

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

ECONOMY AND SKILLS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 10:00 HOURS
IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 3 & 4, COUNCIL HOUSE, VICTORIA
SQUARE, BIRMINGHAM, B1 1BB

A G E N D A

1 NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

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

2 APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

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

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

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

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

- 3 - 40**
- 4 **FINANCIAL CHALLENGES - SCRUTINY CONTRIBUTION TO THE BUDGET SAVINGS AND RECOVERY PLAN**
- To update the Committee on the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP), and for the Committee to consider the implications for the Committee's work programme.
- 41 - 46**
- 5 **MINUTES**
- To confirm the minutes from the meeting held on 12th July 2023.
- 47 - 48**
- 6 **ECONOMY AND SKILLS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ACTION TRACKER**
- To note the action tracker.
- 49 - 52**
- 7 **INCREASING THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH THE COUNCIL'S SOCIAL VALUE PROCUREMENT**
- For discussion with Shariat Rokneddin, Policy and Governance Manager
- 53 - 66**
- 8 **WORK PROGRAMME**
- That the Committee considers its work programme, attached at Appendix 1.
- 9 **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).
- 10 **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.
- 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

Economy and Skills

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

13 September 2023



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 Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP), and for the Committee to consider the implications for the Committee's work programme.

2 Recommendations

The Committee:

- 2.1 Notes the Medium-Term Financial Plan report agreed at Cabinet on 25 July 2023 (Appendix 1).
- 2.2 Considers the issues that are relevant to the Committee's terms of reference (outlined in the [Council's Constitution, Part B, section 11.5](#)) as set out in appendices 2 and 3 and agree any recommendations to Cabinet.

3 Any Finance Implications

- 3.1 The financial implications are set out in section 10.3 of the Cabinet report (appendix 1).

4 Any Legal Implications

- 4.1 The legal implications are set out in section 10.2 of the Cabinet Report (appendix 1).

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.

5.5 Section 10.6 in appendix 1 also provides specific information on equalities implications for the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

6 Appendices

6.1 Appendix 1: Medium Term Financial Plan, Q1 2023-24 – 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.

Birmingham City Council

Report to Cabinet

25th July 2023



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

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 usual 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 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'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)
Budget gap as (as per 2023/24 Financial Plan)	-	-	-	-	4,113
Expenditure					
Budget Pressures					
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	-	-	-	-	-
Budget Pressures Subtotal	59,430	41,709	48,097	46,410	44,113
Corporately Managed Budgets	(4,240)	(4,097)	(3,935)	(4,154)	(5,461)
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)
Inflation Sub-total	20,917	55,341	84,374	92,391	100,408
Savings					
High Risk Savings	35,141	56,274	75,374	75,374	75,374
Savings Subtotal	35,141	56,274	75,374	75,374	75,374
Total Net Expenditure Movements	111,248	149,227	203,910	210,021	214,434
Resources					
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)	-	-
Total Resources Movement	(23,863)	15,612	(26,775)	(37,576)	(38,463)
MTFP Budget Gap at July 2023	87,385	164,838	177,135	172,445	180,084

- 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%
MTFP refresh assumptions used:	6.2%	2.5%	2.0%
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%
MTFP refresh assumptions used:	8.7%	6.5%	4.9%
<u>Children's Social Care third party payments</u>			
Assumptions used in the 2023/24 Financial Plan:	7.4%	0.6%	0.0%
MTFP refresh assumptions used:	7.4%	6.5%	4.9%

