens. The Chair responded that the issue had two aspects (Budgetary issues and Human Resources issues), and both of these were under the remit of the Finance and Resources OSC. However, each OSC had a role to play in that there would be an impact on service delivery. It was therefore incumbent on OSCs to consider issues to establish what the impact of potential cuts in budgets might be and whether service delivery could be maintained by changes in the way services were delivered. This could come through recommendations from OSCs. It was therefore suggested that each OSC have an agenda item to consider what the Committee could do in terms of advising the executive and management of changes they could recommend. It was further requested that such issues be in public session as much as possible.



**RESOLVED:**

- That the membership of the Cost of Living Task and Finish Group be confirmed as Councillor Bore, Councillor Deakin, Councillor Jan and Councillor Sandhu.
- That the Committee note and agree, the draft Terms of Reference / Work Outline for the Cost of Living Task and Finish Group set out in Appendix 2 with an amendment to mention food pantries, the wider food Justice network and community fridges be mentioned as well as food banks.
- That the issue of Equal Pay claims be included on the agenda for each OSC, perhaps as a standing item.

**8. UPDATING THE SCRUTINY FRAMEWORK**

The Chair introduced the report and made the following points:

- A version of the framework with the changes visible had been circulated.
- A more flexible Scrutiny Function for the 2023/24 had been endorsed.
- The Chair was happy for the OSCs to adopt the updated framework.
- There had been issues updating the appendices. This may affect issues such as how the call-in process was handled. Updates would be given as they became available.

During the discussion the following issues were raised:

**RESOLVED:**

- That the Committee agree the draft Scrutiny Framework attached as Appendix 1 for further consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader.
- That the Committee agree that the Scrutiny Procedure Notes are reviewed and updated as set out in Section 3.3 of the report presented.

**9. WEST MIDLANDS DEEPER DEVOLUTION DEAL**

The Director (Strategy, Equality & Partnerships) introduced the report and made the following points:

- The Levelling-up zones and investment were important elements of the Devolution Deal.
- It had been proposed to the Mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) that a levelling up zone is within Birmingham. A trilateral working

group with Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) has developed a proposal for bringing significant investment to the area that would change outcomes for those living there. This proposal (East Birmingham North Solihull (EBNS)) had been secured in the Devolution Deal along with other levelling-up areas. EBNS is the furthest advanced of the proposals in terms of scope and scale.

- A significant programme of work was underway on a levelling-up zone proposal, which was looking to capture business rates growth in this area of the city on a selection of sites and retaining these business rates for public investment in infrastructure and development. The sites were being negotiated with the Treasury. It would be a significant development to secure these.
- The government approach had changed significantly during the devolution deal process and specifically on investment zones. The Liz Truss government had proposed an approach with multiple sites able to be put forward to potentially secure occupier tax incentives. The Council had pivoted work towards this and sent lots of information to support to the approach which was then scrapped. The revised government approach of investment zones instead focussed on a region choosing a sectoral strength with and a mixture of incentives for specific sites with a total value of approximately £80m, partly direct spending and partly tax incentives and potentially for business rate retention sites alongside. The investment zone covers the whole West Midlands. The sector identified for the West Midlands was advanced manufacturing.
- The likely sites had yet to be fully decided upon but were likely to include Coventry Gigafactory and other sites, potentially including the Innovation Quarter in central Birmingham.
- An announcement was expected in the Government's Autumn statement about the outcome of these discussions and the funding likely to be agreed in the Spring budget.
- The wider deal was a very broad-based proposal, largely about devolving funding and powers from central government to WMCA with additional funding in a number of areas including brownfield land remediation and building affordable housing. There was a lot of detail in the deal and a number of workstreams were underway with the WMCA engaging multiple officers from around the local authority.

- The timetable from here was that Cabinet was expected to formally endorse the deal in September. There would then be a board meeting of WMCA in October. If the deal was agreed, it would allow the government to proceed with laying the orders to take forward elements within the deal and for implementation to move forward.
- There was only one element of the deal which required consultation which the WMCA was undertaking through a governance review and scheme in relation to the devolution of the bus service operator grant.

During the discussion the following issues were raised:

- Parts of the deal would be able to be taken forward by legislation worked through Parliament and further legislation will take place once the deal is agreed.
- It was expected that the detailed implementation plan would come to a WMCA Board in October.
- A cabinet paper was going to Warwickshire County Council regarding the authority potentially becoming a constituent member of the WMCA. There were a set of unanswered questions, including the implications for funding shared across the WMCA as it was not yet clear how it would be shared. It was also unclear as to what the implications for voting would be.
- Issues surrounding transport infrastructure in Warwickshire were raised and the implications of this should Warwickshire join the WMCA. In particular it was noted that rail fares appeared expensive in Warwickshire compared to elsewhere in the West Midlands which made people more dependent on road travel. The possibility of subsidised rail fares was raised. However, there was little clarity on the issue at this time.
- It was not thought that any decisions had been taken across the combined authority in terms of implementation of greater scrutiny to go with extra powers. This was currently a work stream in the implementation of the deal.
- In response to a question about how it could be ensured that local residents were trained for the jobs created rather than skilled labour being imported from other areas, it was suggested that this was an issue for the city beyond the deal. There was a supply of skilled people in the city and a high level of qualified young people, including those at the universities within the city. Whether these skilled people stayed in the city depended on a wider range of

issues including the quality of public services and house prices and was a broad-based issue.

- There was currently no suggestion that the Mayor was personally deciding applications for housing money allocation. Most of the powers on this sat with the WMCA as a whole. More clarity would be sought on housing implications.
- The Our Future City Plan highlights significant land for affordable housing. Land was not the constraint in Birmingham. However, the £400m across the WMCA would not meet the demand for affordable housing.
- Issues were raised concerning the proportion of affordable housing in the regeneration in Ladywood.

The Chair noted a number of points raised which could be reflected into the report to Cabinet:

- Cabinet needed to acknowledge the issues raised by members.
- Issues on governance and accountability set out in the deal paper needed transparency in the Cabinet report, especially regarding the requirement that members of the WMCA OSC and Audit Committee would be remunerated as a consequence of the deal being agreed.
- It was raised that the two-year term for WMCA Committee Members was not in the constitution and this would need to be addressed.
- The issue of the Chairs and Deputy Chairs needing to be from the opposition to the Mayor of the WMCA needed to be addressed.
- It was suggested that the Birmingham City Council constitution might need to reflect the requirements of any Members who were appointed by the City Council to these roles.
- There was concern about devolution, particularly in terms of MPs representing West Midlands Parliamentary constituencies having a scrutiny role.

**RESOLVED:**

- That the report to Cabinet reflect the issues raised by the Committee.
- That the Committee endorse the Levelling-up Zone proposals and the Investment Zone approach.

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

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

**11. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no other items of urgent business.

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Committee would be 15 September 2023 at 1000 hours.

**13. AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS**

**RESOLVED:**

‘In an urgent situation between meetings, the Chairman jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee’.

**14. EXEMPT INFORMATION – POSSIBLE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Chair advised that the report at Agenda item 17 contained an exempt appendix within the meaning of Section 100I of the Local Government Act 1972.

**RESOLVED:**

That in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, which includes exempt information of the category indicated, the public be now excluded from the meeting: -

(Paragraph 3)

**15. PRIVATE MINUTES – COORDINATING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED:**

That the private minutes of the Coordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 16 July 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.

The meeting ended at 11:00



**CO-ORDINATING OSC**  
**ACTION TRACKER 2023/24**

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1.	27 January 2023	Cabinet Member Social Justice, Community Safety & Equalities	The Cabinet Member agreed to meet with the Board of Deputies and the Jewish Leadership Council and will confirm if the letter was sent to the MPs when the definition was adopted and restate the message	<b>IN PROGRESS</b>  Cllr Brennan has met with Leader and is now in the process of arranging visits with a number of faith leaders, including Board of Deputies and the Jewish Leaders and will circulate the letter. It is not possible to confirm that a letter was issued to MPs, but Cllr Brennan will circulate a letter following her visit.
2.	27 January 2023	Cabinet Member Social Justice, Community Safety & Equalities	The Cabinet Member will follow up the issues regarding building capacity of holiday schemes with Cllr. Harmer	<b>COMPLETED</b>  A report on the issue has been circulated to members of the Committee.
3.	16 June 2023	Developing the Co-ordinating OSC Scrutiny Work Programme 2023/24	A short briefing note on OFLOG, and its functions and powers, to be produced once more is known about it.	<b>IN PROGRESS</b>  The Head of Scrutiny and Committee Services will liaise with the AD Programmes, Performance and Improvement on this.
4.	14 July 2023	Co-ordinating OSC Work Programme 2023/24	That where food banks were mentioned in the draft terms of reference for the Cost-of-Living Task and Finish Group that food pantries, the wider food Justice network and community fridges also be considered.	<b>COMPLETED</b>  The terms of reference were updated ahead of the first Task and Finish Group meeting, held on 28 July 2023.  The next meeting of the group would be 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2023

5.	14 July 2023	Co-ordinating OSC Work Programme 2023/24	That the issue of Equal Pay / Budget Recovery be included on the agenda for each OSC, perhaps as a standing item.	<p><b>IN PROGRESS / ONGOING</b></p> <p>Following the July OSC meeting a workshop to assist with work in this area, facilitated by Ian Fifield, took place on 26 July 2023. Following this, further discussions will be required to help develop a timetable and action plan for scrutiny activity, especially over the autumn period.</p>
6.	14 July 2023	West Midlands Deeper Devolution Deal	<p>The Committee asked for further detail to be reflected in the Cabinet Paper on a couple of issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The situation regarding Warwickshire potentially joining the CA.</li> <li>b. The Governance and Accountability proposals in the deal, specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What is known about arrangements for the Mayor to be subject to scrutiny at BCC</li> <li>○ What is known about the arrangements for the CA Scrutiny Board, for example payments to members and appointments for two years</li> <li>○ Any implications for Parliamentary scrutiny of the CA's work</li> <li>○ How the above relates to BCC's Constitution.</li> </ul> </li> <li>c. The arrangements for how Affordable Homes and Brownfield Land allocations will work.</li> </ol>	<p><b>COMPLETED</b></p> <p>This information was included in the report that went to Cabinet on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023.</p>



			d. The timeline for implementation, including the relevant legislation and enactment of the new powers.	
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# Birmingham City Council

## Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date 15 September 2023



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**Subject:** Scrutiny Contribution to Budget Savings and Recovery Plan

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

**Report author:** Christian Scade, Head of Scrutiny and Committee Services  
christian.scade@birmingham.gov.uk  
07517 550013

### 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

# Birmingham City Council

## Report to Cabinet

25<sup>th</sup> July 2023



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**Subject:** **Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Refresh – update to Cabinet at Quarter 1 of the 2023/24 Financial Year**

**Report of:** **Fiona Greenway, Interim Director of Finance & Section 151 Officer**

**Relevant Cabinet Member:** **Councillor John Cotton, Leader  
Councillor Sharon Thompson, Deputy Leader  
Councillor Brigid Jones, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources**

**Relevant O &S Chair(s):** **Councillor Jack Deakin, Finance and Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

**Report author:** Peter Sebastian  
Head of Financial Planning (interim)  
Email Address: [peter.sebastian@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:peter.sebastian@birmingham.gov.uk)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, add Forward Plan Reference: 011384/2023		
Is the decision eligible for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

### 1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 As part of the Council's approach to financial management, the Council provides updated forecasts across the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) period to Cabinet three times a year – at Quarter One (this report); Quarter Two (in October) and at

Quarter Three (December/January, in the run up to formal budget-setting for the next financial year).

- 1.2 This report shows forecast budget pressures and inflation forecasts over the current financial year (2023/24) and the remaining financial years that make up the MTFP. It is projected that there is in-year budget shortfall of £87.4m in 2023/24, rising to £164.8m in 2024/25, reflecting the extent to which the costs of current service provision exceed the funding levels. These projected budget shortfalls do not reflect any additional costs relating to Equal Pay, including potential future liabilities as well as the cost of implementing any scheme of job evaluation.
- 1.3 Across the country, many councils are facing significant and similar budget pressures – mainly due to increased demand for services from residents, higher than forecast inflation and difficulty with delivering existing savings programmes in this current economic climate. Therefore, the current MTFP forecasts for Birmingham City Council (BCC), while serious and requiring immediate attention, are not unique.
- 1.4 What is unique, in the BCC context, is the significant and additional forecast liability for Equal Pay claims of between £650m and £760m. The Council has engaged with its External Auditors and is having ongoing discussions with the Department of Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).
- 1.5 It is for this reason that this report supports the implementation of mandatory spending controls to give the Council time to further review financial pressures (including finalising the details of the Equal Pay liability) and mitigations.
- 1.6 In addition, this report recommends the implementation of a Robust Budget Savings & Recovery Plan to tackle existing budget pressures and the financial implications of the additional Equal Pay liability. This Plan sets out a series of activities that need to be delivered over the next five years to achieve financial stability within the Council, reviewing all aspects of BCC’s financial management systems, processes and capability. This Plan will also seek to tackle financial pressures and rebuild corporate reserves over the medium term.

## 2 Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the MTFP budget pressures (inflation, savings, directorate pressures, Collection Fund update), as well as the Quarter One 2023/24 position (which provides a high-level assessment of a budget gap for this financial year) (**Section 5 of this report**);
- 2.2 Note the wider financial position of the Council, in terms of capital expenditure and available corporate resources, which demonstrate that the additional Equal Pay liability, alongside MTFP budget pressures, cannot be found within existing BCC resources (**Section 5**);

- 2.3 Note the work carried out to date to assess the potential scale of additional Equal Pay liabilities (**Section 4**);
- 2.4 Endorse the mandatory spending controls which came into effect from 5 July 2023 (**Section 6**);
- 2.5 Endorse the robust Budget Savings & Recovery Plan – to close the forecast budget gaps in the current financial year and future financial years– as per the timetable included in this report (**Section 6**); and
- 2.6 Agree the 2024/25 budget-setting timetable, including the dates for the implementation of the recommendations in this report (**Section 7**)

### **3 Background**

- 3.1 Birmingham City Council (BCC) approved its 2023/24 annual budget and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) on 28 February 2023 as part of the annual budget setting cycle. Budgets were balanced up to 2023/24 (and across the MTFP period) on the assumption that:
  - a. £97.1m of savings were to be delivered over the next four years to 2026/27 (assuming no savings are brought forward undelivered from 2022/23);
  - b. Budget managers and budget holders are diligent in working within budgetary envelopes; and
  - c. Council tax was increased by 4.99% (including 2% for social care) with income levels largely returning to pre-Covid levels.
- 3.2 This paper:
  - a. Updates the assumptions (particularly inflation) that were used to set budgets for the 2023/24 financial year and provide an initial high-level

forecast (as at Period 3; Quarter One, April – June 2023) for the 2023/24 financial year;

- b. Updates the budget assessments over the MTFP period (from 2024/25 to 2027/28) based on the most recent forecasts (particularly with regard to inflation);
- c. Provides an update on Directorate spending to identify recent spending pressures, as well as progress against the agreed savings programme within the 2023/24 Financial Plan;
- d. Provides an outline of the Robust Budget Savings & Recovery Plan, including proposals for spending controls and key workstreams;
- e. Outlines the timetable and next steps required for the budget-setting process for the 2024/25 financial year, including budget consultation and engagement;
- f. Outlines the scale of the Council's existing capital programme – including a summary of existing borrowing (a full Capital and Treasury Management will come to Cabinet later this year); and
- g. Provides an initial assessment of potentially available corporate reserves that could be used to cover potential upcoming financial liabilities. It should be noted that these reserves are currently an estimate; a full review of reserves will be completed as part of the 2022/23 outturn report that will come to Cabinet in Autumn 2023.

3.3 This paper does not cover ringfenced revenue funding in the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) or the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) – it solely focuses on General Fund revenue budgets. The HRA Business Plan is expected to come to Cabinet in September 2023 for review; the DSG budget position is covered as part of the usually cycle of quarterly reporting to Cabinet.

#### **4 National & Local Financial Context**

4.1 Cabinet should note that there are a significant range of challenges that this Authority, and all public bodies, are currently facing. Research by the Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities (SIGOMA) which represents 47 urban authorities, published on 19 June 2023, found that 55% of respondents were unsure whether they would be able to meet the budgets that were approved in March 2023 for the 2023/24 financial year. Based on the updated MTFP forecasts in Section Four of this report, without immediate and urgent action, BCC is in a similar position. The macroeconomic factors that are causing financial pressures include:



- a. **The impact of inflation** – compared to February 2023 when the budget for the 2023/24 financial year was agreed, inflation looks set to be higher than forecast. This manifests itself in a number of ways, from increased pay and materials budgets to rising energy costs; for example, the 2023/24 Financial Plan included an increased budget allocation of £18 million for the Council's energy bills and a £6 million increase for our schools. Further details on the impact of inflation are detailed in Section Five of this report;
- b. **Impact of Covid** – this continues to impact in a number of ways, from increased support needs for our residents (resulting in additional pressures on public services) to the income collection, as can be seen in the movement in the Collection Fund (most notably for business rates) that is described in Section Five;
- c. **Uncertain central government funding** – the Council's net revenue budget is funded from four main sources: Business Rates, Council Tax, government grants and fees & charges. (Where necessary, corporate reserves may also be used to cover specific expenditure or cover budget shortfalls.) Fees & charges are dependent on activity levels and residents' ability to pay. While Council Tax and Business Rates are also dependent on ratepayers' ability to pay, there are a number of uncertainties over these funding streams in future. Central Government has provided some clarity for the 2024/25 financial year only – namely that current Council Tax threshold levels (i.e., the amount that rates can be increased without the need for a referendum) will remain at 3% for Council tax and 2% for the Adult Social Care precept. Future reforms to the Business Rates system are currently delayed until 2025/26 at the earliest but may have a significant impact on BCC.

4.2 At present, there are also a number of challenges that are specific to BCC:

- a. Oracle finance system implementation – as approved by Cabinet on 27 June, this MTFP refresh includes £33.7m of costs from 2023/24 onwards to fix urgent issues, and to develop a plan that will deliver the Council's vision for an optimised Oracle. The total cost is £46.5m, including £12.8m of costs that had related to the 2022/23 financial year. In addition, the time taken to fix this Oracle system has delayed the completion of the 2022/23 outturn report and final reserves position, which means that this report cannot fully consider the impact on reserves of future cost pressures. This will be done at the Quarter Two MTFP refresh report due to come to Cabinet in October.
- b. Equal Pay challenges – the additional forecast Equal Pay liability is a key driver for the recommendations in this report. As noted above, initial estimates of the potential additional Equal Pay liability are between £650m and £760m.

4.3 Before the financial implications of this Equal Pay liability can be fully quantified for the MTFP, a more detailed calculation, using individual time-series data, to assess the full extent of the Equal Pay liability is being carried out. The results of this work are expected in August.

- 4.4 The overall scale of the liability needs to be quantified to assess total costs and enable BCC to explore all options for payment. A provision for Equal Pay liability will also need to be made within all accounts that are not currently signed off by auditors – this includes the 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial years – to demonstrate the scale of the issue at that point in time. This provision cannot be made until a financial solution is agreed with national government and stakeholders. At that point, the accounts can be reviewed and signed off by auditors.

