

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

CO-ORDINATING O&S COMMITTEE – PUBLIC MEETING

1000 hours on Friday 24th July 2020, On-line meeting

Action Notes

Present:

Councillor Carl Rice (Chair)

Councillors: Deidre Alden, Albert Bore, Debbie Clancy, Roger Harmer, Rob Pocock, Lou Robson and Kath Scott.

Also Present:

Cllr Brigid Jones, Deputy Leader

Jonathan Tew, Assistant Chief Executive

Varun Sitaram, Head of Business Improvement & Change

Peter Bishop, Director Digital & Customer Services

Wendy Griffiths, Assistant Director Customer Services and Business Support

Emma Williamson, Head of Scrutiny Services

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chair advised that this meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site (www.civico.net/birmingham) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Liz Clements and Ewan Mackey.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None.

4. ACTION NOTES

(See document No 1).

RESOLVED:

The action notes from the meeting held on 3rd July 2020 were agreed.

5. DEPUTY LEADER UPDATE (CONTINUED FROM 3RD JULY)

(See documents No 2, 3 and 4).

This item was continued from the discussion on 3rd July, and Emma Williamson, Head of Scrutiny Services, summarised the points discussed on the 3rd July. Members then made a series of points in relation to the performance monitoring report, including:

- The inclusion of bottom ash from Tyseley in the recycling figures – members were of the view that this needs to be reported separately. The Deputy Leader told the committee that bottom ash was used in road aggregate and so was recycled but will look at how this can be disaggregated in the new reporting framework.
- Climate change as an emerging priority – the task force is due to report to Full Council in September so the refreshed framework will reflect that work.
- The new performance framework will be brought forward in November to reflect the new Council Plan for 2020-2022 including new priorities in response to Covid-19, climate change and matters in the manifesto not yet fully achieved.
- The missed collections' measure was raised last time – members noted that the figures reflect those missed collections that are reported. The team are looking at how the data is collected (which is standard practice) and how to get greater accuracy on this. It was pointed out that this was discussed in some detail at the February Housing and Neighbourhoods O&S meeting and it had been agreed that the data would be qualified as "reported" missed collections. It was also noted that whilst the number of missed collections is relatively small, there are concentrations of repeated missed collections.
- Members agreed that Co-ordinating undertake the lead and look at poor performance across the board but then refer back to the individual O&S Committee where there are particular issues.
- Obesity figures – the long term effects of obesity on length and quality of life are known, but there are no measures this year because of Covid-19. There is a city wide obesity strategy, which was controversial at the time as to whether the Council should be intervening. There are activities including promotion of early start vouchers, Start Well which focused on early years prevention, and the Daily Mile project (a randomised trial of this was done in Birmingham).
- The report states that the library service has adapted to a 21st century service, but the core business of lending books is still stopped as libraries are closed. There are still a large number of libraries compared to other councils, most of which are old and require a risk assessment especially as there are often vulnerable people attending. There is no intention to use other services as a reason to close libraries.
- Paragraph 4.1 of the Performance Monitoring report shows an excellent result delivered by digital team. Working remotely can be better for example for smaller meetings to avoid the need for travelling if members have only one meeting in a day. This successful result is now causing management to think again about future working arrangements, including the future of council buildings and working patterns.
- The number of targets met (39%) is an exceedingly low figure and when taken with the number that are deteriorating (44%), members would have expected to

see a comment acknowledging that, with clear and simple language. Sometimes the commentary around successful outcomes does not match the statistics shown.

- With regards to measures relating to children, measures such as absence, exclusions, refusals or out of school for SEND or other reasons are not monitored. Members would appreciate a more child-centred approach, showing that we know where children are and that they are safe. The Deputy Leader agreed to look at this.
- How we capture data is not always comprehensive, for example there are a whole host of ways to report things such as missed collections, so these are not always documented. The Chair argued that it was more important to spend time and money on resolving issues rather than collecting data.
- Measures relating to adult social care were reported to Health and Social Care O&S earlier this week, and lower performance was in part due to actions being delayed because of Covid-19. There is now a monthly performance board in the Adults directorate.
- The new performance framework needs to take account of how things have moved on, including organisational health and external measures, regulatory measures, and outcome measures. A lot is in there but is jumbled and does not address points in an easy to understand way. This is being addressed

The Deputy Leader outlined progress with the City Board, which started with lots of goodwill from partners, but did not initially pick the right topics for that Board to add value. After the lockdown, fortnightly phone calls were held for partners to come together to share information and found real value in exchanging information on changes to services, to have a shared view across the city. They are also looking pulling together a city vision (such as Bristol has) rather than an array of separate policies and goals, to see where there are gaps and how they can collaborate to fill them. Citizen engagement is also being looked at. Initial scoping work expected over the summer. UN development goals are being considered as a way of measuring progress; the goals have been mapped against Birmingham and been found to be relevant.

In answer to a question about reinvigorating local partnerships and citizen engagement, it was agreed to pick this up as the work progresses.

The Chair asked that the committee have an early sight of the performance framework to share feedback ahead of the Cabinet meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the reports are noted.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is the 18th September 2020.

7. REQUEST(S) FOR CALL-IN/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION/PETITIONS RECEIVED (IF ANY)

None.

8. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

9. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

RESOLVED:

In an urgent situation between meetings, the Chairman jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee.

The meeting ended at 1120 hours.