

# Birmingham City Council Section 114: BVSC and VCFSE Response

## WMFN Members Roundtable Exchange 23 April 2024

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# Section 114-

## Summary of Savings Proposals (1)

**Adult Social Care** – Total Savings - £23.709m for 24/25 and forecast savings of £52.861m for 25/26

- Review Care Packages - £5.687m
- Review Care Centre Model - £0.346m
- Review Day Centre Model - £1.950m
- Review Enablement Service - £1.755m
- Review of social work teams and improve efficiencies - £1.501m
- Review of third sector inflationary uplifts - £4.464m
- Review and recommission third sector contracts - £1.600m
- Transformation of Neighbourhood Advice and Information Service and Community Libraries -£1.260m
- Grant maximisation - £3.161m



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## Summary of Savings Proposals (2)

**Children & Families** - Total Savings - £51.518m for 24/25 and forecast savings of £63.231m for 25/26

- Budget reductions to careers, NEET and youth services, with £1m fund identified to be spent on youth services once full review carried out - £1.263m
- Early Help Contracts for Children, Young People and Families - £8.378m
- Children's Travel Transport Contracts Reprocurement - £13.700m
- Review of non-statutory transport packages for post-16 - £7.066m
- Reduction of contract sum for Birmingham Children's Trust - £9.000m
- Headcount reductions in Children and Families - £2.474m

**City Housing** – Total Savings - £6.236m for 24/25 and forecast savings of £9.536m for 25/26

- Increased property acquisition through HRA to fund Temporary Accommodation - £1.400m
- Workforce reduction including the deletion of vacancies - £1.650m
- Negotiating down B&B costs - £0.420m



## Section 114-

# Summary of Savings Proposals (3)

**City Operations** - Total Savings - £39.268m for 2024/25 and forecast savings of £57.111m for 2025/26

- Dimming streetlighting - £0.900m
- School Crossing Patrols to be funded through CAZ - £0.750m
- Changing Local engineering delivery model - £0.316m
- Funding dropped kerb work through income - £0.100m
- Reducing spend on Highways maintenance – dependent on PFI outcome - £12.000m
- Additional bulky and garden waste income and fee increase - £1.640m
- Fortnightly residual waste collections to be brought in from 2025/26 in line with food waste collections being brought in. Pilots in selected areas across city to begin 2024/25. (£0.000m in 2024/24 – forecast £4.500m in 2025/26)
- Reduce Grounds Maintenance capability - £1.000m
- Reduction of the MHWRC service - £0.723m
- Increase in bereavement fees to regional average - £0.880m
- Cultural organisation grant reductions - £0.630m
- Cease the 22 ward pilot of Neighbourhood Action Coordinators £1.955m
- Wellbeing Leisure Centres to be funded through Public Health Grant - £0.500m



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## Summary of Savings Proposals (4)

**Place, Prosperity & Sustainability** - Total Savings - £8.365m in 24/25 and forecast of £11.150m for 25/26

- Service re-design and restructure for whole directorate - £4.365m
- Reduction in Central Administrative Buildings Premises - £1.000m
- Increased income generation through lease and rent reviews and increase in planning fee income - £1.500m
- European Affairs and Business Enterprise Teams to be self-financing and funded from external grant -£0.800m

**Strategy, Equalities & Partnerships** -Total Savings -£2.447m for 24/25 and forecast of £2.597m for 25/26

- Consolidating services and teams, redesigning some divisions and managing vacancies – deletion of c.31 posts, including 39% cut to Cabinet Office - £1.780m
- Return non-pay inflation and other budget efficiencies - £0.667m



# Section 114-

## Summary of Savings Proposals (5)

**Council Management** - Total Savings - £11.872m for 24/25 and forecast savings of £24.395m for 25/26

- Savings from reviewing and reducing Traded Services - £2.299m
- Insourcing enforcement work for some council tax, business rates and Business Improvement District debts - £1.098m
- Increased tax collection - £3.840m
- Restructure of Corporate Procurement Service - £0.240m
- Cease Local Welfare Provision Scheme - £0.900m
- Voice Automation within Contact Centre Services - £1.490m
- Digital and Technology Services Redesign - £2.200m
- Restructure of Legal Services - £0.835m

**Cross Cutting** - Total Savings - £1.000m for 2024/25 and forecast savings of £5.207m for 2025/26

- Savings to be made through procurement contracts, the consolidation of council functions and automation of manual processes - £1.000m

*(Most cross-cutting savings are measured in individual directorates to reduce double-counting).*



# Section 114- VCFSE Sector Impacts (1)

The savings proposals provide a mix of threats and opportunities for the VCFSE sector including:

