

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

TUESDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 14:00 HOURS
IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL HOUSE, VICTORIA SQUARE,
BIRMINGHAM, B1 1BB

A G E N D A

1 NOTICE OF RECORDING

Lord Mayor to advise that this meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's [Public-I microsite \(please click this link\)](#) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Members are reminded they must declare all relevant pecuniary and other registerable interests arising from any business to be discussed at this meeting.

If a disclosable pecuniary interest is declared a Member must not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless they have been granted a dispensation.

If other registerable interests are declared a Member may speak on the matter only if members of the public are allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless they have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', Members do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that they have an interest.

Information on the Local Government Association's Model Councillor Code of Conduct is set out via <http://bit.ly/3WtGQnN>. This includes, at Appendix 1, an interests flowchart which provides a simple guide to declaring interests at meetings.

3 **MINUTES**

To note that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 11 July 2023 will be presented to the next meeting.

4 **LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(10 minutes allocated) (1400-1410)

To receive the Lord Mayor's announcements and such communications as the Lord Mayor may wish to place before the Council.

5 **PETITIONS**

(10 minutes allocated) (1410-1420)

To receive and deal with petitions in accordance with Council Rules of Procedure (B4.4 E of the Constitution).

As agreed by Council Business Management Committee a schedule of outstanding petitions is available electronically with the published papers for the meeting and can be viewed or downloaded.

6 **QUESTION TIME**

(70 minutes allocated) (1420-1530)

To deal with oral questions in accordance with Council Rules of Procedure (B4.4 F of the Constitution).

1. Questions from Members of the Public to any Cabinet Member or Ward Forum Chair (20 minutes)
2. Questions from any Councillor to a Committee Chair, Lead Member of a Joint Board or Ward Forum Chair (10 minutes)
3. Questions from Councillors other than Cabinet Members to a Cabinet Member (20 minutes)
4. Questions from Councillors other than Cabinet Members to the Leader or Deputy Leader (20 minutes)

7 **APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNCIL**

(5 minutes allocated) (1530-1535)

To make appointments to, or removals from, committees, outside bodies or other offices which fall to be determined by the Council.

- 5 - 112**
- 8 **EXECUTIVE BUSINESS REPORT (ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT)**
(30 minutes allocated) (1535-1605)
- Councillor Liz Clements, Cabinet Member for Transport and
Councillor Majid Mahmood, Cabinet Member for Environment, to move and
second the following recommendation:
- “That the report be noted.”
- 113 - 166**
- 9 **YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN**
(35 minutes allocated) (1605-1640)
- Councillor Nicky Brennan, Cabinet Member for Social Justice,
Community Safety and Equalities, to move the following recommendation:
- "That City Council approves the Birmingham Children's Trust's 2023 - 2028
Youth Justice Plan."
- (break 1640 – 1710)
- 167 - 204**
- 10 **LEAD MEMBER REPORT – WMCA SCRUTINY**
(35 minutes allocated) (1710-1745)
- Councillor Jamie Tennant to move the following recommendation:
- “That the report be noted.”
- 205 - 208**
- 11 **MOTIONS FOR DEBATE FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**
(90 minutes allocated) (1745-1915)
- To consider the attached Motions of which notice has been given in
accordance with Council Rules of Procedure (B4.4 G of the Constitution).

Birmingham City Council

City Council

12th September 2023



Subject: Executive Business Report

Report of: Cabinet

Report author: Craig Cooper (Director – City Operations)
Paul Kitson (Director – Place, Prosperity and Sustainability)

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential:

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. On 10th September 2019, Full Council accepted the recommendations of the Coordinating O&S Committee review in respect of changes to the Full Council agenda.
- 1.2. Recommendation 3 of the review requested that the Executive provide an update to Full Council on its work via the provision of an Executive Business Report ('EBR'). EBRs will be provided to Full Council four times per municipal year and will include details of progress made in relation to Council strategic outcomes and priorities linked to two Cabinet Member portfolios.
- 1.3. This EBR provides an update on two Cabinet Member portfolios:

Environment portfolio: pages 3-22

Transport portfolio: pages 22-32

- 1.4. As we move into the latter part of 2023 both the Environment and Transport portfolios have successes to share as they continue to strive towards the City Council's strategic priorities.
- 1.5. Within the Environment portfolio, the Mobile Household Recycling Centre service has won two national awards during a year in which there has been a steady decrease in reported incidents of fly-tipping, whilst Parks have been attracting national attention with an array of awards, including Gold for the 11th consecutive year at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Pride and passion in the local environment is also shared by Birmingham's citizens, with continued community involvement during 2023 through environment improvement initiatives such as 'Love Your Streets'.
- 1.6. The Transport portfolio has similarly seen success within the Birmingham Transport Summit, an event attracting a wide range of politicians and key stakeholders to showcase Birmingham's plan to deliver the Birmingham Transport Plan, an innovative plan to delivery sustainable and active travel across the city.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1. That the report be noted.

3. Environment Portfolio

- 3.1. The council's Corporate Plan 2022-2026 sets a vision for A Bold Green Birmingham, which includes aims to improve street cleanliness, improve air quality, continue on the Route to Net Zero and be a City of Nature.
- 3.2. This report serves as an update on how teams and service areas linked to the Environment portfolio have responded to these challenges and made a positive contribution towards achieving these aims over the last year.

Street Scene and Parks

3.3. Parks – successes

- 3.3.1. **Gold at the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Chelsea Flower Show for 11th consecutive year** (History of city parks-themed display) and **RHS Wigan Cup Award 2023** for the best RHS Local Authority exhibit in 2022 (Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games-themed display);
- 3.3.2. The council-backed Birmingham City of Nature Plan won the Judges' Award at this year's West Midlands National Park (WMNP) Awards;
- 3.3.3. The city retained its 15 **"Green Flag"** Awards.

3.4. Street Scene – successes

- 3.4.1. Awards for the Mobile Household Recycling Centre (MHRC) project, which makes visits to neighbourhoods in 20 Wards per week, include:
- 3.4.2. **Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC) Celebration Awards** – Best New Idea (winner);
- 3.4.3. **National Recycling Awards** – Local Government Success (winner);
- 3.4.4. **Keep Britain Tidy Awards** – Outstanding Service Delivery (finalist).

3.5. Street Scene and Parks – Progress on business priorities

- 3.5.1. As well as awards and external accolades above, it has also been a year of progress against the portfolio business priorities;

- 3.5.2. **Delivering the waste disposal procurement contracts** – The procurement process is now in its final year of a three-year programme and on track to meet the January 2024 completion date. This will see the commencement of individual contracts for processing of green waste, dry mixed recyclates, paper and card, and the operation and maintenance of the Tyseley Energy Recovery Facility (ERF), three waste transfer stations and the city’s five Household Recycling Centres;
- 3.5.3. **Building new depots at Perry Barr and Tyseley** – The opening of the redeveloped Perry Barr depot is set to be completed by the end of 2023 and a new £15.5million super depot for waste management has been built at the Atlas Works site in Tyseley, consisting of office accommodation, training facilities, a vehicle maintenance building and electric vehicle charging points. This is consolidating services previously operating out of the outdated Montague Street and Redfern Road depots;
- 3.5.4. **Completion of the essential works Programme at the Tyseley ERF** – The final year of the works will complete in December 2023. These has improved the efficiency and reliability of the ERF to rival, and in some cases better, performance at other newer ERFs around the country. The investment in the plant has modernised its operations and maintains its R1 status, meaning it is classified as an efficient recovery option by the Environment Agency;
- 3.5.5. **Investigating a sustainable vehicle replacement programme** – Trials of the first all-electric Dennis Eagle eCollect bin lorry took place in the summer of 2022. A contractor has been commissioned to help explore the procurement of new electric vehicles. The waste team is also exploring the use of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO). In partnership with the Planning and Development Team and ESB Energy, the parks service has rolled out EV charging hubs in selected city parks. The first electric charging point installed was at Cotteridge Park;
- 3.5.6. **Mobile Household Recycling Centres (MHRC) – to develop a long-term plan for this service matching need and ensuring an even distribution across the wards** – Offering residents a free and convenient option to dispose of unwanted items and to recycle waste, the allocation of visits to the city’s 69 Wards is based on a number of criteria including fly-tipping and street cleansing data. The schedule remains under regular review to ensure the balance is correct and the communities in greatest need receive the appropriate level of MHRC support. Plans are also at an advanced stage that will lead to a wider range of recyclable materials being accepted at the MHRCs;
- 3.5.7. **Improving street cleanliness through increased crews, alleyway clearance, a Keep Britain Tidy campaign** – Extra crews, neighbourhood enforcement officers, and engagement and enforcement officers have been taken on and collaborative work has also been undertaken on graffiti with partners including Kier, Network Rail and National Highways. The Street Scene service has also worked with Keep Britain Tidy to trial the use of “Grime Scenes” to highlight fly-tipping at hotspot areas by taping off dumped waste to highlight the problem and to try to change behaviours in these areas. The findings will be considered as part of a continuous review of potential innovations that can make city’s streets cleaner and safer;

- 3.5.8. Tackling environmental crime and deliver on waste enforcement through Grime Watch updates** – The service is producing “Grime Watch” videos to help identify waste offenders and seek information from the public to help in identifying those who illegally dump rubbish. The series is now four episodes old and serves wider purposes – firstly to act as a deterrent to would-be dumpers by showcasing recent prosecutions, and secondly to highlight partnership working on cleaner streets initiatives. Grime Watch has been made possible the deployment of an additional 20 CCTV cameras over the last two years for surveillance at hot spot areas. In the last financial year, 101 fixed penalty notices of £400 were issued to individuals for fly-tipping in the city. The service is also working with West Midlands Police to seize vehicles involved in incidents of fly-tipping, and recently three new Artificial Intelligence cameras were placed in Aston, North Edgbaston and Erdington Wards on a pilot basis. These units have the ability to detect when waste is suspected to have been placed on the street, minimising the amount of time officers have to spend trawling through CCTV footage. After the pilot concludes, they will be added to the pool of units that are available for use at hotspots anywhere in the city, as appropriate;
- 3.5.9. Improve communication on waste collection and improve missed collections including slab in a cab technology** – Tablets have been installed into all residual, garden and recycling vehicles and are currently being installed in trade vehicles. Since September 2022, this has enabled the removal of paper maps for rounds and the introduction of the reallocation of work in real time to crews when circumstances require;
- 3.5.10. Improving local environments through community involvement** – Local environment improvements are being made through programmes like Love Your Streets (action days working with key stakeholders and the community to improve the look and feel of city streets), Love your Environment (where council street cleansing teams come together at the same time to conduct ward-based clean ups) and local community events. This has also included work in non-residential areas such as High Streets and with Business Improvement Districts. The Dolphin Centre Project in Ward End Park is also nearing completion, a project which has included the creation of a youth hub (with a Jobcentre Plus Youth Employability Coach), the installation of a lift for disabled access, a café where local unemployed people are encouraged to work and a free wifi hotspot for local community use. Wider landscaping relating to the scheme has also seen the emergence of new heathland, enhancing the area’s biodiversity;
- 3.5.11. Improving local environments through volunteering involvement** – Birmingham Open Spaces Forum (BOSF) supported 15 new Friends of Parks groups in 22/23, whilst the Ranger Service supported volunteers doing conservation work and Love Your Street community litter picks. BOSF had 13,444 volunteers carrying out 19,520 volunteer days at a value of £1,063,818 to the Street Scene service. The Ranger Service was assisted by 2,782 volunteers who gave 4,983 volunteer days to conservation work. During the last financial year, over 6,718 bags of rubbish were collected by the community litter pickers and the volunteers provided over 1,600 hours of litter picking. Similar work, adding value to the council’s core effort, continues into 2023/24;
- 3.5.12. Working with Birmingham Tree People (BTP) to plant additional trees in our parks and open spaces and increase the canopy cover** – BTP and the council planted a 105,000th tree during the last year. Birmingham also retained its Tree City of the World status for the fourth year running;

3.5.13. **Supporting the Commonwealth Games Delivery and local enhancements as a legacy –**

Some examples of the projects being carried out include: a new Commonwealth Forest at Woodgate Valley Country Park, planted as part of a wider plan to create 2,022 acres of Commonwealth Forest across the region; a masterplan design being developed for Perry Park; and enhanced car park facilities at Sutton Park with event spaces and electric charging points – all made possible thanks to the park requiring infrastructure upgrades to enable it to host the Triathlon and Para Triathlon events last summer.

3.6. **Parks – operational updates**

3.6.1. The service is committed to the advancement of a green, sustainable city providing parks, open spaces and services that are accessible to all. With 631 parks and open spaces in the city, our natural environment is undoubtedly one of Birmingham's greatest (and often underplayed) assets. During the cost-of-living crisis, they have been an invaluable free-to-access resource to people in all parts of the city.

3.6.2. Business as usual activity by the service has therefore taken on an increased importance and has continued during the last year, including:

3.6.3. **Maintenance of over 3,625 hectares of green spaces** including parks, country parks, public open spaces, woodlands and allotments;

3.6.4. **A tree service** which manages the city council's tree stock (excluding trees on highways);

3.6.5. Provision of **a woodland management team** to maintain 1,398 hectares of woodland throughout the city;

3.6.6. The delivery of an **allotments service** which manages 7,369 plots across 113 sites. As of August 2023, a total of 90.1 per cent of Birmingham's allotments are occupied, the highest level for six years;

3.6.7. **An asset management service** managing park buildings and 50 pools and reservoirs in compliance with the Reservoirs Act;

3.6.8. **Playground services** which maintain outdoor play equipment in 253 play areas, 11 skate areas, 31 outdoor gyms and 97 multi-use games areas;

3.6.9. **The Birmingham ranger service** to protect and enhance designated nature conservation sites and country parks throughout the city, and monitor regional targets for local biodiversity for the city;

3.6.10. The in-house **Landscape Practice Group (LPG)**, which provides a full range of project development, community consultation, landscape, architectural and urban design services;

3.6.11. **Floral decoration** through three greenhouses at Cofton, Kings Heath and Colehill;

3.6.12. A team of **District Parks Managers**, who liaise with local members, over 120 Friends groups and manage all park sites;

3.6.13. A **climate and sustainability service** which leads on the implementation and development of the Green Living Spaces Plan, Liveable Cities and Biophilic Cities, and the City of Nature 25 year plan.

- 3.6.14. The natural environment inevitably faces a number of threats and risks that are continually reviewed and monitored. There are three national outbreaks being closely tracked to safeguard parks and open spaces;
- 3.6.15. **Phytophthora ramorum** – This affects oak and larch and other deciduous trees. There are affected trees in one part of the city (the Lickey Hills). Officers are monitoring along with the Forestry Commission and any affected trees are removed as quickly as possible;
- 3.6.16. **Hymenoscyphus fraxineus (Ash Dieback)** – This affects ash trees and is a serious disease that kills the tree and then spreads to surrounding ash trees. We are fortunate to not have this in the city, but are monitoring the UK spread and any impact on our own trees;
- 3.6.17. **Avian Influenza (Bird Flu)** – This virus spreads across all bird species and for the second year in a row was confirmed in Birmingham. Once it has been confirmed, a dedicated team is activated (chaired by the council’s Environment Cell lead) who then manages the outbreak response until it is no longer required.

3.7. Street Scene (waste collection)- operational updates

- 3.7.1. Clean streets have consistently been expressed as one of the top priorities by the people of Birmingham. This is why a focus has been placed on this service, one of the few truly universal services accessed on a weekly basis by people across all 69 wards. The sharp focus on improvement is bearing fruit, as is evidenced by key datasets relating to the service.
- 3.7.2. The service carries out 540,000 collections per week and is the largest such service in the UK. The table below shows how the numbers of reported missed bin collections have fallen since the summer of 2022:

KPI by week - Reported missed collections per 100k collections scheduled



Figure 1: Reported missed bin collections per 100,000 collections scheduled

- 3.7.3. One area where there has been a clear focus is persistent service failure. Reports have been developed to triangulate missed collections to identify common problems and find long-term solutions. This report is produced on a daily basis and the local service managers review this with the principal operations managers at a weekly tasking meeting. There are many potential failure points within the current operation which will be resolved when the in-cab technology is fully operational.
- 3.7.4. In order to develop a single version of the truth, data collection is essential. To this end, a Director of Projects has been introduced to provide dedicated focus on transformation of the collection service.
- 3.7.5. There is still further improvement to be made, but since the collation of numbers within a new reporting system began in early 2022, there has been a downward trend in complaints, linked to a fall in the number of properties that have had collections dropped – with adverse weather in March 2023 accounting for the only significant spike of the last 12 months:

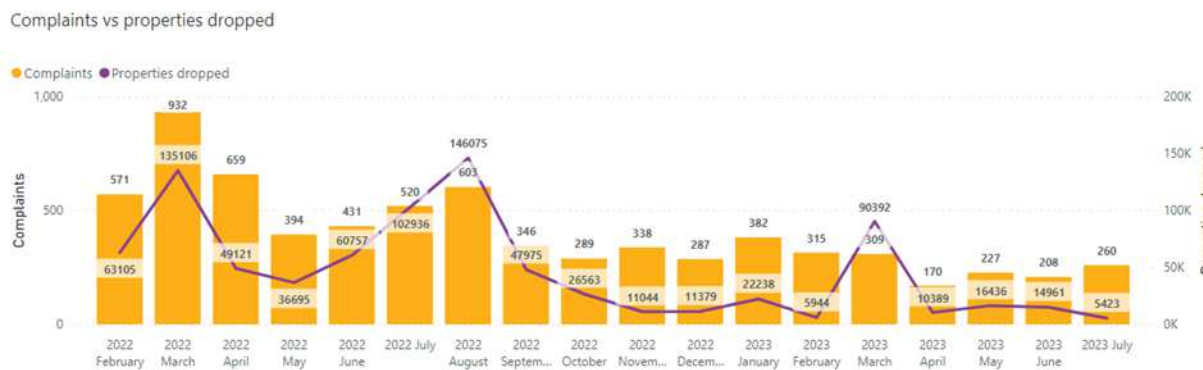


Figure 2: Trends in complaints for missed collections

3.8. Street Scene (recycling)- operational updates

3.8.1. The current in-year recycling rate (excluding incinerator bottom ash) is approximately 26 per cent, rising to 42 per cent (when including bottom ash), which means our performance is on target, but there is an ambition to do more. There are a number of factors that are keeping us at this relatively low rate:

- We currently have one of the highest levels of individual household waste collected in the UK;
- We do not collect food waste separately;
- There are a number of properties that do not have a recycling service such as flats and homes on sack collection (65,000 properties).

3.8.2. Work is ongoing to find solutions, including learning from partners such as Keep Britain Tidy and other authorities across the UK. A number of ideas are being worked up and will be trialled in the coming year.

3.8.3. Our waste disposal partner has also introduced a number of options for citizens to recycle more of the products which are usually thrown away at our HRCs. These include paint, mattresses, coffee pods and hard plastics.

3.8.4. This has been further strengthened by a campaign entitled “Sort it Bring it Save it” that helps residents ensure their waste goes into the right place during visits to HRCs. The recycling rates across our HRC sites has risen from 38.74 per cent in 2017/18 to 63.51 per cent in 2022/23.

3.8.5. At the Tyseley HRC site, a new reuse shop has opened, with containers provided at other HRC sites for products with a viable future reuse, which are then made available for sale at the reuse shop at very attractive prices. Working with partners on this project, a number of starter packs are also offered free of charge to tenants moving into our council homes.

3.9. Street scene (street cleansing)- operational updates

- 3.9.1. To keep the city as clean as possible, several key partnerships have been developed, including with Keep Britain Tidy, the Canal and River Trust, Network Rail and, more broadly, the residents of Birmingham.
- 3.9.2. The council provides equipment and support to individuals and groups wanting to carry out litter picks in the city. Since last September, 313 bag hoops, 2,658 litter picking claws, 1,918 pairs of gloves, 29,251 litter sacks, 1,412 adult hi-viz bibs and 391 children's hi-viz bibs have all been issued along with smaller quantities of items such as brooms, hoes and trollies.
- 3.9.3. The results of this support are encouraging. Attendance from volunteers at various events totalled 4,113. Collectively, their efforts saw them give up 2,365 hours of their personal time to improve their neighbourhoods, equivalent to 273 days of activity.
- 3.9.4. Love Your Environment is building upon the success of the Love Your Streets initiative. At the time of compiling this report, 238 events had been held since LYE's launch in October 2022, with 1,789 tonnes of waste cleared from neighbourhoods across the city. Amongst this was 40,899 bags of dumped rubbish along with 23,508 sacks of litter picked up on the days in question, in addition to the removal of 10,608 graffiti tags. To put into context the value this work adds, our regular graffiti removal teams remove approximately 500 tags weekly.
- 3.9.5. The MHRCs, which operate in the area when a Love Your Environment Day is held, have proven to be a great success. Across all of their activity during the last 12 months they have collected more than 2,500 tonnes of waste directly from residents, part of the 4,400 tonnes picked up since their introduction in the city in the summer of 2021.
- 3.9.6. We continue to offer a range of pest control services, with a free-of-charge service offered for the treatment of rats. During 2022/23, we received 14,309 requests for assistance of all types relating to pest control (which can include problems as varied as cockroaches, bedbugs, wasps, fleas, ants and mice as well as rats). Of these, 12,834 were to resolve problems associated with rats either in gardens or within domestic properties. Into this year, there continues to be a high demand for our free rat treatment service, but unfortunately we receive a large number of incorrect reports which are actually related to mice.
- 3.9.7. Pest Control has continued to liaise and promote our Property Clearance Service to internal (particularly Birmingham Property Services) and external partners. The role has grown in terms of capability, size of land and size of contracts. In addition, work enquiries for clearance work have increased. We work with Land and Property Team clearing their land and properties of rubbish and overgrowth and we also support the returning of land which has been adversely affected by unauthorised encampments and has waste and human waste on it.

3.10. Street Scene (fly-tipping)- operational updates

3.10.1. Since the introduction of a range of initiatives in July 2021, there has been a marked reduction in fly-tipping across the city, a position that has continued to improve in the last 12 months. The initiatives include the MHRCs, additional sack collection rounds, fly-tipping crews, 20 additional CCTV cameras, six additional enforcement officers and teams to oversee Love Your Environment activity.

3.10.2. There was a step change between the reported incidents in 2021 and 2022. So far in 2023, the numbers are still tracking below those reported in 2022.

FLYTIPPING: NUMBER OF WEEKLY REPORTS OF FLY TIPPING (YEARLY COMPARISON)

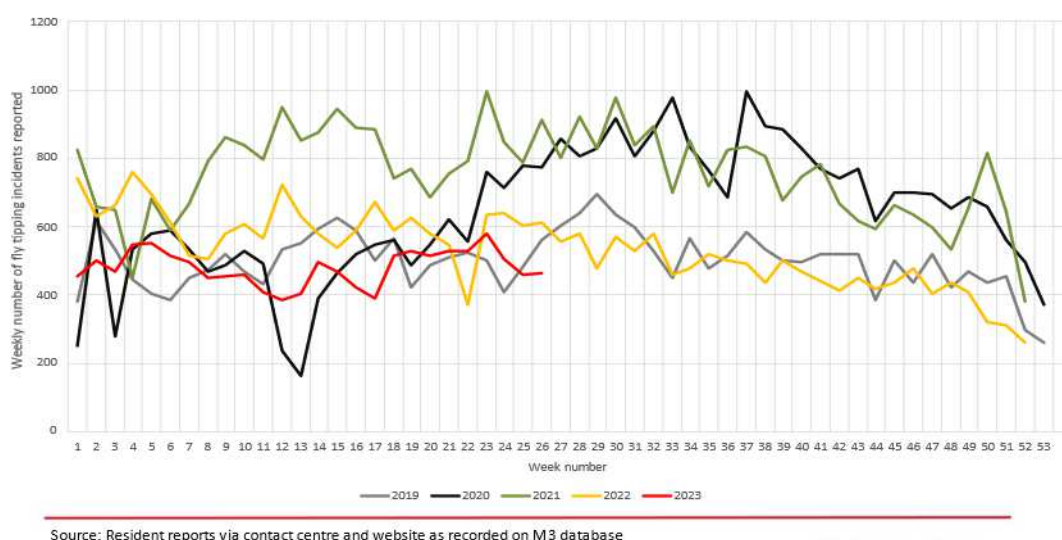


Figure 3: Weekly reported fly tipping yearly comparison

3.10.3. Ultimately, the condition of our streets is assessed and evaluated by an independent team using the Land Audit Management System (LAMS), a recognised benchmarking standard across the sector nationally.

3.10.4. Over the last 12 months, performance has been consistent, with 95 per cent of inspected streets regularly achieving the recognised standard. This represents a period of sustained improvement when compared to the summer of 2021 when the figure was 75 per cent.

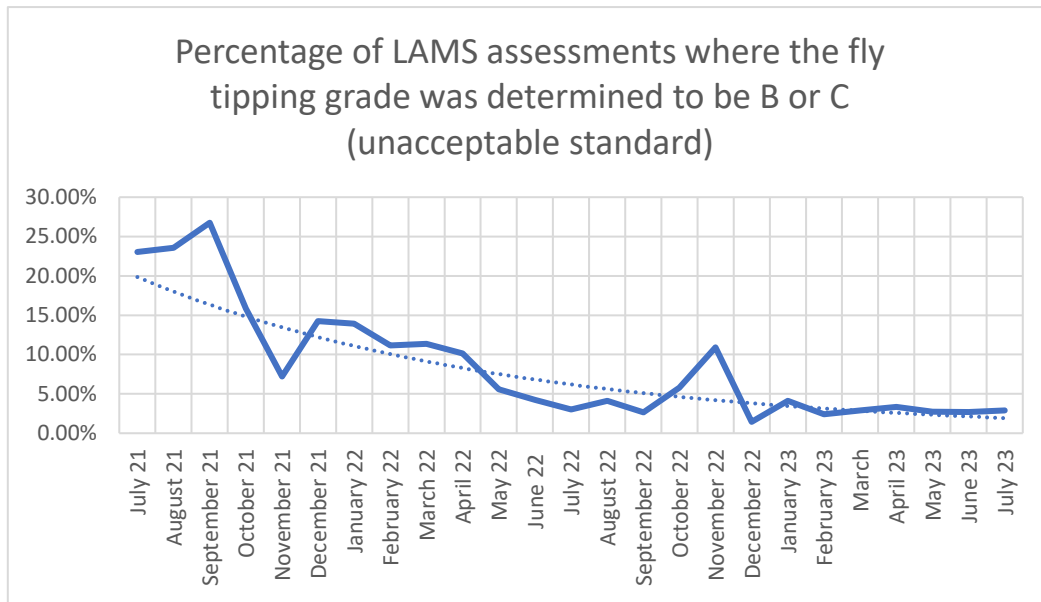


Figure 4: Percentage of LAMS assessments where the fly tipping grade was determined to be B or C

3.11. Route to Net Zero (R20)

- 3.11.1. As per the unanimously-passed climate emergency declaration of 2019, there is a formal commitment to take action to reduce the city's carbon emissions and limit the climate crisis. The ambition was set for the council and city to become net zero carbon by 2030, or as soon as possible thereafter as a 'just transition' allows – ensuring we reduce inequalities in the city and bring our communities with us. This is the city's 'route to zero.'
- 3.11.2. The council has been clear that its initiatives and activity will facilitate carbon emissions reduction and build climate resilience into policies and practice. The council will reduce its own carbon emissions as well as fostering existing external relations, enabling behaviour change through informative calls to action and facilitating new community and public-private sector partnerships to build investment and delivery capacity to make our city carbon neutral.
- 3.11.3. In terms of the ambition to be a City of Nature, the council has laid out a vision to create sustainable green spaces to help tackle climate change and improve biodiversity, creating attractive neighbourhoods and providing places for families, friends, and communities to come together.

3.11.4. R20 and waste management

- 3.11.4.1. The management of waste has an integral part to play in the R20 programme. Municipal waste makes up about 20 per cent of the city's waste and related processing of around 499,000 tonnes each year. A piece of work has been started to explore and identify the whole waste journey in and out of the city.
- 3.11.4.2. There is already significant work at local universities and within industry to find sustainable solutions for our waste streams. There is a collective aim to move away from the term "waste", thinking instead about finding valuable resources in material no longer wanted by the original owner.
- 3.11.4.3. Technological solutions are advancing at pace but will need time to develop and mature into mainstream industry options. The council wants to be at the forefront of this exciting work and find ways to enable a transition to new processing technologies that are suitable for the needs of the growing city as soon as possible.
- 3.11.4.4. The use of the ERF is a challenge in this context. Since 1994, it has been a reliable and trusted process to dispose of all of the waste that cannot be recycled.
- 3.11.4.5. The newly-awarded disposal contract is one that, at this moment in time, offers the best all-round solution that will carry the city through a transitional decade as new technologies and solutions emerge that offer alternatives that will support strategic aims.

3.11.5. R20 workstream updates- Climate Change mitigation

- 3.11.5.1.**Annual Report** – A full update on the route to net zero carbon programme was approved at City Council on 7 February 2023. The next update, utilising a refreshed format that will demonstrate progress in a more tangible way, is due to be published in January 2024.
- 3.11.5.2.**Carbon Literacy Training** – Agreement was given by a newly-created programme board to commence with the internal delivery of carbon literacy training and pursue Carbon Literate Organisation bronze certification. The city council will be utilising training and accreditation through the industry-leading Carbon Literacy Project. Programme board support was also given for training for Members and senior officers, and following approval from the Cabinet Member this offer has been extended to all Members. The rollout is now underway, with the first monthly session successfully staged in June.
- 3.11.5.3.**Climate Justice Staff Network** – Proposals for a new staff engagement network were approved in June. Resources have been prepared and a core management committee has been established to facilitate the development of this mechanism.
- 3.11.5.4.**Engagement and communications framework** – A public engagement event was delivered in May to gather consultation comments. The R20 team are working alongside the council's communications team to develop a campaign plan, including support for the 100 Brilliant Days initiative and a programme of activity around COP28.
- 3.11.5.5.**Bolder Greener Bulletin Newsletter** – Established and launched a council climate change newsletter in March, providing bi-monthly updates on council achievements and highlighting the work of others. Subscriptions started at 400 and have risen to 850, with the information published within them shared more widely by recipients and other organisations.
- 3.11.5.6.**Global Destination Sustainability Index (GDS)** – The council took part in the Global Destination Sustainability Index benchmarking exercise for the first time. The GDS-Index measures and benchmarks the sustainability performance of tourism destinations, to drive innovation and regeneration of the tourism industry. Scores are expected in autumn 2023.
- 3.11.5.7.**Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP)** – CDP is a not-for-profit charity that runs the global disclosure system for investors, companies, cities, states and regions to manage their environmental impacts. The council will declare yearly and submitted its 2023 data in June. Scores are expected in autumn 2023.

- 3.11.5.8.**Emissions accounting** – Carbon emissions can be divided into two high level categories: council and city. These two categories can then be divided further into three scopes. Direct emissions are included in scope 1. Indirect emissions are included in scope 2 and scope 3. All council activities are currently being categorised into scope 1/2/3. Evaluation of scope 1 and 2 council emissions is now underway. This will produce an inventory of council scope 1 and 2 emissions and will be accompanied by a review of data availability/quality and recommendations to improve future data collection and reporting. This will form part of the scoping activities taking place as part of the strategy work. Expanding on the scope 1 and 2 work above, the next tranche of emissions we will look at are the council's scope 3 emissions. The council needs to consider and clarify its role and approach to tackling city-wide emissions, which will inform its 'city' decarbonisation strategy. Evaluation is underway to establish a plan of work to produce an evidence base for strategy work in-house. A paper is set to be written, outlining how this varies depending on whether the council decides to adopt financial, equity or operational control.
- 3.11.5.9.**Environment and Sustainability assessments (ESA)** – A review of the ESA process is underway. ESA assessments currently accompany council and cabinet reports, where applicable. An initial draft of a revamped ESA template has been produced and an accompanying guidance document is in the final stages of development. The template includes the evaluation of both climate mitigation and natural environment impacts. An initial trial will be run with a selection of projects within the Place, Prosperity and Sustainability directorate.
- 3.11.5.10.**Local Development Plan Review** – New ambitious net zero policies currently being drafted and will be published for public consultation in February 2024.
- 3.11.5.11.**Low Carbon Homes Retrofit Summit** - Commissioned by the R20 team, Low Carbon Homes alongside a range of internal and external stakeholders from across the city worked to organise and deliver the Birmingham Retrofit summit in December. The event brought together a wide range of speakers to discuss the challenges around retrofit and the opportunities to alleviate fuel poverty and support carbon emissions reduction. Over 150 retrofit professionals signed up to attend. By bringing together council officers, housing providers, community groups and local businesses to explore how we can better work together, the event helped demonstrate the council's commitment and leadership on retrofit.
- 3.11.5.12.**Retrofit Schemes** – Over the last year, the R20 team has supporting housing colleagues on a variety of projects including:
- **Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund** – £24.8million secured. The bid was led by The City Housing Directorate, with support provided by the R20 team to coordinate work between the 3 Cities Retrofit programme and WMCA. The funds will be spent over the next two years on various retrofit measures from whole house schemes to support for both low-rise and high-rise flats;

- **LADs (Sustainable Warmth Scheme)** – R20 team building upon success of previous scheme. LADs 3 programme in delivery. 270 homes completed, on track to deliver c.600 by September 2023;
- **Energy Company Obligation 4** – The ECO4 scheme will see the installation of energy efficiency measures to private and social homes of households receiving means-tested benefits. Properties must be at least an EPC level D to qualify. This programme is delivered by qualified installers working with the energy companies for funding. ECO Flex provides the ability for the council to identify additional households who are not on means-tested benefits but are at risk of cold homes/fuel poverty;
- **Retrofit Upskilling** - A skills partnership has been signed with Retrofit Academy to assess supply chain gaps. The council will work with education providers to develop skills courses and support local businesses to scale up to meet (and benefit from) the retrofit challenge;
- **3 Cities Whole House Retrofit** – The 3 Cities is a unique collaboration between the cities of Birmingham, Coventry and Wolverhampton, working together to make the cities great places to live, work and play. By working together, there is an aim to bring additionality, driving pace and scale in addressing complex retrofit issues and opportunities together;
- **Bromford Housing Retrofit** – The £28.2million 3 Cities Whole House Retrofit (WHR) Pilot aims to test two different approaches to improve thermal efficiency, reduce carbon emissions and improve tenants’ energy demand usage, with a view to scaling up the delivery of whole house retrofit across the council’s wider Housing Revenue Account stock. The programme is now in the Initial Solution Rollout phase. It has been estimated that homes in Bromford could save up to £1,000 per year on energy bills based on current prices;
- **Housing Stock Surveys** – An Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) assessment has been requested on 1,000 Council properties to assess the accuracy of existing, older, council data due to changes in the assessment methodology. Condition surveys of the council stock is an ongoing requirement, and it is the intention of the draft asset management strategy for a rolling stock condition survey programme to be implemented. It is anticipated that the EPC assessment will be carried out to complement these surveys. Data gained as a result of funding bids such as for the SHDF (Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund) and delivered projects such as the sustainable warmth scheme is being focused upon for use within internal systems to build a better picture of the EPC levels of our stock and compare with existing data and inaccuracies of nationally-held data;
- **Housing Decarbonisation Plan** – Housing stock surveys will feed into this. A procurement process has been progressed and an appointment and commencement is expected in October. This work will lead to clarity and alignment

of housing decarbonisation standards and targets along with a detailed route map to delivery.

- 3.11.5.13.**Heat Network Zoning** – R20 is part of the DESNZ Heat Network Zoning pilot, supporting the development of a zoning policy due to be introduced from 2025. Legislation would mandate connection to existing heat networks, or development of new heat networks where they offer the most cost-effective route for heat decarbonisation. The council is also part of the Accelerated Heat Network Zoning programme for two priority areas: an expansion of the current city centre scheme and a new scheme in east Birmingham. There is potential for east Birmingham to create a Heat Network that produces sufficient energy for itself and feed excess renewable energy into the city centre;
- 3.11.5.14.**Decarbonisation of Birmingham District Energy Scheme** - BDEC (Birmingham District Energy Company) is a strategic asset with the potential to support city centre heat decarbonisation. The network currently supplies over 60,000 megawatt hours of heat, 47,000 megawatts of electricity and 8 megawatt hours of cooling across a 14-kilometre network route. The council secured funding from the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy Heat Networks Delivery Unit to identify a technical, commercial and funding route for decarbonisation of the network and inform the scale of city centre expansion potential. Stage 1 of the study is complete. Stage 2 has begun delivering an in-depth techno-economic analysis of shortlisted options against the agreed growth scenarios in order to then seek agreement for a preferred roadmap route with key stakeholders – to be completed by October 2023. A strategic vision for heat networks across the city is also in development – the BDEC network roadmap will be informed/feed into this;
- 3.11.5.15.**Fast Followers Bid** – £299,349 has been secured from the Innovate UK Fast Followers programme, which will fund employment of a Net Zero Innovation and Delivery Officer (NZIDO) for two years, providing Small & Medium Enterprises-focused net zero readiness in the east Birmingham area. The project started in July with the NZIDO role filled by a job share between two Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership officers with specialisms in net zero. The work programme has been developed and signed off with Innovate UK.

3.11.6. Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience

- 3.11.6.1. Climate Risks and Vulnerability Assessment** - In February 2022 the council adopted an Environmental Justice Map for Birmingham which is believed to be a UK first. Subsequently, the council's central GIS mapping team has worked with the University of Birmingham research team, to re-work the existing Environmental Justice Map by combining new GIS layers such as Urban Heat Island and Climate Zone. Introducing these missing GIS layers has created a map of Climate Change Risk and therefore an indication of vulnerability of our citizens to these risks. This step has made Birmingham the second city in the UK to have a fully compliant Climate Risk & Vulnerability Assessment. Through a successful European Horizon bid, £1.2million has been secured for the University of Birmingham and the City Council, in partnership with the UK Met Office, to explore the use of new satellite-derived heat imaging. This work will guide and improve the development of data-driven decision making in relation to the use of nature-based solutions over traditional methods to tackle climate risk and vulnerability;
- 3.11.6.2. Urban Nature Development Programme (UND)** – This is an 18-month continuation of the Future Parks Accelerator programme that developed the City of Nature 25 Year Plan (adopted February 2022) and is further developing and implementing practices and processes as part of delivery. This programme is externally funded through the National Heritage Lottery Fund;
- 3.11.6.3. Local Nature Recovery Network and Biodiversity Net Gain** – Under the mandate set by the Environment Act 2021, new development will need to deliver measurable increases in Biodiversity (Biodiversity Net Gain) from November 2023. Local authorities are required to have a nature recovery network defined and to have identified opportunity sites for delivery of biodiversity net gain where this cannot be delivered within the development boundary. As off-site net gain must be funded by developers for a minimum of 30 years, this offers a significant opportunity to secure investment in the council's open spaces and make them more nature rich. Through the UND programme, a Nature Recovery Network has been defined and open spaces within that identified. This consists of 156 sites within the core ecological network and 470 within the primary ecological expansion zone. Work is progressing through a commission with the Birmingham and the Black Country Wildlife Trust and Clarkson & Woods ecological consultants to undertake ecological baseline assessments of 27 sites using the national Biodiversity Net Gain metrics and habitat condition assessment to quantify the opportunities to support habitat enhancement. The data from these surveys will be available from September 2023;

- 3.11.6.4.**Future Parks Standard** – Through the UND programme, the refinement of a Future Parks Standard has continued. The Future Parks Standard is an assessment process that considers parks and open space for quality, their ability to meet the needs of local communities as well as their biodiversity value and ability to deliver climate adaptation services and be resilient to climate change. From this assessment an action plan can be derived to ensure all spaces meet a “Minimum Standard”. The intention is to assess all of Birmingham's parks and open spaces against this standard and deliver equity of provision equal to “Fair” against the Green Flag standards. Since September 2022, the Future Parks Standard has been trialled and tested against 44 green spaces in the priority Environmental Justice wards of Nechells, Gravelly Hill, Pype Hayes, Castle Vale and Balsall Heath West – with key interventions identified, in partnership with communities, for implementation;
- 3.11.6.5.**Green Infrastructure Opportunities Strategy for east Birmingham** – Funded through the UND programme and using the Environmental Justice, Climate Risk and Nature Recovery Mapping, work is underway to develop an “opportunities” map for the East Birmingham Inclusive Growth area. This mapping identifies gaps in existing network provision and creates a schedule of opportunity locations for green infrastructure interventions to meet both the shortfall in equitable provision and climate adaptation services. Twelve “opportunities” will be worked up across a 4-Tier Climate Adaptation Ambition Ladder and will include draft costings with a view to securing delivery investment;
- 3.11.6.6.**City of Nature Alliance** – The City of Nature Alliance started to aid the delivery of the City of Nature 25 Year Plan and continues to add new groups and organisations. Formed of a wide range of local delivery organisations including The Active Wellbeing Society, Birmingham Tree People, Birmingham Open Spaces Forum, and the Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust, the alliance also includes national organisations such as the RSPB. These organisations are continuing to deliver within the priority Environmental Justice wards, seeking and securing funding and engaging local communities with their green spaces;
- 3.11.6.7.**Green Champions Network** – Finding and supporting residents who are passionate about their local communities, environment and taking positive action is essential to the long-term sustainability of the City of Nature Plan. Through the UND programme, the Green Champion Co-ordinator is facilitating requests and linking up opportunities for training and development with those community champions wishing to expand their knowledge around green space management and climate change. A monthly Green Champions Newsletter is circulated via email to 300 green champions and published to social media networks too;

- 3.11.6.8.**Urban Forest Accelerator (UFA)** - The Urban Forest Accelerator is an externally funded programme that supports the delivery of our Urban Forest Master Plan which was adopted in November 2021 and the formation of a national “toolkit” that draws on the leading position Birmingham has in Urban Forest Management. A key output for this year is the development of a national web map of “Tree Equity Scores” for urban areas produced by the Woodland Trust, working from our own Priority Tree Planting Platform (using Canopy Cover, Urban Heat Island, Flood Risk, Air Quality and IMD data) which was co-created with Birmingham Tree People (BTP). In addition, the funding has supported the recruitment of two part-time roles within BTP, one around communications and one for community engagement. Through partnership with BTP, around £90,000 has been secured from external grants to support community tree planting in priority locations this winter;
- 3.11.6.9.**Natural Rivers and Green Corridors Phase 2** – Following the successful completion of the £1.7million grant-funded phase one programme, a further £500,000 has been secured by the Environment Agency to deliver phase two. While focusing on delivering water improvements and biodiversity enhancement, the water course and habitat interventions will co-deliver improvements in flood risk resilience in the EA’s priority areas of the Upper Rea catchment in Bartley Green, Harborne, Longbridge, Northfield and Bournville;
- 3.11.6.10.**Selly Park Flood Defence Scheme** – The Environment Agency, in partnership with the council, is delivering a further phase of flood defence within the Selly Park area, located on Pebble Mill Playing Fields (adjoining the River Rea). While increasing the level of protection afforded to hundreds of residents from both surface water and river flooding arising from climate change, the scheme will deliver significant ecological enhancements;
- 3.11.6.11.**Bromford Flood Risk Management Scheme** – Work on this project, in conjunction with the Environment Agency, has continued. Designed to reduce the risk of river flooding to 1,589 residential properties (with 893 homes protected on the River Tame right bank and 696 homes protected on the left bank in Bromford and Castle Vale), it will also reduce the risk of river flooding to 42 non-residential properties. The works are predicted to help prevent £321million of flood damages. In February environmental enhancements including extensive tree planting and wildflower meadows were undertaken as part of the wider scheme.
- 3.11.6.12.**Local Development Plan Review** – As part of the Local Development Plan Review, existing policies and the evidence base on green infrastructure are being refreshed to bring these in line with new legislation and an increasing focus on data relating to the Climate Change agenda. These revised/refreshed policies and evidence base will support the aims and objectives of the City of Nature 25 year plan and Our Future City Plan Development Framework. New and revised policy proposals include: Biodiversity Net Gain; Ecological Networks and Nature Recovery (new); Green Infrastructure; Open Space (provision of); Urban Greening Factor (new); Flood Risk Management; Water Quality and Resources; and The Green Belt.

3.11.7. R20 governance

3.11.7.1. Programme Board

- A new Climate Change, Nature and Net Zero Programme Board has been set up, effective as of January 2023 and is meeting quarterly. The group is chaired by the Strategic Director of Place, Prosperity and Sustainability.
- The objective of the group is to determine and oversee the activities required to deliver the council's Climate Change and Net Zero strategy. In addition, its remit is to ensure the programme is delivered through a structured, cohesive and coordinated approach.
- To ensure the objective is delivered, the board is made up of strategic directors from across the council.

3.11.7.2. Advisory Committee

- A cross-party political membership group has also been revived to sit alongside the programme board. Re-named as the Climate Change, Nature and Net Zero Advisory Committee, it is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Environment.
- The group meets quarterly in line with the programme board timeline.
- The objective of the group is to advocate and support the strategic objectives of the Climate Change, Nature and Net Zero programme.

3.11.7.3. Future portfolio considerations

- As mentioned in passing earlier in this report, the Environment Act came into effect in 2021 and has a number of portfolio implications. During the year, an officer team has met to discuss any new developments and to shape plans to ensure consistency and compliance with the Act.
- This work has also included interaction with DEFRA, and we have representation on a sounding board led by the Department, looking at implications of the new legislation for the city. The main areas where change will be needed are:
 - The mandated consistency of waste collections;
 - The introduction of food waste collections;
 - A returns programme for some materials (but not glass);
 - Tracking waste digitally;
 - Improving regulators' effectiveness in tackling waste crime;
 - The introduction of mandatory segregation of trade waste;

- The strengthening of the duty on public bodies to conserve and enhance biodiversity;
- A requirement for local nature recovery strategies;
- A mandated net gain in biodiversity through the planning system.

3.11.7.4.Birmingham stands ready to meet the requirements that come from the Act. Work on all these areas will continue in the year ahead, and the city's implementation plans will be finalised once further clarity is received from the Government on matters such as exact detail and related resourcing.

3.12. **Appendix A**

Route to Net Zero Annual Report 2022 - [CMIS > Meetings](#)

4. Transport Portfolio

- 4.1. This report presents an annual update from across Transport and Highways, focusing on a selection of key areas. A more comprehensive update of work from across the portfolio is available in appendix B.

Key Updates from Transport

4.2. Delivering the Birmingham Transport Plan

- 4.2.1. The Birmingham Transport Plan (BTP) was adopted by full Council on 12 October 2021 and sets out the vision and objectives for the city. The emerging BTP Delivery Plan identifies projects and policies which are needed to deliver this. Transport schemes within the current Transportation and Highways Capital Programme, which are being developed and delivered, are all aligned with the BTP. These will be incorporated into the Delivery Plan alongside further interventions. The Delivery Plan is a live document and will be published in autumn 2023.
- 4.2.2. Whilst responding to a range of social, economic and environmental imperatives, the scale and pace of change set out by the Delivery Plan reflects the urgent and drastic need to decarbonise transport with the over-arching aim to achieve net zero emissions by 2030. For the last two decades, transport policy has focused on promotion of sustainable modes over private car use, and this remains. Whilst softer interventions, including behavioural change measures tackling the travel choices of certain users, will continue to support the proposed physical interventions our approach will be more direct and urgent.
- 4.2.3. In striving to achieve net zero by 2030, the BTP Delivery Plan contains three key targets needed to tackle a reduction in emissions:
- **27% through business-as-usual** – As set out by the following project updates, we will continue with the current rate of growth and pace of intervention.
 - **36% through fleet decarbonisation** – Increase the proportion of Electric Vehicles (EVs), efficiency of the existing fleet through lower speed limits and deliver the rollout of 3,630 EV charging points.
 - **37% through vehicle kilometre reduction** – Reducing the distances travelled, avoiding trips, and shifting to more sustainable modes. Whilst aiming to create ‘low traffic conditions’ in one third of our wards by 2030, there will be a 100% reduction in traffic routing through the city centre.

