

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

TUESDAY, 02 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 13:30 HOURS
IN THE REP STUDIO THEATRE, CENTENARY SQUARE, BROAD
STREET, BIRMINGHAM, B1 2EP

A G E N D A

1 NOTICE OF RECORDING

Lord Mayor to advise that this meeting will 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 are confidential or exempt items.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Members are reminded that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non pecuniary interests arising from any business to be discussed at this meeting. If a disclosable pecuniary interest is declared a Member must not speak or take part in that agenda item. Any declarations will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

5 - 192

3 MINUTES

To confirm and authorise the signing of the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 14 September 2021.

4 LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(1330-1410)

To receive the Lord Mayor's announcements and such communications as the Lord Mayor may wish to place before the Council.

5 PETITIONS

(10 minutes allocated) (1410-1420)

To receive and deal with petitions in accordance with Council Rules of Procedure (B4.4 E of the Constitution)

As agreed by Council Business Management Committee a schedule of

outstanding petitions is available electronically with the published papers for the meeting and can be viewed or downloaded.

6 QUESTION TIME

(70 minutes allocated) (1420-1530)

To deal with oral questions in accordance with Council Rules of Procedure (B4.4 F of the Constitution).

- A. Questions from Members of the Public to any Cabinet Member or Ward Forum Chair (20 minutes)
- B. Questions from any Councillor to a Committee Chair, Lead Member of a Joint Board or Ward Forum Chair (up to 10 minutes)
- C. Questions from Councillors other than Cabinet Members to a Cabinet Member (up to 20 minutes)
- D. Questions from Councillors other than Cabinet Member to the Leader or Deputy Leader (up to 20 minutes)

7 APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

(5 minutes allocated) (1530-1535)

To make appointments to, or removal from, committees, outside bodies or other offices which fall to be determined by the Council.

193 - 270

8 EXECUTIVE BUSINESS REPORT

(25 minutes allocated) (1535-1600)

To consider a report of the Cabinet.

Councillor Paulette Hamilton to move the following Recommendation:

“That the report be noted.”

271 - 294

9 WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY - OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(20 minutes allocated) (1600-1620)

To consider a report of the Vice-Chair of the WMCA's Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Lisa Trickett to move the following Recommendation:

“That the report be noted”

(break 1620 - 1650)

295 - 326

10 **AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

(10 minutes allocated) (1650-1700)

To consider a report of the City Solicitor.

The Leader, Councillor Ian Ward to move the following Motion:

“That Council agrees the proposed amendments set out in this report and the appendices, and that the City Solicitor be authorised to implement the changes with effect from 3 November 2021.”

327 - 350

11 **SUICIDE PREVENTION UPDATE**

(45 minutes allocated) (1700-1745)

To consider a report of Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care.

Councillor Paulette Hamilton to move the following Motion:

“That Council notes the progress being made as set out in this report, and asks Members of the Council to undertake the ZSA Suicide Awareness E-Learning. This training can be accessed via [learning pool](#) and is available for all (search ‘zero suicide alliance’). This will equip Members with information and training in respect of Suicide Prevention so that they can better support themselves, their constituents, and their colleagues.”

351 - 354

12 **MOTIONS FOR DEBATE FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

(90 minutes allocated) (1745-1915)

To consider the attached Motions of which notice has been given in accordance with Council Rules of Procedure (B4.4 G of the Constitution).



**MEETING OF BIRMINGHAM
CITY COUNCIL, TUESDAY,
14 SEPTEMBER 2021**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL HELD
ON TUESDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 1400 HOURS IN THE REP
STUDIO THEATRE, CENTENARY SQUARE, BROAD STREET,
BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT:- Lord Mayor (Councillor Muhammad Afzal) in the Chair.