- **Grants, Contracts & Funding –**

- These will be reviewed with recommissioning
- Inflationary uplifts may be removed
- Service providers may be asked to deliver a higher level of service for less money or provide additional services
- There may be increased competition for funding elsewhere but also collaborative funding and procurement opportunities both within the sector and with public/ private sectors
- The Council's Community Empowerment Fund may provide some short-term relief

- **Cost of Living –**

- Increased fees and charges may impact those Birmingham residents already struggling
- VCFSE sector organisations are also impacted by the Cost of Living and so may be affected



# Section 114- VCFSE Sector Impacts (2)

- **Equality, Diversity & Inclusion-**
  - There is potential for groups with protected characteristics, who the sector support, to be impacted.
  - The Council has undertaken a Corporate Equality Impact Assessment (27 February Cabinet)
  - Individual Equality Impact Assessments for each Directorate are also set out in full here:  
[www.birmingham.gov.uk/equalityimpactassessments](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/equalityimpactassessments)
- **Social Prescribing & Voluntary Sector Pathways –**
  - Service changes could potentially have an impact where the Council currently refers service users to VCFSE sector organisations
- **Service Demand -**
  - There may be potential knock-on impact with greater demand for VCFSE services as Council services are cut
- **Community Assets -**
  - Assets may be disposed of/ sold/ transferred to the VCFSE sector
- **VCFSE Service Delivery -**
  - There may be potential opportunities for VCFSE organisations to deliver services currently provided by the Council





# Birmingham Together

- A **'Birmingham Together'** approach to engaging with the VCFSE sector as partners in the development of the City
- Working closely with our public sector partners to remain committed to **recognising the value** of the city's Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector
- Maintaining an **open, honest and regular dialogue** with you about the challenges we are facing.
- **Reaffirming our strategic partner organisation relationship** with the sector's umbrella body, Birmingham Voluntary Service Council (BVSC).
- Participating in a series of **BCC/VCFSE partnership engagement events** to enable forums for the sector to be engaged around the way our city is collectively supported.
- Enable BVSC to **provide a route into Birmingham City Council** for you to present your hopes and concerns about how the VCFSE and BCC can work together
- A programme of conversation events focused on **city strategic activities**, on **specific directorate service areas**, and **sector-specific issues**.

**Birmingham Together:** Re-imagining future collaborations between the public, private and voluntary sectors to respond to the long-term challenges posed by the implementation of a Section 114 notice, an action-research project.



- ▶ Funded by Fusion 21
- ▶ Developed in partnership with BCC and Prof. James Rees ICRD at the University of Wolverhampton
- ▶ Overarching aim:

*The unprecedented challenge posed by the current financial crisis is going to require a fundamental re-think in the way that wider **public** and **private sectors** and **funding bodies** work together in order that Birmingham can re-build in a way that provides long-term, resilient recovery.*

*To this end we have designed an evidence-based, rapid, and collaborative action-research project to 1) inform and support BCC and its partners across sectors to co-design a new way of working in a time-frame reflective of the urgency of the situation and 2) use this real-time empirical research and the co-designed framework and share it with Local Authorities facing similar challenges across England.*

# Key Activities



- ▶ **Mapping:** Key stakeholders across VCS, public sector (BCC, Health, Policing, Education), funders, and corporate sector
- ▶ **Literature Review:** Of local strategies, policies and guidance relating to Section 114; evidence relating to needs and inequalities; evidence relating to best practice in collaborative, cross sector, approaches to maximising resources and securing external funding.
- ▶ **Stakeholder Engagement:** Workshops and semi-structured interviews to identify, understand and explore priorities, challenges and mitigations as perceived by all stakeholders and explore new ways of working in a new (post S.114) world.
- ▶ **Co-design workshops:** 4 co-design workshops involving representatives from all identified stakeholders to focus on the “conditions, collaborations and contributions of all parties to a thriving city”.
- ▶ **Framework Development:** Creation of a visual representation and narrative report of a multi-dimensional framework for ‘Birmingham Together’

# Outputs (End of April 2025)



- Summary report including key findings and recommendations and next steps for Birmingham to realise the framework and for wider audience (i.e. other Local Authorities)
- Launch event to share the framework
- Submission of an Academic Journal Article

The most immediate impact of this action-research project is in providing the 'Birmingham Together Framework'. The framework will support BCCs thinking and approach to recovery from the current financial crisis, in a way that is sustainable in the longer term, and which harnesses the strengths and assets of actors across the city who may not currently consider themselves as part of the solution.

Further  
information

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# Questions?

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**[www.bvsc.org/birminghams-city-council-section-114-notice](http://www.bvsc.org/birminghams-city-council-section-114-notice)**