

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

NEIGHBOURHOODS O&S COMMITTEE – PUBLIC MEETING

1400 hours on Wednesday, 7 June 2023, Committee Room 6, Council House

Minutes

Present:

Councillor Shabrana Hussain (Chair)

Councillors: Deirdre Alden, Marcus Bernasconi, Marje Bridle, Ray Goodwin, and Izzy Knowles

Also Present:

Paul Clarke, AD, Programmes, Performance and Improvement Division

Chris Jordan, AD, Neighbourhoods

Paul Kitson, Strategic Director, Place, Prosperity and Sustainability

Paul Langford, Interim Strategic Director, City Housing

Sajeela Naseer, Director, Regulation and Enforcement

Pam Powis, Community Safety

Darren Share, AD, Street Scene

Richard Smith, Head of Insight, Policy and Strategy, Finance & Governance

Naomi Todd, Improvement and Change Partner, Finance & Governance

Amanda Simcox, Scrutiny Officer

Amelia Wiltshire, Overview and Scrutiny Manager

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 Cllr. Kerry Brewer.

3. 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.

4. MEMBERSHIP OF THE NEIGHBOURHOODS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Noted the resolution of the City Council meeting appointing the Committee, Chair and Members to serve on the Committee for the period ending with the Annual General Meeting of the City Council 2024.

5. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR

Cllr. Ray Goodwin was elected as Deputy Chair for the purposes of substitution for the Chair if absent for the period ending with the Annual General Meeting of the City Council in 2024.

6. NEIGHBOURHOODS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE'S TERMS OF REFERENCE

(See document No. 1)

Noted the Terms of Reference for the Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

7. MINUTES

(See document No. 2)

RESOLVED:

The minutes for the Housing and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 13 April 2023 were agreed.

8. ACTION TRACKERS

(See documents Nos. 3 and 4)

The Committee discussed the Housing and Neighbourhood's action 'the offer of a demonstration of the "slab in the cab" technology whereby in the New Year, the Cabinet Member for Environment will be sending invitations to all Members to visit a local depot, and this will include a demonstration of the "slab in the cab" technology'. It was agreed that this will be discussed at a future committee meeting, with this information then being available for all Members.

RESOLVED:

That:

- The actions from the previous Housing and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and the Commonwealth Games, Culture and Physical Activity Overview and Scrutiny Committee were reviewed and noted.
- The 'slab in the cab' will be discussed at a future committee meeting, with this information then being available to all Members.

9. DELIVERING EFFECTIVE AND FLEXIBLE SCRUTINY

(See document No. 5)

The Chair informed Members that this was about making Scrutiny more efficient, flexible, adding value, and improving services.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the development of a flexible and effective work programme for 2023/24 as developed by members of the Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the last municipal year 2022/23.

10. DEVELOPING THE NEIGHBOURHOODS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE'S WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

(See document No. 6)

Paul Clarke, AD, Programmes, Performance and Improvement, Chris Jordan, AD, Neighbourhoods, Paul Kitson, Strategic Director, Place, Prosperity and Sustainability, Paul Langford, Interim Strategic Director, City Housing, Sajeela Naseer, Director, Regulation and Enforcement, Pam Powis, Community Safety, Darren Share, AD, Street Scene, Richard Smith, Head of Insight, Policy and Strategy, Finance & Governance, and

Naomi Todd, Improvement and Change Partner, Finance & Governance were in attendance for this item.

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

- At the informal meeting Members were keen to follow up on:
 - The clear recommendations for the cleaner streets work the previous Committee had undertaken.
 - Fly-tipping.
 - Localisation.

Cleaner Streets & Fly-Tipping

- There were a number of officers in the wards that had different responsibilities and powers in relation to enforcement. Also, a two year pilot was due to start in July 2023, initially in four neighbourhoods. What is happening in different neighbourhoods was causing confusion and Darren Share suggested he prepare a position paper. It was agreed that this report would include an update on the meeting with officers from legal services, and performance on fly-tipping, so this could be discussed as the next committee meeting.
- Due to a number of new Members on the Committee the cleaner streets paper, and recommendations made to the Cabinet Member will be e-mailed. The position paper being prepared by Darren Share will include an update on where they are in relation to the recommendations. A further update is to be programmed for September 2023.

