

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

NEIGHBOURHOODS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 07 JUNE 2023 AT 14:00 HOURS
IN COMMITTEE ROOM 6, COUNCIL HOUSE, VICTORIA SQUARE,
BIRMINGHAM, B1 1BB

A G E N D A

1 NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chair to advise/meeting to note that this meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Public-I microsite ([please click this link](#)) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

2 APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Members are reminded they must declare all relevant pecuniary and other registerable interests arising from any business to be discussed at this meeting.

If a disclosable pecuniary interest is declared a Member must not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless they have been granted a dispensation.

If other registerable interests are declared a Member may speak on the matter only if members of the public are allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless they have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', Members do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that they have an interest.

Information on the Local Government Association's Model Councillor Code of Conduct is set out via <http://bit.ly/3WtGQnN>. This includes, at Appendix 1, an interests flowchart which provides a simple guide to declaring interests at meetings.

4 **MEMBERSHIP OF THE NEIGHBOURHOODS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

To note 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 Meeting of City Council 2024.

Labour (5):-

Councillors Shabrana Hussain (Chair), Marcus Bernasconi, Marje Bridle, Ray Goodwin, and Gurdial Singh Atwal.

Conservative (2):-

Councillors Deirdre Alden and Kerry Brewer.

Liberal Democrat (1):

Councillor Izzy Knowles

5 **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR**

To elect a Deputy Chair for the purposes of substitution for the Chair if absent for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the City Council in 2024.

5 - 6

6 **NEIGHBOURHOODS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE'S TERMS OF REFERENCE (14.15 - 14.20)**

To note the Terms of Reference for the Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

7 - 12

7 **MINUTES (14.20 - 14.25)**

To confirm the minutes for the Housing and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 13 April 2023.

13 - 22

8 **ACTION TRACKERS (14.25 - 14.35)**

To review and note the actions from the previous Housing and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and the Commonwealth Games, Culture and Physical Activity Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

23 - 28

9 **DELIVERING EFFECTIVE AND FLEXIBLE SCRUTINY (14.35 - 14.35)**

To consider how the Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee will develop a flexible and effective work programme for 2023/24.

10 **DEVELOPING THE NEIGHBOURHOODS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE'S WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24 (15.00 – 16.00)**

To consider the issues for the 2023/24 work programme including Cabinet Member Priorities and forthcoming decisions, issues recommended to be carried forward from 2022/23, information from the City Observatory, and Programmes, Performance and Improvement Division, to agree potential issues for the Scrutiny Work Programme and Scrutiny methods.

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

To consider any request for call in/councillor call for action/petitions (if received).

12 **OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

To consider any items of business by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) that in the opinion of the Chair are matters of urgency.

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

(A) To note the scheduled dates for 2023/2024 on the following Wednesdays at 1400 hours in the Council House as follows

2023	2024
5 July	10 January
6 September	7 February
4 October	6 March
1 November	10 April
6 December	

(B) The Committee is also requested to Approve 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**

Chair to move:-

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

Birmingham City Council

Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee

7 June 2023



Subject: Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Terms of Reference

Report of: Christian Scade, Head of Scrutiny and Committee Services

Report author: Amelia Wiltshire, Overview and Scrutiny Manager

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To consider the Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Terms of Reference.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the Terms of Reference for the Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out in 3.2 below.

3 The Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Terms of Reference

- 3.1 The Terms of Reference below were approved at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the council on 23rd May 2023. This sets out the remit of the work for this committee.
- 3.2 To fulfil the functions of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee as they relate to any policies, services and activities concerning:
- Collection and removal of waste from residential and other properties within the city.
 - Pest control.
 - Street cleansing, litter prevention, fly tipping/placarding removal and enforcement, graffiti removal, scrap yard and motor salvage operator enforcement.
 - Parks and allotments.
 - Local events held in parks.

- Community safety, anti-social behaviour, fear of crime, support for victims of crime.
- Relationships with Police & Crime Commissioner and West Midlands Police.
- Youth offending.
- Domestic abuse.
- Cemeteries and crematoria, mortuary and Coroners Court services, Register Office services.
- Local Development Plans, Neighbourhood Plans, Development Briefs, localisation.
- Commonwealth Games Legacy Framework.

3.3 This Committee shall be the Crime and Disorder Committee (Police and Justice Act 2006).

4 Any Finance Implications

4.1 No direct financial implications resulting from this report.

5 Any Legal Implications

5.1 No direct legal implications resulting from this report.

6 Any Equalities Implications

6.1 The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

6.2 The Committee should ensure that it addresses these duties by considering them during work programme development, the scoping of work, evidence gathering and making recommendations. This should include considering: how policy issues impact on different groups within the community, particularly those that share a relevant protected characteristic; whether the impact on particular groups is fair and proportionate; whether there is equality of access to services and fair representation of all groups within Birmingham; whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people are being realised.

7 Appendices

7.1 None.

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS O&S COMMITTEE –
PUBLIC MEETING**

1400 hours on Thursday 13 April 2023

Committee Rooms 3&4, Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1BB

Minutes

Present:

Councillor Mohammed Idrees (Chair)

Councillors: Kerry Brewer, Marje Bridle, Ray Goodwin, Roger Harmer, Saqib Khan, Lauren Rainbow and Ken Wood

Also Present:

Cllr Ian Ward, Leader of the Council

Cllr Majid Mahmood, Cabinet Member for Environment

Janie Berry, City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

Karen Cheney, Head of Service, Neighbourhood Development and Support Unit

Edmund Crosher-Markwell, Community Support and Development Officer

Chris Jordan, Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods

Paul Pritchett, Environmental Health Officer

Darren Share, Assistant Director, Street Scene

Jayne Bowles, Scrutiny Officer

Christian Scade, Head of Scrutiny and Committee Services

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chair advised that this meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's meeting You Tube site (www.youtube.com/channel/UCT2kT7ZRPFCXq6_5dnVnYlw) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were

confidential or exempt items.

2. APOLOGIES

None.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

4. ACTION NOTES AND ACTION TRACKER

(See documents No 1 and No 2)

RESOLVED:

- That the action notes of the meeting held on 16 March 2023 were agreed;
- That the action tracker was noted.

5. REDUCING FLY-TIPPING

(See document No 3)

Councillor Majid Mahmood, Cabinet Member for Environment, Darren Share, Assistant Director, Street Scene, and Janie Berry, City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, were in attendance for this item.

The Chair confirmed that the formal tracking of the inquiry recommendations had been completed and the purpose of this report was to consider the further information the Committee had requested regarding cameras and prosecution strategies.

Councillor Mahmood highlighted the key points in the report, which focussed on:

- Grime Watch
- List of Wards where cameras are deployed
- Process and timescale for installation of CCTV
- Localisation
- Fixed Penalty Notice strategies

The following additional points were made:

- Following a bid for £50,000 of government grant money to tackle fly-tipping, the Council had been successful in securing £47,000 which has paid for some new CCTV to increase resources.
- With regard to the Localisation aspect, all elected members have had an opportunity to visit their local depot to speak to service managers (with the exception of Perry Barr).
- The new in-cab service is in place across three depots and elected members are being invited to see the new monitoring system for refuse collection.

- Love Your Environment days have taken place at a rate of one per month in the top 15 wards.

During the discussion, and in response to Members' questions, the following were among the main points raised:

- Members noted that the Waste Enforcement Unit were arranging detailed discussions with Barking and Dagenham but expressed disappointment that this had not already happened.
- It was requested that a report be brought back to Committee once those discussions have taken place and Councillor Mahmood suggested that a table could be produced to compare what Barking and Dagenham see as risk and what Birmingham sees as risk.
- It was queried whether there will be feedback on the Grime Watch videos and Members were told that officers have been asked to include an update on prosecutions on the next episode.
- Where overt CCTV is used there has to be significant signage in the locality of the camera to warn people they are likely to be filmed.
- It was suggested that when cameras are removed, signage could be left in place as a deterrent.
- Covert use of cameras is very highly legislated and is a lengthy process, tested by the Magistrates Court and subject to stringent review and inspection.
- There was a request for communication with local councillors to be improved so that when cameras are installed in their wards they are made aware of who the contact officer is.
- With regard to the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs), the responsibility lies with the Waste Enforcement Unit, with Legal Services getting involved when there is failure to respond to an FPN.
- The test for issuing an FPN is that there has to be a 'reason to believe' an offence has been committed.
- It was acknowledged that there was a need for better communication between Legal Services and the Waste Enforcement Unit and it was agreed that the two teams and the Cabinet Member would hold a workshop to look at what can be done to improve things.
- The Chair requested that following that workshop a summary of the outcome be brought to Committee.
- There is ongoing work with City Housing regarding fly-tipping on Housing land and also discussions taking place with Housing Associations regarding land they own.

RESOLVED:

- That a further report on the outcome of the discussions with Barking and Dagenham and the workshop to be held between Legal Services, the Enforcement Team and the Cabinet Member would be brought to Committee in the new municipal year.
- That the report was noted.

6. CLEANER STREETS

(See document No 4)

Councillor Majid Mahmood, Cabinet Member for Environment, and Darren Share, Assistant Director, Street Scene, were in attendance for this item.

Councillor Mahmood took the Committee through the formal response to the recommendations, including the completion dates, and highlighted the key points.

During the discussion, and in response to Members' questions, the following were among the main points raised:

- Members noted the progress already made in taking on board some of the Committee's suggestions.
- With regard to the recent visits to the depots, a request was made for calendar invites to be sent out for the next sessions and Members were assured that would happen.
- The importance of introducing Local First and knowing who local contacts are was stressed.
- It was suggested that there should be a workshop with all interested councillors in relation to the development of a Litter Prevention Strategy.
- Members heard that the intention was to have a workshop with elected members, Keep Britain Tidy and litter picking groups.
- In response to a query whether Love Your Environment includes Housing land, Cllr Mahmood confirmed that it does include Housing land in Bromford and Hodge Hill and that he would check with depot managers that they all have the same approach.
- Councillor Mahmood advised Members that he was considering arranging a meeting at the Council House to give all members the opportunity to go through the street cleaning schedules for their wards.