Councillors

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Akhlaq Ahmed | Peter Fowler | Zhor Malik |
| Mohammed Aikhlaq | Fred Grindrod | Karen McCarthy |
| Alex Aitken | Paulette Hamilton | Saddak Miah |
| Safia Akhtar | Roger Harmer | Gareth Moore |
| Deirdre Alden | Kath Hartley | Simon Morrall |
| Robert Alden | Adam Higgs | Yvonne Mosquito |
| Olly Armstrong | Charlotte Hodivala | John O'Shea |
| Gurdial Singh Atwal | Penny Holbrook | David Pears |
| Mohammed Azim | Jon Hunt | Robert Pocock |
| David Barrie | Mahmood Hussain | Julien Pritchard |
| Baber Baz | Shabrana Hussain | Hendrina Quinnen |
| Matt Bennett | Timothy Huxtable | Carl Rice |
| Kate Booth | Mohammed Idrees | Darius Sandhu |
| Sir Albert Bore | Zafar Iqbal | Kath Scott |
| Nicky Brennan | Ziaul Islam | Shafique Shah |
| Marje Bridle | Morriam Jan | Mike Sharpe |
| Mick Brown | Kerry Jenkins | Sybil Spence |
| Tristan Chatfield | Meirion Jenkins | Dominic Stanford |
| Zaker Choudhry | Brigid Jones | Ron Storer |
| Liz Clements | Nagina Kauser | Martin Straker Welds |
| Maureen Cornish | Mariam Khan | Saima Suleman |
| John Cotton | Narinder Kaur Kooner | Sharon Thompson |
| Phil Davis | Chaman Lal | Lisa Trickett |
| Adrian Delaney | Bruce Lines | Ian Ward |
| Diane Donaldson | Mary Locke | Mike Ward |
| Barbara Dring | Ewan Mackey | Alex Yip |
| Neil Eustace | Majid Mahmood | Waseem Zaffar |

NOTICE OF RECORDING

- 19520 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.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

- 19521 The Lord Mayor reminded members that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests arising from any business to be discussed at this meeting.

No Interests were declared.

MINUTES

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and –

- 19522 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 July having been circulated to each Member of the Council, be taken as read and confirmed and signed.

LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Death of Councillor Neil Eustace

The Lord Mayor indicated that he must begin his announcements today with some extremely sad news. It was with the greatest sorrow that he announced to the Chamber the death of our friend and colleague Councillor Neil Eustace, who passed away just over a week ago.

The Lord Mayor noted that Neil was elected as a Councillor in May 1986 and served the people of Birmingham continuously for over 35 years, sitting on numerous Committees and outside bodies. He was a dedicated local Councillor and would be greatly missed by the community and by his colleagues.

The Lord Mayor noted that Neil leaves behind two sons and a daughter, along with 3 grandchildren and asked all to join him in extending to them our deepest condolences.

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and:-

19523 **RESOLVED:-**

That this Council places on record its sorrow at the death of Councillor Neil Eustace and its appreciation of his devoted service to the residents of Birmingham. The Council extends its deepest sympathy to members of Neil's family in their sad bereavement.

Members and officers stood for a minute's silence, following which a number of tributes were made by Members.

B. Death of Councillor Robert Hoole

The Lord Mayor indicated he now had some further sad news, as he had to announce the death of two former colleagues. The first was former Councillor Robert Hoole, known as Bob, who passed away earlier this year.

The Lord Mayor noted that Bob had served on the Council from 1978 to 1982 and from 1983 to 1987, during which time he served on numerous Committees.

The Lord Mayor noted that Bob leaves behind his wife Mary, 4 children, 9 grandchildren and one great grandson and asked all to join him in extending to them our deepest condolences.

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and:-

19524 **RESOLVED:-**

That this Council places on record its sorrow at the death of former Councillor Robert Hoole and its appreciation of his devoted service to the residents of Birmingham. The Council extends its deepest sympathy to members of Bob's family in their sad bereavement.

Members and officers stood for a minute's silence, following which a number of tributes were made by Members.