## 5 MTFP – updated forecasts

- 5.1 The key movements from the MTFP position since BCC approved the budget for 2023/24 (and forecasts for future years) in February 2023 are shown in the table below. The projections identify a significant in-year budget shortfall of £87.4m in 2023/24, rising to £164.8m in 24/25, reflecting the extent to which the costs of current service provision exceed the funding levels:

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Total Net Expenditure (as per 2023/24 Financial Plan)	925,078	1,018,314	1,035,612	1,049,934	1,083,206
Total Resources (as per 2023/24 Financial Plan)	(925,078)	(1,018,314)	(1,035,612)	(1,049,934)	(1,079,093)
<b>Budget gap as (as per 2023/24 Financial Plan)</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>4,113</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
<b>Budget Pressures</b>					
Staffing	3,844	3,973	4,070	4,170	4,273
Demand/Complexity Growth	55,586	37,736	44,027	42,240	39,840
Statutory Requirement	-	-	-	-	-
Borrowing costs, investment etc	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Budget Pressures Subtotal</b>	<b>59,430</b>	<b>41,709</b>	<b>48,097</b>	<b>46,410</b>	<b>44,113</b>
<b>Corporately Managed Budgets</b>	<b>(4,240)</b>	<b>(4,097)</b>	<b>(3,935)</b>	<b>(4,154)</b>	<b>(5,461)</b>
Pay Inflation	-	-	(2,532)	(5,178)	(7,943)
Contract Inflation	1,042	27,346	51,904	55,348	58,666
Other Inflation	19,875	28,352	35,367	42,593	50,063
Fees and Charges Inflation	-	(357)	(365)	(372)	(378)
<b>Inflation Sub-total</b>	<b>20,917</b>	<b>55,341</b>	<b>84,374</b>	<b>92,391</b>	<b>100,408</b>
<b>Savings</b>					
High Risk Savings	35,141	56,274	75,374	75,374	75,374
<b>Savings Subtotal</b>	<b>35,141</b>	<b>56,274</b>	<b>75,374</b>	<b>75,374</b>	<b>75,374</b>
<b>Total Net Expenditure Movements</b>	<b>111,248</b>	<b>149,227</b>	<b>203,910</b>	<b>210,021</b>	<b>214,434</b>
<b>Resources</b>					
Business Rates	-	14,100	(27,677)	(40,165)	(41,052)
Council Tax	-	2,019	-	-	-
Other Grants Excl DSG & ABG	-	-	-	-	-
Top Up Grant	-	-	-	-	-
Other income	5,044	2,589	2,589	2,589	2,589
Net Payment to/(from) Reserves	(28,907)	(3,096)	(1,687)	-	-
<b>Total Resources Movement</b>	<b>(23,863)</b>	<b>15,612</b>	<b>(26,775)</b>	<b>(37,576)</b>	<b>(38,463)</b>
<b>MTFP Budget Gap at July 2023</b>	<b>87,385</b>	<b>164,838</b>	<b>177,135</b>	<b>172,445</b>	<b>180,084</b>

- 5.2 These projected budget shortfalls do not reflect any additional costs relating to Equal Pay, including potential future liabilities as well as the cost of implementing

any scheme of job evaluation. Full detail on these projections is included in paragraphs 5.3 – 5.15 below.

5.3 **Budget Pressures & Policy Choices** – this is made up of two elements:

- a. **Staffing** – this includes the correction of a previous budget issue that relates to the 1.25% planned increase in National Insurance contributions (and therefore pay costs) which was subsequently scrapped in September 2022. This planned increase was removed from base budgets, leaving a shortfall (£3.4m in 2023/24) to cover the forecast pay award.
- b. **Demand / Complexity** – this covers a range of directorate-specific spending pressures. The four largest areas of cost pressures are:
  - i. Oracle costs (assumed £33m from 2023/24 to 2025/26);
  - ii. Temporary Accommodation (assumed pressure of £8.6m in 2023/24, rising to £18.2m in 2024/25; based on the recent proposal to June Cabinet to purchase additional temporary accommodation which was approved);
  - iii. Children & Families pressures (£6.7m in 2023/24 and £3.9m in 2024/25), driven by demographic pressures requiring care (particularly in Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children) and home-to-school transport support, as well as an additional liability relating to Birmingham’s Children’s Trust pension liabilities for 2023/24 only (all of which will be further reviewed at Quarter Two); and
  - iv. Adult Social Care demand pressures (forecast £6.2m in 2023/24 and £8.9m in 2024/25) relating to increased numbers seeking care and increased placement costs (i.e. additional demand for more expensive residential care).

5.4 **Corporately Managed Budgets** – this includes a forecast reduction in borrowing costs of £3.9m in 2023/24 and £2.3m in 2024/25, as delays in the capital programme have led to lower than forecast loan debt (and therefore lower Treasury costs).

**Inflation**

5.5 **Other inflation** – this line covers General Price inflation on premises, transport, and supplies and services costs. The assumptions used in the 2023/24 Financial Plan have been reviewed in light of the latest Bank of England Consumer Price Index (CPI) forecasts from May 2023. The updated forecasts are based on the following assumptions:

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Apr-Jun	8.2%	3.4%	1.1%
Jul-Sep	7.0%	2.9%	1.0%
Oct-Dec	5.1%	2.3%	1.0%
Jan-Mar	4.4%	1.5%	1.1%
Average CPI Inflation	6.2%	2.5%	1.1%
<b>MTFP refresh assumptions used:</b>	<b>6.2%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>2.0%</b>
Assumptions used in 2023/24 Financial Plan:	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Source for MTFP refresh assumptions: Bank of England CPI forecasts, May 2023

Note: for the 2025/26 financial year and future financial years, MTFP forecasts are assumed to be 2.0% - a slight increase from Bank of England forecasts to ensure the MTFP is calculated on a prudent basis

5.6 As noted above, the increase in forecast inflation is due to the increase compared to the 2023/24 Financial Plan, in which assumptions were made that Directorates would not receive any inflationary uplift for premises, transport and supplies & services costs and would need to manage pressures within existing budgets.

5.7 **Contract inflation** – this relates to areas of spend which are tied to specific contracts, and so require specific inflation assumptions. The largest area of spend – and therefore the largest impact on the MTFP – relates to Adult Social Care (packages of care; estimated £18.6m increase in inflation forecasts in 2024/25) and Children’s Social Care (third party payments to the Birmingham Children’s Trust for care packages; estimated £7.3m increase in inflation forecasts in 2024/25). This is based on the following assumptions:

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
<u>Adult Social Care packages</u>			
Assumptions used in the 2023/24 Financial Plan:	7.5%	0.6%	0.0%
<b>MTFP refresh assumptions used:</b>	<b>8.7%</b>	<b>6.5%</b>	<b>4.9%</b>
<u>Children's Social Care third party payments</u>			
Assumptions used in the 2023/24 Financial Plan:	7.4%	0.6%	0.0%
<b>MTFP refresh assumptions used:</b>	<b>7.4%</b>	<b>6.5%</b>	<b>4.9%</b>

Source for MTFP refresh assumptions: Analysis of future ASC care package costs as at end of May 2023

Note: for Children’s third-party payments, it is assumed that they will track ASC inflation movements in 2024/25 and 2025/26. The 2023/24 figures have not yet been updated and will form part of the next MTFP Refresh paper to Cabinet in October

5.8 **Pay inflation** – at present, pay inflation budgets look broadly accurate. The Financial Plan 2023/24 assumed 5.0% increase in 2023/24, 2.5% in 2024/25 and in future years. Based on Bank of England forecasts, this update revises this forecast to 2.0% from 2025/26 onwards.

5.9 **Savings** – progress against the savings agreed in the 2023/24 Financial Plan has been reviewed. Based on the table below, it is estimated that a total of £35.1m of savings are at high risk (i.e., assessed as unlikely to deliver). These are described in paragraphs 5.10-5.11 (£33.2m of savings at risk within the agreed corporate savings programme) and 5.12 (an additional £1.9m of savings that had been incorrectly applied).

- 5.10 From the agreed corporate savings programme, as laid out in the 2023/24 Financial Plan approved by Cabinet in February, the Financial Sustainability Programme Board is currently forecasting that £33.2m of savings are at high risk (i.e., assessed as unlikely to deliver) in 2023/24 with a further £21.1m unlikely to be delivered in 2024/25:

£'000	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total	% of Target
<b>MTFP Target 23/24 to 25/26</b>	(55,165)	(28,137)	(19,544)	(102,846)	92%
<b>Previous Undelivered Savings</b>	(9,454)			(9,454)	8%
<b>Total Target</b>	<b>(64,619)</b>	<b>(28,137)</b>	<b>(19,544)</b>	<b>(112,300)</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Delivered</b>					
<b>Low Risk</b>	(2,623)	(1,116)	(84)	(3,823)	3%
<b>Medium Risk</b>	(28,517)	(5,888)	(360)	(34,765)	31%
<b>High Risk</b>	(33,479)	(21,133)	(19,100)	(73,712)	66%
<b>To Be Confirmed</b>					
<b>Potential Write-Off</b>					
<b>Total Forecast</b>	<b>(64,619)</b>	<b>(28,137)</b>	<b>(19,544)</b>	<b>(112,300)</b>	<b>100%</b>

- 5.11 The following points should be noted about this savings forecast:

- a. This assumes that, in addition to the £55.2m of budgeted savings in the MTFP for 2023/24, there will be £9.5m of undelivered savings in 2022/23 that will need to be rolled forward for a total savings target of £64.9m in 2023/24. This will need to be confirmed as part of the outturn report for 2022/23 (and the number of undelivered savings could rise or fall).
- b. The projects that are not expected to deliver target savings in 2022/23 include: Workforce savings (£2m); Traded Services (£1.6m); Council Admin Buildings Premises (£1.3m); Automation (£0.85m); Fieldworker / new ways of working (£0.8m); and Customer Services (£0.4m).
- c. An initial high-level review of savings projects by the Financial Sustainability Programme Board, as at mid-May, suggests that approximately £33m (50%) of the total £64.9m required in 2023/24 is currently at risk of slippage/non-delivery. Key projects currently at high risk of slippage/non-delivery include: Children's Trust Savings - £6m; Reducing Bed and Breakfast spend - £5.5m; Commercial Investment/Property - £4.7m; Workforce Savings - £4m; CAB Premises - £3.7m; Traded Services - £3.1m; EIP/Localities Hub - £2.5m; Automation - £1.850m; Centres of Excellence - £1.8m; Customer Services - £0.990m; and Fieldworker - £0.8m
- d. Work is currently progressing to review the risk levels and options for mitigation. Further information will be provided in subsequent reports to Cabinet on the 2022/23 outturn and the Quarter Two MTFP Refresh in October.

- 5.12 In addition to the savings above, this MTFP includes an additional £1.95m of vacancy factor savings (i.e., holding staff positions vacant as people leave) that

had been incorrectly applied to Children & Families and City Operations. These had been applied on top of existing 3% savings across all Directorates.

5.13 **Resources** – this paper also considers a range of factors affecting future income. These include:

- a. **Business rates** – based on the draft 2022/23 outturn position for the Collection Fund, it is forecast that there is a deficit in business rates income of £27.8m due to a challenging economic environment for businesses (resulting in lower than forecast collection rates), a delay in enforcement activity (due to Oracle implementation issues) and an increase in business rates appeals (as this is the last year of the six year period in which businesses can query the latest set of rateable valuations (i.e. tax due) which were carried out in 2017).
- b. Under statutory guidance, the 2022/23 Collection Fund deficit will be charged to the General Fund for the next financial year (i.e. in 2024/25). However, this is offset by additional forecast income from business rates of £13.8m in 2024/25 and in subsequent years. Business rates are calculated by multiplying the rateable value of the property by the “non-domestic multiplier” which is adjusted to reflect the Consumer Price Index inflation figure for the September prior to the billing year. As Bank of England forecasts for CPI are expected to be higher than the forecasts used in the Financial Plan for 2023/24, this could result in additional income for the Council in future years.
- c. **Council tax** – as with Business Rates, there is projected to be a £2.0m deficit for 2022/23 in Council Tax income due to a reduction in collection rates. This will also be charged to the General Fund for 2024/25. It is worth noting that collection rates across Council Tax and Business rates fell in 2022/23, relative to 2021/22. For Council Tax, in year collection fell from 92.9% to 90.2%; for Business Rates, in year collection fell from 95.8% to 90.1%.
- d. **Grants** – there are two main categories of grant: 1) those used to fund wider Council services (e.g., Top Up Grant, Business-rates related Section 31 grants); and 2) those ringfenced to fund specific services (e.g., the Social Care Grant). At present, there is not sufficient information from central government to update forecasts for grant funding in 2024/25 and beyond. Further information is expected later in the 2023/24 financial year.
- e. **Other income** – this includes a range of pressures including a pressure of £1.5m on parking income (due to reduced demand with the city) and £1.5m on business waste collection income (again likely due to reduced office usage across the city).
- f. **Reserves** – at present, the only use of reserves assumed is to cover the additional expenditure required to support the remediation of the Oracle

finance system. A further review of reserves will be provided to Cabinet as part of the 2022/23 outturn report in the Autumn.

5.14 **Additional risks** – there are a range of other possible service pressures that are being reviewed by officers. For the purposes of this paper, only pressures that are 1) viewed as more than 50% likely to take place and 2) can be quantified are included in this report. Others will be reviewed and may be quantified as part of the Quarter Two refresh of the MTFP for Cabinet in October. This could include the potential cost implications relating to the current Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract between the Council and Birmingham Highways Limited – a procurement exercise for a new sub-contractor is currently ongoing, so it is not possible to quantify any additional costs at this stage.

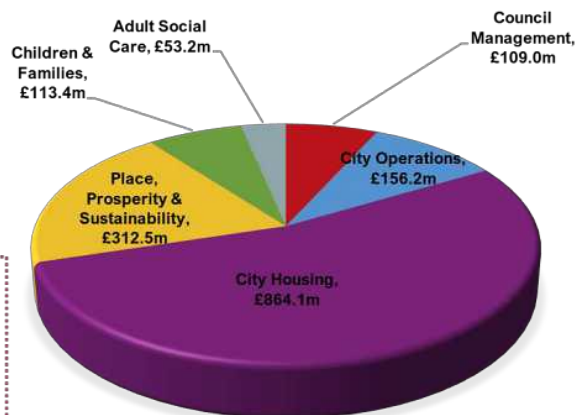
5.15 **Equal Pay** – further to the description in Section Four of this report, and for the purposes of this paper, a high level estimate of the potential financing costs has been made for information purposes. It is not yet included in the MTFP forecasts in this paper, as the work to finalise the figures is ongoing.

Capital Programme

5.16 **Size** – a review of the Capital programme is needed in light of the current financial situation with a view to add, reprioritise, accelerate, defer and descope the programme. This will need to be looked at across all Directorates within scope of the Capital Programme.

5.17 The current approved capital programme is for £1.6 billion of spending over this MTFP period:

	2023/24 to 2026/27
<b>Directorate</b>	<b>£m</b>
Council Management	£109.0m
City Operations	£156.2m
City Housing	£864.1m
Place, Prosperity & Sustainability	£312.5m
Children & Families	£113.4m
Adult Social Care	£53.2m
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,608.3m</b>



Core City Comparison		
	4yr Programme	HRA
City	£m	£m
Birmingham	1,608	821
Manchester	1,104	105
Leeds	1,978	520
Bristol	1,118	700
Liverpool	345	0

- 5.18 The capital spend by Directorate includes:
- a. City Housing includes £820m for the Housing Revenue Account: investment in current housing stock as well as new social housing;
  - b. Council Management includes £54m transformation projects and £30m Corporate Contingency over four years;

- c. The above figures do not include the proposed £400m investment in the Council's Temporary Accommodation strategy, approved by Cabinet on 25 June; and
- d. Place, Prosperity & Sustainability includes £52.9m Enterprise Zone funded by borrowing to be repaid by the retention of future Enterprise Zone business rates.

### Corporate Reserves

- 5.19 At present, officers are reviewing corporate reserves to finalise the outturn position for the 2022/23 financial year. These will need to be compared to the MTFP budget gap included in this paper and additional costs as a result of additional Equal Pay claims.
- 5.20 Using corporate reserves will, of course, significantly reduce the financial resilience of the council against future pressures. Once reserves have been used, they need to be rebuilt from existing budgets (i.e., through future savings that can be contributed to reserves). Once reserves have been spent, they are no longer available. That is why it is worth pursuing a savings programme first and retaining reserves to enable the authority to have some protection against future budget pressures. The method for pursuing these savings will be the Robust Budget Savings & Recovery Plan – outlined in the next Section of this report.

## **6 Robust Budget Savings & Recovery Plan**

### Background

- 6.1 The financial challenges being faced by the Council are of a sufficient size that they require immediate and sustained action to control. There is no doubting the scale of the financial challenge. There is a significant budgetary challenge arising, which includes:
  - a. The sizeable MTFP budget gaps identified in Section Five of this report; and
  - b. Additional financing costs for any future Equal Pay costs.
- 6.2 The Robust **Budget Savings & Recovery Plan** is made up of:
  - a. **Mandatory spending controls** – to enable the Authority to pause non-essential spending and to enable time to tackle the budget gap; and
  - b. **Detailed workstreams** – including Oracle Remediation, MTFP and Budget, and Workforce.

### Mandatory Spending Controls

- 6.3 Based on the rationale in this report, **Mandatory Spending Controls** were implemented on 5 July.

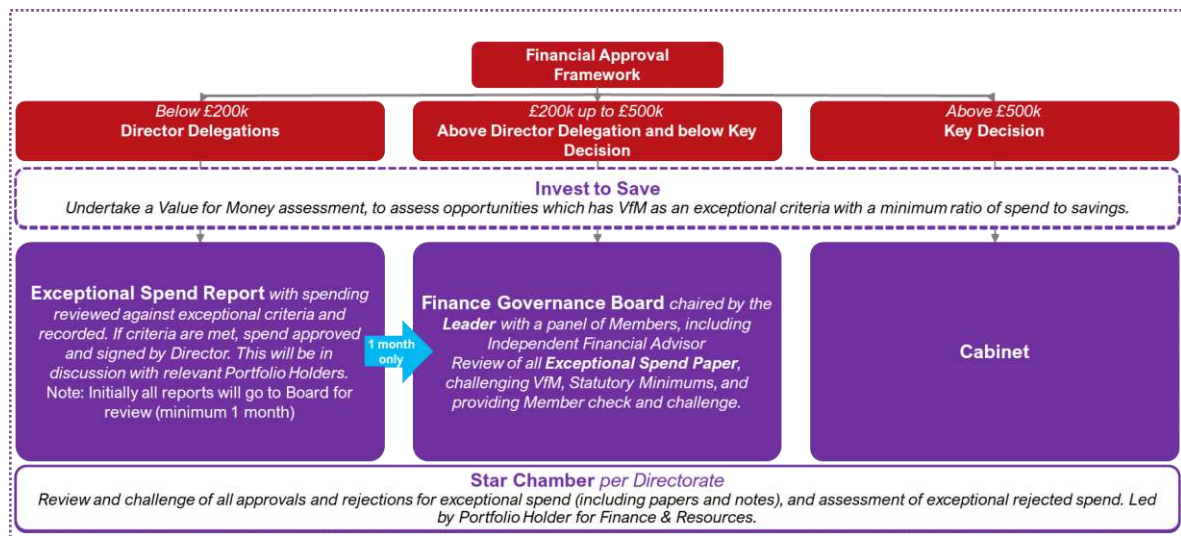


- 6.4 **Mandatory spending controls mean that:**
- a. **No new agreements or commitments for expenditure can be made, without engagement with the three statutory officers.**
  - b. Temporary measures will be brought in to ensure all **new** non-essential expenditure will stop with immediate effect.
- 6.5 **The only allowable expenditure permitted under an emergency protocol includes the following categories:**
- a. Existing staff **payroll** and **pension** costs
  - b. Expenditure required through **existing legal agreements and contracts**
  - c. Expenditure on **goods and services** which have **already been received**
  - d. Expenditure required to deliver the council's **provision of statutory services**
  - e. Urgent expenditure required to **safeguard vulnerable citizens**
  - f. Expenditure to address **services** which are **under regulation**
  - g. Expenditure funded through **ring-fenced grants**
  - h. Expenditure necessary to achieve **value for money** and / or **mitigate additional in year costs**
  - i. Expenditure necessary to achieve **value for money** and / or **mitigate additional in year costs**
    - i. *Robust business case with short payback period required, i.e., less than 24 months;*
    - ii. *Value-for-Money Framework to be developed; and*
    - iii. *Business Cases to be reviewed by a group (to be established by Chief Executive)*

#### Robust Budget Savings & Recovery Plan

- 6.6 **Governance Arrangements – three governance forums will be used to challenge spend within the Council:**
- a. **Director Delegations with Exceptional Spend Report** – To review spend against exceptional criteria and take delegated decisions against spend thresholds. In discussion with relevant Portfolio Holder.
  - b. **Finance Governance Board** – To review spend above certain thresholds based on exceptional criteria, utilising senior stakeholders to challenge spend, and regularly review Director delegated decisions.
  - c. **Star Chamber** – To review and challenge all approved exceptional spend (including papers and notes) and an assessment of exceptional rejected spend.

6.7 This will be implemented in line with a temporary scheme of delegation, aligned to the Finance, Procurement and Contract Governance Rules in Part D of the constitution:



*Notes: All forums will occur on a weekly basis to ensure spend is agile and responses to Directorate needs. This will apply to all spend over £500 as a de-minimus level. All spend must adhere to Council Procurement Governance. This includes spend and call-offs from frameworks. This includes **Capital and Ring-Fenced Grant Spend**. Consideration will be given to the volume of reports, needs to split by General Fund and Housing Revenue Account spend, and the timeliness of reporting and governance. This covers increase in spend **and** decrease in income.*

6.8 **Work plan** – this plan will inform the roadmap of activities that need to be delivered over the next five years to achieve financial stability within the Council.