RESOLVED:

That the report was noted.

7. LOCALISATION – PROGRESS UPDATE ON NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION COORDINATION PILOT

(See documents No 5, No 6 and No 7)

Councillor Ian Ward, Leader of the Council, Chris Jordan, Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods, Karen Cheney, Head of Service, Neighbourhood Development and Support Unit, and Edmund Crosher-Markwell, Community Support and Development Officer, were in attendance for this item.

The Leader tabled a paper showing how Birmingham City Council's Localism policies compare with other local authorities in terms of localised budgets and pointed out that the budgets in Birmingham are far higher than the other core cities and spend per head is higher.

The table in the paper set out the localised budgets that exist in Birmingham and Members were informed that there will be some governance set out around spend.

The Committee then received a presentation on the Neighbourhood Action Co-ordination Pilot from Edmund Crosher-Markwell, Community Support and Development Officer. The presentation covered:

- The background and approach;
- Recruitment;
- Summary of Actions and Impact;
- Case Studies;
- Emerging themes;
- Risk mitigation; and
- Feedback.

The Leader also took the opportunity to tell Members about his forthcoming visit to Nottingham where they have highly visible enforcement officers (one in each ward) who also have powers to enforce parking. If the view is that this is something that could work in Birmingham, the Leader will look at trying to find the money to fund that.

During the discussion, and in response to Members' questions, the main points included:

- The Neighbourhood Action Co-ordinators are currently active in 22 wards across the city. This comes with a £10,000 budget and a process for determining spend.
- Those councillors with a Neighbourhood Action Co-ordinator in their ward have seen the difference that post can make.
- This is a transformational programme for the Council and Members were told that localisation is high up on the agenda amongst the senior officer structure.
- It was agreed this is a creative process and councillors need to work with officers, however there is more work to do on local contacts and ensuring that does not undermine the data collection process in the contact centre.
- Many of the recent initiatives launched were welcomed and Members found the presentation, and in particular the case studies, very interesting.
- The Neighbourhood Action Co-ordination Pilot is about to be reviewed and that will inform how to roll it out and improve it.
- Boundary issues were highlighted and it was suggested that the review should look at Neighbourhood Action Co-ordinators (NACs) being shared with next door wards.
- Reference was made to the letter the Committee had sent to the previous Cabinet Member, which had included a request for a survey of all councillors to test the feeling of members in relation to localisation of services and the Leader agreed it would be a good idea to gather opinion after the funding and NACs have been rolled out.

RESOLVED:

That the report was noted.

8. WORK PROGRAMME

(See document No 8)

The following issues were raised for inclusion in the 2023/24 work programme:

- Voids to be picked up in July.
- The issue of damp and mould and the impact that is having.
- Monitoring progress with regard to reaching a Decent Homes Standard.

The Chair thanked members of the Committee for their work over the last year.

RESOLVED:

That the work programme was agreed.

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

None.

10. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

11. AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS

RESOLVED:

That 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 1604 hours.

HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS O&S COMMITTEE
ACTION TRACKER 2022/23

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Notes
13-Apr-23	Reducing Fly-tipping	A further report on the outcome of the discussions with Barking and Dagenham and the workshop to be held between Legal Services, the Enforcement Team and the Cabinet Member to be brought to Committee in the new municipal year.	To be discussed as part of the work programme agenda item with a view to building it into the work programme for 2023-24.
16-Feb-23	Cleaner Streets	Report and recommendations to be submitted to the Cabinet Member for Environment for formal response.	Complete. Cabinet Member attended in April.
		Cabinet Member for Environment to attend Committee in April to present a step-by-step implementation plan and timescales.	Complete.
	Performance Monitoring	City Operations - An explanation to be provided regarding the data for reported missed collections and dropped roads.	To be discussed as part of the work programme agenda item with a view to building it into the work programme for 2023-24.
	Work Programme	Localisation to be deferred to April. Tenant Engagement to be deferred until the next municipal year. April meeting to be extended by one hour (to be held from 2.00-5.00pm)	Complete. The Leader attended in April to present on Localisation. Tenant Engagement: This comes under the remit of the Homes O&S Committee, and to be reassigned to them.

**HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS O&S COMMITTEE
ACTION TRACKER 2022/23**

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Notes
12-Jan-23	Progress Report on Implementation: Reducing Fly-tipping	Further reports to be scheduled for a future meeting and Legal Services to be invited to attend.	Complete. A further discussion took place at April's Committee with the Cabinet Member and City Solicitor in attendance.
	Work Programme	Voids – Draft Work Outline to be brought to the February meeting.	Complete.
15-Dec-22	Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities – Priorities 2022/23	Percentage breakdown to be provided of the types/areas of work most prone to Modern Slavery across Birmingham.	Information requested.
	Birmingham Community Safety Partnership Annual Report	Further report on re-deployable CCTV cameras, to include the process and its timescales, to be brought to Committee in January.	Complete.
	Work Programme	The February City Housing Performance Report to include the number of Ombudsman decisions against the Council, the amounts paid and comment from Housing Officers on what the cause is.	Complete.
29-Nov-22	Request for Call-In: Housing Repairs, Maintenance and Investment 2024	A letter setting out the Committee's concerns to be sent to the relevant Cabinet Members.	Complete. Letter sent on 7 th December.
		A report on tenant and leaseholder involvement to be brought to a future committee meeting.	Complete. Update on tenant and leaseholder involvement emailed to members on 8 th February.

**HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS O&S COMMITTEE
ACTION TRACKER 2022/23**

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Notes
10-Nov-22	Performance Monitoring	Right to Buy rules, including the qualifying period for accessing Right to Buy, to be shared with Members.	Complete. Emailed to members on 8 th December.
		The offer of a demonstration of the “slab in the cab” technology to be followed up.	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.
	Progress Report on Implementation: Reducing Fly-tipping	A further report on progress to be brought back to Committee in January.	Complete.
13-Oct-22	Localisation	Leader to come back to committee in March with a further update.	Complete. This was deferred to April.
		Populated version of the table attached to the letter sent to the former Cabinet Member to be circulated to committee members.	Complete. Emailed to members on 9 th November.
		Letter from Cllr Thompson to the Leader regarding ward plan to be shared with committee members.	
		Email sent to members regarding the NAC pilot and pairing up of wards to be re-circulated and named person to be added for each of the wards.	Complete. This has been emailed to the members it affects.

HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS O&S COMMITTEE
ACTION TRACKER 2022/23

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Notes
		Directorate self-assessments which came out of the Star Chamber to be shared with committee members.	Complete. Emailed to members on 23 rd November.
	Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness: Priorities 2022/23 City Wide Housing Strategy 2022-2027 Consultation	Tenant Engagement Delivery Plan and Action Plan to be brought to committee before being finally ratified.	Deferred to next municipal year. This comes under the remit of the Homes O&S Committee, and to be reassigned to them.
		Timeline to be provided for the repairs contracts extension arrangements and re-tendering for the South.	Complete. Emailed to members on 14 th November.
		Affordable Housing Plan to be brought to future committee meeting.	Deferred to next municipal year. This comes under the remit of the Homes O&S Committee, and to be reassigned to them.
26-Sep-22	Action Notes and Action Tracker	Updated list of HMOs by Ward to be requested (raised by Cllr Harmer). Voids – deep dive piece of work still to be programmed (raised by Cllr Wood).	Complete. Emailed to members on 23 rd November. Programmed for March & April 2023. March session took place. April session deferred to new municipal year. This comes under the remit of the Homes O&S Committee, and to be reassigned to them.

HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS O&S COMMITTEE
ACTION TRACKER 2022/23

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Notes
	Petition: Ban Use of Pesticides	A letter setting out the Committee's resolution to be sent to the Cabinet Member. Final report to be brought back to a future committee meeting (timing to be confirmed).	Letter sent on 11 th October. To be discussed as part of the work programme agenda item with a view to building it into the work programme for 2023-24.
	Request for Call-In: Capital Funding Bid for the Proposed Introduction of Car Parking Charging across selected BCC Parks	A letter setting out the Committee's concerns to be sent to the Cabinet Member.	Complete. Letter sent on 11 th October.
	Delays in Birth and Death Registrations	Further report to be brought back to Committee in 4-6 months' time.	To be discussed as part of the work programme agenda item with a view to building it into the work programme for 2023-24.
	Work Programme	Cleaner Streets to be programmed for November, December and January to allow time to influence the budget.	Complete.