C. Death of former Councillor, Honorary Alderman James Hutchings

The Lord Mayor was saddened to announce the death of former Councillor, Honorary Alderman James Hutchings, who passed away on 19 July. James was elected as a Councillor for Edgbaston Ward from 1991 to 1995 and from 1996 to 2015, during which time he served on numerous Committees of the Council.

The Lord Mayor noted that James, known affectionately to his family as Jamie, leaves behind his brother Lewis, sister-in-law Judy, and a niece and

nephew and asked all to join him in extending to them our deepest condolences.

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and:-

19525 **RESOLVED:-**

That this Council places on record its sorrow at the death of former Councillor, Honorary Alderman James Hutchings and its appreciation of his devoted service to the residents of Birmingham. The Council extends its deepest sympathy to members of James's family in their sad bereavement.

Members and officers stood for a minute's silence, following which a number of tributes were made by Members.

D. Death of former Councillor and Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Honorary Alderman Peter Barwell

The Lord Mayor reminded the Chamber that it had been agreed last year that tributes to those who passed away during coronavirus restrictions, would be reserved until Council could meet in person again. He noted that over the coming months, tributes would be paid to those we lost during that time, and today we begin with tributes to former Councillor and Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Honorary Alderman Peter Barwell, whose death was announced at the Extraordinary meeting of the Council in April 2020.

The Lord Mayor noted that Peter had been elected as a Councillor for Edgbaston Ward in 1966 and served the people of that Ward for 28 years, becoming an Honorary Alderman in May 1994. He finished his illustrious political career serving as Lord Mayor of Birmingham from 1992 to 1993; and Deputy Lord Mayor from 1993 to 1994.

The Lord Mayor further noted that Peter leaves behind his wife Pam and family and asked all to join him in extending to them our deepest condolences.

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and:-

19526 **RESOLVED:-**

That this Council places on record its sorrow at the death of former Councillor and Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Honorary Alderman Peter Barwell and its appreciation of his devoted service to the residents of Birmingham. The Council extends its deepest sympathy to members of Peter's family in their sad bereavement.

E. Ministry of Defence's Employer Recognition Scheme had revalidated its Silver Award

19527 The Lord Mayor indicated that he was pleased to inform the Chamber that Birmingham City Council was one of nine regional employers who, under the Ministry of Defence's Employer Recognition Scheme, had had its Silver Award for continued commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant revalidated.

The Lord Mayor noted that the Council was now working towards attaining the Gold Award, which would put the city council among the very best employers for those either returning to civilian life or supporting their armed forces commitment.

The Lord Mayor asked Members to join him in congratulating all those involved in this wonderful achievement.

PETITIONS

Petition Relating to City Council Functions Presented before the Meeting

The following petitions were presented before the meeting:-

(See document No 1)

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

19528 **RESOLVED:-**

That the petition be received and referred to the relevant Chief Officer.

Petitions Relating to City Council Functions Presented at the Meeting

The following petitions were presented:-

(See document No. 2)

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

19529 **RESOLVED:-**

That the petitions be received and referred to the relevant Chief Officer(s) to examine and report as appropriate.

Petitions Update

The following Petitions Update had been made available electronically:-

(See document No. 3)

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and -

19530 **RESOLVED:-**

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

QUESTION TIME

19531 The Council proceeded to consider Oral Questions in accordance with Council Rules of Procedure (B4.4 F of the Constitution).

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

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and

19532 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Council be adjourned until 1650 hours on this day.

The Council then adjourned at 1628 hours.

At 1656 hours the Council resumed at the point where the meeting had been adjourned.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

Before going on to the appointments schedule the Lord Mayor invited the Leader, Councillor Ian Ward to advise on recent changes to the Cabinet.

