



## **BIRMINGHAM INDEPENDENT IMPROVEMENT PANEL ACTIVITY AND COSTS 2016/17**

### **1. Panel activity**

1.1 The Panel was established in January 2015. The members of the Panel are John Crabtree OBE (chair), Frances Done CBE (vice chair), Cllr Keith Wakefield (former leader of Leeds City Council), and Steve Robinson (former chief executive of Cheshire West and Chester Council). Dave Hill, Children's Social Care Commissioner is an ex-officio member of the Panel. The adviser to the Panel is Sally Hammond.

1.2 The Panel has met formally on four occasions including sessions at which the Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader and Chief Executive have attended to discuss the Council's progress. The Panel has also met on several occasions separately with the leaders of the Conservative and Liberal Democrat opposition groups to discuss their contribution to the Council's progress.

1.3 Panel members have also undertaken a large number of meetings with senior Council leaders, Cabinet Members, Councillors, the Chief Executive and corporate leadership team, senior managers across the Council, and many of the Council's partners and stakeholders in public, private and third sector organisations. The Panel has also kept in touch with other important stakeholders such as the Local Government Association.

1.4 The total time spent on activity by Panel members and the adviser in 2016/17 has been approximately 190 days. During the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016 Steve Robinson worked without payment for Panel duties. The Chair, John Crabtree, has carried out his duties in relation to the Panel on an unpaid basis throughout the year.

### **2. Panel costs**

2.1 The cost of operation of the Panel during 2016/17 including the remuneration of Panel members and adviser and travelling expenses was £106,862.

2.2 The Panel also commissioned jointly with the Council an Independent Financial Review of the Council's 2017/18 revenue budget in November 2016. The review was facilitated by the Local Government Association and the cost of the review was £32,220.

2.3 The Panel would like to thank Leeds City Council and Cheshire West and Chester Council for enabling the participation of Cllr Keith Wakefield and Steve Robinson respectively in the work of the Panel.

2.4. The Panel would like to thank Gowling WLG for providing meeting rooms for meetings of the Panel at no cost.

2.5 The costs of the Panel and the Independent Financial Review were financed by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Birmingham City Council in equal shares.