4.2.4. Integration of land-use planning and transport planning also plays a key role in the Delivery Plan. This can successfully deliver inclusive growth connecting people to employment opportunities, releasing land for homes where car parking is no longer needed, and helping people to lead healthy and sustainable lives in a growing city centre. There is continued work with the Planning team to develop land-use strategies including Our Future City Plan and Birmingham Local Plan.

4.2.5. Delivery of the BTP aligns with and supports the key corporate priorities set out by council-wide documents including the BCC Corporate Plan 2022 – 26, Our Future City Plan, Route to Zero and East Birmingham Growth Strategy through:

- **Greater economic prosperity** – support inclusive growth and development, improving access to opportunities including jobs and education.
- **Greater inclusivity/equity** – continue to develop solutions and seek opportunities in relation to accessible transport, pursuing community-based activities and, continuing to improve opportunities for more sustainable travel to school by pupils and their parents/carers.
- **Improved safety** – working alongside regional partners such as the West Midlands Police, continue to improve road safety and reduce road traffic collisions.
- **Improving health and wellbeing** – continue to increase levels of physical activity through improving provisions for active travel and particularly for those who may not currently engage in it as much.
- **Creating a greener city** – continuing to monitor the Clean Air Zone and develop schemes to support and enhance its benefits, continue to improve access to green and blue spaces across the city and in particular as part of local centres and any new developments.

- 4.2.6. On 26 April 2023, we proudly hosted the **Birmingham Transport Summit**. This was attended by over 150 attendees including politicians, key stakeholders, private sector representatives and partners and BCC Officers from across the Authority.
- 4.2.7. The summit was used to showcase the aims, objectives, principles and targets of the BTP Delivery Plan to colleagues, stakeholders and peers. We were also delighted to welcome a number of speakers and panellists from across the UK and Europe, who shared their experiences of transforming urban areas previously blighted by vehicular traffic into attractive, accessible liveable cities.
- 4.2.8. The keynote speaker was Pascal Smet; State Secretary of the Brussels-Capital Region of Belgium with responsibility for Urbanism and Heritage. Like many similar capital cities, Brussels' cherished public spaces had become progressively degraded over time as vehicular traffic volumes increased. Mr Smet delivered a thoroughly inspirational presentation, setting out the ambitious approach taken by the Brussels City Region to gradually remove vehicular traffic from Brussels city centre, whilst investing in systemic improvements to active travel and public transport infrastructure and services. In particular, some key messages included the importance of listening to those who say nothing (the silent majority), the importance of using visual representations to help stakeholders to embrace and understand project aims and objectives, and to constantly talk about and maintain focus on objectives to give residents what they need, even if this might not necessarily be what they want!
- 4.2.9. Cllr Clyde Loakes of London Borough of Waltham Forest provided an informative presentation about their experiences of delivering a 'Mini Holland'; removing traffic from residential streets and transforming the area into a more attractive, liveable neighbourhood. Evidence from these schemes suggested that the approach has led to significant reductions in road traffic collisions, increased property values and reduced crime, not to mention greater use and enjoyment of the public realm.
- 4.2.10. Following this, Jason Gooding, Head of Parking and Transport Services and Nottingham City Council gave a presentation about the City's ground-breaking Workplace Parking Levy. This fiscal measure has been used to break car dependency in Nottingham, instead investing heavily in public transport, active travel and public realm improvements and support to deliver mass modal shift, growth and economic prosperity. The Workplace Parking Levy is now over 10 years old and continues to deliver a range of benefits to Nottingham, not least significantly improving equity of access to services and facilities for all.
- 4.2.11. It was also a pleasure to welcome Cllr Duncan Enright, Cabinet Member for Transport at Oxfordshire County Council. The Cabinet Member provided a candid, informative presentation about the County Council's experiences of delivering Low Traffic Neighbourhoods in Oxford, including their management of significant misinformation campaigns which reached an international audience. Cllr Enright made clear the importance of evidence-led decision making and focussed public consultation and engagement to protect schemes from being undermined by vocal minorities.

4.3. Road Safety – Vision Zero

4.3.1. The levels of road safety experienced by both drivers and other transport users continues to be improved across the city ranging from local neighbourhoods to the key route network. Transitioning away from a traditional approach towards road safety, we strive to align our work with Healthy Streets principles (see Figure 5) through placing the emphasis on improving the experience of our streets for all residents, as well as visitors to the city.

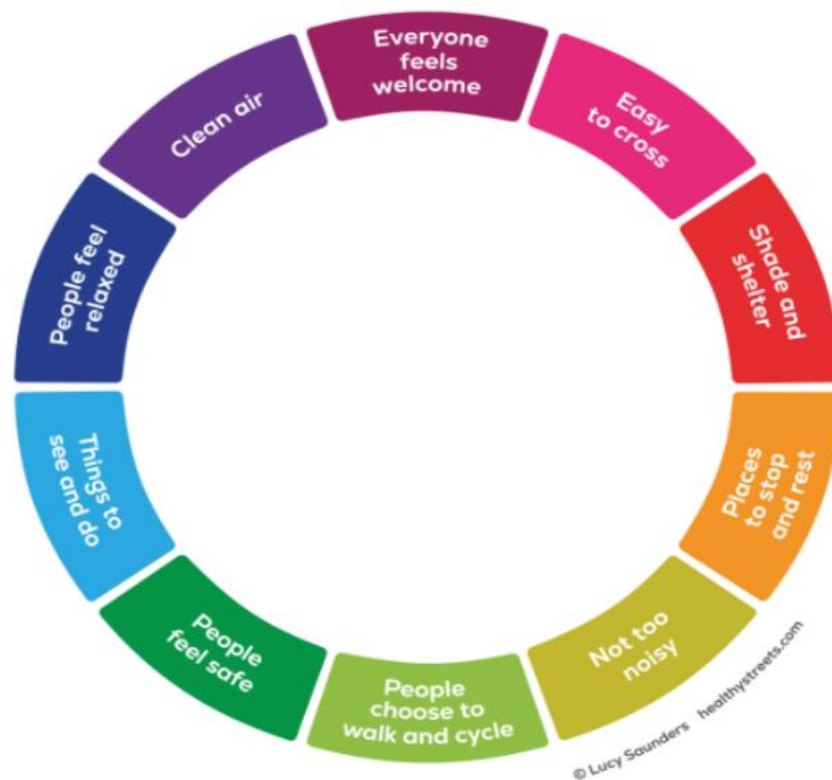


Figure 5: Healthy Streets Principles. Source <https://www.healthystreets.com/>

- 4.3.2. A refreshed Road Safety Strategy, titled '**Healthy Streets for Birmingham**' is currently in development. This will include a bold, transformational 'Vision Zero' aligned approach to improving road safety citywide. It will set out the following objectives: Creating Places for People by transforming Birmingham's neighbourhoods by applying healthy streets principles to create liveable, inclusive environments where people come first; To significantly reduce privately operated vehicular traffic using residential (non-arterial) roads, as this is a key determinant of road safety risk; and, To ensure appropriate design standards are applied to arterial routes, to ensure a safe environment is maintained for all users, regardless of ability or circumstances.
- 4.3.3. In pursuit of Vision Zero, we are continuing to push forward the introduction of new speed limits across the city. A priority scheme is currently underway to reduce all existing urban 40mph speed limit roads in Birmingham to 30mph, to standardise the speed limit on arterial routes across the city, in preparation for enhanced enforcement. Regarding progress on the introduction of a city-wide 20mph speed limit for all local roads, an Outline Business Case is currently in development to include all residential roads in 'Area B3' (North Edgbaston, Handsworth, Soho and Lozells). A Stakeholder Engagement Report has recently been completed.
- 4.3.4. Supporting the pedestrian experience, we also have an ambition to roll-out pedestrian crossing signal timing improvements across the city. Improvements have so far been delivered at five pedestrian crossings in Harborne which have resulted in a significantly shorter waiting time compared with previously. This is particularly important in achieving equity by ensuring that those who may require longer to cross a road safely, such as those with a physical disability, are able to do so.
- 4.3.5. Aligned with our strategic ambitions, in partnership with West Midlands Police, we are now working towards a zero-tolerance approach to enforcement, where inappropriately parked cars that cause an obstruction are towed away and significantly more speeding vehicles are caught, fined and prosecuted as part of a major uplift in pan-organisational enforcement capability. Following an application for powers earlier in 2023, the Designation Order necessary to enable civil enforcement of moving traffic contraventions in Birmingham came into force on 22 July 2023.
- 4.3.6. The Order designates Birmingham City Council as a civil enforcement area for moving traffic contraventions, such as making banned right turns, failing to observe no entry restrictions, driving in mandatory cycle lanes, and occupying yellow box junctions.

4.4. Brum Breathes Clean Air Strategy

4.4.1. The Brum Breathes Clean Air Strategy was launched in January 2022. The strategy builds upon the statutory obligations of the Council in terms of the monitoring and enforcement of air quality standards by setting a more ambitious vision of a clean air city where everyone who lives and works in the city can reap the benefits of improved air quality. The strategy also sets a set of strategic principles that are helping to guide priority setting and decision making relating around the two air pollutants of greatest concern – nitrogen dioxide and particulates.

4.4.2. Achievements to date

4.4.2.1. The rollout of indicative monitors to 68 schools across the city. The data from these sensors is available to the public (<https://airly.org/map/en>) and is part of a broader programme to help build awareness around the issues associated with poor air quality and its sources. As part of the offer of an air quality monitor to schools there is the offer of educational resources as well as access to other related programmes and schemes from across the Council, including Clean Air Cops, Safe School Streets, Mode Shift STARS etc. The second phase of this programme (where all schools in Birmingham will be offered an air quality monitor) is scheduled to launch in early 2024.

4.4.2.2. The launch of the Brum Breathes Fund. The Brum Breathes Fund was launched in June 2023 and is intended to support locality-based initiatives that address the sources of poor air quality and, through this work, encourage more people to adopt public transport or more active modes of travel over private vehicles, especially for shorter journeys.

4.5. Clean Air Zone

4.5.1. The Clean Air Zone was introduced in response to the public health issues caused by poor air quality. And, more specifically, to reduce the levels of the air pollutant nitrogen dioxide to within the legal limit in the shortest possible time.

4.5.2. The single biggest source of nitrogen dioxide is road traffic. The Zone enables the city to directly address this challenge by applying a daily fee to the most polluting vehicles on our roads. The aim is to encourage the owners and drivers of these vehicles to upgrade or replace these 'non-compliant' vehicles and/or change their travel behaviour by avoiding the Zone altogether or making greater use of public transport or more active forms of travel. On that basis the Zone is intended to deliver direct benefits in terms of public health and to act as an enabler of broader change in travel behaviours in line with the desired outcomes of the Birmingham Transport Plan and the Route to Zero programme.

4.5.3. Achievements to date

4.5.4. As demonstrated by Figure 6 below, since the launch of the Zone in June 2021 the percentage of non-compliant vehicles entering the city centre has more than halved (from 15.2% in June 2021 to 6% in June 2023).

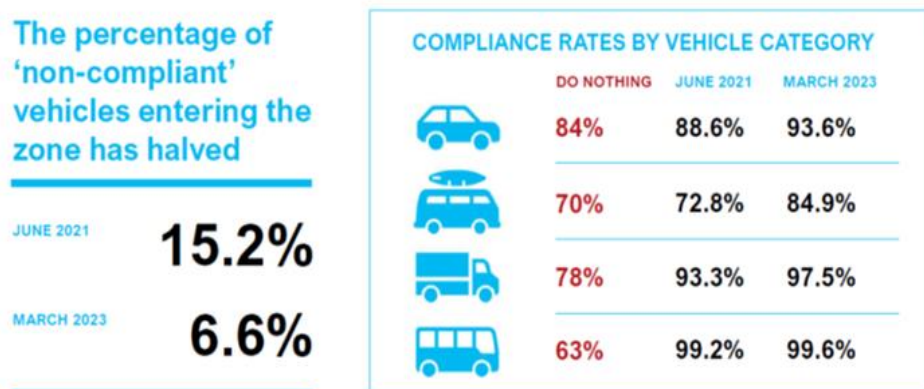


Figure 6: Clean Air Zone March 2023 vs June 2021 Statistics. Source: BCC

4.5.5. The interim impact assessment (March 2022) suggested that since the introduction of the scheme the levels of nitrogen dioxide in the city centre had reduced by an average of 13% (when compared with 2019).

4.5.6. The net surplus revenues from the scheme are being used to support longer term improvements to the transport infrastructure of the city. Up to March 2023 the scheme had generated c. £53m in net surplus revenues. These revenues have been allocated to the trial of hydrogen-fuelled buses, improvements to key rail stations, the cross-city bus scheme, pedestrianisation schemes in the city centre, expansion of the Safe School Streets programme and the expansion of the Big Birmingham Bikes programme.

4.5.7. Future net surplus revenues from the scheme will be used to support the strategic programmes that sit within the Birmingham Transport Plan.

Key Updates from Highways

4.6. Highways Private Finance Initiative (PFI)

4.6.1. Re-procurement for the long-term PFI sub-contract commenced formally in February 2022. There were two qualified bidders and final tenders were received in July 2023. The revised long-term contract is expected to start on 1 February 2024.

4.6.2. During the interim period for the re-procurement and restructuring of the PFI contract, we worked with Birmingham Highways Ltd and Kier to stabilise service performance on the network. Over £140m has been made available to deliver investment works up to summer 2023.

4.7. Management & Delivery of the Investment Works

4.7.1. During the interim phase of the PFI contract, the technical team responsible for the management of the highway assets devised annual programmes of investment works. These also included schemes supporting the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

4.7.2. The works have been delivered through a close collaborative partnership between the Council, Birmingham Highways Ltd, Kier, Arcadis, Tarmac and the supply chain. The approach has led to several industry awards including innovation and carbon reduction supporting the City's climate change emergency declaration in 2019.

4.7.3. The quantity of resurfacing works over the past 12 months to July 2023 is set out in the table below. In addition, over 32,000 dangerous defects were attended by our maintenance subcontractor.

Surfacing Programmes	Carriageway Sq.m	Footway Sq.m	Total Sq.m
June 2022 to July 2023	394,326	54,044	448,370

4.8. Traffic Management - New Roads & Street Works Permit Team (New Service)

4.8.1. Operating under the powers of the Traffic Management Act 2004, the Council went live as a Permitting Authority on the 1 March 2023. Becoming a Permitting Authority will allow the Council to better manage activities on our highway network, as well as minimising disruption caused on the highway by street and road works.

4.8.2. The new permitting team consists of 29 staff. (Currently two vacancies remaining)

4.8.3. Progress to date (at 28 July 2023):

- Provisional Advanced Authorisations (PAAs) Approved - 1,825
- Permits Granted - 16,441
- Permits Rejected - 1,522
- Permit Approval Rate - 91.5%
- Inspections Completed - 2,601
- Inspections Pass Rate - 84.0%

4.8.4. To date, the Permit Team have generated sufficient income from permitting and associated penalty income for poor performance by Utility providers to adequately cover the operating costs of the scheme. It is a requirement that the scheme operate on a revenue neutral basis, and we have full confidence that this will be the case on an ongoing basis.

4.8.5. We have seen an improvement in service performance together with the operation of the network by working collaboratively with Key stakeholders WMCA, National Express etc, we are also better positioned to deliver more informed communication to assist the wider public using our Highway network.

4.9. Highway Specified Licences (previously known as Highway Permits)

4.9.1. Specified Licences, which operate under both Highways Act 1980 and NRSWA 1991, have seen an increase in the number of applications for licences since 2018.

4.9.2. Following feedback from applicants, we have made improvements to the application system including provision of additional guidance to assist applicants. In 2022/23, we approved 5,693 applications and during 2023/24, we have addressed 2,420 applications as shown in the table below.

Licence Applications	2022/23	2023/24 (up to July)
Cart-Over	7	6
Cranes	264	127
Property Development	191	95
Excavations	55	21
Hoarding	8	8
Scaffolding	105	34
s50 Streetworks	122	65
Temporary Deposits	42	22
Skips	4692	1991
Retrospective	69	15
Amendments	29	14
Renewal/Extension	80	20
Unlicensed Activity	29	2
Total	5,693	2,420

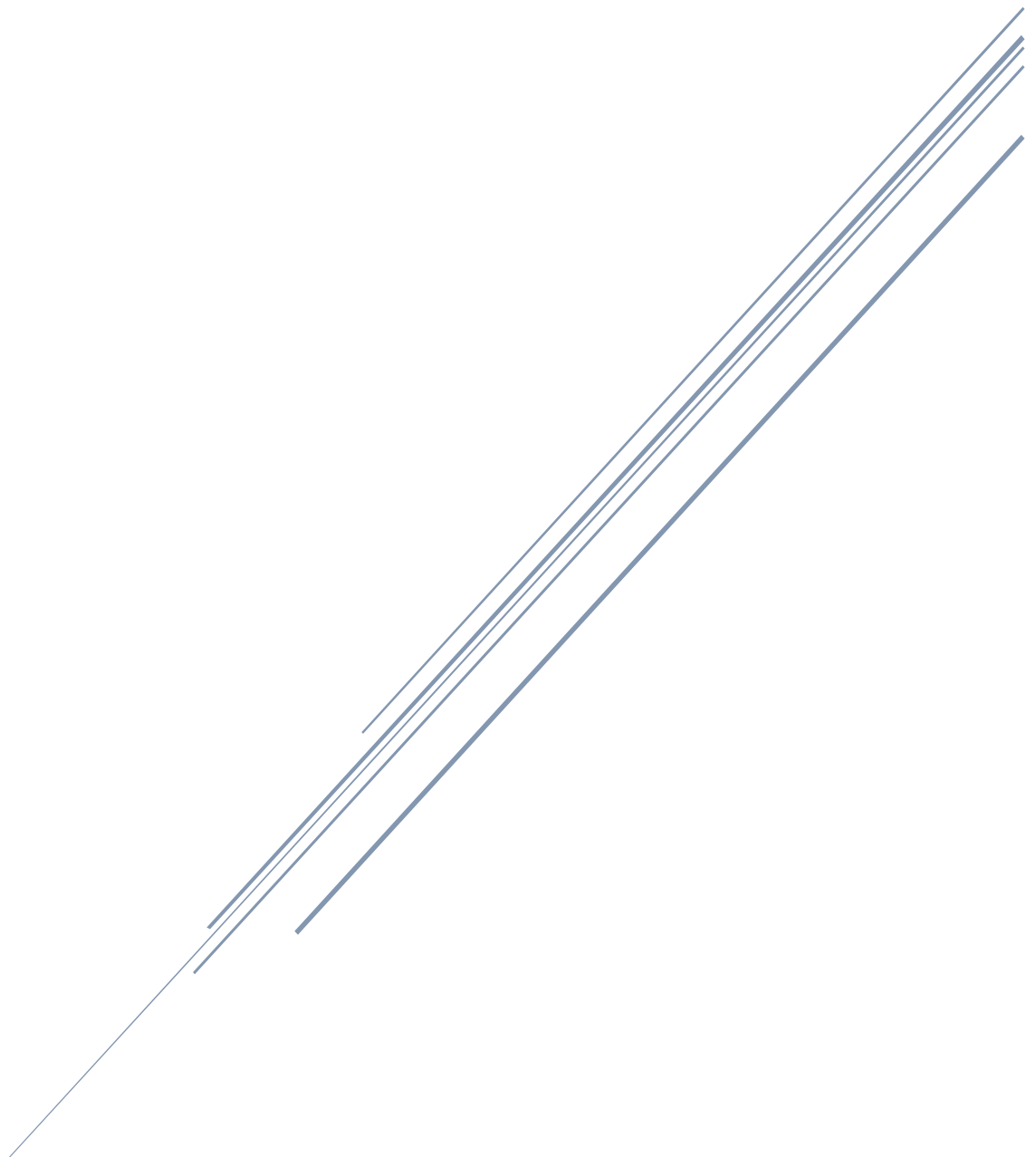
4.10. Flood Risk Management

- 4.10.1. Following the flood events of 11,18 June and 8 July 2023, the Flood Risk Management team sent out hundreds of flood questionnaires and attended significantly affected areas with residents, Councillors, and other risk management authorities to investigate the extent of damages. These events have highlighted a recurring issue of property and infrastructure flooding due to intense rainfall, occurring more frequently than originally predicted.
- 4.10.2. In July 2023, Phase 2 of the Perry Barr and Witton flood alleviation scheme was officially opened in Sandwell Valley Country Park. Partnership working between the Environment Agency, Birmingham City Council and Sandwell Council have ensured that 1,400 properties in Birmingham are better protected and lessens the flood risk from the River Tame. The storage areas can accommodate 1.7 million cubic metres of water with estimated financial benefits for Perry Barr and Witton of over £440 million, facilitating re-development and growth opportunities.
- 4.10.3. Works continue under the Reservoir Act 1975 on statutory works, inspections, and on-site plans to ensure the safe and continuous operation of the Council's eleven large-raised reservoirs. The team works closely with the Parks team for the long-term efficiency of the pools and to retain the historic value of these assets.
- 4.10.4. The Flood Risk Management team has a rolling 6-year programme of schemes which adapts on funding availability and the urgency of implementation. This programme allows for the development of studies and schemes which could be delivered in future years. Birmingham-led projects and works also include flood mitigation, property flood resilience and drainage improvements for other BCC teams and directorates.

4.11. Appendix B – Transport Updates (September 2023)

ROUTE TO NET ZERO ANNUAL REPORT

FEBRUARY 2023



Route to Zero Carbon Team
Place, Prosperity and Sustainability

Contents

Executive Summary.....	3
Chapter 1 - Introduction	6
Birmingham Context	6
What is Net Zero and how does it support climate change?.....	6
Greenhouse Gas Emissions of the City of Birmingham.....	7
Progress on Birmingham's Route to Net Zero	8
Chapter 2 - Project Updates by Theme	11
Buildings.....	11
Buildings: Summary	11
Buildings: Wave 1 Project Updates.....	11
Buildings: New Projects.....	15
Transport.....	21
Transport: Summary	21
Transport: Wave 1 Project Updates.....	22
Transport: New Projects	26
Energy	28
Energy: Summary	28
Energy: New Projects	28
Waste & Circular Economy	31
Waste & Circular Economy: Summary	31
Waste & Circular Economy: Wave 1 Project Updates	31
Waste & Circular Economy: New Projects	32
Nature and the Environment	34
Nature and the Environment: Summary.....	34
Nature and the Environment: Wave 1 Project Updates	34
Nature and the Environment: New Projects.....	35
Procurement	39
Procurement: Summary	39
Procurement: New Projects.....	39
Behaviour Change & Engagement	41
Behaviour Change & Engagement: Summary.....	41
Behaviour Change & Engagement: Wave 1 Project Updates	41
Behaviour Change & Engagement: New Projects.....	42
Communications	47

Communications: Summary.....	47
Communications: New Projects.....	47
Digital & Data	51
Digital & Data: Summary.....	51
Digital & Data: New Projects.....	51
Chapter 4 - Project Level Carbon Emissions Reductions.....	55
Chapter 4 - Next Steps	56
Appendix 1: Wave 1 Projects	57
Appendix 2: UK and International Climate Change Context.....	59
The UK Context	59
International Context.....	60

Executive Summary

Birmingham responded to the increasing public concern and extensive scientific evidence on climate change by unanimously passing a climate emergency declaration at a meeting of the Full Council 11th June 2019 and made the commitment to take action to reduce the city's carbon emissions and limit the climate crisis. The ambition was set for the Council and city to become net zero carbon by 2030, or as soon as possible thereafter as a 'just transition' allows – ensuring we reduce inequalities in the city and bring our communities with us. This is the city's 'route to zero'. An action plan was published in 2020 and commitment made to report on the progress of the route to net zero programme on an annual basis. This report summarises progress made in 2022.

Buildings account for around two thirds of greenhouse gas emissions across the City of Birmingham, with the majority of emissions resulting from the burning of gas for space and water heating. The economic consequences of the pandemic, alongside the recent cost of living crisis means that it has also never been more important to support our citizens to live in more efficient homes that are cheaper to run. The World Health Organisation recognises fuel poverty as one of the most significant causes of poor health. Fuel Poverty is generally defined via the 10% rule, whereby a household needs to spend more than 10% of their income on heating their homes. 2020 estimates show that 21.8% of households in Birmingham are living in fuel poverty, compared to 13.2% for England¹. Birmingham City Council owns 60,000 properties. As the largest local authority housing stockholder in the country, we are harnessing our level of retrofit commitment to drive scaled delivery and supply chain capacity in partnership with Coventry and Wolverhampton Council's as part of the 3 Cities Retrofit. The Council's Cost of Living programme also includes a key workstream on energy efficiency. Alongside access to energy advice and support, we are working with communities and other partners to maximum access to grants to support energy and carbon emissions reductions in the domestic and non-domestic sectors and exploring funding and delivery approaches for large scale energy efficiency and renewable energy investment.

Data from 2020 shows that transport makes up just over a third of the City's carbon dioxide emissions at 34%. We cannot tackle the climate emergency without fundamental changes to the way people and goods move around our city. Companies in the West Midlands are helping to lead the way in global development of new types of vehicles, including self-driving and electric vehicles, offering significant improvements in efficiency and emission levels. But regardless of advancements in technology, private cars will never be able to match the capacity of mass public transport for getting people to where they want to go. The Birmingham Transport Plan, now adopted and in the delivery phase, outlines how the city's transport system needs to be transformed to meet the challenges of the next decade. Action on a robust set of measures to assist with modal shift – increasing the amount of sustainable transport we use – will be integral to our net zero journey.

Energy is a key theme in our route to net zero journey. The Council are currently working on developing a pathway for decarbonising and expanding the existing city centre district energy network. Working in partnership with other large network customers, the network's operator EQUANS and consultants Sustainable Energy Limited, a range of existing and new low carbon heat supply options have been identified. The capacity of the electricity network is a key concern particularly as buildings and transport decarbonisation accelerates and demand for electricity increases. We are reviewing opportunities for expanding renewable and low carbon energy sources in the city as well as demand management through heat and electricity storage and building working

¹ Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, Sub-regional fuel poverty data 2022

relations with utility providers and key local stakeholders such as Tyseley Energy Park to bring forward new infrastructure projects.

With a city net zero goal, reducing waste, reuse and recycling, and solutions to manage and reduce the impact of waste management processes across the city plays a critical role. A large proportion of an organisation's own operational carbon dioxide emissions impact is directly related to the materials and products it consumes and therefore resource efficiency and a circular economy has a key role to play in reducing city and organisational emissions. Planning policy is a significant lever for driving resource efficiency and the Council has existing policy within the local plan that requires sustainable construction practices to be adopted on all new developments. An existing circular economy project in Birmingham uses wood waste from urban parks and roadsides to capture carbon in a biochar suitable for reuse in tree planting. This project is run by Aston University in partnership with the Council. Alongside initial work on a net zero-aligned strategy for waste management in the city, the Council is exploring a wide range of opportunities including the reduction of operational emissions in the waste vehicle fleet and providing facilities to support reuse and repurposing of materials and products. New technologies to support the carbon emissions reduction of waste management process will also be further explored in 2023.

In tackling climate change, it is important to recognise the dual importance of climate change mitigation and adaptation and nature resilience. Adaptation and nature resilience are important for a number of reasons, including reducing the risk of flooding, moderating local temperature, reducing pollution and improving soil quality. From 2023, the Council's climate emergency response will bring together key teams working on both climate change mitigation and adaptation and nature resilience to jointly tackle the City's climate challenges.

A large proportion of the Council's own organisational impact is from the indirect emissions resulting from Council procurement – meaning procurement provides a key opportunity to reduce carbon emissions. To tackle this challenge, procurement has been created as a new defined theme in the Council programme of work. Over the last year, mechanisms have been incorporated into procurement arrangements to enable service areas to set out how contracts to be tendered will support carbon emissions reductions. The programme of work to reduce supply chain impact and support procurement partners will grow in 2023.

Birmingham's net zero ambition can only be realised through collective change by the council and by the city as a whole. Moreover, it is evident that much of this systemic change will need to come from behaviour change of our citizens, our staff, and our businesses. In addition to making net zero a priority at the strategic level, progress is being made to raise the awareness of climate change and the need to act among all our staff. Engagement activity includes staff carbon literacy training. By empowering council officers to put net zero at the forefront of their professional work, we also benefit from their roles as individuals and members of their communities. An exciting programme of engagement is being developed, recognising the need to work hand in hand with businesses and citizens. By engaging with a diverse range of voices we can ensure that Birmingham's progress towards net zero is just and equitable.

Over the last year, a new Strategy, Equality & Partnerships lead has been recruited, alongside a new team working on Partnerships Insight and Prevention. Good work is already underway internally, as well as in coordination with the City's universities. Communications on climate change and our route

to net zero journey are central to achieving our goals. Climate change communication is about simultaneously educating, inspiring and motivating residents to take their own actions to tackle climate change. Events that have taken place this year, including the Commonwealth Games, which had sustainability at its heart, and the PoliNations festival have helped to spread the messages of the climate change, nature and net zero programme.

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Birmingham Context

Birmingham responded to the increasing public concern and extensive scientific evidence on climate change by unanimously passing a climate emergency declaration at a meeting of the Full Council 11th June 2019 and made the commitment to take action to reduce the city's carbon emissions and limit the climate crisis. The ambition was set for the Council and city to become net zero carbon by 2030, or as soon as possible thereafter as a 'just transition' allows – ensuring we reduce inequalities in the city and bring our communities with us. This is the city's 'route to zero'.

On 25th June 2019 the Council's Cabinet agreed to add a new priority to the Council Plan which states that Birmingham will be "a city that takes a leading role in tackling climate change". This commitment will embed climate action in the Council's decision-making process to make sure that all service areas contribute to the Route to Net Zero journey. Following this, the councils corporate plan 2022-2026 was published, which replaces the replaces the Council Plan and sets a vision for 'A Bold Green Birmingham' which includes aims to improve street cleanliness, improve air quality, continue on the Route to Net Zero and be a City of Nature. Acknowledging the Council's role as a leader, major local employer and partner with the local community we wanted to ensure that we are doing all we could to change this path.

What is Net Zero and how does it support climate change?

Net Zero is about achieving a balance between the greenhouse gas emissions (particularly carbon dioxide) emitted into the Earth's atmosphere and those removed from it. It is about reduction down to the lowest possible levels, and then the active removal of the remaining greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere. Achieving Net Zero emissions is important as it's the point at which the greenhouse gas emissions impact of global warming is stopped to well below 2 degrees centigrade; the goal world leaders committed to in a legally binding treaty at United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris in 2015 (the Paris Agreement).

Net Zero is about reducing and removing greenhouse gas (particularly carbon dioxide emissions, the most prevalent greenhouse gas) to mitigate against increasing climate risk. However, even with significant greenhouse gas emissions reduction, the climate is already changing, and we need to plan and prepare for the future climate in the projects and policies we create today, building resilience in the built and natural environment. The Climate Change Committee advocate that we plan for a 2 degree centigrade average annual temperature rise and assess for 4-degrees. Average global annual temperatures have already increased by 1.1 degrees centigrade since the Industrial Revolution and [a study by the UK Met Office](#) predicts that there is a near 50% chance one year in the next five may exceed an increase of 1.5 degrees centigrade.

Commissioned by the West Midlands Combined Authority, and working with the Environment Agency, Sustainability West Midlands have used current UK climate change trends to identify the main climate risks for the region, including Birmingham as a major urban conurbation. The report *Summary of Climate Change Impacts in the West Midlands Combined Authority area*, published in 2022, highlights several direct risks to Birmingham based on UK Climate Projections to 2100:

- Heatwaves could cause an increase in health-related fatalities due to extreme temperatures.
- Hotter, dryer summers could cause water shortages which would affect energy production, industrial activity, and public access to water.
- Wildfires in the area around Birmingham could become more common, particularly as there are a number of moorlands prone to wildfires.

- Flooding could become more common and would carry an additional pollution risk as there are several industrial sites in Birmingham where harmful industrial material and waste could mix with flood water.
- Average temperature increases pose threats to Birmingham's local natural environment such as biodiversity loss, decreasing soil quality, and threats to freshwater species.
- Extreme weather events could cause cascading failure of infrastructure networks and supply chains.

The report also highlights several indirect risks, including:

- Coastal flooding causing a potential influx of residents moving to the region as well as disruption to estuaries and tributaries in the Midlands.
- There could be global food scarcity as crop yields fall internationally.
- There may be increased international violent conflict as a result resource scarcity.

The Climate Change Committee's Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk published in June 2021 highlighted the importance of plans to both achieve Net Zero and climate change resilience building. *'Reducing climate impacts requires both emissions reduction and adaptation. The UK will face significant further changes in climate to 2050 and beyond, even if the world is on a Paris-aligned emissions trajectory. By 2050 the heatwave summer of 2018 will be a typical summer, summer rainfall could fall by as much as 24% and winter rainfall increase by as much as 16%, changes that will impact our well-being, the natural environment and the economy.'*

Recognising the dual importance of climate change mitigation and adaptation and nature resilience, the Council's own climate emergency response will from 2023 bring together key teams working on these climate challenges and future Annual Reports will present progress across these key areas.

More detail on the UK and International context in which Birmingham is operating is available in Appendix 2.

[Greenhouse Gas Emissions of the City of Birmingham](#)

Each year, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) publishes local authority and regional level greenhouse gas emissions statistics based on national data. These emissions statistics show annual reductions since 2005; the 2022 publication provides emissions reductions for 2020. This is the most up to date city-wide source of carbon dioxide emissions data.

The 2022 BEIS publication indicates that the City of Birmingham emitted a total estimated 3,714 kilotonnes of carbon dioxide in 2020. The publication also presents emissions by sector (domestic, transport etc) and fuel type including gas and electricity. The Birmingham sector breakdown for 2020 presented in Figure 1 shows that the City's greatest sources of carbon dioxide emissions are domestic housing at 36% and transport at 34%.

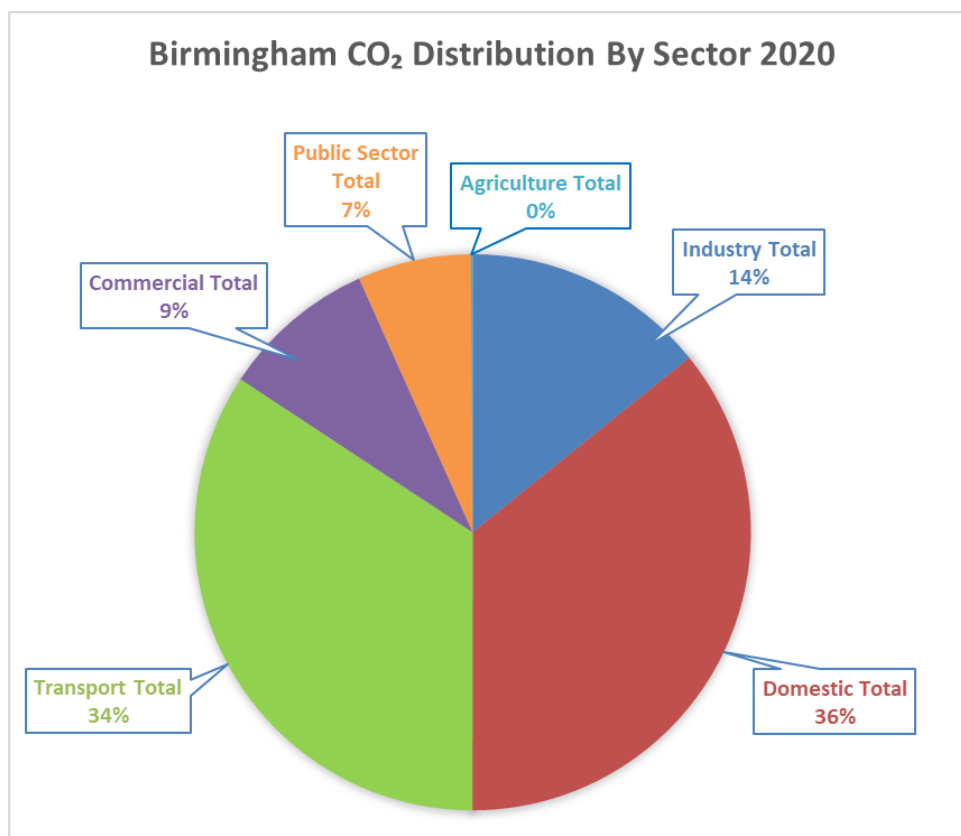


Figure 1 City of Birmingham carbon dioxide emissions by sector, 2020

Birmingham City Council as an organisation directly controls around 8% of City-wide greenhouse gas emissions. This distribution can be calculated by splitting emissions by scope and adding scope 1 and 2 together. The emissions scopes are defined as follows:

- Scope 1 (Direct emissions): All direct greenhouse gas emissions from the activities of BCC or under our control. For BCC, this primarily relates to natural gas for heating and fuel used by owned or controlled vehicles.
- Scope 2 (Indirect emissions): Greenhouse gas emissions from the use of grid-supplied electricity, heat, steam and/or cooling within the city boundary. For BCC, this relates to purchased electricity.
- Scope 3: All other greenhouse emissions that occur outside the Birmingham City boundary as a result of activities taking place within the boundary. For BCC, Scope 3 emissions include schools, housing, procurement activities and employee commuting.

Scope 3 emissions therefore make up the other 92% of City-wide greenhouse gas emissions. Although the direct emissions that the Council controls or has strong influence over is a relatively small proportion of the City of Birmingham emissions, it has an important role in stimulating and influencing action across the city.

[Progress on Birmingham's Route to Net Zero](#)

Since 2005, the BEIS statistics show that greenhouse gas emissions (specifically carbon dioxide) have reduced by 46.6% with year-on-year emissions reductions averaging 3% over this period. The carbon emissions reduction from 2019 to 2020 was 6.5%. Figure 2 below shows reductions from 2005 to 2020, based on the BEIS statistics.

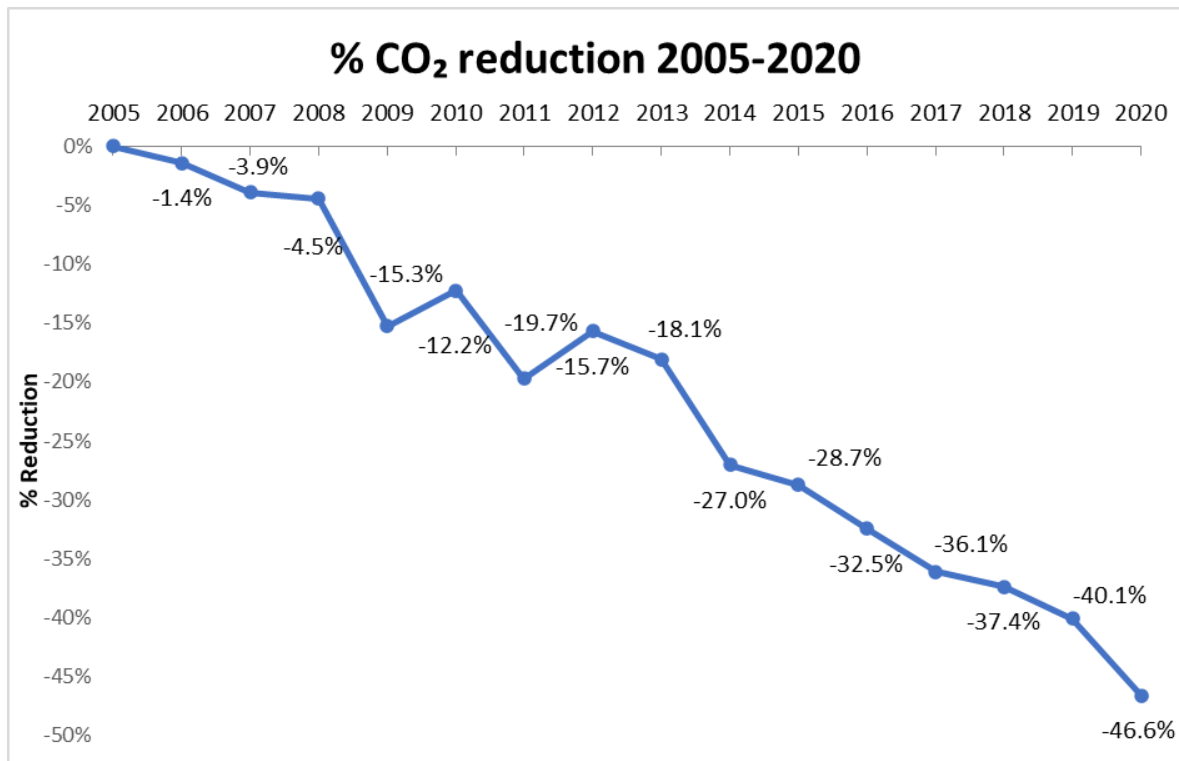


Figure 2 City of Birmingham carbon dioxide emissions reductions, 2005-2020

Figure 3 below shows the 'actual' year-on-year reduction between 2005 and 2020, followed by the projected average annual reduction required to achieve a 100% reduction by 2030 and 2050. Net Zero allows for carbon capture and storage of emissions that cannot be eliminated without significant technological or economic cost. There is no local level allowance for carbon capture and storage and therefore this is not included in this projection.

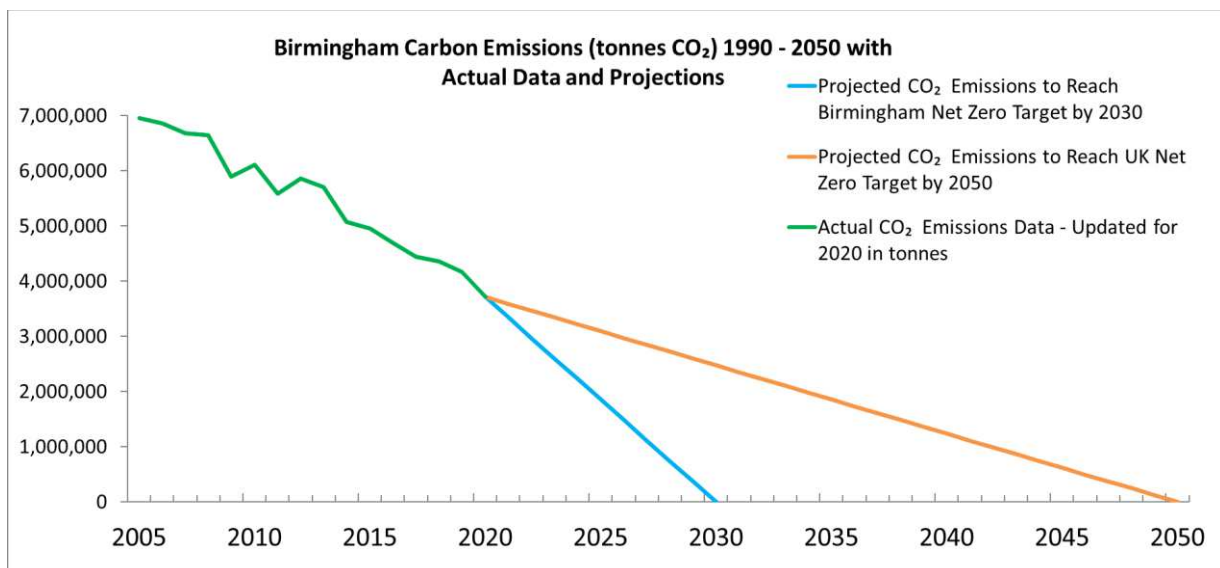


Figure 3 Carbon dioxide emissions reduction between 2005-2020 accompanied by a trend line illustrating the speed of reduction required to meet 100% carbon dioxide emissions reduction by 2030 (City ambition) and 2050 (UK target). Emissions shown in tonnes of carbon dioxide.

Whilst the decrease in emissions is encouraging, a far greater pace of reductions will be required to achieve the City's net zero ambition. Not accounting for any carbon capture and storage, an annual average annual carbon dioxide emissions reduction of 530 kilotonnes (530,000 tonnes) of CO₂ is required to meet our 2030 ambition. The reduction from 2019 to 2020 was 452 kilotonnes (452,000 tonnes) of CO₂, an acceleration from the previous year likely in part due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Scaling up delivery of carbon dioxide emissions at scale takes time and over 2022, the Council has been building its understanding and capability to deliver at an increased scale and pace in future years along with implementing projects that lead to real emission reductions. The creation of a dedicated team is proving to be a key enabler: the team is commissioning key technical pieces of work to inform viable and cost-effective decarbonisation of key assets such as the Birmingham District Energy Company, facilitating delivery of large scale energy efficiency programmes and securing funding to expand investment across the city, and ensuring policy is aligned with our Net Zero ambitions.

A breakdown of known project level carbon dioxide emissions reductions is presented in chapter 4, project level carbon emissions reductions. A key priority for 2023 is to improve visibility and reporting on project level carbon dioxide emissions at both an organisational and City level alongside a wider set of indicators of progress.

Chapter 2 - Project Updates by Theme

Buildings

[Buildings: Summary](#)

Buildings account for around two thirds of greenhouse gas emissions across the City of Birmingham, with the majority of emissions resulting from the burning of gas for space and water heating. Heat decarbonisation is a city priority, and the Council has been working over the past year with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to refine an approach to heat decarbonisation at an area and building sector level (see Energy theme – New Projects). The economic consequences of the pandemic, alongside the recent cost of living crisis means that it has also never been more important to support our citizens to live in more efficient homes that are cheaper to run.

Birmingham City Council owns 60,000 properties. As the largest local authority housing stockholder in the country, we are harnessing our level of commitment to drive scaled delivery and supply chain capacity in partnership with Coventry and Wolverhampton Council's as part of the 3 Cities Retrofit. This collaboration is developing an integrated programme reflecting the diversity of needs and housing portfolios of each city and includes major projects including a 300-home Whole House Retrofit programme in East Birmingham and a £24.8 million application to the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund.

The cost of energy is a pressing concerns for households and businesses alike and the Council's Cost of Living programme includes a key workstream on energy efficiency. Alongside access to energy advice and support, we are working with communities and other partners to maximum access to grants to support energy and carbon emissions reductions in the domestic and non-domestic sectors and exploring funding and delivery approaches for large scale energy efficiency and renewable energy investment.

Alongside a range of existing building projects, the Council seeks to ensure that development is as energy efficiency and low carbon as possible, including working with major developers as part of the planning pre-application process to maximise the energy performance of new buildings, undertaking a major review of its planning policy alongside new home pilot projects.

Further details on individual Building themed projects and initiatives are presented below.

[Buildings: Wave 1 Project Updates](#)

Birmingham Development Plan Review

- Actions and achievements this year: The [Issue and Options consultation](#) – the first stage of public consultation on the new plan, took place between 24th October and 5th December 2022. The consultation gathered thoughts from a wide range of stakeholders on a number of issues and the options for addressing them. The Centre for Sustainable Energy also completed a critical friend review of the local plan, which identifies potential policy directions the new local plan could take around sustainability.
- Challenges/Barriers: Resources to progress the plan to timetable- recruitment to two posts within the team is now underway. Uncertainty over Government planning reform and associated impact on the plan format and timetable.
- Next steps: The next step will be to gather the evidence required to work towards a Preferred Options consultation in October 2023.

- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: Cannot be attributed. Policy will enable emissions reductions but will not be adopted until 2026.

New Build – BMHT Energy Saving Technologies Pilot (Gressel Lane)

- Actions and achievements this year: Being completed by Birmingham Municipal Housing Trust. The Gressel Lane Scheme also known as the Home Energy Housing project is being part funded by European Regional Development Fund. (ERDF). The appointment and contract signing for Jessup the contractor who will undertake the building of the 36 Council houses has been appointed. 30 of these houses are part funded by ERDF. Work has started on the ground with drainage systems going in on the site and property foundations. It has been agreed that the system for the Ground Source Heat Pumps will be an Array System and the boreholes system has been started. Technical designs and discussion meetings about the renewable technology for the scheme is continuing, this includes the solar panels, car charging points, air source heat pumps and mechanical ventilation systems. Pre-planning conditions are being actioned and highways design work is continuing for the new roads that will be installed.
- Challenges/Barriers: Minor delays due to bad weather which may also continue during winter months. Some challenges with underground services which are being addressed with the statutory service provider.
- Next steps: The build programme is continuing, together with the discussions about the technology. All technologies to be confirmed and purchased. When the properties are at an appropriate construction stage the renewable technologies will be installed. The completion of 30 properties is scheduled for the end of June 23 and 6 further properties to be completed end of July 23. Once tenants have moved in some monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken regarding living with and using the new technologies and overall savings. Monitoring and evaluation of this project will help to inform future schemes.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: To date, carbon savings for scheme have been calculated for a typical home (House type: 3 bed Harborne Semi Detached). BMHT typical specification: 1.30 tonnes CO₂/yr, the addition of an air source heat pump saves an additional 0.24 tonnes CO₂/yr.



New Build - BMHT Passivhaus Pilot - Dawberry Fields

- Actions and achievements this year: Being delivered by Birmingham Municipal Housing Trust, the scheme is made up of 55 units for Social Rent. The scheme is a mix of 2, 3, and 4, bedroom houses and 2-bedroom apartments. A pre-application has been submitted and the design of the scheme has undergone a positive Planning review. The scheme will have a mix of technologies including, Mechanical Ventilation with Heat Recovery, Air Source Heat Pumps, solar Photovoltaic Panels, Electric Vehicle Charging points, etc.
- Challenges/Barriers: The site has a number of constraints to deal with, including, level issues, nature conservation issues – there are protected species on the site – flood risk, relationship to adjoining area. The scheme cost will be greater than a traditional housing approach.
- Next steps: Submission of Detailed Planning Application. Cabinet approval for the Procurement Strategy and Full Business Case. Commencement of procurement process and selection of preferred bidder.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: Not yet known but data will be collected.



Retrofit - Thermal Impact / Energy Efficiency Survey & Delivery Plan

- Actions and achievements this year: An Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) assessment via Acivico has been requested on 1,000 Council properties to assess the accuracy of existing, older, Council energy performance data due to changes in the assessment methodology since EPCs were originally carried out. Stock Condition Surveys of the Council Stock is an ongoing requirement, and it is the intention of the draft Asset Management Strategy for a rolling stock condition survey programme to be implemented. It is anticipated that the EPC assessment will be carried out as a compliment to these Surveys. Data gained as a result of funding Bids such as SHDF (Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund) and delivered projects such as LADS2 is being focused for use on internal systems to build a better picture of the EPC levels of our stock and compare with existing data and inaccuracies of national held data.
- Challenges/Barriers: The cost of retrofitting the entirety of BCC's 60,000 homes has been estimated to be as much as £3.6bn over 30 years. Sourcing the funds and planning to address this is a significant challenge for BCC, which is being addressed currently via the development of Asset Management Strategy, Housing Revenue account Business Plan and taking advantage of Government funding initiatives. Energy performance data is crucial to the planning and prioritisation of retrofit investment.
- Next steps: Identify additional funding. Recruit inhouse team.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: The energy performance surveys will not in themselves delivery emissions reductions, but the results will support effective targeting of investment to improve energy performance.

Council Stock - Boiler Replacement Programme

- Actions and achievements this year: Allocated budget is being used to provide for the replacement of 1,200 properties with 'A' rated boilers where low energy efficient boilers currently are in operation. Concentrating on funding to provide such replacements is ongoing. In addition to this, Birmingham City Council (BCC) undertook a programme of hot water system replacement in residential tower blocks across the City of Birmingham. This project set out primarily to lower legionella risk from poorly heated and insulated direct electric hot water tanks, however the outcomes of this project soon expanded to improve running costs and lower carbon by deploying Mixergy's direct electric smart hot water cylinders. Mixergy's direct electric smart hot water cylinders allow residents to heat smaller volumes of water, heating only what they need as cost optimally as possible. This is in contrast to their legacy hot water tanks (copper lagged vented tanks) that heat everything twice per day and suffer from high heat losses due to poor quality insulation. When deployed alongside a solar PV system, the Mixergy tank unlocks additional SAP points helping landlords meet the challenge of improving their housing stock to EPC C by 2030.
- Challenges/Barriers: Life cycle of the existing boilers and the need to address the deficit in terms of funding for properties which currently have E, F, and G rated boilers.
- Next steps: Continuation of the scheme in line with funding availability.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: For the boiler replacements, it is estimated that the Carbon Saving is 1.4 tonnes of CO₂ per boiler, per year. For the 1,200 boilers completed this year, this equates to 1,729 tonnes CO₂ in 2022. For the water tanks, each apartment was heated with conventional direct electric hot water tanks on a timer control that heated the tank twice per day, using on average 12 kWh electricity per day. After the installation of the Mixergy smart direct electric tanks, the average daily energy consumption for hot water has reduced to 6 kWh per day. This is saving of 6 kWh per day equates to 0.4 tonnes of CO₂ per annum per apartment. When applied to the 126 properties included in the first phase, this project will save 53 tonnes of CO₂ per year.

Energy Companies Obligation (ECO4)

- Actions and achievements this year: Engagement with energy suppliers to identify priority areas and options to maximise the allocation of funding to Birmingham households over a 4-year period from 2022-2026. Priority is to build continuity and opportunity for long term engagement with communities. Collaboration across the 3 Cities (Birmingham, Coventry and Wolverhampton) to establish a co-ordinated and collaborative approach to deliver greater benefits across the region.
- Challenges/Barriers: A strategic, co-ordinated approach is likely to deliver greatest outcomes, however, will require greater input from the Council. Seeking to balance scale of delivery and resource capacity.
- Next steps: In talks with 3 Cities about joint approach to attract greater funding and deliver more outcomes including longer term local skills. Aim to agree the approach early in the new year and commence delivery soon after.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: Savings will be captured once ECO4 works are in delivery.

East Birmingham Low Carbon Heating Innovation Zone

- Actions and achievements this year:
 - **Commencement of 300-Home Whole-House Retrofit Pilot:** The pilot directly supports Birmingham's bold ambition to deliver best in class housing services, placing the Council front and centre in addressing fuel poverty by developing and implementing innovative solutions and funding models to scale up whole house retrofit.
 - **Development of Castle Vale Net Zero Neighbourhood Proposition:** A proposal has been created for a "net zero neighbourhood" at Castle Vale where net energy needs are reduced through demand reduction measures such that remaining energy requirement for vehicles, thermal, and electrical energy within the community is met by renewable energy generation, while also investing in other aspects to create community buy-in and a more sustainable place to live. Funding is currently being sought to implement the proposal
 - **Submission of Levelling Up Fund application for National Centre for Decarbonised Heat:** A bid was submitted by University of Birmingham with the support of the City Council to Government for £20m to create a National Centre for Decarbonised Heat at Tyseley. The bid was unsuccessful; however the Council will work alongside partners to assess how the centre's vision to support growth of the local retrofit economy can still be realised.
 - **Wider funding bids:** In addition to Net Zero Neighbourhood Demonstrator Programme investment, the Council and its partners are targeting funding through: Innovate UK's Pioneer Places; Strategic Innovation Fund, Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund; Sustainable Warmth competition; Green Homes Grant LAD schemes; ECO4.
- Challenges/Barriers: The supply chains need support to increase their capacity to deliver retrofit at scale but using a place based approach does provide economies of scale. Grant funding has tight deadlines for delivery and specific criteria which can make effective delivery difficult.
- Next steps: The East Birmingham Low Carbon Innovation Zone will continue to be a key area of activity around the retrofit and decarbonisation agenda. Priorities will be to secure funding for the Net Zero Neighbourhood proposition and to develop enhanced partnership working with key stakeholders including around Tyseley Environmental Enterprise District.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: Potential for 397 tonnes CO₂ savings from Whole House Retrofit and 33 tonnes CO₂ for NZN Castle Vale if 25 houses are retrofitted.

Buildings: New Projects

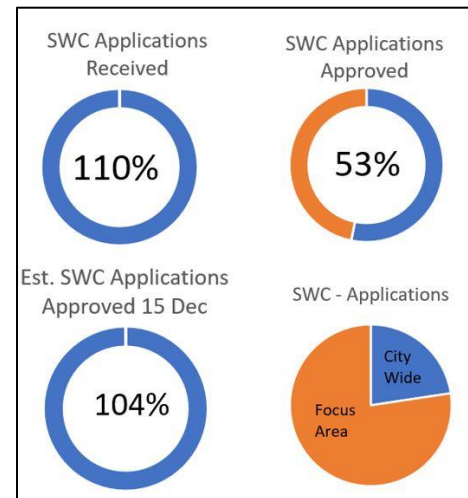
Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund

- Actions and achievements this year: Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) – bid submitted to BEIS for a £24.8m grant to carry out decarbonisation work on 2,076 homes has been submitted. The Housing Directorate have led bid strategy and submission with the Route to Net Zero coordinating bid preparation and coordination between 3 Cities Retrofit and WMCA.
- Challenges/Barriers: Funding requires match from Housing Revenue Account. BCC owns 60,000 homes and so the decarbonisation task and funding required to deliver retrofit works to all homes will be considerable. Innovative sources of funding are being explored with partners
- Next steps: Develop a decarbonisation strategy for all BCC housing stock and identify additional sources of funding or delivery models.

- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: If successful, the estimated carbon reduction across all homes is 5,172 tonnes CO₂.

Sustainable Warmth Competition

- Actions and achievements this year: The Local Authority Delivery Scheme 2, LADS2 (part of the BEIS Sustainable Warmth Competition) was completed in 2022, with 102 properties benefiting from a package of retrofit measures; 15% owner occupier and 85% social housing (Council stock). 56% of homes were EPC D rated properties. A total of 171 measures were installed including ventilation.
- The LADS 3 programme is now in delivery. The target is to support 700 properties by March 2023 and the programme is well on track to deliver due to adoption of a community led engagement approach in the Balsall Heath, Acocks Green and Tyseley areas. The council, working with Acivico as project managers, appointed local community groups MECC Trust and Acocks Greener to work with communities within Balsall Heath and Acocks Green. These local community organisations then engaged with the community through retrofit cafes, events, briefing sessions and street by street door knocking to promote the benefits of retrofit for residents and households. Councillor engagement and support at events has also helped to build trust. By working collaboratively with local community groups, we have been able to really engage residents, overcome language barriers - with 4 languages spoken across the target areas - and build trust leading to a far greater volume of applications than seen in many other areas of the West Midlands.
- The Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) 1 off-gas programme is also running in parallel with a target of 114 properties. The uptake has been low to date due to the significant volume of gas connected homes in the city. A targeted, city-wide campaign is underway to help maximise use of these funds.
- Challenges/Barriers: Risk of inclement weather hinders progress in delivering the 814 retrofits by March 2023. Off gas grid properties are proving very difficult to attract to scheme (this is a challenge in urban areas across the country). Due to success of engagement, likelihood that the LADs campaign will result in more properties than funds available. The intention is that ECO4 will be secured as a follow up funding route to maximise household benefit.
- Next steps: Broaden range of areas. Continue to build community links to improve take up of schemes.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: LADS2 delivered an estimated 930 tonnes CO₂ savings. LADS3 is expected to deliver significantly greater savings – exact figure to be confirmed once the scheme is completed in 2023.



Corporate Landlord Net Zero Plan (Buildings and Land)

- Actions and achievements this year: Centre for Sustainable Energy survey of solar potential on Council owned buildings completed and analysis undertaken of buildings most likely to benefit from solar due to high electricity demand. Commissioned use of tool to support corporate landlord portfolio level review of energy use and carbon emissions and have

commissioned delivery and funding model options appraisal to inform potential approach to scaled investment.

- Challenges/Barriers: Lack of consistent data, particularly energy consumption.
- Next steps: Identify priority buildings for solar and implement. Support Corporate Landlord team in developing a decarbonisation plan and source funding.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: Capital works on Council non-domestic property has not yet commenced – no savings yet attributable.

Place Based Initiatives - Net Zero Neighbourhoods, Net Zero Living and Healthy Living Zones

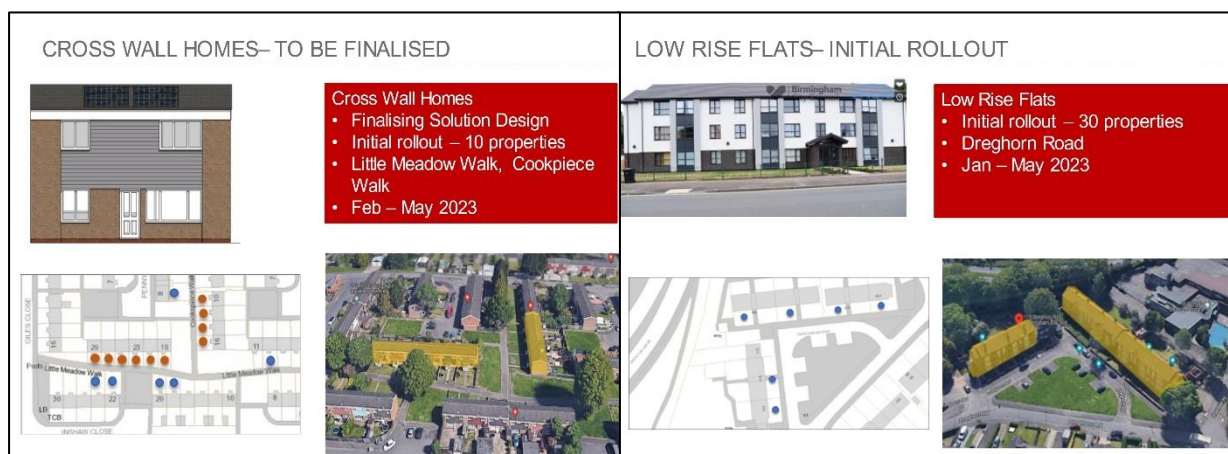
- Actions and achievements this year: Funding is available from Innovate UK for Net Zero Living areas. This funding has two phases: phase 1 provides up to £75,000 to support work on identifying the non-technical barriers to net zero system change and phase 2 up to £8 million to implement changes to overcome these barriers. Bid submitted for the Tyseley area, led by local business Webster and Horsfall and supported by a range of public and private sector organisations including University of Birmingham and Siemens. The Council is committed to 5 Healthy Living Zones which will ensure that the need for car travel is reduced within the area. These 15-minute neighbourhoods will reduce carbon emissions from private transport and Bordesley Green has been chosen as the pilot area. The City Council's bid for Castle Vale was unsuccessful in the initial round of Net Zero Neighbourhood funding via WMCA and so other sources of funding are being sought to implement the plans. This net zero neighbourhood will include retrofit of housing and increased cycle and walking routes.
- Challenges/Barriers: Funding applications may be unsuccessful.
- Next steps: Await funding decision for Net Zero Living bid and if successful, support phase 1 delivery and preparation of phase 2 bid. Work with the WMCA on the Castle Vale NZN and continue with the Bordesley Green HLZ pilot.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: Funding application – no savings directly attributable although potential to realise significant savings if successful.

Bromford Housing Retrofit

- Actions and achievements this year: The £28.2m 3 Cities Whole House Retrofit (WHR) Pilot was approved by Cabinet in July 2022. The pilot aims to test two different approaches to improve thermal efficiency, reduce carbon emissions and improve tenants' energy demand usage and with a view to scaling up the delivery of whole house retrofit across the Council's wider HRA stock. The scope of the pilot is to deliver WHR to 300 units of BCC social housing stock in Bromford, East Birmingham: 174 low rise flat properties and 126 cross wall properties. A core principle for the pilot is to apply an incremental learning approach to retrofit works to progress works on Council HRA stock without committing the Council to unaffordable levels of borrowing
- Barriers and Challenges: Property mapping and asset data review - property information was incomplete and included inaccuracies which impacted solution design and also grant funding applications. Significant effort was required to review, validate and undertake additional surveys. Inaccuracies in asset data can lead to material amendments to scheme design and costing. Planning – engagement and discussion with Planning is required from the outset and particularly at 'concept' stage. Cross Wall Homes Solution – the planning and design phase of the project has identified particular challenges with the Cross Wall Homes. The target properties comprise 6 different archetypes which require 'bespoke' solutions. Distribution of Properties & Owner Occupiers - the distribution of 'pepper-potted' properties and adjacent owner-occupiers has a significant impact on design and performance standards due to

additional and complex details around the party wall(s). Owner occupiers (not included within the scheme) are likely to significantly impact on the performance outputs of the adjoining properties. Investing time to understand and map assets early in the scheme development will assist here.

- Next steps: The programme is entering the Initial Solution Rollout phase and it is proposed that the programme proceeds as follows:
 - Low Rise Flats –The solution fabric measures have been adjusted to meet BCC Planning requirements. An alternative Mixergy[1] heating solution will be deployed alongside the solar PV solution to support energy efficiency performance to address fuel poverty, decarbonisation and increased EPC ratings of B+ / A. The initial solution rollout is planned for Dec 2022/Jan 2023 – May 2023 and wider solution rollout: June 2023 – April 2024.
 - Cross Wall Homes – The Solution Design process has identified a number of challenges which have an impact on programme scope, costs and timescales. The pilot programme is currently working through a managed process to determine the preferred solution design and cost plan. It is anticipated that this will be agreed end Jan / early Feb 2023.



- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: Not yet known. The project is targeting improved EPC levels from an average EPC D to EPC B / A ; 50-60 kWh/m2/year.

Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme

- Actions and achievements this year: Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) funding application being prepared for Small Heath Well Being Centre alongside a number of other council-owned buildings. PSDS provides grant funding for public sector non-domestic building decarbonisation.

- Challenges/Barriers: The complexity of the Well Being Centre site means a wider programme of capitals work will be required alongside funding to support energy efficiency and decarbonisation works.
- Next steps: Support funding application submission once wider plans for building works have been agreed.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: Potential saving of 65.39 tonnes CO₂ if identified works undertaken.

Sustainability in Planning Policy

- Actions and achievements this year: The Route to Net Zero team engage with the planning policy team by providing comments relating to carbon reductions and sustainability on planning applications. In the last year, comments have been provided on 44 planning applications. This includes in larger pre-apps and large strategic applications including Smithfield and Curzon Wharf.
- Challenges/Barriers: Staff resource/time. Whilst sustainability requirements apply to all applications, the policy team is only consulted on major applications – it is not possible or sustainable to comment on all applications.
- Next steps: Continue to engage on applications – ensure planning policy flag all significant development to the route to zero team.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: Not known.

East Birmingham Programme

- Actions and achievements this year: The East Birmingham Programme has delivered multiple projects during the last twelve months, including a number which are relevant to the route to zero programme:
 - **Dolphin Centre:** a £2 million package of improvements to the Dolphin Centre in Ward End Park to include the creation of an inclusive Youth Hub. The project will include the extension and retrofitting of the building with green energy and carbon reducing technologies.
 - **Bordesley Green Spatial Pilot:** This is a place-based study which seeks to establish a framework for improving the quality of local places as Healthy Living Zones in terms of utility and amenity in line with the theory of the “15-minute city”. Active Travel to reduce the need to travel by private vehicle, and Green Infrastructure are key elements of this work.
 - **Tyseley Clean Energy Masterplan for Growth:** A joint vision has been agreed with key stakeholders including around Tyseley Environmental Enterprise District. A Masterplan will be developed to deliver this vision; addressing both spatial and infrastructure planning and also the proactive development of low and zero carbon assets to maximise the potential of Tyseley at the forefront of the city’s response to climate change.
 - **Green Infrastructure projects:** multiple projects have been progressed including the Bordesley Green City of Nature pilot, the collaborative Tyseley Community Commons project with University of Birmingham, and design studies for parts of the Cole Valley.
 - **Castle Vale Net Zero Neighbourhood Proposition:** A proposal has been created for a “net zero neighbourhood” at Castle Vale where net energy needs are reduced through demand reduction measures such that remaining energy requirement for vehicles, thermal, and electrical energy within the community is met by renewable energy

generation, while also investing in other aspects to create community buy-in and a more sustainable place to live. Funding is currently being sought to implement the proposal

The Council, West Midlands Combined Authority and Solihull MBC are jointly promoting East Birmingham and North Solihull (EBNS) to Government as a Levelling Up Zone where transformational change will be delivered, including the accelerated delivery of decarbonisation and the “just transition”. In addition, through the partnership development workstream, the programme is developing working relationships and increased collaboration with key stakeholders including at Tyseley as described above, with Severn Trent, which recently launched a major social initiative focussed on East Birmingham, and the National Trust.

- **Challenges/Barriers:** The previous twelve months have been the mobilisation phase of the East Birmingham Programme and as a result resources and capacity have been limited due to the need for recruitment and the development of partnerships and governance. The Programme Team is now taking shape and collaborations are developing well, and the pace of delivery is expected to significantly increase during the next year.
- **Next steps:** Key priorities for the Programme are: to build strategic alliances including with Tyseley partners and the National Trust; to progress the EBNS Levelling Up Zone to secure the capacity to scale up the programme; to expand project activity and delivery.
- **If possible, any identified carbon emission savings:** There are no savings directly attributable to the above projects during 2022 but the programme is supporting significant funding and investment to support emissions reduction ambitions.

CASE STUDY: 3 Cities Whole House Retrofit



The first project in East Birmingham is piloting two different approaches to Whole House Retrofit:

174 low-rise flats to an EPC B+ rating.

Energiesprong approach for 126 cross wall properties which brings properties to EPC A – zero carbon. Under the Energiesprong approach tenants will have a guaranteed level of hot water and energy for a fixed level of consumption. It incorporates a high level of digital monitoring of temperatures, energy consumption, air flow and ventilation.

CASE STUDY: Low Carbon Homes Retrofit Summit

Commissioned by the Route to Net Zero team, Low Carbon Homes alongside a range of internal and external stakeholders from across the City worked to organise and deliver the Birmingham Retrofit summit from 6th to the 8th of December in 2022. The event brought together a wide range of speakers to discuss the challenges around retrofit and the opportunities to alleviate fuel poverty and support carbon emissions reduction.



Over 150 retrofit professionals signed up to attend, and cabinet members Councillor Mahmood and Deputy Leader Councillor Bridget Jones introduced the second and third days, while Council Leader, Councillor Ian Ward, opened the whole event. By bringing together Council officers, housing providers, community groups and local businesses to explore how we can better work together, the event helps demonstrate the Council's commitment and leadership on retrofit.

Transport

Transport: Summary

Data from 2020 shows that transport makes up just over a third of the City's carbon dioxide emissions at 34%. We cannot tackle the climate emergency without fundamental changes to the way people and goods move around our city. Transport is so much more than a means of getting from A to B. Transport can be an enabler of transformational changes. The climate emergency is setting the pace of change for our transport network. The latest evidence shows that a rapid shift is needed away from single occupancy private car use. Companies in the West Midlands are helping to lead the way in global development of new types of vehicles, including self-driving and electric vehicles, offering significant improvements in efficiency and emission levels. But regardless of advancements in technology, private cars will never be able to match the capacity of mass public transport for getting people to where they want to go. The Birmingham Transport Plan, now adopted and in the delivery phase, outlines how the city's transport system needs to be transformed to meet the challenges of the next decade. Action on a robust set of measures to assist with modal shift – increasing the amount of sustainable transport we use – will be integral to our net zero journey.

Transport: Wave 1 Project Updates

Electric Vehicle Charging Points and EV Strategy

- Actions and achievements this year: To date 686 charge points have been installed across the city, of which 143 are rapid (50kw-250kws) charge points (enabling a full charge in less than 30 mins), which is a 51% achievement towards the 2025 target of 280. The Cabinet approved EV Charge Point Strategy is a joint collaboration of the Public and Private Sector, where around 3,600 -5,000 (3.5kw-250kw) publicly accessible charge points are estimated to be installed by 2030.
- Challenges/Barriers: The number of charge points required will depend on the extent of change in travel behaviour away from private cars towards sustainable modes such as walking, cycling and public transport, in line with the Birmingham Connected Transport Policy aim of achieving at least 40% modal shift in Birmingham. Key challenges also include the available grid capacity across the City, which provides a particular challenge in residential areas. Alongside this there are challenges associated with the continued effects of the energy crisis and the war in Ukraine, Brexit, and COVID which have all impacted on the cost of individual EV electric car charging, as well as impacting global supply chains for EV car and charge point unit production and availability. More locally the availability of skilled workers and engineers involved in installation and grid infrastructure connections is a barrier.
- Next steps: From 2023 there will be a focus on deploying ultra-rapid hubs, alongside local community on-street charge point solutions where there is little or no off-street parking. Where 70% of Birmingham households already have access to off street parking, the next step is to focus on low power level 'over-night' charge point solutions that align with planning consent, Highway regulatory approvals and the Council's Private finance initiative arrangements.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: This cannot be calculated as we only have usage data from our charge points - which represents 168 out of 682 charge points within the city. There is no data to compare to mileage vehicles have undertaken, only how much energy has been drawn from our charge points (and every EV/hybrid vehicle model is different). There is no comparative data of petrol/diesel vehicles, if indeed these have been replaced by EVs, which we do not know. Also, whilst our charge points are 100% renewable energy, most others from other providers, including household electric for charging is from the grid which is only around 26% renewable power - (not due to be 100% until 2050).



Hydrogen Bus Pilot

- Actions and achievements this year: UK's first 20 double deck hydrogen buses delivered to Birmingham and commenced the 'Clean Air Hydrogen Bus' pilot programme: Bus depot has been retrofitted for hydrogen bus maintenance. 200 drivers have undertaken technical staff training and development has commenced in 'drive train' and fuel cell maintenance and operational requirements. The buses were co-developed with procured bus operator, National Express, and hydrogen fuel provider, ITM/Motive. Hydrogen bus route assessments have been completed.



- Challenges/Barriers: Developing the training, knowledge and skills at the same time as trialling the buses, as the first double deck hydrogen buses- where the weight of fuel tanks and fuel cell on the daily operation of use, has been challenging. Also, the price of hydrogen (made from a process involving electricity & water) within the current energy crisis, means that the hydrogen buses are not as commercially viable as diesel buses.
- Next steps: Working with a range of 'green' & 'blue' energy solutions to negotiate energy supply agreements ahead of the Government ceasing the business energy cap March 2023. Also, working with strategic partners Transport for West Midlands, Bus Operators and hydrogen fuel providers, in regard to outcomes of the Clean Air Hydrogen Bus pilot, to support their latest ZEBRA funding sourced for the next 124 hydrogen buses, to be operational by 2024/25.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: Not yet known. The 20 hydrogen buses are still under the Clean Air Hydrogen Bus pilot, and while out trialling on the road, the existing Euro 6 diesel fleet of 20 X51 route buses remain on the road delivering the bus service. When these are withdrawn, and the hydrogen buses fully replace them, then carbon savings based on mileage will be possible to calculate.

Birmingham Transport Plan Delivery Plan

- Actions and achievements this year:
 - **Birmingham transport delivery plan:** The work on the Birmingham Transport Plan Delivery Plan (DP) commenced in March 2022 and is expected to be completed in early April 2023. We have already produced some key outputs, which relate to understanding the scale and pace of change required to deliver transport decarbonisation in the city. Whilst the pace of change is set by the urgency of the need for action on climate change, the BTP aims to respond to a range of social, economic and environmental imperatives to create a transport system fit for purpose for a growing, diverse, inclusive and sustainable

city of the future. Our initial assessment shows that a dramatic decrease in vehicle kilometres travelled is required to deliver Paris agreement compliant transport decarbonisation in Birmingham. This will be achieved through extending our commitment to deliver measures that align with the principles of the BTP and through lobbying our partners and other government organisation to align their level of ambition to ours.

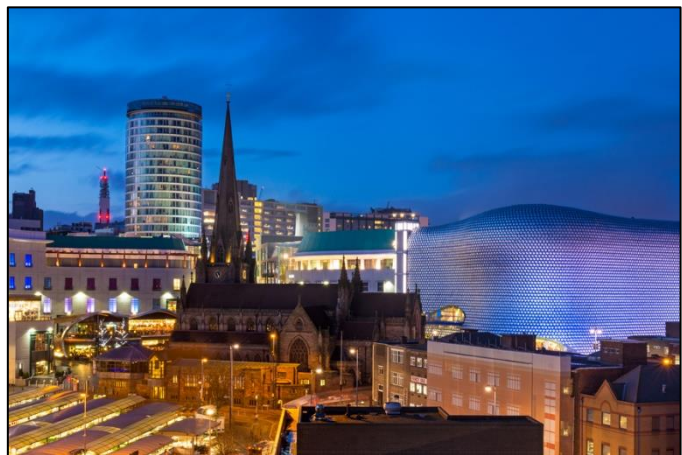
- **Delivery of the active travel measures** - The City Council's Highways and Transportation Capital Programme is an annual rolling programme that incorporates a significant package of schemes aimed at promoting cycling and walking as the preferred mode of travel with a budget of over £70m identified for the implementation of schemes until the 2027/28 financial year. Over the last year, a number of schemes have been successfully delivered on the ground, both as part of the residual Birmingham Cycle Revolution (BCR) Programme and also in support of the strategy of making the 2022 Commonwealth Games the first truly sustainable international multi-sport competition. Schemes delivered in the last year include an extension of the A34 Birchfield Road 'Main Corridor Blue Route' into the centre of Perry Barr, cycle safety improvements around the junction of Pershore Road/Priory Road which connect the A34 Bristol Road 'Main Corridor Blue Route' with NCN Route 5 at Cannon Hill Park, as well as a number of public realm schemes which provided improved pedestrian connectivity from the city centre to key Commonwealth Games venues, all of which have legacy benefits. The Council is also implementing a series of cycle, local centre and neighbourhood infrastructure improvements around the city, plus the City Centre Segments project and a tranche of Big Birmingham Bikes through the central government Active Travel Fund (ATF) administered by Transport for West Midlands. This £5m package of improvements, which is currently being implemented, builds on the schemes previously introduced through an earlier tranche of ATF monies as part of the Emergency Birmingham Transport Plan which set out a wide range of measures to support walking, cycling and public transport throughout the city, in light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The introduction of active travel measures is essential in providing alternative options to travelling by private car and aligns with the priorities of the Birmingham Transport Plan.
- **Places for People** - Over the last year, the work on three Places for People scheme has progressed towards implementation. Progress so far includes extensive consultation with local residents, which resulted in amendments and tailoring of the proposed schemes based on the feedback gathered. The three areas are Lozells, King's Heath and Bournville, where the measures are expected to be introduced within 2023 subject to approvals. The introduction of Places for People schemes plays a key role in the Council's efforts to implement the Birmingham Transport Plan, as it demonstrates our commitment to prioritising active travel and reallocating road space away from private cars.
- **Challenges/Barriers:** There are no specific challenges identified in relation to the project itself. However, the delivering the DP is big challenge as it reflects the scale and pace of a just transition. The BTP DP is expected to be completed by April 2023, with the next stages involving the production of a detailed delivery plan and calculation of the financial resources needed to deliver it.



- Next steps: The next stage of the DP is looking at developing a preferred option of schemes and policies that will comprise the DP and engaging with partners and members of the public to discuss the challenges and needs of delivering transport decarbonisation in Birmingham.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: There are no associated savings associated with the plan itself, however it will set out what needs to be done to deliver net zero by 2030 in Birmingham and identify the policy gaps in achieving our target. Whilst the delivery plan is still in development, it will certainly include continuations and extensions of many existing projects and programmes relating to transport. Therefore, progress in delivering the existing Transport & Highways Capital Programme and other key infrastructure projects with partners such as TfWM is as relevant to the decarbonisation agenda as the Delivery Plan itself. This is supported by an ongoing programme of travel demand management, school and workplace travel planning, and cycling activities.

Clean Air Zone

- Actions and achievements this year: The purpose of the Clean Air Zone is to address the issue of poor air quality which is directly and indirectly negatively impacting the lives of the people who live and work in our city. By addressing this issue, we remove a barrier that may be preventing people from achieving their full potential. Since the Clean Air Zone began operating, the percentage of the most polluting vehicles entering the city centre every day has reduced from just over 15% in June 2021 to 7.5% in September 2022. This change has helped reduce the levels of the pollutant, nitrogen dioxide. The purpose of the Clean Air Zone is to reduce the levels of nitrogen dioxide within the zone in order to reduce the impact of this pollutant on people's health. The zone achieves this by applying a daily fee to journeys through the zone in the most polluting vehicles as a way of encouraging the owners of these vehicles to upgrade their vehicle, use public transport and/or adopt more active forms of travel. The Council is also helping to accelerate change by providing financial grants to key groups such as low income workers in the zone, SMEs in the West Midlands who operate HGVs, coaches or vans and, critically, Birmingham-licensed private hire and hackney carriage drivers. The change in the private hire and hackney carriage fleet has been significant. In September 2018 (the month the Council's Cabinet approved the submission of the Clean Air Zone Full Business Case to Government) the rate of compliance in the private hire fleet was 36%. By August 2022 the rate had grown to 95%. Similarly, 12% of the hackney carriage fleet met the emission standards of the zone in September 2018 but by August 2022 this had increased to 54%.
- Challenges/Barriers: The Council has always recognised that some people and organisations might require additional time or support to adjust to the Clean Air Zone. To help make the transition to a clean air city easier the Council introduced a range of temporary exemptions from the daily fee and financial incentives to upgrade or replace 'non-compliant' vehicles. In the first year of the scheme just over 9,000 people who work or live in the Clean Air Zone benefited from an exemption. And to date just under £5m of grants have been approved. The



other key challenge with the scheme is awareness. There are already over 300 signs in place to alert drivers that the scheme is in operation and the Council has invested in significant multi-media advertising campaigns over the summer and Christmas to help get the message to more people. These campaigns have included a range of tactics, including digital billboards, posters with QR codes in car parks, advertising through navigation applications in an effort to ensure that drivers are aware that the scheme is in operation.

- Next steps: The primary objective of the Clean Air Zone is to improve air quality in the city, but it is also an enabler of change within the Transport Strategy and the reduction of carbon emissions, which contributes to progress on the Council ambition to create a net zero city by 2030. To support the Council's ambitions all surplus revenues generated by Clean Air Zone re-invested in local and regional transport-related strategies and policies. To date just over £40m of revenues from the scheme have been allocated to a number of schemes, which include the purchase of 20 hydrogen buses, further pedestrianisation of the city centre, upgrades to the University train station and stations on the Camp Hill line, a number of cross city bus projects and an expansion of the Big Birmingham Bikes programme.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: This is not something that is directly measured through the scheme, but we are exploring ways of trying to quantify any carbon reductions associated with the scheme or through the projects it supports.

Transport: New Projects

Civic Cars, Taxis and Alternative Transport Provisions Review

- Actions and achievements this year: The Chief Executive's Delivery Unit (CXDU) were commissioned to conduct a review to answer the question: What is the most appropriate, cost effective / efficient way of transporting civic leaders, cabinet members and BCC officers? The fieldwork included analysis of data (e.g., policies, processes, spend data, benchmarking data etc), stakeholder meetings, delivery chain mapping to understand the current process and identifying best practice. The work also extended to include a review of all Council fleet vehicles and opportunities to align operational and future decisions
- Challenges/Barriers: Behaviour change away from private use vehicles. Capital cost differential to move fleet vehicles to electric and or hydrogen.
- Next steps: Recommendations to inform transport theme programme and to be led by new programme structure for climate change and net zero.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: Recommendations not yet implement. Emissions reductions will follow as recommendations are implemented.

CASE STUDY: Safer, Greener, Healthier School Travel

One of the best ways to tackle air pollution at the school gates, along with alleviating issues around traffic congestion and parking which so many schools face, is to encourage people to leave the car at home where they can and to walk, cycle and take public transport to school instead.

All schools in Birmingham can access support and resources through the national [Modeshift STARS](#) scheme, which rewards schools for taking steps to promote safer, greener, healthier travel. As part of this, schools produce a travel plan outlining what they will do to encourage more sustainable and active travel for the school journey. They are also able to access support and guidance to deliver various [initiatives and campaigns](#), such as Bikeability cycle training (delivered by The Active Wellbeing Society) and Living Streets' Walk to School outreach programme. Schools with an approved (Green) travel plan in place can apply for grants of up to £1,000 through the [Young Active Travel Trust](#), as well as being considered for infrastructure improvements funded by the Safer School Streets capital programme. Lea Forest Primary Academy (pictured below) has achieved Platinum on Modeshift STARS, making it the first school in the West Midlands to gain this prestigious accreditation



Since September 2019, roads outside selected schools in Birmingham have been closed to traffic at the start and end of the school day as part of our [Car Free School Streets](#) initiative. This has been delivered at 17 schools to date in three phases, with another phase of a further 5 schools planned for April 2023. We are also currently undertaking an audit of all schools across the city to identify and prioritise suitable locations for expansion and further roll-out of this initiative.

Energy

Energy: Summary

The Energy theme primarily relates to the use of gas and electricity in buildings and therefore there is some cross over on the Building theme, particularly on projects relating to heat decarbonisation. The burning of gas for space and water heating, and the demand for electricity to power buildings is directly responsible for two thirds of city carbon dioxide emissions².

The Council is working on a range of projects in addition to those specifically referenced in the Buildings section, which are focused on supporting large scale energy infrastructure development and renewable heat and power generation roll out.

For example, the Council are working on developing a pathway for decarbonising and expanding the existing city centre district energy network. Working in partnership with other large network customers, the network's operator EQUANS and consultants Sustainable Energy Limited, a range of existing and new low carbon heat supply options have been identified.

The capacity of the electricity network is a key concern particularly as buildings and transport decarbonisation accelerates and demand for electricity increases. We are reviewing opportunities for expand renewable and low carbon energy sources in the city as well as demand management through heat and electricity storage and building working relations with utility providers and key local stakeholders such as Tyseley Energy Park to bring forward new infrastructure projects.

Whilst still in development, these projects have the potential to support significant emissions reductions, build greater self-sufficiency and energy price resilience.

Energy: New Projects

Decarbonisation of Birmingham District Energy Scheme (BDEC)

- Actions and achievements this year: BDEC is a strategic asset with the potential to support city centre heat decarbonisation. The network currently supplies 40,000 megawatt hours of heat across a 12 kilometre network route. The Council has secured funding from the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy Heat Networks Delivery Unit to identify a technical, commercial and funding route for decarbonisation of the network and inform scale of city centre expansion potential.
- Challenges/Barriers: Capital cost and technical constraints associated with moving from gas fired centralised heat plant to lower temperature renewable technologies and heat recovery. Level of energy efficiency improvements required to existing buildings to make them low carbon heat ready.
- Next steps: Identify technical and economically viable options and approach to delivery and funding.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: The emissions savings associated with network decarbonisation will be calculated as part of the study.

City Decarbonisation Delivery Programme 3: Delivery Model for Non-Domestic Net Zero Retrofit

- Actions and achievements this year: This project included two work packages: identification of potential heat network zones and potential delivery models and delivery and funding model options appraisal for Council non-domestic property portfolio to inform potential approach to scaled investment (reported above).

² UK Local Authority and Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions National Statistics 2005-2020

- Challenges/Barriers: Heat network zoning will require significant local authority involvement in stakeholder engagement, communications, planning, coordination and enforcement. Zoning legislation is due to be introduced in 2025.
- Next steps: Work with BEIS on next phase of heat network zoning preparation and ensure engagement across Council teams most likely to play a role in their implementation or management.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: Heat network zones aim to support rapid decarbonisation in locations where heat networks provide most cost-effective option. Once introduced, zoning will facilitate significant emissions reduction from heat.

East Birmingham Energy Infrastructure

- Actions and achievements this year: Work underway through the East Birmingham Heat Taskforce to develop low and zero carbon community heating plans for East Birmingham. The Taskforce has mapped the energy system, housing types, Energy Performance Certificate and ownership of housing in communities of this area. A study has been completed into the possibility of using waste heat from the final effluent wastewater from Minworth sewage treatment works alongside other existing sources of heat. A workshop has been held with a range of industry stakeholders to explore the potential of the scheme and to begin to understand the barriers to delivery. The Tyseley Environmental Enterprise District Vision due to be launched in January 2023 highlights a number of existing and potential opportunities to support net zero. A strategic alliance with University of Birmingham and Tyseley Energy Park is now being formed to bring these opportunities forward.
- Challenges/Barriers: Scale of infrastructure investment and complexities associated with delivery. Engagement of a wide range of potential stakeholders.
- Next steps: Advance project to more detailed feasibility and continue to engage industry partners to identify potential solutions and route to market.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: If implemented, significant emissions savings will be delivered through the decarbonisation of heat.

Solar Photovoltaics

- Actions and achievements this year: Commissioned study on potential scale of domestic and Council non-domestic opportunity around solar photovoltaics (PV). Findings equally apply to rooftop potential for solar thermal (hot water) panels. The study details the energy performance certificate, tenure and solar PV potential for homes in East Birmingham and locates existing solar PV installations. There is sufficient roof space potential for solar PV installations which would supply half of the existing domestic electricity demand in the area. For Birmingham City Council owned non-domestic buildings, the building usage and solar PV potential has been identified and estimates made of current electricity demand and the cost of the installation. The internal rate of return has been calculated for each building and ranked to give an order of priority for delivery.
- Challenges/Barriers: Solar photovoltaics (generating electricity) can reduce household electricity emissions at a faster pace than the electricity grid is currently decarbonising, however in isolation may not deliver significant energy savings to residents who are currently using gas for space and hot water heating. Solar photovoltaics need to be considered



alongside other energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation solutions as well as demand management and electricity storage. Grid capacity for new solar photovoltaic installations.

- Next steps: Prepare a strategy for solar investment across a range of different building types and investment options. Consider opportunities for packages of work.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: Potential for significant emissions savings, particularly when also paired with other energy efficiency and decarbonisation measures.

Waste & Circular Economy

Waste & Circular Economy: Summary

With a city net zero goal, reducing waste, reuse and recycling, and solutions to manage and reduce the impact of waste management processes across the city plays a critical role. Resource efficiency is about using limited resources in a sustainable way and minimising the impact of resource use. A circular economy uses resources for as long as possible, extracts maximum value from them (through reuse or repurposing), minimises waste and promotes resource efficiency. A large proportion of an organisation's own operational carbon dioxide emissions impact is directly related to the materials and products it consumes and therefore resource efficiency and a circular economy has a key role to play in reducing city and organisational emissions.

The ten-year 'transitional' contract at the Tyseley Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) will form part of the climate solution by preventing Birmingham resident's non-recyclable waste being sent to landfill. The Tyseley ERF generates power from non-recyclable waste, that generated 184,157 MWh of electricity in 2021 equivalent to powering approximately 63,000 Birmingham households for 12 months, or 15% of the homes in Birmingham. Through the competitive dialogue, net zero and climate change were high on the agenda and with the scope for dialogue being deliberately wide to ensure that all potential options could be explored using industry knowledge from bidders. Through dialogue, options to increase recycling and re-use, mitigate carbon emissions through the avoided emissions from generating electricity for Birmingham households and near zero unavoidable landfill were discussed. Nationally, the move away from landfill to energy recovery resulted in a 63% reduction in the waste sector's carbon emissions since 1990, since on average every tonne of waste treated at Tyseley energy recovery facility saves 0.2 tonnes of carbon dioxide compared with landfill. This transitional contract has been procured for a minimum term of ten-years to focus on the post 2034 solution procurement strategy, to consider tried and tested innovative technologies when they become available in the market.

Planning policy is a significant lever for driving resource efficiency and the Council has existing policy within the local plan that requires sustainable construction practices to be adopted on all new developments. New circular economies to harness e.g. heat, carbon dioxide emissions or repurposing waste arisings can also present economic opportunities. An existing circular economy project in Birmingham uses wood waste from urban parks and roadsides to capture carbon in a biochar suitable for reuse in tree planting. This project is run by Aston University in partnership with the Council.

Alongside initial work on a net zero-aligned strategy for waste management in the city, the Council is exploring a wide range of opportunities including the reduction of operational emissions in the waste vehicle fleet and providing facilities to support reuse and repurposing of materials and products. New technologies to support the carbon emissions reduction of waste management process will also be further explored in 2023.

Waste & Circular Economy: Wave 1 Project Updates

Waste Fleet – Hydrogen/EV Fleet Demonstrator

- Actions and achievements this year: The service has been in contact with Officers in St Helens to learn about their first Hydrogen Refuse Truck whilst we wait for a trial. The service has had a successful trail with EV collector and are working with Finance colleagues to find an option to renew the remaining refuse vehicles. Discussions are ongoing to move to hydrotreated

vegetable oil, (HVO) fuel instead of diesel. A new fuel contract has been let and the option of HVO is available.

- Challenges/Barriers: The challenge with changing the fleet is electric vehicles are double the price of diesel and hydrogen powered vehicles are double the price of electric vehicles. HVO is also more expensive than plain diesel.
- Next steps: To be confirmed.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: Not known.

Total Waste Strategy

- Actions and achievements this year: Commissioned by Route to Net Zero team to support BDP review, identify operational opportunities and priorities for waste reduction and circular economy. Now being taken forward as a joint strategy with waste management team. Potential to be first strategy to align resource efficiency and circular economy with carbon emissions reductions. The Environment Act 2021 includes implications for waste including:

- Introduction of deposit schemes
- Charges for single use items
- Food waste collected once a week and other recyclables separated out
- Electronic waste tagging
- Waste licencing and charging.

These emerging changes to legislation will need to be considered as part of the strategy. The Strategy aims to consider short, medium and long term priorities.

- Challenges/Barriers: Large and complex piece of work, rapid development in new technical solutions, long lead in times for significant changes.
- Next steps: Develop total waste strategy aligned with emissions reduction ambitions and circular economy opportunities.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: Will be identified as part of strategy development.



Waste & Circular Economy: New Projects

Recycling and the Alternative Treatments of Waste to Reduce Carbon Emissions

- Actions and achievements this year: The service introduced a mobile household recycling centre scheme to make it easy for residents to recycle and dispose of unwanted items. This has visited each Ward in the City and will continue to do so over the next 12 months. The HWRCs have introduced a scheme to help residents sort their materials once they visit the site. This has ensured everything that can be recycled is before the



remaining items go to the ERF plant. We have been working closely with our Disposal partner, which has led to a number of new recycling options being introduced including mattresses, paint and hard plastics. The new reuse shop at Tyseley recycling centre is going from strength to strength. All items too good to be fully recycled are being sent to the reuse shop to be sold on at a very reduce rate. Containers are now at all HWRCs to capture any items that are in a good condition and take them to the Tyseley reuse shop.

