

Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Board

9 November, 2016

Summary of Matters Considered at the Board

Report of Councillor Peter Hughes

The Scrutiny Board met on 9 November, 2016 to consider the following matter. 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/cm5/>

Quarter 2 Council Wide Budget Monitoring

The Board received a report on the Council's budget position at the end of quarter 2 of 2016/2017.

The Board is pleased to hear that the Council is on track to deliver the £24m of savings agreed by the Council at its meeting on 8th March, 2016.

The Board discussed the three key strategic risks that the Council currently faces and in particular, the implications of the Government's instruction to establish a Children's Trust. It is noted that the size of the budget to be transferred to the Children's Trust is under negotiation; however Ofsted's inspection report did not identify any issues regarding the level of funding for the service.

The Board was informed that a report was to be submitted to the Cabinet in December asking it to consider the vision for the six towns of Sandwell. It has been acknowledged that each town is different and that separate visions for each town would be advantageous to best meet the needs of residents. The Board welcomes this approach and **recommended** to the Interim Director – Resources that a series of localised workshops, involving members, senior officers and partners should take place to map out each town's assets, services and facilities. The Board feels that the Neighbourhood Model of working has been successful, however, and does not wish to see this changed at present.

Spotlight on Assistant Chief Executive's Service

The Interim Director – Resources reported that he is currently responsible for the Assistant Chief Executive's Directorate. The Board received an outline of the services provided by the Directorate, but noted that a review of the chief officer structure is underway. The Board looks forward to receiving and commenting upon the proposals.

Councillor Peter Hughes
Chair of the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Board