



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL HELD
ON TUESDAY 5 DECEMBER 2017 AT 1400 HOURS IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT:- Lord Mayor (Councillor Anne Underwood) in the Chair

Councillors

Muhammed Afzal	Peter Douglas Osborn	Mike Leddy
Uzma Ahmed	Barbara Dring	Bruce Lines
Mohammed Aikhlaq	Neil Eustace	John Lines
Deirdre Alden	Mohammed Fazal	Keith Linnecor
John Alden	Des Flood	Mary Locke
Robert Alden	Jayne Francis	Ewan Mackey
Tahir Ali	Matthew Gregson	Majid Mahmood
Sue Anderson	Carole Griffiths	James McKay
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Peter Griffiths	Gareth Moore
Mohammed Azim	Paulette Hamilton	Yvonne Mosquito
Susan Barnett	Andrew Hardie	Brett O'Reilly
David Barrie	Roger Harmer	John O'Shea
Bob Beauchamp	Kath Hartley	David Pears
Matt Bennett	Barry Henley	Robert Pocock
Kate Booth	Des Hughes	Victoria Quinn
Steve Booton	Jon Hunt	Chauhdry Rashid
Sir Albert Bore	Mahmood Hussain	Carl Rice
Randal Brew	Shabrana Hussain	Fergus Robinson
Marje Bridle	Timothy Huxtable	Gary Sambrook
Mick Brown	Mohammed Idrees	Rob Sealey
Alex Buchanan	Zafar Iqbal	Sybil Spence
Andy Cartwright	Ziaul Islam	Ron Storer
Tristan Chatfield	Morriam Jan	Martin Straker Welds
Zaker Choudhry	Kerry Jenkins	Sharon Thompson
Debbie Clancy	Meirion Jenkins	Paul Tilsley
Liz Clements	Simon Jevon	Lisa Trickett
Lynda Clinton	Brigid Jones	Margaret Waddington
Lyn Collin	Carol Jones	Ian Ward
Maureen Cornish	Josh Jones	Mike Ward
John Cotton	Nagina Kauser	Fiona Williams
Ian Cruise	Tony Kennedy	Ken Wood
Basharat Dad	Changese Khan	Alex Yip
Phil Davis	Chaman Lal	Waseem Zaffar
Diane Donaldson		

NOTICE OF RECORDING

- 18925 The Lord Mayor advised that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcasting via the Council's internet site and that members of the Press/Public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

The Lord Mayor reminded Members that they did not enjoy Parliamentary Privilege in relation to debates in the Chamber and Members should be careful in what they say during all debates that afternoon

MINUTES

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and –

- 18926 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the City Council held on 7 November 2017, having been printed and a copy sent to each Member of the Council, be taken as read and confirmed and signed.

LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commonwealth Games

- 18927 The Lord Mayor indicated that agenda items 11 and 13 (Public and Private) relating to the Commonwealth Games 2022 had been withdrawn from the agenda for today's meeting which would conclude at 1900 hours.
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PETITIONS

Petitions Relating to City Council Functions Presented at the Meeting

The following petitions were presented:-

(See document No 1)

In accordance with the proposals by the Members presenting the petitions, it was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and -

- 18928 **RESOLVED:-**

That the petitions be received and referred to the relevant Chief Officers.

Petitions Relating to external organisations Presented at the Meeting

The following petitions was presented:-

(See document No 2)

In accordance with the proposals by the Member presenting the petitions, it was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and -

18929 **RESOLVED:-**

That the petitions be received and referred to the relevant Organisation.

Petitions Update

The following Petitions Update was submitted:-

(See document No 3)

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and -

18930 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Petitions Update be noted and those petitions for which a satisfactory response has been received, be discharged.

QUESTION TIME

18931 The Council proceeded to consider Oral Questions in accordance with Standing Order 9

Details of the questions asked are available for public inspection via the Webcast.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

Following nominations it was -

18932 **RESOLVED:-**

That the following person be appointed until the Annual Meeting of the City Council in 2018 as set below:-

<u>Body</u>	<u>Representative</u>
<u>Corporate Resources and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee</u>	Councillor Meirion Jenkins to replace Councillor David Barrie for the remainder of the 2017/2018 Municipal Year.

EXEMPTION FROM STANDING ORDERS

It was moved by Councillor Diane Donaldson, seconded and

18933 **RESOLVED:-**

That, pursuant to CBM Committee discussions, Standing Orders be waived as follows:-

- Allocate 30 minutes for item 8 (Children's Social Care and Education: Improvement and Challenges)
- Reduce the time for item 9 (Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees) to 30 minutes"

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE AND EDUCATION: IMPROVEMENT AND CHALLENGES

The following report of the Improvement Quartet: Leader, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and School, Chief Executive and Corporate Director Children and Young People was submitted:-

(See document No 4)

Councillor Carl Rice moved the motion which was seconded.

A debate ensued.

Councillor Carl Rice replied to the debate.

The Motion having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

It was therefore -

18934 **RESOLVED:-**

The Council welcomes and notes progress in children's social care and in education, and notes progress on the voluntary trust arrangement for children's services.

REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Partnership Working: BCC and Parish/Town Councils

The following report of the Corporate Resources and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee together with a commentary from the Executive was submitted:-

(See document No 5)

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Councillor Mohammed Aikhlaq in moving the motion indicated that following further discussions he wished to change the dates February 2018 in recommendations R01 and R02 to March 2018. The amended Motion was seconded by Councillor Randal Brew.