6.9 There are nine activities which form this plan, split into Strategic and Operational Activities. The Strategic work streams are:

- a. **Organisational Spending Review** – Review all spending for Value for Money and Outcome Focus across all services and budgets, including General Fund, Housing Revenue Account, Capital and external funding, Companies, Traded Services (i.e. Schools);
- b. **Equal Pay Resolution** – Roadmap of activities to understand and resolve the Equal Pay challenges, including detailing the potential costs over the next 5 years;
- c. **MTFP and Budget** – Quantification and remediation of the budget gap, revising the MTFP (next four financial years, Long-Term Financial Plan (next ten financial years), and Budget setting process. This will include the identification and delivery of savings, to be owned by the Corporate Leadership Team and Cabinet; and

- d. **Workforce** – Ensuring recruitment and retention is not at risk within the workforce, and developing contingency, creating capacity and flexibility, and exploring staff and people costs, including agency and interim costs.

6.10 The Operational work streams are:

- a. **Mandatory Spend Controls** – Implementation of mandatory spend controls, as outlined above, and the delivery of in-year spending savings through these controls, including Collection/Recovery of Income, balance sheet controls and use of Minimum Revenue Provision;
- b. **Oracle Remediation** – Activities to achieve Safe and Compliant, Stabilisation, and Optimisation of the Oracle Fusion implementation;
- c. **Governance and Controls Framework** – Review and remediation of governance and key financial controls, including but not limited to Internal Audit, Procurement, Value-for-money, Risk Management, Annual Governance Statement;
- d. **Closure of the Accounts** – Activities to deliver accounts for the Council across all financial years that remain open with External Auditors, including any further investigations and assessments; and
- e. **Finance and Governance Capacity and Capability** – Strengthened finance and governance knowledge, capability and capacity to deliver the planned improvements, including development of a Service Improvement Programme.

6.11 Work is already underway against a number of these areas. Each of the nine pillars above has a detailed plan of activities with responsible owners, risks, timelines, and allocated resources against each step.

6.12 The Robust Budget Savings & Recovery Plan will be reported to, and monitored by, the Finance Governance Board.

## 7 Next Steps

7.1 Significant work is required over the next few weeks to deliver on the proposed Budget Savings & Recovery Plan. A further update will come to Cabinet in October to update the MTFP position and assumptions over the medium term, in advance of the formal budget-setting process for 2024/25.

7.2 The timetable for the 2024/25 budget-setting process is as follows:

Activities	Date
Spending Controls implementation	5 July 2023
Implementation of Budget Savings & Recovery Plan	25 July 2023
Quarter Two Update on MTFP assumptions, budget position to Cabinet	10 October 2023

Budget engagement on resource prioritisation	Mid October – December 2023
Scrutiny of budget development proposals and Scrutiny review of Budget Savings & Recovery Plan for 2024/25 budget	November/December 2023
Provisional Local Government Settlement	Mid December 2023 (TBC)
Cabinet – setting of council tax and business rate tax base	16 January 2024
Final Local Government Settlement	January/February 2024 (TBC)
Cabinet consideration of the 2023/24 budget and Financial Plan	13 February 2024
Full Council approval of 2023/24 budget and setting of Council tax	28 February 2024

## **8 Next Steps**

- 8.1 The Council believes that it is important that it engages with citizens and business when planning activity and the financial implications of those plans. An engagement plan is currently in development, focusing on gathering the views of Council Tax and Business Rates payers to feed into the 2024/25 budget setting process.

## **9 Risk Management**

- 9.1 There remains significant uncertainty in respect of public spending levels and the level of funding for local government and therefore the assumptions outlined in this report will be subject to continual review over the coming months to ensure that the Council's short term and medium term financial stability can be protected and critical services delivered.

## **10 Compliance Issues:**

### **10.1 How are the recommended decisions consistent with the City Council's priorities, plans and strategies?**

- a. The Robust Budget Savings and Recovery Plan is an essential part of the Medium Term financial planning process. This will be informed by the priorities that led to its implementation, namely to provide a stable footing for the future financial position of the Council. In doing so, the Robust Budget Savings and Recovery Plan will seek to support the delivery of the Council's priorities, as laid out in the Council Plan, wherever possible within current and potential financial constraints. The

MTFP must remain focused on social justice, frontline services and the needs of residents and communities of the city.

## **10.2 Legal Implications**

- a. A local authority is required under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to produce a balanced budget.

## **10.3 Financial Implications**

- a. The detailed financial implications have been covered throughout the report.

## **10.4 Procurement Implications (if required)**

- a. There are no procurement issues arising directly from the contents of this report. Any procurement implications will be identified as specific budgets are developed.

## **10.5 Human Resources Implications (if required)**

- a. There are no specific human resources implications arising from this report. Any Human resource implication will be identified as specific budgets are developed.

## **10.6 Public Sector Equality Duty**

- a. In compliance with the Council's duties on equality, changes in the budget that impact on the provision of services will need to be properly assessed. An Equalities Impact Assessment will be undertaken on proposals as they are developed where this is considered necessary to do so.



# FINANCE SCRUTINY WORKSHOP

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Birmingham City Council  
26<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Ian Fifield

# Objectives



- To ensure that everyone understands the nature and depth of the financial challenge faced by the Council
- To plan Scrutiny's approach and contribution to the Council's overall approach in meeting the challenge
- To develop a timetable and action plan for Scrutiny, especially over the autumn period



	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Total Net Expenditure (as per 2023/24 Financial Plan)	925,078	1,018,314	1,035,612	1,049,934	1,083,206
Total Resources (as per 2023/24 Financial Plan)	(925,078)	(1,018,314)	(1,035,612)	(1,049,934)	(1,079,093)
<b>Budget gap as (as per 2023/24 Financial Plan)</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>4,113</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
<b>Budget Pressures</b>					
Staffing	3,844	3,973	4,070	4,170	4,273
Demand/Complexity Growth	55,586	37,736	44,027	42,240	39,840
Statutory Requirement	-	-	-	-	-
Borrowing costs, investment etc	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Budget Pressures Subtotal</b>	<b>59,430</b>	<b>41,709</b>	<b>48,097</b>	<b>46,410</b>	<b>44,113</b>
<b>Corporately Managed Budgets</b>	<b>(4,240)</b>	<b>(4,097)</b>	<b>(3,935)</b>	<b>(4,154)</b>	<b>(5,461)</b>
Pay Inflation	-	-	(2,532)	(5,178)	(7,943)
Contract Inflation	1,042	27,346	51,904	55,348	58,666
Other Inflation	19,875	28,352	35,367	42,593	50,063
Fees and Charges Inflation	-	(357)	(365)	(372)	(378)
<b>Inflation Sub-total</b>	<b>20,917</b>	<b>55,341</b>	<b>84,374</b>	<b>92,391</b>	<b>100,408</b>
<b>Savings</b>					
High Risk Savings	35,141	56,274	75,374	75,374	75,374
<b>Savings Subtotal</b>	<b>35,141</b>	<b>56,274</b>	<b>75,374</b>	<b>75,374</b>	<b>75,374</b>
<b>Total Net Expenditure Movements</b>	<b>111,248</b>	<b>149,227</b>	<b>203,910</b>	<b>210,021</b>	<b>214,434</b>
<b>Resources</b>					
Business Rates	-	14,100	(27,677)	(40,165)	(41,052)
Council Tax	-	2,019	-	-	-
Other Grants Excl DSG & ABG	-	-	-	-	-
Top Up Grant	-	-	-	-	-
Other income	5,044	2,589	2,589	2,589	2,589
Net Payment to/(from) Reserves	(28,907)	(3,096)	(1,687)	-	-
<b>Total Resources Movement</b>	<b>(23,863)</b>	<b>15,612</b>	<b>(26,775)</b>	<b>(37,576)</b>	<b>(38,463)</b>
<b>MTFP Budget Gap at July 2023</b>	<b>87,385</b>	<b>164,838</b>	<b>177,135</b>	<b>172,445</b>	<b>180,084</b>

# Additional issues

- 2023/24 agreed budget savings - £33.479m out of £64.619m are “high risk” (i.e. unlikely to be delivered)
- Equal pay - £650 - £760m not currently included in the MTFS
- Oracle implementation – impact on reserves

# My thoughts.....

- Both capital and revenue budgets require fundamental review to generate savings
- Work to be done on the deliverability of savings
- Much work is underway – including a “star chamber” process
- The end point is a scrutiny review of the Budget Savings and Recovery Plan for the 24/25 budget – November/December 2023

# But....

- Should Scrutiny just wait for the results of the review and scrutinize the saving list?
- How can Scrutiny engage with the star chamber process?

**How can Scrutiny be proactive and add value to this process, avoiding duplication?**

# Workshop

## Generating Scrutiny Questions

“The important and most difficult job is never to find the right answers, it is to find the right questions” (Peter Drucker)

# The Challenge

What questions can scrutiny ask and explore in order to make a positive contribution to the savings identification process?

# Questions and Key Lines of Enquiry Discussed at the Workshop

- All scrutiny committees need to review their work programme and identify what can be delayed to give space to this work.
- Information required on:
  - What and who the “star chamber process” is, including what they will be reviewing to ensure there is no duplication.
- Are there any previous scrutiny recommendations that suggested ways that savings / efficiency could be achieved that have not yet been implemented? Can these be taken forward?

# Cont'd

- Officers to be asked for the current list of agreed savings to be broken down per committee so that scrutiny committees can;
  - Undertake a reality check of how / when / how much can now be delivered.
  - Understand why these savings were put forward and agreed as part of the budget process but are now considered high and medium risk.
  - Ensure that all further savings proposals can be implemented on time and that they deliver the savings identified.
- Resources scrutiny committee to:
  - Review the various assumptions in the MTFP
  - Request other scrutiny committees review the assumptions made in lines such as “demand and complex growth”



# Cont'd

- Potential more detailed reviews:
  - Duplication between departments.
  - Income generation possibilities e.g. commercial rental income
  - Invest to save possibilities in the capital programme
- Timescale
  - Much work needs to be completed over the next few weeks to ensure that recommendations are formally discussed and approved in the September scrutiny meetings
  - Scrutiny review of the Budget Savings & Recovery Plan need to be timetabled for later in the autumn (November/ December)



## 23/24 Savings Q1 Position by O&S Committee

### Summary

Savings by OSC Portfolio	Delivered	Low Risk	Medium Risk	High Risk	TOTAL
Co-ordinating OSC				(14,851)	(14,851)
Economy and Skills OSC		(133)	(816)	(9,595)	(10,544)
Education, Children and Young People OSC			(4,465)	(6,000)	(10,465)
Finance and Resources OSC		(1,269)	(8,799)	1,457	(8,611)
Health and Adult Social Care OSC		(700)	(9,008)	2,000	(7,708)
Homes OSC		(502)	(592)	(5,500)	(6,594)
Neighbourhoods OSC		(19)	(4,837)	(990)	(5,846)
Sustainability and Transport OSC					
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>(2,623)</b>	<b>(28,517)</b>	<b>(33,479)</b>	<b>(64,619)</b>

### List of Savings Projects

Directorate	O&S Committee	Savings Description	2023/24 (Saving) £'000
Adult Social Care	Health and Adult Social Care OSC	Adults Transformation Programme.	(3,700)
Adult Social Care	Health and Adult Social Care OSC	Adult Packages of Care (Reversal of previous year one-off savings)	1,000
Adult Social Care	Health and Adult Social Care OSC	Income Collection (Reversal of previous year one-off savings)	1,000
Adult Social Care	Health and Adult Social Care OSC	3% Turnover factor (Vacancy management)	(2,850)
Adult Social Care	Health and Adult Social Care OSC	Special Impact team (SIT) complex case review accelerated and expanded to cover high cost packages	(500)
Adult Social Care	Health and Adult Social Care OSC	Case load packages Review	(200)
Adult Social Care	Health and Adult Social Care OSC	Looking at ways to enhance ICS/CCG partnership to harness pooled resources more efficiently eg BCF Inflation	(1,000)
BCT	Education, Children and Young People	Children's Trust - Family and Friends Cars	(2,000)
BCT	Education, Children and Young People	Children's Trust - Stronger Families Programme	(3,000)
BCT	Education, Children and Young People	Children's Trust - Tackling Domestic Abuse to Support Families	(1,000)
Children & Families	Education, Children and Young People	Schools Balances	(328)
Children & Families	Education, Children and Young People	Education and Skill Early Retirement	(210)

Children & Families	Education, Children and Young People	3% Turnover factor (Vacancy management)	(1,921)
City Housing	Homes OSC	Reducing / Eradicating B&B Accommodation	(5,500)
City Housing	Homes OSC	3% Turnover factor (Vacancy management)	(502)
City Ops	Sustainability and Transport OSC	Street Work Permits	(100)
City Ops	Neighbourhoods OSC	Removal of Universal Superloos	(19)
City Ops	Co-ordinating OSC	Capitalise Salaries of Alexander Stadium Build (Reversal of previous year one-off savings)	40
City Ops	Co-ordinating OSC	Revenue Benefit from Capitalising the Cost of Indoor Track at Arena (Reversal of previous year one-off savings)	150
City Ops	Neighbourhoods OSC	3% Turnover factor (Vacancy management)	(3,307)
Corporate Items	Co-ordinating OSC	Localities / Public Hub (Savings from implementation of EIP Model)	(2,500)
Corporate Items	Co-ordinating OSC	BCC Target Operating Model Design Principles - Voluntary Workforce Savings Programme	(2,000)
Corporate Items	Co-ordinating OSC	B/F_BCC Target Operating Model Design Principles - Voluntary Workforce Savings Programme	(2,000)
Corporate Items	Finance and Resources OSC	Maximise the Use of Grant Funding – Identifying opportunities to use grant funding to fund existing GF spend releasing GF budgets for savings.	(1,000)
Corporate Items	Finance and Resources OSC	B/F_Maximise the Use of Grant Funding - Identifying opportunities to use grant funding to fund existing GF spend releasing GF budgets for savings.	(1,000)
Corporate Items	Finance and Resources OSC	Improvements in Debt Management – Review Debt Management Process with a view to improving collection and reducing bad debt.	(900)
Corporate Items	Finance and Resources OSC	B/F_Improvements in Debt Management – Review Debt Management Process with a view to improving collection and reducing bad debt.	(1,000)
Corporate Items	Co-ordinating OSC	Traded Services – Review of traded services with a view to greater commercialisation and reduced GF subsidy)	(1,500)
Corporate Items	Co-ordinating OSC	B/F_Traded Services - Review of traded services with a view to greater commercialisation and reduced GF subsidy)	(1,600)
Corporate Items	Finance and Resources OSC	Repayment of Borrowing Following Asset Disposal Resulting in Reduced Debt Management Costs (Reversal of one-off savings from previous years)	4,500
Corporate Items	Finance and Resources OSC	Release Highways policy contingency for one year – Accounting Adjustment (Reversal of one-off savings from previous years)	800
Corporate Items	Economy and Skills OSC	B/F_Corporate Landlord (Efficiencies in Asset Management through Consolidation and Rationalisation of Council Assets/ Buildings)	(500)
Corporate Items	Co-ordinating OSC	Automation – Use of Robotic Process Automation Technology to automate manual processes and reduce manual handling, leading to efficiencies in process and savings on time/resource required to deliver services.	(1,000)
Corporate Items	Co-ordinating OSC	B/F_Automation - Use of Robotic Process Automation Technology to automate manual processes and reduce manual handling, leading to efficiencies in process and savings on time/resource required to deliver services.	(850)
Corporate Items	Co-ordinating OSC	Reducing Workforce (Centres of Excellence) – Consolidation of similar roles and teams to reduce duplication of effort and achieve efficiency in resource/process	(1,791)

Corporate Items	Co-ordinating OSC	Automation (Voice Automation) – Use of voice automation technology to reduce volume of manual call handling, leading efficiencies and better customer services.	(1,000)
Corporate Items	Finance and Resources OSC	Automation (Oracle Optimisation) – Use of new oracle system to generate process efficiencies	(500)
Council Management	Finance and Resources OSC	Digital advertising on key assets to generate additional income	(200)
Council Management	Finance and Resources OSC	Operational Hub Programme – rationalisation of assets.	(161)
Council Management	Finance and Resources OSC	Application platform modernisation.	(11)
Council Management	Finance and Resources OSC	3% Turnover factor (Vacancy management)	(4,265)
Council Management	Finance and Resources OSC	Review all BCC leased properties and reduce cost of lease payments for assets	(460)
Council Management	Finance and Resources OSC	System Efficiencies	(600)
Council Management	Neighbourhoods OSC	Customer Services – Bereavement. Improvements in service design to deliver efficiencies	(460)
Council Management	Neighbourhoods OSC	B/F_Customer Services - Bereavement. Improvements in service design to deliver efficiencies	(250)
Council Management	Neighbourhoods OSC	Customer Services - Garden Waste. Introduce autorenewal and other process improvements to maximise levels of annual subscriptions.	(40)
Council Management	Neighbourhoods OSC	B/F_Customer Services - Garden Waste. Introduce autorenewal and other process improvements to maximise levels of annual subscriptions.	(40)
Council Management	Neighbourhoods OSC	Customer Services - Markets	(50)
Council Management	Neighbourhoods OSC	B/F_Customer Services - Markets	(50)
Council Management	Neighbourhoods OSC	Customer Services - Pest Control	(50)
Council Management	Neighbourhoods OSC	B/F_Customer Services - Pest Control	(50)
Council Management	Finance and Resources OSC	Development & Commercial - Digital advertising income and offer up of growth	(60)
Council Management	Finance and Resources OSC	Procurement - 2020/21 Expenditure Budget covered by funding	(106)
Council Management	Finance and Resources OSC	Audit - increase trading opportunities with Police, Housing Associations and Acivico	(60)
Council Management	Finance and Resources OSC	Finance - refinancing legacy systems	(700)
Council Management	Finance and Resources OSC	Personal Assistant Allocation - review use of Personal Assistant Support	(200)
Council Management	Finance and Resources OSC	Business Support Efficiencies	(50)

Council Management	Finance and Resources OSC	Customer Services Efficiencies	(50)
Council Management	Finance and Resources OSC	Review Human Resources Target Operating Model - reduce posts that are vacant	(170)
Council Management	Finance and Resources OSC	Human Resources reduce growth request in Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)	(113)
Place, Prosperity & Sustainability	Economy and Skills OSC	B/F_CAB Premises - excluding Council House. Reduced costs associated with Council Admin Buildings	(1,314)
Place, Prosperity & Sustainability	Economy and Skills OSC	CAB Premises - excluding Council House. Reduced costs associated with Council Admin Buildings	(2,431)
Place, Prosperity & Sustainability	Economy and Skills OSC	CAB Premises - Council House Commercialisation Income generation through improved commercial offer including banqueting and events.	(50)
Place, Prosperity & Sustainability	Economy and Skills OSC	Commercial Property - Lease Event Opportunities Review of commercial property leases – includes rent reviews and extension options	(600)
Place, Prosperity & Sustainability	Economy and Skills OSC	Commercial Property - Active Investment Additional income through investment in Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) compliant commercial property	(2,250)
Place, Prosperity & Sustainability	Economy and Skills OSC	Commercial Property - Blended Approach Investment and Lease Events Additional income generated through a combination of lease reviews and investment	(2,500)
Place, Prosperity & Sustainability	Sustainability and Transport OSC	Street Work Permits - moved directorate	100
Place, Prosperity & Sustainability	Economy and Skills OSC	3% Turnover factor (Vacancy management)	(666)
Place, Prosperity & Sustainability	Economy and Skills OSC	Review all £5-10k leases – with a view to optimising lease income.	(150)
Strategic Equals & Partnership	Finance and Resources OSC	3% Turnover factor (Vacancy management)	(116)
Strategic Equals & Partnership	Finance and Resources OSC	Efficiencies amongst non-staffing budgets	(116)
Corporate Items	Co-ordinating OSC	B/F_New Ways of Working_Fieldworker. Rolling out field worker module to allow staff working in the field to update host systems directly rather than returning to office to update	(800)
Adult Social Care	Health and Adult Social Care OSC	Fees & Charges 5%	(1,458)
Children & Families	Education, Children and Young People	Fees & Charges 5%	(2,006)
Council Management	Finance and Resources OSC	Fees & Charges 5%	(2,073)
City Ops	Neighbourhoods OSC	Fees & Charges 5%	(1,530)
City Housing	Homes OSC	Fees & Charges 5%	(592)
Place, Prosperity & Sustainability	Economy and Skills OSC	Fees & Charges 5%	(83)
		<b>Total</b>	<b>(64,619)</b>

**Caveats:**

- Many targets fit into multiple O&S portfolio, such as Fees & Charges, vacancy factor, thus for simplicity we have allocated to the O&S Committee where most of the target is more likely to fall.
- Some services also fall into more than one O&S portfolio – we have allocated the full target for these to the committee of higher alignment rather than split amounts.
- The total savings that need to be delivered in the 23/24 financial year may increase. Finance is currently working to close the 22/23 financial year accounts – this includes final assessment of savings delivery for the last financial year. Any further undelivered savings in 22/23 will need to be brought forward and found in 23/24 thereby increasing the overall target for 23/24.