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

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

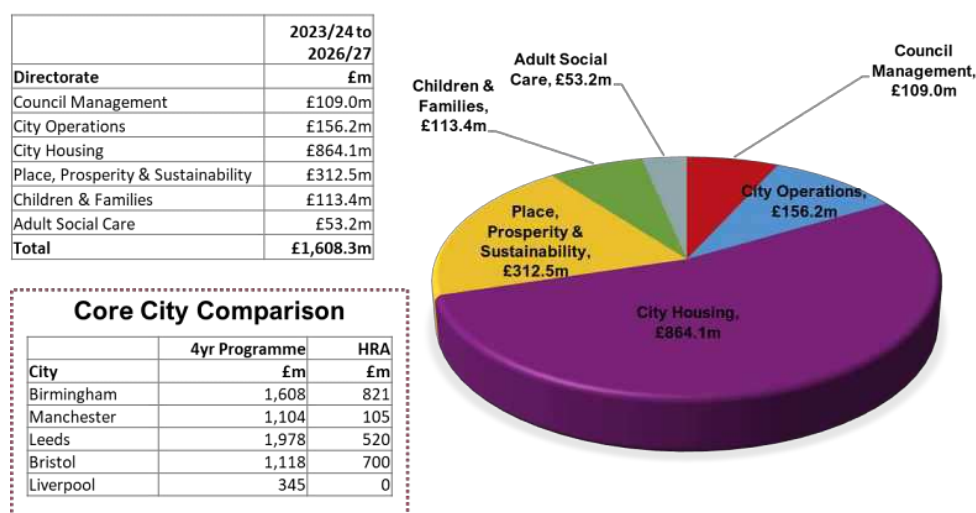
- a. **Business rates** – based on the draft 2022/23 outturn position for the Collection Fund, it is forecast that there is a deficit in business rates income of £27.8m due to a challenging economic environment for businesses (resulting in lower than forecast collection rates), a delay in enforcement 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:



- 5.18 The capital spend by Directorate includes:
- City Housing includes £820m for the Housing Revenue Account: investment in current housing stock as well as new social housing;
 - 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:**

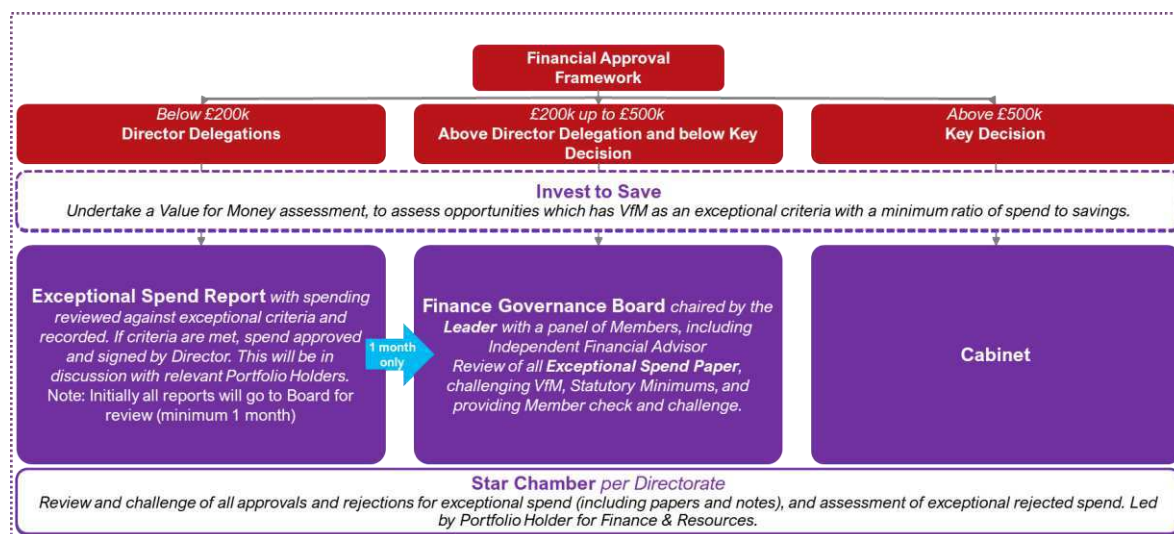
- a. Existing staff **payroll** and **pension** costs
- b. Expenditure required through **existing legal agreements and contracts**
- c. Expenditure on **goods and services** which have **already been received**
- d. Expenditure required to deliver the council's **provision of statutory services**
- 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:
- 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);
 - Equal Pay Resolution** – Roadmap of activities to understand and resolve the Equal Pay challenges, including detailing the potential costs over the next 5 years;
 - 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

