

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

<p>LICENSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE 13 JANUARY, 2020</p>
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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LICENSING
AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE HELD
ON WEDNESDAY, 13 JANUARY, 2021 AT 1030
HOURS AS AN ONLINE MICROSOFT TEAMS
MEETING**

PRESENT: - Councillor Phil Davis in the Chair;

Councillors Bob Beauchamp, Neil Eustace, Adam Higgs,
Nagina Kauser, Mike Leddy, Mary Locke, Majid Mahmood,
Simon Morrall, Chauhdry Rashid, Mike Sharpe and Martin
Straker Welds.

NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

1336 The Chair advised that the meeting would be webcast for live and 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.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1337 Members were reminded that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non pecuniary interests relating to any items of business to be discussed at the meeting. If a pecuniary interest was declared a Member must not speak or take part in that agenda item. Any declarations would be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

APOLOGIES

1338 An apology was received from Councillors Olly Armstrong for non-attendance.

The business of the meeting and all discussions in relation to individual reports are available for public inspection via the web-stream.

LPPC 2020-21 QUARTER 2 BUDGET REPORT

The following Report of the Interim Assistant Director for Regulation and Enforcement was submitted:-

(See document no. 1)

David Jones made introductory comments relating to the report giving a summary of the report and financial position. He outlined the main service areas under financial pressure owing to Covid related issues.

Councillor Mary Locke expressed concern regarding the rising number of Covid-19 cases and gave her thanks to all the staff involved who were all working extremely hard. Paul Lankester said that they were managing the budget as best as possible and seeking to reduce the budget deficit. Councillor Majid Mahmood sent the best wishes of the Committee to Councillor Olly Armstrong. With regard to the availability of PPE for front line staff, Paul Lankester said that the PPE budget was centrally managed. He was not aware of any difficulties with PPE as of 2 weeks ago. Mark Croxford would answer the questions relating to Pest Control. They were aware there would be a reduction in the costs of managing unauthorised encampments. Responsibility for some of the costs associated with Pest Control had moved to another service area. Managerial arrangements had been implemented to meet the budget requirements. No further changes had been suggested although there is a report on the next Cabinet agenda about City Council managerial changes.

The Mortuary service was being managed without any huge expenditure in the capital requirement for additional structure changes as it was possible that the location of the mortuary would change in the not too distant future. A Feasibility study had been undertaken into a Centre of Excellence.

With regard to Pest Control, Mark Croxford reported that during the lock down a lot of businesses had closed and officers had been transferred to other duties. The City Council were fully supported in relation to PPE and all of their orders were met. They had received support from the Government with regard to face masks.

1339

RESOLVED:-

- i) Note the latest Revenue budget position at the end of September 2020 (Quarter 2) including Forecast Outturn and COVID-19 response implications as detailed in Appendix 1;
- ii) Note the analysis of both COVID-19 and Non-COVID-19 related pressures as set out in Appendix 2;
- iii) Note the position for the Savings Programme for 2020/21 as detailed in Appendix 3;
- iv) Note the position on Capital projects, as detailed in Appendix 4; and

- v) Note the position on reserves and balances, as detailed in Appendix 5.
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DELIVERY OF AN EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME CHECKING SERVICE BY BIRMINGHAM REGISTER OFFICE

The following report of Interim Assistant Director of Regulation and Enforcement was submitted:-

(See document no. 2)

Paul Lankester, Interim Assistant Director made introductory comments relating to the report informing that Birmingham Register Office will offer an identification verification service to support EEA or Swiss citizens who need assistance to apply to the settlement scheme.

In reply to Councillor Majid Mahmood, Paul Lankester welcomed the comments about advertising and promotion of the service. More information will be available and in different languages. There will be a requirement to be able to speak English as part of the Citizens Award Scheme. The scale of EU settlers in Birmingham was large. In response to a comment by Councillor Mary Locke about lack of IT access for some people the Chair noted that the scheme was time limited and funded by the Government. Paul Lankester said that they would work with all agencies to meet the needs of the community. Regular updates will be given to the Committee.

1340

RESOLVED:-

That the delivery of the identification verification service by Birmingham Register Office to support EEA or Swiss citizens who need assistance to apply to the settlement scheme be approved to take effect from January 2021.

ILLEGAL MONEY LENDING TEAM UPDATE REPORT – DECEMBER 2020

The following report of the Interim Assistant Director for Regulation and Enforcement was submitted:-

(See document no. 3)

Tony Quigley, Head of Illegal Money Lending & Trading Standards presented the report and gave a summary of the contents. In response to comments from Members about loan sharks and the difference made by the Credit Unions. The work carried out by the team was praised and Tony Quigley said that those involved felt fully supported and undertook to pass on the comments made by Members. Examples of projects funded by proceeds of crime money since July 2019 were detailed at 13.1 of the report.

1341

RESOLVED:-

That the report be noted.

**REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY REPORT –
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2020**

The following report of the Interim Assistant Director of Regulation and Enforcement was submitted:-

(See document no. 4)

Paul Lankester, Interim Assistant Director, Regulation made introductory comments relating to the report. Members were urged to let him know if they required any information in particular. In reply to Councillor Majid Mahmood Paul Lankester informed that the Covid related enforcement grant was ring-fenced and they were on course to spend the grant by February 2021. Mark Croxford added that more details will be available on the next report.

With regard to scrap metal issues Sajeela Nasser informed that there were 93 Licences for scrap metal. The grant was being used to look at illegal dealers. The incident with the converter reported by Councillor Majid Mahmood was a police matter as it was related to theft. Paul Lankester will discuss the issue with colleagues. Tony Quigley said that Members should report any issues with placarding so it could be dealt with.

RESOLVED:-

1342 That the content of the report be noted.

PROSECUTIONS AND CAUTIONS – SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2020

The following report of the Interim Assistant Director for Regulation and Enforcement was submitted:-

(See document no. 5)

In reply to Councilor Majid Mahmood, Paul Lankester advised that owing to the lockdown there had been less enforcement action taking place. The one case with a taxi driver refusing transport to a person with a guide dog was one case too many. They have found that there has been a drop in standards by restaurants and cafes. Some were technical breaches. Businesses were encouraged to work with the service. Sajeela Nasser advised that a consultation would be carried out looking at all aspects of CCTV in taxis during the next few months.

1343 **RESOLVED:-**

That the report be noted.

CHAIRS AUTHORITY REPORT – OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2020

The following report of the Interim Assistant Director for Regulation and Enforcement was submitted:-

(See document no. 6)

In reply to Councillor Majid Mahmood, Sajeela Nasser indicated that she would report back to the Committee on the process used when taxi driver's were arrested. They were currently looking at a national revocations and refusals database.

1344 **RESOLVED:-**

That the report be noted.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

1345 The meeting on 10 February, 2021 was cancelled. The date of the next meeting on 10 March, 2021 at 1030 hours was noted.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

1346 Sajeela Nasser updated that in relation to reporting taxi drivers arrests and convictions, owing to data protection Local Authorities were informed only when there was a conviction.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS

1347 **RESOLVED:-**

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

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

1348 **RESOLVED:-**

That, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, which includes exempt information of the category indicated, the public be now excluded from the meeting:-

Agenda Item etc.

Relevant Paragraph of Exempt
Information Under Revised
Schedule 12A of the Local
Government Act 1972

Minutes

5 & 6