**Criteria for determining the RAG status of savings**

Assessment Criteria	Delivered	Low Risk	Medium Risk	High Risk
Savings RAG	Saving or income realised and evidence provided that costs have been reduced or income increased.	Saving or income detail documented and robust plan in place to deliver agreed targets, showing when and who is responsible. - and / or - Saving / income will be delivered within agreed timeframes.	Saving or income lacks some clarity and / or not detailed at an adequately granular level, or at risk, <b>but agreed plan in place to resolve and being actively managed.</b> - and / or - Some risk of not delivering saving within agreed timeframe, leading to cost of slippage.	Limited confidence in agreed saving / income being delivered - and / or - Saving / income unclear and / or not specified at adequate granular level. - and / or - Inadequate plan / no plan agreed. - and / or - <i>Saving not yet agreed by Directorate / Service Manager</i> - and / or - Major risk of not delivering saving / income within agreed timeframe, leading to cost of slippage.
Headcount Example	Officer has departed, budget has been reduced and posts have been deleted from the approved establishment.	Timescales and the specific posts to be vacated / deleted have been agreed.	Budget Manager has confirmed that posts (to agreed value and timing) will be vacated and deleted from budget.	Headcount saving proposed, but no clarity RE timescales/ posts.





**Report to all Elected Members of Birmingham City Council**  
**Under**  
**Section 114 (3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988**  
**By**  
**Fiona Greenway CPFA**  
**Interim Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer), Birmingham City Council**  
**Date of Report: 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

Purpose of Report

1. Members of the Council are asked to consider this report by the Section 151 Officer (the Chief Finance Officer). The report is made under section 114 (3) of the Local Government Act 1988 because the Section 151 Officer is of the opinion that:
  - a. The Council is currently in a negative General Fund position. That is because of the cost of providing for Equal Pay claims, that the Council is now legally obligated to recognise, will result in exceeding the financial resources available to the Council. This means that spend due within that period exceeded the financial resources available to the Council in that same period.
  - b. The Council has insufficient resources to meet that expenditure and the Council is not currently able to agree a solution that will allow suitable funding or financing to be obtained for this liability.
2. This report is being issued now because of the following individual factors:
  - a. Correspondence from External Audit on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 which raises concerns around the provisions for Equal Pay in prior year accounts, 2020/21 and 2021/22, being materially understated which means the Council would have exhausted its General Fund balance on an accounting basis.
  - b. Further confirmation of the historic value of the potential Equal Pay liability impacting prior years, which is becoming more evident that it is unaffordable for the council based on existing available reserves. Since the announcement of the Equal Pay liability we have received additional correspondence to put the Council on notice of further litigation from recognised Trade Unions and claimant lawyers.
  - c. Correspondence from External Audit on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 also enquires around the likelihood of the Council being able to generate savings, additional revenue income, and/or capital receipts to mitigate the financial challenges.
  - d. A projected deficit of £87m for the 2023/24 financial year, for which the Council does not have sufficient reserves based on the Equal Pay liability above, which is forecast to grow in the 2024/25 financial year.
  - e. Concerns over the speed and effectiveness of the mitigations which have been put in place to address the in-year budget challenges, and the ability of the Council to address our financial position. We must now make challenging financial decisions and stop non-essential spending.
  - f. Extensive discussions with External Auditors, regulatory stakeholders, and leading Kings Counsel who have confirmed our assessment of our financial position (i.e. liabilities exceeding assets) and statutory position (i.e. the requirement to issue a S114). This advice has confirmed the points raised above and the case for issuing a S114 notice.
3. As a result the Council is unable to finalise the provisions for Equal Pay set out in the 2020/21 and 2021/22 draft accounts, nor can I write the supporting going concern statements for these financial years, nor can I make a Section 25 statement in the Local Government Act 2003, nor

can I approve accounts for three financial years (2020/21, 2021/22, and 2022/23). Following extensive discussions with External Auditors and other regulatory stakeholders over the last few months, I have come to this conclusion.

4. The Section 114 Notice is issued following statutory consultation with both the Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) and the Monitoring Officer. At the date of this report that consultation has taken place. Following the issuance of the Section 114 Notice the Council has 21 days to hold a meeting of Full Council to consider the report from the Section 151 Officer and decide how it will respond.
5. The purpose of this Section 114 report is to make it clear to Members of the Council that immediate steps must be taken to mitigate the financial consequences of Equal Pay claims. This means agreeing a plan which provides a route to bringing the General Fund back to a positive position and assurance that this will be successfully delivered. This should include:
  - a. An appropriate savings plan;
  - b. Full assessment of the capital programme (including delaying existing projects and reviewing assets for sale); and,
  - c. Engagement with Central Government via the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), resulting in a formal request for Exceptional Financial Support (EFS).

#### Recommendations

6. That Elected Members of Birmingham City Council must consider this report by Fiona Greenway, Interim Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer/ Chief Finance Officer) issued under Section 114 (3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.
7. That this report must be considered at an extraordinary meeting of Full Council, held no later than the end of 21 days (the maximum allowable period set out within the Local Government Finance Act 1988) from the date of issue of this report.
8. That Birmingham City Council (by which this means a meeting of Full Council) must decide whether it agrees or disagrees with the views documented within this report and outline what action it proposes to take because of this report.

#### Summary of key issues

9. This report is being issued now for the following reasons:
  - a. Officers informed Cabinet on 28 June 2023 that the potential cost of new Equal Pay claims (brought about as a result of existing claims of job enrichment and evidence of task and finish practices taking place in some teams) would be between £650 million and £760 million. This advice made clear that the Council does not have sufficient resources to cover this potential liability. It is likely that the Council will need to recognise this liability in the current or previous financial years which will result in a negative General fund balance. This is an unsustainable financial position for the Council to be in.

- b. In Q1 of FY23/24, the Council forecasted an overspend of £87m for the financial year, which was reported to Cabinet on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and sets the context of the gravity and urgency of the Council's financial challenge. In the interim period a series of mandatory 'S114 like' spending controls have been in place across the Council to restrict exceptional spend. Progress made against the projected overspend has started, however pace of delivery needs to increase.
- c. Further, work has been ongoing on developing a savings programme to address the in-year budget gap for FY23/24, which is an issue to the Council regardless of the potential Equal Pay liability.
- d. The council's external auditor has now indicated that it expects the potential EP liability to be recognised in 2020/21 and 21/22. Based on current estimates it is expected there will be a negative General Fund balance. As such the Council's expenditure is now greater than the resources available to it (including reserves).

#### Consequences of a Section 114 Notice

10. The issuing of the Section 114 report has the following impact on the work of the Council:

- a. Elected Members must by law agree to cease all non-essential expenditure and reduce the Council's operational and service delivery costs immediately.
- b. Financial Controls will be exercised by a S151 Spend Control Board. Based on this S114 report, from this date this S151 Spend Control Board will be chaired by the Section 151 Officer. The controls will mean that from this date:
  - i. The Council is prevented, without explicit agreement of the Section 151 Officer, from entering into any new agreement or commitment for expenditure until Full Council has met to consider the Section 114 report. These controls may be re-applied after the date of this Full Council meeting.
  - ii. Temporary Measures are now in force such that all non-essential expenditure will now stop with immediate effect without written confirmation from the Section 151 Officer. For avoidance of doubt, non-compliance with this requirement will be considered a disciplinary matter by the Council. This supersedes all previous guidance on non-essential expenditure, with no exclusions or delegations of authority to Corporate Leadership Team (CLT).
  - iii. The controls outlined in (i) and (ii) will apply to all services being delivered through companies controlled by the Council, or where the Council supplies funding to companies that are jointly or partly owned by the Council.
  - iv. The Financial Controls apply to all Council services, including statutory services, services delivered through controlled companies and connected entities. A framework will be set in place to ensure this happens whilst ensuring that key services to children and vulnerable people are not affected because of these controls.
  - v. Spending Controls will now remain in place for the foreseeable future, with a Financial Recovery Plan reported to Full Council on a quarterly basis moving

forwards. This is not a plan that is developed in isolation by Finance, but a plan that is created and owned by all Directorates and Members.

- vi. Due to the significant potential Equal Pay liability, and no route for financing or limiting this liability, the Council's Capital Financing Requirement will need to be reviewed and re-calculated as a potential route to financing the liability. This means that no further loans will be sought from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) unless these are to be applied for capital purposes for which the Council is in contract, for the replacement of existing maturing loans, the maintenance of working capital, or other specified matters agreed by the PWLB in conjunction with DLUHC and the Section 151 Officer.
  - vii. Financial controls will generally have an adverse impact on the profit and loss accounts of various accounts and entities in receipt of support from the Council. The boards of these companies may look to the Council to make up for the lost funding from revenue resources. However, based on the current financial position of the Council, and the issuance of a S114 notice, the Council is unlikely to be able to consider provision of such support.
  - viii. If Financial Controls are not adhered to, or do not achieve the required outcomes, a further S114 notice will need to be issued.
- c. The Council has already implemented Financial Controls on spending – these are detailed in the report to Cabinet on 25 July of this year (entitled Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Refresh – update to Cabinet at Quarter 1 of the 2023/24 Financial Year). This report extends these controls, such that, **the Council is prevented, without explicit agreement of the Section 151 Officer, from entering into any new agreement or commitment for expenditure until Full Council has met to consider the Section 114 report.**
  - d. Depending on the outcome of the Full Council meeting, these Financial Controls may need to remain in place until a solution is found to fund the costs of these Equal Pay claims. This is because the Council will lack the resources to maintain spending in all areas moving forward.

#### Financial Situation

11. As announced on 28 June 2023, following refreshed analysis it is estimated that as of the 31 March 2023 the Council's current potential Equal Pay liability is in the region of £650-760m. Detailed calculations are now being finalised for inclusion within the accounts for the 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial years, but they are material enough to warrant disclosure now.
12. Officers have begun consultation with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). Potential support could enable the Council to make local arrangements to finance the cost, but would still require the Council to set a balanced budget and therefore make significant additional savings.
13. To enable the Council to cover the costs of any future loans, budget savings would need to be made. To address this challenge the Council has:
  - a. **Implemented Mandatory Spending Controls** for all non-essential expenditure. Mandatory spending controls mean that no new agreements or commitments for all

expenditure (including revenue, workforce, and capital) can be made unless specific criteria are met. Individual Directorate arrangements have acted as a first line of defence for the application of criteria, with a Finance Governance Board (chaired by the Leader with a panel of Members, including Independent Financial Advisor) in place to discuss exceptional spend decisions above £200k. This has now been in place since July, and we have seen additional control over exceptional spend. However, there is still a large value of spend being incurred across the Council in relation to the delivery of services against the criteria outlined as allowable expenditure.

- b. **Developed a Robust Budget Savings and Recovery Plan** which is a multi-workstream plan to address both in-year financial challenges and the longer-term transformational changes required to reduce the cost base for delivery of services across the Council. This plan has a number of identified workstreams and Directors have commenced developing saving opportunities with their teams. However, the savings identified will not be sufficient to address the significant Equal Pay liability.

14. This action has not yet been sufficient enough to mitigate Equal Pay pressures or tackle a range of existing budget pressures. These budget pressures are detailed in the report to Cabinet on 25 July of this year (entitled Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Refresh – update to Cabinet at Quarter 1 of the 2023/24 Financial Year).

#### Legal Framework

15. Section 114 (3) requires that: “The chief finance officer of a relevant authority shall make a report under this section if it appears to him that the expenditure of the authority incurred (including expenditure it proposes to incur) in a financial year is likely to exceed the resources (including sums borrowed) available to it to meet that expenditure.”
16. The process for issuing a Section 114 report and the effect of it are set out in various sections under the 1988 Act. Subsection 3(A) requires the chief finance officer to consult, so far as reasonably practicable, the Head of Paid service and the Monitoring Officer. Both of these statutory officers have been fully briefed and consulted in the preparation of this report.
17. Section 115 of the 1988 Act requires Full Council to consider and decide on the report made under Section 114 within 21 days beginning on the day the report is issued. Full Council must consider the report at a meeting where it shall decide whether it agrees or disagrees with the views contained in the report and what action (if any) it proposes to take in consequence of it.
18. Section 115 (6) states that pending consideration of the report by Full Council, there is a prohibition period which runs from the date the report is made to the date of the Full Council meeting. During this period, the Council must not enter into any new agreement which may involve the incurring of expenditure (at any time) by the authority unless the chief finance officer of the authority authorises it to do so.
19. Subsection (6A) states the chief finance officer may only give authority for the purposes of subsection (6) if he considers that the agreement concerned is likely to: a. prevent the situation that led him to make the report from getting worse, b. improve the situation, or c. prevent the situation from recurring.
20. Subsection (6B) requires that authority for the purposes of subsection (6) shall:

- a. be in writing,
  - b. identify the ground on which it is given, and
  - c. explain the chief finance officer's reasons for thinking that the ground applies.
21. Subsection (8) states that if subsection (6) is not complied with, the Council shall be taken not to have had power to enter into the agreement (notwithstanding any option to do so under contract or otherwise). Therefore, the Council's actions will be deemed unlawful.
22. Section 116 requires the Council to notify its external auditors of the report and the time, date and place of the full Council meeting. The external auditors also need to be informed of the outcome of the meeting as soon as practicable. The external auditors have been kept informed of the emerging financial position and the planned work. The external auditors will need to consider the implications of this report on their statutory functions and the implications for their opinion on the 2019/20 and subsequent accounts which remain unaudited at the date of this report.
23. The Council's legal duties around budget setting are set out in Section 31A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, which states:
- a. In relation to each financial year a billing authority in England must make the calculations required by this section.
  - b. The authority must calculate the aggregate of:
    - i. the expenditure which the authority estimates it will incur in the year in performing its functions and will charge to a revenue account, other than a BID Revenue Account, for the year in accordance with proper practices.
    - ii. such allowance as the authority estimates will be appropriate for contingencies in relation to amounts to be charged or credited to a revenue account for the year in accordance with proper practices.
    - iii. the financial reserves which the authority estimates it will be appropriate to raise in the year for meeting its estimated future expenditure.
    - iv. such financial reserves as are sufficient to meet so much of the amount estimated by the authority to be a revenue account deficit for any earlier financial year as has not already been provided for.
    - v. any amounts which it estimates will be transferred in the year from its general fund to its collection fund in accordance with regulations under section 97(2B) of the 1988 Act,
    - vi. any amounts which it estimates will be transferred in the year from its general fund to its collection fund in accordance with section 97(4) of the 1988 Act; and
    - vii. any amounts which it estimates will be transferred from its general fund to its collection fund pursuant to a direction under section 98(5) of the 1988 Act and charged to a revenue account for the year.

### Next Steps

24. The requirement of this S114 (3) notice is that an Extraordinary Meeting of the Full Council must happen within 21 days at which the Council must agree a response that addresses the issues outlined within this report. Full Council must consider whether it agrees or disagrees with the views contained within this report and determine action (if any) it proposed to take as a consequence. A failure to do so within the 21 days will lead to the issuance of a further s114 report.

25. As mentioned above, the Council needs to resolve funding the existing and accruing Equal Pay liability as well as address the Medium-Term Financial Plan Budget Gap for 2023/24 onwards.
26. The Financial Controls referred to in this report will operate from the date of this report. Elected Members must by law agree to cease all non-essential expenditure and reduce the Council's operational and service delivery costs immediately.
27. The timeline for activity over the coming months is as follows:
  - a. 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – Issue S114 Notice
  - b. Extraordinary Full Council Meeting by 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023 latest
  - c. Statutory deadline for Full Council to agree a response to this report by 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023 latest
28. Negotiations with DLUHC will continue over the coming months to determine an approach to financing the liability.

**Fiona Greenway CPFA**

**Interim Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer), Birmingham City Council**

**5<sup>th</sup> September 2023**





# Birmingham City Council

## Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee

15 September 2023



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**Subject:** Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

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

**Report author:** Amelia Wiltshire, Overview and Scrutiny Manager  
[amelia.wiltshire@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:amelia.wiltshire@birmingham.gov.uk)  
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### 1 Purpose

- 1.1 This report sets out the proposed work programme for the Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2023-24. Appendix 1 outlines the topics identified, aims and objectives and the preferred method of scrutiny to achieve these objectives, while Appendix 2 sets out the updated terms of reference, and membership, for the Cost of Living Task and Finish Group.
- 1.2 The report also refers to other topics, which the Committee has identified, for future consideration, and this will be continuously updated during the year.
- 1.3 As agreed in June, the report includes (at Appendix 3) the work programmes from each of the other Overview and Scrutiny Committees. This is to enable scrutiny work to be planned and co-ordinated throughout the year.

### 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee:
  - Notes the information set out in Appendix 1 and identifies if any further topics need to be added to the menu of topics for the Committee to explore over the coming year.
  - Agrees, subject to further input from the Chair and Deputy Chair, the issues that the Committee will consider during October – December 2023, the proposed aims and objectives and the preferred method of scrutiny.
  - Notes, and agrees, the updated Terms of Reference and membership for the Cost of Living Task and Finish Group set out in Appendix 2.

- Reviews the draft work programmes for the other 7 Overview and Scrutiny Committees, set out in Appendix 3.

### 3 Background

3.1 The [statutory guidance for local government overview and scrutiny](#) sets out the role it can play in holding an authority's decision makers to account. This makes it fundamentally important to the successful functioning of local democracy.

3.2 Effective Overview and Scrutiny should:

- Provide constructive 'critical friend' challenge.
- Amplify the voices and concerns of the public.
- Be led by independent people who take responsibility for their role.
- Drive improvements in public services.

3.3 The role and functions of Overview and Scrutiny Committees are outlined in [The City Council's Constitution | Birmingham City Council](#) They will:

- Make reports and/or recommendations to the full Council, the Executive and/or other organisations in connection with the discharge of the functions specified in their terms of reference.
- Consider any matter covered in their terms of reference that may affect or be likely to have an effect on the citizens of Birmingham; relevant to the Council's strategic objectives; relevant to major issues faced by officers in managing a function of the Council; and likely to make contribution to moving the Council forward and achieving key performance targets.

3.4 Effective scrutiny needs to add value. A well planned and timely work programme enables Overview and Scrutiny Committees to be involved at the right time and in the right way, and ensure their involvement is meaningful and can influence the outcome.

3.5 Members often have a number of topics suggested to them and are therefore required to **prioritise** matters for consideration. The Scrutiny Framework sets out the following factors to be considered:

- Public interest: concerns of local people should influence the issues chosen.
- Ability to change: priority should be given to issues that the Committee can realistically influence.
- Performance: priority should be given to areas in which the Council and Partners are not performing well.
- Extent: priority should be given to issues that are relevant to all or a large part of the city.
- Replication: work programme must take account of what else is happening to avoid duplication.

### ***Looking Ahead***

- 3.6 Overview and Scrutiny Committees will identify a 'menu' of issues (including policy development, policy review, issues of accountability and statutory functions) at the start of the year. Each Committee should then regularly review their 'menu' and decide which issues need to be examined further, and how that work would be undertaken. Scrutiny activities should be thorough and undertaken in a timely manner.

### ***Scrutiny Methods***

- 3.7 There are a range of ways to undertake scrutiny. The approach for 2023-24 enables flexible scrutiny and outlines a shift from monthly formal meetings to a combination of approaches. The Committee will choose the most effective scrutiny method to achieve the desired aims and objectives for each topic.
- 3.8 Based on Statutory Guidance published in 2019, different scrutiny methods include (but are not limited to):
- A single item, or items, on a committee agenda – this method fits more closely with the “overview” aspect of the Scrutiny function and provides limited opportunity for effective scrutiny. It is most appropriate for specific issues where the committee wants to maintain a watching brief.
  - A single item meeting, either as the committee or a more limited number of Members. It has the capacity to enhance the previous option by taking evidence from a number of witnesses.
  - A task and finish day - provided that these are properly focused, they ensure Councillors can swiftly reach conclusions and make recommendations and are effective even for complex topics.
  - A task and finish review – this is an enhancement of the previous option being held over four or six meetings spread over a limited number of months.

