

Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Board

2 July, 2015

Summary of Matters Considered at the Board

Report of Councillor P Hughes

The Scrutiny Board met on 2 July, 2015 and the following items were considered. I have selected the main points of the discussion which I feel members of the Council will be particularly interested to know more about. For more detail, a copy of the minutes is available on the Committee Management Information System (CMIS) via the Council's website at <http://cmis.sandwell.gov.uk/cmis5/>

1.1 Consideration of the Council's Financial Outturn 2014/15

The Board received a report which provided the details of the Council's financial outturn for 2014/2015 for each service area, the Housing Revenue Account, the Council's capital programme outturn and the Treasury Management outturn. The Board also received commentary in relation to the 2014/2015 revenue collection performance for the major income streams of the Council, including Council Tax, Non Domestic Rates, Housing Rents and General Debtors.

The Board raised a number of issues requiring clarification/further detail and received both written and verbal responses to those issues from directors. The Board is satisfied with the responses provided and has therefore commended the outturn reports to the Cabinet for approval.

The Board has made some recommendations; however these do not affect the validity of the outturn reports, but simply request the provision of further clarity in future reporting.

The Board has requested a report detailing options for the utilisation of unspent funds to the value of £145k as a result of a grant from "Green Deal". This money is presently located within Adult Social Care, as the directorate that carried out the work that qualified for the funding, however, the money is available for corporate use. The Board will in particular be looking at opportunities for match funding to maximise the funds.

1.2 Work Programme

The Board discussed its work programme for 2015/16 and, in addition to the routine budget monitoring work, agreed a number of additional topics for scrutiny including the receipt of regular updates on the Facing the Future Programme, re-profiling of Green Deal grant and asset management.

Councillor P Hughes

Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Board (Chair for this meeting)