

TRAFFORD COUNCIL
DRAFT RESPONSE TO GRANT THORNTON FINANCIAL RESILIENCE REPORT, SEPTEMBER 2013

Area of Review	Key Points for Consideration	Responsibility	Timescale	Management Response
Key Performance Indicators	<p>Trafford currently performs well in key areas of performance relative to statistical nearest neighbours. Faced with continuing uncertain financial climate it will become even more critical to ensure that the Council has appropriate levels of reserves and that it closely monitors and manages its net assets position to underpin its financial resilience.</p>	Director of Finance	On-going	<p>A review of the need and adequacy of reserves is carried out a minimum of two times per annum, in January when the budget is being finalised and in May when accounts are prepared.</p> <p>In addition a full report was made to the Accounts & Audit Committee in November 2012.</p>
Strategic Financial Planning	<p>Trafford has recognised that with continuing government funding reductions it will be essential going forward to secure effective partnership working to enable scarce resources to be most effectively used. Trafford has set out its Partnership Vision for locality working through the development of Vision 2015.</p> <p>The development of robust partnerships as set out will be key to achievement of the best possible outcomes based on the collective resources available.</p>	Corporate Director for Transformation & Resources	On-going	<p>Locality Partnerships were launched in April 2013 with membership consisting of Elected Members, Partners and Community Ambassadors.</p> <p>‘Big Picture’ workshops took place over the Summer to determine priorities and action plans are being developed. It is anticipated that these will demonstrate a joint approach to demand reduction and pooling of partner resources</p>

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Financial Governance	The need for robust governance and financial planning and management in local government is greater than ever. Trafford Council has robust systems in place to face these challenges. It will need to ensure that it continues to provide support to members to ensure effective challenge and decision making.	Corporate Management Team	Annual	<p>The Council has well established mechanisms in place to allow Members to review and challenge financial plans and management of resources.</p> <p>These arrangements include: a formal review of the draft budget proposals by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee; regular budget and performance reports and; review and approval of the annual statement of accounts.</p>
Financial Control	The Council has continued to deliver Transformation Programme savings and at the end of 2012-13 has realised total savings for the year of over £12m. The Council faced with the continuing challenge of finding further savings which will become increasingly difficult. It will be essential therefore to ensure that its savings plans are clearly communicated, link to specific policy decisions, and that the impact on service levels and quality is clearly identifies and monitored.	Transformation Programme	Annual delivery	The Transformation Programme has robust governance arrangements in place to ensure that budget saving proposals take into account policy, impact and quality. There is a rigorous process to communicating the rationale for and process to achieving change activities leading to savings; this covers staff, residents, customers/clients, media, unions and politicians. A vision for the new organisational model has been communicated

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and partners are being engaged to ensure a common vision for Trafford and to maximise on partnership development of proposals as appropriate. This on-going work will form the foundation for the identification of budget savings into the medium term.