### ***Terms of Reference***

- 3.9 The Committee's terms of reference, set out below, were approved at the Annual City Council meeting on 23 May 2023.

*To plan and co-ordinate the work of all the Overview & Scrutiny Committees. To fulfil the functions of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee as they relate to any policies, services and activities concerning:*

- *Structure and governance of the Council*
- *Communications, internal and external stakeholder engagement*
- *Efficiency and improvement of Council services (with Deputy Leader)*
- *Public policy development at local to international levels*

- WMCA
- *Sports and events development (with Cabinet Members for Digital, Culture, Heritage & Tourism and Housing & Homelessness)*
- *Business Improvement Districts*
- *Business change programmes*
- *Efficiency and improvement of Council services (with Leader)*
- *Risk management*
- *Good governance on outside bodies, Council-owned companies and externalised services*
- *Customer services*
- *External scrutiny of the Council*
- *Whistleblowing and complaints*
- *Emergency planning*
- *Legal services*
- *Relationships with stakeholders*
- *Levelling-up, devolution and WMCA*
- *Early intervention and prevention*
- *Social cohesion and inclusion, equalities*
- *Third sector organisations and partner agencies contribution to social cohesion and equalities*
- *Refugees, migration and City of Sanctuary*
- *Open data*
- *Digital inclusion, data protection, cyber security*
- *Arts, museums and tourism*
- *Library of Birmingham and community library services*
- *Promotion of the city's heritage and investment in the city.*

*These functions include:*

- a) *giving such guidance to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees in any cases of uncertainty as to work which they should or should not be undertaking, as may be necessary to achieve such co-ordination, including the allocation of "call-in" to the appropriate Committee;*
- b) *determining, in any cases of uncertainty, the allocation of responsibility for specific tasks between the Overview and Scrutiny Committees;*
- c) *ensuring (by means, for example, of issuing appropriate guidance and/or instructions) that the Overview & Scrutiny Committees pay proper attention in*

*their work to the consideration of key cross cutting issues, in particular equalities, transparency and improvement;*

*d) overseeing the development and delivery of a balanced work programme of Scrutiny Committees using a range of scrutiny methodologies and reporting regularly to City Council;*

*e) considering Overview and Scrutiny development, working practices and constitutional arrangements.*

#### **4 Work Programme 2023-24**

4.1 Appendix 1 sets out the topics the Committee will consider over the next few months, and also outlines future items for consideration.

4.2 The Committee may decide to add further items to the work programme during the course of the year. When considering this, the Committee is advised to consider where it can best add value through scrutiny, and how it can prioritise topics for consideration based on the Scrutiny Framework referred to in 3.5.

4.3 The Council's latest Forward Plan ([click here to view](#)) may assist Members in identifying future topics. In addition, Overview and Scrutiny Chairs are advised to maintain regular engagement with Cabinet Members to enable flexibility to be built into the Overview and Scrutiny work programme, so as to respond to the Council's policy priorities in a timely way.

#### **5 Any Finance Implications**

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

#### **6 Any Legal Implications**

6.1 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report.

#### **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**

- Appendix 1: Co-ordinating Work Programme
- Appendix 2: Updated Terms of Reference, Cost of Living Task & Finish Group
- Appendix 3: Other Scrutiny Committee Work Programmes

## **9 Background Papers**

- 9.1 [Birmingham City Council Constitution](#)
- 9.2 Birmingham City Council Overview and Scrutiny Framework

## Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023/24

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Lead Officer	Cabinet Member / Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
14 July	Customer Service Programme Task and Finish Group	The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the December and supplementary January report on the actions of the Co-ordinating Overview & Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group, established following the Customer Service Programme update report to Co-ordinating Overview & Scrutiny Committee in September 2022.	Committee meeting – single item	Wendy X Griffiths, AD Customer Services and Business Support	None	Following the meeting in July, it's intended that issues in relation to Customer Services would be passed over to the respective OSC i.e. Waste Management and Bereavement Services to Neighbourhoods OSC; Highways to Sustainability and Transport OSC; and Housing Repairs to Homes OSC.
14 July	Updating the Scrutiny Framework	To consider the updated framework, to agree for further consultation on the draft with the Leader and Deputy Leader and to ask the Scrutiny Office to review and update the various scrutiny procedure notes.	Committee meeting – single item	Christian Scade, Head of Scrutiny and Committee Services		
14 July	West Midlands Deeper Devolution Deal	To provide an overview of the West Midlands Deeper Devolution Deal, with a focus on its implementation and next steps.	Committee meeting – single item (pre-decision scrutiny)	Richard Brooks, Director Strategy, Equalities and Partnerships	Deputy Leader (TBC)	This pre-decision scrutiny item provides an opportunity for the OSC to provide comments before Cabinet meets in September.

Appendix 1

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Lead Officer	Cabinet Member / Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
14 July	Cost of Living – scoping	To set up, and confirm terms of reference, for a Task and Finish Group to learn lessons from the cost of living programme and to consider whether they have wider application across other council initiatives.	Task and Finish Group (scoping)	Richard Brooks, Director Strategy, Equalities and Partnerships	TBC	
15 September	Implication of Equal Pay and Medium-Term Financial Plan Update	To update the Committee on the implications of the equal pay announcement and the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Update and consider the implications for the Committee’s work programme	Committee meeting – single item	TBC	TBC	Following July’s OSC a workshop to assist with work in this area, facilitated by Ian Fifield, took place on 26 July 2023. Following this, further discussions will be required to help develop a timetable and action plan for scrutiny activity over the autumn period.
13 October	Homes for Ukraine	A response is required from the Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities and from the Chief Executive concerning recommendations made, in April 2023, following work carried out by the Task & Finish Group on the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.	Committee meeting – single item (monitoring previous recommendations)	Richard Brooks, Director Strategy, Equalities and Partnerships	Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities  Chief Executive	The final report from the Task & Finish Group on the Homes for Ukraine Scheme was published in April. This can be found on CMIS via <a href="#">CMIS &gt; Report</a> while the minutes from this meeting can be found via <a href="#">CMIS &gt; Minutes</a>
13 October	Cost of Living – Reporting back	To consider the findings and recommendations from the Cost of	Task and Finish Group (reporting)	Richard Brooks, Director Strategy,	TBC	



Appendix 1

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Lead Officer	Cabinet Member / Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
		Living Programme Task & Finish Group, which will be established by the Co-ordinating OSC in July.	back / agreeing recommendations)	Equalities and Partnerships		
15 December	The Elections Act	To consider lessons learned from other local authorities who held elections in May and to consider what measures might be needed for future elections in Birmingham.	Committee meeting – single item	Robert Connelly, AD for Legal and Governance	TBC	At the July OSC it was suggested neighbourhood referendums could also be explored in terms of how the requirement of voter ID impacted these elections, particularly given the demographics of the areas. This would give an opportunity for the Committee to learn from elections within the Council as well as those from other authorities.

\*Outcome: This will be fully populated once the item/topic has been completed. It will identify the added value and impact.

**Menu of Issues for Consideration**

The following items had been identified as potential topics for future consideration. This approach enables the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to remain flexible and respond in a timely manner to emerging issues.

This is a live work programme. New items may be added, or items removed during the course of the year. Proposed aims and objectives as well as scrutiny methodology may also be subject to change.

Item/Topic	Proposed Aims and Objectives	Proposed Scrutiny Method	Additional Information
Birmingham Museums Trust and B:Music	To consider the challenges faced by the cultural sector, including the Birmingham Museum Trust (BMT), and B:Music	TBC	This was suggested in July and the Chair agreed to discuss this with Cllr Deakin concerning options for scrutiny to add value
Everyone’s Battle, Everyone’s Business	To consider an update / monitor the implementation of actions in relation to Everyone’s Battle, Everyone’s Business	TBC	TBC

**Scrutiny Method Options:** Committee meeting - single item, Committee meeting - single theme, Committee meeting – standing item, Task and Finish Group (outline number of meetings), On location, Other - (describe).



## Appendix 2:

### Updated Work Outline / Terms of Reference

#### Cost of Living Programme Task & Finish Project

<p><b>Our key question:</b></p>	<p><b>What lessons can be learned from Birmingham City Council's Cost of Living Programme?</b></p>
<p><b>1. How is O&amp;S adding value through this work?</b></p>	<p>City Council in October 2022 agreed a Cost of Living Programme; governance arrangements; areas of focus for this work (food, warmth, energy, benefits, and our staff); and the allocation of £5m of funding to the programme.</p> <p>In April 2023, a progress report was presented to Cabinet, and an extension of the programme is now planned to come to Cabinet in September 2023.</p> <p>The involvement of O&amp;S will help learn the lessons of this programme and consider whether they have wider application across other council initiatives.</p> <p>This will involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An assessment of the existing Cost of Living programme with a focus on its timeliness and value for money.</li> <li>• An assessment of the lessons learned as highlighted in the April 2022 Cabinet report, and consideration of how these can be applied.</li> <li>• A focus on the involvement of partners across the city, and the value to be gained from this approach.</li> </ul> <p>Council therefore asks Scrutiny to bring in associated officers, external partners, and the City Observatory to provide evidence so that the issues can be properly investigated and understood.</p> <p>The Task and Finish Group will consider four main themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Internal processes and Cost of Living programme governance:</b> Including the role of the Strategic Response Group, the effectiveness of the Officer Delegated Decision Making process, budget management and funding, grants allocation, the role of procurement and the evaluation methodology. The approach to partner relationship management will also be considered. Finally, the role of insight and intelligence in the programme.</li> <li>2. <b>The Warm Welcome network of warm spaces:</b> The definition of a Warm Space and how they are networked together. The growth and development of the network, and the role of partners. The branding and communications. The view of users and how stigma is avoided. Future opportunities for the network.</li> <li>3. <b>Food Provision and the role of the Foodbanks in the City:</b> Council support of the foodbanks, the issue of the cultural appropriateness of foodbanks. The challenge of sustaining foodbank provision in the longer term. Consideration will also be given to the use of food pantries, the wider food justice network and community fridges.</li> </ol>



	<p>4. <b>Information, advice, and Guidance:</b> The difference from business as usual, the roles of the different agencies and how they work together. The impact of both reactive and proactive support. An analysis of the forms of additional benefits that have been identified.</p>
<p><b>2. What needs to be done?</b></p>	<p>The Task and Finish Group will receive evidence from officers and partners to consider the following key issues:</p> <p><b>General:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What lessons should be learned from the Cost of Living programme, and can they be applied more widely across the council’s activities?</li> <li>• What were the governance arrangements and how did this affect decision making and delivery?</li> <li>• How was the value for money and the capacity of the providers tested?</li> <li>• How did partners and users feedback on the programme?</li> <li>• How has co-production with partners been achieved?</li> <li>• How has grant funding been implemented, monitored, and evaluated?</li> <li>• Has the overall programme delivered value for money?</li> <li>• How did internal business partners support the process?</li> <li>• How is the programme linked to other council priorities?</li> <li>• How does the approach taken by Birmingham City council compare with other local authorities?</li> <li>• How can the City Council work with the Community and Voluntary sector to maintain and build the good will required to respond to continued Cost of Living pressures and future crises?</li> <li>• Could the overall activities from October 2022 to the present day have been improved?</li> <li>• How can the benefits of the programme be mainstreamed into the council’s ‘business as usual’ activity?</li> <li>• What was the role of the City Observatory?</li> <li>• What is the legacy and how does the council build on this legacy?</li> </ul> <p><b>Themes</b></p> <p><b>The Warm Welcome network of warm spaces:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the definition of a warm space? Why?</li> <li>• How are warm spaces registered for the Warm Welcome network?</li> <li>• How has equality and equity been considered?</li> <li>• Is there a fair geographic spread of spaces?</li> <li>• What activity takes place within the Warm Spaces and how are other services linked into the network?</li> </ul> <p><b>Foodbanks and food provision:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What was the justification for supporting foodbanks?</li> <li>• How was the monthly level of support for foodbanks arrived at?</li> <li>• What options were considered in supporting the foodbanks?</li> <li>• Is a dependency culture being created?</li> <li>• Were other food initiatives undertaken and why?</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consideration will also be given to the use of food pantries, the wider food justice network and community fridges.</li> </ul> <p><b>Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What was the additionality over and above business as usual?</li> <li>What sort of engagement worked best?</li> <li>How effective has this service engaged with vulnerable households?</li> <li>Why was support both in-house and outsourced?</li> <li>What is the relationship with other services?</li> </ul>
3. What timescale do we propose to do this in?	The Task and Finish Group will report to Co-ordinating OSC on 13 October 2023 (TBC).
4. What outcomes are we looking to achieve?	To review the Cost of Living programme and learn lessons regarding: the services and support that were provided; how the programme worked internally; how the programme worked with community and voluntary organisations; how the impact and value of this work can be improved.
5. What is the best way to achieve these outcomes and what routes will we use?	<p>The Task and Finish Group will meet several times. This will include</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>initial scoping – to be completed by OSC on 14 July</li> <li>an internal review of processes; primarily meeting with officers</li> <li>meetings to cover Warm Welcome spaces, Foodbank support, and Information, Advice and Guidance; primarily meeting with external partners</li> <li>a meeting to agree final recommendations</li> </ol> <p>As part of its work, the Task and Finish Group will consider evidence from Officers, Partners, Guests, Users and Community Groups.</p>

## Member / Officer Leads

Lead Member:	Chair: Cllr. Sir Albert Bore
Members of the Task and Finish Group:	Cllr. Sir Albert Bore, Cllr Jack Deakin, Cllr Penny Wagg, Cllr Darius Sandhu
Lead Officer and support:	<p>Strategy, Equality and Partnerships Directorate will provide support for the Task and Finish Group. Support must be independent of those involved in awarding of grants and delivery of the programme.</p> <p>Support will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liaising with members to agree meeting dates</li> <li>Liaising with Scrutiny Office to book meeting room</li> <li>Inviting people to give evidence</li> <li>Agreeing the agenda with the Chair</li> <li>Circulating agenda and papers in advance of the meeting</li> <li>Producing a record of Task and Finish Group meetings that is agreed with the Chair / Task and Finish Group members</li> <li>Producing the report for Co-ordinating O&amp;SC</li> </ul>

**Education, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023/24**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Item/Topic</b>	<b>Aims and Objectives</b>	<b>Scrutiny Method</b>	<b>Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer</b>	<b>Other Witnesses</b>	<b>Additional Information and Outcome*</b>
July	Children and Young People's Travel Service  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 8	Assurance to the Committee and public that everything is on track for September.  Overview of KPIs, performance and finance.  Policy development including travel services for under statutory school age and over 16 year olds, including how decisions are made and what criteria is used.  Independent travel training, including the views of young people, and how this has been informed and received by the children, parents and carers.  Concerns that have been identified and how these will be addressed.  The Committee to agree any comments / recommendations.	Committee Meeting single item: 19 July 2023 at 10am  Venue: Committee Rooms 3 and 4, Council House  Paper/Presentation Deadline: 10 July 2023	Adrian Weissenbruch, AD, Children and Young People's Travel Service	Stephen Hughes, Interim Deputy Operations Manager  Marie Nicely, Travel Assist Supervisor  Abdulahdi Mehraj, PMO Manager  John Wood, Change Manager  Linda Sutton-Howard, IT Project Manager	<b>Outcome</b> Update / Assurance: The Committee were updated on the preparation for the Children and Young People's Travel Service for start of the 2023/24 academic year and independent travel training.  It was agreed that a workshop will be held for members.
July	SEND Tribunals  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 8	To update members to on the process for SEND tribunals including data.	Committee meeting single item: 19 July 2023 at 10am	Helen Ellis, Director, SEND and Inclusion	Kate Harvey, Head of SEND Resolution, SENAR	Agreed at Committee meeting October 2022 ( <a href="#">CMIS Link</a> ).

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
		The Committee to agree any comments / recommendations.	Venue: Committee Rooms 3 and 4, Council House  Paper/Presentation Deadline: 10 July 2023			Update: The Committee were updated on the SEND tribunal process.  It was agreed that a workshop will be held for all members.
July	Performance Update  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 8	Report on Children's Services Improvement Plan and data.  The Committee to agree any comments / recommendations.	Committee meeting standing item: 19 July 2023 at 10am.  Venue: Committee Rooms 3 and 4, Council House.  Paper/Presentation Deadline: 10 July 2023	Sue Harrison, Strategic Director, Children and Families	Fayth Skeete, Head of Strategic Governance & Planning	Update / Assurance: The Committee were updated on the Children's Services Improvement Plan.
September	Performance Update (10.05 – 10.35)  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 8	The report will include statutory and non-statutory services, and how performance contributes to efficiencies, such as interims and permanent appointments.  The Committee to agree any comments / recommendations.	Committee meeting – standing item: 6 Sep 2023 at 10am  Venue: Committee Rooms 3 and 4, Council House	Sue Harrison, Strategic Director, Children and Families	David Fallows, Head of Performance, Business and Commissioning Intelligence	

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
			Paper/Presentation Deadline: 25 Aug 2023			
September	Financial Challenges - Scrutiny Contribution to the Budget Savings and Recovery Plan (10.35 – 11.50)  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 8	To consider the implications of Equal Pay and the Medium Term Financial Plan for the Committee’s work programme including agreed savings for 2023/24.	Committee meeting – standing item: 6 Sep 2023 at 10am  Venue: Committee Rooms 3 and 4, Council House  Paper/Presentation Deadline: 25 Aug 2023			
October	Hidden Children  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 8	To update the Committee on hidden children including exclusions, suspensions, part time timetables, elective home education, findings of the Inquiry on period poverty regarding attendance during their periods, and information on children that have and have not returned following the pandemic.  To consider information and data on the equalities implications of hidden children.	Committee meeting standing item: 18 October 2023  Presentation/Paper Deadline: 9 Oct 2023  Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4 at 10am	Sue Harrison, Strategic Director, Children and Families	Razia Butt, Director, Children and Families  Steve Howell, Head Teacher, City of Birmingham School  Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP) – in person or written information.	Duty on local authorities to progress recommendations linked to improving school attendance in Government White Paper by Sept 23 <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance">Working together to improve school attendance (publishing.service.gov.uk)</a>



Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
		The Committee to agree any comments / recommendations.				
October	Performance Update  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 8	Report on Children's Services Improvement Plan and data  The Committee to agree any comments / recommendations.	Committee meeting standing item: 18 October 2023  Presentation/Paper Deadline: 9 Oct 2023  Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4 at 10am	Sue Harrison, Strategic Director, Children and Families	TBC	
October	Financial Challenges - Scrutiny Contribution to the Budget Savings and Recovery Plan  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 8		Committee meeting standing item: 18 October 2023  Presentation/Paper Deadline: 9 Oct 2023  Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4 at 10am	Sue Harrison, Strategic Director, Children and Families	TBC	

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
November	Update on the review of short breaks when it has been completed (TBC)  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 8	To provide an update on the review of short breaks  The Committee to agree any comments / recommendations	Committee meeting single item: 29 Nov 2023  Presentation/Paper Deadline: 20 Nov 2023  Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4 at 10am	Andy Couldrick, Chief Executive, Children's Trust	David Stringfellow, Director, Children's Trust	
November	Performance Update  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 8	Report on Children's Services Improvement Plan and data.  The Committee to agree any comments / recommendations.	Committee meeting standing item: 29 Nov 2023  Presentation/Paper Deadline: 20 Nov 2023  Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4 at 10am			
November	Financial Challenges - Scrutiny Contribution to the Budget Savings and Recovery Plan  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 8		Committee meeting standing item: 29 Nov 2023  Presentation/Paper Deadline: 20 Nov 2023			

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
			Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4 at 10am			
January 2024	Birmingham Safeguarding Children's Partnership (BSCP) Annual Report  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 8, 10	To update the Committee on the children's safeguarding arrangements in the city.	Committee meeting single item: 17 January 2024  Presentation/Paper Deadline: 8 Jan 24  Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4 at 10am	Penny Thompson, Independent Chair, BSCP	Simon Cross, Business Manager, BSCP	

\*Outcome: This will be populated once the item/topic has been completed. It will identify the added value and impact.