- Challenges/Barriers: The Environment Act is being monitored and preparation work has been undertaken to look at what are the implications for the introduction of food waste collections. However, unfortunately within existing budgets we are unable to implement this scheme without financial support from central Government.
- Next steps: This exploration of new recycling markets will continue to be implemented. We will continue to develop the reuse shop and are in the process of offering free start up packages for new housing tenants. The use of mobile recycling centres will continue and will be promoted through leaflets and open days
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: Not known.

Nature and the Environment

Nature and the Environment: Summary

In tackling climate change, it is important to recognise the dual importance of climate change mitigation and adaptation and nature resilience. Adaptation and nature resilience are important for a number of reasons, including reducing the risk of flooding, moderating local temperature, reducing pollution and improving soil quality. Trees and other foliage are also a natural form of carbon sequestration.

Nature and the Environment is an area of particular strength in the city. Birmingham is recognised by the United Nations Farming and Agriculture Organisation as a Tree City of the World. During 2022, Birmingham was awarded the Queens Green Canopy Champion City for the work undertaken in partnership with Birmingham Trees for Life in engaging local residents in tree planting. The City's Urban Forest Masterplan is the first of its kind in the UK and follows a model widely used in the US and Canada. In creating the plan, Birmingham took a strategic approach to its urban forest by engaging experts and key stakeholders to help it prepare an Urban Forest Master Plan. Now complete, the Plan will help Birmingham work towards a vision for its trees that is sustainable into the future. In partnership with Birmingham Tree People, the City has launched a digital platform for identifying where tree planting is most needed to deliver climate change regulation services. This will be key in plotting future tree planting.

From 2023, the Council's climate emergency response will bring together key teams working on both climate change mitigation and adaptation and nature resilience to jointly tackle the City's climate challenges.

Nature and the Environment: Wave 1 Project Updates

Urban Forest Masterplan

- Actions and achievements this year: The Urban Forest Master Plan continues to draw interest from around the UK Local Authorities, and Government Departments alike. Birmingham has presented on the plan and Urban Forestry at a number of online national seminars and training sessions over the course of 2022, most recently presenting for the Forestry Commission on the topic of Woods for Nature – an urban case study and for the Town and Country Planning Association/ Green Infrastructure Partnership on Urban Forestry as part of their seminar series "A new era for green infrastructure". In partnership with the National Trust, Woodland Trust and Community Forest Trust a successful bid was submitted to the Trees Call for Action Fund. This programme will be delivered between now and September 2024
- Challenges/Barriers: The changes required to implement the plan require systemic changes in the way we as a City Council work plus a need to increase both internal and external capacity around strategic planning, delivery, community engagement and sustainable funding.
- Next steps: The Trees Call for Action Fund grant will deliver an Urban Forest Accelerator national pilot in Birmingham. This pilot will work on how to deliver some of the trickier areas of the adopted Urban Forest Master Plan such as sustainable finance and working with hard-to-reach communities. In addition, it will seek to devise a 5-year strategic tree planting plan building on the prioritisation mapping for tree equity and climate adaptation delivered in partnership with Birmingham Tree People. Learning outcomes from the pilot will be shared nationally as part of a tool kit.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: Sustaining and increasing urban canopy cover improves the delivery of essential ecosystem services providing increased benefits in

terms of climate adaptation to local communities. Trees do sequester carbon, decrease flood risk and cool air around thereby providing indirect carbon savings.

Nature and the Environment: New Projects

City of Nature

- Actions and achievements this year: In February 2022 the City of Nature 25 Year Plan was approved for adoption. This City of Nature Plan will change the way in which the city treats its natural environment and how it thinks about the future of its parks and green spaces. Opening more equitable access by ensuring all its green spaces achieve the Birmingham Future Parks Standardise a way of assessing green spaces that is a direct response to the issue of environmental justice. Funding has been secured to deliver the next phase of project work to deliver the City of Nature Plan under a banner of the Urban Nature Development Programme. City of Nature Plan has earned a prestigious regional award. The Council-backed Birmingham City of Nature Plan won the Judges' Award at this year's West Midlands National Park (WMNP) Awards.
- Challenges/Barriers: The changes required to implement the plan require systemic changes in the way we as a City Council work plus a need to increase both internal and external capacity around strategic planning, delivery, community engagement and sustainable funding.
- Next steps: We continue to work with the City of Nature Alliance and build on the work already underway in the Bordesley and Highgate Ward in considering parks in that Ward against the Birmingham Future Parks Standard and implementing required actions to bring them up to that standard. Castle Vale, Nechells and Balsall Heath West are the next priority wards for roll out of the Future Parks Standard. This is comprised of three projects; one will work on devising our Local Nature Recovery Network to deliver a schedule of sites for delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain ahead of the full mandate contained in the Environment Act 2021, a second will draw up a green infrastructure masterplan for the East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Area. The final project will be Nature on your Doorstep, this will engage communities with their green space through the Future Parks Standard Process and help identify local Green Champions.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: Not known, however improving local green spaces through changes in management or creation of new habitats improves the delivery of essential ecosystem services providing increased benefits in terms of climate adaptation to local communities. Natural habitats sequester carbon, decrease flood risk and cool air around thereby providing indirect carbon savings.

Biochar Trial

- Actions and achievements this year: Working in partnership with the Energy from Bioproducts Research Institute (EBRI) we have installed a demonstration and test facility at Birmingham's plant production nursery at Cofton Park. Biochar as a product when produced from timber (derived from our cyclical urban forest management) can have many applications including use in tree planting. When used in such a way it can improve water retention in soils and increase plant growth and resilience to a number of climate related impacts. This facility also has a range of by-products that can be used in industry while surplus heat is used to warm the polytunnel used for growing on seedling plants.
- Challenges/Barriers: This technology and applications are still in relative infancy but show great potential for delivering low carbon products along with carbon sequestration through

use of the biochar itself. Exploring and developing the technology and breaking into new markets is a key theme of EBRI's work.

- Next steps: We will continue to support the Biochar trial and are looking to utilise the char product in our tree planting programmes. Teaming up with EBRI and Cranfield University trials will be undertaken to look at the effectiveness of biochar in several plant growth situations such as our tree planting programme but also when incorporated into soil mediums as a means of phasing out the use of Peat in plant production.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: Biochar and its production has great potential to reduce carbon emissions through the sustainable use of natural materials and application of by-products. Biochar production plants are being trialled in Sweden as part of a decentralised district heat network thereby reducing the direct consumption of power generated from fossil fuel resources.

National Trust Collaboration

- Actions and achievements this year: Building on the previous Future Parks Accelerator project, discussions are underway with the National Trust regarding the Council's aspiration to become a City of Nature by prioritising the value of green and blue infrastructure to address the global climate, biodiversity and health crises. The collaboration will focus on the East Birmingham geography to create a route map for delivery of green infrastructure and nature-based solutions to the challenges the area faces. This in turn will inform the wider approach to improving the quality of and access to nature at the city, regional, national and European levels. The partners will work with the community and stakeholders in the city to develop transformational improvement to Birmingham's green infrastructure, address inequitable access and maximise the benefits to local people. The partnership will also work together to identify and develop new and emerging funding and finance opportunities that support the creation, improvement and ongoing maintenance of green infrastructure. In support of this emerging collaboration, a Green Infrastructure Vision has been prepared for the East Birmingham Board. The Vision identifies the need to bring together various elements to deliver a comprehensive approach to Green Infrastructure. Based on this shared vision, a Green Infrastructure Action Plan will be prepared over the next twelve months setting out this approach, addressing the following key areas:
 - Greening the Grey – enhancing the ecology and amenity value of places where there is little or no Green Infrastructure
 - Improving Parks and Green Spaces – improving parks in East Birmingham to at least the Fair Parks Standard
 - Transport – maximising the potential of Green Infrastructure as part of the active travel network
- Challenges/Barriers: Delivering large-scale improvements to Green Infrastructure with strong community involvement and empowerment will require a very significant resource and capacity commitment from the Council and its partners. This will be addressed through the partnership development and funding and finance activities which are currently underway.
- Next steps: The next step will be to work with the National Trust to develop proposals for further and greater collaboration with the City Council, focussed on the East Birmingham area.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: Not known.

The Scale of Funding Secured for Nature & Environment

During 2022 there are number of projects related to the natural environment that have been either in delivery or commenced during this period. These include:

- Natural Rivers and Green Corridors
- Naturally Birmingham – Future Parks Accelerator
- Urban Forest Accelerator
- Urban Nature Development Programme

Several of these have been or are multi-year delivery. These projects have generally been led or co delivered by BCC with staff from Place, Prosperity and Sustainability, Public Health and City Operations. These projects either directly or as a co- benefit have supported the climate change agenda through delivery of climate adaptation and resilience benefits as well as biodiversity.

Funding for these projects has been (mainly) though external grants. **Total funding secured is £8,331,357.**

The above cumulative figure does not account for the tangible direct and indirect savings delivered through reduced impacts of climate change (reduced incidents of flooding for example) or the intangible in-kind value of volunteering enabled through the engagement and delivery of these projects and the mental health and well-being benefits derived for them and the wider communities.

CASE STUDY: Riparian projects

Several projects have and are being delivered which will both improve the natural environment and provide improved flood resilience. The final stages of the 3 year long Natural Rivers and Green corridors project are being delivered this year and up to the end of March 2023. This project has delivered habitat enhancement and in channel river morphology improvements through the River Rea upper catchment in conjunction with a major Environment Agency flood defence project on the River Tame in Sandwell Valley. This work when combined will decrease the flood risk for 1000's of properties in Birmingham.



The Hatchford Brook in Sheldon was also subject to some re-naturalisation work to decrease localised flood risk and improve the aquatic habitat for invertebrates. The River Rea through Stirchley and on to Cannon Hill Park has been subject to several weir removals and reprofiling of the channel including removal of engineered embankments again improving localised flood resilience and increased opportunities for isolated fish populations to repopulate previously

BCC is working with partners such as the Environment Agency to identify a range of opportunities for funding future works. An initial business case has been submitted by the EA to their internal funding programme to secure a further £500k to deliver a second phase of the Natural Rivers and Green Corridors project over the period 2023 – 2025. This work will contribute to the overall citywide Flood Risk Plan.

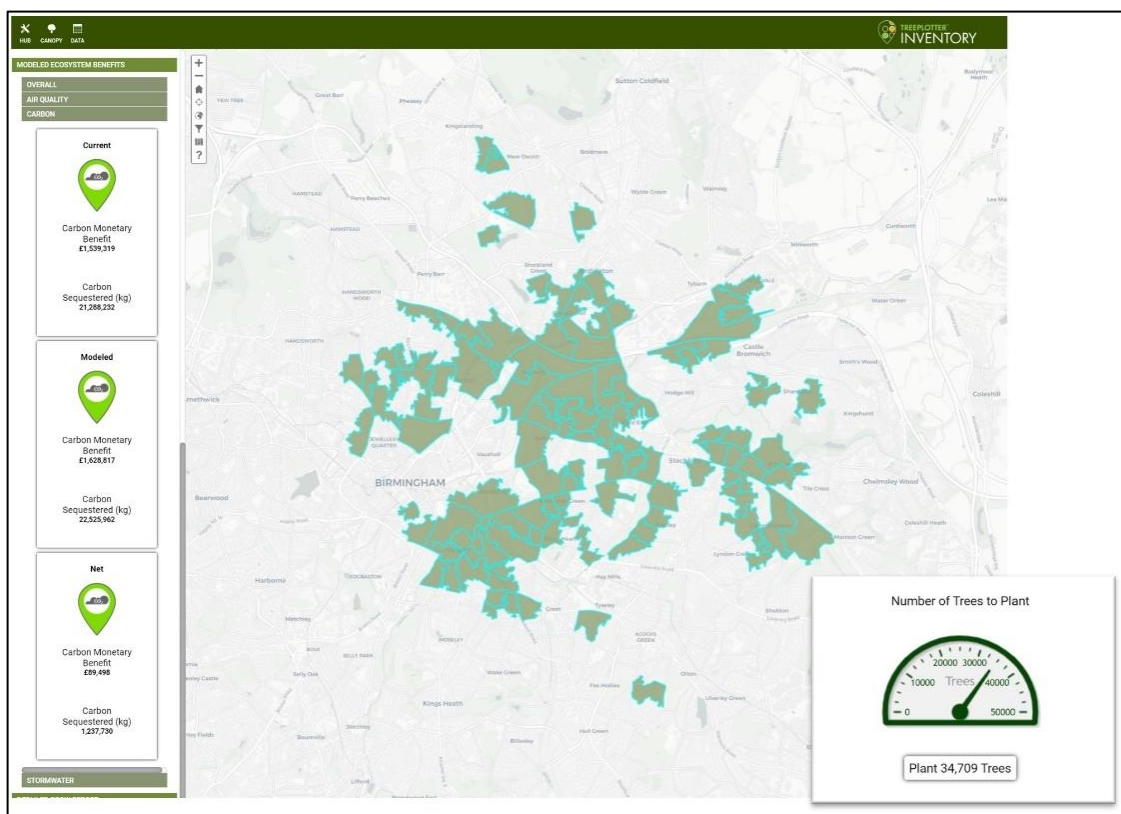
CASE STUDY: Tree Planting

Birmingham is recognised by the United Nations Farming and Agriculture Organisation as a Tree City of the World.

This award is given to cities that demonstrate they have robust plans and process in place for the sustainable management of trees within their area. In addition, it recognises the value that trees play in climate change regulation, carbon sequestration and promotion of mental health and well-being for residents of the city. In November 2021 Birmingham launched the UK's first comprehensive Urban Forest Master Plan which sets out the ambition for management and growth to 2051.

To support the aims and objectives of the Urban Forest Master Plan the city has in 2021/22:

- Supported the planting of 500 fruit and flowering trees as part of the National Trust's Blossom Together programme (these are a mix of private properties, community centres, parks, businesses etc.)
- Supported the planting of 12 acres of new woodland (17,000 trees) as part of the Commonwealth Games Legacy Woodland scheme.
- Supported the delivery of 8 Tiny Forests within Birmingham Schools
- Dedicated new tree plantings to the Queens Green Canopy project as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations
- Been recognised as a Queens Green Canopy Champion City for the work undertaken in partnership with Birmingham Trees for Life in engaging local residents in tree planting.
- Continued our Highway tree replacement planting scheme
- Supported the delivery of trees and urban greening through a number of public realm improvement schemes
- In partnership with Birmingham Tree People launched a digital platform for identifying where tree planting is most needed to deliver climate change regulation services.



Procurement

Procurement: Summary

A large proportion of the Council's own organisational impact is from the indirect emissions resulting from Council procurement – meaning procurement provides a key opportunity to reduce carbon emissions. To tackle this challenge, procurement has been created as a new defined theme in the Council programme of work. Over the last year, mechanisms have been incorporated into procurement arrangements to enable service areas to set out how contracts to be tendered will support carbon emissions reductions. The programme of work to reduce supply chain impact and support procurement partners will grow in 2023.

Procurement: New Projects

EQUANS Housing Repairs Contract

- Actions and achievements this year: Discussed areas of delivery for reporting emissions, how to capture and in what format the report should take. Main areas of reporting for Responsive Repairs will include Employee commute, Fleet and Business Mileage, Waste Created, electric fleet charging, transport of materials for main supply chain. Similar for Planned maintenance but will also include onsite electricity and gas usage.
- Challenges/Barriers: Identified areas of work which are difficult to report on e.g., supply chain very small companies do not record their emissions. EQUANS needs to work with all of their supply chain providing advice and guidance on how to measure their emissions.
- Next steps: To agree reporting template and frequency of reporting
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: Not yet known, but will be collected.

Route to Net Zero Procurement & Investment Policy

- Actions and achievements this year: Mechanisms have been incorporated into the procurement governance arrangements to enable service areas to set out how contracts to be tendered will support carbon emissions reductions. Major programme of work planned to engage with supply chain on net zero and sustainability priorities, prepare businesses for net zero aligned procurement policy and develop the policy and performance framework to manage and capture progress.
- Challenges/Barriers: Need for specialist support to develop policy and performance framework and support supply chain engagement; need to ensure consistent standard for performance which emphasises need to work in partnership with wider public sector; large proportion of small and medium businesses supplying services to the Council who may not have considered environmental sustainability as part of business activity to date.
- Next steps: Understand pipeline of new contracts and renewals to prioritise support, access expertise and capacity to support policy development and supply chain engagement. Reducing CO₂ within the supply chain will lead to a number of benefits including:
 - Identification and adoption of innovation and technology to support CP sustainability management and reporting.
 - Greater engagement with local SMEs including signposting to organisations supporting businesses with net zero readiness and emissions performance monitoring.
 - Smarter KPI's and reporting on the decarbonisation of the supply chain.
 - Budget holders, contract managers and corporate procurement are trained on category management sustainability ask for BCC vendors and how to engage with vendors to establish contract level CO₂ reporting and plans to deliver decarbonisation of the Council's supply chain.

- BCC CP is recognised for work in promoting and embedding sustainability best practice within and across the Council
- Improved partnership working with strategic vendors
- Increased granularity of understanding on procurement carbon emissions impact
- Addressing high CO₂ generating spend categories identified in the Anthesis Report, accelerating progress towards BCC's CO₂ reduction target
- Transparency and measurable outputs on how BCC is reducing its scope 3 emissions impact.
- Supply chain readiness for net zero including investment readiness for business expansion given the increased focus on the Environmental, Social and Governance credentials of investments.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: Cannot be attributed. Performance reporting from existing Council contract underway.

Procurement of Green Electricity

- Actions and achievements this year: BCC have procured green electricity (REGOs) through an energy framework for Council non-domestic consumption.
- Challenges/Barriers: Purchasing green electricity represents a carbon offset and not a true carbon emissions saving – the priority is to support real emissions reduction through demand reduction and renewable energy investment.
- Next steps: Supporting identification of, and investment in, action to reduce electricity demand and renewable electricity generation.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: Annual carbon offset of 28,597 tonnes CO₂.



Behaviour Change & Engagement

Behaviour Change & Engagement: Summary

Birmingham's net zero ambition can only be realised through collective change by the council and by the city as a whole. Moreover, it is evident that much of this systemic change will need to come from behaviour change of our citizens, our staff, and our businesses.

As a large organisation, tackling our own emissions requires the council to consider net zero in all new projects. We have taken steps to achieve this through new mandatory environmental sustainability assessments on our cabinet reports. In addition to making net zero a priority at the strategic level, progress is being made to raise the awareness of climate change and the need to act among all our staff. By empowering council officers to put net zero at the forefront of their professional work we also benefit from their roles as individuals and members of their communities.

An exciting programme of engagement is being developed, recognising the need to work hand in hand with businesses and citizens. By engaging with a diverse range of voices we can ensure that Birmingham's progress towards net zero is just and equitable.

Behaviour Change & Engagement: Wave 1 Project Updates

Council Wide Route to Net Zero Comms Strategy

- Actions and achievements this year: A communications strategy will be required to support regular and transparent communication about Council and city-wide route to zero activity. Due to lack of capacity in year, priority has been given to website refresh and building relationships and communicating with stakeholders in the public, private and community sectors. The team is now working with communications officers to develop a clear communication forward plan.
- Challenges/Barriers: Net zero is a complex area which requires engagement across all stakeholders across the city.
- Next steps: Development of a more detailed communications strategy.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: Does not produce savings within itself. Strategy is about communicating activities that do produce savings.

Environmental Sustainability Assessment

- Actions and achievements this year: An Environment and Sustainability Assessment (ESA) is an appraisal process which assesses the environmental impacts of projects and programmes. Sign off is required from the Route to Net Zero team on all ESA's. The ESA process was approved at Cabinet following two trials, ESA now a requirement of all Cabinet reports.
- Challenges/Barriers: Knowledge required to identify carbon emissions reduction and environmental sustainability priorities as part of projects or policies. Awareness of ESA requirement.
- Next steps: Continue to assess ESA's and deliver training to ensure staff familiarisation with purpose and requirements. Strengthen responses by seeking engagement at early stage of project or policy development.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: ESA does not currently calculate potential carbon emissions savings. This will be considered as part of strengthened methodology.

Behaviour Change & Engagement: New Projects

Carbon Literacy Training

- Actions and achievements this year: A pilot training session was delivered to 12 staff in November. Feedback has been gathered to gauge whether the training was effective in growing knowledge and understanding and is therefore beneficial to staff. Additional training has also been delivered to Councillors around retrofit.
- Challenges/Barriers: Funding – the training is affordable at a cost of £10 per person, however the long-term costs associated with delivering the training are significant.
- Next steps: To review feedback and identify potential improvements to the training, and subject to agreement, write a business case to fund carbon literacy training long term.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: The Carbon Literacy Project estimates that those who complete the course make action pledges which on average results in a reduction of 3.6 tonnes of CO₂ per person.

Route to Net Zero Website Update

- Actions and achievements this year: The team has drastically updated the Climate Change section of the BCC website to rationalise content and deliver 3 purposes: 1) Inform residents about what climate change is. 2) Provide accountability over what action the Council is taking. 3) Signpost residents, community groups, and businesses towards useful resources to help them take action.
- Challenges/Barriers: The lengthy process to get website updated was not anticipated.
- Next steps: Maintain and update with any new developments. There is the possibility to expand the signposting and advice section of the website to provide more information.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: Not possible to quantify.

Schools Air Quality Monitoring

- Actions and achievements this year: Birmingham's Clean Air Strategy includes a pledge to improve air quality monitoring at schools across the city. The first phase of the project is currently underway that aims to install an air quality sensor at a rate of one sensor in every council ward in Birmingham (a total of 69 sensors). The sensors are supplied by Airly and monitor for a range of pollutants including Nitrogen Dioxide and Particulate, the results are in real-time and can be viewed at [Air Quality Map - Check air pollution in your area - MyAirly](#). The project aims to increase the understanding of the air quality around schools and to engage students, teachers and the wider public how positive behaviour change can help improve air quality.
- Challenges/Barriers: The main challenge encountered has been the installation of sensors. In some wards it has been a challenge to encourage schools to have a sensor installed and has required a significant amount of proactive engagement. A survey is due to be undertaken to better understand these barriers.
- Next steps: The next phase of the project is due to commence later this year in which an air quality sensor will be offered to every school in Birmingham.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: Not possible to quantify.



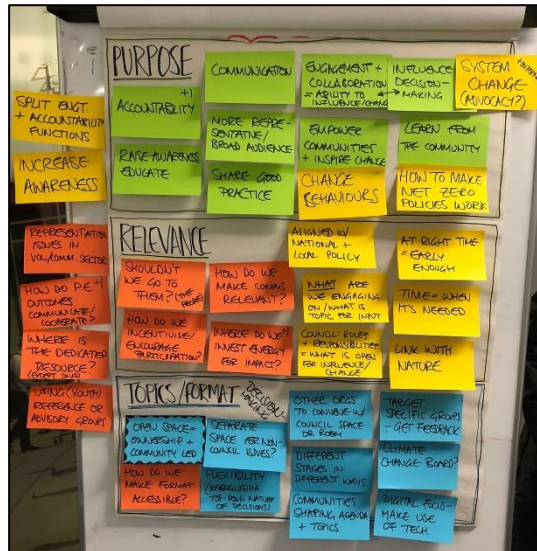
3 Cities Retrofit Collaboration

- Actions and achievements this year: The 3 Cities is a unique collaboration between the cities of Birmingham, Coventry and Wolverhampton, working together to make our cities great places to live, work and play. By working together, we aim to bring additionality, driving pace and scale in addressing complex retrofit issues and opportunities together. 3 Cities Retrofit aims to develop an integrated programme reflecting the diversity of needs and housing portfolios of each city. The 3 Cities submitted three individual bids to BEIS' SHDF Wave 2.1, towards a capital programme totalling over £190m and representing a significant proportion of the total funding available. These included joint 3 Cities commitments across key enablers including skills and training development, sharing of best practice and lessons learnt, procurement and supply chain development. These bids were also aligned with the West Midlands Combined Authority's consortium bid. We expect to hear back in quarter 1 2023. Have held discussions with private finance to explore the options to address the UK's funding gap for retrofit. We are now progressing an investible retrofit funding model for social housing ahead of further engagement with potential partners.
- Challenges/Barriers: SHDF application is unsuccessful.
- Next steps: Pilot will establish basis for future retrofit of similar homes.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: Collaborative work intended to scale up delivery of significant carbon emissions savings but none directly attributable to collaboration itself.

Community Assembly Review

- Context: The Community Assembly was born out of the Route to Net Zero Taskforce and met 3 times from June 2021 to February 2022. Sessions and talks were delivered on the clean air zone, transport plans, and the natural environment. Questions have been raised about how to improve the assembly and make it more useful to attendees and the Council, therefore the team are reviewing options.
- Actions and achievements this year: Attended Local Climate Engagement Training delivered by Involve UK and applied learning to the Community Assembly. Discussed options to take the assembly forward with the Cabinet Member for Environment, organised internal workshop on public engagement for Transport, Planning, and Housing to share public engagement knowledge and discuss how to improve the Community Assembly. Conducted a survey with existing members of the Community Assembly, to gather their opinions on progress to date.
- Challenges/Barriers: Creating a platform for meaningful engagement, ensuring inclusive participation and representation.

- Next steps: Agree next steps for the Community Assembly and commence engagement activity to review this with existing members. To ensure we maintain a good frequency of communications whilst developing a behaviour change and engagement plan that will ensure wider engagement. Including more direct involvement with greener together former and greater frequency of communication on city council activities.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: Not applicable.



Climate Justice Staff Network

- Actions and achievements this year: A proposal has been submitted to establish a Climate Action Network at Birmingham City Council for staff members. This aims to help empower staff to make climate conscious actions in their work and personal lives.
- Challenges/Barriers: Encouraging sign up of staff, making the outputs of the network genuinely useful.
- Next steps: Presenting the proposal to the Diversity Alliance Network.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: Not applicable.

Centre for Sustainable Energy Training

- Actions and achievements this year: The Centre for Sustainable Energy delivered 4 2-hour general carbon literacy training to Council staff. Approximately 70 staff were trained. 2 tailored planning training sessions, each lasting 3 hours, were also delivered by members of the Route to Net Zero team and were received well.
- Challenges/Barriers: The lack of engagement when attending training online rather than in person, time commitment to training.
- Next steps: The successes of this training created the appetite for the team to further explore and implement a wider Council wide training programme (see carbon literacy training).
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: Not applicable.



Community and Business Stakeholder Engagement

- Actions and achievements this year: Helped join up efforts to engage businesses on climate change by various stakeholders. Signposted on our website and participated in the West Midlands Net Zero Business Pledge scheme. Presented at and participated in the Chamber of Commerce's sustainability series. Proposed introduction of a business mentoring scheme to encourage knowledge sharing across organisations – now being trialled by Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce. Supply chain workshops have been run with major contractors to build reporting framework on net zero and sustainability and inform new policy development. The council have worked with local community groups MECC Trust and Acocks Greener to work with communities within Balsall Heath and Acocks Green around LADs 3. These local community organisations then engaged with the community through retrofit cafes, events, briefing sessions and street by street door knocking to promote the benefits of retrofit for residents and households.
- Challenges/Barriers: Due to Birmingham's large geographic area and population, being at all relevant events and meetings can be a challenge with limited resources. Next steps: Continue to build partnership working with business support organisations and networks.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: Not applicable.

Cost of Living Programme

- Actions and achievements this year: Route to zero team have been engaged with the Cost-of-Living Emergency Working Group to lead on the energy efficiency workstream and identify and establish support mechanisms and access to energy efficiency measures. Alongside signposting advice and referrals to grant funding schemes, a range of other sources of support are being established.
- Challenges/Barriers: Limited capacity in energy advice services, speed of mobilisation.
- Next steps: Continue to implement existing mechanisms and support services and ways to build continuity and capacity.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: Energy efficiency advice and grants to support retrofit measures may lead to savings.

CASE STUDY: Retrofit reimagined case study – Birmingham Settlement, Edgbaston Reservoir

“What if the climate transition and retrofit of our homes and streets were designed, owned and governed by the people who live there?”

The participants at the Retrofit Re-imagined festival in July 22 sought some answers to this question through four days of events and talks. Some of the solutions were for residents to be part of the retrofit solution by doing some of the work themselves, forming district heat networks, supporting each other to use less energy and by raising awareness of the climate crisis and how to adapt to increasing temperatures. The event was organised by John Christophers from the Zero Carbon House, Dark Matter Labs, Civic Square, Architects Climate Action Network and New Economics Foundation.



CASE STUDY: Place, Prosperity and Sustainability Away Day



After volunteering to work on the organising committee of the Place Prosperity and Sustainability directorate away day (held on the 7th of September at the Rep Theatre) the team used the event as an opportunity to promote awareness of climate change issues and the built environment which the directorate works on. Having previously seen Immy Kaur and Indy Johar speak at another Birmingham event, the team booked the pair to present a powerful talk followed by an on-stage Q&A with Route to Net Zero Assistant Director.

The talk was well received by staff and directors alike, with the Strategic Director extending the allotted time of the talk. The event led to some very serious and frank discussions around the work required by the directorate in this area and Indy also offered to return to speak to specific departments about climate change and the built environment. Overall, we were able to use the away day to raise the profile and awareness of the net zero work and commitment of the Council, helping embed it within departments across the Council.

Communications

Communications: Summary

Communications on climate change and our route to net zero journey are central to achieving our goals. Climate change communication is about simultaneously educating, inspiring and motivating residents to take their own actions to tackle climate change. Events that have taken place this year, including the Commonwealth Games, which had sustainability at its heart, and the PoliNations festival have helped to spread the messages of the climate change, nature and net zero programme. BCC is also a member of a number of groups who the City communicates with and who in turn communicate with local residents. Moving forward, a strong communications plan will be crucial to ensuring the residents of Birmingham are informed on and engaged with the actions the Council is taking on climate change.

Communications: New Projects

Sustainability in the Commonwealth Games Major Events

- Actions and achievements this year: Birmingham hosted the Commonwealth Games (CWG) which aimed to be the most sustainable Games yet and will have a carbon neutral legacy. Following extensive engagement with key stakeholders, businesses, business networks and citizens, and effective planning by TfWM and BCC, the efforts to promote the use of active travel and public transport during Commonwealth Games were considered a resounding success. During the Games, 650,000 spectator journeys were carried out on spectator shuttle buses, while Metro patronage doubled compared to its pre-pandemic level. In addition, there were 28,000 cycle hires during the Games and a record 255,000 passengers travelled through Birmingham New Street station on August 6th. The success of travel planning during the Commonwealth Games demonstrates that large-scale travel behaviour change is possible and provides a hopeful basis for future interventions.
- Challenges/Barriers: Achieving net zero for international events requires the use of offsetting which is a challenge.
- Next steps: The World Trampoline Championships will be held in Birmingham in 2023 and Birmingham will also be welcoming the European Athletics Championships in 2026. Learning from the CWG approach, each event has a Sustainability plan and should commit to be net zero. Next step is to support events' organisers with carbon emission monitoring and offsetting (if needed).
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: Not yet known

Sustainable Tourism Hub

- Actions and achievements this year: The Council are working with Sustainability West Midlands to develop online training modules and guides to support Birmingham's Visitor Economy businesses in their journeys to become more environmentally sustainable. Access to the support will be free and topics including business benefits, utilities, food and drink, waste and recycling and marketing their sustainability will be illustrated with videos, toolkits and local case studies. It is a challenging time for the sector during the current economic climate, however the hub aims to make a compelling case for businesses to become more adaptable and resilient to rising energy prices and other shocks.
- Challenges/Barriers: None identified to date.

- Next steps: Training content is currently being finalised and reviewed before being uploaded to visitbirmingham.com. The Sustainable Tourism Hub is due to launch in late January/ early February 2023.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: Engagement will indirectly lead to carbon savings.

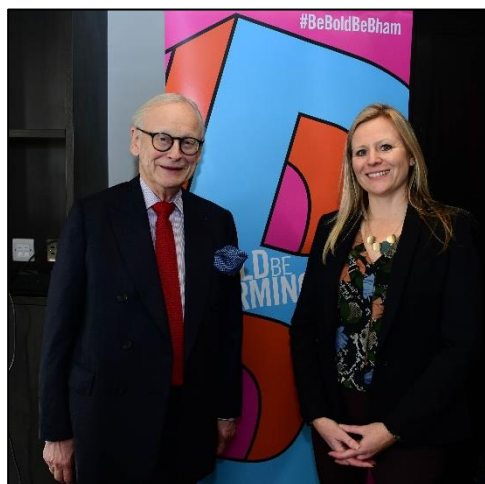
Group memberships

In addition to the above, BCC is also a member of a number of groups:

- Birmingham and Solihull NHS Green Board – collaboration group of all NHS Trusts. Board member represents BCC.
- Net Zero Directors – run by West Midlands Combined Authority - group of senior officers leading on net zero across the region
- Net Zero Officers Group – run by West Midlands Combined Authority – network for net zero Council officers in the region
- Core Cities Low Carbon Energy and Resilience Hub
- Sustainable Housing Action Partnership – BCC are members and AD of Route to Net Zero is both a member and chair of the group.
- Birmingham Voluntary Service Council - Energy & Environment Group
- WMCA Net Zero Business Pledge Network

CASE STUDY – Birmingham first UK city to host the UK’s Climate Change Committee (CCC)

Birmingham was selected as the first city in the UK to host the Climate Change Committee (CCC) to mark the start of the CCC’s “climate conversation” initiative. The CCC, chaired by Lord Deben, is an independent, statutory body, which advises the UK and devolved governments on emissions targets. The visit took place in February 2022, during which time the Committee meet with a range of groups, including college students, faith and business leaders as well as members of the City Council’s cabinet and leadership team. The CCC also visited Tyseley Energy Park (TEP) to see a demonstration of Birmingham City Council’s Hydrogen Bus fleet. The demonstration took place at TEP’s low and zero carbon refuelling station, home to the UK’s largest green hydrogen refuelling facility.



CASE STUDY: The Route to Net Zero Team



As of April 2022, a substantive route to zero carbon team has been in place. Having the resource of a dedicated team has enabled team members to attend meetings and present to other directorates to spread the route to zero message. Presentations have been given to various other Council departments. We have also delivered talks at: Forum for the Built Environment, Tomorrow's Net Zero Conference, Housing 2022 Annual Conference, Planning Portal and Royal Town Planning Institute National Conference and Birmingham Retrofit Summit.

CASE STUDY: Project 80 - Midland Heart



Midland Heart have worked with partners from Birmingham City University to develop Project 80. Project 80 is an initial development of 12 homes in Birmingham that meets the Future Homes Standard three years ahead of schedule. These developments are believed to be the first of their kind in the country and the average home will have 80% less carbon emissions than one built now. The first 12 homes are being delivered on Eco Drive in Handsworth. The homes have been designed to provide superior insulation, as well as incorporating low and zero carbon technologies such as air-source heat pumps, hot water heat pumps and wastewater heat recovery. Midland Heart have also started work on 12 Future Homes maisonettes on Elvetham Road in Edgbaston, where they will explore different methods of achieving the FHS.

CASE STUDY – PoliNations



The PoliNations events transformed Victoria Square in the City Centre into a vibrant living oasis filled with thousands of plants and brought to life through free garden tours, audio baths, live music and light shows, costume design workshops, sensory experiences, poetry and performance. Created by Trigger Collective, the event was held between 2nd - 18th September 2022 and was a resounding success with many thousands of visitors.

The event was inspired by the fact that 80% of plants found in UK city-gardens originate from overseas. Audiences discovered a super garden in Birmingham's City Centre, with giant architectural trees and thousands of colourful living plants beautifully arranged in zones ranging from meadows to forest. Across two long weekends, a community planting weekend, and a daily programme of inspiring activity, PoliNations presented artist commissions, talks, workshops, garden tours, and performances spanning live music, spoken word, dance, and drag. All events were free and open to everyone. As part of a partnership with Birmingham City Council, plants from the PoliNations garden will be reused to re-green the city.

Digital & Data

Digital & Data: Summary

Over the last year, a new Strategy, Equality & Partnerships lead has been recruited, alongside a new team working on Partnerships Insight and Prevention. Expertise sits within this new team around data and digital, and as a result a decision was made to create a new theme around digital and data. Good work is already underway internally, as well as in coordination with the City's universities. The use of digital GIS systems for the creation of the emerging Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment makes Birmingham the second city in the UK to have a fully compliant Climate Risk & Vulnerability Assessment. Moving forward, the use of digital and data solutions will be central to how the council gathers, analyses and presents future climate change data.

Digital & Data: New Projects

Digital Twin for Tyseley (TEED)

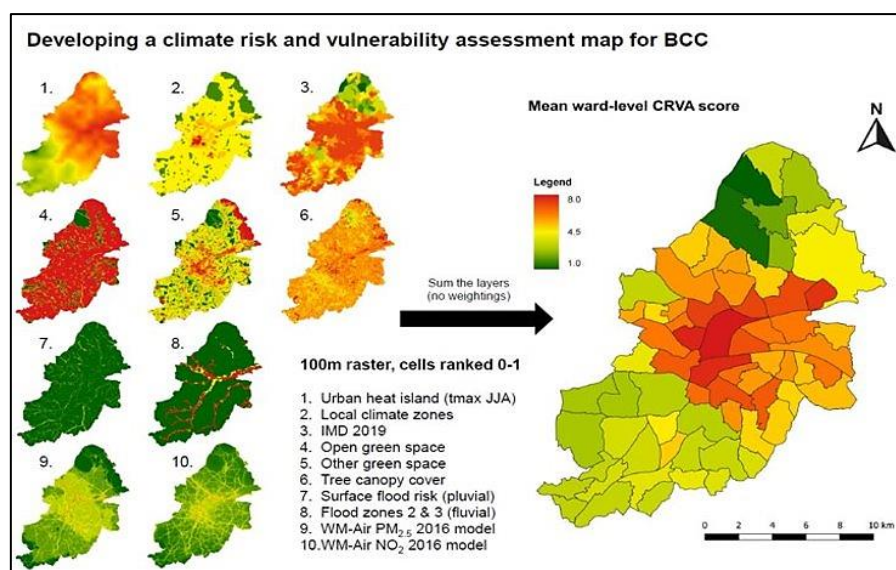
- Actions and achievements this year: The Digital Twin working group has been established. The work associated with mapping out the physical grid connections is well underway. The scanning of TEED will be early next year. The work is funded (£240k) by UoB and funding agreements are now in place and this phase of the project needs to be complete by end of March 2023.
- Challenges/Barriers: Contracts and agreements
- Next steps: This activity links into a Strategic Investment Fund bid led by National Grid to develop the energy infrastructure across TEED. The Digital Twin will be used in this project if it is funded.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: None as yet.

Driving Urban Transitions Call

- Actions and achievements this year: BCC are working with Aston Uni/BCU on a bid which offers opportunities for transnational cooperation and transdisciplinary cooperation along three transition pathways, and in particular for the purposes of the 15-minute transition pathway. The purpose of the pathway is to facilitate analysis, elaboration, experimenting and testing of innovations to develop 15-minute cities in co-creative settings, and bring this together in a portfolio of 50+ experiences and practices, recognising different urban contexts and focusing on transferability. Birmingham City Council is currently carrying out a pilot of the 15-minute concept in the area of Bordesley Green, East Birmingham which is known locally as the Healthy Living Zone initiative. The work of the pilot will lead to a project prospectus of possible interventions to deliver on the concept within the pilot area.
- Challenges/Barriers: Co-ordination of policies from different directorates within BCC and responding to the views and needs of local people and businesses.
- Next steps: Undertake research with Aston University and implement some pilot changes in Bordesley Green.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: Not yet known.

Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment

- Actions and achievements this year: In February 2022 Birmingham City Council adopted an Environmental Justice Map for Birmingham, which added 4 new GIS layers on top of the Index of Multiple Deprivation, which we believe to be a UK first. BCC's central GIS team have agreed to work with the University research team, to re-work the existing Environmental Justice Map for Birmingham, by introducing these missing GIS layers. This would make Birmingham the second city in the UK to have a fully compliant Climate Risk & Vulnerability Assessment. A summary of outputs can be seen below.



- Challenges/Barriers: The major challenges have been to locate the missing data layers and apply for a formal working ticket for the precious time of the BCC central GIS team's time. Both of these challenges have now been met. Additionally, is ensuring that the mathematical assessments required to generate the final CRVA Map do not double count any element, on top of the existing baseline IMD data layers.
- Next steps: The WM-Air University research team and the BCC central GIS team are making the data available as a GIS tool. The intention of the CRVA is that this will inform all Council policy, including the revised Birmingham Development Plan by making visible to contrasting zones of impact of both climate change and nature deficit, across the city. This new map would then form part of, to help inform future development decisions in the city. The map will be available in early 2023.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: The Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Map is a policy driver for change, so will not in itself represent a carbon saving. However, its adoption is a key driver for accelerated change for Birmingham City Council and all its stakeholders and partners. It will lead to immediate changes to development and service requirements, each of which will result in their own discreet carbon and nature enhancements for the city. By creating such a visual impactful map this will also help lead to the accelerated delivery of a 'Just Transition'; in so far as making very visible to distinct inequalities of current quality of life experienced by different citizens of the city; just as a result of their geographic location.

Digitalisation in Housing Retrofit

- Actions and achievements this year: Increasing digitalisation of services and products in the city. Head of Digital City and Innovation is leading on a 'data lake' to aggregate anonymised live data. Successful bid enables sensors to be installed in the 3 Cities whole house retrofit houses and at least 9 from other archetypes to provide comparison data.
- Challenges/Barriers: Unsuccessful bid prevents roll out.
- Next steps: Successful bid enables sensors to be installed in the 3 Cities whole house retrofit houses and at least 9 from other archetypes to provide comparison data.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: Data will start to be captured on building completion.

Decarbonomics – Energy and Carbon Asset Management Tool

- Actions and achievements this year: Faithful and Gould have been commissioned to assess the BCC owned buildings using their Decarbonomics tool. Detailed data on BCC buildings energy use and models for how this can be decreased will be developed.
- Challenges/Barriers: None
- Next steps: Support Corporate Landlord with a decarbonisation strategy for BCC owned properties
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: No direct savings.

Centre for Sustainable Energy 3D Project

- Actions and achievements this year: Project 3D, run jointly between CSE and BCC was a 2 year long initiative to help decarbonise Birmingham within a decade. CSE worked alongside Birmingham City Council and local community partners to:



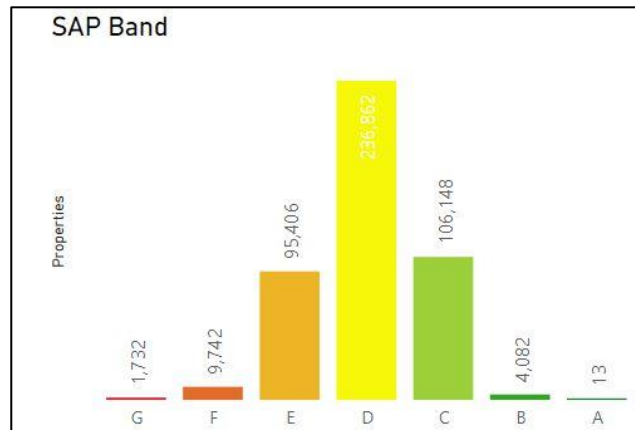
- Establish an energy data hub.
- Engage with a wide range of stakeholders, including through training and demonstrations.
- Support city wide applications of the data as well as local community projects using data to help reduce carbon emissions.
- Evaluate the project and share our learning.

The project selected 7 projects that use the 3D data in an innovative way. These projects were: Birmingham County Football Association, Community Energy Birmingham - solar node, EcoBirmingham 69 wards bikes, Ecobirmingham One Planet Living, Footsteps, Faith for a low carbon future, Birmingham Tree People and Community Energy Birmingham – energy efficiency. BCC have also been a part of CSE's Solar Calculator Advisory Group. The project concluded in September 2022.

- Challenges/Barriers: Increasing interest in solar pv requires an easy to access tool to calculate savings made from solar photovoltaics per building. Price of tool may be prohibitive.
- Next steps: Solar PV tool could be used to assess BCC buildings and housing stock. We are exploring the possibility of uploading the data from the 3D data hub to the BCC produced city observatory data platform.
- If possible, any identified carbon emission savings: No direct savings.

CASE STUDY: Housing Stock Tool – Parity Projects

As part of a funding package secured by the WMCA, Parity produced a housing stock analysis tool for the West Midlands. The tool allows a variety of data to be interrogated either by lower super output area, postcode, ward or simply city wide. Data spans all housing data held for the city, from glazing type to main heating source. The tool produces graphs and tables that can be quickly and easily exported. The tool has proved extremely useful when formulating the evidence base for reports or bids.



Chapter 4 - Project Level Carbon Emissions Reductions

As a Council, we still struggle to quantify the carbon emissions reductions from the wide range of activities that happen across the city, or that indirectly contribute to the city's Route to Zero. Access to quality data is the largest barrier and it is for this reason that a key theme of the programme moving forward is Data and Insights. We are exploring a range of options for data capture and assessment to ensure emissions reductions at an organisational and City-wide level can be measured and tracked as part of all emerging policies, plans and projects. We are also working with supply chain partners on reporting of key environmental metrics as part of contract delivery.

A huge number of the projects outlined above have the potential to realise significant carbon emissions reductions over the coming years. Council-led projects actively in delivery during 2022 are estimated to lead to the following carbon reductions:

- Boiler replacement programme – 1,782 tonnes CO₂ (per year).
- Sustainable Warmth (LADS 3) – 930 tonnes CO₂ (whole project)

The following significant projects have been developed during 2022 and will commence in 2023:

- Whole House Retrofit - 397 tonnes CO₂ savings (whole project)
- SHDF (subject to application success) – potential saving of 5,172 tonnes CO₂ (whole project)

The following projects and programmes will directly or indirectly lead to carbon emissions reductions, however, the quantum of carbon dioxide emissions contribution is yet to be quantified.

- Energy Companies Obligation 4
- Corporate Landlord Net Zero Plan
- Hydrogen buses
- Birmingham Transport Plan Delivery Plan
- Clean Air Zone
- Civic Car and Alternative Transport Provisions Review
- Birmingham District Energy Scheme Decarbonisation
- East Birmingham Energy Infrastructure
- Solar Photovoltaics Rollout
- Alternative Treatments of Waste
- Waste Fleet Vehicles
- Urban Forest Masterplan
- Biochar Trial
- EQUANS Housing Repair Contract
- Route to Net Zero Procurement Policy
- Commonwealth Games

A key priority for the data & digital theme of the programme will be to seek to quantify and report accurate carbon emissions data to all policies, plans and programmes.

Chapter 4 - Next Steps

This final chapter will discuss the direction of the Route to Net Zero team over the next year, as well as any further support that will be required to facilitate this.

A new Climate Change, Nature and Net Zero Programme Board made up of senior representatives from across the Council has been established that will report directly into Council Leadership Team on a quarterly basis. The group will oversee strategic and delivery progress in each theme area. The sessions will include deep dive presentations on specific topics. The first Board will meet in early January 2023 and will ensure there is appropriate pace and scale of action across net zero and climate resilience and adaptation activities. In addition to this a cross party group, the Climate Change, Nature and Net Zero advisory committee made up of cabinet and cross-political party representatives which will provide political oversight.