Birmingham City Council
26th 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 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000	2027/28 £'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)
Budget gap as (as per 2023/24 Financial Plan)	-	-	-	-	4,113
Expenditure					
Budget Pressures					
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	-	-	-	-	-
Budget Pressures Subtotal	59,430	41,709	48,097	46,410	44,113
Corporately Managed Budgets	(4,240)	(4,097)	(3,935)	(4,154)	(5,461)
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)
Inflation Sub-total	20,917	55,341	84,374	92,391	100,408
Savings					
High Risk Savings	35,141	56,274	75,374	75,374	75,374
Savings Subtotal	35,141	56,274	75,374	75,374	75,374
Total Net Expenditure Movements	111,248	149,227	203,910	210,021	214,434
Resources					
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)	-	-
Total Resources Movement	(23,863)	15,612	(26,775)	(37,576)	(38,463)
MTFP Budget Gap at July 2023	87,385	164,838	177,135	172,445	180,084

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					
TOTAL		(2,623)	(28,517)	(33,479)	(64,619)

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)
		Total	(64,619)

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, but agreed plan in place to resolve and being actively managed. - 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.

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

ECONOMY AND SKILLS O&S COMMITTEE

1000 hours on 12th July 2023, Committee Room 2, Council House

Present:

Councillor Akhlaq Ahmed

Councillors Katherine Iroh, Jon Hunt, Richard Parkin and Lisa Trickett

Also Present:

Philip Nell, Director of Property & Investment

James Betjemaan, Head of Curzon and Enterprise Zone Development

Shariat Rokneddin, Policy and Governance Manager (online)

Amanda Lloyd, Principal Employment Officer (online)

Fiona Bottrill, Senior Overview and Scrutiny Manager

Baseema Begum, Scrutiny Officer

The meeting began at 10.04 hours

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chair advised those present that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast and that Members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

2. APOLOGIES

None.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Two non-pecuniary interests were shared. Cllr Hunt declared that he is the Chair of the 3BS Neighbourhood Forum. Cllr Trickett stated that she was involved in some work in the East Birmingham area.

4. MEMBERSHIP OF ECONOMY AND SKILLS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Chair welcomed Cllr Trickett who replaced Cllr Aziz on the Committee.

5. MINUTES

(See Item No.5)

The action notes of the last meeting held on 7th June 2023 were approved.

6. ACTION TRACKER

(See Item No.6)

The action tracker was noted.

7. REGENERATION ACROSS THE CITY

(See Item No. 7)

The Chair introduced the item and highlighted the importance of regeneration to residents and businesses. Cllr Ahmed also stated that the Committee would have the opportunity to input into the Our Future City: Draft Central Birmingham Framework 2040'(DCBF) consultation that is currently open for public comment and understand the timeline for a refresh of the Birmingham Development Plan (BDP).

Philip Nell, Director of Property & Investment and James Betjemaan, Head of Curzon and Enterprise Zone Development were present for this item. The key points from the paper circulated with the agenda pack were highlighted and during the discussion with Members the following were amongst the points made: -

- The Committee supported the vision for the City to becoming a greener city of more jobs, better transport options and higher quality, energy efficient new homes and the focus that extended beyond the city centre. However, Members commented that the term 'central' (as part of the 'The Our Future City: Draft Central Birmingham Framework 2040') may still be interpreted as city centre focussed and suggested that an alternative name for the strategy may better reflect the localities it covers.
- Officers acknowledged that the DCBF was not about the whole of the city and the majority of the growth zones were outside of the city centre. However, there are a number of other policies and plans for other regeneration initiatives such as the East Birmingham Inclusive Strategy and the Perry Barr Action Plan.
- As with other comparable documents to the DCBF a similar approach has been taken in ensuring that the Council's governance process is followed correctly ensuring that the Cabinet Member has signed off the report before it being presented to Cabinet for final approval. As part of this process the Economy and Skills O&S Committee were consulted in April before it received final approval at Cabinet.