### Menu of Issues for Consideration

The following items had been identified as potential topics for future consideration. This approach enables the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to remain flexible and respond in a timely manner to emerging issues.

This is a live work programme. New items may be added, or items removed during the course of the year. Proposed aims and objectives as well as scrutiny methodology may also be subject to change.

Item/Topic	Proposed Aims and Objectives	Proposed Scrutiny Method	Additional Information
Early Years			Project to increase uptake of early years and profile of families and data on variation of uptake: <a href="#">BCC Early Years - NESTA project   Birmingham City Council</a>

Item/Topic	Proposed Aims and Objectives	Proposed Scrutiny Method	Additional Information
Child Poverty			
Regular update on SEND			
TBC: Visit for Committee to a school to inform future work.			
UNICEF Child Friendly City			
Post 16		This could be a joint piece of work with the Economy & Skills OSC	
School Attainment (may be February or March)			
SEND Commissioner	To provide an update on the work of the SEND Improvement Board and identify key areas across SEND services where further work is needed.		
SENDIASS	To provide an update on the Improvement plan to meet statutory compliance.		
Draft SEND Sufficiency Strategy			
Children's Travel Service Workshop		A workshop to be held in the Council House. This could include stalls and meeting the team, and a roundtable discussion.	
A Data Workshop		A workshop to be arranged for later in the year.	

**Scrutiny Method Options:**

Committee meeting - single item, Committee meeting - single theme, Committee meeting – standing item, Task and Finish Group (outline number of meetings), On location, Other - (describe).

## Corporate Priorities, Performance and Outcomes

### Corporate Priorities 2022 – 26:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Support inclusive economic growth                          | 11 Increase affordable, safe, green housing                       |
| 2 Tackle unemployment  | 12 Tackle homelessness  |
| 3 Attract inward investment and infrastructure               | 13 Tackle health inequalities                                     |
| 4 Maximise the benefits of the Commonwealth Games            | 14 Encourage and enable physical activity and healthy living      |
| 5 Tackle poverty and inequalities                            | 15 Champion mental health   |
| 6 Empower citizens and enable citizen voice                  | 16 Improve outcomes for adults with disabilities and older people |
| 7 Promote and champion diversity, civic pride and culture    | 17 Improve street cleanliness                                     |
| 8 Support and enable all children and young people to thrive | 18 Improve air quality  |
| 9 Make the city safer  | 19 Continue on the Route to Zero                                  |
| 10 Protect and safeguard vulnerable citizens                 | 20 Be a City of Nature  |
|  | 21 Delivering a Bold Best in Class Council                        |

Information on the Corporate Priorities, Performance and City Outcomes was reported to the Education and Children’s Social Care OSC in June 23:  
[Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

## Economy and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023 / 24

Month	Item/Topic Link with Corporate Priorities	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
July 23	Regeneration across the City  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 1,2,3, 11, 20	How is regeneration and the benefits being spread across the city and what are the main regeneration programmes (not just those areas covered by the OFCP). Input to the OFCP consultation. Further information on the Birmingham Development Plan 2031 and plans for renewing including process and timescale to enable the Committee to schedule work in the work programme.	Committee Meeting single item: Agenda item for OSC meeting on 12 July 23.  Deadline for reports: 3 July 23  Venue: Council House, Committee Room 2	Phillip Nell, Director of Property and Investment  Simon Delahunty-Forrest, Assistant Director, Inclusive Growth		When considering the timescales for the Birmingham Development Plan Members have identified further work on the impact of the night time economy.  Report to Scrutiny Committee November 2021: <a href="https://cmis.uk.com">Planning and Noise (cmis.uk.com)</a>  Response submitted following discussion at Committee Meeting to OFCP Consultation
July 23	Increasing the opportunities for employment and skills for young people through the Council's Social Value Procurement  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 1,2,5,8	What role does procurement have in delivering social value through Council contracts to increase employment and skills opportunities for young people?	Committee Meeting single item: Agenda item for OSC meeting on 12 July 23.  Deadline for reports: 3 July 23	Steve Sandercock, Assistant Director Procurement  Shariat Rokneddin, Policy and Governance Manager		Issue identified during the Scrutiny Inquiry on Employment and Skills and recommended as issue for work programme for 2023/24)

		<p>What data / information is available to demonstrate the difference this has made? Including any information that Amanda might be able to provide on number of apprenticeships created. Going forward, how will the number of apprenticeships created through social value of procurement be monitored and what systems will be put in place to do this?</p>	<p>Venue: Council House, Committee Room 2</p>	<p>Amanda Lloyd, Principal Employment Officer</p>		
<p>September 23</p>	<p>Increasing the opportunities for employment and skills for young people through the Council’s Social Value Procurement</p> <p><b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 1,2,5,8</p>	<p>What assurance can be provided that the Council contracts are delivering their social value commitments? How is Procurement working with Contract Managers to ensure delivery of social value outcomes? How does this ensure that the contractors deliver added value e.g. the apprenticeships that are created are not just the ones that they would</p>	<p>Committee Meeting single item: Agenda item for OSC meeting on 13 September 23.</p> <p>Deadline for reports: 4 September 23</p> <p>Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3&amp;4</p>	<p>Shariat Rokneddin, Policy and Governance Manager</p> <p>Amanda Lloyd, Principal Employment Officer</p>		

		<p>have anyway through the apprenticeship levy?                  Up to date information / snap shot on the delivery of the top 40 contractors social value commitment with an analysis of this                  What are the options to develop a system to monitor social value procurement across the council and timescales to deliver this?                  What can Birmingham learn from other areas of good practice regarding social value procurement and how this is delivered and monitored?</p>				
September 23	<p>Financial Challenges - Scrutiny Contribution to the Budget Savings and Recovery Plan</p> <p><b>Corporate Priorities: 1,2,3</b></p>	<p>To consider the implications of Equal Pay and the Medium Term Financial Plan for the Committee’s work programme including agreed savings for 2023/24.</p>	<p>Committee Meeting single item: Agenda item for OSC meeting on 13 September 23.</p> <p>Deadline for reports: 4 September 23</p>	TBC		<p>Agreed at Co-ordinating OSC 14.07.23 that all Scrutiny Committee meetings will include a standing item on implications of Equal Pay within the remit of the Committee.</p>



			Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3&4			
October 23	Monitoring Recommendations of the Employment and Skills Scrutiny Inquiry  <b>Corporate Priorities: 2,5,8</b>		Committee Meeting single item: Agenda item for OSC meeting on 11 October 23.  Deadline for reports: 2 October 23  Venue: Council House, Committee Room 2	TBC		
October 23	Local Skills Improvement Plan  <b>Corporate Priorities: 1,2</b>	To inform members of Local Skills Investment Plan, the implications for Birmingham and the role of Birmingham City Council and agree any recommendations to support the development of skills in the City.	Committee Meeting single item: Agenda item for OSC meeting on 11 October 23.  Deadline for reports: 2 October 23  Venue: Council House, Committee Room 2	Corin Crane, Chief Executive, Coventry & Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce.		LSIP Employer designated representative body: Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce  Data reported to June E&S OSC showed decrease in Level 2 Qualifications and increase in Level 4 Qualifications between 2019 – 21. <a href="https://cmis.uk.com">Document.ashx (cmis.uk.com)</a>

November 23 (TBC)	Our Future City Plan (TBC)  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 1,2,3, 11, 20	Further scrutiny of the economic assessment and the sustainability objectives and outcomes of the OFCP to provide feedback / recommendations to inform the Cabinet decision.	Committee Meeting single item: Agenda item for OSC meeting on 11 October 23.  Deadline for reports: 2 October 23  Venue: Council House, Committee Room 2	Philip Nell, Director of Property And Investment  James Betjemaan, Head of Curzon and Enterprise Zone Development		
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\*Outcome: This will be populated once the item/topic has been completed. It will identify the added value and impact.

### Menu of Issues for Consideration

The following items had been identified as potential topics for future consideration. This approach enables the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to remain flexible and respond in a timely manner to emerging issues.

This is a live work programme work programme. New items may be added, or items removed during the course of the year. Proposed aims and objectives as well as scrutiny methodology may also be subject to change.

Item/ Topic	Proposed Aims and Objectives	Proposed Scrutiny Method	Additional Information
Meeting with Employers	To understand how Birmingham City Council can support local businesses	Link with existing meeting / event	
Meeting with Youth City Board	To understand the views of young people to inform the work of the Scrutiny Committee To report back on the implementation of the recommendations of the Employment and Skills Scrutiny Inquiry.	Task and Finish Group (1 Meeting) Informal meeting at location with young people e.g., youth centre.	Issue identified during the Scrutiny Inquiry on Employment and Skills and recommended as issue for work programme for 2023/24)  Members of the Education and CYP OSC could be invited to attend.

CWG Employment Legacy			
Night-time economy	Following consideration of the Birmingham Development Plan to consider the issues experienced by communities as a result of the night-time economy and how these can be managed / mitigated in future developments.		
East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Strategy	To update the Committee of the implementation of the East Birmingham Growth Strategy.		
Scrutiny of Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)	To scrutinise the integration of the LEP functions into Birmingham City Council including administration of the legacy funds and Enterprise Zone.		<p>The LEP Scrutiny function no longer exists and there is an expectation that individual local authority arrangements will scrutinise the LEP Integration.</p> <p>Link to Cabinet report 27 June on LEP Integration into Birmingham City Council:  <a href="#">Document.ashx (cmis.uk.com)</a></p>

**Scrutiny Method Options:**

Committee meeting - single item

Committee meeting - single theme

Task and Finish Group (outline number of meetings)

Economy and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee

On location

Other - (describe)

### **Corporate Priorities, Performance and Outcomes**

#### **Corporate Priorities 2022 – 26:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Support inclusive economic growth                          | 11 Increase affordable, safe, green housing                       |
| 2 Tackle unemployment  | 12 Tackle homelessness  |
| 3 Attract inward investment and infrastructure               | 13 Tackle health inequalities                                     |
| 4 Maximise the benefits of the Commonwealth Games            | 14 Encourage and enable physical activity and healthy living      |
| 5 Tackle poverty and inequalities                            | 15 Champion mental health   |
| 6 Empower citizens and enable citizen voice                  | 16 Improve outcomes for adults with disabilities and older people |
| 7 Promote and champion diversity, civic pride and culture    | 17 Improve street cleanliness                                     |
| 8 Support and enable all children and young people to thrive | 18 Improve air quality  |
| 9 Make the city safer  | 19 Continue on the Route to Zero                                  |
| 10 Protect and safeguard vulnerable citizens                 | 20 Be a City of Nature  |
|  | 21 Delivering a Bold Best in Class Council                        |

Information on the Corporate Priorities, Performance and City Outcomes was reported to the Economy and Skills OSC in June 23: [Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

### Finance and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023 / 24

The work of the Finance and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee underpins the delivery of all Corporate Priorities in the Corporate Plan 2022-26.

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
July 23	Planned Procurement Activities Report	To consider the Planned Procurement Activities report and scrutinise the governance and spend of Council contracts. The Committee to make any recommendations.	Committee meeting - single item  27 July 2023  Council House Committee Room 6  Deadline for reports: 18 July	Steve Sandercock, Assistant Director, Procurement		<b>Outcome:</b> Assurance of planned procurement activities.
July 23	Update on Stabilisation of the Oracle Financial and HR Management system	To provide the Committee with: Update on the background to the issues with the Oracle system and current challenges Work to address the challenges including governance, risk and timescales Work to learn lessons including governance, risk and timescales Progress on End of Year Accounts including timescales and risks.	Committee meeting - single item  27 July 2023  Council House Committee Room 6  Deadline for reports: 18 July	Fiona Greenway, Interim Director of Finance (S151 Officer)	Meena Kishinani, Director of Transformation	<b>Outcome:</b> Update on Stabilization of Oracle

		The Committee to make any recommendations.				
July 23	Implication of Equal Pay	To provide background to the Equal Pay liabilities for the Council To report on the values work that will underpin the budget recovery plan. Update on the Budget Recovery Plan and the Medium Term Financial Plan. Learning from Local Authority Best Value Intervention Reports The Committee to make any recommendations.	Committee meeting - single item  27 July 2023  Council House Committee Room 6  Deadline for reports: 18 July	Fiona Greenway, Interim Director of Finance (S151 Officer)		<b>Outcome:</b> Update on implications of Equal Pay
July 23	Work Programme	To review the Committee's work programme, agree work to be undertaken during August – November and issues for future consideration To consider the Council's Corporate Risk Register to inform the Committee's work programme.	Committee meeting - single item  27 July 2023  Council House Committee Room 6  Deadline for reports: 18 July	Fiona Bottrill, Senior Overview and Scrutiny Manager		

September 23	Planned Procurement Activities Report	To consider the Planned Procurement Activities (to be considered at Cabinet on 5 <sup>th</sup> September) report and scrutinise the governance and spend of Council contracts. The Committee to make any recommendations.	Committee meeting - single item  7 September 2023  Council House Committee Room 6  Deadline for reports: 29 August	Steve Sandercock, Assistant Director, Procurement		
September 23	Managing Council Risk including the Strategic Risk Register, Budget Risk and Savings Risks	Update members on risk management to inform Committee work programme	Committee meeting - single item  7 September 2023  Council House Committee Room 6  Deadline for reports: 29 August	Fiona Greenway, Interim Director of Finance (S151 Officer)  Sarah Dunlavey, Assistant Director, Audit & Risk Management		It was requested at the July Committee Meeting that the Corporate Risk Register is included as a standing item.
September 23	Update on Budget Recovery Plan and MTFP and Scrutiny Contribution to Budget Savings	To provide the Committee with an update on the current position with regard to the implications of Equal Pay, the Budget Recovery Plan and Values Framework. To consider the Corporate Savings Programme.	Committee meeting - single item  7 September 2023  Council House Committee Room 6	Fiona Greenway, Interim Director of Finance (S151 Officer)		

		The Committee to make any recommendations.	Deadline for reports: 29 August			
September 23	Oracle Stabilisation Update	<p>To provide the Committee with an update, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on 'Safe and Compliant'</li> <li>• Update on Optimisation High Level Design</li> <li>• Oracle financial position</li> <li>• Key strategic risks from within the Oracle RAID log</li> <li>• Update on Oracle Management Review – including anticipated completion date.</li> </ul> <p>The Committee to make any recommendations.</p>	<p>Committee meeting - single item</p> <p>7 September 2023</p> <p>Council House Committee Room 6</p> <p>Deadline for reports: 29 August</p>	<p>Meena Kishinani, Interim Director of Transformation</p> <p>Craig Buckley, Oracle Programme Director</p>		
September 23	Job Evaluation – Permanent Pay Equity	<p>To consider the report on Permanent Pay Equity presented to Cabinet on 25 July.</p> <p>To provide the Committee with an update on activity since that date.</p>	<p>Committee meeting - single item</p> <p>7 September 2023</p>	<p>Deborah Cadman Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service</p> <p>Janie Berry, City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer</p>		



		The Committee to agree how it will provide monitoring and oversight of the delivery of the programme. The Committee to make any recommendations.	Council House Committee Room 6  Deadline for reports: 29 August	Fiona Greenway, Interim Director of Finance (S151 Officer)  Darren Hockaday, Interim Director of People and Corporate Services		
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### Menu of Issues for Consideration

The following items had been identified as potential topics for future consideration. This approach enables the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to remain flexible and respond in a timely manner to emerging issues.

This is a live work programme work programme. New items may be added, or items removed during the course of the year. Proposed aims and objectives as well as scrutiny methodology may also be subject to change.

Item/ Topic	Proposed Aims and Objectives	Proposed Scrutiny Method	Additional Information
Monitoring recommendations of the Procurement Governance Scrutiny Report	To receive an update on the new Procurement and Contract Governance rules	Committee meeting - single item	
Progress Report on Implementation: Council-owned Assets	To track progress on implementation of the recommendations R01 and R02.	Committee meeting - single item	Recommendations R03-R06 were signed off as completed in November 2022.
Diversity and Inclusion Dashboard	Role for O&S in looking at specific aspects of the data and monitoring progress including:	TBC	Possible key questions: How do we acquire new talent? How do we ensure we're attractive to potential new

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work force planning in relation to age profile of staff.</li> <li>• Disability disclosure and reasonable adjustments</li> <li>• Governance of Everyone’s Battle, Everyone’s Business (EBEB) and what impact this has made.</li> </ul>		employees? Are we open, accessible, inclusive and do our job descriptions and requirements reflect the needs of the business, but also the reality of life and experience of work for applicants? When is it appropriate to use consultants and how are these decisions made?
Working from Home	To understand the impact on productivity and workforce costs.	TBC	This may be looked at flexibly. Important to note that this item isn’t about stopping working from home, but looking at where it is appropriate and whether it works for the needs of the council and its residents.
Visits to inform the work of the Committee			

**Scrutiny Method Options:**

Committee meeting - single item

Committee meeting - single theme

Task and Finish Group (outline number of meetings)

On location

Other - (describe)

## Corporate Priorities, Performance and Outcomes

### Corporate Priorities 2022 – 26:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Support inclusive economic growth                          | 11 Increase affordable, safe, green housing                       |
| 2 Tackle unemployment  | 12 Tackle homelessness  |
| 3 Attract inward investment and infrastructure               | 13 Tackle health inequalities                                     |
| 4 Maximise the benefits of the Commonwealth Games            | 14 Encourage and enable physical activity and healthy living      |
| 5 Tackle poverty and inequalities                            | 15 Champion mental health   |
| 6 Empower citizens and enable citizen voice                  | 16 Improve outcomes for adults with disabilities and older people |
| 7 Promote and champion diversity, civic pride and culture    | 17 Improve street cleanliness                                     |
| 8 Support and enable all children and young people to thrive | 18 Improve air quality  |
| 9 Make the city safer  | 19 Continue on the Route to Zero                                  |
| 10 Protect and safeguard vulnerable citizens                 | 20 Be a City of Nature  |
|  | 21 Delivering a Bold Best in Class Council                        |

Information on the Corporate Priorities, Performance and City Outcomes was reported to Finance and Resources OSC in June 23: [Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](https://cmis.uk.com)

## Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023 / 24

Month	Item/Topic Link with Corporate Priorities	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
July 2023	CQC Pilot Inspection  <b>Corporate Priorities: 16</b>	<p>To update the Scrutiny Committee on the pilot CQC Inspection of Adult Social Care Services including Adult Social Care performance.</p> <p>To enable the Committee to provide assurance / recommendations to inform the preparation for the pilot inspection.</p> <p>To understand how the performance of adult social care will be overseen in future and how the role of the HASC relates to the work of the CQC to inform the Committee's work programme</p>	<p>Committee Meeting single item: Agenda item for OSC meeting on 4 July 2023. 10.00am</p> <p>Deadline for reports: 23 June</p> <p>Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4</p>	Professor Graeme Betts CBE Strategic Director Adult Social Care	Andy Cave, Chief Executive, Healthwatch Birmingham	<p><b>Outcomes:</b> 3 recommendations were made to Strategic Director Adult Social Care following discussion at Committee.</p> <p>The recommendations are captured in the Committee Action Tracker</p> <p>HASC Chair contributed to CQC pilot inspection</p>
July 2023	Integrated Care System Governance: Place Committee and decision-making powers.  <b>Corporate Priorities: 16</b>	To inform the Committee of the Governance arrangements of the ICS and the role and responsibilities of the Birmingham Place Board.	Committee Meeting single item: Agenda item for OSC meeting on 4 July 2023. 10.00am	Professor Graeme Betts CBE Strategic Director Adult Social Care	Andy Cave, Chief Executive, Healthwatch Birmingham	<p><b>Outcomes:</b> 3 recommendations were made the Chief Executive of the ICS following discussion at Committee.</p>

		<p>This will include how the principle of subsidiarity will be implemented in practice, the governance arrangements and how this links with Primary Care Networks and Local Authority locality working.</p> <p>The Committee to agree any comments / recommendations.</p>	<p>Deadline for reports: 23 June</p> <p>Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4</p>			<p>The recommendations are captured in the Committee Action Tracker</p>
July 2023	<p>Scrutiny Work Programme</p> <p><b>Statutory Health Scrutiny Function</b></p>	<p>To review the Committee's work programme, agree work to be undertaken during August – November and issues for future consideration.</p> <p>To consider the Council's Corporate Risk Register to inform the Committee's work programme.</p>	<p>Committee Meeting single item: Agenda item for OSC meeting on 4 July 2023. 10.00am</p> <p>Deadline for reports: 23 June</p> <p>Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4</p>	<p>Fiona Bottrill Senior Overview and Scrutiny Manager</p>		<p><b>Outcome:</b></p> <p>Comments submitted to inform commissioning of sexual health services based on report and discussion at HASC meeting February 23.</p>
July 2023	<p>Inquiry: Children and young people's mental health</p> <p><b>Corporate Priorities: 15</b></p>	<p>Review evidence and develop draft recommendations</p>	<p>Task and Finish Group meeting w/c 18 July</p>	<p>Fiona Bottrill, Senior Overview and Scrutiny Manager</p>		

July 2023	Inquiry: Children and young people's mental health  <b>Corporate Priorities: 15</b>	Meeting with key partners to discuss draft recommendations	Task and Finish Group meeting 26 July	Fiona Bottrill, Senior Overview and Scrutiny Manager		
September 2023	Inquiry: Children and young people's mental health  <b>Corporate Priorities: 15</b>	Sign off draft Inquiry report	Task and Finish Group meeting 6 September	Fiona Bottrill, Senior Overview and Scrutiny Manager		
September 2023	Primary Care Enabling Strategy  <b>Corporate Priorities: 8, 13, 16</b>	To receive a report on the NHS/ICB Primary Care Enabling Strategy setting out how primary care will be prioritised in the delivery of health and social care in Birmingham	Committee Meeting single item: Agenda item for OSC meeting on 19 September 10.00am  Deadline for reports: 7 <sup>th</sup> September  Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4	Anna Hammond, Director of GP Provider Support and Dr Sunando Ghosh, Primary Care Medical Services Board Partner Member		Requested by ICB to come to September Committee Meeting
September 2023	Scrutiny Contribution to the Budget Savings and Recovery Plan  <b>Corporate Priorities: 16</b>	To consider the implications of Equal Pay and the Medium-Term Financial Plan for the Committee's work programme including agreed savings for 2023/24.	Committee Meeting single item: Agenda item for OSC meeting on 19 September 10.00am	Cllr. Khan, Cabinet Member, Adult Social Care  Professor Graeme Betts CBE Strategic Director Adult Social Care	TBC	It was agreed at Co-ordinating in July that all Scrutiny Committees would consider the implications of Equal Pay and the Medium Term Financial Plan at the September Committee Meetings.