**COMMONWEALTH GAMES, CULTURE AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY O&S COMMITTEE
ACTION TRACKER 2022-23**

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Update
6 Jul 2022	Work Programme	The Committee agreed to start the 12 October 2022 committee meeting at 1.30pm and not 2.00pm.	Meeting arrangements were altered accordingly.
		Members to contact the Chair between committee meetings if they have any issues they wish to raise.	This has been completed.
		The Chair will have a meeting with Richard Brookes, Director, Strategy, Equality & Partnerships to discuss the digitalisation of an asset map for all cultural and physical activity.	The Chair has met with Richard Brookes.
		The aims and objectives of the agenda items will be firmed up with Committee Members.	This has been completed.
		The Chair to explore whether it would be appropriate for Nichola Turner MBE, Director of Legacy for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games to be invited to a future meeting of the Committee.	This was explored.
12 Oct 2022	Commonwealth Games Legacy	The review of the short, medium, and long term ambitions in the Council's Legacy Plan to be shared with the Committee when completed.	
		Cat Orchard to provide a weblink to the DCMS report on the highlights and immediate impacts of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.	E-mailed Members the link to the report on 14 October 2022.
		Officers to provide information on how to promote and maintain attendance at parks where there are car parking charges.	Added to the work programme to be scheduled. No longer needed as parking levies were no longer going to be introduced in the proposed parks.
12 Oct 2022	Commonwealth Games Update	A list to be provided of the wards which did not have any volunteers represented at the Games.	Members e-mailed the information on 8 December 2022.
12 Oct 2022	Work Programme	An e-mail will be sent with the Legacy Plan setting out what was being requested from Members.	The Chair e-mailed Members.
2 Nov 2022	Cabinet Member for Digital, Culture,	Contact details for the conservation officer responsible for the Heritage Strategy and Heritage SPD to be provided to Cllr Deborah Harries.	Details provided on 15 November 2022 to Cllr Deborah Harries by Symon Easton.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES, CULTURE AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY O&S COMMITTEE
ACTION TRACKER 2022-23

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Update
	Heritage, and Tourism	The report on the Birmingham Museum Trust scheduled to go to the Cabinet Committee – Group Company Governance to be shared with this Committee.	The report was e-mailed to members on 15 November 2022.
		Simon Easton agreed to report back on the increased financial pressures arts and culture organisations will be facing.	The item was discussed at the March 2023 committee meeting.
2 Nov 2022	Work Programme	The use of parks for physical activity and events, and visitor numbers following parking levies to be scheduled on the work programme.	Added to the work programme to be scheduled. No longer needed as parking levies were no longer going to be introduced in the proposed parks.
7 Dec 2022	Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care	The Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care to provide more information / weblink for the Disability Awareness Webinar.	Information e-mailed 9 December 2022
		Dave Wagg to contact Cllr. Deborah Harries outside of the meeting regarding the lack of provision within her ward.	Cllr. Deborah Harries has been contacted by Dave Wagg.
		Report back on the basketball courts once the list has been completed.	Outstanding.
		Confirm the sporting guidance regarding the distance residents should be to their nearest swimming facility, and whether residents met those criteria.	Sport England’s previous guidance on this was that residents should live within 20 mins drive time of leisure facilities such as swimming pools. This is generally met, however, further work is required to identify gaps in provision.
		Attend a future committee meeting to discuss enhancing tennis opportunities across the city.	Outstanding.
		Provide information on the £1.5m equipment gifted within the city.	Sport England are reporting on this, and the report will be circulated.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES, CULTURE AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY O&S COMMITTEE
ACTION TRACKER 2022-23

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Update
		A visit for the Committee to the Alexander Stadium to be organised and Members requested a full walk around to ascertain accessibility particularly as a spectator.	The visit took place on 25 January 2023 at 11am.
11 Jan 2023	Sport Birmingham	Sport Birmingham to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share information on the Together Fund so Members can promote this. • Provide a summary document on the Managing investment into Birmingham Schools – Opening Schools Facilities funding 2022-2024, so Members can promote this. • Share a breakdown of disabilities in April 2023 from the Disability Sports Forum if possible. 	E-mailed information to Members on 24 January 2023.
11 Jan 2023	Other Urgent Business	Officers to provide a written briefing regarding the footpath closure at Edgbaston Reservoir and the issues with communication and the route remaining closed prior to send out for the 1st February 2023 committee meeting (23rd January 2023).	A written briefing was e-mailed to members of the committee on 13 January 2023.
5 Apr 2023	Birmingham Culture Sector Challenges / Funded Organisations Update	A further appraisal from cultural organisations on volunteering would be undertaken and shared with the Committee.	This item is now within the remit of the Co-ordinating O&S Committee.
		The Chair together with Officers to explore whether representatives from the historic sites should attend a future committee meeting.	This item is now within the remit of the Co-ordinating O&S Committee.

Birmingham City Council

Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee

7 June 2023



Subject: Delivering Effective and Flexible Scrutiny
Report of: Christian Scade, Head of Scrutiny and Committee Services
Report author: Amelia Wiltshire, Overview and Scrutiny Manager

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To consider how the Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee will develop a flexible and effective work programme for 2023/24.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To note 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 (ref: Appendix 1).

3 Any Finance Implications

- 3.1 No direct financial implications resulting from this report.

4 Any Legal Implications

- 4.1 No direct legal implications resulting from this report.

5 Any Equalities Implications

- 5.1 The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
 - Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

5.2 The Committee should ensure that it addresses these duties by considering them during work programme development, the scoping of work, evidence gathering and making recommendations. This should include considering: how policy issues impact on different groups within the community, particularly those that share a relevant protected characteristic; whether the impact on particular groups is fair and proportionate; whether there is equality of access to services and fair representation of all groups within Birmingham; whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people are being realised.

6 Appendices

6.1 Appendix 1 – A More Flexible, Effective Scrutiny Function for 2023/24.

APPENDIX 1: A MORE FLEXIBLE, EFFECTIVE SCRUTINY FUNCTION FOR 2023-24

In April 2021, the City Council adopted an Overview & Scrutiny Framework document that set out a vision for Overview & Scrutiny in Birmingham.

“To ensure effective democratic accountability and oversight of the Council’s executive. This will be achieved by a Member-led Scrutiny function which is held in high regard by its many stakeholders and which adds value for the people of Birmingham.”

“To achieve this, Scrutiny will follow the nationally agreed ‘Four Principles of Good Scrutiny’:

- **Amplify public voice and concerns;**
- **Drive improvement in public services;**
- **Provide constructive ‘critical friend’ challenge; and**
- **Be led by ‘independent minded people’ who take responsibility for their role.”**

“Scrutiny must add value and not duplicate the other forms of performance management, review or inspection. that Scrutiny is involved in a timely manner, at a point where the outcome can be influenced, to ensure involvement is meaningful.”

The framework document recognised that:

“Creating a strong organisational culture that recognises the critical role of an independent Scrutiny in the governance process is essential to adding value and creating efficient and effective services.”

“Scrutiny should be well planned and timely.”

Unfortunately, Scrutiny has not always delivered on these goals and in its relationship with the Council’s executive (i.e., Cabinet) and the Chief Executive’s Senior Leadership Team – Scrutiny has not always been held in equal respect. For some years, Overview & Scrutiny has pursued very few issues that have contributed significantly to the thinking and actions of the Council’s Cabinet and the Chief Executives senior management team. We have not always been enabled to deliver on the aspirations set out in the O & S Framework document.

As we move into the 2023–24 municipal year, the roles and responsibilities must be clear:

“Overview & Scrutiny Chairs are responsible for leading and co-ordinating the work the Scrutiny Committee so that Scrutiny functions in a positive, constructive and non-partisan manner. Overview and Scrutiny members must contribute time and effort to both the development and the carrying out the Scrutiny work programme

So, in adopting their responsibility, the present Co-ordinating O & S members are putting forward a number of suggestions that will improve the way in which Scrutiny Committees function, learning from their own experiences in 2022-23.

1. Remit of Overview & Scrutiny Committees

The remit and workload of committees is uneven. Particularly, the remit of the Housing & Neighbourhoods and Health & Social Care Committees is much larger than that of other committees.

In a separate document, Scrutiny Planning 2023/24, the present Co-ordinating O & S members have reviewed the terms of reference of Scrutiny Committees and are recommending arrangements for 2023-24 that will ensure that the workloads of the committees are more evenly balanced and, in part, better aligned with the remits of Cabinet Members. Co-ordinating O & S will consult further over the next 6 months on further changes to the structure and operation of Scrutiny.

2. Engagement with Cabinet Members

In the current Scrutiny structure, most Cabinet Members attend multiple committees to report on their activities and policies – with some Cabinet Members being asked to attend three or four separate Scrutiny committees. This takes up a considerable portion of the time allocated to committee meetings and requires an equally considerable time commitment by Cabinet Members and the officers that support them. Moreover, many of these reports do not lead to Scrutiny added value or impact as the reports are presented for information and noting.

A Cabinet Members should only be in formal attendance when deemed necessary by the relevant Scrutiny Chair.

There will be occasions when an Overview & Scrutiny Committee will wish to receive an update report on a specific policy or initiative at a scheduled meeting of the committee, to allow members to publicly consider the appropriateness of that policy or initiative to the Council's Corporate Plan and the challenges faced by the Council – a recognised part of the role of Scrutiny. Also, these update reports could be scheduled at the request of the Cabinet Member so that Scrutiny is involved in a timely manner.

These opportunities should arise from regular dialogue between a Cabinet Member and the relevant Scrutiny Chair; and always with the intention that the Scrutiny committee should be adding value though its engagement with the Cabinet Member.

A Cabinet Member may wish to issue directly to members of an Overview & Scrutiny Committee a briefing note to provide members with background information, especially important at the start of the municipal year as some committee members may not have knowledge of plans and strategies being pursued by the Cabinet/Council.

Furthermore, it should be incumbent on a Cabinet Member to advise a Scrutiny Chair, in a timely manner, of a report being taken to Cabinet when the Scrutiny Chair is listed as the relevant Scrutiny Chair, or of a report being placed on the Forward Plan.

3. Meeting arrangements

For years, Scrutiny committees have met in formal, structured public meetings, mostly monthly. Some flexibility in meeting arrangements could bring advantages, particularly if Scrutiny members are being engaged in the other work of the committee – such as a Task & Finish Group.

Initially at the start of the municipal year, through informal meetings or workshops, members could identify a ‘menu’ of issues (including policy development, policy review, issues of accountability, statutory functions, voice of the public,) as the potential work programme of that committee – meeting with the Cabinet Member(s) to ensure the list of issues would be welcomed by them. The list would be a ‘menu’ from which topics could be selected for consideration by the committee or a Task & Finish Group. The committee would regularly review the ‘menu’ and decide which issues need to be examined further and how that work would be undertaken. Scrutiny activities should be thorough and undertaken in a timely manner.

At the June meetings, each Committee will consider information including key data from the City Observatory, information from Corporate Performance reports, Cabinet Member and directorate priorities and issues recommended or carried forwards from the previous scrutiny work programmes to inform the initial menu of topics for the work programme for the year.

Aspects of the work programme would be assigned¹ to scheduled (public) meetings of the committee or a more limited number of members that might take evidence from a number of witnesses, whilst other issues could be assigned to Task & Finish Groups set up by the committee - with these groups meeting in public or private sessions as required, enabling the committee to focus on specific matters throughout the year as appropriate and without unnecessary delay.