The Leader, Councillor Ian Ward noted that following a vacancy in the Cabinet during the summer he had taken the opportunity to revise some of the Cabinet portfolios. He had created a new portfolio of Vulnerable Children and Families which would take on all the responsibilities of the former Children's Wellbeing portfolio plus Housing Options to ensure that vulnerable children were placed in the heart of housing options work. He noted that he had moved Bereavement Services and Registry Office from the Homes and Neighbourhoods portfolio to the Social Inclusion,

Community Safety and Equalities portfolio. The Leader went on to indicate that he had asked Councillor Sharon Thompson to become Cabinet Members for Vulnerable Children and Families and he noted that, as seen earlier in the meeting, she was making a 'formidable fist' in the role. He indicated that he had asked Councillor Shabrana Hussain to become Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods noting that that meant she was the first female Muslim to serve in the Cabinet and congratulated her on her promotion.

The following schedule was submitted:-

(See document No 4)

Following further nominations from Councillors Martin Straker Welds and Gareth Moore it was-

19533

RESOLVED:-

That the appointments be made to serve on the Committees and other bodies set out below:-

Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Mick Brown (Lab) to replace Councillor Saima Suleman (Lab) on the Committee and replace Councillor Rob Pocock (Lab) as the Chair of the Committee for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of City Council in May 2022

Economy and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Saima Suleman (Lab) to replace Councillor Shabrana Hussain (Lab) on the Committee and as the Chair of the Committee for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of City Council in May 2022

As a consequence of the above two appointments Councillors Mick Brown and Saima Suleman replace Councillors Rob Pocock and Shabrana Hussain respectively as Members of the Co-Ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Planning Committee

Councillor Kate Booth (Lab) to replace Councillor Kath Scott (Lab) for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of City Council in May 2022.

West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

Councillor Hendrina Quinnen (Lab) as substitute for Councillor Saima Suleman (Lab) for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of City Council in May 2022.

WMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Kate Booth (Lab) to replace Councillor Shabana Hussain (Lab) for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of City Council in May 2022.

WMCA Housing & Land Delivery Board

Councillor Shabana Hussain (Lab) to replace Councillor Sharon Thompson (Lab) for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of City Council in May 2022.

Interim Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Councillor Peter Fowler (Con) to replace Councillor Debbie Clancy (Con) for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of City Council in May 2022

City Housing Liaison Board

Councillor Shabana Hussain (Lab) to replace Councillor Sharon Thompson (Lab) for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of City Council in May 2022.

The Lord Mayor stated his intention to vary the order of the agenda to consider agenda item No. 9 at this point in the meeting.

**WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY TRANSPORT
DELIVERY COMMITTEE**

The following report from the Lead Member West Midlands Combined Authority Transport Delivery Committee was submitted:-

(See document No. 5)

Councillor Kath Hartley moved the recommendation which was seconded.

A debate ensued.

Councillor Kath Hartley replied to the debate.

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

It was therefore-

19534 **RESOLVED:-**

That the report be noted.

The Lord Mayor stated his intention to consider agenda item No. 8 at this point in the meeting.

SCRUTINY BUSINESS REPORT

The following report from the Scrutiny Chairs was submitted:-

(See document No. 6)

Councillor Carl Rice moved the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Liz Clements.

A debate ensued.

Councillor Carl Rice replied to the debate.

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

It was therefore-

19535 **RESOLVED:-**

That the report be noted.

YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2021-2022

The following report from the report of the Cabinet Member for Vulnerable Children and Families was submitted:-

(See document No. 7)

Councillor Sharon Thompson moved the motion which was seconded by Councillor John Cotton who reserved his right to speak.

A debate ensued.

Councillor Sharon Thompson 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-

19536 **RESOLVED:-**

That Council approves the Birmingham Children's Trust's draft 2021 - 2022 Youth Justice Plan.

MOTIONS FOR DEBATE FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

The Council proceeded to consider the Motions of which notice had been given in accordance with Council Rules of Procedure (B4.4 G of the Constitution).

A. Councillor Roger Harmer and Morriam Jan have given notice of the following motion.

(See document No. 8)

Councillor Roger Harmer moved the Motion which was seconded by Councillor Morriam Jan.