In accordance with Council Standing Orders, Councillors Ewan Mackey and Andy Cartwright gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No 6)

Councillor Ewan Mackey moved the amendment, which was seconded by Councillor Andy Cartwright.

A debate ensued.

Councillor Mohammed Aikhlaq replied to the debate.

The amendment having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

The Motion as amended by the Chair and the amendment having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

It was therefore -

18935 **RESOLVED:-**

That recommendations R01 to R15 as amended below be approved, and that the Executive be requested to pursue their implementation.

R01 and R02 Completion date February 2018 to read March 2018

R04 to be replaced with

“That a Cabinet lead and named officer are nominated to work with RSCTC and NFIBPC to put in place to deliver on projects that are currently with BCC. In the case of RSCTC this comprises various projects that are in excess of £1m in value where funding has been approved and is included with the RSCTC budget for 2017/18”

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and

18936 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Council be adjourned until 1700 hours on this day.

The Council then adjourned at 1623 hours.

At 1700 hours the Council resumed at the point where the meeting had been adjourned.

MOTIONS FOR DEBATE FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

The Council proceeded to consider the Motions of which notice had been given in accordance with Standing Order 4(1).

A. Councillors Jon Hunt and Roger Harmer have given notice of the following Motion:-

(See document No 7)

Councillor Jon Hunt moved the Motion, which was seconded by Councillor Roger Harmer.

In accordance with Council Standing Orders, Councillors Randal Brew and Debbie Clancy gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No 8)

Councillor Randal Brew moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Debbie Clancy.

In accordance with Council Standing Orders, Councillors John O'Shea and Sharon Thompson gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No 9)

Councillor John O'Shea moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Sharon Thompson.

During the moving of the Motion and Amendments suggestions were made on how they could be amended to reach a common position but no agreement was reached.

A debate ensued.

During the debate Councillor Debbie Clancy rose on a point of order to seek the withdrawal of a comment made by Councillor Bret O'Reilly which suggested that she had celebrated the rise in crime in the local area as this was not the case. Councillor Brett O'Reilly indicated that he had used the word 'almost'.

Councillor Diane Donaldson sought to move 'That the question be now put' but the Lord Mayor indicated that she would take the last speaker who wished to speak.

Councillor Jon Hunt replied to the debate during which he sought confirmation that the amendment from Councillor John O'Shea would have the word 'failed' removed from the second sentence. Councillor O'Shea confirmed that the amendment could be amended in that way.

The first amendment having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be lost.

Here upon a poll being demanded the voting, with names listed in seat number order, was as follows:-

(See document No 10)

NB The documents have been amended to show that Councillor Mike Leddy who was deputising for the Deputy Lord Mayor had voted and not the Deputy Lord Mayor as indicated in the document.

The total results referred to in the interleave read:-

Yes – 34 (For the amendment);

No – 56 (Against the amendment);

Abstain – 0 (Abstentions).

The second amendment with the word 'failed' deleted having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

The Motion as amended having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

Here upon a poll being demanded the voting, with names listed in seat number order, was as follows:-

(See document No 11)

NB The documents have been amended to show that Councillor Mike Leddy who was deputising for the Deputy Lord Mayor had voted and not the Deputy Lord Mayor as indicated in the document. Councillor Lisa Trickett should be shown as having voted yes instead of no as indicated in the document.

The total results referred to in the interleave read:-

Yes – 65 (For the Motion);

No – 0 (Against the Motion);

Abstain – 0 (Abstentions).

It was therefore -

18937 **RESOLVED:-**

Council notes with concern the pressures on neighbourhood policing and high levels of public dissatisfaction with community policing presence and with the 101 phone service.

Council further notes with concern the increase in youth offending reported in the recent Youth Justice Strategic Plan, a 13.7% increase in first-time offenders over 12 months.

Council recalls that the concept and practice of community policing was pioneered in the Handsworth district of our city in the last century.

Council believes that a strong and positive police presence in our communities and neighbourhoods is vital for prevention of crime of all kinds, for maintaining the safety and wellbeing of the city and for the cohesion of our diverse city.

Council regrets the continuing decline in officer numbers in West Midlands Police. This has been caused by the policy of austerity which began under the Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition government (2010-2015). Since 2010, West Midlands Police has lost over £145m and more than 2,000 police officers. We commend the officers and staff of West Midlands Police for their perseverance at a time when there are major pressures, which are both financial and arising from significant threats to public safety.

Council therefore resolves:-

1. to take all opportunities to lobby Government for support, financial and practical, for enhanced neighbourhood policing;
 2. to convey its concerns to the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner and the Mayor of the West Midlands;
 3. to request the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel to conduct an investigation into how neighbourhood policing can be sustained, with particular reference to:-
 - a) the potential for enhancing the role of PCSOs in engaging neighbourhoods;
 - b) the question of the public accessibility of the police; and
 - c) the role of the 101 service in handling public inquiries.
 4. to call on the Government, in the Police Grant Settlement this month, to stop the cuts to West Midlands Police's budget. The first duty of any government is the safety and security of its citizens. Any further cuts will put the public in Birmingham at risk.
-

Councillors Paulette Hamilton and Jayne Francis have given notice of the following Motion:-

(See document No 12)

Councillor Paulette Hamilton moved the Motion, which was seconded by Councillor Jayne Francis.