In 2023 Birmingham's Our Future City Plan (OFCP) will be launched, presenting a 20-year vision for Central Birmingham which includes the city centre and surrounding key growth areas. OFCP will provide a solid foundation from which to develop policies and projects that will deliver high-quality housing, employment, education, sustainable and active transport and green space, aligned with the Council's objectives around Inclusive Growth and Route to Net Zero. Following the initial launch of the "Shaping our City Together" consultation document in 2021, the Route to Net Zero team have been providing strategic direction into the emerging framework. The plan will in turn inform the key projects and shape the future direction and priorities of the Route to Net Zero agenda.

Through the review of the Birmingham Development Plan, we need to produce new policies that require all new development, including change of use and retrofit, to be as close to net zero as possible to ensure they do not add to the carbon emissions of the city and are not adding to the future retrofit burden. Policies will need to deal with all carbon associated with new buildings including the energy needed to power them (operational energy) and that needed to construct and decommission them (embodied energy). This is known as whole life carbon.

Central Government recognises that local authorities play an essential role in driving local climate action, however there is no statutory obligation for Local Authorities to act on climate change, nor fixed framework to do so. However, as the largest Council in England, Birmingham City Council are keen to ensure the Council accelerates the Route to Net Zero agenda, providing leadership and working in collaboration with the wider city to realise the significant opportunities that our Net Zero transition presents. In tandem with this need for an accelerated activity on Net Zero, there is a severe biodiversity crisis; the natural world has already reached crisis point, with 28% of plants and animals threatened with extinction. In recognition of both the climate and ecological emergency, the Ecology Bill currently being heard in the House of Lords is supported by Birmingham City Council. Our own moves to ensure the dual importance of climate change mitigation, and adaptation and nature resilience is recognised in the Council's own climate emergency response is in recognition of the importance of nature and biodiversity. The introduction of a legally enforceable nature target to match the Net Zero is an important step forward and it is right that the UK plays its fair role in halting and reversing the destruction of the natural world. Birmingham's City of Nature 25-year green infrastructure plan presents our own commitments to Environmental Justice and Nature Recovery across the city by improving the quality, climate resilience and biodiversity value of our parks and green spaces.

Moving forward, we need to build upon the momentum of the past year and increase the City's capacity for delivery. There are several major applications we are waiting to hear the outcomes of – including for housing energy efficiency investment via the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF). Should these be successful, a huge volume of activity and carbon dioxide emissions reduction will ensue. The relationships forged with public sector, private sector and community networks across Birmingham will provide invaluable support in ensuring the Route to Net Zero activities have people and place at their heart, help build continuity in areas such as housing retrofit and bring large scale funding into the city. Communicating activity more frequently and supporting wider engagement across the City is a key priority and we look forward to working closely with our citizens and partners.

Appendix 1: Wave 1 Projects

Appendix 1 provides an update on the wave 1 projects. Please note the old theme categories were: New Build, Retrofit, Transport, Waste, Energy, City of Nature and Council. The updated theme names are Buildings, Transport, Waste & circular Economy, Energy, Nature & Environment, , Behaviour change & Engagement, Communications, Digital & Data and Procurement. The old theme names have been used here for transparency

The following projects are live, and have been reported on in the main body of the report:

Theme	Project
Buildings New Build	Energy Saving Technologies Pilot (Gressel Lane)
Buildings New Build	Passivhaus Pilot - Dawberry Fields
Buildings New Build	Review the Birmingham Development Plan
Buildings New Build	Our Future City Plan
Buildings: Retrofit	Thermal Impact / Energy Efficiency Survey and Delivery Plan
Buildings: Retrofit	Boiler Replacement Programme
Buildings: Retrofit	East Birmingham Heat Taskforce produce retrofit and decarbonisation OBC
Transport	EV Charging Points
Transport	Hydrogen Bus Pilot
Transport	City Centre Clear Air Zone
Waste	Waste Fleet – Hydrogen/EV Fleet Demonstrator
City of Nature	Urban Forest Masterplan
Council Engagement & Behaviour Change, Agile / Remote Working	Council - wide Route to Zero Behaviour Change Communications Strategy

The following actions are complete:

Theme	Project	Notes
Buildings New Build	To agree an environmentally sustainable standard	Action complete. Standard updated in July 2021 and now used for all new schemes.
Buildings New Build	Zero Carbon Homes Route Map (WMCA	Routemap published in 2021

Buildings: Retrofit	Phase 2 Green Homes LADs funding	LADs 2 concluded in April 2022. This has now been replaced with a new action around LADs 3.
Buildings: Retrofit	Partnerships with Utilities	ECO3 has now concluded, new action added around ECO4.
Transport	Birmingham Transport Plan and Delivery Plan	Complete - this has now been replaced by an action around the delivery of the Birmingham Transport Plan.
Energy	BEIS – City Decarbonisation Delivery Plan programme 2- (CDDP),	Project completed – individual CDDP strands covered by new actions
Energy	Council House Electrical Rewire	Project complete.
City of Nature	Future Parks Accelerator Project	Adopted in 2022 – now City of Nature Delivery Plan.
City of Nature	Design Guide SPD	Design guide was adopted in winter of 2021.
Council Engagement & Behaviour Change, Agile / Remote Working	Agile / Remote Working,	Project complete.

The following actions have been reprofiled or embedded into new actions or themes. Work also continues at a partnership level –and we are identifying a range of individual opportunities that are currently being defined.

Theme	Project
Buildings: Retrofit	Large Panel Block (LPS) Retrofit and Ground Source Heating Pilot
Buildings: Retrofit	Implementation of city-wide retrofit plan
Transport	Bus Franchising
Transport	Delivery of Active Travel Fund
Waste	Commission a Joint Study with WMCA
Waste	Municipal Waste Strategy
Waste	Circular Economy
Waste	Waste to Recycling
Energy	District Heat Networks Energy Centres
Energy	Tyseley Energy Recovery Facility, Waste Transfer Stations and Household Waste
City of Nature	Biodiversity Supplementary Planning document
City of Nature	WM National Park Concept
City of Nature	Ward End and Cole Valley Green Skills Hub
Council Engagement & Behaviour Change, Agile / Remote Working	Working with Partners
Council Engagement & Behaviour Change, Agile / Remote Working	Embed carbon reduction in decision making

Council Engagement & Behaviour Change, Agile / Remote Working	Training and Induction
Council Engagement & Behaviour Change, Agile / Remote Working	Council Procurement
Council Engagement & Behaviour Change, Agile / Remote Working	Council Procurement

Appendix 2: UK and International Climate Change Context

The UK Context

The Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener published by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) on 19th October 2021, sets out the UK government's overarching approach to meeting its 2050 net zero emissions commitment. Overall, the Strategy's ambitions align to the UK's Net Zero by 2050 target and the requirement to reduce carbon emissions by 78% by 2035 compared to 1990 levels (63% relative to 2019) as enshrined in the UK's sixth Carbon Budget.

The strategy sets out Government's plans for reducing emissions from each sector of our economy, while tackling any remaining emissions with greenhouse gas removals – either via the use of natural carbon sinks or technological means such as carbon capture and storage. The document sets out clear policies and proposals for keeping Britain on track to achieve its Carbon Budget commitments and sets out the Government's vision for a decarbonised economy in 2050. The document sets out policy proposals to hit the 2050 target across a range of economic areas including power, heat and buildings, and transport.

The Strategy sets out four key principles:

1. Working with the grain of consumer choice: no one will be required to rip out their existing boiler or scrap their current car.
2. Ensuring the biggest polluters pay the most for the transition: through fair carbon pricing.
3. Ensuring that the most vulnerable are protected through government support: including energy bill discounts and efficiency upgrades.
4. Working with business to continue developing deep cost reductions in low carbon tech: through support for the latest state of the art kit to bring down costs for consumers and deliver benefits for businesses.

The Net-Zero Strategy includes a breakdown of what will be required in the coming years from each area of the economy. It includes charts showing "indicative" pathways up to 2037, which government use as a guide to ensure that it is on track to achieve its targets, including upcoming carbon budgets and the UK's nationally determined contribution under the Paris Agreement.

The Net Zero Strategy has revealed that the government will seek to "embed transport decarbonisation principles in spatial planning" and reiterates that the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) will be reviewed to "make sure it contributes to climate change mitigation and adaptation as fully as possible". The Strategy also acknowledges the role of local leaders and communities in tackling climate change and states "we will empower local leaders to kickstart their own net zero initiatives, taking responsibility for improving their areas and shaping their own futures".

In September 2022 UK government launched a 'net zero review' – a review on how the UK can deliver net zero for the UK public, whilst maximising the economic opportunities of the transition. The review reaffirms that UK government is committed to reaching net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and is intended to ensure that delivering the net zero target does not place undue burdens on businesses or consumers. The review was commissioned amongst the changing political landscape of

the Russo-Ukrainian War. The review reaffirms that UK government is committed to reaching net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and is intended to ensure that delivering the net zero target does not place undue burdens on businesses or consumers. Birmingham City Council responded to this call for consultation.

In addition to this, in February 2022 the government made a pledge to open negotiations on trailblazer deals to deepen devolution with the West Midlands and Greater Manchester combined authorities. These would act as “the blueprint for other mayoral combined authorities to follow” according to the levelling up white paper. Birmingham City Council fed into the West Midlands Devo deal, which set out three key asks:

- We must go further and faster on those drivers of growth that have been devolved to us already.
- To solve the productivity challenge in the West Midlands and create more, higher paid local jobs, we need new powers to reboot economic growth.
- To level up we must address our communities’ concerns about public services and restore pride in place.

International Context

In 2022, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published their 6th report. The report includes a major change from previous IPCC reports by redefining the ability of scientists to attribute specific extreme weather events to climate change. The report also emphasises that drastic reductions in methane emissions will be necessary to keep the world under the 1.5°C tipping point. The report concludes that if the world does not begin to drastically cut emissions by the time of the next report of the IPCC, then it will no longer be possible to prevent 1.5°C of warming.

At the recent COP 27 summit in November 2022, it was agreed that a fund be created to compensate for loss and damage suffered by the countries most impacted by climate change. This was a positive step although funds still need to be committed. However, progress in other areas was limited as there was no consensus about other key climate change issues, such as reducing the use of fossil fuels. The war in Ukraine has significantly impacted the geo-political landscape. This has led to the Cost-of-Living crisis and the energy crisis. It has placed huge pressure on households and businesses through high energy prices and broader inflationary pressures. From a Council perspective, it has increased overall financial pressures and impacted the funding available for Net Zero related projects.



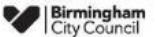
Appendix B – Executive Business Report Annual Transport & Highways Project Updates

September 2023



BE BOLD BE BIRMINGHAM

Page 99 of 208



Major Scheme Development and Delivery (1)

We have continued to make progress on the development and delivery of our major schemes. These continue to set a baseline for the rest of our schemes to follow in relation to improvements to: provisions for active travel, the role of key routes in/ out of the city, as well as, local and regional connectivity:

- **Dudley Road Improvements:** Whilst Phase 1 was completed in summer 2022, £20m of the Levelling Up Fund grant has been allocated to begin work on phase 2, ensuring that the role of Dudley Road as a key route into/ out of the city can be retained.
- **East Birmingham to Solihull Corridor (Bordesley Green Area Connectivity):** There are enhancements proposed in the East Birmingham to Solihull Corridor with first/last mile walking and cycling improvements. In support of the ambition for this part of Birmingham set out by the East Birmingham Growth Strategy, work on this corridor will bring together public sector organisations, businesses and the local community to deliver growth, to develop new approaches and better ways of working to ensure that this growth is inclusive.
- **City Centre Active Travel Connections to Interchanges:** Walking and cycling routes across Birmingham city centre connecting public transport interchanges with key destinations continue to be improved and enhanced. Through measures such as improved quality of lighting, this has helped improve perceptions of more vulnerable groups towards the levels of safety experienced when walking between key destinations. Therefore, the city's public spaces are beginning to become more accessible to a wider range of residents and visitors.



Major Scheme Development and Delivery (2)

- **HS2 Readiness:** Strategic walking and cycling routes between Birmingham New Street, Birmingham Moor Street and Birmingham Curzon Street HS2 stations have been proposed to ensure that HS2 can benefit connectivity not only with other parts of the country, but within Birmingham.
- **Sutton Gateway:** A package of transport infrastructure enhancements will see the transformation and revitalisation of Sutton Coldfield Town Centre to promote it as a local centre where people are put first to encourage active travel, improve air quality, and reconnect communities whilst stimulating economic growth and employment opportunities.
- **Our Future Transport Plan (formerly known as Snow Hill Growth Strategy):** Development work is currently being undertaken to explore improvements to both active and sustainable transport connectivity within the core city centre and Snow Hill area. This will support key development priorities as identified within the Birmingham Development Plan and the Our Future City Framework aspirations. Aligning with the ambition of the Our Future City Plan to continue the expansion and development of the city centre, we must ensure the city centre becomes greener and cleaner, evolves as a destination for living, learning, working, shopping, enterprise, culture and leisure, and remaining attractive to inward investment whilst distributing the resulting improvements evenly and equitably among the surrounding wards.



Schemes to be delivered in partnership with TfWM

Continuing to work in partnership with TfWM, we are not only contributing significantly to the improvement of the regional transport network, but ensuring that the BTP Delivery Plan remains fully aligned with regional priorities covered by the West Midlands Local Transport Plan:

- **East Birmingham to Solihull Corridor (bus enhancements):** Enhancements have been proposed in the East Birmingham to Solihull Corridor. Cross-city bus enhancements for the 97 route and a TfWM study to evaluate options for rapid transit including VLR and Sprint, alongside a review of the Metro scheme.
- **Hagley Road Rapid Transit:** There will be further work and analysis of Metro options for these corridors followed by initial stages of delivery.
- **Cross City Bus Corridors:** Development is on-going with all city centre measures approved. Delivery has commenced on part of A435 corridor. TfWM have received a provisional allocation of £59m through CRSTS for development and delivery of a further four cross-city corridors including Birmingham city centre to Sutton Coldfield, Perry Common / Hamstead to Hawkesley / Longbridge and Harborne to Castle Bromwich are currently in development. The Outline Business Cases for these schemes are currently in preparation. There are a number of expected benefits including reducing the need to change buses in Birmingham city centre, increasing connectivity across the different neighbourhoods of the city and connectivity with areas beyond the city's administrative boundaries. This will not only improve the experience for existing bus users, but perceptions towards them for potential users.
- **A34 & A45 Sprint Phase 2:** Further Sprint measures added on existing A34 and A45 Sprint corridors including priority.



Rail

- **University Station:** Construction work on-going with existing station open throughout. Delivery is progressing well and remains on track for the baselined opening of early Autumn. Have now started to power up the buildings as testing and commissioning gets underway. Entry into Service activity is becoming more intense and will require the management of substantial quantities of documentation. In support of this process we have established a co-located team at the University of Birmingham to promote closer joint working between WMT, NR, and the project team.
- **Midlands Rail Hub:** BCC is an active member of regional rail fora and has supported regional lobbying led by Midlands Connect for investment in the Midlands Rail Hub proposals. The Outline Business Case was submitted to the RNEP process in November 2022 and now seeking funding to progress the scheme to Full Business Case. Work continues on developing the infrastructure improvements at Snow Hill Station, and on the corridor between Birmingham and Leicester. Working closely with WMRE to support ongoing development of the business case, recognising the significant socio-economic benefits to Birmingham.
- **Improving Rail Access to Birmingham:** The WMRE access to rail programme broadly ensures that we treat transport as a system, acknowledging that rail typically forms only part of the overall journey. We are moving towards corridor-based studies, bringing in our earlier research around the opportunity for further P&R, express bus, and other interventions that enable a seamless journey. Currently working with WMRE to support delivery of the regional rail strategy, including strategic rail-based Park and Ride business case development.
- **Camp Hill Line:** Funding approved for the stations at Moseley Village, Kings Heath and Pineapple Road (Hazelwell). Clearance work underway ahead of main construction. Significant work was undertaken during a blockade in early April, notwithstanding the need to surrender around half of the total blockade time to Network Rail for track works.
- **HS2:** Broad engagement with HS2 project teams, including development of designs for Curzon Street/city centre area, bridge connections, Washwood Heath train maintenance depot and active travel trace route development. HS2 has been challenged again, however the Secretary of State responded by issuing a statement regarding the commitment from Government to continue HS2 in its entirety. The benefits of HS2 are already being felt in the Midlands, however BCC will continue to state the case for HS2 externally.



Metro

- **Eastside Metro Extension (to Digbeth):** The Section 1 (Corporation Street/Bull Steet) works on Bull Street and Delta Junction are complete whilst track replacement on Corporation Street is substantially complete. On Section 5 (Digbeth High Street), utility diversions have commenced prior to main works.
- **Westside Metro Extension (to Hagley Road):** There is on-going work and discussions with Westside BID, TfWM and all other stakeholders to complete all remaining highway works to support operation of the metro service.
- **Broad Street to Edgbaston Village:** Introduction of Metro services is supported, including the establishment of the Broad Street Steering and Working Group.



Micro-Mobility & Cycle Hire

The council continues to support the introduction of a range of alternative options that need to be provided to citizens in order to achieve a rapid and large-scale shift away from private car, including:

- **E-Scooter Trial Scheme:** By November 2021, there were 1,200 e-scooters in operation with 720,000 trips covering 1.4million km, completed by 70,000 active users in the city. Former operator, Voi ceased their service at the end of February 2023. A new operator, Beryl, has been engaged to provide e-scooter services in Birmingham from August 2023 onwards.
- **E-cargo bikes:** On-going with 10 partner organisations, including BCC. In total there are 20 e-cargo vehicles, consisting of 13 e-cargo bikes and 7 e-cargo trikes. Part of the fleet was used during the Commonwealth Games to successfully replace van and car trips.
- **West Midlands Cycle Hire Scheme:** Milestone of 2 years operation has been reached and 500,000 journeys taken. Virtual docks now extended to Moseley, as well as Harborne.



Active Travel

- **Low Traffic Neighbourhoods**

Kings Heath and Moseley: To be made permanent following further engagement and Cabinet approval January 2023.

Lozells: FBC has been approved. Construction commenced in July with a view to be complete in September 2023.

Bournville: Business case to be completed late 2023.

- **Big Birmingham Bikes:** Giveaways have resulted in 1,000 bikes distributed to date with further allocations planned.

- **Local centres:** Footway widening in Moseley, Kings Heath and Sutton Coldfield:

Moseley - Has become part of the bigger Moseley Spur Cycle Route in ATF4;

Kings Heath - Currently waiting on FBC approval; and,

Sutton Coldfield - Delivered.

- **Modeshift STARS:** 23 workplaces have achieved an Approved (Green award) Modeshift STARS Business Accreditation for their Travel Plan, 15 workplaces have achieved Good (Bronze award) Accreditation and 4 workplaces have achieved Very Good (Silver award) Accreditation through the scheme.

- **Cycle routes:** Consultation complete and detailed design work underway for: Bradford Street, city centre to City hospital, city centre to Small Heath park, Cannon Hill Park to Moseley.

- **Strategic corridors:** Approximately £29.0m has provisionally been allocated through CRSTS to extend segregated cycle facilities. Design will commence this Spring. In alignment with the key delivery component of the BTP to create new segregated cycle routes along main commuter corridors, two are currently in development:

A45: Will be provided along the A45 towards the Airport.

A38 Selly Oak to Longbridge: An extension of the existing high-quality A38 segregated cycle route.

- **A38 Bristol Road Enhancement (Selly Oak Local Centre):** Consultation has been completed and detail design underway. The scheme will look to make permanent the temporary pop-up cycle lane measures through the local centre by introducing a two-way segregated cycle lane that runs from Grange Road to the Chapel Lane junction.



Transforming the City Centre

- **Snow Hill Public Realm:** Initial phases have been completed. The next phases, Newhall Street traffic management and Steelhouse Square, are currently being developed with expected delivery to start in 2024 and 2025 respectively.
- **Southside:** Interim scheme completed. Final scheme completion spring 2025. Project team continue to engage with Southside BID and partners on the development work.
- **City Centre:** Phase 1 is currently in construction including Victoria Square, Colmore Row and the west end of Waterloo Street. Phase 2 is targeting a commencement of construction activity in 2024 which includes the East end of Waterloo Street, Bennetts Hill, Temple Street, New Street, Ethel Street, Lower Temple Street, Eden Place and Chamberlain.
- **Interconnect Wayfinding:** Initial programme of updating pedestrian wayfinding totems on designated CWG walking routes was completed ahead of the games.



School travel

- **Modeshift STARS:** Now 76 schools with accredited Modeshift STARS travel plans, including 4 Platinum awards.
- **Car Free School Streets:** £1m approved from CAZ revenue to enhance and expand the initiative. 17 schools are now part of the initiative with a further phase planned for September 2023.
- **Active Travel Ambassadors scheme:** 7 secondary schools taking part, providing young people with the chance to develop a campaign to address transport issues affecting their school community.
- **Air quality monitors:** Now in place at 58 schools across Birmingham, with an intention to offer these to every school in the city in the future.
- **#TimeToAct:** Supported the campaign with our Switch Off School Streets resources for schools and anti-idling toolkit.
- **Young Active Travel grants:** Up to £1,000 available for schools with an approved travel plan (Green award) in place to apply for.
- **Continuing to work with Living Streets:** On their national Walk to School programme, with 65 Birmingham schools active over the autumn term.



Traffic & Emissions Management

- **City Centre Cells:** Delivery is currently underway. Work continues to restrict private vehicle trips through the city centre whilst seeking additional funding to complete the roll-out.
- **Clean Air Zone:** Whilst focused on air quality rather than climate change, the measures aimed to restrain car use and encourage behaviour change to either cleaner vehicles or more sustainable modes also supports the decarbonisation agenda. As demonstrated by the figure below, since launch in June 2021, the percentage of unique compliant cars has increased from 88.6% to 93.6% whilst the percentage of non-compliant vehicles entering the zone has halved from 15.2% to 6.6%. The generated revenue continues to be used to improve the transport network and further reduce emissions with £5 million of revenue allocated to transport schemes so far.
- **Transforming Cities Fund Major Road Network:** Studies have been commissioned to develop strategic outline cases for future enhancement options for A4540 Ring Road, A38/Kingsbury Road corridor and A435 Alcester Road.



The percentage of 'non-compliant' vehicles entering the zone has halved

JUNE 2021 15.2%

MARCH 2023 6.6%

COMPLIANCE RATES BY VEHICLE CATEGORY

	DO NOTHING	JUNE 2021	MARCH 2023
	84%	88.6%	93.6%
	70%	72.8%	84.9%
	78%	93.3%	97.5%
	63%	99.2%	99.6%

Parking SPD Delivery

- **Capacity released:** Under-used car park capacity continues to be released for more efficient uses, such as housing developments. In strategically important locations such as the Birmingham City Centre Enterprise Zone, valuable land that is in short supply can be made available to be used in more productive ways.
- **Reduction in council-owned car parking spaces:** There has been redevelopment of a number of large car park sites in the city centre. The removal of the majority of remaining BCC owned multi-storey car park sites at Jewellery Quarter, Town Hall (Red Cage) and Millennium Point are now under active consideration, as in the redevelopment of the majority of BCC-owned car parking capacity in Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Centre, which has been identified as being surplus to requirements.
- **Kerbside Management Approach:** An approach is being produced and delivered to ensure that kerb space is allocated in a fair, efficient, and sustainable way.
- **Controlled Parking Zones:** Development of the business case to support significant expansion of them around the city centre and beyond the A4540, to tackle excess commuter demand.
- **Temporary car parking:** Continue to refuse applications in the city centre.



A38(M) Aston Expressway Tame Valley Viaduct Strengthening Works

- Tame Valley Viaduct forms the northern end of the A38(M) Aston Expressway between Birmingham city centre and Junction 6 (Spaghetti Junction) of the M6.
- The viaduct has been in service over 50 years and carries over 90,000 vehicles per weekday.
- The strengthening works for the viaduct with an overall budget of £93.46m commenced in April 2022.
- The strengthening project is the council's largest capital scheme and has secured over £72m DfT grant funding.
- The works have been designed to ensure that there will be no adverse impact on the city's economy by ensuring the traffic using the A38(M) Aston Expressway remain unaffected during the works.
- This technically challenging project is being delivered on budget and is expected to be completed in July 2026, around 6 months ahead of programme.



**View Over the railway
A38(M) Aston Expressway**

Interim Works Programme – Resurfacing (June to July 2023)



Management of Planning, Design, Supervision, Construction & Certification

The Project received 7 Engineering Industry Awards to date on Innovation, Collaboration and Carbon Reduction.
448,369 sqm completed.

Birmingham City Council

City Council

12th September 2023



Subject: YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2023-2028

Report of: Councillor Nicky Brennan
Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities

Report author: Dionne McAndrew
Assistant Director - Birmingham Children's Trust
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Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential:

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 There is a statutory requirement for every local authority, after consultation with partners, to produce and implement a Youth Justice Plan.
- 1.2 The plan must set out how local youth justice services are to be designed, resourced and delivered. There is a requirement for the Plan to be submitted to the National Youth Justice Board (YJB) and published in accordance with the directions of the Secretary of State.
- 1.3 This report recommends approval of the Birmingham 2023 - 2028 Youth Justice Plan, provides relevant background and highlights any implications around legal, compliance, and finance.

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 It is recommended that City Council approves the Birmingham Children's Trust's 2023 - 2028 Youth Justice Plan.

3 Background

Context for Youth Justice Plan

- 3.1 There is a statutory requirement in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Section 40, for every local authority, after consultation with partner agencies, to produce and implement a Youth Justice Plan. The plan sets out how local youth justice services are to be provided and funded. There is a requirement for the Plan to be submitted to the national Youth Justice Board (YJB) and published in accordance with the directions of the Secretary of State.
- 3.2 In December 2022, Birmingham Youth Offending Service was re-inspected by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation. The final report was published in March 2023. Whilst the Service remains judged overall as requires improvement, HMIP (His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation) found that there had been improvements since their last visit in 2020. The press release can be found [here](#).
- 3.3 The Service's development plan has been reviewed and updated since the publication of this latest report and considers the recommendations and findings.

Local Context

- 3.4 Birmingham, the biggest city in the UK outside London, is a diverse, multicultural city. More than half its one million population identified as non-white British in the 2011 census and that figure is likely to be higher in 2023. The latest census figures identify that over 26% (274,135) of the population is under 18 years and 58% of these are from minority ethnic backgrounds. There are approximately 117,000 10-17-year-olds.
- 3.5 Birmingham is one of the most deprived local authorities in England according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation statistics from 2019. In the last 15 years, Birmingham has become more deprived, moving from the 16th most deprived local authority in 2004 to sixth in 2019 and overtaking Sandwell in 2015 as the most deprived authority in the West Midlands. Although many children achieve good outcomes, others face a range of challenges, particularly in terms of their wellbeing and staying safe.
- 3.6 The BYOS (Birmingham Youth Offending Service) Partnership have continued, year on year, to reduce the number of children becoming a first-time entrant to the youth justice system, performing better than the England and Wales average and our Youth Justice Service Family.
- 3.7 Analysis of our children entering the Youth Justice system in 2022-23 tells us; Most first-time entrants were aged 15-17, with 49.7% aged 16 or older; 11.1% of first-time entrants were girls; Violence Against the Person was the most prevalent offence

category accounting for 93 offences, 61.6% of all proven offences for first time entrants. Compared with January to December 2022, this offence category shows a decrease of 20.5% in the number of offences; 48.5% of children becoming a first-time entrant had an identified special educational need.

- 3.8 Black and Black British children are over-represented appearing at approximately twice the rate of their incidence in the general 10-17 population. Black, Asian, and mixed heritage children accounted for 63.2% of all First Time Entrants compared with 55.0% in the general 10 -17 population.
- 3.9 The draft 23-28 Strategic Youth Justice Plan sets out how the challenges faced by our children, amplified by COVID-19, will be met through the vision, strategy and plans that are set out for the local Youth Justice Partnership. From research and local data analysis we know that children entering the Youth Justice System experience abuse, neglect, poverty, school exclusion and poorer health at levels that are disproportionate to the general 10-17 population.
- 3.10 In recognition that we must tackle the root causes of offending, priorities have been established with clear and measurable programmes of work. These are:
- 3.11 Building on the successes of recent years and what is known about areas for continued development, the partnership has agreed several strategic priorities for 2023-28, that align well with the Youth Justice Boards Child First Principles, the BCC (Birmingham City Council) Change for Children & Young people Plan and the Practice Model. There are heavily influenced by the findings of the HMIP 2023 Inspection report.
- Governance, communication, accountability, and professional responsibility are developed across our Service.
 - Build a culturally responsive Service which promotes equality, reduces discrimination, and enables our children, victims, caregivers, and staff to thrive.
 - Our staff are skilled, equipped, and capable of delivering quality services to children, victims, and caregivers.
 - Participation and co-creation opportunities with all the people we provide services to are maximised across our services.
 - Children, victims, and caregivers have access to services, support and interventions that are relevant to them.
 - Children on the cusp of offending or entering the YJS (Youth Justice System) are supported.
 - Communities and individuals are protected from harm.
- 3.12 In directing resources to support the vision, strategy, and priorities we will ensure that the workforce as our greatest asset, have the appropriate skills, knowledge and are equipped to deliver high quality and effective services that align with the vision for the service, the Trust, and the city.

4 Options considered and Recommended Proposal

- 4.1 This is a statutory requirement within the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Section 40, that every local authority, after consultation with partners, to produce and implement a Youth Justice Plan. As such, there are no alternative options outlined in this report.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 There is a statutory requirement in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Section 40, for every local authority, after consultation with partners, to produce and implement a Youth Justice Plan.
- 5.2 The plan must set out how local youth justice services are to be provided and funded. There is a requirement for the Plan to be submitted to the national Youth Justice Board (YJB) and published in accordance with the directions of the Secretary of State.
- 5.3 Section 39 (1) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the cooperation of the named statutory partners (Local Authority, Police, Probation and Health) to form a Youth Offending Team, which includes staffing contributions from those statutory partners.

6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 The Youth Offending Service partnership's overall delegated funding for 2023/24 is £9,946,575.
- 6.2 The table below sets out the delegated funding sources for 2023/24 as set out in the Youth Justice Plan.

Funding Source	Staffing Budget 2022-23	Payments in Kind 2022-23	Other Delegated Funds 2022-23	Total
Birmingham Children's Trust	£3,557,641	£0	£665,685	£4,223,326
Police	£598,616	£0	£0	£598,616
Police & Crime Commissioner	£117,843	£0	£157,157	£275,000
*Probation	£153,417	£0	£15,000	£168,417
*Health	£253,327	£0	£0	£253,327
Youth Justice Board	£2,439,382	£0	£0	£2,439,382
MOJ (Ministry of Justice) (Turnaround Programme)	£316,051	£0	£345,135	£661,186
Other sources of funding	£1,229,321	£0	£98,000	£1,327,321
Total	£8,665,598	£0	£1,280,977	£9,946,575

*2023/24 Funding level is still to be confirmed

^{**} The Trust has provided all financial data and has supporting information for its own resources and those of partners alongside grant funding information.

- 6.3 Should funding levels change this plan will be amended to reflect any resulting impact, working to the available funding.

7 Public Sector Equality Duty

- 7.1 Birmingham Children's Trust, Youth Offending Service, is committed to developing its services in a way that embraces the Youth Justice Board's Child First principles and embodies the Trust Practice Model. We know that certain groups of children are over-represented within the local justice system, notably children of black and mixed heritage and children who are looked after of who have care experience. Our value base, to recognise and respond to trauma, to adopt a relationship, strengths-based approach, will allow us to support our children to realise their ambitions and reduce the risk of offending and re-offending.
- 7.2 The strategic plan sets out our intention to remove or minimise disadvantage, to ensure we meet the needs of our children, and to ensure that children are diverted from the formal system wherever possible. An area where we have seen significant improvement.
- 7.3 We are committed to learning and review and to developing systems and practices, all of which is being driven by the Over-Represented Children Working Group, a subgroup to the Strategic Partnership Board. The over-represented children action plan sets out the developmental work and activity that is taking place, from a strategic organisational delivery perspective through to audit, learning and review, workforce development and frontline practice.
- 7.4 We will continue to monitor our data, analysing and reporting on children who are over-represented, so that we can continue to influence change across the wider criminal justice system and respond to any internal learning.

8 Other Implications

8.1 How are the recommended decisions consistent with the City Council's priorities, plans and strategies?

There is a statutory requirement for every local authority, after consultation with partners, to produce and implement a Youth Justice Plan. The successful implementation of the plan will support the Council Priorities as set out in the Birmingham City Council Plan 2018-2022 and the partnership Change for Children Campaign.

9 Background Papers

- 9.1 Birmingham Community Safety Partnership Violence Profile Birmingham May 2022.

10 Appendices

10.1 Appendix 1 – Youth Justice Plan 2023 -2028

BIRMINGHAM YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE

Strategic Youth Justice Plan: 2023 – 2028

|

1. Introduction, Vision, and Strategy

1.1 Foreword from the Chair of the Birmingham YOS (Youth Offending Service) Partnership Board

This Youth Justice Plan of the Birmingham Youth Justice Partnership represents a comprehensive assessment of the challenges and opportunities facing Britain's second largest city and largest youth justice service, drawing heavily on the learning from the 2022 inspection of our services by HM Inspector of Probation. This inspection showed us that we had made considerable progress since their previous visit but also highlight the further work we need to undertake to achieve our long-standing ambitions of becoming first a 'good' and then an 'outstanding' service. There is a strong determination in Birmingham Youth Justice Service (YOS) and also amongst its partners, particularly the Children's Trust and the City Council, to take stock and really get to grips with returning the service to its proper position as a model of modern youth justice for the children, their caregivers, victims, and the whole community in Birmingham, and also as a beacon to other services in the country.

It is neither possible nor necessary to summarise the plan here. What I do wish to highlight are a couple of key objectives. The first is to continue a hard focus on intersectionality - the ways in which different groups of children are better or less well served by our youth justice service. Here there are particular issues relating to race but also in the other areas of diversity in our most diverse of cities. We are determined to reduce the disproportional benefits of our service, which we recognise are the very opposite of the 'child first' tenets that we hold dear. Secondly, we recognise that all of our staff have much to offer, not only in their individual and group work with children but also in their insights into how we can improve our services and reach our objectives. We are redoubling our efforts to engage all staff in our plans for the future.

As I wrote last year there remains much work to be done. We are not in any way in denial about this. But, led by our dynamic team of senior leaders in the Youth Justice Service directed by our outstanding Head of YOS, Janine Saleh, we are building our service, based on the bedrock that everyone in the service shall know what they need to do personally to make our service 'good' and then 'outstanding.' Birmingham has been a byword for civic pride and ambition in the past; our aim is to locate youth justice firmly within this tradition.

John Drew, Independent Chair

1.2 Executive Summary

This strategic Youth Justice Plan embraces the city's ambition¹ to make Birmingham a great place for our children to grow up: to be healthy, safe, confident, included, happy, respected and connected to opportunities. This plan sets out how the Birmingham Youth Offending Service Partnership can deliver services in a way that enables our children to thrive, and in a way that prepares them for adulthood.

We know that children entering the Youth Justice System experience abuse, neglect, poverty, school exclusion, poorer health and overall disadvantage at levels that are disproportionate to the general 10-17 population.

This plan is underpinned and influenced by the Birmingham Children & Young Peoples Partnership, Change for Children & Young People: 2023 – 2028 Strategy. It is based upon what we know of our children, what we know of our city and its opportunities and challenges, our strengths as a service, and our areas for

¹ Reference here to Change for children and young people.

development². It is informed by what we hear from our staff, from our children, victims, and caregivers and what we know is happening across the wider partnership, locally and regionally.

As a YOS we aspire to be creative, different, and modern in its approaches. We will show care for those we work alongside. We will be tenacious in our efforts, we will believe in, and aspire high for, those we encounter, and we will continue to hold hope for them, where often we know they can find this difficult.

Despite the successes of the modernisation programme since 2021, this plan demonstrates and responds to the fact that we know there remains more for us to do. We know we must strengthen our work around those children who are over-represented within the youth justice system; we must improve access for victims of youth crime so that they can benefit from the support available; we have work to do to improve opportunities for collaboration and co-production with our children; we must improve how we are supporting our children resettling from custody and we must work with our staff to engage them and collaborate differently.

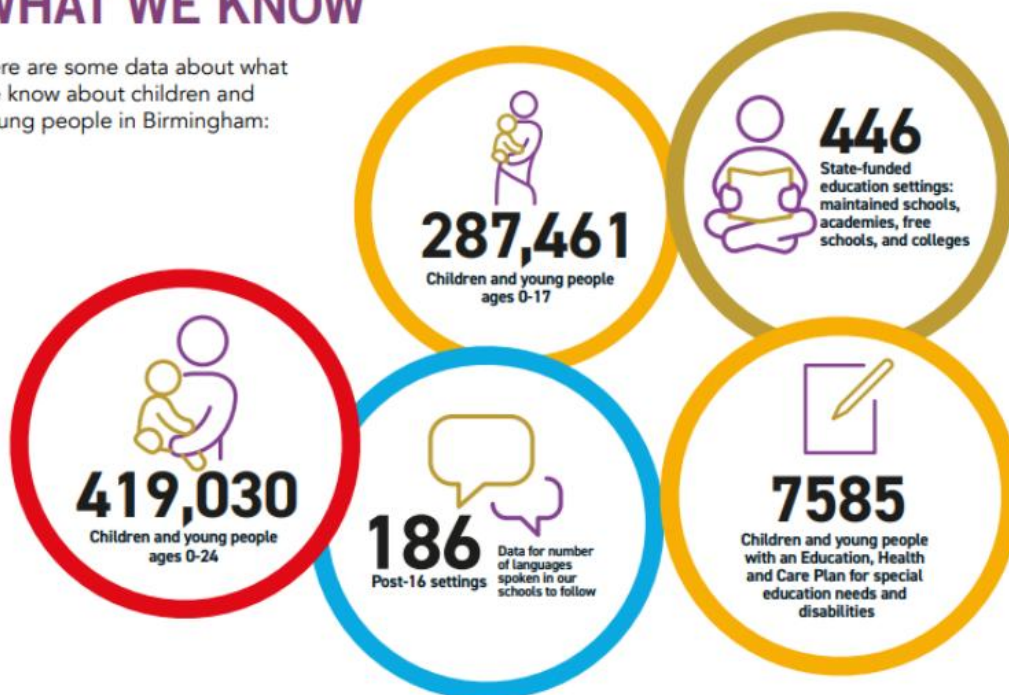
Our strategic plan is rightly ambitious. There is a clear set of priorities, underpinned by a vision, a strategy, and a detailed development plan, all of which has been informed by learning from the 2022 HMIP (HM Inspectorate of Probation) Inspection.

We remain committed to listening, reflecting, learning and to continuing to transform and modernise. We are determined to deliver the very best services to our children and their care givers, to victims of youth crime, to our partners and to our communities.

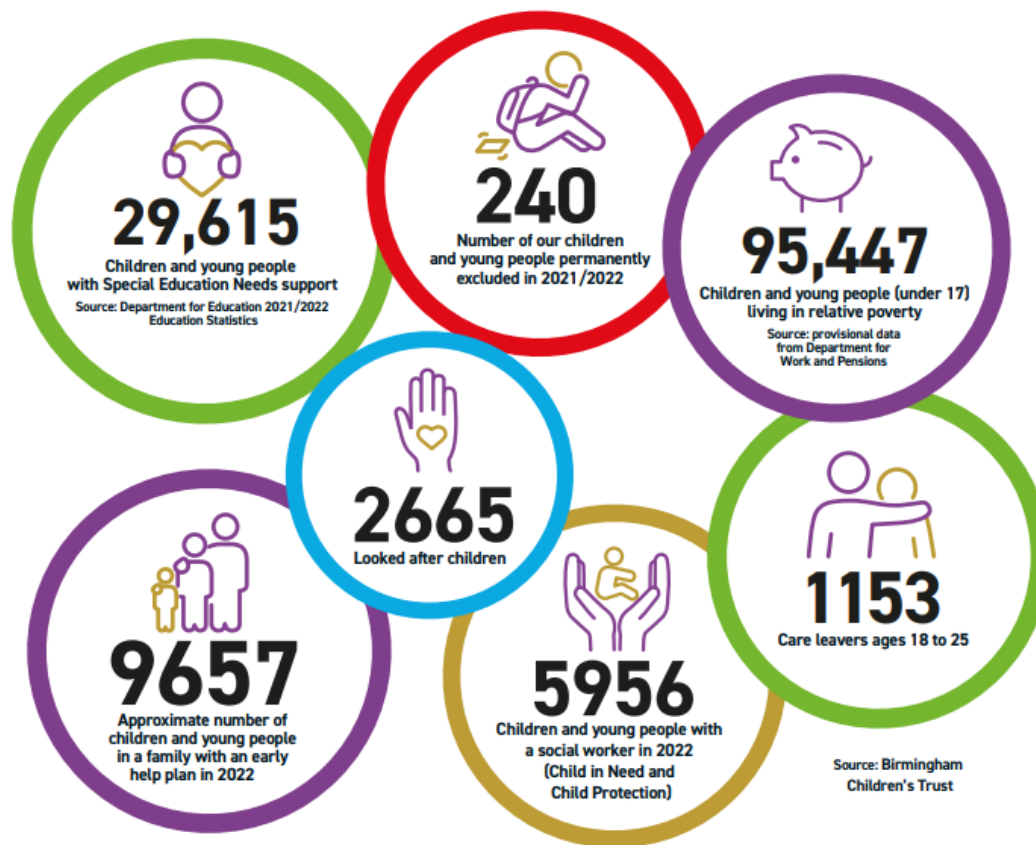
2. Knowing Birmingham and Our Children

WHAT WE KNOW

Here are some data about what we know about children and young people in Birmingham:



² [An inspection of youth offending services in Birmingham \(justiceinspectorates.gov.uk\)](https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmip/)



The local context is critically important when we consider the behaviour and offending committed by our children. As a diverse city, we recognise and understand that challenges and strengths can vary across our communities, and we seek to respond in a bespoke, place-based way.

However, for children at risk of offending or committing offences, we know that they face interconnected and complex challenges. These require multi-dimensional, systemic solutions. Within the youth justice sector and work across the wider partnership there has been a genuine attention paid to the impact of early childhood adversity and the risks these create in child development and lifelong outcomes.

It is widely accepted that children within the Youth Justice System have experienced disproportionate levels of trauma and adversity. We know that this does not mean children forfeit their right to be seen and treated as children, but there is work to do to ensure that this recognition is embedded across the partnership. Many children entering the Youth Justice System should themselves be considered and recognised as victims, either as a result of the exploitation of others, but also as victims of their life experiences.

3. What Do We Know About Our Children in the Youth Justice System?

More children are being diverted from the formal youth justice system and we are intervening earlier in Birmingham.

In 2022/23, 434 offences committed by 352 children resulted in 368 diversionary outcomes (Community Resolutions, Outcome 21 and 22). In comparison to 21/22:

- the number of offences resulting in diversionary outcomes represented an **increase** of 104.7% from 212.
- the number of children being diverted from the formal YJS (Youth Justice System) increased by 95.6% from 180 and
- the number of diversionary outcomes issued increased by 103.3% from 181.

Fewer children are entering the formal youth justice system in Birmingham.

In 2022/23, 585 'proven' offences resulted in 327 cautions or court outcome. 293 children committed these offences. In comparison to 2021/22:

- the number of proven offences **decreased by** 18.2% from 715.
- the number of children decreased by 9.3% from 323 and
- the number of outcomes decreased by 12.6% from 374.

In 2022/23 we worked with a total of 977 children. 332 of these children had not offended in 2022/23, but their involvement either continued into 2022/23, or they received an intervention through a preventative or Think Family Intervention during this time, neither of which are offence driven.

Of these 977 children:

- 84.0% were male, 15.5% female.
- 170 (18.6%) had a current or previous Child in Need Plan
- 111 (14.8%) had a current or previous Child Protection Plan
- 130 (14.3%) were currently or had previously been a looked after child.

The ethnicity our 977 children was broken down as follows:

	Number of children	% of 10 - 17 population	Children we worked with	% of 10 - 17 offending population
Asian or Asian British	39,459	33.5%	204	23.9%
Black, Black British, Caribbean, or African	12,633	10.7%	189	18.4%
Other ethnic group	2,804	2.4%	18	1.8%
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	9,936	8.4%	156	16.0%
White	53,042	45.0%	377	38.6%
Not Recorded			33	1.0%
Total	117,874		977	

The Health of Our Children

In 2022/23 we assessed the health of 291 of our children using the AssetPlus assessment framework. This told us that:

- 246 (85.5%) were registered with a GP
- 39 (13.4%) children had an assessed physical health need.
- 161 (55.3%) children had an assessed substance misuse need.
- 163 (56.0%) children had an assessed mental health need.
- 176 (60.4%) children had an assessed speech and language need.

What Do Our Children Tell Us?

In the development of Change for Children and Young People: 2023-28 by the Birmingham Children and Young People's Partnership, 899 children and young people shared their views on what was important to them in the city. We know that it is important that we respond to this through our delivery.



In 2022/23, 314 children working with us completed a self-assessment. This information is used to help them to develop their 'My Plan'³. However, our understanding of the needs of our children influences our partnerships and commissioning priorities. It shapes 'what we do'. This is what our children told us about where they need our help and support:

I drink too much	17	5.4%
I get angry and lose my temper	205	65.3%
I have lost someone special from my life	125	39.8%
I have thought about hurting myself	26	8.3%
I have thought about killing myself	22	7.0%
I live with people who get into trouble	28	8.9%
I miss/missed school	130	41.4%
I take too many drugs	21	6.7%
I want help with reading	36	11.5%
I want help with writing	47	15.0%
My friends get into trouble	134	42.7%

4. Children First

As a partnership we are committed towards delivering a child first youth justice system in Birmingham, in line with the YJB's Child First Principles set out below.

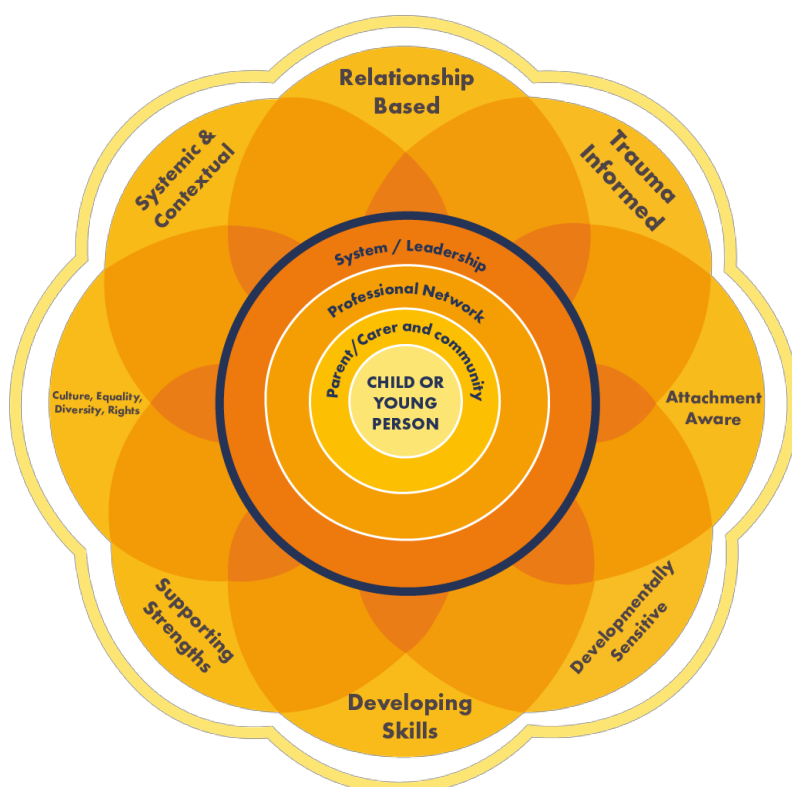
³ My Plan is the child's plan, which is co-created with the child with their caregiver. It sets out the priority support and intervention agreed, based on the child's assessment, and is reviewed a minimum of every 3 months. There is also a Moving on Plan at the end of our involvement, which again is co-created and focuses on achievements and successes, the support in place at the end of the child's work with our service and provides contact details for other supports.