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure, Councillors Timothy Huxtable and Peter Fowler gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No. 9)

Councillor Timothy Huxtable moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Peter Fowler.

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure, Councillors Waseem Zaffar and Liz Clements gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No. 10)

Councillor Waseem Zaffar moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Liz Clements.

There been no further debate Councillor Roger Harmer replied to the debate.

The first amendment to the Motion in the names of Councillors Timothy Huxtable and Peter Fowler having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be lost.

The second amendment to the Motion in the names of Councillors Matt Bennett and John Lines having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

It was therefore-

19537

RESOLVED:-

Council notes that it is over five years since a pilot scheme of average speed camera enforcement (ASE) was installed across five locations in Birmingham including the Hagley Road and Coventry Road. This pilot scheme has successfully demonstrated that ASE has a positive impact on speed compliance and speed reduction, with consequent benefits in reducing the number and severity of road traffic collisions.

Council notes that there is growing demand to expand the ASE programme across a wider range of locations in the city, recognising the potential benefits that more comprehensive enforcement of speeds could deliver. However, it is recognised that any expansion must deliver value for money as part of a financially sustainable approach. It is also noted that the Road Safety Strategy is due for update in 2022.

Council notes the widespread concern in the city about the high volume of speeding traffic on our roads.

The Council wishes to express its disappointment that the Government did not support the city's desire to become a default 20mph city, which would have contributed significantly towards improving the safety of our roads.

Council therefore calls on the executive, as a matter of urgency, to:

- Complete the current review which is assessing the expansion of ASE.
- As part of the work to update the Road Safety Strategy bring forward a comprehensive road safety plan, making use of ASE and local initiatives as appropriate to tackle areas with high collision rates and areas of community concern.
- Continue to work closely in partnership with West Midlands Police to tackle street racing.

B. Councillor John Cotton and Olly Armstrong have given notice of the following motion.

(See document No. 11)

Councillor John Cotton moved the Motion which was seconded by Councillor Olly Armstrong.

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure, Councillors Baber Baz and Zaker Choudhry gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No. 12)

Councillor Baber Baz moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Zaker Choudhry.

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure, Councillors Simon Morrall and Dominic Stanford gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No. 13)

Councillor Simon Morrall moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Dominic Stanford.

There been no further debate Councillor John Cotton replied to the debate.

The first amendment to the Motion in the names of Councillors Baber Baz and Zaker Choudhry having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

The second amendment to the Motion in the names of Councillors Simon Morrall and Dominic Stanford having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be lost.

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.

It was therefore-

19538

RESOLVED:-

The Council notes that the Covid pandemic has exacerbated and highlighted the issue of food insecurity in the UK, resulting in a crisis of food poverty with approximately 10 million people experiencing food insecurity. This crisis is born out of the political choices and systemic failings created by a decade of austerity and policies that have torn gaping holes in the social security safety net. As a result, many in our communities have reached a crisis point.

The use of food banks was increasing well before the Covid-19 pandemic. During the pandemic, food bank use has effectively doubled and all indications are that this situation will continue to get worse. The Trussell Trust reported the number of food parcels given to children rose by 52 per cent during the pandemic. These figures are devastating for one of the richest nations in the world and highlight the sheer scale of inequality in the UK.

As a city with high levels of disadvantage, and a growing number of children living in poverty, we see the profound and devastating consequences of food insecurity on the health, wellbeing and livelihoods of citizens in our communities.

The Council further notes that during the pandemic, Birmingham City Council stepped up to ensure that Free School Meal provision was extended over the summer holidays, ensuring that no child went hungry whilst out of school. Whilst the Council is proud to have provided this support, the Government must be compelled to act in such circumstances and not be shamed into doing so by Premier League footballers.

