

**Notes of Homes O&S Committee Task and Finish Group Meeting**

**Implications of Savings**

**Thursday 18 July 2024 at 1500 hours**

**Committee Room 6, Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham**

Present:

Members:

Councillors Jamie Tennant (Chair), Bushra Bi, Mohammed Idrees, Ziaul Islam, Hendrina Quinnen and Penny Wagg

Attendees:

Cllr Jayne Francis, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness

Simon Beasley, Project Manager (Online)

Andrew Healey, Finance Business Partner

Paul Langford, Strategic Director of City Housing (Online)

Stephen Philpott, Assistant Director, Housing Solutions and Support Services

Simon Williams, Head of Private Rented Property Licensing

Declarations of Interest – Councillors Jamie Tennant, Mohammed Idrees and Ziaul Islam declared interests in relation to Saving 21 as they or a partner owned property which was privately let. Advice had been taken from the Deputy Monitoring Officer who confirmed they could remain in the meeting.

Savings Number	Saving Description	Key Issues / Comments on Implications of Savings	Recommendations
81	Housing Solutions – Establishment Reduction Savings Target: 2024/25: 1.650 2025/26: 1.650	Reassurance that there has been a reduction across all staff spans and not just frontline – predominantly through vacancy deletion and VR. Management structures have been realigned to reflect new frontline profile. Most in scope posts were related to Homeless Centres to protect prevention and move-on elements of the service.	No recommendations
78	Housing Solutions – Property Acquisition – HRA Savings Target: 2024/25: 1.400 2025/26: 4.600	Included in Temporary Accommodation Strategy agreed in 2023.	No recommendations
83	Shelforce Surplus Savings Target: 2024/25: 0.778 2025/26: 0.978	To mitigate any risks to supply for Council, BCC homes will be prioritised.	No recommendations
79	Housing Solutions – Service charge increases to full cost recovery Savings Target: 2024/25: 0.600 2025/26: 0.800	Increased to reflect current cost of delivery. The costs for households in Homeless Centres is still very competitive and there are staff on site to provide support regarding benefits. Phased increases over two years.	No recommendations
176	Housing Solutions – B&B Unit cost negotiation Savings Target: 2024/25: 0.420 2025/26 0.420	No impact on citizens. This is about reducing the cost of B&B through negotiating with large providers and bulk booking for a longer period of time.	No recommendations
82	Housing Solutions – TA Investment Strategy delays to capacity increases Savings Target:	Capacity could not be grown whilst cutting back on the establishment.	No recommendations

	2024/25: 0.350 2025/26: 0.350		
86	Housing Solutions – Income collection and provision improvements Savings Target: 2024/25: 0.300 2025/26: 0.600	Joint working with other income collection teams and changes to debt policy. Led to better rates of collections for Temporary Accommodation rents. The percentage increase in collections to be provided to the Committee.	No recommendations
85	Housing Solutions – Homeless Centre financing Savings Target: 2024/25: 0.288 2025/26: 0.288	No impact – this relates to finance on a loan being paid off and removed from the budget.	No recommendations
84	Housing Solutions – TA Investment Strategy delays to landlord incentives Savings Target: 2024/25: 0.250 2025/26: 0.250	No impact. A reduced budget for incentives to landlords to use properties for Temporary Accommodation.	No recommendations
87	Housing Solutions – Public Health grant funding Savings Target: 2024/25: 0.200 2025/26: 0.200	No impact. Example provided of how Public Health funding is being used.	No recommendations
21	Regulation and Enforcement – Property licensing – administrative overhead and absorption rate Savings Target: 2024/25: 0.900 2025/26: 0.900	Savings on track to be achieved. No risks to the Council’s General fund. Service is wholly funded (and has to be) through the licence fees. Service is funded. The Licensing Team have also been able to pass on information to other parts of the Council, eg Revenues and Benefits for council tax purposes, where there were found to be more tenants in a property than had been advised.	No recommendations

		Action for service to resend information to councillors on the scheme.	
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