As children	Prioritise the best interests of children and recognising their particular needs, capacities, rights and potential. All work is child-focused, developmentally informed, acknowledges structural barriers and meets responsibilities towards children.
Building pro-social identity	Promote children's individual strengths and capacities to develop their pro-social identity for sustainable desistance, leading to safer communities and fewer victims. All work is constructive and future-focused, built on supportive relationships that empower children to fulfil their potential and make positive contributions to society.
Collaborating with children	Encourage children's active participation, engagement and wider social inclusion. All work is a meaningful collaboration with children and their carers.
Diverting from stigma	Promote a childhood removed from the justice system, using pre-emptive prevention, diversion and minimal intervention. All work minimises criminogenic stigma from contact with the system.

4

The Trust Practice Model, which will be adopted across the wider partnership, aligns perfectly with these principles. It names the core elements that we need within our practice to **nurture** our children, to **counterbalance** the risks and vulnerabilities that are created by early childhood adversity and to allow professionals to **focus** on and **build** the counter-conditions that enable our children and their caregivers to thrive.

Children must be at the heart of all that we do: their voice, their felt and lived experiences, their individual story, their needs. We know however that they do not live in isolation. They live, grow, develop, and function in the context of relationships and communities. To become truly child first, trauma informed, trauma responsive, and relationship based in our approaches, we must work at all levels. This commitment must extend to organisational and culture change, leadership, front line practice and staff well-being.



⁴ https://yjresourcehub.uk/images/YJB/Child_First_Overview_and_Guide_April_2022_YJB.pdf

As we work with our children who are at risk of or involved in offending, we must remain curious.

- **How do we see behaviour and offending by children as symptomatic of their experiences, of their lived experiences, trauma, and adversity?**
- **How does this act as our driver for change around wider systems and practices within our service?**

Our Values

We will promote children's strengths and capacities to develop their pro-social identity for sustainable desistance, leading to safer communities and fewer victims by:

- Focussing on the root causes of childhood offending using a strengths-based, skills development approach to effect changes and protect communities.
- Holding the hope for those we work alongside.
- Championing those we work alongside and aspiring high for our children.
- Maximising opportunities for our children both internally and external through effective commissioning and partnership arrangements.

We will encourage children's active participation, engagement, and wider social inclusion by:

- creating opportunities for authentic participation and co-creation.
- Ensuring that children, their caregivers, and victims have assorted opportunities to influence how we work together and shape service development.

We will continue to promote a childhood removed from the justice system, through prevention and diversion by:

- Embedding and expanding our Prevention offer through the addition of Turnaround delivery.
- Proactively ensuring that at every opportunity children are prevented from entering or diverted from the youth justice system.

In all that we do, we will:

- Listen to the voice of the child, caregivers, and victims.
- Assess and analyse in a trauma informed and holistic way.
- Plan and work alongside children, caregivers, and victims.
- Understand and do all we can to break down structural barriers.
- Help to keep people safe from harm.
- Create opportunities for safe, supportive, and nurturing relationships.
- Support those we work alongside to develop a strong sense of self, identity, belonging and connection.
- Help children to understand and make sense of their experiences.
- Support those we work alongside to achieve, develop skills and benefit from new positive experiences.
- Prepare our children for adult life and support caregivers to make positive changes.
- Connect our children and families to community-based services and support.

We recognise that a child's behaviour is a form of communication. We understand that as professionals, it is

our responsibility to be curious, to get underneath their behaviour and to understand the root causes. This will be the golden thread through our development and transformation programme.

In addition to the local work happening within the City and Trust, the Youth Improvement Board (YIB), a subgroup to the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB), is driving developments at a regional level. Comprising of all agencies within the Youth Justice System, the YIB is determining key strategic priorities based on research, evidence, and data to ensure a more standardised approach for children, victims, and communities within the Police Force area. Trauma informed practices and child first principles underpin all of this activity.

5. Voice of our Children, Caregivers, and Victims

Evidence tells us that children's active participation supports desistance from offending.⁵

We know this and as such have strengthened how we hear and respond to the voices of our children, victims and their caregivers and have retained this as a strategic priority in 23-28 (see plans as set out in section 8.1).

The appointment of a transformation and media apprentice will further allow us to develop innovative, age appropriate and accessible ways to promote engagement, participation, and co-creation opportunities within our service. We will develop age appropriate and accessible information for our children, victims and caregivers and we will work across the Partnership to maximise opportunities for joint work and collaboration in this area. Our new Partnership and Communities Lead will be taking a key role in developing the work in this area at a strategic and operational level.

How 'We Be' in our practice is a core component of our Practice Model. To promote engagement, we will:

- Develop safety, stability, consistency, and trust.
- Work in collaboration, treating people with compassion, care, dignity, and respect.
- Support co-regulation and co-creation of meaning.
- Have courageous conversations and make difficult decisions with honesty and transparency.
- Value the inevitability of relational rupture and repair.
- Understand that language matters.

This plan details some of the work started in 2022/23 and our ambition for 2023-28. Collaboration with those we work alongside, is not a discrete piece of work in its own right. It is woven through all of our priorities and will continue to influence our direction of travel and commissioning activity.

In 2022/23, many of our children provided us with feedback on how they found their involvement with our service.

Did you find it easy to go to your YOT (Youth Offending Team) appointments?	16 = no	110 = yes
I know where to get help if I need it in the future	2 = no	94 = yes
I worry about what might happen after I finish at the YOT	No = 81	Yes = 7
There are things I find it difficult telling a worker about	No = 110	Yes = 16
		Sometimes = 10
		A bit = 31

We asked them to think about the things that they had been doing with us and asked them: What helped you sort out any problems in your life?

⁵ [YJB business plan, 2023 to 2024 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/91444/yjb-business-plan-2023-to-2024.pdf)

- I have talked about what happened, my work with you about knives and victims and motivation.
- completing CV and registering at job centre and obtaining benefits, getting work.
- Having the support of a worker and having someone to talk things through and help me to see things clearer.
- Someone who always answered my calls.
- Talking about different things including my behaviour, offences, victims, how I am feeling, I was able to gain a skill working in the workshop.
- Taught me how to think differently and stay out of trouble. My worker explained to me about the law, dangers of carrying weapons, how to be safe and talking about my future and this was good for me.
- I was able to talk about any problems and encouraged to gain qualifications and supported when I found a job.
- Having someone who believed in me.
- School and the music project have given me something to do positive with my time.
- I was put in touch with mental health services. I was able to talk to people about what I was going through.
- Getting onto the apprenticeship has been the biggest help, my family respect me.
- I have learned how my actions affect others.
- Road Peace⁶ helped with perspective taking.

We asked them to tell us what things in their lives had got better?

- i feel i have become a lot calmer that i used to be, before I would have walked off if we were having a conversation, now i feel comfortable talking to you.
- I have completed my first year at college and I have started an Applied Science course.
- I have a part time job; I have stopped offending and I have stopped drinking and smoking cannabis as much.
- My relationship with father and other family members have got better.
- I feel more confident in myself, and I have a girlfriend.
- I have finished at imedia school and have a chance of getting into Erdington skill centre to complete a construction course.
- I have been diagnosed with ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder), ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder), and sleep disorder; I am receiving medication and support to help me.
- I have got more independent; I go out more by myself.
- I have the support of the Liaison and Diversion team helping me to learn skills, cook and budget.
- I've changed my life; I realised that my friends were not good for me.
- I'm going to boxing and I have got myself onto an apprenticeship.

One of our Parents told us:

"I would like to say thank you for all the help and support. My son's attendance has improved a lot... After you spoke to the school, they have called me and discussed his behaviour. Also, I would like to thank you for getting his reference for college. Thank you for all your help and support. Overall, I am so happy that I had someone like you to support me in these difficult times. Once again thank you".

Victims told us:

*"The YOS Victim Worker had a positive impact on *victim* and *victim* was comfortable sharing things that she wouldn't have before." Professional, supporting victim of youth crime.*

"Fantastic Victim Worker, very supportive and dedicated to make sure we understood and were aware of everything," victim of youth crime.

"All of it was excellent. Great. Very caring. We didn't know this service was available". Partner of Victim of youth crime.

⁶ <https://www.roadpeace.org/> The National Charity for Road Crash Victims

*"When the incident happened *victim* was 82 and it was their birthday. After the work delivered by the YOS, the child who caused harm bought *victim* a new walking stick. They also wrote a letter of apology. *Victim* was over the moon with the apology and the walking stick" Family member of victim of youth crime.*

"I want to thank you and your team for arranging this today and all the work that you do..... throughout this entire process your worker is the only one who has listened to me and treated me like I was a human." Victim of youth crime

Based on what we have heard in 2023-24, we will:

- **Sustain** the commissioning arrangements around ETE activity.
- **Increase** our investment into our Music Project.
- **Develop** further opportunities for internal skills-based learning.
- **Continue** to upskill practitioners in restorative, relational and trauma informed practices, weaving this through policies, procedures, and practice expectations.
- **Sustain** arrangements around the Forensic Psychologist and continue to **improve** pathways into emotional and mental health support.
- **Continue** to deliver bespoke services and support to care-givers and victims of youth crime.

In 2023/24: We will develop Participation and co-creation opportunities with all the people we provide services to

Scope out and establish an Interventions Hub, which will include staff with a specific participation and co-creation remit. Longer term, the vision is that this Hub will provide a single point of access for interventions for all of our children, bringing together Trust, YOS partnership, and our commissioned services under a single front door and referral mechanism. This will be influenced by the Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) Toolkit, which contains evidence of what works in reducing offending.⁷

Progress the 'A Safe Youth Justice Service?' Research project. This research is a collaboration between Birmingham Children's Trust Youth Offending Service and University of Birmingham. The purpose is to help understand children's perceptions and experiences of safety in connection with their involvement with us, encompassing their journeys and the full range of appointments/contacts they participate in. It will also inform of any changes needed to improve children's safety in this context.

Train more children and young people to take part in interview panels and create separate interview panels.

Deliver children's forums to hear from our children on topics, chosen by them. The plan is to undertake three forums per year in school holidays supported by our social media apprentice.

Support Birmingham children to get involved in the West Midlands Youth Assembly organised by Positive Futures and West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership.

Involve our children in the making of podcasts, leaflets, social media content and training materials.

Involve our children in the development of questionnaires that help us to find out information.

Invest resource and appoint to a Partnership and Communities Lead to support participation and co-creation.

Contribute to the Trust's Participation and Engagement Strategy and produce our own supporting procedure document. We will develop a 'you said.... We did....' approach to feedback that we receive.

6. Governance, Leadership, and Partnership Arrangements

Youth Offending Teams were established under the statutory provisions of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Act sets out the requirement for local Youth Offending Teams and primary duties on key agencies and individuals involved in the delivery and governance of those services. Over time, the governance and leadership of youth justice services, though Youth Justice Management or Partnership Boards have evolved and within Birmingham this journey continues. As a Birmingham Youth Offending Service Partnership, we have retained a distinct Partnership Board and members have strong cross cutting connections across a wide range of local and regional partnership arrangements.

Birmingham Youth Offending Service sits within Birmingham Children's Trust (BCT), a wholly owned company of Birmingham City Council. Working in close partnership, together with our partners we work to improve outcomes for children in the city.

In recognition of the scale of Birmingham YOS, we have a Head of Service with sole responsibility for the delivery of local youth justice services. We have a Senior Leadership Team and a large Operational Leadership Team. Collectively they are leading and driving service developments.

⁷ [Youth Endowment Fund Toolkit](#)

6.1 The Board

The primary duty of our management board is to ensure appropriate youth justice services are in place within the local authority area. There are different local arrangements that will ensure appropriate governance and oversight of youth justice services.

- leadership and oversight of justice services for children
- contributing to local multi-agency strategies and work with local and national criminal justice organisations
- safeguarding children who receive youth justice services⁸

The Birmingham Youth Offending Service Partnership Board meets four times per year and is chaired by an independent chair, a decision taken in 2021/22 and an arrangement that will continue in 2023/24. We will continue to regularly review our Board representation to ensure that it remains appropriate and is well placed to oversee the delivery of this plan.

6.2 Board Development

We are committed to developing our governance arrangements and our Board members.

Practice and Development Meetings are facilitated to provide opportunity for more in depth discussion and deep dives into key areas of practice as identified and agreed by Board members. These sessions involve our staff, managers and members of the senior leadership team who can discuss and explore key areas of practice in depth with our board members. These will continue into 2023-24, starting in July 2023 with an overview of our Serious Incident and Safeguarding Procedures.

Each area of focus within this plan has a strategic lead within our Service, together with at least one Board member as sponsor. Working together, and in between meetings, their role is to drive forward the development activity required. Specifically, our sponsor Board members:

- Provide a key point of contact at board level for discussion and consultation for lead officers.
- Champion at board level developments linked to the area.
- Co-deliver updates at board meetings where possible.
- Take an active interest and shared ownership of practice and developments in the area.

Development conversations continue to take place between the Board Chair and Board Members on a one-to-one basis, twice yearly. These provide opportunities for individual discussion, reflection, and the identification of development opportunities.

⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/youth-justice-service-governance-and-leadership/youth-justice-service-governance-and-leadership#statutory-requirements-arrangements-and-structures>

In 2023-24: We will develop governance, communication, accountability, and professional responsibility across our Service.
Approve our Communications Strategy including a full review of existing meetings and communications channels.
Board members will commit to contribute to one 'Meet the YOS Board' meeting per year.
Establish a Staff Engagement and Consultation Group
Establish a Partnership board Newsletter.
Develop a document that assists our staff in understanding governance and leadership roles and responsibilities. From Partnership Board level through to operational management.
Provide and promote opportunities for Operational Managers to attend the Partnership Board and to present on key areas of practice.
Review and share widely the Partnership Board Terms of Reference.
Continue to deliver the Welcome to the YOS sessions, hosted by the Head of Service and Board Chair.
Ensure that our staff have access to relevant Board reports and performance information.

6.3 Partnership Arrangements

In addition to the partnership arrangements that support frontline practice, we are represented as a Service within a wide range of local and regional partnerships. These provide opportunities for helpful conversations and planning at operational and strategic partnership level in support of achieving improved outcomes for children. Our attendance or representation within these forums, supports the delivery of this plan and our strategic priorities. These include:

Birmingham Childrens Trust Equalities and Diversity Group*	West Midlands Local Criminal Justice Board*
Birmingham Community Safety Partnership*	West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership Strategic Board*
Birmingham Safeguarding Children's Partnership*	West Midlands Youth Improvement Board*
Birmingham Children and Young People's Mental Health Transformation Board*	West Midlands Trauma Informed Coalition: Strategic Governance Group*
Birmingham Prevent Strategic Board*	West Midlands Strategic Criminal Exploitation and Missing Board
Birmingham Channel Panel	West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership Commissioning Subgroup
Birmingham Violence Reduction Board*	West Midlands Violence Reduction Sports Partnership Board
Birmingham Serious Youth Violence Steering Group*	West Midlands Head of Youth Offending Strategic Leads Group*
Birmingham Contextual Safeguarding Board*	Youth Justice Board Midlands Developing Practice Forum
Birmingham Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub Partnership Forum*	
Birmingham's Fair Access Governance Board*	
Birmingham Tackling School Exclusions Partnership*	
Birmingham S.A.F.E. Taskforce Steering Group*	

*Includes representation from the BYOS (Birmingham Youth Offending Service) Partnership Board

7. Our Resources and Services

In 2023-24, the YOS Partnership total budget is £9,946,575. The table below shows the breakdown from the

statutory partnership.

Funding Source	Staffing Budget 2022-23	Payments in Kind 2022-23	Other Delegated Funds 2022-23	Total
Birmingham Children's Trust	£3,557,641	£0	£665,685	£4,223,326
Police	£598,616	£0	£0	£598,616
Police & Crime Commissioner	£117,843	£0	£157,157	£275,000
*Probation	£153,417	£0	£15,000	£168,417
*Health	£253,327	£0	£0	£253,327
Youth Justice Board	£2,439,382	£0	£0	£2,439,382
MOJ (Ministry of Justice) (Turnaround Programme)	£316,051	£0	£345,135	£661,186
Other sources of funding	£1,229,321	£0	£98,000	£1,327,321
Total	£8,665,598	£0	£1,280,977	£9,946,575

*2023/24 Funding level is still to be confirmed

Whilst we await confirmation of a number of funding streams, there is no indication at this stage that these will be reduced. Should funding levels change, planning and delivery will be reviewed to consider any resulting impact, ensuring we are delivering services within the confines of the overall budget.

- The remand budget is held external to the YOS.
- The West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner grant is underpinned by a detailed spending plan that is reported on quarterly.
- The MOJ Turnaround Programme, has a detailed delivery plan and is being overseen operationally by a dedicated newly appointed programme coordinator.
- The partnership continues to receive a local financial contribution under the Supporting Families programme. This allows us to take a systemic approach to working with children. It provides opportunity for continued engagement and support at the end of statutory involvement.

We use our combined budget, as set out, to fully fund the delivery of local youth justice services, including all commissioned services. Our spending plans and commissioning arrangements are informed by what we know about and hear from our children, strategic needs assessments and local and regional priorities. Our intention is that all spend, delivery and development plans, as detailed within this strategy, will have a positive impact on our children, victims, and caregivers and on their ability to achieve positive outcomes.

Any changes to budget will result in review of operational models of delivery and revised spending plans.

8. What Did We Do in 2022-23?

In 2021-22, we set out the beginnings of an ambitious plan to begin to develop and modernise the delivery of youth justice services in Birmingham. This work was underpinned by a detailed development plan, which had been informed by the findings on the 2020 HMIP Inspection and subsequently internal assessments of the quality of practice.

This developmental work continued into 2022-23 and in December 2022, we were again inspected by HMIP. Our 23-28 strategy and programmes of work set out within this document, have responded to the findings and recommendations of the HMIP 2022 inspection alongside our own continued programme of internal

assessments of practice.

8.1 We started our work to improve how we hear the voices of those we work alongside.

What did we do?	What did this achieve?	How have our children benefitted from this?
<p>Included voice of the child and caregiver as part of the learning exercises and audits carried out.</p> <p>Continued as a member of the Trust wide Participation and Engagement working Group working on a Trust Participation and Engagement Strategy.</p> <p>Developed and implemented new case planning processes to ensure there are effective co-produced My Plans.</p> <p>Consulted with children on the development of the My Plan, they told us which picture best represented Birmingham and gave positive feedback on the format of the document.</p> <p>Trained several children and young people to support recruitment and selection processes.</p>	<p>Allows children and caregivers to provide the auditor with their feedback to enable a comparison with evidence/information in the child's record.</p> <p>We are aligned and included in wider Trust work and including the Trust Participation Strategy.</p> <p>Our managers are clear about the expectations of supporting staff with case planning to ensure relevant services and referral are in hand and My Plan being completed. Our staff are clear about expectation around planning and the need for a co-creation plan with the child.</p> <p>Eleven staff were recruited by panels that included a young person as part of the interview panel.</p>	<p>It is another method of getting valuable feedback to inform change.</p> <p>Their voices and feedback will be systemically incorporated in all appropriate aspects of our work.</p> <p>Appropriate referrals and services for children, caregivers and victims are identified and progressed.</p> <p>My Plans are more meaningful for children, easier for them to understand and co-create.</p> <p>Children, victims, and caregivers feel heard and valued which in turn strengthens restorative and relationship-based practice.</p>

8.2 We started to develop our understanding and plans to help us tackle disproportionality within our Service.

What did we do?	What did this achieve?	How have our children benefitted from this?
<p>Delivered training to YOS staff around equality, diversity, unconscious racism.</p> <p>Developed a daily triage system for the monitoring of children charged to court.</p> <p>Seconded two of our staff to the EmpowerU hub to strengthen collaboration and planning around children who are being exploited.</p> <p>Updated quality assurance tools, assessment tools, PSR (Pre Sentence Report) templates to ensure that adultification and ethnic disparity are considered and ensure a child first approach.</p> <p>Included ethnicity in our Virtual School Register to improve our ability to monitor school exclusions by ethnicity.</p> <p>Reviewed Our Over-Represented Children Working Group</p> <p>Ensured team briefing and meeting agendas include sections on Equality and Diversity to ensure this is kept “alive” with all staff throughout their daily work.</p> <p>We strengthened our work with the Trust Equality and Diversity Manager</p> <p>Developed and launched a PSR feedback form for magistrates and Judges that captures the child’s ethnicity and concordance with recommendations.</p> <p>Our children and staff participated in two research studies: Traverse via YJB (Youth Justice Board) (Understanding ethnic disproportionality in reoffending rates in the youth justice system) and the Centre for Justice Innovation (youth diversion and disparity)</p> <p>Updated Prevention and OOC assessments to incorporate questions on discrimination</p>	<p>Staff are more culturally aware and responsive. They are better placed to diversify practice to engage our children, victims, and caregivers.</p> <p>There is a stronger focus on diversity, in planning, reviewing and practice.</p> <p>We have been proactive in conversations with CPS (Crown Prosecution Service), Judiciary, and legal representatives. This has led to Increased numbers of children diverted from Court. Thirty-six diversions in 2022-23 from Court received OOC (Out of Court Disposals).</p> <p>Our Head of Service was instrumental in securing regional buy in for the development of an OOC Protocol, to improve practice and consistency across the region.</p> <p>Our staff now attend Equalities Forum, Culture Change, Equalities and Diversity Service Group, and Workforce Delivery Group for Managers.</p> <p>Over-representation of children in care was agreed as a priority for the regional YJB in 2023-24.</p> <p>We have a better understanding of our disproportionality data overall, which is shaping service development across all priorities.</p>	<p>Children and caregivers have felt better understood and supported by us acting as advocates.</p> <p>This has helped ensure proportionate, fair sentences are given by the Court based on accurate, meaningful assessments.</p> <p>This has helped ensure the quality of the Reports being submitted to Court and enables us to monitor sentencing patterns from magistrates and Judges.</p>

8.3 We developed and launched our prevention offer.

What did we do?	What did this achieve?	How have our children benefitted from this?
<p>Developed and established the Prevention Team.</p> <p>Appointed to all positions and developed criteria, pathways, and assessment tools.</p> <p>Established links with third sector organisations who are delivering diversionary interventions and activities.</p> <p>Birmingham Alternative Provision (AP) Taskforce is based and managed in the City of Birmingham (COB) Pupil Referral Units. We seconded 3 Prevention Officers into this taskforce.</p> <p>We developed our AA (Appropriate Adult) service and co-located our staff with WMP (West Midlands Police) at Perry Barr custody suite,</p> <p>Accepted the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) Turnaround grant and mobilised in preparation for the project. Successfully appointed a Turnaround Coordinator and three Turnaround Prevention Officers.</p> <p>Developed an Operational Model for the delivery of Turnaround locally, underpinned by a robust spending plan, presenting this to the MOJ.</p>	<p>The partnership teams based at the custody suite have met regularly to ensure effective joint working and the development of a clear custody triage checklist to ensure children are seen by the right professional at the right time.</p> <p>Earlier conversations are taking place around children in custody, this means prevention and diversion opportunities can be explored.</p> <p>We received a West Midlands Police Commander's Award for the collaborative work at Perry Barr custody suite.</p> <p>Since 5th December 2023 76 children have been 'connected' to our prevention team, with thirty-seven children meeting the criteria and receiving an offer of support.</p>	<p>the thirty-seven children and their caregivers we are now working with would previously not have received any support/guidance. They are prevented from entering the formal system.</p> <p>Improved links with community services mean children can be linked into support services as part of their Moving on Plan. There are now more options for all children arrested for the first time as opposed to simply through Police or Court route, our children will receive support and guidance earlier.</p> <p>Improved links and relationships with neighbourhood police and housing in terms of tackling ASB (Anti Social Behaviour). Prevention staff involved with this means the offer of support from this team is reaching more families and community organisations, we know that early intervention at the right time can reduce offending and reoffending.</p>

8.4 We improved our out of court work.

What did we do?	What did this achieve?	How have our children benefitted from this?
<p>Delivered a full review of the local OOC processes.</p> <p>Refreshed the local policy.</p> <p>Developed practice expectations for staff and a specific, child first trauma informed assessment with West Midlands Police.</p> <p>Our Head of Service led on the development of a Regional OOC Protocol to promote consistency within the force area.</p>	<p>Our staff had an opportunity to get involved in the development of new assessment tools and other relevant documents.</p> <p>The revised and bespoke assessment tool begins with the child first, incorporates their voice, includes the risk and desistance matrix from AssetPlus and includes a co-produced plan. The result is a high-quality system, which is professional, child first, trauma informed, and victim focused.</p> <p>The revised Panel processes leads to timely joint decision making and seeks to achieve the right outcome for the child, which aims to prevent re-offending.</p> <p>There is greater clarity and scrutiny around prevention and diversionary outcomes for children.</p> <p>More children are receiving diversionary outcomes as a result of the developmental work.</p> <p>Fewer children are becoming first time entrants to the Youth Justice System in Birmingham.</p> <p>The revised panels have increased the use of Outcome 22 and CR's where appropriate as opposed to issuing formal YC/YCC, resulting in a fall in FTE's.</p> <p>Evidence of distance travelled in Domain 3 (OOC) from 2020 HMIP Inspection to 2023: Overall increase in four points within this domain alone, and improved ratings across the board.</p>	<p>Swifter, more proportionate and fairer outcomes for our children.</p> <p>Trauma of attending Court and entering the formal criminal justice system reduced for many children due to these diversionary outcomes.</p>

8.5 We worked to ensure that all of our children had access to education, training or employment that was appropriate and responsive to their needs.

What did we do?	What did this achieve?	How did our children benefit?
<p>Recommissioned school age Education Engagement Support mentors.</p> <p>We have expanded the ETE Re-engagement programme to also include extended work experience placements.</p> <p>Continued to deliver Skill Mill employment scheme, investing in additional supervisor resource to provide the best opportunities, and learning for our children.</p> <p>Invested in our Music Studio Project with the appointment of a full time Lyric writer and MC this year.</p> <p>We create opportunities for our children to perform at music showcase events, often their first time performing in front of an audience.</p>	<p>Our staff have access to full time, dedicated mentors embedded full time within our frontline teams.</p> <p>Of the sixteen children who started Skill Mill 15 have not re-offended (in the 12-month tracking period from starting on Skill Mill). We remain one of the best performing Skill Mill initiatives in the country based on completion rates and with a 94% non-reoffending rate.</p> <p>The Skill Mill have delivered re-generation projects, worked with Park Rangers, and support a local environmental recycling company one day a week. This company has since offered employment opportunities to our children as a progression pathway.</p> <p>Children working with our Music Studio Project have been recognised by the Koestler Awards for the quality of the music being produced. In addition, we hold two music performance events every year to highlight their work and talent.</p>	<p>Our children have additional opportunities through the ETE re-engagement programme to develop employability skills.</p> <p>Since the commencement of Skill Mill, thirteen of the sixteen children successfully completed their period of employment, and all have achieved their AQA qualification.</p> <p>So far six of the sixteen children have successfully progressed on to further ETE at the end of their employment. The remainder, who are still open to YOS, are being supported to secure their next opportunity.</p> <p>Eight children participating in the Studio Project received Koestler awards for their work.</p> <p>Fourteen children have performed at our Music showcase events.</p> <p>One ex-participant of the Studio Project is about to secure a full-time apprenticeship, to work as part of the Music Project team through the Birmingham Children's Trust Care Leaver Apprenticeship scheme.</p>

8.6 We worked to better understand and respond to the health needs of our children.

What did we do	What difference has it made?	How did our children benefit?
<p>Established a Health Subgroup with Terms of Reference and 'gold standards' agreed as deliverables.</p> <p>Participated within wider partnership Boards and groups to align Health subgroup activity with cross-cutting partnership activities.</p> <p>Appointed an Operational Health Lead.</p> <p>SalT (Speech and Language Therapists) Service Specification was revised so that it aligns with our service vision and priorities.</p> <p>Decided that we would directly recruit Speech and Language Therapists (SaLTs).</p> <p>Forensic psychologist was appointed on secondment arrangement supported by Forward Thinking Birmingham.</p> <p>Revised FTB (Forward Thinking Birmingham) offer and delivery model to improve clarity and access for children.</p> <p>Introduced a performance management framework to provide effective management oversight.</p> <p>Developed a pilot project with Birmingham's Rape & Sexual Violence Project (RSVP) to deliver counselling services to children who have been sexually harmed and who have also caused sexual harm.</p> <p>Worked with Aquarius⁹ to shape enhanced offer to children, victims and care givers affected by substance misuse, including exploration of co-located models of delivery.</p> <p>Revised the referral pathways and delivery offer within HSB (Healthy, Safe, Behaviours) Team to provide a graduated Service, responsive to need, and aligned with existing Right Help, Right Time framework.</p> <p>Developed new role of Partnership Link Worker within the HSB team</p>	<p>Clear processes and provision offer now developed for Aquarius; Forward Thinking Birmingham; School Nurse partnerships; MST (Multi Systemic Therapy).</p> <p>We have more robust performance management that has led to improvements in referrals for our children.</p> <p>Increased the percentage of children who have received a speech and language screening from 38.5% in 21-22 to 75.8% in 2022-23.</p> <p>Increased the percentage of children being referred to substance misuse services from 28.1% in 21-22 to 55.3% in 2022-23.</p> <p>Increased the percentage of children connected to mental health services from 28.1% in 21-22 to 48.2% in 2022-23</p> <p>Better identification of health needs through increased percentage of children having SALT (Speech and Language Therapists) checklist completed and introduction of specialist consultations with health service providers to enable better understanding of any health concerns presented.</p> <p>developed opportunities for CASS (Children's Advice and Support Service) and Children's Social Care to consult with HSB Partnership Link Worker re key decisions including thresholding.</p> <p>Increased the number of children, referred appropriately across the partnership into the HSB Team.</p>	<p>Children's needs are being better assessed and understood which in turn improves engagement with children and enables us to support them more robustly.</p> <p>More children are now being supported into accessing relevant services to address their health needs</p>

⁹ <https://aquarius.org.uk/our-services/young-peoples-services/birmingham-yp/>

8.7 We worked to ensure that services to victims, including child victims, were considered in all cases, and delivered well.

What did we do	What difference has it made?	How did our children and victims benefit?
<p>Delivered Best Practice RJ (Restorative Justice) training day alongside Oxford YJS</p> <p>Delivered three rounds of Volunteer recruitment and Panel Matters training.</p> <p>Ensured that the new Out of Court (OOC) Processes included the attendance of Restorative Practice Workers (RPWs) at OOC panels.</p> <p>Established new processes around victim contact by West Midlands Police Officers. established new victim feedback process. This includes an online option to provide feedback.</p> <p>Strengthened our regional links with West Midlands Police Restorative Justice Hub; Witness Care; PCC (Police and Crime Commissioner) Victims and Witness Delivery Group; West Midlands Fire Service; BCT Family Group Conference team; Road Peace</p> <p>Attended and hosted the Victims APPG (All Party Parliamentary Group) in May 2022 established 2x ROVOL posts to provide dedicated focus on Panel coordination and Volunteer recruitment and supervision.</p> <p>Established Quarterly Newsletters with updates are sent out to all staff.</p>	<p>Increased the number of trained volunteer panel members.</p> <p>Road Peace mosaic created and donated to Road Peace and is in St Martins in the Bullring</p> <p>Road Peace mosaic has been entered into the Koestler Awards in London</p>	<p>Children supported in more restorative way to help them feel heard and empowered to engage with activities to repair harm.</p> <p>Children able to attend panels in as timely a way as possible.</p> <p>Victims supported in more restorative way to help them feel heard and empowered; to have their views represented in panels and in the planning of activities to repair harm.</p> <p>Victims becoming better informed of the services provided by us and more able to consider uptake of these services.</p>

8.8 We developed our approaches to the multi-agency management of risk and safety and well-being.

What did we do	What difference has it made?	How did our children benefit?
<p>Invited HMYOI Werrington to be a core member of our YOS Partnership Board</p> <p>Developed a quarterly report on Serious and notifiable Incidents to our Strategic Partnership Board</p> <p>Developed, consulted on, and launched a new risk reduction policy.</p> <p>Actively sought an AYM (Association of YOT Managers) Peer Review following the implementation of the Risk Reduction policy.</p> <p>Established a risk register, accessible to all managers.</p> <p>Developed a revised Serious Safeguarding and Public Protection Incidents procedure.</p> <p>Continued as an active member of the Birmingham Violence Reduction Board</p> <p>Established regional curfew management meetings.</p> <p>Updated the MAPPA (Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements) information available to all staff via our Intranet.</p> <p>Reviewed our Pre-Sentence Report protocol. Strengthened risk mapping of children with EmpowerU and HMYOI Werrington</p> <p>Seconded two Officers into EmpowerU Exploitation Hub</p> <p>Regional TACT meetings established.</p>	<p>5 Internal Learning Reviews completed that have helped improve practice both on an individual and service wide basis. Example: we developed new curfew management guidance and establishment of the regional curfew meeting with the Police, EMS (Electronic Monitoring Service) and all local YOS's</p> <p>Partnership Board are now updated and aware of all serious incidents in Birmingham that have been notified to the YJB on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>Our staff have a clear framework around the expectations where there is elevated risk.</p> <p>There is appropriate senior leadership oversight and attendance in Local Risk and MAPPA panels.</p> <p>Our staff in EmpowerU, has strengthened intelligence sharing, processes, information exchange and mapping work. It has also reduced the burden on our practitioners attending a daily multi agency meeting.</p> <p>Through the regional TACT meetings, we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> created new practice expectations to improve our Appropriate Adult delivery and the quality of the arrest and interview preparation. strengthened the information exchange and working relationships with the Police and National Security Division and work has begun to make the custody suite even more child friendly. 	<p>This has helped build an effective working relationship with HMYOI Werrington, so any issues experienced by our children there are addressed in a timelier manner.</p> <p>This has helped identify any patterns resulting in serious incidents that the partnership can address to reduce future children being involved or harmed in serious incidents.</p> <p>This will help ensure that every child subject to our risk reduction policy has accurate, timely and robust risk assessments that help reduce the risks posed to and from our children.</p> <p>This will help ensure that the partnership is best placed to understand and reduce violence committed to and by our children.</p> <p>By working with our various partners across Birmingham, we have developed and strengthened how we work with our children, how we receive information about our children and how we move them towards a safe, crime free future.</p>

8.9 We worked to better understand current resettlement practice and develop our approaches to constructive resettlement for our children.

What did we do	What difference has it made?	How did our children benefit?
<p>Invited HMYOI Werrington to be a core member of our Partnership Board</p> <p>Improved the quality of pre-sentence reports and management oversight.</p> <p>Developed a Resettlement practice overview as an interim position for all staff.</p> <p>Established quarterly Resettlement meetings with the VRP (Violence Reduction Partnership) and Choices Resettlement Project.</p> <p>Carried out an audit of resettlement practices.</p> <p>Developed Local ISS (Intensive Supervision & Surveillance) standards to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> children subject to ISS (including post release from custody) and their caregivers are clear about the expectations on them including triggers for warnings/breach and the support available/in place. Our staff and managers know and understand the importance of supporting engagement and being clear and transparent with children and caregivers around the requirements and expectations of ISS. 	<p>We are available to attend Review of Restraint Meetings, where Birmingham children are being discussed.</p> <p>We have learned from the resettlement audit about What is working well:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The assessments on the child's safety and well-being were appropriate for most children. The assessments on the level of risk of serious harm that the child presents to others was appropriate on most children. <p>We have also learned what needs to be developed/improved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development work on resettlement plans required to ensure they include the seven pathways to resettlement. Improvement in management oversight in relation to resettlement standards. Improvement in review assessments whilst children are in custody. <p>All children being released have the option of a mentor to support their transition making into the community.</p> <p>There is now more robust oversight of the support offered to children being released from custody.</p> <p>Our new PSR feedback process from the Courts provided helpful insights to help improve practice. In 2022-23 a total of 23 Feedback forms were completed. Of these:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fourteen recommendations were followed in full. Six recommendations were followed in part. Seventeen reports were rated good or excellent. <p>As a result of this feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Quality Assurance tool was streamlined. The PSR (Pre-Sentence Report) template was amended to strengthen the advice and guidance it contains around writing proposals. A new flowchart for PSR authors was created to flag key tasks and considerations 	<p>This has helped ensure our children do not feel alone when they are released.</p> <p>This has helped ensure the support being offered is fit for purpose and is offering the children when they need to successfully resettlement back into the community.</p>

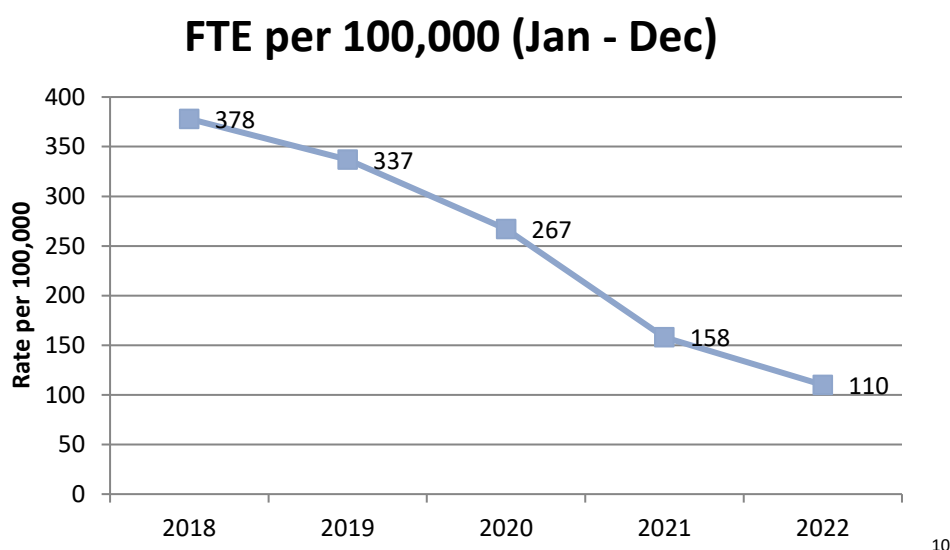
8.10 We professionalised our approaches to learning and development, establishing and delivering an audit programme and workforce development plan.

In 2022-23 we	What difference did this make?	How did our children benefit?
<p>Invested additional resource with the appointment of an additional Practice Development Manager</p> <p>Commissioned and delivered a range of workforce development opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate Adult training • Serious Youth Violence training for all staff • Practice Supervisor Development Programme for managers • Childhood Adversity and Trauma informed Practice • Restorative Practice • Grief, Loss, and Traumatic Stress for frontline staff. • Panel Matters for new volunteer panel members. <p>Established a programme of Practitioner and Manager forums.</p> <p>Improved the internal Induction programme for all new staff.</p> <p>Delivered a programme of audit activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision Audit • Resettlement Audit • 2 Local Learning Reviews • Several individual review exercises to support staff development and practice improvement. <p>Developed Practice Guidance and expectations documents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of AssetPlus Quality Assurance Tool • Creation of new planning expectations and new My Plan • Creation of new process to ensure that children can maintain appropriate and safe contact with family and community when in custody 	<p>A workforce who are developing their understanding of the root of SYV (Serious Youth Violence) in Birmingham, the experiences of children, caregivers and communities impact and more effective ways to provide support and illicit change.</p> <p>Managers are aware of the vital role of supervision of in staff development and have started to develop more effective supervisory practice.</p> <p>A workforce who are becoming trauma aware and informed and able to understand and start to demonstrate restorative practice in all their interactions with children, caregivers, colleagues, and partners.</p> <p>A workforce who are continuing to develop their understanding of the impact of grief and loss on children and caregivers and they can better support them.</p> <p>Staff feedback from the recent training on Grief and Loss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Made us realise that bereavement and loss can be talked about in same way as other difficulties.</i> • <i>Reinforced I was doing well in my job.</i> • <i>Relevant to current trends and our work</i> • <i>Like the formulation</i> <p>Staff and managers have a safe space to discuss practice issues and increase their understanding of policy, procedures and local. expectations in areas where developments are identified and requested by them.</p> <p>Audits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying the need to evidence staff performance and sickness and improve adhered to BCT process. • Identify the need for managers to have more effective reflective conversations. • The need to use supervision data more effectively to improve practice. <p>Informed areas of improvement needed around resettlement work.</p> <p>Identified the need for several staff to receive practice improvement/performance support.</p>	<p>Our children benefit from a quicker response to AA requests and are supported by experience and trained staff when in police custody.</p> <p>Our children are helped to understand the legal processes and their care needs are monitored and supported by AA in custody suites</p>

9. Our National Indicator Performance

9.1 Reducing the Number of First-Time Entrants

First Time Entrants (FTEs) to the criminal justice system are those children (aged 10 - 17), who received their first caution or conviction within a given period.



We have continued, year on year, to reduce the number of children becoming a first-time entrant. We are performing better than the England and Wales average (148 per 100,000) and our Youth Justice Service Family (205 per 100,000).

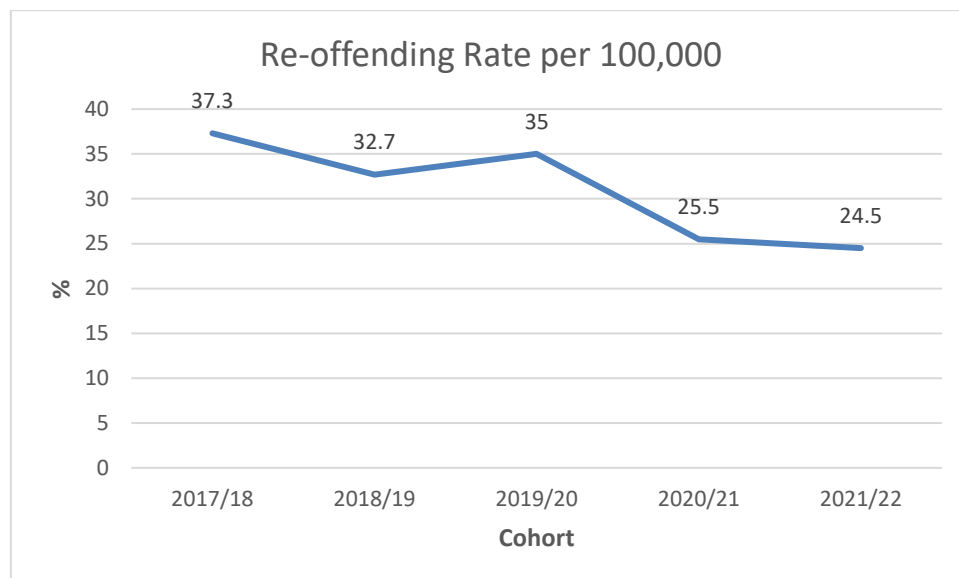
Analysis of our children entering the Youth Justice system in 2022-23 tells us:

- Most first-time entrants were aged 15-17, with 49.7% aged 16 or older.
- 11.1% of first-time entrants were girls.
- Violence Against the Person was the most prevalent offence category accounting for 93 offences, 61.6% of all proven offences for first time entrants. Compared with January to December 2022, this offence category shows a decrease of 20.5% in the number of offences.
- 48.5% of children becoming a first-time entrant had an identified special educational need.
- Black and Black British children are over-represented appearing at approximately twice the rate of their incidence in the general 10-17 population.
- Black, Asian, and mixed heritage children accounted for 63.2% of all First Time Entrants compared with 55.0% in the general 10 -17 population.
- Of the children becoming a first-time entrant, 53.8% received Youth Cautions, 38.0% first-tier outcomes, 6.4% community penalties, and 1.8% were sentenced to custody.

¹⁰ The latest national data for first time entrants (January - December 2022) identifies that Birmingham's performance against this national priority continues to improve year on year. The total number of FTEs between January and December 2022 was 145 children, an improvement of 26.0% from 196 in January – December 2021. Over the same period the first-time entrant rate fell from 158 children per 100,000 to 110 children per 100,000, an improvement of 30.3%.

9.2 Reducing Re-offending

The latest national figures (July 2020 – June 2021 cohort) show we are performing better than the England and Wales national average and is in the top quartile of all Youth Justice Services across the country. We also continue to perform well in comparison with others in its statistical family.



Despite Birmingham having the largest group of children monitored in the period (486), the re-offending rate, 24.5%, was one of the lowest within its statistical family and lower than the England and Wales average.

An analysis of AssetPlus data for Birmingham children shows that those who re-offended were more likely to:

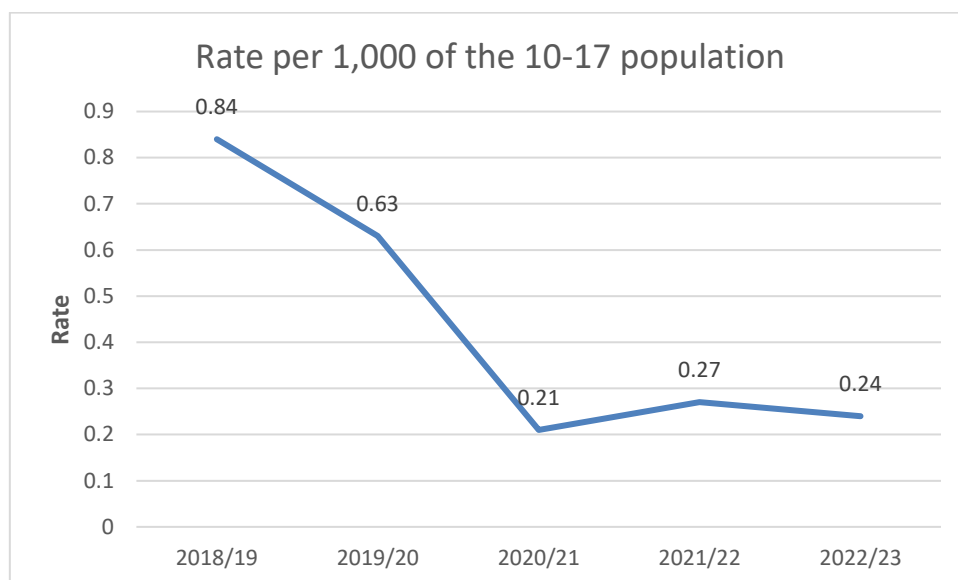
- Have Special Educational Needs.
- Be experiencing issues around school attendance/exclusion.
- Be living in families where there is evidence of intergenerational offending, parental substance misuse and/or mental health.
- Be children in care.
- Have a high number of previous offences and outcomes.
- Be at risk of gang affiliation and exploitation.

Whilst performance in this area compares favourably, we remain committed to doing more. At the heart of the work to improve re-offending in children is the move towards truly becoming child first, trauma informed and responsive and relationship based in our approaches. Our commitment to better understanding, analysing, and tackling the root causes of children offending is part of our core values.

We will also seek to develop our understanding of re-offending by outcome type and interventions delivered with the aim of developing our understanding of what works.

