

Notes of Neighbourhoods O&S Committee Task and Finish Group Meeting

Implications of Savings

Wednesday, 24 July 2024 at 14.00hrs

Committee Room 2, Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham

Present:

Members:

Councillor Shabrana Hussain (Chair)

Councillors Marcus Bernasconi, Kerry Brewer, Marje Bridle, Ray Goodwin, Izzy Knowles, and Mary Locke

Attendees:

- Cllr Majid Mahmood - Cabinet Member, Environment and Transport
- Dawn Beaumont - Head of Library Services & Chief Librarian
- Deborah Coulson - Project Manager, Early Intervention and Prevention for libraries
- Mark Croxford - Head of Environmental Health, Mortuaries & Pest Control, Neighbourhoods, on behalf of Sajeela Naseer, Director, Regulation and Enforcement
- Rob Edmondson - AD, Waste Management
- Kalvinder Kohli - AD, Early Intervention and Prevention, Adults Social Care
- Julia Lynch - AD, Legal Services – Litigation Law & Deputy Monitoring Officer
- Lesley Poulton - Head of Service Community Centres and Wellbeing Service, Neighbourhoods Division on behalf of Chris Jordan, AD, Neighbourhoods
- Sarah Fradgley - Overview and Scrutiny Manager
- Amanda Simcox - Scrutiny Officer

Apologies: No apologies were received.

| Savings Number | Saving Description | Key Issue / Comments on Implications of Savings | Recommendations |
|----------------|---|---|--|
| 193 | <p>Transformation of Neighbourhood Advice and Information Services and Community Libraries</p> <p>Savings Target: 2024/25 1.260 2025/26 2.285</p> | <p>This was a £2.3m saving, subject to the outcome of the statutory consultation, there was the opportunity to put through viable solutions to deliver the savings within an appropriate time period.</p> <p>A presentation was given at the meeting regarding the comprehensive consultation, targeted engagement, feedback from Focus Group Sessions, and the timelines for the consultation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first phase of the consultation ended on 17 July 2024. • The final phase of the consultation would be 2 September 2024 - 27 September 2024. A pack would have been developed and shared for this and will include a priority list and analysis. In addition, the officers would visit the drop in sessions at all the libraries. <p>Officers would continue to work with friends of libraries groups and target people who were not on-line.</p> <p>Officers undertook:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide the presentation slides. • Get the message out that the decision has not been made yet. • Re-send the e-mail to Councillors regarding the consultation and dates of the drop in sessions. • Ensure the pack was available for Councillors to assist with communication and engagement within the communities. <p>Officers were working through the process for the buildings that were in trust and legal advice might be provided on behalf of the trust and the council.</p> | <p>Officers to attend the October 2024 committee meeting to provide an update.</p> |
| 64 | <p>Neighbourhood Action Co-ordinators – cease the 22-</p> | <p>The successful mitigations from other savings were noted.</p> | <p>None.</p> |

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|----------------|---|--|---|
| | ward pilot and do not roll out citywide. Savings Target: 2024/25: 1.955 2025/26: 2.255 | | |
| 72 | Community Facilities – cease direct management Savings Target: 2024/25: 0 2025/26: 0.300 | Options were being explored, which included evaluating the financial viability of those wishing to undertake a community asset transfer. Members expressed concern regarding the risk of delivering this saving and asked about the support provided to community groups to compile viable bids. | An update to be provided. |
| 24 | Pest Control – new charge for domestic rat treatment Savings Target: 2024/25: 0.195 2025/26: 0.195 | Officers would be looking at reducing expenditure to mitigate the risk of reduced anticipated income as a result of reducing demand in the service. | None. |
| 46 | Neighbourhood Waste Enforcement Officers Savings Target: 2024/25: 0.291 2025/26: 0.291 | Officers would be looking at ceasing the activities that did not work and exploring a more effective way of working to get better outcomes. | None. |
| 245 | Reduce agency staff in Waste Collection Savings Target: 2024/25: 2.100 2025/26: 2.100 | An update on the Street Scene Transformation Programme was provided and the Committee requested Street Management Transformation and Parks & Green Space elements of the IRP Transformation Programme be discussed at the September 2024 committee meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee would like to co-produce the street management transformation element of the IRP transformation programme, | Officers to attend the 11 September 2024 committee meeting. |
| 34 | | | |

| Savings Number | Saving Description | Key Issue / Comments on Implications of Savings | Recommendations |
|----------------|--|---|-----------------|
| 242 | <p>Reduce Grounds Maintenance capability and review Grounds Maintenance activities</p> <p>Savings Target: 2024/25: 1.000 2025/26: 1.000</p> <p>Remove 'additional' Deep Clean Crews</p> <p>Savings Target: 2024/25: 1.000 2025/26: 1.000</p> | <p>specifically relating to litter, fly tipping, enforcement and street cleaning, with the aim of producing efficient and effective services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of this co-production exercise, the committee want to explore with the Directorate the feasibility of implementing recommendations set out in the Cleaner Streets scrutiny report published in February 2023. The Committee would also like an update on Street Management Transformation and Parks & Green Space. | |
| 46 | <p>Reduce agency resource in Street Cleansing</p> <p>Savings Target: 2024/25: 0.291 2025/26: 0.291</p> | | |
| 42 | <p>Reduce graffiti crews</p> <p>Savings Target: 2024/25: 0.200 2025/26: 0.200</p> | | |
| 27 | <p>Cease non-statutory waste prevention activities.</p> <p>Savings Target: 2024/25: 0.180 2025/26: 0.200</p> | | |