A debate ensued.

Councillor Paulette Hamilton replied to the debate.

The Motion having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

It was therefore –

18938 **RESOLVED:-**

Birmingham City Council notes that:

- There are growing concerns about the harassment of women attending the Marie Stopes Birmingham Centre on Arthur Road, Edgbaston.
- Women seeking pregnancy terminations are being targeted by pro-life protestors and this street harassment is a form of sexism against women.
- Independent research for the British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS) has shown that the intimidation and distress felt by the women is also linked to women's broader experiences in public spaces.
- While the distress caused is clear, the efficacy of such protests is not. The number of women who decide to continue their pregnancy after contacting an abortion clinic does not change whether or not there are anti-abortion activists outside.

The council acknowledges that those with deeply held beliefs will continue to campaign against abortion. However it is inappropriate to further this debate by targeting women outside healthcare providers.

Women in Birmingham have a right to make healthcare decisions privately and should be able to access pregnancy termination services without hindrance.

The right to protest must be balanced with the right of pregnant women to choose and to obtain advice and treatment in confidence and free from intimidation.

Furthermore, staff at all women's health clinics should be protected from bullying and intimidation at their place of work.

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Those who wish to campaign to restrict women's reproductive choices have plenty of opportunities and locations in which to do so. The area outside a clinic need not and should not be one of them.

The council therefore resolves to:

- Uphold the right of women to seek advice from health services and make difficult decisions on pregnancy terminations free from intimidation and harassment.
 - Work with other local authorities dealing with this issue to fully explore all options to prevent protestors from intimidating and harassing women outside women's health clinics in the city.
 - Take steps to protect the privacy of staff, patients and nearby residents.
-

The meeting ended at 1836 hours.

APPENDIX

Questions and replies in accordance with Standing Order 9(A).

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL TILSLEY

A1 Refunds for uncollected refuse

Question:

Will the Leader of the Council reconsider his response to the issue of refunds for uncollected refuse during the industrial action?

His refusal at the last Council meeting was on the basis that refunds were not given during the last strike in 2011. There is a major flaw in his response; Labour's strike lasted 3 months against 3 weeks 6 years ago. Please reconsider.

Answer:

The flaw in this question is that this is about a principle, not timescales.

The Council will not reduce or refund Council Tax on the basis that refuse collections have been missed. Council Tax is a statutory tax paying for a range of local services and facilities all year round, not only refuse and recycling. It is not paid to fund a particular service and there is a legal obligation to pay.

The gross cost of services provided by Birmingham City Council amounts to just over £3 billion per annum, of which just under 10% (around £271 million) is funded by Council Tax.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
RON STORER**

A2 David Lock QC

Question:

At the last Council meeting, your response to written question A29 was ‘waiting for response from Kate.’ Are you still waiting or can you now answer the question?

Answer:

Please accept my apologies for the delay in providing this information to you. Due to an oversight and the volume of questions we were dealing with in November, an earlier version of the answer was circulated in error.

To answer your original question, the total amount spent on barristers for the last three full years and year to date per Directorate / service area is as follows:

Directorate	2014/15 Value (£)	2015/16 Value (£)	2016/17 Value (£)	2017/18(to date) Value (£)
Change & support	280,089	338,984	235,379	129,397
Corporate Resources	55,845	-----	-----	2,930
Economy	184,449	53,399	107,383	62,400
Finance	66,750	82,774	139,226	98,984
People-Adults	100,405	673,110	79,586	32,180
People - Children	634,770	1,110,931	1,563,367	745,672
People-Education	104,987	254,113	121,674	75,033
Place	660,029	589,443	681,870	770,735
Total	2,087,324	3,102,754	2,928,486	1,917,331

The part of your question regarding the nature of the work is not as easily accessible. I would therefore suggest that you contact the City Solicitor and the Legal Services Practice Manager who would be happy to meet with you and take you through the detailed information.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
ALEX YIP**

A3 David Lock QC

Question:

At the last Council meeting, in a response to an Oral Question, you stated that the Council was still considering what to do with the invoice received from David Lock QC for legal advice given to the former Leader and that you did not know how much the invoice was for. Are you now able to provide a fuller update?

Answer:

This is a matter for the City Solicitor. She is currently looking into this issue. I am advised some progress will be made shortly.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
MEIRION JENKINS**

A4 Risk Exposure

Question:

The list of previous staff suggestions for budget savings not taken forward in 2016, includes one relating to setting up a Municipal Bank. The Council's response to that suggestion was that it would not be taken forward because 'Setting up a new bank would result in greater financial risks to the Council and extensive involvement in areas which are not part of its core activity.' As a point of principle would you agree that the Council should not expose itself to significant financial risks in areas which are not part of its core activity?

Answer:

No, the Council would need to think very carefully before committing itself to significant financial risks, but this needs to be considered on a case by case basis as it will depend on the reward/risk ratio.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
PETER DOUGLAS OSBORNE**

A5 JNC Exit Payments Total

Question:

Since 2012 what has been the total cost of exit payments made to employees in JNC posts who have left the Authority?

