

Birmingham City Council

S151 Spending Control Board Decisions

Directorate: Council Management
Publishing Date 29 September 2023



Subject	Section 151 Spending Control Board Decisions
Authorizing Officer	Fiona Greenway, S151 officer
Directorate	Council Management
Dates covered	16 September - 22 September 2023
Further information	s151spendcontrolboard@birmingham.gov.uk

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.

The existing scheme of Financial Delegation is superseded by the S114 notice. Only the Section 151 Officer can sign off new spend. This applies to new spend of any value.

Relative to existing spending controls in place across the organisation, this means that Directorate Spending Boards (and the Finance Governance Board) do not have the authority to approve new spending. These Boards can recommend spending to the Section 151 Officer only – to be approved via the S151 Spend Control Board.

The spend decisions captured within this document outline the discussions and conclusions made via the S151 Spend Control Board.

Decisions in this document:

ID	Title	Approve / Reject
152	Transport Projects ISO 9001 BSI Assessment Fee - Maintain Registration	Approve
58	Commission payments due to our contracted Debt Collection Agencies (DCA's)	Approve
98	Oracle Finance Resource Support - PWC 12 people supporting bank reconciliations and Finance Backlogs through August 2023	Approve
99	Lenovo L480 - Power Cable	Reject

105	External auditor costs (Grant Thornton) for the audit of the Housing Benefit Grant Claim for 22/23	Approve
110	Birmingham Guardian payment of suppliers from ringfenced grant	Approve
120	To continue spend on tracing servicings	Approve
136	RBIS - Revenues and Benefits Application Upgrade Overtime	Approve
141	Institute of Money Advisers Membership Fee for Debt Advisors	Approve
143	Backfill Position - Internal mover	Approve
144	Backfill Position - Acting Up	Approve
146	Backfill a Team Manager in the Contact Centre to cover Adult Social Care service	Approve
155	Additional Financial Support	Approve
168	Backfill for Gr2 customer service advisors and increase for Winter peaks/Council Tax Annual Billing leavers and permission to continue with temporary to permanent recruitment.	Approve
214	Cityserve - School Kitchen Equipment Repairs, Maintenance & Replacements	Approve
218	Cityserve - Misc School kitchen Expenditure	Approve
325	Cyber Security Programme Resourcing Spend	Approve
368	G7 City Housing - Finance Business Partner Interim Extension	Approve
379	Technology Enablement Portfolio Resource	Approve
564	Legal & Governance - Spend Control Higher Level Approvals	Approve
577	DBS Compliance Team Resources	Approve
717	Dr Medical Reports	Approve
724	Interim PA support for People Services Director	Reject

Decision Details

58: Commission payments due to our contracted Debt Collection Agencies (DCA's)

Amount requested	£42,000.00
S151 Spend Control Board Outcome	Approve
S151 Spend Control Board Notes	This activity makes the Councils financial situation better.
Date of S151 Spend Control Board	19/09/2023
Assistant Director or Director (if no AD)	Tim Savill

98: Oracle Finance Resource Support - PWC 12 people supporting bank reconciliations and Finance Backlogs through August 2023

Amount requested	£97,900.00
S151 Spend Control Board Outcome	Approve
S151 Spend Control Board Notes	We are contractually committed to spend.
Date of S151 Spend Control Board	19/09/2023
Assistant Director or Director (if no AD)	Richard Lloyd Bithell

99: Lenovo L480 - Power Cable

Amount requested	£30.33
S151 Spend Control Board Outcome	Reject
S151 Spend Control Board Notes	
Date of S151 Spend Control Board	19/09/2023
Assistant Director or Director (if no AD)	Beccy Hemsley

105: External auditor costs (Grant Thornton) for the audit of the Housing Benefit Grant Claim for 22/23

Amount requested	£14,000.00
S151 Spend Control Board Outcome	Approve
S151 Spend Control Board Notes	Necessary spend to meet our audit requirement.
Date of S151 Spend Control Board	19/09/2023
Assistant Director or Director (if no AD)	Tim Savill

110: Birmingham Guardian payment of suppliers from ringfenced grant

Amount requested	£252,405.50
S151 Spend Control Board Outcome	Approve
S151 Spend Control Board Notes	Ringfenced money from DLUHC digital grant. To not do this would result in the corporate risk going from amber to red.
Date of S151 Spend Control Board	19/09/2023
Assistant Director or Director (if no AD)	Cheryl Doran

120: To continue spend on tracing servicings

Amount requested	£10,000.00
S151 Spend Control Board Outcome	Approve
S151 Spend Control Board Notes	This activity contributes towards generating an income for the Council.
Date of S151 Spend Control Board	19/09/2023
Assistant Director or Director (if no AD)	Tim Savill

136: RBIS - Revenues and Benefits Application Upgrade Overtime

Amount requested	£1,000.00
S151 Spend Control Board Outcome	Approve
S151 Spend Control Board Notes	Activity contributes to income collection for the Council and reduces backlog.
Date of S151 Spend Control Board	19/09/2023
Assistant Director or Director (if no AD)	Cheryl Doran