Whilst scheduled meetings of the committee would rely primarily on resources available through the Scrutiny Office, other Scrutiny activities could be supported by resources from elsewhere in the Council – as successfully achieved this year by the Customer Services Programme and Homes for Ukraine Task & Finish Groups set up by the Co-ordinating O & S Committee.

A Task & Finish Group or other sub-committee arrangements would include members from different political groups – but not necessarily politically balanced, and would have Terms of Reference, setting out aims, methodology and timescale, agreed by the sponsoring committee and would have to report back to that committee with a final report. The sponsoring committee could also determine whether a Task & Finish Group could include non-executive members from beyond the committee to draw on other members’ interest and experience, but there would be a limit on the number of co-options to prevent a Task & Finish Group from becoming ineffective.

It may be appropriate for a Scrutiny report of significant importance to be reported directly to Council rather than via the Scrutiny Business Report to Council three times a year. Such requests would need to be directed to the Council Business Management Committee.

¹ <https://cfigs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Work-Programming-FINAL.pdf>

Birmingham City Council

Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee

7 June 2023



Subject: **Developing the Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme**

Report of: Christian Scade, Head of Scrutiny and Committee Services

Report author: Amelia Wiltshire, Overview and Scrutiny Manager
amelia.wiltshire@birmingham.gov.uk
07825 979253

1 Purpose

- 1.1 This report provides information for the Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider in developing their work programme for 2023-24. It identifies potential issues for the Committee to explore and sets out the range of scrutiny methods which could be adopted.
- 1.2 The report refers to the relevant Cabinet Member Priorities and forthcoming decisions; issues recommended to be carried forward from the 2022-23 Overview and Scrutiny work programme, which are specific to this Committee's remit; and tailored high level summary from the City Observatory and Programmes, Performance and Improvement Division.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee:
 - Notes the information set out in Appendices 1-3 and identifies a menu of topics for the Committee to explore over the coming year.
 - Confirms, subject to further input from the Chair and Deputy Chair outside of the meeting, items for the Committee meeting in July.
 - Agrees the issues that the Committee will consider during September – October 2023, the proposed aims and objectives and the preferred method of scrutiny.
 - Notes that a draft work programme will be presented to the Committee meeting in July for consideration and approval.

- Notes, 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.

3 Background

3.1 The [statutory guidance for local government overview and scrutiny](#) sets out the role it can play in holding an authority's decision makers to account. This makes it fundamentally important to the successful functioning of local democracy.

3.2 Effective Overview and Scrutiny should:

- Provide constructive 'critical friend' challenge.
- Amplify the voices and concerns of the public.
- Be led by independent people who take responsibility for their role.
- Drive improvements in public services.

3.3 The role and functions of Overview and Scrutiny Committees are outlined in [The City Council's Constitution | Birmingham City Council](#) They will:

- Make reports and/or recommendations to the full Council, the Executive and/or other organisations in connection with the discharge of the functions specified in their terms of reference.
- Consider any matter covered in their terms of reference that may affect or be likely to have an effect on the citizens of Birmingham; relevant to the Council's strategic objectives; relevant to major issues faced by officers in managing a function of the Council; and likely to make contribution to moving the Council forward and achieving key performance targets.

3.4 Effective scrutiny needs to add value. A well planned and timely work programme enables Overview and Scrutiny Committees to be involved at the right time and in the right way, and ensure their involvement is meaningful and can influence the outcome.

4 Developing the Work Programme 2023-24

4.1 The document on developing flexible and effective scrutiny, that is considered as a separate agenda item at this meeting, describes a revised approach to work programme development. It proposes that the Committees identifies a 'menu' of issues (including policy development, policy review, issues of accountability and statutory functions) at the start of the year. The Committee should then regularly review the 'menu' and decide which issues need to be examined further, and how that work would be undertaken. Scrutiny activities should be thorough and undertaken in a timely manner.

4.2 There are a range of ways to undertake scrutiny. This new approach will enable flexible scrutiny and outlines a shift from monthly formal meetings to a combination

of approaches. The Committee will choose the most effective scrutiny method to achieve the desired aims and objectives.

4.3 Based on Statutory Guidance published in 2019, different scrutiny methods include (but are not limited to):

- A single item, or items, on a committee agenda – this fits more closely the “overview” aspect of the Scrutiny function and has limited opportunity for effective scrutiny. It is most appropriate for specific issues where the committee wants to maintain a watching brief.
- A single item meeting, either as the committee or a more limited number of Members. It has the capacity to enhance the previous option by taking evidence from a number of witnesses.
- A task and finish day - provided that these are properly focused, they ensure Councillors can swiftly reach conclusions and make recommendations and are effective even for complex topics.
- A task and finish review – this is an enhancement of the previous option being held over four or six meetings spread over a limited number of months.

4.4 Appendix 1 outlines the outstanding items from the Overview and Scrutiny work programmes 2022-23, which relate to the remit of this Committee.

4.5 Appendix 2 sets out the current Cabinet Member priorities and forthcoming decisions, which relate to the remit of this Committee.

4.6 Appendix 3 provides a high-level summary of:

- The strategic and organisational context, including the Corporate Plan 2022-26, city and citizen outcome indicators and a summary of external factors impacting on the remit of the committee.
- A summary of key performance indicators and delivery milestones against Corporate Plan priorities, and directorate priorities for 2023/24 relevant to the remit of this Committee
- Transformation and improvement activity relevant to the remit of this committee.

4.7 Altogether this information suggests potential topics for the Committee to consider when determining a work programme for 2023-24. The Committee is advised to consider where it can best add value through scrutiny.

4.8 Members often have a number of topics suggested to them and are therefore required to **prioritise** matters for consideration. The Scrutiny Framework sets out the following factors could be considered:

- Public interest: concerns of local people should influence the issues chosen.
- Ability to change: priority should be given to issues that the Committee can realistically influence.

- Performance: priority should be given to areas in which the Council and Partners are not performing well.
- Extent: priority should be given to issues that are relevant to all or a large part of the city.
- Replication: work programme must take account of what else is happening to avoid duplication.

4.9 Overview and Scrutiny Chairs are advised to maintain regular engagement with Cabinet Members to enable flexibility to be built into the Overview and Scrutiny work programme, so as to respond to the Council's policy priorities in a timely way.

5 Any Finance Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report.

6 Any Legal Implications

6.1 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report.

7 Any Equalities Implications

7.1 The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

7.2 The protected characteristics and groups outlined in the Equality Act are: Age; Disability; Gender Reassignment; Marriage and Civil Partnership; Pregnancy and Maternity; Race; Religion and Belief; Sex, and Sexual Orientation.

7.3 The Committee should ensure that it addresses these duties by considering them during work programme development, the scoping of work, evidence gathering and making recommendations. This should include considering: how policy issues impact on different groups within the community, particularly those that share a relevant protected characteristic; whether the impact on particular groups is fair and proportionate; whether there is equality of access to services and fair representation of all groups within Birmingham; whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people are being realised.

7.4 The Committee should ensure that equalities comments, and any recommendations, are based on evidence. This should include demographic and

service level data and evidence of residents/service-users views gathered through consultation.

8 Appendices

8.1 Appendix 1: Work Programme Mapping

Appendix 2: Cabinet Member Priorities and Forthcoming Decisions

Appendix 3: Corporate Priorities, Performance and City Outcomes

9 Background Papers

9.1 [Birmingham City Council Constitution](#)

9.2 Birmingham City Council Overview and Scrutiny Framework April 2021

Appendix 1: Work Programme Mapping

O&S Committee 2022-23	O&S Committee 2023-24	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives (if outlined)	Why carried forward?	Any other information (e.g. scrutiny method/ Council motion/ asked to come back in 6 months etc)
Co-ordinating	Neighbourhoods	Domestic Abuse Strategy	<p>Implementation of resolutions from Co-ordinating OSC 17.02.23:</p> <p>(i) That the observations and issues raised by the Committee (summarised via the minutes above) be reviewed by officers.</p> <p>(ii) That the Committee consider the refreshed Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy prior to it going to Cabinet.</p> <p>(iii) That, following adoption of the new strategy by Cabinet, the committee be updated on an annual basis on its implementation.</p> <p>(iv) Consider training for Councillors on DA awareness</p> <p>(v) Regularly look at Temporary Accommodation numbers of families (household and individuals) as part of our ongoing review</p>	Monitoring implementation of scrutiny recommendations	<p>Council Resolution 6 December 2022</p> <p>Resolutions from Co-ordinating OSC 17.02.23 available from CMIS > Meetings</p> <p>Scrutiny Chairs have also been asked to take back to their own committees how Domestic Abuse (DA) is relevant to their own Overview and Scrutiny Committees, consider how they can have an involvement and feed back to Coordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>(v) links to Council Resolution 6 December 2022: Calls on the Executive to carry out a review, and report back to Scrutiny within 6 months, on how it can increase the number of specialist refuge bed spaces within Birmingham.</p>
Housing and Neighbourhoods	Neighbourhoods	Annual Report of Birmingham Community Safety Partnership	Discharge the statutory requirement as the Crime and Disorder Committee to receive an annual report from the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership.	Statutory requirement.	The last annual report was in December 2022. Needs to be completed annually.