Answer:

The JNC Officers' Exit Package Costs since 2012 are as follows:

	£000	
2012-13	421.0	
2013-14	1,057.4	
2014-15	611.2	
2015-16	2,132.9	
2016-17	1,655.2	
2017-18	344.3	to November 2017
Total	6,222.0	

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
DEBBIE CLANCY**

A6 JNC Costs

Question:

**For each year since 2012 to now what was the total cost of the JNC paybill
(including on costs but excluding exit payments)**

Answer:

The table below sets out the paybill for JNC officers. It excludes exit packages, but includes pension and national insurance on costs.

JNC Officers Paybill

	£000	
2012-13	8,789.0	
2013-14	8,255.7	
2014-15	7,869.1	
2015-16	8,164.7	
2016-17	8,375.7	
2017-18	5,423.3	to November 2017
Total	46,877.5	

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
MAUREEN CORNISH**

A7 JNC Exit Payments

Question:

For all people who have left a JNC post with the City Council since 2012, how many have left under compromise agreements or any other form of enhanced exit payment?

Answer:

Since April 2012, 49 employees have left JNC posts of which 27 x JNC officers have left the organisation by way of a settlement agreement - this could have been as a result of a number of employment related reasons, including performance, disciplinary, compulsory and voluntary redundancy.

A number of JNC employees also left by reason of Retirement. Where employees have reached the age of 55 years and their role is selected for redundancy, the current legislation entitles these employees to access their pension on an unreduced basis. The Council will still therefore be responsible for any pension strain as a result of the employee retiring early. This would be regarded as an enhanced exit payment.

Payments of the above would also include annual leave and notice.

Other employees left by way of resignation without any enhanced packages.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
MATT BENNETT**

A8 JNC Interims

Question:

For each year since 2012 to now what proportion of JNC posts were occupied by interim employees?

Answer:

Accurate records on the usage of interims within the JNC cadre are only available over the past 12 months. Over this period, on average there were circa 16 interims operating at JNC level, which is circa 27% of this senior leadership group during that period.

In January 2015, I agreed that a formal governance process should be applied in respect of all JNC appointments, including appointments to Interim JNC posts. The JNC Core Panel now approves the appointment of all JNC posts whether permanent or interim. This is now in compliance with the Local Government Act 1972, s 101.

Prior to this and for the entire period 2004 to 2012 no formal process existed.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
BOB BEAUCHAMP**

A9 JNC Additions

Question:

How many JNC posts are currently planned to be added (on either a permanent or interim basis) within the next 12 months?

Answer:

There are currently no plans to add to the JNC establishment over the next 12 months.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
DAVID BARRIE**

A10 JNC Numbers

Question:

For each year since 2012 to now how many JNC posts did the Council have in place for that year?

Answer:

The total number of JNC posts since 2012 (including the Coroner) is as follows:

2012 - 76
2013 - 70
2014 - 61
2015 - 59
2016 - 69
2017 – 61

Interestingly, the numbers for the 3 years prior to 2012 were as follows:

2009 – 80
2010 – 92
2011 - 98

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
JOHN ALDEN**

A11 JNC Review

Question:

When was the JNC review, which was promised as part of the overall review of staff terms and conditions, concluded (or when will it be) and what was the outcome (or latest position)?

Answer:

A review of the JNC Pay and Grading arrangements was completed at the end of 2016 and was reported to Council Business Management Committee in December 2016. The review was undertaken to deliver a new pay and grading structure that was aligned with the vision for future JNC officers and provided the flexibility to both attract and retain the capabilities required to deliver the vision of the of the future council.

The review implemented a revised cost-neutral pay and grading framework that reduced the number of pay grades from 10 to 4 and applied a nationally recognised Job Evaluation Scheme. The eschewing contractual changes took effect on 1st April 2017.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR JOHN ALDEN**

B1 Staff Conferences

Question:

For each year since 2012, how much has been spent annually on conference trips for staff (including travel and subsistence as well as any conference fees themselves)?

Answer:

We do not hold information at the level where we can split travel and subsistence claimed by employees attending conferences from total spend.

However, we do hold data on conference fees. The expenditure over the period is:

2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18 to date
£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
0.8	0.7	0.6	n/a	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2

I have also included the same information for the 5 years prior to 2012, for comparison. In 2010/11, it was identified that conference fees for external payroll clients were posted in error to the same account as fees for conferences attended by council employees. Therefore I have excluded this year.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY**

B2 Integrated Support Services

Question:

Of the total number of staff originally identified as 'in scope' for the Integrated Support Services redesign, how many have now actually been integrated within the consolidated service?

Answer:

Between 30th September 2017 and 27th November 2017, 562 people have transferred into Strategic Services from Economy, Adults, CYP and Place Directorates.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR EWAN MACKEY**

B3 FOM

Question:

Since inception, how much has been spent in total on delivery of the Future Operating Model change programme?

Answer:

The Future Operating Model was a framework of principles related to the shape of the future organisation, set out as part of the Council of the Future Programme.

Many of the restructuring being done as part of the Council's savings exercise are being done on the principles of the Future Operating Model. There are no specific costs attached to implementing the model, apart from the usual costs of change management related to, for example, office moves, technology configuration etc.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR RANDAL BREW**

B4 Employer Pension Contributions

Question:

For each Grade (including both NJC and JNC) what is the percentage employer contribution for the pension scheme?

