

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

NEIGHBOURHOODS O&S COMMITTEE – PUBLIC MEETING

1400 hours on Wednesday, 6 December 2023,

Committee Room 6, Council House

Minutes

Present:

Councillor Shabrana Hussain - Chair

Councillors: Marcus Bernasconi, Marje Bridle, and Izzy Knowles

Also Present:

Cllr Nicky Brennan, Chair, Birmingham Community Safety Partnership (BCSP) and Cabinet Member, Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities

Cllr Majid Mahmood, Cabinet Member, Environment

Waqar Ahmed, AD, Community Safety and Resilience

Chief Inspector Sara Beech on behalf of Chief Superintendent Richard North, Vice Chair, BCSP

Sarah Fradgley, Overview and Scrutiny Manager

Pamela Powis, Senior Service Manager, Safer Places

Amanda Simcox, Scrutiny Officer

Les Williams, Principal Operations Manager, Street Scene

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chair advised that this meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Public-I microsite and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received on behalf of Cllrs Gurdial Singh Atwal, Ray Goodwin, and Darius Sandhu.

3. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBER

The Chair thanked Cllr Deirdre Alden for serving on the Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the appointment of Councillor Darius Sandhu in place of Councillor Deidre Alden for the period ending with the Annual General Meeting of the City Council in 2024 be noted.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Members were reminded they must declare all relevant pecuniary and other registerable interests arising from any business to be discussed at this meeting, and none were declared.

5. MINUTES

(See document No. 1)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

6. ACTION TRACKER

(See document No. 2)

The Chair proposed the outstanding actions relating to fly tipping, draft litter prevention strategy, cleaner streets issues and the two recommendations the committee prepared after its July meeting were all picked up in a workshop on 10 January 2024 instead of the scheduled committee meeting, and this was agreed.

The Chair advised the audit trail into the signoff of the four non-deliverable savings had been passed to the Director for Operations and the S151 Officer and confirmed she raised this with the Budget Task & Finish Group who will pick this up. A request was made for clarity on what was going to be picked up and the timescales for this in light of the Governance report, which referenced lack of effective member oversight and a tendency to minimise bad news.

RESOLVED:

That:

- The action tracker was noted.
- Agreed a workshop takes place on 10 January 2024 instead of the scheduled committee meeting.
- Clarity to be provided from the Budget Task & Finish Group on what was going to be picked up and the timescales in relation to the audit trail of the four non-deliverable savings.

7. COMMISSIONERS REVIEW AND COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA

RESOLVED:

That no comments had been received from the Commissioner on this agenda was noted.

8. BIRMINGHAM COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP'S ANNUAL REPORT

(See document No. 3)

Cllr Nicky Brennan, Chair, BCSP and Cabinet Member, Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities, Chief Inspector Sara Beech on behalf of Chief Superintendent Richard North, Vice Chair, BCSP, Waqar Ahmed, AD, Community Safety and Resilience, and Pamela Powis, Senior Service Manager, Safer Places, were in attendance for this item.

The Chair, BCSP gave an overview of the annual report which was about how they work in partnership to achieve better outcomes for communities and their priorities: violence reduction, building safer neighbourhoods, protecting people from harm, and reducing offending.

Officers provided an overview and key challenges for last year, which included the BCSP's governance review to ensure they were responding to statutory responsibilities and identified resident's needs, the resetting of the thematic groups, the review and repurposing of the six Local Community Safety Partnerships (LCSPs) in light of the changes within the Council and the new policing model, and new relationships have been developed, such as with network rail to assist with street intervention.

Also, the new policing model provided challenges and opportunities, such as addressing some cross border issues, and improved information sharing within the LCSPs. The Chief Inspector highlighted there was focus within the LCSPs around people and place, and their approach moving forward will be more cojoined.

In addition, future work included a focus on the changes to the Criminal Justice Bill which will bring new powers and responsibilities and the Government's review of BCSP's remit and expanding responsibilities.

During the discussion and in response to queries raised by Members, the main points included:

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

The Committee discussed the legislation and procedures for how they deal with begging with key partners which included the new data sharing protocol, strengthening the partnership tasking group, and referrals being made to assist beggars who needed help.

In response to the Committee's concern regarding the rise in ASB incidents, officers commented they recognised the scale of ASB in Birmingham and lack of street intervention officers. Officers were working on an integrated approach to ASB - cuckooing was a part of this, and the ASB pilot could lead to a more robust co-ordinated approach with the Police. An update on the integrated approach to ASB and a progress report on the pilot to be provided when they have meaningful data and information.

Locality Working and LCSPs

The meeting was informed that membership invitations for the LCSPs will be sent out shortly and LCSPs will make the decisions as to where officers were deployed. Locality-based Community Safety Intervention Officers have only been in place since August 2023. An impact report on the additional value and progress of the Locality-based Community Safety Intervention Officers in 12 months was requested.

The Committee valued the work of neighbourhood policing and was informed West Midlands Police focus was responding to 999 calls and they were in a transition period whilst staff were being upskilled as investigators.

Re-deployable CCTV Cameras

Officers detailed the guidance that governed when and where cameras could be placed, acknowledged activity could increase when the CCTV camera was removed, and were exploring whether they can use the same technology as the new fly-tipping CCTV cameras. It was suggested future reports could include more data on the use of the re-deployable CCTV cameras.