Appendix 1: Work Programme Mapping

O&S Committee 2022-23	O&S Committee 2023-24	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives (if outlined)	Why carried forward?	Any other information (e.g. scrutiny method/ Council motion/ asked to come back in 6 months etc)
Housing and Neighbourhoods	Neighbourhoods	Reducing Fly-tipping	To receive a follow-up report on the outcome of discussions with Barking & Dagenham and the workshop to be held with Legal Services.	Requested at April 2023 committee meeting.	This followed on from a scrutiny inquiry where all recommendations have been completed. However, Members had requested follow-up reports in relation to Cameras and Prosecution Strategies.
Housing and Neighbourhoods	Neighbourhoods	Cleaner Streets	To monitor progress on the implementation of recommendations made to the Cabinet Member.	To commence tracking of the recommendations.	The Housing and Neighbourhoods OSC completed a short inquiry in 2022-23. Recommendations were agreed by the Cabinet Member. Completion dates for each of the recommendations are included in the Cabinet Member's formal response which was presented in April.
Housing and Neighbourhoods	Neighbourhoods	Localisation	To provide an update on progress with the Localisation agenda, in particular on localised budgets, ward plans and the review (and subsequent rollout) of the Neighbourhood Action Co-ordination Pilot.	Although no formal request has been made for a further report, it is likely that any members previously on the Housing and Neighbourhoods OSC will request an update.	The last update was in April.
Housing and Neighbourhoods	Neighbourhoods	Nature Recovery Strategy	To present the final document following the Committee's debate on the Petition: Ban the Use of Pesticides (this was part of the Committee's resolution).	Follow-up to the debate on the Petition: Ban the Use of Pesticides.	Petition presented to City Council in July 2022. The Committee debated the Petition in September 2022.
Housing and Neighbourhoods	Neighbourhoods	Delays in Birth and Death Registrations	To provide an update on steps being taken to reduce delays in Birth and Death Registrations	Requested by the Chair at the	The Committee had received a report at the September meeting which had been requested

Appendix 1: Work Programme Mapping

O&S Committee 2022-23	O&S Committee 2023-24	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives (if outlined)	Why carried forward?	Any other information (e.g. scrutiny method/ Council motion/ asked to come back in 6 months etc)
			and plans to develop a new mortuary facility.	September 2022 committee meeting.	following the City Council Resolution in June 2022.
Housing and Neighbourhoods	Neighbourhoods	Performance Monitoring	Quarterly report outlining performance for City Operations and more detailed commentary on areas of improvement or for concern.	This was a regular item on the 2022-23 work programme.	Previously reports have been scheduled for July/October/January/April.
CWG, Culture & Physical Activity	Neighbourhoods	Enhancing Tennis Opportunities across the City	Seek members views.	This could not be scheduled in 2022-23.	Officers were working on this, and this has been pulled at present whilst discussions continue with the Lawn Tennis Association.
CWG, Culture & Physical Activity	Neighbourhoods	CWG Legacy	Consider relevant CWG legacy.	New for 2023-24 as previously undertaken by CWG, Culture and Physical Activity OSC(no longer in place).	Neighbourhoods O&S will take the lead around CWG legacy in general, however legacy will also be integrated across all O&S Committees as relevant to their remit.
Education and Children's Social Care	Neighbourhoods	Youth Justice Plan	To discuss the draft plan before it goes to Cabinet (5 September 2023), and then to Full Council for adoption (12 September 2023).	New for 2023-24 as previously undertaken by the Education and Children's Social Care OSC (youth offending no longer in their remit).	If agreed this item would need to be discussed at the July committee meeting. Members of the Education, Children and Young People OSC could be invited to attend.

Appendix 2: Cabinet Member Priorities and Forthcoming Decisions

Cllr. John Cotton, Leader of the Council

- Continuation of the focus on localisation as per the “Working Together in Birmingham’s Neighbourhoods” Policy statement - including the development of Neighbourhood Planning, Neighbourhood Councils, Pioneer Places etc.
- Work with communities and partners to deliver the year 2 programme of work and associated outputs for the Community & Place aspect of the Shared Prosperity Fund.
- Invest in neighbourhoods and communities with a focus on place based grant programmes including Shared Prosperity Fund, Community Chest, Be Bold Crowdfunder, Enterprise Zone Funding (Cultural Action Zones), CWG’s Legacy Funding for Cultural Engagement, & Beyond Birmingham 2022- Celebrating Communities.

Cllr. Majid Mahmood, Cabinet Member for Environment

- Create a collaborative forum to discuss and identify measures and mitigations to assist the Council in reaching its net zero commitment.
- Seek opportunities to invest in new infrastructure in our local parks.
- Seek opportunities to generate income from our local parks other than through car park charging.
- Work in collaboration with Public Health to utilise and increase the usage of our parks to reduce health inequalities across the City.
- Work in conjunction with elected members in seeking to assist in their local priorities around cleanliness and reduction of fly-tipping.
- Work with enforcements agencies to reduce flyposting, abandoned vehicles and neglected skips on highways.
- Further develop the LoveYourStreets and LoveYourEnvironment teams to help meet the ongoing demand for clean neighbourhoods utilising LAMS data.
- Develop a waste reduction strategy and increase recycling opportunities across the city working with stakeholders such as the ReUsers Centre, schools and interest groups to raise the level of recycling.
- Enhance the Mobile Household Recycling Collection service by seeking to introduce a free bulky waste collection for those receiving an assisted collection and develop it into a more agile service by working with elected members.

Cllr. Nicky Brennan, Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities

- Community Safety:
 - Implement the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty and develop a Birmingham reducing serious violence strategy (including knife crime and youth violence) working alongside the Violence Reduction Partnership.
 - Develop and implement a Birmingham Serious Violence Strategy, including a serious violence profile and needs assessment for Birmingham.
 - Continue to develop and embed a public health and early intervention and prevention approaches to violence reduction, including gangs and domestic abuse.
- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and Disorder:
 - Continue to assess and review the number of re-deployable CCTV cameras available to target crime and anti-social behaviour hotspots.
 - Continue to work with partners to create a new integrated approach to neighbourhood ASB, that can help target local environmental problems and work with WM Police to address anti-social behaviour and safety concerns.
 - Monitor the implementation of the new Anti-social Behaviour Case Review process.
- Violence Against Women and Girls:
 - Tackle violence against women and girls through the “Everyone Should Feel Safe” campaign.
 - Work with partners to develop and embed a violence against women and girls Birmingham strategy.
 - Continue to work in partnership to increase safety in and around the night-time economy.
- Domestic Abuse:
 - Continue to implement the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 Part 4 new statutory duty, relating to the provision of support to victims of domestic abuse and their children residing within safe accommodation. Approval of receipt of funding from DLUHC to fulfil this duty for 2023/2024, and the approach for utilising this funding as outlined in Cabinet report June 2023.
 - Develop a whole system approach to tackling domestic abuse with the aim of ensuring victims safety, across key areas, police and criminal justice service, Children’s services and Housing.
 - Work towards achieving the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance Accreditation.
 - Work across the Council to implement the Employers Domestic Abuse Covenant, a pledge taken by organisations to support women subjected to domestic abuse, back into sustainable employment.
 - Approval of the new Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy (Submit draft to DA Board in August, carry out public consultation until October, make amendments and submit to Cabinet by April 2024).

- Work with partners to explore interventions for perpetrators of domestic abuse in Birmingham following Ofsted recommendations.
- Ensure the city councils modern slavery statement is renewed and honoured:
 - Continue to raise awareness of modern slavery and work in partnership to disrupt the associated activities.
 - Ensure modern slavery champions are supported and training is refreshed. Increase the number of champions.
- Criminal Exploitation of Young People:
 - Working with Birmingham Children's Trust to ensure that exploitation of young people is disrupted.
 - Working in partnership to identify all opportunities to disrupt county lines.
- Tackling and Reducing Hate Crime:
 - Ensure the effective implementation of the Hate Crime strategy through continued partnership working and engagement with communities to improve safety for all people with protected characteristics.
 - Make it easier to report hate crimes and hold agencies to account for their responses through our Tackling Hate, Taking Action Partnership.
- Local and Neighbourhood Working Around Community Safety:
 - Work with Police and Crime Commissioner to get extra police officers onto our streets.
 - Build on the locality-based pilots in Lozells and Sparkbrook to strengthen partnership tasking in localities to tackle issues such as ASB.
 - Review the Community Safety Local Partnership Delivery Groups and align to the new neighbourhood policing model.
- Bereavement Services and Register Office:
 - Improving Cemeteries and Crematoria:
 - Commence project to extend Kings Norton Cemetery (complete Sept.2024)
 - Conclude rebuild the crematorium at Yardley, including installation of better gas emission technology and better energy efficiency measures (complete Summer 2023).
 - Improving the City Council's Mortuary Provision:
 - Prepare plans to provide a fit for the future Mortuary in the longer term, including provision of CTPM technology and more freezer space.
 - Continue to provide an interim solution for the provision of a CTPM Scanner for use by the Coroner of Birmingham and Solihull prior to the construction of a new mortuary.
 - Improving Customer satisfaction with the services:
 - Review and improve the existing rules and regulations for cemeteries and crematorium.
 - Explore the introduction of a six-day working at crematoria.
 - Explore the introduction of a seven-day working at more than one cemetery.

- Introduce a customer satisfaction index for all services.
- Engaging community groups:
 - Continue to engage community groups with activities across the city's cemeteries and crematoria.
- Extend the partnership working with the Bereavement Roundtable:
 - Work in partnership with others to improve the bereavement process for all sectors of the community.
- Ensuring there are better long-term plans in place for the Bereavement Services:
 - Prepare a medium to long term Bereavement Services Strategy.
 - Prepare a Future Capital agenda for service areas to be included in the 25-year property/asset strategy.

Councillor Saima Suleman, Cabinet Member for Digital, Culture, Heritage & Tourism

- CWG Legacy: monitor/deliver CWG Legacy Framework to ensure that Birmingham can achieve best value and secure further investment.

Performance and Improvement Summary

Neighbourhoods

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

This document provides a high-level summary of:

- The strategic and organisational context, including the Corporate Plan 2022-26, city and citizen outcome indicators, and a summary of external factors impacting on the remit of this Committee.
- A summary of key delivery milestones and performance indicators against Corporate Plan priorities, and directorate priorities for 2023/24 relevant to the remit of this Committee.
- Transformation and improvement activity relevant to the remit of this committee.

Programmes, Performance, and Improvement Division

June 2023



BE BOLD BE BIRMINGHAM



1. STRATEGIC AND ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT

1A. CORPORATE PLAN 2022-26

An overview of the Corporate Plan 2022-26.