Answer:

Birmingham City Council employees could be in one of 3 pension schemes:

- Local Government Pension scheme – current employers' rate is 15.3%. However, there is a composite rate of 30.4% which is made up of the 15.3% for future service and 15.1% to cover a £63.9m deficit recovery
- Teachers' Pension Scheme – current employers' rate 16.48%
- NHS pension scheme – current employers' rate – 14.38%

The employers' rates do not vary dependant on grade, but are the same across all pay scales. The employees' contributions, however, are based on their salary.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR ROBERT ALDEN**

B5 Remote Working

Question:

How many staff currently work remotely for a day or more per week (broken down by the number of days)

Answer:

We do not seek to record the number of hours that are spent by Council employees working remotely. There are however systems in place to ensure that all employees that are remote working record and report their hours to their line managers and that they are performing to the standards and levels required of all comparable employees.

Agile working (which can include remote working) is used across the Council where there is a business case to do so. In some instances this will be occasional, or for one-off scenarios to suit business need, and for others it will be part of an employee's regular working arrangements.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR GARETH MOORE

B6 IT Costs

Question:

For each year since 2012, how much did the Council spend on IT equipment each year?

Answer:

It is assumed that “IT equipment” refers to laptops and desktops.

It is not possible to give a single, accurate figure for this total spend each year. More accurate information could be produced with a longer time line but would have some caveats.

Costs for IT equipment bought through:

The refresh programme

Agreement to spend is provided by Cabinet. The refresh programme has been operational since 2014 and the amount spent is £842,343.

Exceptional Spend

Directorate spend on device repairs or replacement due to damage has been tracked since 2016, however more time would be required to provide a total view.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES
AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL EUSTACE**

C1 Children - secondary places

Question:

How many children in the Yardley constituency have not taken up a secondary place since September 2017, therefore are not being educated?

Answer:

I can confirm that 29 children in the Yardley Constituency were without a school place at the beginning of September 2017, but all had previously received at least one offer of a school place.

Since September, officers of the council have worked hard to ensure, where appropriate, that parents understood their responsibilities as regards the schooling and education of their children.

Subsequently, I can confirm that 25 of the aforementioned 29 children are now attending school. Of the 4 children remaining, 1 child is being electively home educated, 2 have left the city, and the only child remaining out of school has a school start date of 4 December 2017 following a change of home address.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES & SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR LYN COLLIN

C2 FGM

Question:

Specifically which communities (and community groups) is the Cabinet Member currently working with to raise the awareness of FGM in order to help victims and their families in Birmingham?

Answer:

This response covers current activity primarily in the Children's Service and outlines work undertaken thorough West Midlands FGM taskforce and work with AFRUCA.

The West Midlands FGM Taskforce was established by Stephen Rimmer, the former Preventing Violence against Vulnerable People strategic lead. The taskforce has generally met on a monthly basis between the summer of 2015 and October 2016 and thereafter met in January, April and November 2017. However it is important to note that there have been , in addition, other meetings outside of the above, to develop integrated working across the region with the remit to:

- A) Develop procedures, such as a clear and consistent common FGM risk assessment
- B) Build understanding and data on prevalence of FGM
- C) Develop clarity about information sharing
- D) Develop guidelines to ensure that when a girl is born to a mother who has undergone FGM that appropriate steps are taken to ensure the family are made aware that it is both illegal to perform FGM and causes unnecessary pain and suffering
- E) Explore potential for civil remedies (such as FGM protection orders)
- F) Develop any other key issues identified within this report, which require collective drive and consistency across the West Midlands.

The taskforce has remained multi-agency and has representatives from both Statutory and Voluntary organisations. Members have been leads for their sector and as part of this role, to disseminate information and to feed in progress and developments.

Under the heading of community engagement, the task force has identified that working with communities is a key to prevent and end the practice of FGM. Previously the taskforce has distributed a survey to various partners to identify services and provision across the region. This complemented the work of the West Midlands PCC Office, who developed a directory of provision. Additionally, there was also feedback from a number of community events, which were funded by the West Midlands PCC Office and the Victims' Commission, which continues to be progressed. This information has

informed the work of this Taskforce, which is of the opinion that engagement with communities should be embedded within schools and educational establishments, and early help and prevention initiatives across the region, inclusive of statutory and third sector organisations.

Events held during 2017 include:-

On the 30th of June young people aged 10 – 16 from across Birmingham supported by staff from local community groups, West Midlands Police and NHS delivered an event at Birmingham New Street Station, to raise awareness of and to prevent FGM. This has been supported by a social media campaign utilising a number of channels and platforms.

Birmingham NHS and CCG, working alongside the third sector, have accessed funding to develop an FGM Support and Referral Service for a prospective FGM City Wide provision. This programme will be evaluated and its aims are to improve awareness of FGM within general practice and support identification, referral and recording of FGM, utilising pathways to Childrens Services, which ensure the emotional health and well-being of victims and survivors is addressed. It also aims to build trust within prevalent communities through services for those affected by FGM.

Training has also been delivered as part of Board members' roles. For example, in Birmingham the taskforce chair, Hazel Pulley, delivered training to Designated Safeguarding Leads, as well as sharing the FGM resource pack for use in schools.

West Midlands Police – Internal and external messaging, which includes posters, pop ups, social media, community support etc. In addition to support at conferences including an event hosted by Birmingham Against FGM, which was held in February 2017 and was accessed by approximately 180 multi-agency partners, from the statutory and the third sector.

Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) delivered 20 face to face half day FGM training to 560 delegates during 2016/17.