			Deadline for reports: 8 September  Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4			
September 2023	Work Programme report to include Health and Adult Social Care OSC and Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee role in NHS quality assurance.  <b>Statutory Health Scrutiny Function</b>	To agree a 2-3 year schedule of reports from NHS Trust based in / serving Birmingham and Joint HOSC areas including: CQC report Quality Account Analysis of complaints and how this has driven service improvement. Key risks / issues for the Trust and plans to address these.  The Committee to agree any comments / recommendations.	Agenda at HASC OSC Committee Meeting 19 September 10.00am  Deadline for reports: 8 September  Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4	Fiona Bottrill, Senior Overview and Scrutiny Manager		NHS Trusts based in / serving Birmingham: UHB BWCT NHS FT Sandwell and West Birmingham Birmingham CHT BSMHFT Royal Orthopaedic NHS FT WMAS
October 2023	Inquiry: Children and young people's mental health  <b>Corporate Priorities: 15</b>	Task and Finish Group to agree consider comments received on draft report	Task and Finish Group meeting w/c 2 October	Fiona Bottrill, Senior Overview and Scrutiny Manager		All Members of the Committee will be invited to this meeting to be informed of issues and recommendations.

<p>October 2023</p>	<p>Monitoring implementation recommendation R01 from Scrutiny Inquiry on Legacy of Commonwealth Games</p> <p><b>Corporate Priorities: 4, 6</b></p>	<p>To update on the development of the inclusive Sports Strategy and the Physical Activity Strategy.</p> <p>The Committee to agree any comments / recommendations.</p>	<p>Committee Meeting single item: Agenda at HASC OSC Committee Meeting 17 October, 10.00am</p> <p>Deadline for reports: 6<sup>th</sup> October</p> <p>Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4, 10am.</p>	<p>Dave Wagg Head of Sport &amp; Physical Activity</p> <p>Lynda Bradford, Interim Service Lead, Physical Activity.</p>	<p>Inquiry report available from: <a href="https://document.ashx(cmis.uk.com)">Document.ashx (cmis.uk.com)</a></p> <p>Recommendations to be completed by October 2024 R01: b) Provide an outline of how the insight and experience of disabled citizens will inform the new Sport and Physical Activity strategies.</p> <p>d) Continue to build upon the new partnerships developed through the CWG, and work with the Birmingham Disability Sports Forum to maximise the impact of the strategy and understanding the range of activity on-going in the city</p> <p>Corporate Performance and Delivery Plan milestones City Operations Sport Strategy to be concluded by Mar 24.</p> <p>Public Health Physical Activity milestone delivery date of Dec 23</p>
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October / November 2023	Access to dental services and need.  <b>Corporate Priorities: 13, 14</b>	To receive a report from the ICS to understand the issues relating to access to dental services in Birmingham and the impact this has on oral health. Based on this information the Committee may decide to undertake further work through a Task and Finish Group.  The Committee to agree any comments / recommendations.	Committee Meeting single item: Agenda at HASC OSC Committee Meeting 17 October, 10.00am  Deadline for reports: 6 October  Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4	TBC		This is regional service and timescale dependent on ongoing work at BSOL and regional level.  Link to Healthwatch report on accessing dentistry services: <a href="#">Impact report: Changes to accessing NHS dentistry in Birmingham and Solihull - Healthwatch Birmingham</a>  Following this report the Committee may wish to undertake further work through a Task and Finish Group.
November 2023.	Birmingham and Lewisham African and Caribbean Health Inequalities Review (BLACHIR)  <b>Corporate Priorities: 13</b>	To update members on the implementation of BLACHIR actions and enable the Committee to inform the implementation of the Review recommendations including what impact the programme has had to date and how the medium / long term impact will be measured.	Committee meeting single item: 21 <sup>st</sup> November.  Presentation/Paper Deadline: 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov.  Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4 at 10am	September 23	Birmingham and Lewisham African and Caribbean Health Inequalities Review (BLACHIR)	To update members on the implementation of BLACHIR actions and enable the Committee to inform the implementation of the Review recommendations including what impact the programme has had to date and how the medium / long term impact will be measured.
November 2023	Day Opportunities	To update the Committee on the policy development on the Day	Committee Meeting single item: Agenda at	Dr Temitope Ademosu	Red Quadrant (TBC)	City Observatory : Request demographics information

	<b>Corporate Priorities: 16</b>	<p>Opportunities Service to enable Scrutiny to inform the Cabinet decision.</p> <p>The Committee to agree any comments / recommendations.</p>	<p>HASC OSC Committee 17 October 2023 10.00am</p> <p>Deadline for reports: 6 October</p> <p>Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4</p>	Assistant Director - Adult Social Care (Community services and EDI)		to understand future demand for services.
Jan 2024.	<p>Birmingham Safeguarding Adult Board (SAB) Annual Report 2022/23</p> <p><b>Corporate Priorities: 10.</b></p>	To update the Committee on the children’s safeguarding arrangements in the city.	<p>Committee meeting single item: 24 January 2024.</p> <p>Presentation/Paper Deadline: 9<sup>th</sup> Jan 24</p> <p>Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4 at 10am</p>			<p>Birmingham Safeguarding Adult Board (SAB) Annual Report 2022/23</p> <p>Recommendation from Co-ordinating OSC that all OSCs consider relevant aspects of Domestic Abuse in the work programme. To consider Adult Safeguarding Issues related to Domestic Abuse.</p> <p>The Neighbourhoods OSC work programme includes informing the development of the new Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy</p>

\*Outcome: This will be populated once the item/topic has been completed. It will identify the added value and impact.

**Birmingham and Sandwell Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
Sept 2023	Midland Metropolitan Hospital: Emergency and Urgent Patient Care  <b>Statutory Health Scrutiny Function</b>	Consider update report on Patient Care at Midland Metropolitan Hospital, including actions from CQC inspection recommendations.	Committee meeting single item: 27 <sup>th</sup> Sept.  Venue: Council House, Sandwell Council, Oldbury.			
Sept 2023	Midland Metropolitan Hospital: Models of care across the Trust.  <b>Statutory Health Scrutiny Function</b>	TBC with Sandwell Officer colleagues.	Committee meeting single item: 27th Sept.  Venue: Council House, Sandwell Council, Oldbury.			
TBC	Scrutiny and Quality Assurance.  <b>Statutory Health Scrutiny Function.</b>	To agree a 2–3-year schedule of reports from NHS Trust serving Birmingham and Joint HOSC areas including: CQC report Quality Account Analysis of complaints and how this has driven service improvement Key risks / issues for the Trust.				

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\*Outcome: This will be populated once the item/topic has been completed. It will identify the added value and impact.

### **Birmingham and Solihull Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Item/Topic</b>	<b>Aims and Objectives</b>	<b>Scrutiny Method</b>	<b>Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer</b>	<b>Other Witnesses</b>	<b>Additional Information and Outcome*</b>
July 2023	Report on 3 Independent Reviews of University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust: Patient Safety Review Culture Review Well Led Review of Leadership and Governance  <b>Statutory Health Scrutiny Function</b>	To provide assurance to the Committee on the outcome of the Well Led and progress on the Culture review and timescales and implementation of the recommendations of the Patient Safety Review.  To consider the Healthwatch ground rules for the 3 Reviews and if these have been met.	Committee Meeting single item: Agenda item at Joint HOSC meeting 25 <sup>th</sup> July 23  Deadline for reports 14 <sup>th</sup> July 23  Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4	David Melbourne, BSOL ICB Chief Executive		Information requested on April 23 Joint HOSC: To receive a copy of the ICS analysis of the UHB Trust's <i>Standardised Hospital Mortality Ratio</i> (SHMR);  To receive an annual summary of the learning that had taken place over the course of the year across UHB be brought forward and submitted to the JHOSC in future;  To receive a roadmap for the remaining reviews in terms of how they will report, expected dates/timescales/milestones.

						<p><b>Outcomes:</b></p> <p>Update provided on reviews</p> <p>Public Engagement / Citizen voice: Engagement between patients families and UHB following deputation at meeting</p> <p>Assurance provided regarding Healthwatch ground rules.</p>
July 2023	<p>BSol ICS update on performance against finance and recovery plans</p> <p><b>Corporate Priority 8, 13 &amp; 16</b></p>	To update the members on the ICS financial position and recovery of healthcare services following the impact of the covid pandemic.	<p>Committee Meeting single item: Agenda item at Joint HOSC meeting 25 July 23</p> <p>Deadline for reports 14 July 23</p> <p>Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3 and 4</p>	Paul Athey, BSOL ICS Chief Finance Officer		<p><b>Outcomes:</b></p> <p>Update provided on ICS financial position and recovery of healthcare services.</p>

October 2023	Maternity Services at Heartlands Hospital  <b>Corporate Priority 13</b>	To consider the CQC report findings and actions to be taken by the Trust.	Committee Meeting: Agenda item at Joint HOSC meeting 5 <sup>th</sup> October '23.  Venue: Council House, Solihull	TBC		
October 2023.	Birmingham and Solihull ICS Performance on Finance & Recovery plans.  <b>Corporate Priority 8, 13 &amp; 16</b>	To provide a summary of key performance and deliverables (as at end of September).	Committee Meeting: Standard agenda item at Joint HOSC meetings. 5th October '23.  Venue: Council House, Solihull	Paul Athey, Chief Finance Officer		To be published at the end of June 2023
Oct. 2023	West Midlands Ambulance Service Delivery  <b>Corporate Priority 8, 13 &amp; 16</b>	To consider the West Midlands Ambulance Service activities such as conveyance to hospitals, lost hours to handover delays, response time by call category, profile of Serious Incidents, actions taken by WMAS, high impact actions to make a difference, outcomes from a WMAS perspective	Committee Meeting: Agenda item at Joint HOSC meeting 5th October '23.  Venue: Council House, Solihull	TBC		
Oct. 2023	Winter Pressure Update  <b>Corporate Priorities 8, 13 &amp; 16</b>	To discuss the wider topic of winter pressures as part of A&E pressures and ambulance issues to be considered by Committee.	Committee Meeting : Agenda item at Joint HOSC	TBC		

		A&E pressures were a perennial problem in winter. To discuss at October meeting ahead of winter.	meeting 5th October '23.  Venue: Council House, Solihull			
Jan.2024	ICS Work Force Planning.  <b>Statutory Health Scrutiny Function</b>	TBC	Committee Meeting: Agenda item at JHOSC meeting in January (Date TBC)			
Jan. 2024.	Scrutiny and Quality Assurance.  <b>Statutory Health Scrutiny Function</b>	To agree a 2-3 year schedule of reports from NHS Trust serving Birmingham and Joint HOSC areas including: <i>CQC report.</i> <i>Quality Account.</i> <i>Analysis of complaints and how this has driven service improvement.</i> <i>Key risks / issues for the Trust.</i>				
Jan 2024	Monitoring of implementation of Recommendations from UHB Reviews.  <b>Statutory Health Scrutiny Function.</b>	The ICS and UHB to report on the implementation of the recommendations from the UHB reviews.	Committee Meeting: Agenda item at JHOSC meeting in January (Date TBC)			
TBC	Update on post-covid syndrome / Long covid and rehabilitation.	To understand the impact of post covid syndrome / long covid and the services / support that is available.				

	<b>Corporate Priorities 13 &amp; 16</b>					
TBC	CQC report Birmingham & Solihull Mental Health Trust (BSMHST)  <b>Corporate Priorities 8 &amp; 16.</b>	To update the Scrutiny Committee on the CQC Inspection of BSMHST performance, including any progress on recommendations for action.				

\*Outcome: This will be populated once the item/topic has been completed. It will identify the added value and impact.

### Menu of Issues for Consideration

The following items had been identified as potential topics for future consideration. This approach enables the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to remain flexible and respond in a timely manner to emerging issues.

This is a live work programme work programme. New items may be added, or items removed during the course of the year. Proposed aims and objectives as well as scrutiny methodology may also be subject to change.

Item/ Topic	Proposed Aims and Objectives	Proposed Scrutiny Method	Additional Information
Immunisation and vaccinations.  <b>Corporate Priorities 13 &amp; 16</b>	Immunisations and vaccinations for children under 5 Implications of covid immunisations rates for health and care staff	Task and Finish Group	This work could commence following the completion of the CYP mental health Inquiry.
Primary Care Access  <b>Corporate Priorities 13 &amp; 14</b>	TBC		Link to National GP recovery plan  Suggested timescales to update on plan November – December 23
ICS 10 year strategy.  <b>Corporate Priorities 8, 13 &amp; 16</b>	TBC		Annual review of key strategic priorities. Suggested timescale April 24
Birmingham City Council Commissioned Services:	Report to come to Health and Adult Care OSC prior to recommissioning of		Members may wish to agree comments / recommendations based on the report to the February 2023



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birmingham Sexual Health Services</li> <li>• Birmingham Substance Misuse Services</li> <li>• Forward Thinking Birmingham</li> </ul> <p><b>Corporate Priorities 8, 13, &amp; 15</b></p>	the service to enable the Committee to inform Cabinet decisions.		Committee meeting to inform the re-tendering process for sexual health services.
<p>Birmingham Safeguarding Adults Board Annual report and priorities.</p> <p><b>Corporate Priorities 10, 13, 16</b></p>	To update the Committee on the work of the Birmingham SAB such as: <i>Implementation of Strategic Priorities.</i> <i>Adult Safeguarding Data.</i> <i>Learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews.</i> <i>Adult Safeguarding Issues related to Domestic Abuse.</i>	BASB to attend the Jan 23, 2024 HASC meeting.	<p>Recommendation from Co-ordinating OSC that OSCs consider relevant aspects of Domestic Abuse in the work programme.</p> <p>The Neighbourhoods OSC work programme includes: Informing the development of the new Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy</p>
<p>Engaging with Third Sector providers of Adult Social Care</p> <p><b>Corporate Priorities 16</b></p>	TBC		
<p>Obesity and Food Strategy</p> <p><b>Corporate Priorities 8, 14 &amp; 16</b></p>	<p>What actions have been implemented as part of the Food Strategy and what impact have these had?</p> <p>How will the medium and long terms impact be demonstrated?</p> <p>How has the strategy helped to reduce inequalities and food poverty?</p>		<p>Link to Food Strategy:</p> <p><a href="#">Birmingham Food System Strategy   Birmingham City Council</a></p>
<p>Population health and inequalities</p> <p><b>Corporate Priority 13</b></p>		Task and Finish Group	<a href="#">How health has changed in your area - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)</a>

**Scrutiny Method Options:**

Committee meeting - single item

Committee meeting - single theme

Task and Finish Group (outline number of meetings)

On location

Other - (describe)

**Corporate Priorities, Performance and Outcomes**

**Corporate Priorities 2022 – 26:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Support inclusive economic growth                          | 11 Increase affordable, safe, green housing                       |
| 2 Tackle unemployment  | 12 Tackle homelessness  |
| 3 Attract inward investment and infrastructure               | 13 Tackle health inequalities                                     |
| 4 Maximise the benefits of the Commonwealth Games            | 14 Encourage and enable physical activity and healthy living      |
| 5 Tackle poverty and inequalities                            | 15 Champion mental health   |
| 6 Empower citizens and enable citizen voice                  | 16 Improve outcomes for adults with disabilities and older people |
| 7 Promote and champion diversity, civic pride and culture    | 17 Improve street cleanliness                                     |
| 8 Support and enable all children and young people to thrive | 18 Improve air quality  |
| 9 Make the city safer  | 19 Continue on the Route to Zero                                  |
| 10 Protect and safeguard vulnerable citizens                 | 20 Be a City of Nature  |
|  | 21 Delivering a Bold Best in Class Council                        |

Information on the Corporate Priorities, Performance and City Outcomes was reported to the Health and Adult Social Care OSC in June 23: [Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

## Homes Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023/24

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
July	Voids – Improving Standards  <b>Corporate Priority: 11</b>	To be confirmed by Task and Finish Group	Task and Finish Group meetings	Director, Housing Management – Stephen Gabriel		The Housing and Neighbourhoods O&S Committee in 2022-23 agreed to review Voids – Improving Standards. A <a href="#">Terms of Reference</a> was approved in February 2023, and the <a href="#">Council’s City Housing service presented</a> in March 2023. Committee members also took part in visits to City Housing void properties. The intention had been to continue into 2023-24.  As there is now a dedicated Homes O&S Committee for 2023-24, the scope of these Terms of Reference will be reviewed at the first Task and Finish Group meeting.
September	Social Housing Regulation Bill  <b>Corporate Priority: 11</b>	Provide information on what the Social Housing Regulation Bill means for the Council’s City Housing service  Understand how City Housing will achieve compliance with the Social Housing Regulation Bill, and preparation for inspection from the Regulator for Social Housing in April 2024	Committee meeting - single item: 21 September 2023, 2pm.  Venue: Room 6, Council House	Head of Service, Strategic Enabling – Naomi Morris		This Bill intends to deliver the reforms outlined in <a href="#">the Social Housing White Paper</a> and address the concerns following the Grenfell Tower fire in 2017. It will introduce a stronger and more proactive regulatory regime to improve standards and accountability for landlords for the services they provide.

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
		Consider how Member insight can inform and drive improved services	<b>Deadline for Papers: 12 September 2023</b>			The agenda item will also outline progress toward inspections following the Regulatory Notice in May 2023.
September	Housing Ombudsman – Paragraph 49  <b>Corporate Priority: 11</b>	Outline the background to, and the key recommendations from, the Housing Ombudsman special report on Birmingham City Council  Provide information on the progress made towards delivering on the recommendations from the Housing Ombudsman, Paragraph 49 report  Consider how Member insight can inform and drive improved services	Committee meeting - single item: 21 September 2023, 2pm.  Venue: Room 6, Council House  <b>Deadline for Papers: 12 September 2023</b>	Head of Service, Strategic Enabling – Naomi Morris		In January, the Housing Ombudsman published a <a href="#">special report</a> on Birmingham City Council. The report made recommendations relating to repair handling; complaint handling; record keeping and compensation policy.
September	Scrutiny Contribution to Budget Savings and Recovery Plan	For the Committee to consider a report on current and future Budget Savings and Recovery Plans and implications for Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Committee meeting - single item: 21 September 2023, 2pm.  Venue: Room 6, Council House  <b>Deadline for Papers: 12 September 2023</b>	Cllr Jayne Francis, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness	Paul Langford, Strategic Director, City Housing	It was agreed at Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee in July that all Scrutiny Committees would consider the implications of the Medium Term Financial Plan at the September Committee meetings.