- The Committee also wanted to understand the links with neighbourhood governance arrangements including Neighbourhood and Ward Plans and how communities will be genuinely engaged and involved with the proposals. Community engagement must be integral at each stage of the proposals and development which will require time and adequate officer support. It was the view of the Committee that the DCBF should set out clearly how communities will be involved in the further development and delivery of the plan.
- It was noted that the framework sets out the connection with the Birmingham Transport Plan and the benefits of increasing sustainable and active travel. Members want to ensure that the opportunities that will be created will be accessible to communities that have higher levels of deprivation and that the implementation of the DCBF, and the Birmingham Transport Plan are aligned.
- Members highlighted the Council's policy on undeveloped held and unheld land and stated that they want the Council to be proactive in seeking opportunities to develop these to the benefit of local communities and using assets in localities including SMEs and businesses.
- Members questioned the reliance on the property development model of development.
- The Committee supported the proposals for high density housing that will provide better quality, community orientated houses with access to local green spaces.
- It was highlighted by Members that in light of the revenue implications for the Council, the DCBF will need to be reviewed in line with the Council's financial plan. Members supported the use of Section 106 agreements to cover the revenue costs of green spaces. It was noted that artists impressions included in the document were not an accurate representation and as the development progresses the revenue cost for the Council of maintaining trees may limit the planting schemes.

RESOLVED: -

1. The report was noted.
2. The Committee's feedback on the DCBF to be submitted as part of the consultation process and copied to officers by the consultation closing date of 17th August.
3. The Chair announced that the item would be added to the agenda for the next meeting as Members requested further information on the economic, environmental and sustainability impact of the proposals within the DCBF.

8. INCREASING THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH THE COUNCIL'S SOCIAL VALUE PROCUREMENT

(See Item No. 8)

The Chair introduced the item and explained that there were technical issues with the web connection therefore only audio would be available for this item as officers were presenting remotely.

Shariat Rokneddin, Policy and Governance Manager presented this item online and referenced the key points from his report. During discussion with Members the following were amongst the points made: -

- The Corporate Procurement Service (CPS) at the Council develops the policies relating to social value. These policies are available on the Council's website.
- The social value measures are categorised into 6 themes as follows: -
 - Local employment
 - Buy Local
 - Partners and Communities
 - Good employer
 - Green and sustainable
 - Ethical Procurement
- The Council presents those bidding for contracts with themes outlining relevant priorities and policies that must be responded to and referenced as part of their submission. Responses can be quantitative (i.e., number of units to be delivered throughout the contract) or qualitative (i.e., method statement of how they will achieve these commitments). Responses are assessed with a weighting of 20% given for social value as part of the overall assessment. The successful bidder is expected to deliver against the action plan as agreed and this is monitored by the contract manager. Contractors are supported to deliver their employment and skills targets by the Council's Employment Access Team.
- Members heard that although each contract manager maintains the delivery of the action plan, there is no systematic method for collating the overall social value of Council contracts. CPS has in the past collated this data by surveying the top 40 largest contractors who have responded to a set of key measures, and these have been reported to Cabinet. Currently not all returns are being captured from these contracts as there is not a system in place to do so however different methodologies are being looked at including Oracle and through other IT solutions.
- Due to poor audio the Chair agreed that the item would be added to the agenda for the next meeting and the following queries raised by Members would be forwarded to the officers in preparation for further discussion: -
 - What assurance can be provided that the Council contracts are delivering their social value commitments?
 - How is CPS 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 have anyway through the apprenticeship levy?
 - Up to date information / snapshot on the delivery of the top 40 contractors social value commitment including an analysis.
 - What are the options to develop a system to monitor social value procurement across the Council and the 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?

RESOLVED: -

1. Item to be rescheduled with officers attending in-person to respond the queries raised by Members.

9. WORK PROGRAMME

(See Item No. 9)

Fiona Bottrill outlined changes and updates made to the work programme since the last meeting.

RESOLVED: -

1. Further scrutiny of the economic assessment and the sustainability objectives and outcomes of the DCBF document to be scheduled for the September meeting so that the Committee can provide feedback/recommendations to inform the future Cabinet decision.
2. Items for October's meeting agreed including an update on the Local Skills Improvement Plan.
3. Scrutiny Office to contact the Chamber of Commerce to explore how contact with a range of SMEs can be facilitated for Members (by way of attending existing events/meetings) to see how the Council can support local businesses.

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

None.

11. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

12. AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS

Agreed.