In line with FGM guidance, Birmingham has a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) lead for FGM, currently Lorna Scarlett, Assistant Director within Children's Service.

FGM is primarily an issue for communities from East and West Africa and from some parts of the Middle East. Children's are supporting and working in partnership with AFRUCA, Africans Unite against Child Abuse which is an African-led charity working to promote the rights and welfare of African children in the UK. It was established in 2001 as a platform advocating for the rights and welfare of African children in the UK. AFRUCA works directly with children, families and communities, undertakes research with local communities, provides training in schools, and trains/develops FGM champions for young people/communities. AFRUCA works in the following five key areas:

- Awareness raising and sensitisation
- Information, education and advisory services
- Advocacy and policy development
- Community and international development

- Support for children, young people and families

AFRUCA has been awarded a three year grant by the Big Lottery Fund, commencing in 2016 and ending in December 2018, with the aim to reduce risk and vulnerability to African children, and subsequently reducing the risk of becoming involved in the child protection and care systems. AFRUCA will deliver work around safeguarding, and improving parenting practices amongst black African families and communities. It will work in partnership with faith and community groups, and schools to deliver and implement child protection programmes in the West Midlands. The project will focus on Birmingham, Coventry and Stoke-on-Trent.

The project delivers child protection training programmes with a specific focus on cultural and religious practices that can harm children, and conduct specialist forums for parents to support them in gaining new skills to support children and prevent abuse.

There will be two strands to this project in Birmingham. Strand 1 will consist of direct advice and support to black African families. This will involve facilitating and promoting positive parenting practices - supporting parents involved in the child protection process, and facilitating parental engagement with Children's Services, including contact with extended family networks. Strand 2 will involve offering consultative advice to social workers, family support workers and managers who require advice on cases involving African families. The outcomes for the project are:

- Support families involved with Children's Services, enabling them to identify practices that are harmful to children, develop positive parenting practices, and keep their children safe.
- Support family members, including extended family, to engage positively with Children's Services.
- Support frontline practitioners, by offering general one-off advice on practice issues relating to African families.

Comprehensive, FGM training is offered through BSCB. More recently, we have offered specialist FGM training delivered by AFRUCA to staff at our front door, CASS, and to area FGM champions.

If Councillor Collin would like to, I would be happy to arrange for her to receive a briefing directly from the officer leading on this work.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,
RECYCLING AND THE ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ALEX YIP**

D1 Commuter Journeys

Question:

How many projected commuter journeys are related to council staff each day, and associated emissions?

Answer:

Journeys

As of 28 November 2017, BCC staff (excluding school, casual, sessional and external) numbered 11,621.01 FTE, with a head count of 13,494. With agile working and annual leave, there will not be a commute associated with every FTE every day, so 11,621 two-way trips should be considered a maximum.

Emissions

To calculate the associated emissions is a complex task, requiring data on mode of travel, distance travelled and vehicle type, fuel used and age. In addition, many people's journey to work has other parts, such as dropping children at nursery or school. There are also a number of emission types to consider: most notably NO_x, particulates and CO₂.

The most recent BCC staff travel survey was undertaken in 2009. Since then there have been considerable changes to the workforce and to our central administrative buildings, to the extent that extrapolating from that data would be largely meaningless.

As part of the work on Air Quality, it is our intention to undertake further work in this area, to refresh the council's travel plan and to further encourage staff to choose sustainable modes for the journeys to work.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,
RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT FROM CLLR SUE ANDERSON**

D2 No recycling from refuse bags

Question:

It has been suggested that households that have their refuse collected in bags rather than bins do not get recycling services. What happens to the recycling that many of these households conscientiously put out in boxes?

Answer:

Households that have their refuse collected in bags rather than wheelie bins do receive recycling services. Crews that service properties with wheelie bins also collect from those properties that remain on a sack and box collection service. The recycling that many of these households conscientiously put out is handled and processed in the same manner as other recycling and contributes to the overall city recycling figure.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,
RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT FROM CLLR ZAKER CHOUDHRY**

D3 Latest recycling figures

Question:

Could the cabinet member list the latest recycling figures by ward?

Answer:

