

APPENDIX D

Slough Borough Council – Best Value Intervention

Finance Board Terms of Reference

Context

The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities used his Best Value powers to appoint Commissioners at Slough Borough Council on 1 December 2021. He directed the Commissioners to ensure that the Council prepared and implemented an improvement and recovery plan to address the best value failure identified at the Council by the external assurance reviews in summer 2021.

A Finance Board is required to oversee the financial management and reporting of all service and business areas as part of the governance for the Council's improvement and recovery plan; and to consider and report on progress as required by the Directions.

The Board will meet monthly and report to the Improvement and Recovery Board.

Purpose

The Board will oversee the financial planning and management, including the monitoring and re-profiling of expenditure, of all service and business areas as part of the overall governance of the Council's improvement and recovery plan. It will enable the Finance Commissioner to provide assurance to the Improvement and Recovery Board that the Council has proper financial planning and management arrangements in place to ensure service delivery is guaranteed while the savings and efficiencies required are delivered, including asset disposal and debt management.

To this end, the Board will:

1. Promote a corporate, Council wide culture of effective financial management and review the savings and efficiencies required by the revenue budget and capital programme on a risk based approach to ensure they are delivered, or suitable alternatives identified to maintain a balanced budget.
2. Oversee the delivery of financial elements of the Improvement and Recovery Plan to ensure desired outcomes are achieved, and report progress to the Improvement and Recovery Board.
3. Manage the formal financial reporting element of the progress reports to the Secretary of State to the timescales set out in the Directions or as determined by the Commissioners.
4. Oversee the forward plan arrangements relating to procurement activity to ensure appropriate and timely plans are put in place to deliver value for money and improved services to the residents and businesses of Slough
5. Provide advice and guidance to the Council on the actions required.

It is for the Council to take the actions required to deliver the Recovery and Improvement plan, using the policies and procedures it already has in place or introduces to enable the Plan to be delivered.

The Board will act as a consultative forum, providing challenge and advice as appropriate. The Commissioners will exercise the powers given to them by the Directions as and when necessary.

The Board will not meet in public. Its reports will be published on the Commissioners page on slough.gov.uk.

Membership

Margaret Lee – *Finance Commissioner (chair)*

Max Caller – *Lead Commissioner*

Gavin Jones – *Assistant Commissioner and Head of Paid Service*

Claire Willerton – *Chief of Staff to the Commissioners*

Lucy Storr – *Deputy Chief of Staff to the Commissioners (secretariat)*

Cllr Rob Anderson – *Cabinet Lead for Finance (deputy chair)*

Cllr Ajaib – *Cabinet Lead for Customer Services, Procurement & Performance*

Cllr Dexter Smith – *Conservative Group leader*

Steven Mair – *S.151 Officer*

Andrew Fraser – *Executive Director of Children's Services*

Marc Gadsby – *Executive Director of People (Adults, Interim)*

Richard West – *Executive Director of Customer and Community*

Deputies to attend as required, fully briefed and able to contribute.