In October 2022, the City Council approved the Corporate Plan 2022-2026 that sets out the organisation’s vision and strategic priorities. These priorities are aligned to six themes: Prosperous, Inclusive, Safe, Healthy, Green, and being a Best-in-Class Council. The Plan provides the context for improvement and transformation activity and a framework for the organisation’s business planning.

The Corporate Performance and Delivery Plan (CPDP), updated each year, provides a summary of the key delivery milestones and performance measures that are used to demonstrate delivery and performance against the Corporate Plan priorities. The CPDP provides the basis for quarterly reporting to the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) and Cabinet. The CPDP does not include the totality of the Council’s delivery activity but summarises key activity from Directorate Business Plans, delivery strategies, and transformation agendas.

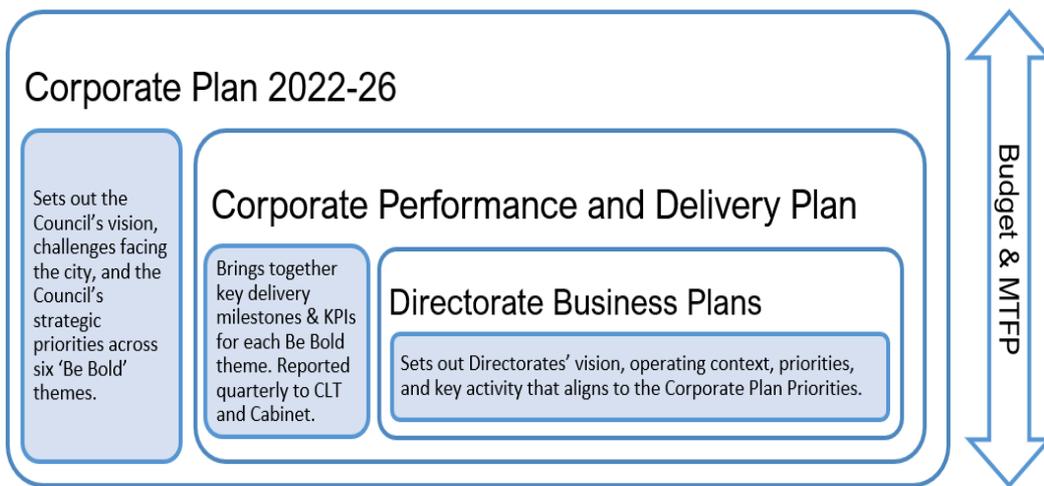


Diagram showing an overview of the Corporate Plan 2022-26:

GRAND CHALLENGES		OUR RESPONSE: BE BOLD OUTCOMES	PRIORITIES
Equality and Inclusion	Unemployment, skills and the local economy	A BOLD PROSPEROUS BIRMINGHAM	1. Support inclusive economic growth 2. Tackle unemployment 3. Attract inward investment and infrastructure 4. Maximise the benefits of the Commonwealth Games
	Opportunities for children and young people	A BOLD INCLUSIVE BIRMINGHAM	5. Tackle poverty and inequalities 6. Empower citizens and enable the citizen voice 7. Promote and champion diversity, civic pride and culture 8. Support and enable all children and young people to thrive
	Community resilience, cohesion and living standards	A BOLD SAFE BIRMINGHAM	9. Make the city safer 10. Protect and safeguard vulnerable citizens 11. Increase affordable, safe, green housing 12. Tackle homelessness
	Health and wellbeing	A BOLD HEALTHY BIRMINGHAM	13. Tackle health inequalities 14. Encourage and enable physical activity and healthy living 15. Champion mental health 16. Improve outcomes for adults with disabilities & older people
	Climate Emergency	A BOLD GREEN BIRMINGHAM	17. Improve street cleanliness 18. Improve air quality 19. Continue on the Route to Net Zero 20. Be a City of Nature
		A BOLD BEST IN CLASS COUNCIL	21. Delivering a Bold Best in Class Council

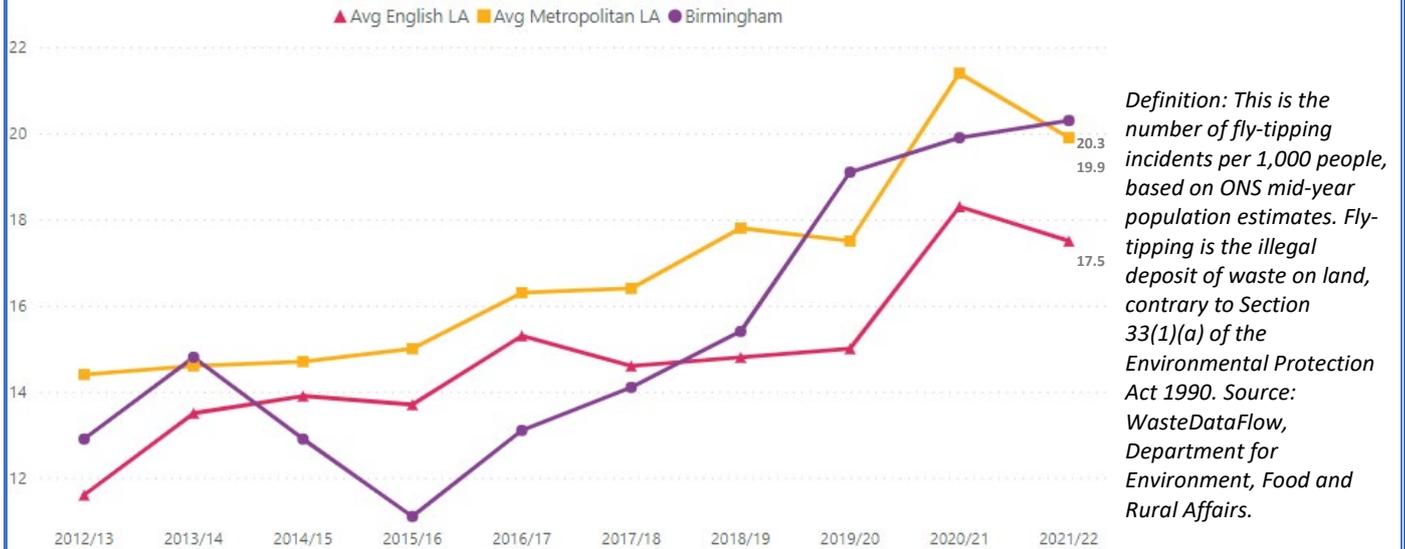
1B. CITY OBSERVATORY SNAPSHOT

A snapshot of key city and citizen outcome data from the City Observatory that is relevant to the remit of this Committee (data extracted May 2023). Other measures are available:

www.cityobservatory.birmingham.gov.uk.

Fly-tipping incidents per 1,000 people

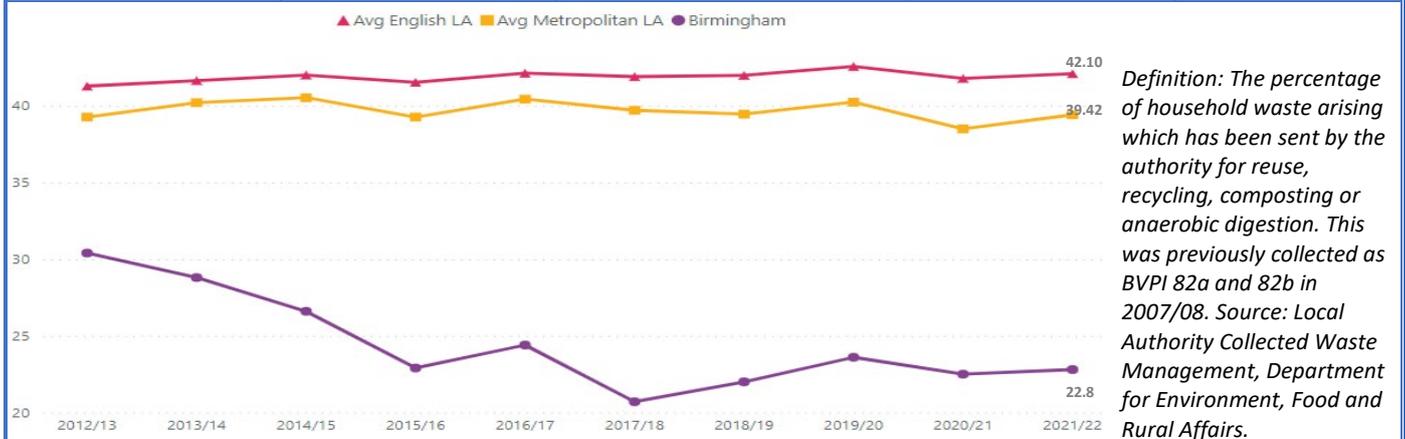
Preferred direction of travel	Direction of travel (last 12 months)	Rank among Met Boroughs (1-36 with 1 being the top ranking)	Birmingham result	Met average
↓	Worsening ↑	20/36	20.3	19.9