9.3 Reducing the Use of Custody

This indicator compares the number of custodial sentences against the 10 –17-year-old population of a local area.



In 2022/23, 23 Birmingham children were made subject to a custodial sentence. In comparison with 2021/22, this represented an increase of 21.1% from 19.

Birmingham has a higher rate of custodial sentences than the national average, although we are within the range of other Core Cities. The number of children sentenced to custody in Birmingham has increased from 19 in 2021/22 to 23 in 2022/23 and remains an area of focus for the YOS Partnership.

Analysis of local data for 2022/23 tells us:

- the majority (78%) of children sentenced to custody were 16–17-year-old boys.
- Boys who are Black, Black British or of mixed heritage backgrounds remain over- represented, appearing at approximately three times the rate in comparison with the general population.
- Black, Asian, and mixed heritage children accounted for 65.2% of all children receiving a custodial disposal compared with 55.0% in the general 10 -17 population.
- Very few girls receiving custody, only one girl received a custodial sentence.
- Violence Against the Person is most prevalent offence category accounting for 51.8% of custodial sentences.

9.4 Number of Nights in Custody Spent on Remand

A remand to youth detention accommodation is currently to either: a Secure Children’s Home (SCH); a Secure Training Centre (STC); or a Young Offender Institution (YOI).

In 2022/23 a total of 32 Birmingham children were remanded to the secure estate, representing a 28.9% decrease from 45 in the previous year. Those 32 children spent a total of 3061 nights held on remand (average of 90 nights per child). This compares favourably to 2021/22, when 45 children, spent 4710 nights in custody (an average of 104 nights per child).

Of the 32 children remanded during the period:

- 20 (62.5%) were Children in Care at the time of the remand.
- 2 were previously a Child in Care.
- 11 children (34.4%) gained Child in Care status because of their remand.

10 Our Priorities

Nationally from April 2023, the YJB introduced ten new Key Performance Indicators to monitor the activity of Youth Justice Services. These were designed by the MOJ in consultation with the YJB, front line services, inspectorates, and other government departments.

These ten indicators align with the local priorities that we set as a partnership in 2022/23 and will further reinforce our commitment to driving improvement and development with robust governance and accountability.

10.1 Health

Priorities

- % of children assessed with AssetPlus with an identified health need referred to a specialist service where necessary

In 2022/23 we improved our response to identified substance misuse needs from 28.1% at the end of 2021/22 to 55.3% at the end of 2022/23 and mental health needs from 28.0% to 48.2% over the same period.

- % of children receiving a speech and language screening.

In 2022/23, we increased our response to screening all children for speech and language issues from 38.8% at the end of 2021/22 to 75.8% at the end of 2022/23.

New supporting YJB KPIs (Key Performance Indicators)

KPI 4 – Mental healthcare and emotional wellbeing

“% of children in the community and being released from custody with a screened OR identified need for an intervention to improve mental health or emotional wellbeing; and of that the % of planned/offered interventions; of that % of children attending interventions”.

KPI 5 – Substance misuse

“% of children with a screened OR identified need for specialist treatment intervention to address substance misuse; and of that the % of children with planned or offered intervention/treatment; and of that the % number of children attending intervention/treatment”.

10.2 Restorative Approaches and Victims

Priorities

- % of identifiable victims contacted.

In 2022/23, we increased the percentage of victims who we contacted (where they consented) to 73% from 69% in 2021/22.

- % of victims engaged who respond to follow up that are satisfied with the services they received.

In 2022/23, of the victims who engaged and who commented on the service received, 100% said they were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” which was the same as 2021/22.

New supporting YJB KPI

KPI 10 – Victims

“Number of victims who consent to be contact by the YOT, and of those, the number of victims: engaged with about Restorative Justice opportunities; asked their view prior to OOC decision-making and planning for statutory court orders; provided information about the progress of the child’s case (when requested) and provided with information on appropriate services that support victims (when requested).”

10.3 Education Training and Employment

Priorities

- % of children ending their engagement with our Service, where they have maintained or improved their education or employment engagement.

In 2022/23, 92.0% of children with programmes ending in the period had maintained or improved their education or employment engagement compared with 83.2% in 2021/22.

- % of school age children with no school place

In 2022/23, 2.23% of children with programmes ending in the period were engaged no education activity compared 5.92% in 2021/22.

New supporting YJB KPIs

KPI 2 – Education, Training & Employment

“% of children in the community and being released from custody attending a suitable ETE arrangement”.

KPI 3 – Special Educational Needs and Disabilities /Additional Learning Needs

“% of children who have an identified SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) need (or Additional Learning Need in Wales), are in suitable ETE and have a formal learning plan in place for the current academic year”.

10.4 Serious Youth Violence

Priorities

- Track a cohort of children convicted of SYV (Serious Youth Violence offences) for 12 months, report at 3,6,9 and 12 months to identify: re-offending patterns, seriousness, changes in risk, safety and well-being and formulate responses.

In 2022/23, we have tracked those children receiving a court outcome for serious youth violence offences in 2020/21. This identified that at the time of receiving the outcome:

- Children with serious youth violence offences were more likely to re-offend within 12 months (25.0%) than those without (21.9%).
- 15.3% were currently or had previously been a Looked After Child.
- 40.1% were currently or had previously been subject to a Child in Need Plan.
- 16.4% were currently or had previously been subject to a Child Protection Plan.

Our analysis of local data is supported by research conducted by User Voice¹¹, on behalf of HMICFRS, which concluded:

'Most of the young people we interviewed had fractured family relationships and the majority had been in the social care system. They described many negative interactions with care homes and care workers and felt completely uncared for. While their families and the social care system had let them down, their friends had their back and offered a level of security and a means to earn money. Some described their group as 'like a family' or noted how their friends had been there for them when their parents hadn't. But this often meant that they were involved in serious violent incidents on behalf of their friends or the group. Some noted that a disrespectful act directly preceded a serious violent incident and many of the young people described how much they had lost while earning respect.'

In 2022/23 210 serious youth violence offences were recorded against 137 children. This resulted in 143 outcomes. In comparison with 2021/22, this represents a 13.5% increase in the number of serious youth violence offences from 185, a 24.5% increase in the number of children (from 110) and a 23.3% increase in the number of outcomes (from 116).

- Robbery accounted for 71% of the offences, with violence against the person the remaining 29%.
- Black and mixed ethnicity children are over-represented, representing 23.4% and 14.6% respectively, versus 10.7 and 8.4% of the general 10-17 population.
- 43.8% of the children receiving an outcome for serious youth violence were assessed as having some form of educational need.

New supporting YJB KPI

KPI 9 – Serious youth violence

"Proportion of children convicted for SYV on the YOT caseload."

10.5 Additional KPIs.

In addition, the YJB has identified other areas of interest and formulated the following KPIs. We are well placed to report on all of these performance measures.

KPI 1 – Accommodation

"% of children in the community and being released from custody with suitable accommodation arrangements."

KPI 6 – Out of Court Disposals (OOCs)

"% of OOC disposal interventions that are completed/not completed."

KPI 7 – Management board attendance

"Monitoring senior partner representation at management boards and monitoring if partners contribute data from their individual services that identify areas of racial and ethnic disproportionality."

¹¹ <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/wp-content/uploads/young-peoples-experiences-serious-youth-violence.pdf>

KPI 8 – Wider services

“% children who are currently on either an Early Help (EH) plan; on a child protection (CP) plan or classified as Child in need (CiN) or a looked after child (LAC). For Wales only, children who are classified as Children in Need of Care and Support.”

11. Our Priorities for 2023-28

Building on the successes of recent years and what we know about our areas for continued development, we have agreed as a partnership a number of strategic priorities for 2023-28.

1. Governance, communication, accountability, and professional responsibility are developed across our Service.
2. Build a culturally responsive Service which promotes equality, reduces discrimination, and enables our children, victims, caregivers, and staff to thrive.
3. Our staff are skilled, equipped, and capable of delivering quality services to children, victims, and caregivers.
4. Participation and co-creation opportunities with all the people we provide services to are maximised across our services.
5. Children, victims, and caregivers have access to services, support and interventions that are relevant to them.
6. Children on the cusp of offending or entering the YJS are supported.
7. Communities and individuals are protected from harm.
8. Children leaving the secure estate have access to the right support at the right time.

Annually we will assess the ongoing validity of our priorities and revise our delivery plans.

11.1 Over-Represented Children

Children from a range of backgrounds and experiences are over-represented in the Youth Justice System. Local data and research indicate an over-representation of:

- Children in Care or children who have experienced social care processes.
- Children who have experienced trauma, adversity including exploitation.
- Children who have experienced exclusion from school, including permanent exclusion.

However, ethnic disparity in the Youth Justice System continues to be one of our greatest challenges and is an area we remain committed to tackling. We continue to place a high priority to identifying and addressing issues of disproportionality, including ethnic disparity at all points within the system.

We have an established Over-Represented Childrens Working Group. More recently, this work has been restructured and now benefits from a series of multi-agency practical workshops, drawing upon the YJB ethnic disparity toolkit and our local data. As a working group we continue to deliver against a dynamic plan, overseen by our Partnership Board, that seeks to develop our:

- Organisational culture.
- Our direct work with children, victims, and caregivers.

- Our work in court and;
- Our Partnerships.

In 2022/23 analysis of local data indicated in comparison to white children, all other ethnic groups combined accounted for:

- 65.1% of all First Time Entrants compared with 55.0% in the general 10 -17 population.
- 63.9% of all children receiving out of court disposals compared with 55.0% in the general 10 -17 population.
- 65.2% of all children receiving a custodial sentence compared with 55.0% in the general 10 -17 population.
- 65.8% of all children receiving a disposal for knife enabled offences compared with 55.0% in the general 10 -17 population.
- 50.4% of all children with a proven re-offence compared with 55.0% in the local YOT area10 -17 population.

We will continue to develop culturally responsive services which promote equality, reduce discrimination, and enable our children, caregivers, victims, and staff to thrive
Retain training around equality, diversity, unconscious racism as part of our workforce development plan.
Use data to ensure that all commissioning activity will be cognisant of the needs of our children and responsive to need at a local level.
Feed data and staff and user voice into the development of the interventions hub to ensure that interventions and group work delivered and commissioned is responsive to the needs of our children.
Retain the girl's empowerment team (G.E.T) to ensure that the specific needs of our girls can and are being met.
Ensure that the needs of girls in the Youth Justice System are represented within the Regional Women and Girls subgroup.
Strengthen relationships with community and faith-based organisations and the third sector, improving our ability to support children and caregivers to build systemic resilience through better access to local opportunity.
YOS Partnership Board members will share data that identifies areas of disproportionality and the action being taken to address this.
Review and refresh of our Over-represented children working group and action plan. Ensuring all learning from Inspection and research is captured and thematic practice-based workshops are driving change.
Support the development of a regional protocol to reduce the criminalisation of children in care.
YOS Prevention Team will deliver training to local care providers to ensure a good understanding of the 10-point checklist.
Proactively monitor and challenge any remand/sentencing patterns identified via our Remand reviews and PSR feedback forms via the Court User forums and Strategic Board.
We will consider and offer opportunities for joint training with those responsible for sentencing our children.

11.2 Prevention

“Prevention is support and intervention with children (and their care givers) who may be displaying behaviours which may indicate underlying needs or vulnerability. In practice this involves a tiered approach

of early and targeted prevention. The aim being to address unmet needs, safeguard, promote positive outcomes and stop children entering the formal youth justice system.”¹²

Prior to the announcements of the MOJ Turnaround funding, we had already set out our commitment and intention to strengthen the early/targeted preventative work with children and their caregivers, extending beyond those children involved in Anti-Social Behaviour. The YOS partnership invested heavily in these developments in 2022-23.

Collaboration with colleagues within Early Help has supported the development of referral pathways into our prevention offer. The delivery of Turnaround will further strengthen and extend our ability to work with children, who ordinarily would not have been able to access support and intervention from a Youth Offending Service. The delivery of these services, in part, from Perry Barr Custody Suite, will ensure clarity for key stakeholders and ease of access for our children and their caregivers.

Collaboration on the delivery of Birmingham Inclusion Strategy will strengthen our understanding of the needs and contextual factors of children at risk of entering the youth justice system. A multi-agency action plan will focus on inclusion pathways in response to insight on key risk factors, including poverty, school absence and exclusion.

11.3 Diversion

“Diversion is where children with a linked offence receive an alternative outcome that does not result in a criminal record, avoids escalation into the formal youth justice system and associated stigmatisation. This may involve the YJS delivering support / intervention that may or may not be voluntary and/or signposting children (and parent/carers) into relevant services. All support should be proportionate, aimed at addressing unmet needs and supporting prosocial life choices.”¹³

This plan provides clear evidence to show that Birmingham children are increasingly being diverted from the formal Youth Justice System and we are pleased with the early signs of success following a detailed review of our practices in this area. This has been reinforced by the findings of the HMIP Inspection, published 2023 ¹³

Our commitment to the UNICEF Child Friendly Cities and Communities initiative will focus on strengthening our voice and participation work with children at risk of entering the formal youth justice system. As part of our journey toward recognition as Child Friendly Birmingham we will seek to learn from the lived experience of our children engaged through diversion. This will aim to contribute to the development of better support and intervention that reduces offending.

The introduction of Turnaround, development and launch of the West Midlands OOC Protocol and revised CPS Guidance¹⁴ will provide increased opportunities for services to work with children at the earliest possible opportunity and wherever possible outside of the formal system.

The development of local partnerships and work with the OPCC (Office of the Police and Crime

¹² Youth Justice Board Definitions for Prevention and Diversion (2021)

¹³ [An inspection of youth offending services in Birmingham \(justiceinspectorates.gov.uk\)](https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk)

¹⁴ [Children as suspects and defendants | The Crown Prosecution Service \(cps.gov.uk\)](https://www.cps.gov.uk)

Commissioner), will enable us to engage with community organisations who will provide opportunities for support and intervention, where criteria for other interventions is not met.

GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLES

Jonah's Project Interception Hub: our three Turnaround Prevention Officers will be partly co-located at Perry Barr custody suite and therefore well placed to work with partners to identify children eligible for Turnaround.

Where children do not meet our locally defined criteria for Turnaround, we have established a pathway with Jonah's Project; a local community-based project which aims to support children and young people convicted, involved or at risk of criminal activity. This means all children will have an opportunity, if they wish, for support and intervention.

In addition, all children coming to the end of their prevention, Out of Court or statutory intervention are eligible to be referred to Jonah's Project as part of their Moving On plan, via the "Standby" referral route.

For example, a child finishes their intervention with our service, but would benefit from continued support with regards to being involved in more positive activities in their local community such as sports-based activities or mentoring. The child consents to a referral to Jonah's Project Interception Hub by their YOS practitioner and is matched to and assigned a mentor. The YOS practitioner will facilitate a 3-way meeting with the Jonah's Project mentor, involving the child and their care giver, to ensure a smooth transition.

Our recently forged partnership with Street Games will enable us to expand access to a range of Sports provision and diversionary activities for our children. Street Games will take an active role in developing the expertise, and workforce within local voluntary and community-based Sports providers. This will be in keeping with our values and ethos and will enable providers to effectively support our children with an evidence-based provision offer.

We will ensure that Children on the cusp of offending or entering the YJS are supported through our *Prevention, Turnaround, and diversionary offers*

We will deliver Turnaround, expanding opportunities for children to be supported earlier and prevent offending.

Our Prevention offer will be evaluated by BCT Practice Hub (internal evaluation) over 12mths from June 23 to June 24.

From Summer 2023, our Prevention Team, including Turnaround officers will be co-located alongside the AA at Perry Barr Custody Suite. This will further expand opportunities for earlier prevention and diversion opportunities.

Engage with an external evaluation of our OOC provision via University of Birmingham – planned to commence autumn 23. This will include exploring the impact of disposals and monitoring of the decision-making and reoffending patterns.

Development of OOC assessment QA (Quality Assurance) tool to strengthen management oversight and to promote consistency.

Launch and embed the West Midlands regional OOC policy to ensure consistent application of OOCs.

Ensure that the revised CPS guidance (May 23) with its Child First approach aligns with our practices. This will be underpinned by work with criminal justice services overseen by the Youth Improvement Board.

11.4 Health

We remain fully committed to ensuring that our children have access to the health services and support that they need, including for our children in custody and transitioning back to the community. Whilst we have made good progress and have invested additional resource in this area in 2022-23, we know that there is more work for us to do and we have clear plans in place, both for the work we need to do internally, but also the work with the wider partnership as part of our Health Subgroup.

We will work to ensure children, caregivers, and victims have access to services, support and interventions that are relevant to them

Our Health Subgroup will continue: Schedule of eight health-themed multi-agency workshops to take place in 23/24 to review health needs and inequalities; current arrangements and provisions; strengths; barriers and gaps.

Quarterly sub-group meetings will continue to oversee workshop activity and to review progress against action plan.

Invest additional resource and progress the recruitment of 2x FTE (Full Time Equivalent) SALT therapists.

Launch of Aquarius' enhanced criminal justice offer which includes co-location of Aquarius Substance Misuse workers within area teams.

Implement revised HSB offer and partnership arrangements to strengthen safeguarding practice.

Specialist workforce development programme to strengthen quality of work undertaken within HSB team.

Continue the work to monitor practice and performance around appropriate access to health services.

11.5 Education

The engagement of children in positive education, training, and employment (ETE) is a strong protective factor that contributes significantly to the prevention and reduction of offending.

We continually strive to ensure all our children have a school place or Post 16 offer and that they are engaging positively with this.

For children at risk of permanent exclusion, we proactively work with schools to explore alternative solutions and provide practical support. This includes exploring restorative practice opportunities, managed move options, or packages of support that we can provide. This support will range from our wrap around mentoring options, access to our enhanced curriculum provision, anger management initiatives (such as Art Therapy, Martial Arts etc) and the sourcing of extended work experience placements to run alongside their curriculum offer - to raise aspiration and secure their continued motivation and engagement.

We have demonstrated a long and well-established commitment to our children's education, evidenced by the strategic and operational partnerships, commissioning arrangements and financial investment in a varied range of interventions for children.

- ETE Re-engagement Programme - provides part time vocational training and accredited outcomes, delivered one to one or in small nurture groups, to act as a catalyst for re-engagement to mainstream ETE.
- Functional Skills provision – provides one to one education in Numeracy and Literacy where this is a barrier to re-engagement with ETE.
- Entrepreneurial courses – a credible provision for those who are motivated to learn how to make money legally.
- Boxing mentoring anti knife crime programme – boxing sessions, used to engage children in positive activities whilst having conversations around the dangers of knives.
- Music Studio Project - delivers high quality music making activities in a fully equipped professional recording studio. Children work alongside Producers, Lyric Writers and Musicians developing skills in the creative music industry and given a platform for expression and performance.
- Skill Mill Employment Scheme – provides 6-month employment opportunities for children, with a highly skilled and supportive Skill Mill supervisor to support them in their employment journey.

What do we know about the impact of the work our CGL (Change Grow Live) Mentors are doing?

"He has successfully started on the ETE Re-engagement programme and is now attending 'Right Trax.' I have also arranged an interview through Work n Learn at a Jewellers which is planned for next month".

"After three months of not wanting our support, a child I work with, has now agreed that we can make a referral to an education placement".

"I have managed to arrange transport to and from school as this was preventing attendance and punctuality. Her attendance is improving, and she is due to be having an ADHD assessment via Forward Thinking Birmingham. School is pleased with her progress and report she is doing well."

".....has completed their BKS Numeracy and Literacy assessments and has been referred to Right Trax. He is currently home schooled and not on a school roll, so a fair access referral is being processed. He has had his first visit to Right Trax, and he is enjoying the course."

"Last month I successfully negotiated at three children's permanent exclusion meetings. This has resulted in alternatives to exclusion being found for all three".

Our plans confirm our continued commitment to ensuring that our children have the absolute best support

and advocacy. In 2023-24 we will strengthen this with the appointment to an Operational Youth Justice Education Lead officer.

The launch of our virtual school register, a concept we proudly presented to the DfE (Department for Education) in 2022-23, will provide accurate and timely information on our children's school attendance, any suspension history, and will highlight those who are not receiving their educational entitlement. This will support effective collaborative work to enhance school engagement and will help us to better understand any evidence of disproportionality.

We will work to ensure children, caregivers, and victims have access to services, support and interventions that are relevant to them
<p>We will provide additional gap investment to support the continued delivery of the Post 16 Mentors to support children who are NEET ahead of the launch of the 2024 the Shared Prosperity Funding.</p> <p>Explore opportunities for our children to undertake the D of E Award accreditation to accredit the work they do, enhance their C.V., and develop their employability.</p> <p>Explore sustainability plans for the Skill Mill employment scheme to continue beyond its current funded period of 31 March 2024.</p> <p>Explore the expansion of the number of recording studios we can access. This will enable us to deliver our music intervention in a more accessible way to our children across the city.</p> <p>Develop a range of vocational accredited courses delivered from our premises. In 23/24 a Hair and Beauty salon at our Washwood Heath site will be established, allowing us to offer courses in Barbering, Hair, and Nails. Subsequent development in 23/24 include the introduction of Construction Trade courses.</p> <p>Formally launch our Virtual School register making it accessible to all of our staff. This will detail all children open to our service, with up-to-date school attendance and exclusion data.</p> <p>Analyse school attendance and exclusions by protected characteristics and need.</p> <p>Support the wider work happening across the City Council to improve SEND support for children</p>

11.6 Victims and Restorative Approaches

In recent years we have increased investment and reshaped service delivery to better meet the needs of our victims. We have:

- Invested in and retained a Restorative Practice and Victim Manager
- Developed two Referral Order and Volunteer Coordinator roles
- Sustained dedicated Victim Support Officers

These initiatives are supporting our work to continue to develop our offer to victims. Alongside our internal developments, we have developed more robust systems with WMP. This has led to an evidenced increase in the number of victims consenting to our support and we now have increased opportunities to work directly with those affected and harmed by offences committed by our children.

This is an area we remain committed to improving. The plans within this strategy around volunteer recruitment, developing of our Panel processes and robust performance monitoring and reporting, under

the leadership of a dedicated Manager, will allow us to retain focus, and drive improvements.

We will work to ensure Children, caregivers, and victims have access to services, support and interventions that are relevant to them
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Continue the work with West Midlands Police to improve victim consent and uptake of victims offer.
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We will strengthen our understanding of repeat victimisation and their common characteristics.
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Develop Restorative Justice and Victim policy.
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Continue to embed, in line with the trust Practice Model, restorative practice and victims' voice within our services and wider partnership.
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Our restorative justice team will attend Train the Trainers sessions and to deliver development sessions for our wider staff group and partners.
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Commission and deliver REMEDI training.

Revise Referral Order processes and introduce Making It Right panels.

Continue with a rolling programme of volunteer recruitment, developing training and development pathways for volunteers.
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As part of the ISS pilot ensure that the mandatory Trail Monitoring is used effectively where appropriate as a victim safety measure when there are concerns about re-victimisation are flagged.
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11.7 Serious Youth Violence and Exploitation

Understanding and responding to serious youth violence, gangs and the exploitation of our children remains a priority for the Birmingham Partnership and features within our strategic priorities.

- We are a core member of the Birmingham Violence Reduction Board
- We have contributed to the development of a Serious Violence Strategy and strategic needs assessment of serious violence.
- We co-chair with WMP of Serious Youth Violence Steering Group (sub-group of the local Violence Reduction Board)
- We remain focussed and committed to tackling the root causes of offending in children, i.e., exploitation, health, and education.
- We are a key partner of the EmpowerU Contextual Safeguarding Hub, seconding in staff and contributing to daily discussions and planning around children identified as at risk of exploitation and/or gang affiliated.
- We are determining best use of Turnaround delivery, to support work in this area.

We will work to ensure that communities and individuals are protected from harm
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Continue to develop the Serious Youth Violence Steering Group to ensure we are effective in reducing knife crime and serious youth violence in partnership across Birmingham.

Focus on improving the quality of risk assessments completed by our staff.
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Engage with AYM Peer Review responding to any findings and implementing the learning.

Review and strengthen risk mapping exercises with EmpowerU and HMYOI Werrington, ensuring that risks are responded to, and the public are protected.

Establish a regional TACT meeting and develop protocol.

Engage with the MAPPA support unit to secure training for our staff.

Implement new ISS Local Standard to ensure that children subject to ISS are receiving an effective range of interventions, support and contact levels appropriate to need and risk.

As part of the ISS pilot, ensure that the mandatory Trail Monitoring is used effectively where appropriate as a victim safety measure when concerns about re-victimisation are flagged.

Contribute to the review of the Birmingham Right Help Right Time document.

Launch and brief our staff on our joint protocol with Social Care

11.8 Detention in police custody

The regional Youth Improvement Board, a subgroup of the local criminal justice board has developed a data set to inform our priority setting and workplans. From 2023-24 onwards, all members have agreed that this will include data, provided by WMP, about children who are arrested and detained overnight in police custody within the West Midlands.

It will provide detail around requests for accommodation and will help us to better understand and respond to some of the long-standing challenges around the transfer of children, from police custody to local authority accommodation, in accordance with the Home Office Concordat on Children in Custody¹⁵

It is clear, as data has become more readily available in 2023-24, that there remains work for us to do in this area, alongside our colleagues within WMP and Birmingham Childrens Trust, with very few children being transferred. This work will be led regionally to ensure that we are exercising our duties under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) and addressing any local issues of compliance or challenge appropriately.

11.9 Remands and Use of Custody

We remain committed towards ensuring that children should only be remanded or sentenced to custody as a last resort. Custody can have long lasting and traumatic impacts on children and their caregivers and can adversely affect their life chances. Where our assessments tell us that the risks presented by children can be managed in the community, we will advocate and support applications for bail or provide the courts with credible and robust alternatives to custody.

Whilst the number of our children remanded has reduced, we have seen a slight increase in the number of custodial sentences our children have received in 2022-23. We have a detailed understanding of our performance in this area with our data broken down by age, gender, ethnicity, offence category, ward, children in care status and special educational need.

¹⁵ [Concordat on Children in Custody \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Our ability to achieve a positive impact in this area is intrinsically linked to our wider strategic priorities that will enable us to be as effective as we can be in understanding through a trauma lens and effectively addressing the root causes of our children's offending, including exploitation.

11.10 Constructive resettlement

Where children are remanded or serving a custodial sentence, we are committed to ensuring that our children receive the best, personal support, at the right time, that will meet the needs of the child. Working beyond the structural support of education and accommodation children will have the best chance of success in avoiding further offending. We are also committed to ensuring that remands are regularly reviewed to ensure any opportunities to look at a bail packages are not missed and are communicated to solicitors in a timely manner.

Our values in holding the child at the heart of what we do when it comes to resettlement is important. Helping them to set a vision for their future, remaining strengths based and helping them to build a positive identity, alongside evidence and research¹⁶ will shape the way we deliver our resettlement work and develop our strategies and practices.

We will ensure that children leaving the secure estate have access to the right support at the right time
<p>Review and strengthen practice around bail support proposals, including, where appropriate, the use of the ISS Pilot and enhanced monitoring.</p> <p>Strengthen the quality assurance and management oversight activity for every child entering the secure estate.</p> <p>Consider opportunities to second one of our staff into HMYOI Werrington</p> <p>Develop and Launch a Resettlement Policy. Improving the voice of the child and their caregivers in resettlement planning. Establish a Resettlement Consortium to provide appropriate management oversight for all release planning and preparation.</p> <p>Finalise and launch the YOS/Social Care protocol to ensure that children are appropriately supported by Childrens services during their time in custody and on release.</p> <p>We will work with the Youth Custody Service and across the wider partnership to ensure every child has a clear plan ahead of their release and can access the right education, healthcare, and accommodation support on release.</p> <p>Work with HMYOI Werrington and the WMVRP (West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership) to explore opportunities for commissioned activity to support children's development of pro-social identities.</p> <p>Review enforcement practices for children released from the secure estate to ensure that it is child first, trauma informed and protects communities.</p> <p>Ensuring that services within the Vulnerable Young Peoples Directorate, including Family Group Conferencing, Lifelong Links and Preparation for Adulthood are considered for children at points of transition.</p>

12 Standards for children in the justice system

YJB Oversight Framework launched in 23/24 will outline the approach to overseeing performance of YJSs (Youth Justice Services). This framework formalizes:

- the mechanisms used for oversight of and assurance against performance outcomes.

¹⁶ [Academic Insights 2023/01 - Effective practice in Resettlement \(justiceinspectorates.gov.uk\)](https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/academic-insights/2023/01-effective-practice-in-resettlement/)

- how compliance against the terms and conditions of the youth justice core grant is confirmed
- how effective practice across the system will be identified.
- when and how support is provided to drive up standards in delivery.

We continue to work closely with the YJB, who remain a member of our strategic partnership Board. As part of this collaboration, there is regular conversation to identify opportunities for us to draw upon any help and support that we or the YJB identify as adding value to our continued development.

In 2023-24, self-assessments are being re-instated by the YJB, and each Youth Justice Service will be required complete a self-assessment against one selected standard. In 2023-24, this standard is work at Court.

In 2022-23, we have continued with our programme of self-assessment work to better understand local practice. We have conducted:

- Two internal audits of Supervision quality and Resettlement practices
- A benchmarking exercise with Managers, jointly facilitated by the YJB, examining quality assurance of assessments.
- Three internal learning reviews following serious incidents.
- An internal review of the safety and wellbeing of children placed at Werrington, commissioned by the Head of Service at the time when concerns were raised about safeguarding practices within the establishment.

We have established management practice forums, which allow us to provide feedback on findings of internal assessments and reviews for Managers to disseminate further within their teams.

We are committed to continued learning and development. Planned audit activity for 2023-24 includes:

- Management oversight Audit
- Children on community orders
- Victim Work
- Bail and Remand Practices
- Re-Engagement and enforcement

13 Our Workforce

We have continued to invest in and develop our staff. We want our staff to have the appropriate skills, knowledge, resources, and support to enable them to be effective and competent practitioners and managers. We want our teams to have access to high quality, helpful supervision, annual development conversations and a range of relevant development opportunities, including opportunities to support their personal growth and professional development.

Our annual staff survey is essential in helping us to understand the feelings amongst our staff and in helping us to support, develop and realise the potential of our workforce.

Results of our surveys in 2022-23 and the HMIP Inspection report 2023, told us clearly that we have more work to do to ensure that our staff:

- Feel heard and valued.
- Feel connected to the Service and understand our direction of travel.
- Are equipped and capable of undertaking their roles.
- Are clear on expectations and standards.
- Receive good inductions and supervision from their managers.
- Are supported effectively where there are concerns regarding under performance.

We are determined to improve this position and in 2022-23 a staff engagement and consultation group was established. This group is well attended by members of our service at all levels and benefits from a Board champion and attendance by our Head of Service. One of the initial tasks of this group was to develop a survey for staff, developed by staff. In 2023, we revamped our Survey for staff, which was shared with all with this message:

Welcome to the Birmingham YOS 2023 Survey. We knew that the way we have approached surveys needed to improve. In March 2023, the YOS staff Engagement and Consultation Group was established. Together we have worked on this survey and developed the questions as staff, for staff.

As a group we would really encourage you to take part in this. We need your help to make YOS a place that belongs to everyone. Share your views, have your say, we want to listen because it matters!

We have talked about how people don't feel listened to; this is your opportunity to have your voices heard.

So, what is the purpose of the survey and what will we do with the results?

Firstly, it is completely anonymous. There is no way of us knowing which responses come from any individual.

The purpose of the survey is to inform the service vision, to give you a voice in shaping our direction of travel and to inform change. We will identify quick wins and set medium to longer term actions in response to what you say, in a you said, we did way. We may not be able to respond to everything, but we will tell you where this is the case. We will work as a group to be transparent with you.

Please be solution focussed and give us as much feedback as possible so that we can do our best to respond in the right way.

We know we have more work to do, and this survey will help us to make the right changes.

The staff engagement and consultation group will lead on the review, analysis, and communication around findings.

We will work to ensure that our staff are skilled, equipped, and capable of delivering effective, high-quality services to children, caregivers, and victims
Finalise our Workforce Development Strategy
Update our Practice and Performance Framework
Strengthen the partnership with the Trust Practice Hub maximising opportunities for joint work.
Develop and deliver a 23/24 Training Plan which responds to HMIP recommendations and other key areas of learning including: Bail and Remand Practices; PSR writing; MAPPA; 'Making it Right' Panels; AssetPlus Train the Trainer; YJ Apprentice Offer; Commission of coaching for managers programme.
Progress the recruitment and selection to a dedicated Training Officer to support continued workforce development.

Proactively recruit to critical frontline practitioner vacancies as they arise, working towards recruitment that is creative and different and encourages applicants from diverse backgrounds.

Better analyse and understand the findings from exit interviews, so we hear and learn from our colleagues who are leaving our Service.

Align the 2022-23 Audit Plan with HMIP recommendations and other key areas of learning. The plan will include Management oversight; Children on community orders; Victim Work; Children on Bail Programmes and on Remand; Re-engagement and enforcement activity.

Commission and roll out a new Case Management System.

Review and Develop policy, procedures, and practice expectations, including:

- A new Bail and Remand Strategy
- Resettlement policy
- new Re-engagement and Enforcement procedures
- A set of Local Practice Standard documents
- Review of Allocation Policy

Strengthen our induction for new staff.

Implement the findings of the supervision audit, ensuring staff have access to supervision that is high quality and effective.

Work with colleagues within the Trust to review our buildings and spaces to see those we work alongside.

Better integration with the wider Trust services, which will include colocation of staff at One Avenue Road and Lifford House.

Pursue opportunities to modernise the space used for direct work with children, victims, and caregivers across the city. Continue with the YOS specific Health and Safety meetings to ensure measures are in place to ensure staff feel and remain safe in their working environment.

Continue to support and de-brief staff where there are serious incidents.

Establish a Partnership board Newsletter.

Develop a document that assists our staff in understanding governance and leadership roles and responsibilities. From Partnership Board level through to operational management.

Provide and promote opportunities for Operational Managers to attend the Partnership Board and to present on key areas of practice.

Review and share widely the Partnership Board Terms of Reference.

Continue to deliver the Welcome to the YOS sessions, hosted by the Head of Service and Board Chair.

Ensure that our staff have access to relevant Board reports and performance information that supports understanding around the difference we are making.

14. Evidence-based practice, innovation, and evaluation

As we develop new and review existing practices, we will ensure that this is driven by available evidence, local data, including what our children tell us and strategic needs assessments. Our strategy has set out an intention to:

- engage with an AYM Peer Review/Evaluation of our revised approaches to managing risk and

safety and well-being, including staff support.

- Commission an evaluation of the impact of the work of our Prevention Team.
- Work with Birmingham university to support two research projects.
- Use available evidence and research as we develop our constructive resettlement practices.
- Develop our referral order practices, through the delivery of innovative commissioned training.
- Scope out an Interventions Hub, providing a single point of access for all interventions for children, streamlining processes for practitioners and developing a system and offer that works for all.

We have responded creatively and pro-actively to what we know of our children by:

- Developing and investing, prior to Turnaround, in a dedicated YOS Prevention Team.
- retaining our Girls Empowerment Team, to provide evidence-led, bespoke intervention to girls involved with our services.
- Continuing and enhancing investment in a range of ETE interventions and offers of support for our children, establishing in 2023-24 a dedicated operational lead to drive this forward.
- Developing a custody based Appropriate Adult provision, to be expanded in 2023-24 with Prevention and Turnaround officers also co-located at the Custody Suite.
- Securing partnership commitment to a set of gold standards around the health of our children.
- Developing a virtual school register concept, which has been shared with the DfE and colleagues within Birmingham.

GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLE

You have been recognised for your professionalism and commitment in setting up the project at Perry Barr Custody Suite. You were instrumental and showed tenacity and enthusiasm and helped drive through the project from an idea into something that is now working for the benefit of the children in Birmingham. This is an excellent example of exemplary partnership working. Chief Inspector, West Midlands Police

15. Service Development and Plan

We continue our journey to outstanding. Whilst our latest HMIP report acknowledges our improvements, it tells us also that we have more work to do.

In support of this strategy, we have a single, detailed development plan. This plan responds to the findings from HMIP, but also captures:

- All development work being delivered under the strategic oversight of individual members of the leadership team.
- The recommendations from internal learning reviews and audits.
- Recommendations from safeguarding practice reviews and other relevant inspections.

This plan is overseen by the Head of Service and progress, and challenges where they arise, is reported to the YOS Partnership Board, the YJB (through additional monitoring arrangements) and where required the Trust Executive.

16. Challenges, risks, and issues

This is undoubtedly an exciting time for us and the Birmingham Partnership, and this plan has set out our

priorities for 2023-28 and delivery plans, in a way that support the wider ambition within the city for our children. We know that the scale of change within our Service is unprecedented, and whilst this brings with it opportunities, it also presents a few challenges, particularly given we are the largest youth justice service in England and Wales.

There were a number of areas highlighted as needing improvement in the latest HMIP Inspection. This was both in terms of our organisational delivery and in relation to the quality of some of the services we are providing. This strategy and our development plan respond in full to all of these.

We also continue to build our spending plans and establishment in way that supports our modernisation programme, driven by what we know of our workloads and children's needs. However, we continue to operate in a challenging financial climate, a climate which may in time have an impact on our ability to realise some of our plans.

Recruitment and selection, has and continues to be one of our greatest challenges. We are committed to ensuring that we have sufficient capacity at a frontline practitioner, manager and specialist services level and will continue to work creatively to support our ambition.

The commissioning of a new Case Management system for our service will be finalised in 2023-24. This is a necessary activity on a number of levels and will support our transformation journey. An established project group will be assessing risks and working with the appointed supplier in the lead up to migration and go live, and beyond. This project will require substantial resources, both in terms of financial investment and staff time.

Estates is also a key area of focus for us, and we have heard that our staff do not feel that our spaces provide an appropriate or accessible place for our children. We will work with the BCT Property Group to develop plans around this, with staff within our Service.

Serious Youth Violence within Birmingham remains a huge challenge for the partnership. Not only does it leave many of our children, victims, and communities at risk of being seriously harmed it also has an impact on our staff. This challenges around serious youth violence cross cuts with concerns regarding exploitation and gang affiliation, which often has its root causes in exclusion, poverty, abuse, and neglect amongst other things. This plan has clearly set out that we cannot tackle offending in isolation and has articulated our intention to work differently, creatively and with relationships at the heart of what we do. However, managing and containing risk through external controls is also a critical element to our ability to safeguard victims and protect the public and one that as a partnership we remain committed to.

Sign off, Submission and Approval

Chair of YJS Board <i>Approved on behalf of the Birmingham YOS Partnership Board</i>	John Drew
Date	

Appendix 1: Board Membership

Appendix 2: Common youth justice terms

AIM 2 and 3	Assessment, intervention and moving on, an assessment tool and framework for children who have instigated harmful sexual behaviour
ASB	Anti-social behaviour
AssetPlus	Assessment tool to be used for children who have been involved in offending behaviour
CCE	Child Criminal exploitation, where a child is forced, through threats of violence, or manipulated to take part in criminal activity
Children	We define a child as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. This is in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and civil legislation in England and Wales. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change their status or entitlements to services or protection.
Child First	A system wide approach to working with children in the youth justice system. There are four tenants to this approach, it should be: developmentally informed, strength based, promote participation, and encourage diversion
Child looked-after	Child Looked After, where the local authority after looks a child
CME	Child Missing Education
Constructive resettlement	The principle of encouraging and supporting a child's positive identity development from pro-offending to pro-social
Contextual safeguarding	An approach to safeguarding children which considers the wider community and peer influences on a child's safety
Community resolution	An informal disposal, administered by the police, for low level offending where there has been an admission of guilt
EHCP	Education and health care plan, a plan outlining the education, health and social care needs of a child with additional needs
ETE	Education, training, or employment
EHE	Electively home educated, children who are formally recorded as being educated at home and do not attend school
FTE	First Time Entrant. A child who receives a statutory criminal justice outcome for the first time (Youth caution, youth conditional caution, or court disposal)
HMIP	His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation. An independent arms-length body who inspect Youth Justice services and probation services
HMYOI	His Majesty's Young Offenders Institution
JAC	Junior Attendance Centre, the provision of evening/weekend activities to support

	children's desistance from offending.
MAPPA	Multi agency public protection arrangements
MFH	Missing from Home
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
NRM	National Referral Mechanism. The national framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery in order to gain help to support and protect them
OCD	Out-of-court disposal. All recorded disposals where a crime is recorded, an outcome delivered but the matter is not sent to court.
Outcome 22/21	An informal disposal, available where the child does not admit the offence, but they undertake intervention to build strengths to minimise the possibility of further offending
Over-represented children	Appearing in higher numbers than the local or national average
RHI	Return home Interviews. These are interviews completed after a child has been reported missing.
SLCN	Speech, Language, and communication needs
STC	Secure training centre
SCH	Secure children's home
YJS	Youth Justice Service. This is now the preferred title for services working with children in the youth justice system. This reflects the move to a child first approach
YOI	Young offender institution

Birmingham City Council

City Council

12 September 2023



Subject: West Midlands Combined Authority - Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Transport Delivery Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Report of: Chair of the WMCA's Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Cathy Bayton
Chair of the WMCA's Transport Delivery Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Councillor John McNicholas

Report author: Lyndsey Roberts, WMCA Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential:

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of the work of the West Midland Combined Authority's Overview & Scrutiny Committee during 2022/23, as well as its planned work programme for 2023/24.
- 1.2 It also provides an overview of the work of the newly formed Transport Delivery Overview & Scrutiny Committee and its planned work programme for 2023/24.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

3. Background

- 3.1 Overview & Scrutiny is a statutory requirement for the West Midlands Combined Authority to undertake. The two scrutiny committees have the responsibility to undertake this responsibility, which it does through reviewing the work of the elected Mayor of the West Midlands, the WMCA Board, Transport for West Midlands and its committees, making recommendations arising out of topic-specific scrutiny reviews and by operating a 'call-in' of policy decisions for further scrutiny where required.

- 3.2 The overview & scrutiny function produces an annual report that sets out its work over the last 12 months. The latest annual report was submitted to the WMCA's AGM on 9 June 2023 and is attached as an appendix to this report for information.
- 3.3 To help clarify the lines of accountability for transport decision-making in the WMCA, reduce duplication of meetings and provide a more effective platform for elected members to hold transport decision makers to account, at its meeting on 9 June, the WMCA Board agreed revised transport governance arrangements for 2023/24. These new arrangements included the introduction of a newly formed Transport Delivery Overview & Scrutiny Committee that replaced the former Transport Delivery Committee and Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

4. Overview & Scrutiny Committee

- 4.1 During this current year, the work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee will have a strong focus on the performance of the West Midlands Combined Authority and the outcomes delivered against its strategic aims and objectives.
- 4.2 This year's work programme will also focus on the implementation of the WMCA's Deeper Devolution Deal and its implications for enhanced scrutiny and accountability checks, the English Devolution Accountability Framework and the Government's scrutiny protocol, Levelling Up and Investment Zones, future homes strategy, affordable housing strategy, the regeneration of brownfield land and scrutiny's role in the monitoring and evaluation of the Commonwealth Games Legacy Enhancement Fund.
- 4.3 In addition to the Mayoral Q&A sessions, the committees will also explore how they can hold the WMCA's statutory and senior officers to account.
- 4.4 Scrutiny members will undertake this work programme in a range of ways, including topic-specific working group sessions, public Q&As with the Mayor and Portfolio Lead Members, spotlight sessions and 'deep dive' scrutiny reviews.
- 4.5 So far this year, the committee has commenced work on two elements of its work programme as follows:

(a) Deeper Devolution Deal – Scrutiny Implications

In announcing the Deeper Devolution Deal (a summary document setting out the detail of the deal is attached as an appendix to the report), the Government rightly highlighted the importance of governance and accountability underpinning these new powers and responsibilities. These enhanced accountabilities have been framed within the English Devolution Accountability Framework, which was published in March and formed a key part of the Government's thinking in respect of local accountability. The accountability framework seeks to ensure that mayors and other local leaders are subject to robust and effective scrutiny by local politicians and an informed public.

(b) English Devolution Accountability Framework and the Government's scrutiny protocol

To help build a culture of greater scrutiny and accountability, the WMCA is currently in dialogue with the Department for Housing, Levelling Up & Communities to help develop the contents of a scrutiny protocol that would set out the relationship between the mayor, the WMCA and its scrutiny and audit functions. It is envisaged that the protocol would be published during September/October this year.

A full report to the WMCA's scrutiny committees will be presented in October setting out requirements of the protocol in detail. Members will consider the manner and means by which the WMCA will apply the protocol to its overview and scrutiny function going forward, committing to meeting a key requirement of the Deeper Devolution Deal.

Forming part of the WMCA's wider 'accountability and scrutiny framework', the Deeper Devolution Deal also introduced the idea of the region's Members of Parliament scrutinising the Mayor in four public sessions a year covering the performance and strategic direction of the WMCA.

Scrutiny members have emphasised the importance and critical role of scrutiny within the WMCA, the benefit of it being non-party political and the requirements for scrutiny to evolve to address the new challenges. Whilst the new MPs scrutiny events are a specific requirement of the Government's Deeper Devolution Deal with the region, scrutiny members have stressed the importance of these sessions not overshadowing or duplicating the work of local scrutiny activity.

5. Mayoral Q&A Sessions

- 5.1 As part of its role in holding the Mayor of the West Midlands and WMCA Board to account, the committee will hold two Q&A sessions this year, which will focus on policy related matters that are the responsibility of the WMCA (October) and on matters relating to the proposed draft budget 2024/25 (December).

6. Transport Delivery Overview & Scrutiny Committee

- 6.1 The first meeting of the newly formed Transport Delivery Overview & Scrutiny Committee was held on 3 July. The committee received an introduction to the overview & scrutiny function within the WMCA together with examples of how scrutiny was conducted and an explanation on the differences between local authority and combined authority scrutiny. A further scrutiny briefing session on Transport for West Midlands was held on 4 September.
- 6.2 This year's work programme will have a focus on the Deeper Devolution Deal Transport Implementation Plan, finance and performance and the current challenges, delivery and performance monitoring of capital projects, rail fares reform proposals, bus delivery options, including franchising and the Ring & Ride operating model.

- 6.3 The Transport Delivery Overview & Scrutiny Committee has also introduced six Member Engagement Groups (MEGs) that provide members with an opportunity to meet and discuss in more detail transport-related issues that are grouped around broad thematic areas. These MEGs are supported by officers from Transport for West Midlands and, whilst not decision making, provide a forum for members to develop a deeper understanding of those matters that would not otherwise be able to be discussed in such detail at formal committee meetings.

7. Portfolio Lead Member for Transport - Q&A Session

- 7.1 The Transport Delivery Overview & Scrutiny Committee will hold its first Q&A session with Councillor Mike Bird, the WMCA's Portfolio Lead for Transport in October, and will be based on transport policy and delivery related matters.

8. Learning & Development

- 8.1 As part of its learning and development programme to help scrutiny members to be more effective in their role, the committees will undertake a series of training workshops throughout the year, including topic-based training, the WMCA's Investment Programme and on the detail of the draft budget 2024/25.

9. Birmingham City Council's Representation

- 9.1 The city council is represented on Overview & Scrutiny Committee by Councillor Lauren Rainbow, Councillor Jamie Tennant and Councillor Ewan Mackey. It is represented on Transport Delivery Overview & Scrutiny Committee by Councillor Robert Alden, Councillor Zaker Choudhry, Councillor Timothy Huxtable, Councillor Narinder Kaur Kooner, Councillor Mary Locke, Councillor Saddack Miah and Councillor Ian Ward.

