

Birmingham City Council

City Council

12 September 2023



Subject: Motions for Debate from Individual Members
Report of: Janie Berry, City Solicitor (Monitoring Officer)
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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: 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.