

# BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

## PUBLIC REPORT

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Audit Committee</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Future Council Programme Manager</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup> September 2015</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Risk Update - Future Council Programme</b>
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>1. Purpose of Report</b>	
1.1 To update the Audit Committee in relation to Corporate Risk 2015/16.11 - Not responding fully and effectively to the recommendations made in the Kerslake Report and implementing the Future Council Programme.	
<b>2. Update on Current Position</b>	
From a leadership perspective, the Leader and Chief Executive have stated clearly in letters to, and meetings with, the Independent Improvement Panel that BCC will fully implement the actions to address issues in the Kerslake Report. The Panel has stated in response that they are broadly satisfied with the actions underway and the structure and activity of the Future Council Programme. However they remain focused on three key areas:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The pace of change and maintaining delivery</li><li>• Transparency of leadership and wider engagement with communities</li><li>• Sustainability and the funding for the Future Council programme</li></ul>	
2.1 To provide more detail, the following key activities have been undertaken:	
Implementation of the Future Council Programme (and the Kerslake Action plan has been incorporated):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Each of the sub programmes has a project plan, risk register and functioning governance arrangements in the form of a sub programme board. In addition they have a group of 'Link Members' (Cabinet member leads) who provide guidance and challenge from a member perspective. All current and future activity is being recorded within the project management tool - Verto.</li><li>• A Task and Finish Scrutiny Committee has been set up (Chair: Councillor Zafar) to oversee the Future Council programme. This has met and agreed engagement as its first priority.</li></ul>	

- Programme management has been strengthened. A new programme manager has been appointed along with a programme planner, and there is one overall plan for the programme. All necessary supporting project documentation is in place.
- The Programme Board has been reviewed / reconstituted, and includes the senior responsible officers (SROs) for each of the sub programmes. The Board meets fortnightly and agendas include coverage on key risks as part of the 'highlights report' presented by the Programme Manager.
- Risks and issues are being debated / mitigated at each sub programme level, and escalated to the Programme Board if mitigation is not possible at that level.
- The Future Council Programme budget has been agreed and is being supplemented with funding from the Department for Communities and Local Government. This means that funding is secure for at least the next two years. Additional capacity can be procured to ensure that implementation is swifter. For example: resources to support greater community engagement, member development, additional resource to challenge and implement the ideas coming from the operating model 'Demand' work and increased communications / ICT capacity
- The Kerlake actions are a sub set of the programme and delivery is being monitored on a monthly basis. The first Kerlake monitoring report has been signed off by the Board and submitted to the Birmingham Independent Improvement Panel.
- Progress of the Future Council programme is reviewed weekly at Leaders Briefing with the Leader and Deputy Leader includes risks. Updates are provided to the Chief Executive and Strategic Directors weekly and the Programme Board meets fortnightly. The governance structure is attached.

2.2 The current level of risk - Medium / High, is considered to be appropriate, with a target risk rating of Low / High.

### **3. Recommendations**

3.1 That the Audit Committee note the update to risk 2015/16.11 and the following planned activities to further mitigate this risk:

- Continuing engagement of Cabinet and CLT overseeing programme delivery.
- Ongoing reporting on progress to the Birmingham Independent Improvement Panel (next report October)

- Formalisation of the risk management processes.
- Refinement of the project management tool and creation of management reports.
- Consistent monthly focus on delivery of the Kerslake actions.

**4. Legal and Resource Implications**

4.1 The work carried out is within approved budgets.

**5. Risk Management and Equality Analysis Issues**

5.1 Risk management forms an important part of the internal control framework within the Council. The Council's risk management strategy has been Equality Impact Assessed and was found to have no adverse impacts.

**6. Compliance issues**

6.1 City Council policies, plans and strategies have been complied with.

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**Sarah Homer**

**Interim Director Service Delivery**

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