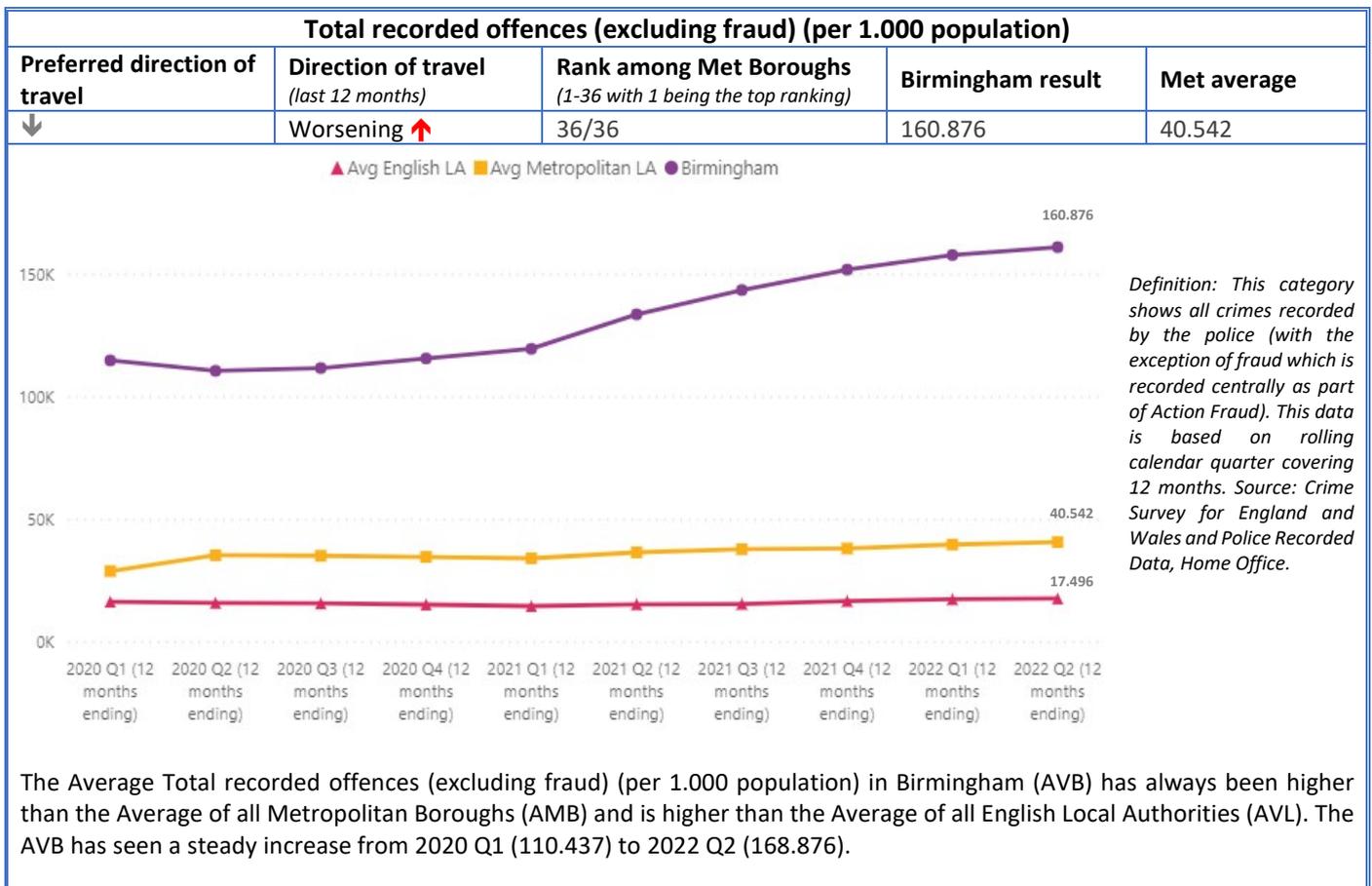
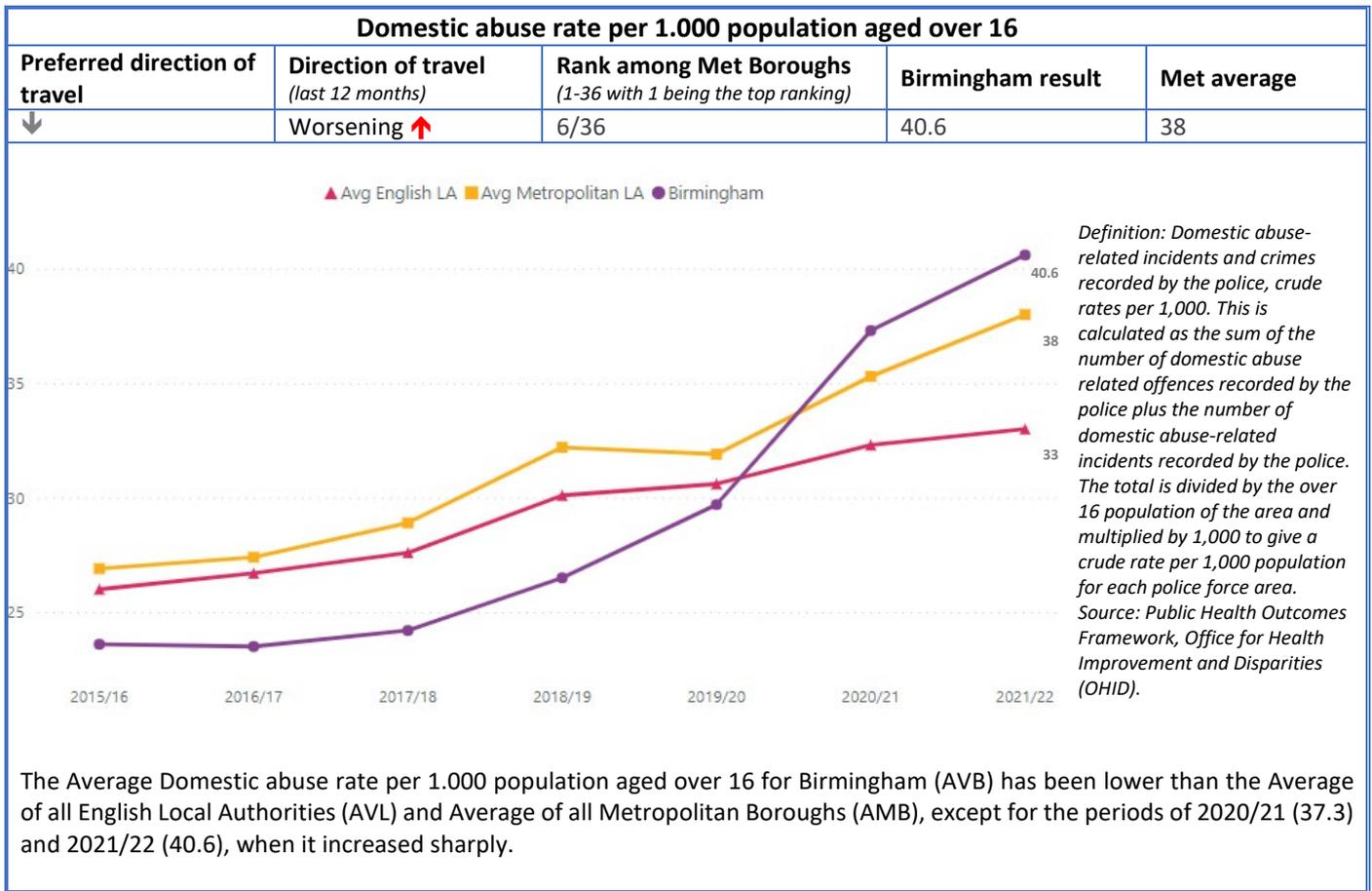
The Average Fly-tipping incidents per 1.000 people in Birmingham (AVB) has been lower than the Average of all Metropolitan Boroughs (AMB), except for the periods of 2013/14 and 2019/2020. It has been higher than Average of all English Local Authorities (AVL), except for the period of 2014/15 to 2017/2018. In 2021/22 the AVB flying tipping incidents per 1000 people increased to 20.3.

Percentage of household waste recycled

Preferred direction of travel	Direction of travel (last 12 months)	Rank among Met Boroughs (1-36 with 1 being the top ranking)	Birmingham result	Met average
↑	Improving ↑	36/36	22.8%	39.42%



Historically, the Average percentage of Household Waste Recycled in Birmingham (AVB) has always been lower than the Average of all English Local Authorities (AVL) and the Average of all Metropolitan Boroughs (AMB). The AVB has decreased between the periods of 2012/2013 (30.4%) to 2015/16 (22.9%), seen a spike in 2016/17 (24.4%), and currently stands at 22.8% for 2021/2022.



1C. EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT

A summary of key events and changes to the external operating environment that is relevant to the remit of this Committee, including changes in national policy or regulatory frameworks.

Environment Act

The Environment Act became law in 2021 and acts as the UK's new framework of environmental protection. It sets out the legal framework for significant reforms to local authority waste and recycling services, creates new statutory duties for local authorities on nature recovery, and offers new powers to set new binding targets, including for air quality, water, biodiversity, and waste reduction. The impact of the Act will be far-reaching for the Council, and we will continue to monitor and work with Government and partners to understand the full implications as further guidance is released.

Current activity to date to respond to the Act includes updating the Waste Prevention Plan and developing an assessment tool for undertaking access to open space assessments.

Serious Violence Duty

The Serious Violence Duty was introduced on 31st January 2023, and there is an expectation from UK Government for local authorities and partnerships to implement a Reducing Violence Strategy by December 2024. Birmingham is on course to deliver this strategy and work on the Service Needs Assessment is being progressed.

2. PERFORMANCE AND DELIVERY

2A. 2022-23 PERFORMANCE FOR KEY DELIVERY MILESTONES

An overview of 2022-23 performance for key delivery activity (from the CPDP) that is relevant to this Committee (as reported Cabinet on a quarterly basis). Information is accurate as of 26th May and may be subject to change.