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
October	Exempt Accommodation  <b>Corporate Priority: 9, 10 and 11</b>	Provide update on progress of outstanding recommendations from Exempt Accommodation inquiry  Consider the impact of the recommendations from the Inquiry	Committee meeting - single item: 19 October 2023, 2pm.  Venue: Room 6, Council House  <b>Deadline for Papers: 10 October 2023</b>	Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness, Cllr Jayne Francis  Assistant Director, Housing Strategy and Enabling – Guy Chaundy		<a href="#">Exempt Accommodation Inquiry, 2021</a>  <a href="#">Latest update to Co-ordinating O&amp;S Committee</a> (March 2023)

\*Outcome: This will be populated once the item/topic has been completed. It will highlight the added value and impact.

### Menu of Options for Future Consideration

The following items had been identified as potential topics for future consideration. This approach enables the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to remain flexible and respond in a timely manner to emerging issues.

This is a live work programme work programme. New items may be added, or items removed during the course of the year. Proposed aims and objectives as well as scrutiny methodology may also be subject to change.

Item/ Topic	Proposed Aims and Objectives	Proposed Scrutiny Method	Additional Information
Affordable Housing	This will be confirmed following further discussions by the O&S Committee	This will be confirmed following further discussions by the O&S Committee	This will be confirmed following further discussions by the O&S Committee. However, there is a proposal for a single agenda item discussion at Committee.
Customer Services – Housing Repairs	To be confirmed following July's Co-ordinating O&S Committee. Currently:	To be confirmed	Co-ordinating O&S Committee convened Task and Finish groups to identify, and monitor progress of,

Item/ Topic	Proposed Aims and Objectives	Proposed Scrutiny Method	Additional Information
	Monitor the progress and impact of the recommendations from the Customers Services O&S programme		<p>recommendations to improve customer services in 4 areas including Housing Repairs.</p> <p>A final Task and Finish group took place on 14 June 2023, and a report presented to Co-ordinating O&amp;S in July. It was agreed that Homes O&amp;S Committee takes forward this work for Housing Repairs in the future.</p>
Decent Homes	This will be confirmed following further discussions by the O&S Committee and in particular, the Task and Finish Group for Voids – Improving Standards.	This will be confirmed following further discussions by the O&S Committee	This will be confirmed following further discussions by the O&S Committee and in particular, the Task and Finish Group for Improving Standards of Council Homes.
Performance	This will be confirmed following further discussions by the O&S Committee	This will be confirmed following further discussions by the O&S Committee	This will be confirmed following further discussions by the O&S Committee.
Tenant Engagement	This will be confirmed following further discussions by the O&S Committee	This will be confirmed following further discussions by the O&S Committee	This will be confirmed following further discussions by the O&S Committee.

**Scrutiny Method Options:**

Committee meeting - single item

Committee meeting - single theme

Task and Finish Group (outline number of meetings)

On location

Other - (describe)

## Corporate Priorities, Performance and Outcomes

### Corporate Priorities 2022 – 26:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Support inclusive economic growth                          | 11 Increase affordable, safe, green housing                       |
| 2 Tackle unemployment  | 12 Tackle homelessness  |
| 3 Attract inward investment and infrastructure               | 13 Tackle health inequalities                                     |
| 4 Maximise the benefits of the Commonwealth Games            | 14 Encourage and enable physical activity and healthy living      |
| 5 Tackle poverty and inequalities                            | 15 Champion mental health   |
| 6 Empower citizens and enable citizen voice                  | 16 Improve outcomes for adults with disabilities and older people |
| 7 Promote and champion diversity, civic pride and culture    | 17 Improve street cleanliness                                     |
| 8 Support and enable all children and young people to thrive | 18 Improve air quality  |
| 9 Make the city safer  | 19 Continue on the Route to Zero                                  |
| 10 Protect and safeguard vulnerable citizens                 | 20 Be a City of Nature  |
|  | 21 Delivering a Bold Best in Class Council                        |

Information on the Corporate Priorities, Performance and City Outcomes was reported to the Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee OSC in June 2023: [Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](https://cmis.uk.com/Document.ashx)

## Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023/24

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
July	Fly Tipping Enforcement  <b>Corporate Priorities: 17</b>	To outline the current position in relation to fly-tipping with specific regard to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifying dedicated resources and which wards they are deployed in;</li> <li>Enforcement approach and how this is developing;</li> <li>How cameras are being used, and the specific impact of Grime Watch.</li> </ul> <p>Understand if/ how this approach is making a difference to reduce fly tipping.</p> <p>Outline progress towards Cleaner Streets recommendations.</p>	Committee Meeting single item: 5 July 2023 at 2pm  Venue: Committee Room 6, Council House  <b>Deadline for Papers: 22 June 2023</b>	Darren Share, Director, Street Scene		The Committee will review this information with a view to considering whether they wish to undertake a more detailed inquiry.  Related work from 2022-23: <a href="#">Reducing Fly tipping</a> (April 2023)  <a href="#">Cleaner Streets</a> (April 2023)  <a href="#">Performance Information</a> (presented to Neighbourhoods O&S Committee, June 2023 by Programmes, Performance and Improvement)  <a href="#">Co-ordinating O&amp;S Customer Services (waste)</a>
July	Community Safety Localities Approach  <b>Corporate Priorities: 9</b>	To inform the development of a new localities approach with particular focus on how ward councillors can contribute towards identifying local priorities, problem solving and reviewing impact	Committee Meeting single item: 5 July 2023 at 2pm  Venue: Committee Room 6, Council House	Pamela Powis, Acting Head of Partnership, Community Safety Team		This refers to the Local Partnership Delivery Groups which operate across the city.  An <a href="#">all-day partnership event</a> took place on 22 May 2023 to inform this new approach. Members were invited to attend.



Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
			Deadline for Papers: 22 June 2023			<p>The Neighbourhoods O&amp;S Committee is the designated Crime and Disorder Committee for Birmingham. This will contribute towards discharging its duties.</p> <p>The statutory requirements, as Crime and Disorder Committee, are outlined <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><b>Outcome: A list of the local managers for the six locations to be provided to the Committee.</b></p> <p><b>The Delivery Plans together with contact details to be shared with Ward Councillors.</b></p>
August	Youth Justice <b>Corporate Priorities: 8 and 9</b>	To inform the annual Youth Justice Plan	Other - Briefing: 9 August 2023 at 2pm  Venue: Committee Room 2 and on-line (hybrid)	Janine Saleh, Head of Birmingham Youth Offending Service, Birmingham Children's Trust	Dionne McAndrew, Assistant Director Vulnerable Young People, Birmingham Children's Trust	<p>This is an annual report. The most recent <a href="#">report</a> was approved by Council in October 2022.</p> <p>The intention is to bring this report to pre-decision Scrutiny when the draft report is available. As there were no Committee meetings scheduled in August, the Chair requested a hybrid briefing. Members of the Education, Children and Young People's O&amp;S Committee were also invited.</p>

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
						<b>Outcome: Annual Plan updated.</b>
September	Scrutiny Contribution to Budget Savings and Recovery	For the Committee to consider a report on current and future Budget Savings and Recovery Plans and implications for Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Committee Meeting single item: Agenda at Neighbourhoods OSC Committee Meeting on 6 September 2023  Venue: Committee Room 6, Council House  <b>Deadline: 25 August 2023</b>	Craig Cooper, Strategic Director, City Operations, Neighbourhoods		It was agreed at Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee in July that all Scrutiny Committees would consider the implications of the Medium Term Financial Plan at the September Committee meetings.
October	Localisation  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 6, 7, 9, 17 and 21	To ascertain how the Leader proposes to take forward the localisation agenda	Committee Meeting single item: 4 October 2023  Venue: Committee Room 6, Council House  <b>Deadline: 26 September 2023</b>	Cllr John Cotton, Leader		The Housing and Neighbourhoods O&S Committee discussed this <a href="#">item</a> in April 2023.  Related strategies, policies and plans can be found <a href="#">here</a> .
October	Cleaner Streets	Outline progress towards the Cleaner Streets recommendations, and impact to date.	Committee Meeting single	Cllr Majid Mahmood,	Darren Share, Director, Street Scene	In February 2023, the Housing and Neighbourhoods O&S Committee agreed <a href="#">key findings and</a>

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
	<b>Corporate Priorities: 17</b>		<p>item: 4 October 2023</p> <p>Venue: Committee Room 6, Council House</p> <p><b>Deadline: 26 September 2023</b></p>	Cabinet Member for Environment		<p><a href="#">recommendations</a> for Cleaner Streets. This had followed informal best practice sessions with Derby, Rochdale and Wigan Local Authorities.</p> <p>In April 2023, Cabinet Member for Environment, Cllr Majid Mahmood attended O&amp;S Committee to provide a <a href="#">formal response</a> to the recommendations, and agreed to report progress to future committees.</p>
October	<p>Fly Tipping Enforcement</p> <p><b>Corporate Priorities: 17</b></p>	<p>Provide further information on how the Grimewatch initiative is progressing, and its impact</p> <p>Provide further information on the enforcement approach (with specific regard to legal interventions)</p> <p>Analyse locality based data and intelligence for flytipping (as per recommendation 1 arising from the July O&amp;S Committee)</p> <p>Share a snapshot of the Land Audit Management System (LAMS) ward information (as per</p>	<p>Committee Meeting single item: 4 October 2023</p> <p>Venue: Committee Room 6, Council House</p> <p><b>Deadline: 26 September 2023</b></p>	Darren Share, Director, Street Scene		The recommendations will be shared with the report author once they have been confirmed by the Chair.

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
		recommendation 2 arising from the July O&S Committee)				
November	Domestic Abuse  <b>Corporate Priorities: 10</b>	Consider the proposed Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy	Committee Meeting single item: 1 November 2023  Venue: Committee Room 6, Council House  <b>Deadline: 23 October 2023</b>	Kalvinder Kohli, Assistant Director	Shirin Marashi, Senior Commissioning Officer, Adult Social Care  Revinder Johal, Commissioning Manager	A new Domestic Abuse Strategy is scheduled to be discussed at Cabinet for approval in January-February 2024. This had initially been earmarked for December, but this will be too late as the strategy will be nearly complete. Therefore, the proposed timeline to present to O&S Committee is September – October 2023.  Co-ordinating O&S Committee held a <a href="#">single theme meeting</a> in February to review the previous strategy and input in the early stages of this strategy's development. A summary is provided <a href="#">here</a> . A roundtable with service providers had also taken place to inform this review.
November	Delays in Births and Deaths Registrations	Provide an overview of, and demonstrate the impact of, the current engagement and work undertaken with the Coroner, partners and communities on steps to eliminate delays within the service.	Committee Meeting single item: 1 November 2023  Venue: Committee Room 6, Council House	Sajeela Naseer, Director of Regulation and Enforcement	Bev Nash, Head of Service will be attending on behalf of Sajeela Naseer	Following Council Resolution on 14 June 2022, a <a href="#">report</a> responding to the Motion was presented to Housing and Neighbourhoods O&S Committee on 26 September 2022. A summary of the discussion is <a href="#">here</a> .  The Committee requested a further update in 4-6 months' time.

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
		Outline the current progress towards developing a new mortuary facility for the city, including a permanent digital autopsy scanner.	<b>Deadline: 23 October 2023</b>			
December	Birmingham Community Safety Partnership Annual Report  <b>Corporate Priorities: 8, 9 and 10</b>	Review the annual Birmingham Community Safety Partnership annual report  **The Committee may identify specific areas they wish to consider at future meetings**	Committee Meeting single item: 6 December 2023  Venue: Committee Room 6, Council House  <b>Deadline: 27 November 2023</b>	To be confirmed following BCSP Executive Board July	To be confirmed following BCSP Executive Board July	The Neighbourhoods O&S Committee is the designated Crime and Disorder Committee for Birmingham.  The statutory requirements, as Crime and Disorder Committee, are outlined <a href="#">here</a> .

\*Outcome: This will be populated once the item/topic has been completed. It will highlight the added value and impact.

### Menu of Options for Future Consideration

The following items had been identified as potential topics for future consideration. This approach enables the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to remain flexible and respond in a timely manner to emerging issues.

This is a live work programme work programme. New items may be added, or items removed during the course of the year. Proposed aims and objectives as well as scrutiny methodology may also be subject to change.

Item/ Topic	Proposed Aims and Objectives	Proposed Scrutiny Method	Additional Information
Customer Services – Bereavement Services	Monitor the progress and impact of the recommendations from the Customers Services programme (as previously	To be confirmed in September 2023	Co-ordinating O&S Committee convened Task and Finish groups to identify, and monitor progress of,

Item/ Topic	Proposed Aims and Objectives	Proposed Scrutiny Method	Additional Information
	undertaken by Co-ordinating O&S Committee)		<p>recommendations to improve customer services in 4 areas including Bereavement Services.</p> <p>A final Task and Finish group took place on 12 June 2023, and a report presented to Co-ordinating O&amp;S in July. It was agreed that Neighbourhoods O&amp;S Committee takes forward this work for Bereavement Services in the future.</p>
Customer Services – Waste	Monitor the progress and impact of the recommendations from the Customers Services O&S programme	To be confirmed in September 2023	<p>Co-ordinating O&amp;S Committee convened Task and Finish groups to identify, and monitor progress of, recommendations to improve customer services in 4 areas including Waste.</p> <p>A final Task and Finish group took place on 9 June 2023, and report presented to Co-ordinating O&amp;S in July. It was agreed that Neighbourhoods O&amp;S Committee takes forward this work for Waste in the future.</p>

**Scrutiny Method Options:**

Committee meeting - single item

Committee meeting - single theme

Task and Finish Group (outline number of meetings)

On location

Other - (describe)

## Corporate Priorities, Performance and Outcomes

### Corporate Priorities 2022 – 26:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Support inclusive economic growth                          | 11 Increase affordable, safe, green housing                       |
| 2 Tackle unemployment  | 12 Tackle homelessness  |
| 3 Attract inward investment and infrastructure               | 13 Tackle health inequalities                                     |
| 4 Maximise the benefits of the Commonwealth Games            | 14 Encourage and enable physical activity and healthy living      |
| 5 Tackle poverty and inequalities                            | 15 Champion mental health   |
| 6 Empower citizens and enable citizen voice                  | 16 Improve outcomes for adults with disabilities and older people |
| 7 Promote and champion diversity, civic pride and culture    | 17 Improve street cleanliness                                     |
| 8 Support and enable all children and young people to thrive | 18 Improve air quality  |
| 9 Make the city safer  | 19 Continue on the Route to Zero                                  |
| 10 Protect and safeguard vulnerable citizens                 | 20 Be a City of Nature  |
|  | 21 Delivering a Bold Best in Class Council                        |

Information on the Corporate Priorities, Performance and City Outcomes was reported to the Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee OSC in June 2023: [Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](https://cmis.uk.com/Document.ashx)

## Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023/24

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
August	Highways PFI  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 1 and 9	Inform the development of the proposed Highways PFI contract	Other – Briefing outside of Committee	PFI Contract Manager - Domenic De Bechi		This took place on 2 August 2023.  <b>Outcome</b> – informed Sponsorship Board ahead of Cabinet consideration in September.
August	Active Travel  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 1, 9, 14 and 19	Gather evidence for the inquiry, specifically carrying out site visits to identified locations within Birmingham	On Location	Head of Transport Planning – Mel Jones	Active Travel Portfolio Lead - Andy Middleton	Further information on this inquiry can be found in the Terms of Reference ( <a href="#">CMIS &gt; Meetings</a> ) agreed in July's O&S Committee.  This will take place on Thursday 10 August, and will be hosted by Birmingham City Council's Transportation team.  The identified locations are: A38 Bristol Road 'Blue Cycle Route'/Selly Oak High Street and some examples of cycle infrastructure in the City Centre
August	Active Travel Scheme  <b>Corporate Priorities:</b> 1, 9, 14 and 19	Gather evidence for the inquiry, specifically to understand how the Council currently delivers Active Travel schemes	Task and Finish Group	Assistant Director, Transport and Connectivity – Phil Edwards	Head of Transport Planning – Mel Jones	Further information on this inquiry can be found in the Terms of Reference ( <a href="#">CMIS &gt; Meetings</a> ) agreed in July's O&S Committee.



Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
August	Road Safety  <b>Corporate Priority: 9</b>	Prepare the Terms of Reference for this inquiry	Task and Finish Group	Overview and Scrutiny Manager – Amelia Wiltshire		To be agreed at September's O&S Committee meeting. Further sessions to be updated to the work programme after this approval and will follow the conclusion of the Active Travel schemes work.
September	Active Travel Schemes  <b>Corporate Priorities: 1, 9, 14 and 19</b>	Gather evidence for the inquiry, specifically to consider information from key stakeholders who	Committee Meeting single item: 7 September 2023 at 2pm  Venue: Committee Room 3 and 4, Council House  <b>Deadline for Papers: 30 August 2023</b>	None	Better Streets for Birmingham Pushbikes Living Streets Sustrans 20s Plenty for Birmingham Active Travel England Transport for West Midlands Wolverhampton City Council Cabinet Member for Transport Officers from Transport & Connectivity (BCC) Others TBC	An outline Terms of Reference will be discussed and confirmed at July's Committee. The work will contribute towards the broader road safety work.  Report with recommendations to October's Committee.

\*Outcome: This will be populated once the item/topic has been completed. It will highlight the added value and impact.

### Menu of Options for Future Consideration

The following items had been identified as potential topics for future consideration. This approach enables the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to remain flexible and respond in a timely manner to emerging issues.

This is a live work programme work programme. New items may be added, or items removed during the course of the year. Proposed aims and objectives as well as scrutiny methodology may also be subject to change.

Item/ Topic	Proposed Aims and Objectives	Proposed Scrutiny Method	Additional Information
Bus Network	To be confirmed following further discussion at July Committee	To be confirmed. However, could consider on location and a visit to a bus garage	To involve multiple providers of bus services within the city
Clean Air Strategy	To monitor the impact of the strategy	To be confirmed	This item will also refer to the New Street Air Quality Plan
Customer Services – Highways Repairs	Monitor the progress and impact of the recommendations from the Customers Services programme (as previously undertaken by Co-ordinating O&S Committee)	To be confirmed in September 2023	Co-ordinating O&S Committee convened Task and Finish groups to identify, and monitor progress of, recommendations to improve customer services in 4 areas including Highways Repairs.  A final Task and Finish group took place on 7 July 2023, and a report presented to Co-ordinating O&S in July. It was agreed that Sustainability and Transport O&S Committee takes forward this work for Highway Repairs in the future.
Flooding	Understand the work undertaken to mitigate against flooding within the city over the past 12 months	To be confirmed	This is an annual report. Latest report to the Committee is <a href="#">here</a> . Previously this item has been scheduled for March.
Parking Enforcement	For further consideration, as this item may be picked up as part of the Road Safety inquiry	To be confirmed. However this could consider on location visits.	

Item/ Topic	Proposed Aims and Objectives	Proposed Scrutiny Method	Additional Information
Rail	To be confirmed following further discussion at September Committee	To be confirmed. However, could consider on location including visits to stations under development	To involve other stakeholders, for example, WMCA.
Recycling and Waste Reduction	To be confirmed following further discussion at September Committee	To be confirmed	No further information at this time
Route to Net Zero	Consider how the Council is supporting community leadership	To be confirmed	If this is an in-depth piece of work, to be scheduled following the completion of the Road Safety topic. Therefore, this is likely to be picked up in early 2024.

#### Scrutiny Method Options:

Committee meeting - single item

Committee meeting - single theme

Task and Finish Group (outline number of meetings)

On location

Other - (describe)

#### Corporate Priorities, Performance and Outcomes

##### Corporate Priorities 2022 – 26:

1 Support inclusive economic growth

2 Tackle unemployment

3 Attract inward investment and infrastructure

4 Maximise the benefits of the Commonwealth Games

5 Tackle poverty and inequalities

11 Increase affordable, safe, green housing

12 Tackle homelessness

13 Tackle health inequalities

14 Encourage and enable physical activity and healthy living

15 Champion mental health

Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 6 Empower citizens and enable citizen voice                  | 16 Improve outcomes for adults with disabilities and older people |
| 7 Promote and champion diversity, civic pride and culture    | 17 Improve street cleanliness                                     |
| 8 Support and enable all children and young people to thrive | 18 Improve air quality  |
| 9 Make the city safer  | 19 Continue on the Route to Zero                                  |
| 10 Protect and safeguard vulnerable citizens                 | 20 Be a City of Nature  |
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