The National Food Strategy, Independent Review, published earlier this year, is the first independent review of England's entire food system for 75 years. Its purpose is to set out a vision for the kind of food system we should be building for the future, and a plan for how to achieve that vision.

The Council agrees that:

- Our society should be taking progressive steps towards the eradication of hunger, and towards the development of fair and balanced system for sustainable farming and fishing that works for both food producers and consumers alike
- The government must take a lead on making this happen, for everyone's benefit, by upholding our Right to Food
- The Government has a duty to ensure nobody in our communities goes hungry and that the "Right to Food" should be enshrined in UK law in order to make clear this obligation and
- Free School Meal provision should be extended in line with a recommendation of the National Food Strategy, Independent review, as the current threshold means that families must be extremely poor to qualify.

The Council also notes that the Government recognises the United Nations International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, including the "*fundamental right to be free from hunger*" (Article 11:2)

Therefore the Council resolves to call upon the Government to:

1. Include the 'Right To Food' in the 'National Food Strategy'.
2. Extend Free School Meals provision throughout school holidays.
3. Retain the £20 uplift to Universal Credit.
4. Scrap the five week waiting period for Universal Credit.

Taken together, these measures would help to alleviate some of the worst food insecurity in our country and ensure that the Right to Food is properly recognised in law.

This Council further calls on the Government and the Executive to take urgent action to reduce the very high level of food waste in the UK, which scandalously sits alongside and contributes to food poverty in the UK and is environmentally unsustainable.

Noting that at least 1.6 billion tonnes of food is wasted annually, council resolves to press for initiatives that link relief of poverty and good nutrition to access to surplus food in the retail and entertainment sectors.

The meeting ended at 1913 hours.

APPENDIX

Questions and replies in accordance with Council Rules of Procedure B4.4 F of the Constitution:-

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR TIMOTHY HUXTABLE**

A1 Directors/Trustees – Social Housing

Question:

Please list all staff and officers currently or at any point in the last five years who are directors/trustees of social housing providers, including which providers? Please include Council appointed positions as well as any known through declared interests.

Answer:

Although staff are encouraged to share such information, it is not a contractual requirement and is therefore not recorded in a central database.

If Councillor Huxtable has a specific query, please let me know and I will ask officers to provide the necessary information.

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

A2 Celebrating Communities Funds

Question:

How much had the Council spent, or is due to spend on ‘facilitators’ for the Celebrating Communities Fund, broken down by Ward and supplier?

Answer:

On 15th December 2020 Cabinet approved the report ‘Commonwealth Games Community Fund – Celebrating Communities Small Grants Funding Scheme’ which set out the approach.

The contracts have been awarded over a Constituency area in order to allow us to be flexible and to respond to the needs of the programme and local communities.

The following table sets out the arrangements

| Organisation Name | Constituency | Support Provision | Total cost | Spent |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------|
| Spitfire Advice & Support Services | Sutton | Ward Forum facilitation | £9,600 | 0 |
| Spitfire Advice & Support Services | Erdington | Ward Forum facilitation | £9,600 | 0 |
| Spring Housing Association | Perry Barr | Ward Forum facilitation | £9,600 | 0 |
| Birmingham Settlement | Ladywood | Ward Forum facilitation | £9,600 | 0 |
| POhWER | Hodge Hill | Ward Forum facilitation | £9,600 | 0 |
| Gateway Family Services and Age Concern | Edgbaston | Ward Forum facilitation | £6,000 | 0 |
| Moseley Exchange | Hall Green/Selly Oak (part) | Ward Forum facilitation | £9,600 | 0 |
| Stirchley Baths CIC | Selly Oak | Ward Forum facilitation | £7,200 | 0 |
| Northfield Community Partnership | Northfield | Ward Forum facilitation | £9,600 | 0 |
| NDSU* | Yardley | Ward Forum facilitation | £0 | 0 |
| | | | | |
| Total | | | £ 80,400.00 | |

Notes:

*No additional cost for Yardley because the support is being provided in-house.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR PETER FOWLER**

A3 Economic Impact Assessment

Question:

Please provide a copy of any economic impact assessment from the impact on the City Centre and High Streets of the Council's New Ways of Working programme and of the impact, should all companies make similar assumptions?