RAG Rating	RAG Definition
	Action has been achieved (and cannot be reversed)
	Action on course to be delivered as originally planned or at revised scope/scale agreed with CLT and Cabinet Member
	Risk of action not being delivered as planned. Root causes of delivery risk have been identified and mitigating actions are in place to resolve
	Risk of action not being achieved as planned. Root causes of delivery risk are not clear and/or mitigating actions are not in place to resolve
	RAG not applicable

Corporate Plan Theme	Lead Directorate	Delivery Activity/Milestone	2022-23 BRAG status			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Inclusive	City Operations	Deliver the Neighbourhood Action Co-Ordination Pilot in 10 areas of the city				
Inclusive	City Operations	Continue to work closely with neighbourhoods and communities and to strengthen the community voice and engagement, including through:				
		a. Progressing and developing the Council's cross directorate "Working Together in Birmingham's Neighbourhoods" policy				
		b. Supporting Ward Forums and the development of Ward Plans				
		c. Investment in neighbourhoods – launch the Local Community Infrastructure Levy crowdfunding platform				

			2022-23 BRAG status			
Corporate Plan Theme	Lead Directorate	Delivery Activity/Milestone	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Safe	City Operations	Work with neighbourhoods, communities, and partners to improve community safety, including through: a) Updating and producing the Annual Strategic Assessment for 2023/24	Green	Yellow	Green	Blue
		b) Refreshing the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Policy	Green	Yellow	Red	Blue
		c) Effectively monitoring hate crime, bringing partners together to drive a coordinated response through an action plan	Green	Green	Blue	Blue
Safe	City Operations	Work with partners to address violent crime in the city, including through: a) Implementing a Reducing Violence Strategy	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Blue
		b) Developing a Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and strengthening the link with the existing Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy	Green	Yellow	Red	Blue
		Work with partners to address violent crime in the city, including through: c) Commissioning and delivering the learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews	Green	Green	Green	Blue
Green	City Operations	Develop, implement, and evaluate initiatives to improve the cleanliness of the city, e.g.: Keep Britain Tidy, additional fly tipping and graffiti crews, Mobile Household Recycling Centres, Grime Watch, alley cleaning crews, and targeted waste enforcement	Green	Green	Green	Blue
Green	City Operations	Improve the perception and performance of waste collections through service enhancements and better communication with citizens, including optimising collections, implementing a citizen communication plan, Residents' Charter, and Waste Management Charter	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Blue
Green	City Operations	Implement a Graffiti Policy and Strategy	Green	Green	Yellow	Blue
Green	City Operations	Enhance some of the city's key public green spaces through the Commonwealth Games, including through: a) Supporting the rehabilitation of existing green spaces as part of the Future Parks Accelerator Programme	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Blue
		b) Delivering local enhancements at Sutton Park as part of the phased transition works from the Games	Green	Green	Green	Blue
		c) Undertaking a master-planning study at Perry Park and preparing a business case to support its enhancement into a sustainable destination park	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Blue
Green	City Operations	Connect with communities and volunteers to improve the locality environment through the Love Your Street programme and Birmingham Open Spaces Forum	Green	Green	Green	Blue
Green	City Operations	Collaborate with Birmingham Tree People to plant additional trees in our parks and open spaces	Green	Green	Green	Blue
Green	City Operations	Undertake a survey of our Parks and Gardens to identify the number of parks that meet the newly developed parks standard	Grey	Green	Yellow	Blue
Safe	Adult Social Care	Continue to implement the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 Part 4 and the associated new statutory duty and requirements.	Green	Green	Green	Blue
Safe	Adult Social Care	Review and develop a new Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy. Agreed review plan developed this year.	Green	Green	Green	Blue

2B. 2022-23 PERFORMANCE FOR CORPORATE PLAN KPIS

An overview of 2022-23 performance for Corporate Plan key performance indicators (KPIs) that are relevant to the remit of this Committee (as reported to Cabinet on a quarterly basis). Information is accurate as of 26th May and may be subject to change.

RAG Rating	RAG Definition
	Performance is equal to or better than target
	Performance is lower than target but better or equal to tolerance
	Performance is below tolerance
	RAG not applicable

Corporate Plan Theme	Directorate	KPI	2022-23 RAG status			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Inclusive	City Operations	Number of ward forum meetings held by Elected Members annually				
Inclusive	City Operations	Number of ward plans updated or completed by Elected Members in the year				
Inclusive	City Operations	Number of community organisations developing and submitting crowdfunding projects				
Safe	City Operations	Number of Community Triggers enquiries meeting threshold				
Safe	City Operations	Number of Anti-Social Behaviour incidents reported to the Council				
Safe	City Operations	Percentage of enquiries responded to within 48 hours from the Community Safety Team Front Door				
Safe	City Operations	Number of hate crimes reported to the Council				
Green	City Operations	Reported missed collections per 100k collections scheduled				
Green	City Operations	Level of street cleanliness as assessed by the Land Audit Management System (LAMS)				
Green	City Operations	Recycling, Reuse, and Green Waste (both with and without bottom ash)				
Green	City Operations	Percentage of waste presented to landfill				
Green	City Operations	Percentage of offensive/racist graffiti incidents cleared within SLA by Street Cleansing				

2C. DIRECTORATE PRIORITIES FOR 2023-24

An overview of Directorate delivery priorities for 2023-24 that are relevant to the remit of this Committee

CITY OPERATIONS

- Ensuring our neighbourhoods and streets are clean, green, and safe
- Working in partnership to improve Community Safety and reduce violence in the city
- Making the best use of our parks and open spaces and recognising the contribution to health and wellbeing of our citizens
- Inclusive neighbourhoods and working with local citizens to explore new ways of working such as Parish councils

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

- Our vision is that Birmingham Children Thrive, all children and young people are safe, healthy, included, confident and achieving.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE

- The goals that Birmingham City Council are seeking to achieve for adults and older people are that they should be resilient, living independently whenever possible and exercising choice and control so that they can live good quality lives and enjoy good health and wellbeing.

2D. KEY DELIVERY MILESTONES FOR 2023-24

An overview of 2023-24 key delivery activity (from the CPDP) that is relevant to the remit of this Committee. Information is accurate as of 26th May and may be subject to change.

Corporate Plan Theme	Lead Directorate	Delivery Activity/Milestone	Delivery Date
Inclusive	City Operations	Improve capacity in neighbourhoods by: a) Working with communities and partners to deliver the year 2 programme of work and associated outputs for the Community & Place aspect of the Shared Prosperity Fund; and b) Implement Schemes that maximise resources available with wards and local communities, including Shared Prosperity Fund, Community Chest, Be Bold Crowdfunder, Enterprise Zone Funding (Cultural Action Zones), CWG's Legacy Funding for Cultural Engagement, & Celebrating Communities programmes	Mar 2024
Inclusive	City Operations	Progressing and developing the Council's cross-directorate "Working Together in Birmingham's Neighbourhoods" policy	Mar 2024
Safe	City Operations	Work with neighbourhoods, communities and partners to improve community safety by refreshing Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Policy	Dec 2023
Safe	City Operations	Implement the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty to include providing: a) A serious violence profile for Birmingham by Jun 23 b) A service needs assessment by Sep 23 c) A Serious Violence Strategy by Dec 23 and d) Training and awareness activities across Birmingham by Mar 24	Mar 2024
Safe	City Operations	Review and develop a new Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy : completing consultation by July 2023 gaining approval by Dec 2023 ready to implement for 2024	Mar 2024
Safe	City Operations	Develop a Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and strengthen the link to existing Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy	Mar 2024
Safe	City Operations	Ensure the effective implementation of the Hate Crime Strategy through continued partnership working, engagement with communities and the establishment of the hate crime tasking group	Mar 2024
Safe	Place, Prosperity and Sustainability	Update Road Safety Strategy : a) Publish revised Strategy that considers how to redesign streetscape to prioritise quality of place, accessibility, safety and functionality for all users for consultation - Sep 23 b) Adopt as Policy - Mar 24	Mar 2024
Safe	Children & Families	Expand delivery of Knife Crime Reduction Programme	Mar 2024

Corporate Plan Theme	Lead Directorate	Delivery Activity/Milestone	Delivery Date
Green	City Operations	Continue to promote and support Love Your Environment events to deliver cleaner streets targeting the worse performing 15 Wards providing at least 1 event per ward	Mar 2024
Green	City Operations	Develop an environmental education programme for the City that can be presented to all schools in the City	Mar 2024
Green	City Operations	Continue to improve the perception and performance of waste collections through service enhancements and better communication with citizens, including optimising collections, implementing a citizen communication plan, Residents' Charter, and Waste Management Charter	Mar 2024
Green	City Operations	Progress initiatives to improve the cleanliness of the city including fly tipping and graffiti crews, Grime Watch and targeted waste enforcement	Mar 2024
Green	City Operations	Review the current provision in our Parks and Open spaces by supporting Partners to submit bid applications to achieve local improvements	Mar 2024

3. IMPROVEMENT AND CHANGE

3A. TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMMES

An overview of major change and transformation programmes that are relevant to the remit of this Committee.

CITY OPERATIONS

Waste Services Transformation

- This programme brings together both internal and external opportunities overlaid through digital transformation and underpinned by leadership to create a 21st century waste service. Areas of focus include community behaviour, workforce performance, and digital and data.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Youth Offending Service

- Birmingham Youth Offending Service is commissioned by the Council and delivered by Birmingham Children's Trust. Youth Offending Services are delivered in partnership with probation, the police, education, health and other statutory and voluntary agencies. The staff are trained to deliver programmes and projects that reduce youth offending by confronting offenders to address the underlying causes of crime.
- The Youth Offending Service is subject to inspection through His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation. The Services is on an improvement journey and requires improvement to be good. Partners are working together to strengthen services for our young people in the youth justice system.

3B. DIRECTORATE IMPROVEMENT PLANS AND ACTIVITIES

An overview of improvement plans and activity that are relevant to the remit of this Committee.

CITY OPERATIONS

Improving customer service across Waste Management

- Waste Management is taking forward recommendations to improve customer service and satisfaction, including through the Customer Service Programme and recommendations arising from the Task and Finish Review led by Co-Ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Improving perceptions of missed refuse collections

- Waste Management is taking forward recommendations to improve how the Council can address the assumed perception that the number of missed refuse collections is too high.

Improving customer service across Bereavement Services

- Bereavement Services are taking forward recommendations to improve customer service and satisfaction, including through the Customer Service Programme and recommendations arising from the Task and Finish Review led by Co-Ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

3C. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS

A summary of recent Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommendations that are relevant to the remit of this Committee.

Cleaner Streets Task and Finish Group

In July 2022, the Housing and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed a focus around Cleaner Streets, and specifically street cleansing, graffiti, and litter. The intention was to make policy recommendations based on the learning and best practice from other Local Authorities. The Committee met informally on 16 January 2023 to review the evidence it had received and to develop these draft recommendations. Recommendations included, for example, developing and delivering a new Birmingham Litter Prevention Strategy; implementing a localities approach to service delivery by introducing a new Local Operating Model; and implementing a proactive enforcement approach.