

Appendix 2

BIRMINGHAM INDEPENDENT IMPROVEMENT PANEL ACTIVITY AND COSTS

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 (chief executive of Cheshire West and Chester Council). Sir Mike Tomlinson, Education Commissioner and Andrew Christie, Children's Social Care Commissioner are ex-officio members. Between January 2015 and May 2015 Lord Warner attended the Panel as the Children's Social Care Commissioner. The adviser to the Panel is Sally Hammond.

1.2. The Panel has met formally on nine occasions and most of these meetings have included private 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 privately 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 The Panel has also held four public meetings, webcast from the Council House, at which members of the public have been able to hear from the Council's leaders about the Council's improvement progress and to question them.

1.4 Panel members and the adviser have also undertaken a large number of meetings to gather information and views. These have included meetings with senior Council leaders, Cabinet Members, Councillors, the Chief Executive and corporate leadership team, senior managers across the Council, MPs and many of the Council's partners and stakeholders in business, academia, the voluntary and community sector and other public agencies. The Panel has also kept in touch with other important stakeholders such as the Local Government Association.

1.5 The total time spent on Panel activity by Panel members and the adviser in the period from January 2015 to 18 March 2016 has been in the region of 290 days.

2. Panel costs

2.1 The cost of operation of the Panel in the period from January 2015 to 18 March 2016 is shown below:

Remuneration of Panel members and adviser	£95,050
Travelling expenses	12,398
Administrative support expenses	3,032

Total

£110,480*

*some of the costs towards the end of the period are estimated.

John Crabtree, the Chair of the Panel, and Steve Robinson have not received payment for their work in relation to the Panel.

2.2. 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. The Panel would also like to thank Gowling WLG for providing meeting rooms for the Panel at no cost.

2.3 The costs of the Panel are financed by the Department for Communities and Local Government and Birmingham City Council in equal shares.