The meeting ended at 11:38 hours

ECONOMY AND SKILLS O&S COMMITTEE
ACTION TRACKER 2023-24

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Update
12 th July	Regeneration across the City	The Committee's feedback to the public consultation on the 'Our Future City: Draft Central Birmingham Framework 2040' to be submitted.	Response sent 17 th August.
12 th July	Increasing the Opportunities for Employment and Skills for Young People through the Council's Social Value Procurement	Due to technical difficulties and quality of audio it was agreed that this item would be rescheduled for the September meeting and for the officer to attend in-person to respond to the additional questions raised.	A list of queries raised by Members shared with Shariat Rokneddin, Policy & Governance Manager who will be attending the September meeting in-person.
12 th July	Work Programme	Further scrutiny of the economic assessment and the sustainability objectives and outcomes of the 'Our Future City: Draft Central Birmingham Framework 2040' document to be scheduled for the September meeting.	Work Programme updated.
12 th July	Work Programme	Items for October's meeting agreed including an update on the Local Skills Improvement Plan.	Work Programme updated.
12 th July	Work Programme	Scrutiny Office to contact the Chamber of Commerce to explore how contact with a range of SMEs can be facilitated for Members (by way of attending existing events/meetings) to see how the Council can support local businesses.	Chamber of Commerce contacted and will be providing further information on relevant events/opportunities in due course. Committee will be kept updated.

Birmingham City Council

Economy & Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee

13 September 2023



Subject: Employment and skills for young people through the Council's Social Value Procurement

Report of: Rokneddin Shariat, Policy & Governance Manager.

Report author: Rokneddin Shariat, Policy & Governance Manager.

1 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide information to the Committee on the processes and outcomes of the social value process in the Council.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the responses to the questions asked by the committee at the July '23 meeting.

3 Any Finance Implications

- 3.1 No financial implications, information only.

4 Any Legal Implications

- 4.1 No legal implications, information only.

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:
 - 5.1.1 eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;

5.1.2 advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;

5.1.3 foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

5.2 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.

5.3 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 Responses to questions asked by the committee at the July '23 meeting of the committee

6.1.1 What assurance can be provided that the Council contracts are delivering their social value commitments?

6.1.1.1. The Council's contract managers are trained and informed that they are responsible for delivery of social value commitments.

6.1.2 How is Procurement working with Contract Managers to ensure delivery of social value outcomes?

6.1.2.1. Training sessions have been provided for contract managers to provide knowledge and skills on social value contract management.

6.1.2.2. The Council's social value lead attends contract monitoring meetings of major contracts to support the contract manager where requested.

6.1.2.3. A Teams channel dedicated to sharing the latest information on social value is created to keep contract managers up to date.

6.1.2.4. Support provided by CPS (Corporate Procurement Service) ensures that directorates are involved in the specification of social value right through the process including contract management.

6.1.2.5. Birmingham Audit carried out an audit on the social value mechanism at the Council. A number of recommendations were produced that are being actioned.

6.1.3 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 have anyway through the apprenticeship levy?

6.1.3.1. The commitments from contractors and development partners are agreed during the competitive procurement stage.

6.1.3.2. Commitments must be related to the contract. i.e. not include activity that the contractor would do anyway, regardless of whether they won the contract or not.

6.1.4 Up to date information / snapshot on the delivery of the top 40 contractors social value commitment with an analysis of this

6.1.4.1. This exercise was last carried out in FY 21/22. It is a resource intensive exercise has not been repeated since.

6.1.4.2. The Cost of Living programme is in the process of identifying new resources. This resource can be used to provide future updates.

6.1.5 What are the options to develop a system to monitor social value procurement across the council and timescales to deliver this?

6.1.5.1. There are a number of solutions available in the market, however each of them have shortcomings that make them unsuitable. All of them have financial implications.

6.1.5.2. CPS is keeping these solutions under review as they develop.

6.1.5.3. Current potential solutions are: Social Value Portal, Social Value Exchange, What Impact, Social Value Engine.

6.1.5.4. A modification had been developed for Oracle but deemed unsuitable because the Council's policy is to use an unmodified version and the technology used was obsolete.

6.1.6 What can Birmingham learn from other areas of good practice regarding social value procurement and how this is delivered and monitored?

6.1.6.1. The Council's social value lead is an active participant in: West Midlands Social Value Taskforce, National Social Value Taskforce, Cooperative Councils Innovation Network, Birmingham Anchor Institutions Network.