PERCENTAGE KERBSIDE RECYCLING for - OCT09/10/2017 - 15/10/2017							
WEEK STARTING MONDAY	09/10/2017	16/10/2017	23/10/2017	30/10/2017	06/11/2017	13/11/2017	6 WEEK PERIOD
Acocks Green	18%	36%	31%	30%	30%	29%	29%
Aston	12%	16%	19%	14%	18%	14%	16%
Bartley Green	22%	3%	33%	3%	33%	4%	18%
Billesley	26%	1%	34%	1%	39%	3%	20%
Bordesley Green	9%	15%	14%	15%	14%	15%	13%
Bournville	7%	31%	12%	25%	12%	28%	20%
Brandwood	9%	26%	15%	23%	15%	22%	18%
Edgbaston	0%	37%	0%	34%	0%	36%	21%
Erdington	20%	18%	26%	13%	28%	17%	21%
Hall Green	7%	22%	13%	19%	13%	14%	15%
Handsworth Wood	19%	8%	27%	9%	32%	10%	18%
Harborne	3%	37%	4%	34%	5%	36%	23%
Hodge Hill	10%	14%	17%	13%	16%	12%	14%
Kings Norton	7%	29%	13%	25%	10%	29%	19%
Kingstanding	15%	16%	24%	16%	25%	17%	19%
Ladywood	2%	27%	3%	28%	3%	28%	16%
Longbridge	0%	38%	0%	31%	0%	35%	20%
Lozells & East Handsworth	14%	17%	19%	20%	21%	21%	19%
Moseley & Kings Heath	12%	17%	16%	17%	17%	16%	16%
Nechells	8%	21%	14%	18%	13%	18%	15%
Northfield	19%	8%	29%	7%	27%	8%	17%
Oscott	14%	19%	21%	17%	23%	18%	18%
Perry Barr	13%	22%	20%	23%	22%	21%	20%
Quinton	22%	2%	37%	1%	35%	3%	19%
Selly Oak	21%	11%	30%	10%	28%	11%	19%
Shard End	8%	19%	17%	15%	17%	16%	15%
Sheldon	6%	19%	11%	17%	12%	16%	13%
Soho	13%	14%	20%	12%	20%	12%	15%
South Yardley	12%	17%	23%	13%	22%	13%	17%
Sparkbrook	7%	11%	21%	10%	20%	11%	14%
Springfield	7%	20%	10%	19%	10%	21%	15%
Stechford	7%	19%	11%	19%	12%	19%	15%
Stockland Green	7%	27%	10%	26%	13%	29%	19%
Sutton Four Oaks	7%	29%	15%	23%	15%	26%	19%
Sutton New Hall	6%	29%	12%	28%	12%	29%	20%
Sutton Trinity	14%	16%	18%	20%	22%	19%	18%
Sutton Vesey	13%	20%	21%	21%	23%	21%	20%
Tyburn	9%	23%	15%	26%	17%	27%	20%
Washwood Heath	6%	14%	14%	13%	13%	14%	12%
Weoley Castle	2%	33%	3%	31%	4%	32%	20%

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,
RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT FROM CLLR JON HUNT**

D4 Grade 2 collects-Grade 3 public engagement

Question:

According to the latest waste management service proposals, agreed by cabinet on 24th November, grade 3s working with refuse collection crews will be responsible for significant public engagement as “waste reduction and collection officers.” Does this mean that a single grade 2 worker will be responsible for collecting the refuse while the grade 3 talks to householders, bearing in mind that conversations of this kind can be quite lengthy?

Answer:

The intent is to have a crew that reflects the needs of the area. On occasions there may be two Grade 2 Loaders and a third Grade 3 on the crew to maintain productivity.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,
RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT FROM CLLR ROGER HARMER**

D5 Food recycling contradiction

Question:

In her response to question D2 at the last Council meeting, the cabinet member said she had not “ruled out” a local trial of food recycling. However, in her response to D16, she stated that cabinet had approved the new Waste Strategy on 3rd October. As this strategy explicitly rules out the introduction of food waste recycling, could the cabinet member explain the apparent contradiction?

Answer:

The response to question D16 sought to explain why the options appraisal process did not support the introduction of a city-wide food waste collection service on the grounds of value for money.

However, a strategy covering a period of 25 years needs to be flexible and does state that in the future an approach of ‘one size fits all’ will not necessarily deliver the best outcomes for how we manage our waste across the city.

Where appropriate, trialling new ways of collecting a range of different waste streams may help identify more cost effective solutions in the medium to long-term.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,
RECYCLING AND THE ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT ALDEN**

D6 Early Morning Wake-up call

Question:

**During what hours will the new WRCO officers be undertaking their duties to
'engage with residents' on recycling?**

Answer:

The hours will reflect the needs and requirements of the specific areas.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,
RECYLCING AND THE ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR BOB BEAUCHAMP**

D7 Health and Safety on Bin Trucks 2

Question:

What changes, if any, does the agreement with Unite make to the health and safety procedures currently in operation? E.g. number of bins carried at one time.

Answer:

We will be reviewing the safer working practices to assess the efficacy of operatives pulling two bins, which would increase efficiency and productivity.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,
RECYCLING AND THE ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN ALDEN**

D8 Health and Safety on Bin Trucks

Question:

Unite's Howard Beckett claimed during the bin dispute that 'health and safety' was the single 'red line' issue for his members. How does the agreement Cabinet struck with Unite to end the dispute protect the health and safety of bin operatives and the public, in particular any additional measures required to be put in place to compensate for the absence of the former 'Leading Hands' from working directly behind the lorries when undertaking their new 'educational' responsibilities with the public (e.g. when knocking on residents' doors)?

Answer:

Safe working practices are of paramount importance to the Council and the Trade Unions. We will continue to ensure that all practices and methods of working fully comply with legal requirements.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,
RECYLCING AND THE ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR GARY SAMBROOK**

D9 Garden Waste Transaction Cost

Question:

**What is the cost per transaction of administering the garden waste charge?
(broken down by payment method accepted)**

Answer:

Unfortunately it is not possible to calculate and apportion any of the hardware, software and support resources which are provided by ServiceBirmingham directly for the administration of the garden waste service, as this is part of the wider support package which relates to the whole of Waste Management and the services it provides.

We are however able to breakdown how much each transaction costs excluding the Service Birmingham resources, which are as follows broken down by whether the order is placed via our website or through our contact centre via the telephone. All transactions are made by debit / credit card as it is the only payment method accepted.