10. Legal Implications

- 10.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report.

11. Financial Implications

- 11.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

12. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Annual Report

Appendix 2 - Deeper Devolution Deal – Scrutiny Implications



West Midlands
Combined Authority

Overview & Scrutiny

5th Annual Report 2022/23



Contents

5	Foreword
6	Introduction
7	What We Do and How We Do It
9	Holding The Mayor Of The West Midlands
9	And The Portfolio Lead Members To Account
10	Mayoral Q&A Sessions - Key Findings
12	Areas of Focus 2022/23
14	Scrutiny Working Groups 2022/23
15	Effectiveness and Outcome
16	Deep Dive Review:
17	A Look Back: Scrutiny Reviews 2021/22 -
17	Where Are We Now?
18	Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee
18	Holding Those Responsible For Transport To Account
19	Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee
20	Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee Continued
21	Peer Learning and Sector Lead Improvement
22	Looking Forward 2023/2024
23	Committee Members 2022/23
24	Sub-Committee Members 2022/23



Foreword

The last 12 months have been the busiest year of scrutiny since I have been sitting on the committee from 2018!

We started the year with the news that, along with Greater Manchester Combined Authority, we had been selected as partners in the Government's Trailblazer Devolution Deal, with all 'asks' believed to be on the table. Scrutiny had a big role to play in shaping these asks and offering a sense-check on ambitions and the resources available to deliver them. We held five working groups over the summer months and looked at every aspect the WMCA was putting forward. This demonstrated the absolute value of pre-decision scrutiny, helped to shape the final proposals submitted to the Government and demonstrated the strength of good governance. The Deeper Devolution Deal, as it has finally been called, will also be the catalyst for Government seeking to increase and the strengthen the role of scrutiny across all combined authorities and local authorities to ensure robust oversight.

The year also saw two strands of the governance review progressed, with the transport governance recommendations hopefully being signed off at the WMCA's upcoming AGM.



Chair – Councillor
Cathy Bayton

As Chair, along with the support of Lyndsey Roberts, we have convened two meetings of the chairs and vice-chairs of all combined authorities across England. This has helped share good practice and ideas for how we can all strengthen and improve our scrutiny functions. We have agreed it is a useful meeting and to convene three further meetings during the next year.

The members of both Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee have worked diligently, challenging and offering constructive observations to policy and delivery. I want to thank all of them as the demands on their time this year have been greater than ever and as their Chair, I have hugely valued their constructive support and contributions. I want to pay particular thanks to Councillor Naeem Akhtar from Coventry as Vice-Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Chaman Lal from Birmingham as Vice-Chair of the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee. I also wish Councillor Lal every success in his forthcoming role as Lord Mayor of Birmingham. We have struggled again with the quorum this year, and it is hoped that the proposals contained within the new Levelling Up & Regeneration Bill to give powers to remunerate statutory committees may well help this issue. But it is also really important when local authorities nominate members to sit on our committees, those individuals have the capacity to commit to the work programme ahead.

As always, the backbone of the scrutiny function at the WMCA is the support that we receive from officers Lyndsey Roberts, Dan Essex and more recently Julia Cleary. Without their continued hard work to ensure the meetings have all the information they require, and the support offered to me as chair, the scrutiny function would not be as effective.

Introduction

We are pleased to present the Overview & Scrutiny Committee's fifth annual report which outlines its focus, key work activities and the outcomes achieved during the 2022/23 municipal year.

Overview and scrutiny are statutory functions of the WMCA. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee discharges these responsibilities through oversight of the work of the Mayor, portfolio lead members and the wider WMCA decision making process in order to hold decision makers to account and improve the quality of the decisions (whether planned, underway or implemented) that the WMCA takes.

Overview & Scrutiny Committee members may make recommendations to the WMCA Board and other committees, call-in decisions for further scrutiny and challenge those whether planned, underway or implemented. The committee acts as an advocate for residents of the West Midlands by investigating issues that are important to local people's lives and by looking further into matters brought to its attention by the public. From reviewing the asks of the 'Trailblazer' Deeper Devolution Deal to understand the tangible benefits for residents of the West Midlands, value for money to scrutinising the impact of the devolution of the Adult Education Budget to the WMCA on the delivery of local skills training, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, comprising the region's local councillors and business sector representatives is the body that is charged with providing this critical challenge.

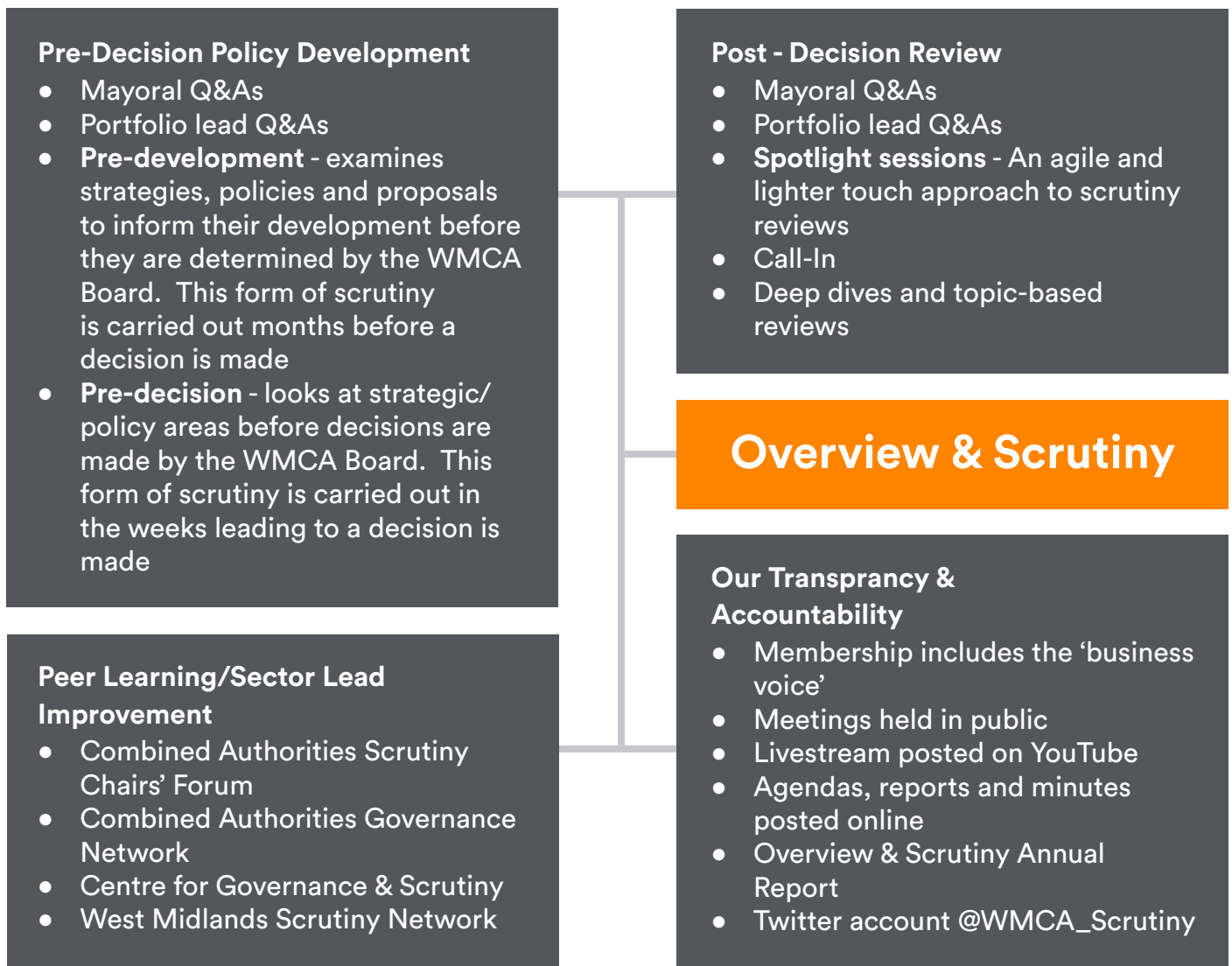
Scrutiny is a fundamental part of any efficient and equitable governance structure and decision-making process. Scrutiny is at the heart of good decision-making, which the WMCA has welcomed, encouraged and supported throughout the organisation.

While the committee's membership includes local councillors nominated by the WMCA's 18 member councils, it also has a representative from the business sector. This brings a business voice to discussions and ensures that the views of the region's commercial sector are heard at the highest levels of decision making.

The committee performs two functions 'overview' and 'scrutiny'. Overview focuses on the development of policy, and scrutiny that looks at decisions that have been made or are about to be made.



What We Do and How We Do It



Overview & Scrutiny's Focus for the Year

Due to the current economic situation in the region and the rise in the cost of living across the UK, it was important for Overview & Scrutiny Committee to ensure that the powers of the WMCA and its policies were delivering for the people of the West Midlands.

Overview & Scrutiny Committee in 2022/23

This past year the committee focused on the 'Trailblazer' Deeper Devolution Deal proposals, the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan, progress against the delivery of the 'Five Year Plan' to make the West Midlands net zero by 2041, the affordable housing supply strategy and delivery pilot, and the impact of the Adult Education Budget and how it was meeting the needs of the area, the employer and the disadvantaged. The committee has continued to have broad oversight of the policies of the WMCA and has reviewed the effectiveness of its key decisions. It has an important role in reviewing and scrutinising the Mayor, portfolio lead members, the WMCA and Transport for West Midlands in respect of plans, priorities, corporate governance arrangements and financial matters.



Holding The Mayor Of The West Midlands And The Portfolio Lead Members To Account

The committee has undertaken a number of public Mayoral Q&A sessions, structured around two core themes 'accountability and investment' with questions focusing on the key challenges, outcomes and benefits for the people of the West Midlands region.

In October, the committee questioned the Mayor on the delivery and impact of the WMCA's policies. Questions focussed on:

- Cost of living pressures
- The WMCA's ambition vs resource
- Investment Zones and potential unintended consequences for the wider economy
- WMCA's 'Trailblazer' Deeper Devolution Deal
- The Levelling Up & Regeneration Bill
- Environment
- Skills
- Transport

In December, the committee held its second Q&A and questioned the Mayor and the Lead Member for Finance on financial matters relating to the developing budget for 2023/24, with a particular focus on:

- Financial challenges and sustainability of the budget
- Investment Programme
- WMCA's 'Trailblazer' Deeper Devolution Deal (resource vs ambition)
- Investment Zones
- Transport (HS2 and approval of unfunded schemes)

“

These public Q&A sessions were an important part of providing public accountability and transparency of decision-making for the WMCA's only directly elected politician

”





Mayoral Q&A Sessions - Key Findings

Delivery and Impact of the WMCA's Policies

The following matters were reported to the WMCA Board on 16 December 2022:

- **Adult Education Budget, Skills and Job Opportunities**

The overall impact of higher education spend and the likelihood that any sub-regional disparity in this would affect the future of the region as individuals would seek employment and training opportunities outside of their boroughs. Access to learning and employment and how to change the mindset of individuals to take up the opportunities that were on offer was vitally important.

- **Investment and pace of delivery**

Investment into the reliability and speed of investment to deliver the infrastructure and services needed to enable individuals to travel to work seamlessly and for businesses to operate effectively was important and remained a key challenge.

The 2041 net zero target was also reliant on improvements to the public transport offer.

- **Resource vs Ambition**

Overview & Scrutiny Committee recognised that resource vs ambition had become a common theme and would be keeping a close eye on this throughout the year. Risk of shared failure and the consequences of this was highlighted as an-ongoing concern for members.

Whilst the breadth and diversity of the WMCA's ambitions was welcomed, along with the recognition of the challenges within the region, it was thought that focusing on those areas (housing, skills, transport and climate change) which caused the greatest concern for residents should be the priority focus for the WMCA.

- **Levelling Up Zones**

Members were to be kept updated on the development of these Levelling Up Zones.

- **Communication**

The committee stressed the importance of a strong communications strategy to counteract negative stories.

WMCA's Budget 2023/24

The following matters were reported to the WMCA Board on 13 January 2023, during consideration of the WMCA's 2023/24 budget:

- **Regional Role in Energy Efficiency**
Members expressed their concerns on the cost of energy and the impact that this had on the economy. There was a need to seek the introduction of alternative solutions, for example energy turbines.
- **Investment Portfolio**
The committee questioned whether the WMCA was generating economic growth in specific areas, especially given the disparity of investment.
- **Greater Scrutiny - Arms' Length Companies and the Delivery of Outputs**
The committee considered that there needed to be a greater focus on the outputs generated through investments and a greater scrutiny focus on arms' length companies and the outputs delivered for the region.
- **Carbon Neutrality**
The committee stressed the importance of the work being undertaken to achieve carbon neutrality on projects that the WMCA was supporting.



Areas of Focus 2022/23

West Midlands Combined Authority 'Trailblazer' Deeper Devolution Deal

The Levelling Up White Paper was published in 2022 and defined levelling up as “increasing opportunity across the UK and reducing disparities between and within regions”. The White Paper discussed deepening devolution and offering a number of devolved powers to regions that want them. The WMCA had been invited to negotiate a 'Trailblazer' Deeper Devolution Deal.

The committee had met with the Executive Director for Strategy, Integration & Net Zero to understand the emerging draft devolution proposals, the governance process and timescales for submission.

Key lines of enquiry focused on:

- The ask vs the ability and capability to deliver
- The development of a West Midlands outcome framework
- Drawing down powers and finance from Government
- Funding simplifications for transport, housing, skills and retrofit and increased public engagement
- The importance of the availability of up-to-date information

Questions also focused on the implications of the Levelling Up & Regeneration Bill for the WMCA, which was announced in the Queen's speech of 10 May 2022.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan

Members considered a draft of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan prior to its submission to the WMCA Board. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund was a central pillar of the Government's Levelling Up Agenda, providing funding for local areas to increase life chances across the UK and to build pride in place.

The committee met with the Executive Director for Economic Delivery, Skills & Communities to discuss:

- The allocation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to each local authority
- Its allocation for non-constituent authorities and the potential opportunities to work in collaboration
- The ability to spend year one funds by 31 March 2023
- The funding gap for 'people and skills' and challenges
- Risk assessments
- Outcomes

WM2041 – Progress with ‘Five Year Plans’ to get to 2041

Members held a spotlight session with the Director of Energy Capital, Head of Environment and the Energy Infrastructure Lead to understand the progress against the delivery of the ‘Five Year Plan’ to make the West Midlands net zero by 2041.

Key lines of enquiry focused on:

- Resourcing
- The pace of delivery
- The ability of the supply chain to provide products and services that customers trusted
- A behaviour change programme, with a focus on affordability
- Carbon Zero Neighbourhoods
- Being aware of the obstacles that the business community faced
- The importance of the WMCA’s global ethical responsibilities

Housing: Future Homes Strategy, Affordable Housing Supply Strategy, Affordable Housing Delivery Pilot

The committee met with the Lead Member for Housing & Land to discuss and answer questions on the development of a Future Homes Strategy, the Affordable Housing Supply Strategy and the Affordable Housing Delivery Pilot.

The following observations were considered by the WMCA Board:

Future Homes Strategy:

As part of the development of the Future Homes Strategy, the proposal to hold a wider session with members and local authority officers to encourage the proactive utilisation of the opportunities available to deliver speedy, affordable and carbon neutral housing should be supported. The increase in the local supply chain and aim to drive the locally produced percentage of components was to be encouraged.

Affordable Housing Supply Strategy:

There was an important need for genuine affordable housing, an improvement in the relationship between the WMCA, local authorities and developers to secure the delivery of a mix of tenure and the importance of local infrastructure to support the increase in car ownership.

Affordable Housing Delivery Pilot:

The committee commended the pilot and the ambition to deliver 100% affordable homes.

“

*“Whilst it was **important** for homes to be **affordable to buy**, it was **equally important** for them to be **affordable** in terms of **location and running costs**”*

Scrutiny Working Groups 2022/23

WMCA ‘Trailblazer’ Deeper Devolution Deal

Following the committee’s meeting in July, members tested each of the ‘Trailblazer’ Deeper Devolution proposals to ensure that they had a clear focus on drawing down powers and funding from Government (including opportunities for ‘double devolution’ to the WMCA’s constituent member authorities where appropriate) and ensuring that the roles and responsibilities of those constituent authorities were not being devolved.

“

*The sessions have been **extremely constructive** and have helped to further illuminate how **proposals** may address some of the **challenges faced by communities across the region***

”

A principle that the WMCA had adhered to throughout the development of the deeper devolution deal proposals was that **with more responsibility, there should be more accountability**.

Over the summer period (August 2022), a series of extensive working groups had been established to review each of the proposals in detail and to discuss the local benefits that would be delivered to each local authority and non-constituent authorities.

1

Session One

- Transport
- Housing and Regeneration
- Smart City Region

2

Session Two

- Industrial Decarbonisation
- Economy
- Skills
- Digital Inclusion
- Digital Infrastructure

3

Session Three

- Social Economy
- Homelessness
- Prevention
- Funding Simplification & Fiscal Devolution
- Culture
- Health

4

Session Four

- Data, Performance & Accountability
- Crime, Community, Safety and Resilience
- Net Zero
- Retrofit Commissioning Framework
- Local Area Energy Planning
- Climate Adaptation

5

Session Five

Local benefits that could be delivered by the deeper devolution deal in each of the constituent and non-constituent authority areas.

“

*“Working Group members provided **invaluable insight** into some of the **challenges that their communities faced**. This ‘on-the-ground’ perspective was incredibly valuable for officers both in terms of **greater understanding of the issues being faced by residents and businesses within the region**, but also as **evidence and case studies to bolster discussions with Government colleagues**”*

”

Effectiveness and Outcome

Scrutiny of the 'Trailblazer' Deeper Devolution Deal

After considering each of the 'Trailblazer' Deeper Devolution proposals and the local benefits, a number of key themes and considerations emerged.

- **Investment sought compared to the scale of the ambition**
The committee welcomed the scale of ambition outlined in the devolution proposals, but in some instances queried whether the investment being sought was bold enough to ensure delivery.
- **Priorities**
Whilst the breadth and diversity of proposals were welcomed, the committee did reinforce the importance of prioritising these proposals. Key focus areas were identified as housing, transport, skills and climate change. Although this was not to the exclusion of other proposals, these areas reflected the greatest concerns for residents and there was genuine concern that spreading the capacity too thinly, given the level of resource being sought, would undermine delivery in these areas.
- **Impacts from the proposals**
Members' insights had reinforced the importance of representing people in the proposals rather than merely strategic measures and interventions.
- **Integration of strategic approaches**
The interdependency between proposal areas became clear, for example the important relationships between skills and economic growth, or effective transport systems and easy access to employment opportunities. Members recognised that although many of these areas were already well-integrated and connected, the proposed devolution deal had highlighted even greater opportunities for the integration of approaches and measures.

“

We are grateful to Cllr Bayton and her wider team for the time and commitment they have given to strengthening this work

”

Outcome

The conclusions of the work of overview & scrutiny were supported by the WMCA that helped to shape the Deeper Devolution Deal submission to Government.





Deep Dive Review:

“

A review of the impact of the devolution of the Adult Education Budget to the WMCA on the delivery of local skills training

”

Following the findings of the 2020/21 review to ascertain whether the regional economic recovery proposals were meeting the needs that had been identified within the Black Country sub-region, members considered that it was now an appropriate time to undertake a further scrutiny review to assess the impact and outcomes that had been delivered through the Adult Education Budget since its devolution to the WMCA.

The review sought to understand the impact of the devolution of the Adult Education Budget on the delivery of local skills training within the region, and to identify the challenges and ways in which the WMCA and its constituent authorities could most effectively use skills development to address short-and longer-term challenges in the region, particularly in relation to the big economic challenges. The findings would be used to help shape future skills funding.

The review panel examined how the Adult Education Budget was meeting the needs of the:

- Area
- Employer
- The disadvantaged

The panel sought written evidence and undertook face-to-face interviews with a range of key witnesses to help inform the review including representatives from:

- Coventry & Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce
- Job Centre Plus
- Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
- City of Wolverhampton Council
- Small/medium-sized enterprises
- Regional Business Council
- A local training provider

The findings of the review will be considered by Overview & Scrutiny Committee in 2023/24, prior to its submission to the Skills Advisory Board.

A Look Back: Scrutiny Reviews 2021/22 - Where Are We Now?

Helping to Deliver Affordable and Social Housing Scrutiny Review

During 2020/21, members had identified the provision of affordable and social housing within the region as a key area of focus and agreed to undertake a review to examine the role and remit of the WMCA to deliver affordable and social housing within the West Midlands through the use of devolved housing and land funds.

The findings and recommendations of the review panel were considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and then subsequently reported to and supported by the WMCA Board on 18 March 2022.

During the course of this year, the committee requested a written update on the work of the WMCA and its partners in implementing and responding to the recommendations from the scrutiny committee.

On 5 September, members considered a report on the progress that had been made on the delivery of the eight recommendations that were supported by the WMCA Board. A copy of the report can be accessed here >> [Full Report](#)

Overview & Scrutiny Committee will continue to receive regular reports on progress with delivering affordable homes, providing members with the opportunity to inform and provide recommendations to guide the ongoing work in this area.



Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee Focus for the Year

Overview & Scrutiny Committee appointed Councillor Cathy Bayton to chair the sub-committee for 2022/23. With the scale and scope of the transport-related projects currently being delivered, the sub-committee had ensured that those responsible for transport were held to account, demonstrated through regular Q&A sessions with the Portfolio Lead for Transport, the Chair of the Transport Delivery Committee, and the Executive Director for Transport for West Midlands.

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To ensure that Transport for West Midlands together with constituent authorities and stakeholders, were delivering the best public transport services that it could, in the public interest and ensuring that the users experience was paramount and at the forefront of Transport for West Midlands thinking, policies and initiatives

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Holding Those Responsible For Transport To Account

Councillor Ian Ward, Portfolio Lead for Transport

In October, a Q&A session was held with Councillor Ian Ward, Portfolio Lead for Transport, on transport policy related matters. Members questioned him on:

- Passenger value for money
- Financial challenges
- Impact on capital projects on funding pressures
- Concessions in helping in cost of living pressures
- Cross boundary travel for school aged children
- Effectiveness of processes for holding bus operators to account
- Impact of any scaling back of transport policies in meeting the WMCA's net zero carbon objectives
- WMCA's transport governance review

The sub-committee's observations and recommendations were endorsed by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Portfolio Lead Member for Transport.

Councillor Richard Worrall, Chair of Transport Delivery Committee

In February, Councillor Richard Worrall attended a Q&A session to answer questions on transport delivery matters across the region. Questions focussed on:

- WMCA's transport governance review
- Metro City Centre Extension, Wolverhampton financial breach
- Holding Transport for West Midlands and arms' length companies to account
- Bus Franchising
- Behaviour change
- Commonwealth Games Birmingham 2022 - lessons learnt and legacy

The sub-committee's observations and recommendations were endorsed by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Portfolio Lead for Transport.

“

Transport services needed to be more predictable and dependable

”

Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee

This year the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee has focussed on the following areas:

Metro Affordability (Wednesbury - Brierley Hill)

The sub-committee invited the Executive Director of Finance & Business Hub to answer questions on the affordability issues related to the Wednesbury - Brierley Hill metro extension.

Members questioned and received feedback on the current challenges, potential mitigations to fund the scheme and future funding opportunities.

Bus Network Review

Members examined the content of the bus network review that was supported by a suite of information, including an update on the delivery of the West Midlands Bus Service Improvement Plan in the context of wider challenges faced in the bus market and the latest performance of bus services in the West Midlands. This information was used to help inform the lines of enquiry.

Bus Franchising

Members reviewed the measures Transport for West Midlands was undertaking to address ongoing challenges in delivering bus services that met the ambitions of the region's Vision for Bus, including the on-going Enhanced Partnership and a Full Franchising Assessment.

Whilst the potential challenges associated with the introduction of a Bus Franchising model across the region were recognised, in terms of delivery, quality and encouraging behaviour change, members challenged the current commercial model and questioned whether it delivered what was needed for the residents of the West Midlands.

Transport Governance Review

Members continued to be engaged in the development of the transport governance review that would provide clarity on roles and responsibilities, consistency and alignment with other WMCA boards and committees, simplification, clear lines of accountability and transparency of the transport decision-making arrangements within the WMCA.

Throughout 2022/23, the committee has continued to meet with the Director of Law & Governance on the emerging governance structures.

Commonwealth Games 2022 - Lessons Learned in Transport

Between 28 July and 8 August, Birmingham hosted the 22nd Commonwealth Games, the largest multi-sport event held in England for the last 10 years. The games brought over 1.5m spectators and visitors to the region and transport had to answer to a complex set of challenges, including a complex and congested transport network, a compressed timescale for planning, impacts of COVID-19 and navigating the realities of industrial action on the rail network.

“

Transport for West Midlands be commended on the success of the Commonwealth Games in terms of transport

”

Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee Continued

West Midlands Local Transport Plan 'Reimagining Transport in the West Midlands' - Final Core Strategy and draft Big Moves and draft Area Strategy Guidance

Following the sub-committee's engagement on the Local Transport Plan Green Paper, it was then consulted on the final version of the West Midlands Local Transport Plan 'Reimagining Transport in the West Midlands' Core Strategy prior to its submission to the WMCA Board.

Key points raised by the sub-committee included:

- The need for a creative approach on the strategy to connect with younger members of the public and that were representative of the region.
- Creative solutions needed to be sought as to how retail outlets supported and encouraged its customers to use alternative modes of transport to access its facility.
- The importance of consumer affordability within the strategy.
- The provision of infrastructure to accommodate alternative modes of transport; and
- Benchmarking

“

*It was important for Transport for West Midlands to **develop a transport network** that would allow **passengers** to have the same **freedom to move around the region** as was currently enjoyed by car owners*

”



Peer Learning and Sector Lead Improvement

Centre for Public Scrutiny Training Events

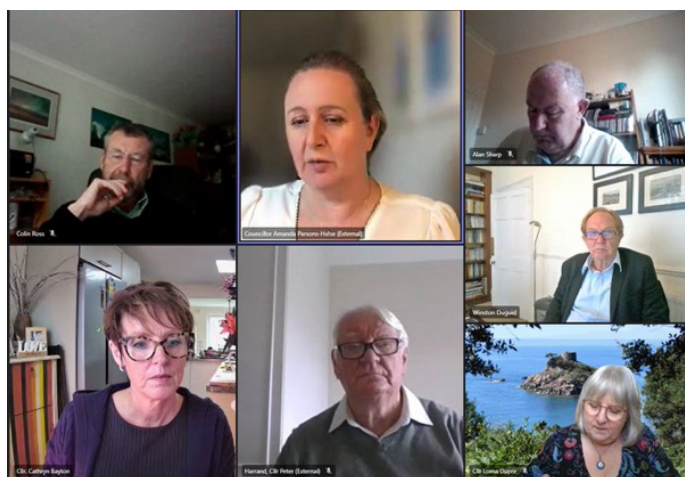
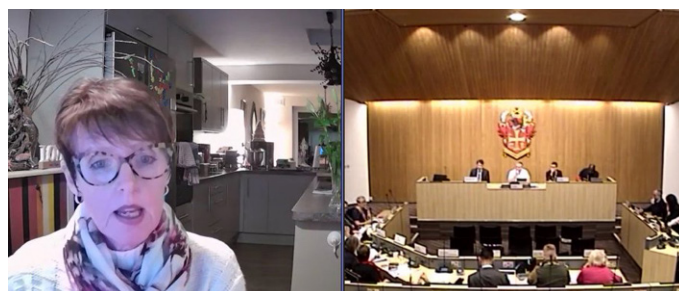
In addition to internal training, officers of the WMCA and members of the committee were informed of training and events that are led by the Centre for Public Scrutiny, as appropriate.

Combined Authorities Scrutiny Chairs' Forum

The WMCA has been instrumental in setting up the new Combined Authorities Scrutiny Chairs' Forum, enabling the chairs from the country's ten combined authorities' scrutiny committees to meet to share best practice, discuss areas of common interest and to build relationships.

Working with Local Authorities

The Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee attended meetings of local authority partners to discuss and answer questions on the work of the WMCA's Overview & Scrutiny Committee.



Combined Authority Governance Network Group – 'A Collective of the Combined Authorities'

The Combined Authority Governance Network Group is a group of officers from combined authorities across the country that meet on a regular basis and share best practice and learn from others on governance matters, including overview and scrutiny issues. The WMCA was a regular participant of the network group, which was facilitated by the Centre for Public Scrutiny on behalf of the Local Government Association.

Looking Forward 2023/2024

Overview and scrutiny is a statutory function within the WMCA, undertaken by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee that has responsibility to review the work of the Mayor and the WMCA and hold decision makers to account.

Earlier and Regular Engagement between the Executive Board and Scrutiny

Whilst engagement with particular departments has improved during the course of the year, members would welcome a closer working relationship with Transport for West Midlands to enable them to understand the challenges, performance and outcomes of transport priorities and strategies.

'Trailblazer' Deeper Devolution - English Devolution Accountability Framework

The Government will, in the English Devolution Accountability Framework, develop a new scrutiny protocol. The WMCA will engage in the development of the protocol and the Overview & Scrutiny Committee would seek to also be engaged in this process.

Successfully implementing the protocol will be a key factor when Government will be determining eligibility for single funding settlements and deeper devolution deals.

Greater scrutiny of the WMCA's Portfolio Lead Members

This area of scrutiny has been identified as 'needs improving' and therefore members will strengthen this area of scrutiny during 2023/24 by inviting Portfolio Lead Members on a regular basis to Q&As and Spotlight sessions to discuss and answer questions within their portfolio area.

Public engagement within the scrutiny process

Through the establishment of a written questions process and public involvement in 'deep dives'

Scrutiny of the WMCA's performance and outcomes

This is another area that has been identified as 'needs improving' and members would welcome the engagement of the Executive Board on the availability of performance, outcome and metric information that could be examined by the committee.



Committee Members 2022/23



Councillor Cathy Bayton
Dudley
Committee Chair



Councillor Naeem Akhtar
Coventry
Committee Vice-Chair



Councillor Andrew Burrow
Solihull



Councillor Mike Chalk
Redditch



Councillor Ellen Fenton
Association of Black
Country Authorities



Councillor Martin McCarthy
Solihull



Councillor Nigel Lumby
Shropshire



Councillor Ian Kettle
Dudley



Councillor Lauren Rainbow
Birmingham



Councillor Karen Simms
Sandwell



Councillor Mike Sutherland
Cannock Chase



Councillor Paul Sweet
Wolverhampton



Councillor Jamie Tennant
Birmingham



Councillor Ken Wood
Birmingham



Councillor Vera Waters
Walsall



Amanda Tomlinson
Business Voice - Black
Country Housing Group

Sub-Committee Members 2022/23



Councillor Cathy Bayton
Dudley
Sub-Committee Chair



Councillor Chaman Lal
Birmingham
Sub-Committee Vice-Chair



Councillor Martin McCarthy
Solihull



Councillor Barbara McGarrity
Wolverhampton



Councillor Karen Simms
Sandwell



Councillor Rupinder Singh
Coventry



Councillor Alan Taylor
Dudley



Councillor Vera Waters
Walsall





West Midlands
Combined Authority

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Delivering a Deeper Devolution Deal for the West Midlands



West Midlands
Combined Authority

Introduction

The West Midlands is embarking on a new phase of devolution – ending the ‘begging bowl’ culture by bringing greater investment, control over investment and powers to the region.

This landmark deal, estimated to be worth in the region of £1.5bn, will reboot the economy, provide vital housing, jobs and skills, bolster our existing strengths in transport and Smart City Region innovation, and drive our net zero ambitions – generating economic growth and levelling up outcomes for all our residents and communities.

Background

In February 2022, Government announced, in its Levelling Up White Paper, new devolution deals for the West Midlands, along with Greater Manchester. Since then, the region and its partners have been working closely with Government to secure the best deal for the region, its economy and its communities.

This offer of greater devolution is built on the region’s previous deals in 2015 and 2017, and the West Midlands’ track record in realising a tenfold increase in transport investment, delivering transformation of the region’s skills performance and pioneering new approaches to brownfield development and zero carbon homes. The Deal recognises the point that the WMCA has lacked the key levers and flexibility to ‘unleash the potential of devolution’, and goes on to address this through a range of new powers, responsibilities and resources.

The Deal is established on the key principles that new powers and funding should sit at the lowest feasible level of governance and that they should be drawn down from government and ‘double-devolved’ where appropriate and not drawn up from local authorities. When referring to WMCA as the decision-making body in this briefing note, it means those members appointed by the seven constituent councils and the Mayor.



Executive Summary

The Deeper Devolution Deal will maximise the WMCA's current role and responsibilities and revolutionise how Government funding is implemented – providing the tools to deliver more inclusive growth. Many of the offers are 'firsts' for regional devolution.

- A commitment towards a **Single Funding Settlement**, where for the first time, a region will be treated as if it were a government department, enabling the region to prioritise, target and decide how funding is spent in key areas from the next spending review onwards.
- A landmark housing deal worth **up to £500 million** – with flexibilities around deployment for regenerating brownfield land, a route to full devolution of Affordable Housing Programme funding, and the West Midlands leading a pioneering new approach to maximising Government land assets.
- Fiscal devolution, including committed **10-year retention of business rates** – worth an estimated £45 million a year to the WMCA and its partner authorities.
- The ability to designate **Levelling Up Zones** – priority areas identified jointly by the WMCA and its partner authorities that will attract 25-year business rates retention, to accelerate growth, development and regeneration.
- Commitment to devolving **retrofit funding** (from 2025) – providing certainty and consistency that will build confidence in the marketplace, enable the region to prioritise its allocations, and accelerate the delivery of warmer homes and net zero targets.
- Empowering the region's **transport** transformation through devolution of bus service operator grants and a new partnership with Great British Railways, and the world's first 'regulatory sandbox' to enable the region to test and develop cutting-edge transport solutions.
- Greater responsibility and oversight of post-16 and post-19 **education and skills**, and over careers advice, and the establishment of a unique partnership with Department for Work and Pensions to target employment support.
- A stronger role in supporting **business productivity, trade and investment and innovation**, through influence of some of the key national levers of funding and policy development.
- Measures to boost **digital inclusion** including high speed broadband connectivity across the region and a £4 million fund for devices and data.
- Recognition of, and resources to support, the region's **environmental, energy and net zero** ambitions.

The Details of the Deal

Governance and Accountability

With greater powers comes greater accountability, and Government has set out its expectations around the measures the region should put in place to receive this new, Deeper Devolution Deal.

Unless otherwise stated, functions will be devolved through the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, and need to be accepted by WMCA under its constitution and local governance processes.

It will be held accountable through the Local Government Accountability Framework, English Devolution Accountability Framework and enhanced scrutiny measures. In addition, the Mayor and WMCA will be expected to present to Parliamentary Select Committees as requested, in conjunction with Mayor's Question Time and quarterly engagement with West Midlands MPs.

Fiscal Devolution, Funding and the Single Settlement

The commitment to **10-year Business Rates Retention** across the region is estimated to be worth £450m over the period and will drive confidence in public sector borrowing, de-risk investment modelling and accelerate delivery. It will also remove the uncertainty of the current

pilot scheme, boosting public financial sustainability and local authority spending power.

Through its '**Single Settlement**', the Government commits to giving WMCA single capital and revenue funding certainty, equivalent to government departments – increasing regional autonomy and the ability to prioritise decisions locally in the areas of:

- local growth and place
- local transport
- housing and regeneration
- adult skills
- housing retrofit

These settlements will cover an entire spending review period.

In addition, Government has committed to a **£25m capital fund** to support business decarbonisation, culture, environmental programmes and the West Midlands' Smart City Region initiative.



Transport

Building on the West Midlands' strengths in transport innovation, as the country's first future transport zone, and its close partnership working with Government, the Deeper Devolution Deal provides:

- A pioneering Local Transport Plan approach which embeds 'quantifying carbon reductions' (QCR);
- Leading a collaborative research and learning programme through an 'influencing transport lab' (ITL);
- Establish a 'regulatory sandbox' to boost global investment and cluster growth, and test new innovations to inform national policy;
- Devolution of the Bus Service Operators Grant to improve services and incentivise net zero transition;
- Closer partnership with Great British Railways to deliver a rail service closer to the standards of London;
- Additional £60m to Wednesbury-Brierley Hill Metro extension
- Supporting development of the region's ambitious Very Light Railway scheme in Coventry.

Additionally, and separately to the Deal, there is a future funding commitment for round 2 of the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements, from 2027, to support major transport infrastructure projects.

Housing, Land and Regeneration

A **£100m Single Regeneration Fund** will be deployed flexibly across the region, and for the first time, brownfield land funding will support commercial, employment land and mixed-use development, as well as delivering 4,000 homes.

The commitment of up to **£400m Affordable Housing Programme** ('AHP') funding to the region, and greater influence over affordable housing delivery and strategy acts a precursor to full devolution of the AHP, worth billions of pounds in funding, to the region from 2026 – the first time this has happened outside Greater London.

In another 'first', for any Combined Authority, WMCA will be involved in decisions on major UK **government land** disposals and reconfiguration – driving regeneration and unlocking private investment through repurposing and redeveloping publicly owned land.

The region will also be able to designate '**Levelling Up Zones**': priority areas that would benefit from enhanced and targeted fiscal measures. These 'growth zones' will attract 25 year Business Rates Retention (with no reset) with the six zones being considered for inclusion:

- East Birmingham North Solihull Corridor (including UK Central)
- Wolverhampton Corridor (incl. Green Innovation Corridor & University of

Wolverhampton's National Centre for Sustainable Construction)

- Walsall Growth Corridor
- Dudley Metro Corridor [x 2] (Sandwell Zone from Wednesbury to Birmingham Road, Tipton; Dudley Zone from Dudley to Brierley Hill)
- Coventry and Warwickshire Gigafactory Levelling Up Zone

Additionally, and separate to the Deal, the region has been invited to submit a proposal for one Investment Zone under the Government's new programme which seeks to maximise innovation and growth corridors.

Skills and Employment Support

Further areas of **post-19 education and skills** will be devolved to WMCA along with greater oversight of **post-16 technical education** and skills, and careers, including a crucial role to ensure the local skills system responds to the Local Skills Improvement Plan ('LSIP'). This will include, from the next Spending Review, greater devolution of non-apprenticeship adult skills functions and funding, and greater freedoms around Free Courses for Jobs and Bootcamps. WMCA will also become the 'central convenor' for **careers advice** in the region, working closely with Government to ensure provision meets the economic needs of the West Midlands.

Alongside establishing a Regional Labour Market Partnership Board, WMCA will be

able to co-design contracted **employment support programmes** with DWP to ensure they are the aspirations of the region, supported by enhanced data-sharing agreements.

Business Productivity and Innovation

WMCA will adopt a new role in integrating and promoting **business support services** across the region – powered by a new Strategic Productivity Partnership with departments across Government, greater involvement in the governance of the British Business Bank's UK funds, and collaboration with the UK Investment Bank on commercial arrangements for infrastructure finance.

Building on the West Midlands' participation in the £100m Accelerator funding, through a Strategic Innovation Partnership WMCA will be able to present regional innovation opportunities to inform UKRI's future funding strategies – working collaboratively to bolster **regional R&D growth** and pilot new initiatives, such as the UK Further Education Innovation Fund, place-based knowledge transfer programmes, and public procurement flexibilities.



Trade and Investment

The Department for Business and Trade ('DBT') will recognise the West Midlands Growth Company as the lead agency for investment in the region and work with them to develop a **WM International Strategy**, enhance data sharing routes and undertake a review of key account management with the region's major employers.

DBT will also support WMCA to boost West Midlands' presence in **trade missions** and dedicate support from the UK Export Academy to increase trade opportunities.

Net Zero and Environment

From 2025, Government will pilot with the West Midlands the **devolution of housing retrofit funding**. This will remove uncertainty and inefficiencies in the existing funding system and inform future models for Government net zero funding.

There is recognition of the region's involvement in wider **energy system management and planning**, and responsibility for heat zone designation, energy efficiency advice and attracting private sector finance. In addition, funding from the £25m capital pot is anticipated for **industrial decarbonisation** programmes for regional businesses, **natural environment finance** models and **air quality** monitors to support the region's wider environment and net zero ambitions.

Digital and Data

The Department of Science and Technology ('DSIT') will work proactively with WMCA through a **Digital Infrastructure Leadership Group** to accelerate broadband roll-out and connectivity, and through a £4m fund, provide 20,000 devices to boost **digital inclusion**.

Government will agree a new Data Partnership with WMCA, which will streamline WMCA's negotiations with individual government departments over access to specific datasets and support timely access to data particularly around: skills, careers and labour markets; business support, trade and investment; and energy and climate resilience.

Alongside this, Government will work with WMCA and its public body partners across the region to improve routes for data-sharing to enable WMCA to undertake regional analysis of data to better inform strategic decision-making locally.

Culture, Social Economy and Tourism

To maximise the Commonwealth Games Legacy Fund, a new **Regional Culture and Heritage Framework** will seek to align and maximise funding from arm's length bodies, including opportunities for co-investment and greater collaboration. Local authorities will be closely involved in the development of the Framework and continue to engage directly with funding bodies.

Recognising WMCA's commitment to double the size of the social economy, Government will work with the Combined Authority to develop a pioneering **Social Economy Accelerator Programme** and Growth Fund.

DCMS and Visit England will work with WMCA and WMGC to create England's second **Destination Development Partnership pilot** and the associated merits of establishing WMGC as a Local Visitor Economy Partnership ('LVEP').

Public Service Reform

Government and WMCA will agree a new formal duty on WMCA to improve public **health** – concurrent with local authorities and neither superseding, or being subservient to, existing duties. Through this, they will explore how best to use their collective resources and expertise to develop innovative solutions to shared prevention and population health priorities, and lead regional initiatives like an exemplar region for disabled people. Innovations include AI labs, predictive analytics and machine learning, and shared care records, building on the West Midlands' Smart City Region strengths, and supported by in-principle funding through the £25m allocation mentioned above. This will need further development at the implementation stage before being finally approved.

In addition...

Government will also collaborate with the West Midlands on other key priorities:

- A newly formed Ministerial Housing Strategy Group will work with WMCA to pilot new schemes to address **Homelessness** – enabling better standards and outcomes for residents, and exploring new models such as locally designed rent simplification for young people.
- Working closely with WMCA and its local authority partners to pilot and test new initiatives in **Early Years** – building on existing work within the region and aligning with national priorities.
- A new West Midlands Fast Stream pilot will set a blueprint for establishing long-term career pathways by delivering a pipeline of civil service talent and skills in the region, complementing Government's **Places for Growth** commitment to relocate 2,100 roles to the West Midlands by 2025.

Please note that the Devolution Deal will be subject to ratification with each local authority, and we are working closely with officers and leaders in that process.

This briefing note is a summary of the Deal only and is not intended to be exhaustive.

The full Devolution Deal can be accessed through the gov.uk website.



Birmingham City Council

City Council

12 September 2023



Subject: Motions for Debate from Individual Members
Report of: Janie Berry, City Solicitor (Monitoring Officer)
Report author: Christian Scade, Head of Scrutiny and Committee Services, Christian.Scade@birmingham.gov.uk

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential: N/A

1 Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 To consider the following Motions of which notice has been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules (section B4.4 G of the Constitution).

2 Notices of Motion

A. Councillors Roger Harmer and Morriam Jan have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

Council notes that construction, regeneration and development in Birmingham is happening at a fast pace across the city and surrounding neighbourhoods, as Birmingham is remodelled for the future.

Council notes that consultation with the people of Birmingham is vital, and that the people of Birmingham must be able to trust that their views have been acknowledged and incorporated where possible.

Pre-consultation is an important phase of planning. People that will be affected by redevelopment and regeneration should be consulted so that a body of evidence can be given to developers and planners before plans are drawn up.

This Council resolves that a Statement of Community Engagement should be developed, which would commit the Council to open and detailed consultations with all neighbourhoods affected by any significant redevelopment initiatives before initial draft plans are publicised. This process should continue until completion, and afterwards as appropriate.

In particular:

- 1) Consultation should engage with all residents, particularly targeting harder to reach groups such as those with poor English and young people. Care should also be taken to ensure that good samples of residents in all property types and forms of ownership are engaged.
 - a. Each proposed development should be able to clarify with demographic data, the groups who will be impacted by, or benefit from, the development e.g. young people for lengthy redevelopment, local businesses, families, commuters etc. Targets should be identified for each group and met before design work is commenced.
- 2) Initial draft plans, subsequently published, should include a comprehensive report on the outcome of pre-consultation explaining what residents wanted, with detailed reasoning for any differences between those objectives and what the draft plan will deliver.
 - a. This should be communicated widely using different media so that people know their views were documented and responded to. This is crucial to building trust with the community.
- 3) Pre-consultation should be the start of a process of ongoing significant input from residents throughout the redevelopment or regeneration process.
- 4) Oversight boards should include community and elected member representation.
- 5) Plans should give due weight to community developed statutory neighbourhood plans and ward plans.
 - a. Where any variation is proposed from community plans, the statement of community engagement should specify how this will be communicated and should also be the subject of consultation with elected members and appropriate community forums.

B. Councillors Karen McCarthy and David Barker have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

This Council notes that:

- There is growing evidence that trauma, particularly in childhood, has long-term negative impacts on lives and social, health, and economic outcomes.
- It has a responsibility to provide the best support within its means for residents and that it is important that trauma is recognised and understood by staff, particularly those who fulfil a range of customer-facing roles. Such recognition and understanding of trauma would improve the quality of interactions and standard of service and provide opportunities for potential support to be offered.

- Experience of justice services, alcohol and drugs issues, mental health crisis, children's social care and homelessness also disproportionately affect people who have faced significant trauma in their lives.
- These kinds of experiences have been found to result in increased risk of poor health and social outcomes, as well as difficulties accessing or maintaining access to services. This can mean that those most in need of help will often be the ones who face the greatest barriers to accessing it.
- Local and Regional Authorities across the country, such as the West Midlands Combined Authority, Plymouth City Council, Kent County Council, Argyll and Bute Council, Inverclyde Council, Southampton City Council, Islington Council, and Derby City Council, have adopted Trauma-Informed Practice approaches.

This Council believes in adopting a Psychologically-Informed and Trauma-Informed Practice. This is a strengths-based, non-pathologizing approach, which seeks to understand and respond to the impact of trauma on people's lives. The approach emphasises physical, psychological, and emotional safety for everyone and aims to empower individuals to re-establish control of their lives.

We call on the Executive to take the following steps to help the Council to become 'trauma informed':

- Use the learning and research on trauma to inform change in practice and thus be better able to reduce the negative effects of trauma on the lives of all with whom we come in contact.
- Look into providing Trauma Informed Practice training to officers and members.
- Assess options to broaden and embed Trauma Informed Practice within Council directorates.
- Continue to work with our partners and key stakeholders as a trauma informed network and implement a consistent approach across all bodies.
- Deliver services by responding to individuals' needs and creating nurturing and supportive environments where people feel valued, and efforts are made to resist inadvertent re-traumatisation.
- Adopting the trauma-informed principles of safety, trust, choice, collaboration, empowerment, and cultural sensitivity so that we can help people to overcome the effects of trauma and improve both access to services and long-term outcomes.

