

Report to Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board

22 November 2023

Subject:	Medium Term Financial Strategy - Autumn 2023 Update
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Bob Piper, Finance & Resources
Director:	Brendan Arnold, Interim Section 151 Officer
Contact Officer:	Interim Assistant Director – Finance, Claire Spencer Claire_spencer@sandwell.gov.uk Strategic Lead – Service Improvement, Kate Ashley, kate1_ashley@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board considers the Medium Term Financial Strategy – Autumn 2023 Update report and identify any recommendations it wishes to make to Cabinet.







2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 Section 151 of the 1972 Local Government Act requires the Chief Financial Officer to ensure the proper administration of the council’s financial affairs. Budgetary control, which includes the regular monitoring and reporting of budgets is an essential element in discharging this statutory responsibility. The recommended treatment of the year end variances supports the financial sustainability of the council.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

The Council’s financial status helps to underpin the Council’s Corporate Plan and the associated aspirations.



	Best start in life for children and young people
	People live well and age well
	Strong resilient communities
	Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods
	A strong and inclusive economy
	A connected and accessible Sandwell

4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 The Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board has been requested to consider the Medium Term Financial Strategy – Autumn 2023 Update to ensure the Council can conduct its business efficiently, act to provide for the security of the assets under its control, and for ensuring that the use of these resources is legal, properly authorised, provides value for money and achieves best value.

5 Alternative Options

- 5.1 If the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board does not consider the information presented, the opportunity to make recommendations would be lost.

6 Implications

Resources:	Further details on the financial implications will be presented to the meeting.
Legal and Governance:	The Local Government Act 2003 places a requirement on local authorities to provide Members with regular financial monitoring.



Risk:	This information is contained within the main body of this report.
Equality:	No direct implications arising from the recommendations.
Health and Wellbeing:	The financial prosperity of the Council provides a foundation for health and wellbeing across the remit of the Council.
Social Value	No direct implications arising from the recommendations.
Climate Change	No direct implications arising from the recommendations.
Corporate Parenting	No direct implications arising from the recommendations.

7 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Report to Cabinet – Medium Term Financial Strategy – Autumn 2023 Update

Appendix 2 – Medium Term Financial Strategy

8 Background Papers

None

