

**Birmingham City Council****Finance Board Meeting****24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – 14:00 – 16:00****Attendees:**

Max Caller, Lead Commissioner	Tom Smith, DLUHC Chief of Staff
Chris Tambini, Commissioner & Chair	Simon Field, Head of Business Improvement and Support
Jackie Belton, Commissioner	Fiona Greenway, Director of Finance & S151 Officer
Pam Parkes, Commissioner	Councillor Brigid Jones, Cabinet Member for Finance
John Biggs, Political Adviser	Councillor Roger Harmer, Leader of Lib Dems
Deborah Cadman, Chief Exec	Councillor Paul Tilsley, Lib Dem Finance Lead
Peter Sebastian, Head of Financial Strategy	David Facey, DLUHC Chief of Staff
Mohammed Sajid, Head of Financial Strategy	William Moody, PA, Commissioners Support Unit
Richard Brooks, Director, SEP	
Paul Clarke, Director of Council Programmes, Performance, and Improvement	

**Apologies:**

Cllr John Cotton, Leader  
Tim Bell – Finance Chief of Staff  
Eleri Roberts, AD, Communications

**1. Welcome**

1.1. Chris Tambini welcomed everybody to the meeting.

**2. Minutes of last meeting & actions update.**

2.1. Actions in the last meeting covered. Completed.  
2.2. Notes were agreed as an accurate record.

**3. Finance Update (Fiona Greenway)**

3.1. Fiona Greenway set out BCC's latest budget position. This indicated a worsening position than previously reported with a gross 2024/25 budget gap of £380m, which reduces to £240m after proposed savings. Chris Tambini advised there has been a £1.25bn capitalisation request to DLUHC. The severity of the budget position was discussed.

3.2. Councillors asked about the timing of the City Council budget meeting. It was advised that CLT and Commissioners were awaiting the response of the Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) letter before the full budget can be presented to City Council.

3.3. Councillors also asked for a headcount of individuals who would be losing their jobs. Officers advised a headcount couldn't be provided but FTE would be c600.

**4. Budget Timeline and Progress (Fiona Greenway)**

from the  
**BEST VALUE COMMISSIONERS**

4.1. An update was provided on the budget timetable.

**5. Update on Budget Gap (Fiona Greenway)**

5.1. Covered in item 3.

**6. Savings Delivery Arrangements (Paul Clarke and Richard Brooks)**

6.1. Richard Brooks briefly introduced the arrangements, background, and proposals for a Central Project Management Office (CPMO.)

6.2. The CPMO will be a central resource to oversee significant programmes and projects across the Council. It will sit within the Strategy, Equality and Partnerships Directorate and will be a centrally service of project managers and business analysts who will be used on programmes across the organisation.

6.3. Colleagues would like the CPMO to be set up as soon as possible and to be effective within weeks. Commissioners agreed that for there to be a good startup of this unit, it needed to be well resourced. It was noted that the current savings delivery infrastructure was a key weakness for the Council.

6.4. The unit needs to be responsible for bringing projects back 'on track' if there are problems and identify reasonable steps on how to do this. It was agreed that the unit would report to specific Chief Officers and Cabinet Members.

6.5. It was queried whether we had the resource in house and whether the opportunity could be taken to train people internally for the CPMO. Deborah advised that there is expertise across directorates however, it would be difficult to release them from their current posts.

6.6. John Coughlan advised that the CPMO must grow and develop. The unit will need strong and credible leadership striking a balance of support and direction.

**Actions:**

- Update report to be provided at the next meeting of the status of the CPMO.

**7. AOB (all attendees)**

7.1. None.

**8. Date of next meeting (Chris Tambini)**

8.1. Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 2pm.