6.1.6.2. Birmingham's Approach to social value is considered as very mature. This is evidenced by the shortlisting and winning of various awards in recent years. Our advice on social value is often sought by other contracting authorities.

Birmingham City Council

Economy and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee

13 September 2023



Subject: Economy and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme

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

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

1 Purpose

- 1.1 This report sets out the proposed work programme for the Economy and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2023-24, based on the Committee's meeting in June. Appendix 1 outlines the topics identified, aims and objectives and the preferred method of scrutiny to achieve these objectives.
- 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.

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 – November 2023, the proposed aims and objectives and the preferred method of scrutiny.
 - Identifies, subject to further input from the Chair and Deputy Chair, the issues that the Committee will consider in December 2023, the proposed aims and objectives and the preferred method of scrutiny.
 - Notes, subject to further input from the Chair and Deputy Chair outside of the meeting, its proposed work programme will be submitted to Co-

ordinating O&S to enable work to be planned and co-ordinated throughout the year.

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.

Economy and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 3.9 The Committee's Terms of Reference is to fulfil the functions of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee as they relate to any policies, services and activities concerning:
- major physical regeneration and infrastructure projects in the city (with Cabinet Member for Housing & Homelessness)
 - promotion of the city and inward investment (with the Cabinet Member for Digital, Culture, Heritage and Tourism)
 - land use and property assets
 - economic growth and jobs
 - skills expansion for key growth sectors along with lifelong learning for post-14 skills and lifelong learning
 - access to employment and delivery of local employment plans
 - economic impact of arts, culture, tourism and sport

3.10 The Committee is chaired by Cllr Akhlaq Ahmed, and its membership comprises Cllrs Bushra Bi, Jon Hunt, Katherine Iroh, Simon Morrall, Richard Parkin, Jamie Tennant, Lisa Trickett.

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: [September 2023 Forward Plan \(cmis.uk.com\)](https://cmis.uk.com) may assist Members in identifying future topics. The following reports are of particular relevance to this Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

ID Number	Title	Proposed Date of Decision
010426/2022	NEC Masterplan and Property Strategy	Cabinet: 05/09/23
011802/2023	West Midlands Deeper Devolution Deal	Cabinet: 05/09/23
011475/2023	Local development Scheme Update	Cabinet: 17/10/23
011894/2023	Typhoo Factory Redevelopment	Cabinet: 14/11/23
010635/2023	Paradise Phase 3	Cabinet: 12/12/23
011840/2023	Enterprise Zone Programme Management Levy	Cabinet: 12/12/23
010173/2022	Our Future City Plan 2040 – Draft Central Birmingham Framework	Cabinet: 16/01/24
009087/2021	Martineau Galleries Outline Business Case	Cabinet: 13/02/24

4.4 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

- 8.1 Appendix 1: Economy and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023-24 - September

9 Background Papers

- 9.1 [Birmingham City Council Constitution](#)
- 9.2 Birmingham City Council Overview and Scrutiny Framework April 2021

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 Corporate Priorities: 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: Planning and Noise (cmis.uk.com) 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 Corporate Priorities: 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)

		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?	Venue: Council House, Committee Room 2	Amanda Lloyd, Principal Employment Officer		
September 23	Increasing the opportunities for employment and skills for young people through the Council's Social Value Procurement Corporate Priorities: 1,2,5,8	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	Committee Meeting single item: Agenda item for OSC meeting on 13 September 23. Deadline for reports: 4 September 23 Venue: Council House, Committee Rooms 3&4	Shariat Rokneddin, Policy and Governance Manager Amanda Lloyd, Principal Employment Officer		

		<p>have anyway through the apprenticeship levy?</p> <p>Up to date information / snap shot on the delivery of the top 40 contractors social value commitment with an analysis of this</p> <p>What are the options to develop a system to monitor social value procurement across the council and timescales to deliver this?</p> <p>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>Corporate Priorities: 1,2,3</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 Corporate Priorities: 2,5,8		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 Corporate Priorities: 1,2	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. Document.ashx (cmis.uk.com)

November 23 (TBC)	Our Future City Plan (TBC) Corporate Priorities: 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		
-------------------	--	--	--	---	--	--

*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: Document.ashx (cmis.uk.com)</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 Economy and Skills OSC in June 23: [Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](https://cmis.uk.com)