Operation Hercules

Further information was provided on operation Hercules and officers were awaiting the court decision regarding whether the interim injunction will go to a permanent injunction.

Funding

In response to concerns regarding possible reductions in funding, including external grant funding, the Committee was informed the BCSP would still need to be funded due to its statutory responsibilities, which would still be the case if policing responsibilities came within the responsibility of the West Midlands Mayor. Officers gave examples whereby they sought opportunities to optimise funding and undertook to provide a briefing paper on the breakdown of the sources of funding and funding amounts, and to report back to the Committee if there were risks to the grant funding.

RESOLVED:

That:

- The 2022/23 annual report of the BCSP was noted approved.
- The BCSP to provide the following:
 - A progress report on the ASB pilot when they have meaningful data and information.
 - An update on the ASB integrated approach to include cuckooing.
 - The future BCSP's annual report to include more data on the use of re-deployable CCTV cameras.
 - An impact report on the additional value and progress of the Locality-based Community Safety Intervention Officers in 12 months (August 2024)
 - A briefing paper on the breakdown of the sources of funding and funding amounts.
 - To report back to the Committee if any risks to the grant funding were identified.

9. IMPACT OF S114 SPEND CONTROL ON THE LEVEL OF MISSED WASTE COLLECTIONS

(See document No. 4)

The Chair welcomed Cllr Majid Mahmood, Cabinet Member, Environment, and Les Williams, Principal Operations Manager, Street Scene to the meeting.

The Cabinet Member made a point of clarification, in that the data contained within appendices A and B were for individual citizen reports rather than dropped rounds.

During the discussion and in response to queries raised by Members, the main points included:

The Cabinet Member highlighted there were two types of data: individual citizen's reporting a missed collection, and a daily report on missed roads and the reasons for these. There was to be a transformation plan that included Members being notified of

the missed collections and reasons for these in their ward, and the Chair commented this would be discussed further at the Committee's workshop in January.

Members gave examples of missed garden waste collections, to which the Cabinet Member, Environment, apologised and highlighted this was not a reflection of the 74,000 green waste subscribers and the Council maintaining the number of subscribers even though subscription costs had increased. Also, they have a garden waste co-ordinator who deals with the complaints, and Members could contact the Cabinet Member if they had individual cases they wanted investigated.

The Committee was informed the new Interim Director for Street Scene will start on 18 December 2023 and the appointment of an Interim Director for Parks was subject to agreement from the spend control board. The Committee requested the new Interim Director for Street Scene was invited to their workshop on 10th January 2024.

In response to the request for Members to have officers contact details regarding specific services, the Cabinet Member stated there has been a lot of staff movement, and he will be having discussions with the new Interim Director for Street Scene regarding the best way to deliver the services.

The meeting discussed the separate services for picking up fly-tipping on housing land, which was paid for by the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), and other council owned land. The Cabinet Member, Environment, commented he would be having discussions with the new Interim Director for Street Scene and the Committee agreed this provided ideal transformation and efficiency opportunities. The Cabinet Member suggested the Homes Overview and Scrutiny Committee may also want to look at this issue.

The Cabinet Member, Environment highlighted the Christmas and new year waste collection dates had been circulated to all Members and requested they shared these with their networks and within their wards. He explained the rescheduled dates took into account no additional funding for overtime and the Tyseley transfer station operational days. The Committee was informed sickness absence and bad weather could have a negative impact on collections and there were a number of measures to minimise the impact on residents including the retainment of the green waste crews so they could provide contingency cover.

RESOLVED:

That:

- The Committee noted the report.
- The Homes Overview and Scrutiny Committee may want to look at the potential of amalgamating the current separate services for fly tipping on housing land funded by the Housing Revenue Account, and on other Council owned land.

10. WORK PROGRAMME

(See document No. 5)

The Chair informed Members it was important for all committees to reflect on the findings and recommendations of the Governance Review and how the work programmes aligned with the Council's improvement and recovery priorities.

Also, the Budget Task & Finish Group was meeting in December and January to examine the 2024/25 budget savings and the Committee agreed to hold a meeting on Teams in

January to discuss the budget savings in relation to the Committee's remit, and further discussions will be programmed as required.

The Committee discussed the work programme and agreed:

The 10 January 2024 waste workshop will include:

- The new Interim Director for Street Scene to be in attendance to inform the fly-tipping prevention discussion.
- A demonstration of 'slab in the cab.'
- Ward level information from the Land Audit Management System (LAMS) and as much information available to answer the Committee's recommendation 1 (pages 57 and 58 in the agenda pack).
- Accurate data and analysis of missed collections.

The 7 February 2023 committee meeting items will be delays in births and deaths registrations, and bereavement customer services.

The Committee discussed future agenda items and agreed the workshop in January will be extended by 30 minutes to allow the Committee to discuss their work programme in light of the Governance review.

RESOLVED:

That the work programme was agreed and subject to further input from the Chair and Deputy Chair, be submitted to Co-ordinating O&S Committee to enable work to be planned and co-ordinated throughout the year.

11. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

The next formal meeting to be held on 7 February 2024 at 1400 hours.

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

None.

13. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

14. AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS

RESOLVED:

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

The meeting ended at 15.57 hours.