

Based on the Council's established risk management approach, the following issues were assessed as being "significant" for the purpose of the 2015/16 annual governance statement. An update on how the actions are progressing will be presented to Councillors at the December Audit and Risk Committee meeting.

| Key areas and actions for implementation | Responsibility and expected implementation date | Update @ 31 October 2016 |
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| <p><i>Savings Targets</i></p> <p>This continues to be a key area for the Council to manage as it is faced with finding savings of £56.4 million by 2019/20. As part of this process £22.2 million of additional savings is to be identified for 2017/18 and reported to Cabinet, in order to demonstrate that a balanced budget can be achieved in 2017/18.</p> | <p>Director of Finance July 2016</p> | <p>On 19 October Cabinet approved that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget reduction and income generation proposals amounting to £13.5 million in 2017/18 proceed to the formal consultation and scrutiny stages of the budget process. • That Financial Transaction and Base Budget Revisions totalling a net reduction of £10.0 million in 2017/18 be incorporated into the 2017/18 draft budget. <p>Cabinet also approved a number of changes to items in the MTFS. As a result of the recommendations approved by Cabinet the Council is projected to be able to set a balanced budget for 2017/18.</p> <p>Budget consultation and scrutiny will be undertaken during November and December the outcome of which will be reported back to Cabinet. An initial review of the assumptions and projections built into the Draft Budget and MTFS 2017/18 - 2019/20 has been undertaken, with further work to be completed during the 2017/18 budget setting process.</p> <p>A further report will be taken to Cabinet on 22 February 2017.</p> |

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| <p><i>Combined Authority</i></p> <p>The West Midlands Combined Authority (CA) has been formally vested. The Council needs to work effectively with its partners - including other local authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships – to ensure that the CA is a success and that it benefits the City of Wolverhampton.</p> <p>Next steps include strengthening and embedding the governance arrangements required to deliver the first devolution deal and preparation for a West Midlands Metro Mayor in May 2017. This will include public consultation (in the Summer of 2016) on the powers to be conferred on the Mayor by Central Government.</p> <p>Continuing officer and member involvement in the Combined Authority is crucial to making it a success, in delivering the first devolution deal, and developing future deals.</p> | <p>Managing Director Ongoing</p> | <p>The Council needs to continue to work effectively with its partners - including other local authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships – to ensure that the WMCA successfully delivers the devolution deal, and its success benefits the City of Wolverhampton.</p> <p>The Council continues to play a major role in the Combined Authority. The appointment of the Leader of the Council, Councillor as the Transport portfolio lead for the WMCA was confirmed at its AGM in June 2016.</p> <p>The appointment of the Managing Director to the role of Monitoring Officer of the Combined Authority (on a part time basis) was also confirmed at its AGM, on an interim basis until May 2017.</p> <p>Next steps include strengthening and embedding the governance arrangements required to deliver the first devolution deal and preparation for a West Midlands Metro Mayor in May 2017.</p> <p>This to date has included a public consultation (summer 2016) on the functions to be conferred on the Combined Authority by government, to deliver the devolution deal. The formalising of that process will be underway in December 2016, through the constituent council's consideration of the statutory 'Order' (detailing the devolution agreement functions).</p> <p>The governance structures of the Combined Authority, consisting of boards, committees, working groups and commissions, were reflected upon and amended following the development of the devolution agenda and the updated structures were approved at the Combined Authority Board meeting on 28 October 2016.</p> <p>Constitutional arrangements are also being made to incorporate the Mayoral WMCA arrangements into the Combined Authority, and following the consideration by Parliament of the Mayoral WMCA functions, the required changes will be embedded.</p> <p>Continuing officer and member involvement in the Combined Authority is crucial to delivering the first devolution deal, and developing future deals.</p> |
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| <p><i>Corporate Landlord</i></p> <p>A Strategic Asset Plan for the Council is to be developed. Detailed service reviews to ensure the new service delivery is relevant and effective in supporting the Council's priorities and objectives are underway and due to be completed in-year.</p> | <p>Strategic Director – Place September 2016</p> | <p>A dedicated project manager is now in place to finalise scopes of work, prepare briefs and commission external consultancy support. Work packages to be supported are summarised as follows:</p> <p>Strategic Asset Plan Duration: six months consultancy (completion June 2017) To assist in the production of the Strategic Asset Plan (suite of three documents – Asset Policy, Asset Strategy and Action Plan). This documentation will set out the long term strategy/goals for where the Council's asset portfolio needs to be in the future.</p> <p>Commercial Portfolio: review of leases/licences/ service charges/debt management Duration: 6-12 months (completion November 2017) To review all leases, licences and service charges in line with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors requirements.</p> <p>Asset Challenge: Utilisation and Life-cycle Assessment Duration: 12 months (completion December 2017) To undertake utilisation surveys and life-cycle (circa 25 years) condition surveys on all buildings enabling Corporate Landlord to assess the performance of the asset portfolio and ensure it supports the Council's strategic and operational objectives.</p> <p>Data Management Duration: 6-12 months (completion November 2017) A Project Manager, Data Support Officer and access to scanning facilities will be required to map, identify, cleanse and capture baseline land and property data. Centralised data is at the core of the Corporate Landlord service delivery model and this work will enable analysis and reporting.</p> |
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| <p><i>Procurement, Contract Management and Monitoring</i></p> <p>A standard approach to Contract Management will be implemented, with a programme of training developed to support a consistent approach to realising the benefits from contracts.</p> | <p>Service Director for Commercial Services. Implementation from June 2016.</p> | <p>The Procurement team has started to offer contract management support to service teams. The first areas where this has commenced is Environmental Services and Public Health. The first dedicated Contract Manager post has been agreed and is currently being recruited to.</p> <p>A new contract management system (Accord) is being implemented and will be live in early 2017. This will give visibility of each contract and a standardised approach to performance monitoring and contract administration.</p> |
| <p><i>Partnership Governance</i></p> <p>The Council is embarking on a systematic review of Governance arrangements with partner organisations and has already implemented revised protocols for all newly drafted arrangements. The Black Country Joint Committee, set up in Summer 2015, has established a clear governance structure for collaborative arrangements across the Black Country, which the Council has committed to.</p> <p>The City Board oversees the Economic Growth Board, Inclusion Board and the recently set up Employment and Skills Board. The governance for each is reviewed annually and amendments made, if required.</p> | <p>Service Director for City Economy March 2017</p> | <p>At the City level, work is underway to review the strategic approach for City Economy and how this is reflected in our partnerships. This work is expected to complete around spring 2017.</p> <p>New reporting formats for projects being championed by the Economic Growth Board and Skills and Employment Board have now been developed and approved. This will help to tighten governance and impact from partnership working.</p> <p>The Council is also the accountable body for the delivery of the Black Country Growth Hub. Again the governance has been reviewed and tightened to enable effective governance of a wider remit that includes delivery of the new ERDF funded AIM for the Black Country project.</p> |