141: Institute of Money Advisers Membership Fee for Debt Advisors

Amount requested	£491.40
S151 Spend Control Board Outcome	Approve
S151 Spend Control Board Notes	Membership required for staff in order to fulfil their duties and support vulnerable citizens and prevent homelessness.
Date of S151 Spend Control Board	19/09/2023
Assistant Director or Director (if no AD)	Tim Savill

143: Backfill Position - Internal mover

Amount requested	£23,194.00
S151 Spend Control Board Outcome	Approve
S151 Spend Control Board Notes	Spend is HRA funded and contributes towards resolution of issues before they are escalated to complaints putting further strain on resource and spend.
Date of S151 Spend Control Board	19/09/2023
Assistant Director or Director (if no AD)	Wendy Griffiths

144: Backfill Position - Acting Up

Amount requested	£23,194.00
S151 Spend Control Board Outcome	Approve
S151 Spend Control Board Notes	Contributes towards resolution of issues before escalation to complaints reducing strain on resource and spend.
Date of S151 Spend Control Board	19/09/2023
Assistant Director or Director (if no AD)	Wendy Griffiths

146: Backfill a Team Manager in the Contact Centre to cover Adult Social Care service

Amount requested	£30,151.00
S151 Spend Control Board Outcome	Approve
S151 Spend Control Board Notes	
Date of S151 Spend Control Board	19/09/2023
Assistant Director or Director (if no AD)	Wendy Griffiths

155: Additional Financial Support

Amount requested	£92,625.00
S151 Spend Control Board Outcome	Approve
S151 Spend Control Board Notes	Service critical position in Finance given S114 notice
Date of S151 Spend Control Board	19/09/2023
Assistant Director or Director (if no AD)	Harjinder Dool

168: Backfill for Gr2 customer service advisors and increase for Winter peaks/Council Tax Annual Billing leavers and permission to continue with temporary to permanent recruitment.

Amount requested	£339,000.00
S151 Spend Control Board Outcome	Approve
S151 Spend Control Board Notes	Spend is mostly rechargeable to HRA. Reduces escalation of complaints which generates a strain on resource and further spend.
Date of S151 Spend Control Board	19/09/2023
Assistant Director or Director (if no AD)	Wendy Griffiths

214: Cityserve - School Kitchen Equipment Repairs, Maintenance & Replacements

Amount requested	£105,000.00
S151 Spend Control Board Outcome	Approve
S151 Spend Control Board Notes	
Date of S151 Spend Control Board	21/09/2023
Assistant Director or Director (if no AD)	Alison Jarrett

218: Cityserve - Misc School kitchen Expenditure

Amount requested	£135,000.00
S151 Spend Control Board Outcome	Approve
S151 Spend Control Board Notes	Approved on grounds of health and safety and activity will not make the Council financial situation worse. Spend is ringfenced.
Date of S151 Spend Control Board	21/09/2023
Assistant Director or Director (if no AD)	Alison Jarrett

325: Cyber Security Programme Resourcing Spend

Amount requested	£386,000.00
S151 Spend Control Board Outcome	Approve
S151 Spend Control Board Notes	
Date of S151 Spend Control Board	21/09/2023
Assistant Director or Director (if no AD)	Cheryl Doran

368: G7 City Housing - Finance Business Partner Interim Extension

Amount requested	£91,455.60
S151 Spend Control Board Outcome	Approve
S151 Spend Control Board Notes	
Date of S151 Spend Control Board	19/09/2023
Assistant Director or Director (if no AD)	Harjinder Dool

379: Technology Enablement Portfolio Resource

Amount requested	£430,000.00
S151 Spend Control Board Outcome	Approve
S151 Spend Control Board Notes	Approved. This activity will make the Councils financial situation better.
Date of S151 Spend Control Board	21/09/2023
Assistant Director or Director (if no AD)	Cheryl Doran

564: Legal & Governance - Spend Control Higher Level Approvals

Amount requested	£5,754,000.00
S151 Spend Control Board Outcome	Approve
S151 Spend Control Board Notes	
Date of S151 Spend Control Board	19/09/2023
Assistant Director or Director (if no AD)	Robert Connelly

577: DBS Compliance Team Resources

Amount requested	£55,000.00
S151 Spend Control Board Outcome	Approve
S151 Spend Control Board Notes	
Date of S151 Spend Control Board	22/09/2023
Assistant Director or Director (if no AD)	Beccy Hemsley

717: Dr Medical Reports

Amount requested	£45.00
S151 Spend Control Board Outcome	Approve
S151 Spend Control Board Notes	
Date of S151 Spend Control Board	21/09/2023
Assistant Director or Director (if no AD)	Beccy Hemsley

724: Interim PA support for People Services Director

Amount requested	£18,677.00
S151 Spend Control Board Outcome	Reject
S151 Spend Control Board Notes	Not deemed essential spend.
Date of S151 Spend Control Board	21/09/2023
Assistant Director or Director (if no AD)	Wendy Griffiths

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