Localisation

- This is the golden thread that underpins all work.
- Cllr. Marje Bridle questioned whether there was a need to discuss localisation and how it is going to be progressed with the new Leader of the Council.
- Measuring how localisation is having an impact and making improvement to services was discussed, and it was felt that there would need to be a mix of measures in place. Paul Clarke and Chris Jordan undertook to explore this and report back.

Commonwealth Games Legacy

- In relation to the Commonwealth Games legacy, this is for the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to look at in relation to their terms of reference; for this Committee, the terms of reference specifically relates to the Commonwealth Games Legacy Framework. The framework will be circulated to the Committee.

Community Safety

- Some Members had attended the Community Safety Partnership “review day” and a request was made for the Committee to see the draft proposals so they can comment on these. Pam Powis confirmed that they were preparing a briefing paper for the Cabinet Member, and this would be shared with the Committee as early as possible. The Community Safety Partnership Annual Report will be programmed, and this most likely will be an item for December 2023.

Domestic Abuse

- Members thought this should be an item on the agenda at the same time as the Community Safety Partnership Annual Report.

Youth Justice Plan

- This used to be under the remit of the Education and Children’s Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This is to provide the Committee with an opportunity to discuss the draft plan in July, before it goes to Cabinet, and then Full Council in September 2023.

Bereavement Service

- Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be looking at this in July 2023 and this will be followed up by this Committee.

Delays in Birth and Death Registrations

- Members thought this should be an item on the agenda at the same time as the Bereavement Service.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee:

- Noted the information set out in Appendices 1 – 3 and identified a menu of topics for the Committee to explore over the coming year.
- Confirmed, subject to further input from the Chair and Deputy Chair outside of the meeting, items for the Committee meeting in July:
 - Youth Justice Plan and fly-tipping enforcement (a position paper to be prepared by Darren Share).
- Agreed the issues that the Committee will consider during September – October 2023, the proposed aims and objectives and the preferred method of scrutiny.
 - September: cleaner streets, and localisation.
 - October: bereavement, and delays in birth and death registrations.

- December: domestic abuse and Community Safety Partnership Annual Report.
- Noted that a draft work programme will be presented to the Committee meeting in July for consideration and approval.
- Noted, subject to further input from the Chair and Deputy Chair outside of the meeting, its proposed work programme will be submitted to Co-ordinating O&S to enable work to be planned and co-ordinated throughout the year.
- The following to be provided:
 - The cleaner streets paper, and recommendations made to the Cabinet Member to be e-mailed to the Committee.
 - Officers to report back on how the Council can measure how localisation is having an impact and is making improvements to services (localisation is an item for the committee meeting in September 2023).
 - The Commonwealth Games Legacy Framework to be e-mailed to Members.
 - A copy of the briefing paper for the Cabinet Member regarding the Community Safety Partnership review day to be e-mailed to the Committee.

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

None.

12. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

13. SCHEDULE OF MEETING DATES FOR COMMITTEE MEETING AND SCRUTINY WORK

Amelia Wiltshire confirmed that where possible 'requests for call-in' would be considered at a committee meeting, rather than an additional meeting being scheduled.

RESOLVED:

- Noted the scheduled dates for 2023/24 on the following Wednesday at 1400 hours: 5 July 2023, 6 September 2023, 4 October 2023, 1 November 2023, 6 December 2023, 10 January 2024, 7 February 2024, 6 March 2024, and 10 April 2024.

- Approved Wednesdays at 1400 hours as a suitable day and time each week for any additional meetings required to consider 'requests for call-in which may be lodged in respect of Executive decisions.

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 15.02 hours.