- Orders made via the website = £0.35
- Orders made via the telephone = £3.46

The above charges are a per transaction cost not a per unit cost, and includes charges to World Pay who process our card payments; the cost of resources within waste management to route collections for the 20 weeks of the service; and where appropriate the average charge per telephone call to our contact centre. But it does not include other costs associated with the administration of the charge such as the issuing of renewal letters.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,
RECYCLING AND THE ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY**

D10 HECA REPORTS

Question:

Can you provide a copy of the City Council's three Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Reports that were required to be produced every two years since 2013 (therefore being due March 2013, March 2015 and March 2017) and also clarify where these reports are made available for public consumption?

Answer:

BCC has not produced its HECA report since its 2012-13 submission. The Council was reliant external funding and on the Energy Saving Trust acting on behalf of the Council and its contractors Carillion, who were engaged through the Birmingham Energy Savers (BES) Team which was working to deliver retrofit initiatives to housing properties across the city at the time, to produce these reports.

The Birmingham Energy Savers programme was closed in 2015 and funding has ceased. We are in the process of identifying a new lead for this work to ensure compliance with the requirement to report.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT ALDEN

E1 Tele Care

Question:

For each year since 2011 how many active users of tele-care services has the Council had?

Answer:

Year	Citizen Numbers
2011	1500
2012	3948
2013	7773
2014	10521
2015	12015
2016	12861
2017	3266

Notes to support the decrease in active citizen numbers from 2016 to 2017.

1. 2011 was the end of the NHS contract and the start of the Tunstall contract for the Birmingham Telecare Service or BTS.
2. In 2016, a decision was taken that BCC would only fund telecare for our citizens with an eligible social care need. Therefore of the 12861 active citizens in 2016, a review was undertaken to identify those citizens with an eligible social care need.

This resulted in the following citizen split:

- 4710 eligible and
- 8151 self-funders

Over the last year we have been working closely with Careline, BCC's in-house provider to transfer these eligible citizens to them to continue their telecare service.

The number of active citizens in this group has reduced due to some citizens passing away, moving into a Care Home, or no longer wanting the service. Equally, there are a very small number of new referrals for telecare being processed with Careline.

Of the self-funding citizens, various letters offering alternative supplier details and two market shaping events were held to provide face to face support on how these citizens could buy their own telecare service.

This has resulted in the following actions for the self-funder active citizens:

- 2492 are self-funding their own telecare service
- 5274 requested to end their service
- 385 deceased during the review period

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND
ROADS FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL TILSLEY**

F1 Weight Restriction - Roads in Sheldon

Question:

Will the Cabinet Member for Transport and Roads consider placing a weight restriction on Rectory Park Road and Coalway Avenue, plus Arden Oak Road, Shephard Road and Whitecroft Road in Sheldon, with the exception of PSVs?

Answer:

There are 2 types of weight limits - safety and environmental. The issue described would fall under an environmental weight restriction and this would provide a legal order preventing vehicles passing through the extent of the restriction. It would still allow for large vehicles such as refuse lorries who need to gain access to areas within the restriction.

This restriction could be implemented but it is difficult to enforce. The powers to enforce these type of restrictions rest with the Police. Therefore without a firm commitment from the Police to prioritise the enforcement, such restrictions can become abused and ignored.

However, in order to assess the justification for a weight restriction, the Yardley District Engineer is arranging to conduct traffic surveys early in the New Year. If the outcome of the assessment indicates sufficient justification for implementing a weight limit, then a scheme will be developed and put forward to the Sheldon Ward Councillors to determine its priority for funding from the Ward Minor Transport Measures budget for 18/19, along with the other proposals within the Ward.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND
ROADS FROM COUNCILLOR JON HUNT**

F2 Heavy lorry ban on residential estate

Question:

Myself and my ward colleagues have repeatedly raised with various heads of highways over the last two years the problem of heavy lorries systematically “rat-running” up Glendower Road, which is a narrow residential road. With the help of residents, we produced significant evidence earlier this year when the issue came to the planning committee. There is additional concern, resulting from that planning decision, that the problem will be worsened when the new giant warehouse on the Walsall Road begins operation. To date, in spite of promises, there has been no indication, even, of any proper traffic monitoring taking place on this rat-running route - and I am still awaiting a response to some correspondence from October. When will a heavy lorry ban be implemented on this residential estate?

Answer:

There are 2 types of weight limits - safety and environmental. The issue described would fall under an environmental weight restriction and this would provide a legal order preventing vehicles passing through the extent of the restriction. It would still allow for large vehicles such as refuse lorries who need to gain access to areas within the restriction.

This restriction could be implemented, but it is difficult to enforce. The powers to enforce these type of restrictions rest with the Police. Therefore without a firm commitment from the Police to prioritise the enforcement, such restrictions can become abused and ignored.

With regards to your comments about a recent planning proposal, planning officers have indicated that your comments were duly considered by the Planning Committee. However, based on the results of transport assessments, it was concluded that the development is unlikely to materially increase the likelihood of lorries and other service vehicles using adjoining residential side roads.

However in order to assess the justification for a weight restriction, the Perry Barr District Engineer is arranging to conduct traffic surveys early in the New Year. If the outcome of the assessment indicates sufficient justification for implementing a weight limit, then a scheme will be developed and put forward to the Perry Barr Ward Councillors to determine its priority for funding from the Ward Minor Transport Measures budget for 18/19, along with the other proposals within the Ward.