

Birmingham City Council
Finance Board Meeting
20th February 2024 13:30hrs to 16:00hrs.

Attendees:

Max Caller, Lead Commissioner	David Coulson, Interim Transformation Director (City Operations)
Chris Tambini, Commissioner	Gemma Malhi, Head of CPMO
Myron Hrycyk, Commissioner	Kathryn James, Assistant Director Investment & Valuation, PPS
Deborah Cadman, Chief Exec	Simon Field, Head of Business Improvement and Support
Fiona Greenway, Director of Finance	Cllr John Cotton, Leader
Tim Bell, Finance Chief of Staff	Cllr Brigid Jones, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources
Mohammed Sajid, Interim Head of Financial Strategy	Cllr Tilsley, Lib Dem Finance Lead
Richard Brooks, Director, SEP	Cllr Merion Jenkins, Shadow Member for Finance, and resources.
John Williams, Director of Delivery (ASC)	
Maria Gavin, AD Quality and Improvement (ASC)	
Tom Smith, DLUHC Chief of Staff	
John Biggs, Political Adviser	
William Moody, PA, Commissioners Support Unit	

Apologies:

None recorded.

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 were completed.
- 2.2. Notes were agreed as an accurate record. One slight error: Cllr Cotton being listed twice on the last meetings apologies – to be rectified by Commissioners Support.

3. Savings Delivery (Richard Brooks)

- 3.1. The presentation provided by Richard today is in response to the work commissioned by the board on the 7th February.
- 3.2. The documents and presentation set out the resources required for the CPMO to implement the savings plans. The documents provide initial estimates but does not include costs of transformation partners who will be required.
- 3.3. Gemma Malhi advised the meeting that the resources listed cover all improvement activity and savings delivery.
- 3.4. David Coulson provided an overview on the savings plans within City Operations. There are currently 64 savings plans in City Ops which is expected to rise to 70. There is enormous change and challenge required. David is now confident that they have the level of resource subject to technical support.

- 3.5. John Williams and Maria Gavin outlined the proposals for Adult Social Care. Adults Social Care are reviewing the type of support which can be provided to vulnerable individuals. It was noted that legal support is required for savings projects within Adults Social Care.
- 3.6. Chris Tambini advised the implementation of the CPMO is critical to the delivery of savings. The proposals and papers are extremely useful however, BCC needs to ensure that these are further developed and implemented to ensure the delivery of savings. A further update was requested at the next meeting including how the council would ensure there was appropriate capacity and capability within support services to ensure delivery of savings.

4. Budget update and progress (Fiona Greenway)

- 4.1. Fiona gave a summary of the budget reports which have been published.
- 4.2. Within the S25 report, Fiona felt it was important to provide context around the challenges Birmingham are encountering, as well as national issues. Work is still being undertaken to get the borrowing on general fund down to zero.
- 4.3. If directorates are unable to provide the planned savings, they must give compensatory savings options.
- 4.4. Max Caller outlined that the budget cannot be balanced until BCC have the EFS. There is no indication that this will not be provided, however, BCC will be unable to proceed to full council without it.
- 4.5. It was noted that all savings have been subject to cross party scrutiny.
- 4.6. Thanks were expressed to Fiona and team for their hard work on the budget.

5. AOB (all attendees)

- 5.1. None recorded.

6. Date of next meeting (Chris Tambini)

- 6.1. Wednesday 6th March 2024 at 13:30hrs.

Actions:

- Richard Brooks to present at the next finance board a further update on progress with the CPMO and arrangements to deliver savings.