Answer:

The City Council has not undertaken an economic impact assessment for the New Ways of Working Programme. However, the New Ways of Working Programme will divert expenditure into local communities, particularly as a new network of 'locality working spaces' is established. Currently 88% of City Council employees live within Birmingham City Council's administrative area.

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

A4 Councillor Zaheer Khan

Question:

Posts are circulating on local Facebook pages are making the claim that when contacting Cllr Zaheer Khan they were allegedly told ‘I am no longer a Councillor in Small Heath I left a long time ago. I am a solicitor at Zaks Law not Council’ and allegedly ‘go to Council if you have a problem, go to Safia’.

Given these claims can you confirm whether Councillor Khan is still a member of the Labour Group and Birmingham City Council and if not when did he inform the council and/or Labour Group of his resignation?

Answer:

I can confirm that Councillor Zaheer Khan is still a member of the Labour Group and an Elected Member at Birmingham City Council.

The Labour Group is investigating these allegations.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR ADRIAN DELANEY**

A5 Council Owned Land

Question:

How much land by area does the Council own that is not currently in use, i.e. not designated open space, used directly by the Council or with a current commercial or housing tenant?

Answer:

This would require a multi-disciplined co-ordinated team response as the information requested needs to be collated, analysed and presented in an appropriate form.

Unfortunately, this cannot be undertaken in the immediate timescales stipulated for this response.

However, if Councillor Delaney has a query about a particular area, please let me know and I will ask officers to look into the matter and provide an appropriate response.

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

A6 Commercial Properties

Question:

How many vacant commercial properties does the Council currently own, including land owned by subsidiaries of the Council?

Answer:

City Centre Properties

Offices

Currently, there are 29 void city Centre offices split over five buildings:

| | |
|---|----------|
| 17 Cannon Street | 3 units |
| Gazette Buildings, 160-168 Corporation Street | 19 units |
| Grenville Buildings, 12 Cherry Street | 3 units |
| Clarence Chambers, 39 Corporation Street | 2 units |
| Court Chambers, 180 Corporation Street | 2 units |

Shops

2 – 6 Corporation Street
10 Corporation Street, under offer. Lease with Legal – aim to complete by Oct.
41 Corporation Street, under offer. Lease with Legal – aim to complete by Oct.
4 City Arcade
176 Corporation Street
177 Corporation Street – under offer. Aiming to complete by 29th Sep 2021

City Wide Properties

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Birmingham Science Park, Aston (over 5 buildings) | 20 units |
| Industrial estates | 3 units |
| Municipal shops City wide | 10 |
| Jewellery Quarter – 9 buildings | 20 workshops |
| Birmingham Wholesale Market | 13 units |

(There are 90 units in total. 3 of the 13 empty units are utilised by the Covid Response Team.)

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

A7 Press Enquiries

Question:

In each year since you became Leader, what has been the average time taken to respond to press enquiries and what has been the top 5 press enquiries that have taken the longest to respond to, including how long it took and what the story related to?

Answer:

This information is not recorded.

Media enquiries can vary in complexity, so the time taken to respond will be relative to that. Some may be simply confirming a fact, whilst others can comprise many questions and follow-ups. In the case of duplicate or repeat enquiries from a range of media organisations on the same topic, any after the initial one would naturally be dealt with more quickly. The availability of relevant officers who will have specific knowledge is also a factor.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR GARETH MOORE**

A8 Vacant Land/Buildings

Question:

Please list all vacant land/buildings currently designated for development that are owned by the Council, including the area of each and how long it has been held for.

Answer:

This would require a multi-disciplined co-ordinated team response as the information requested needs to be collated, analysed and presented in an appropriate form.

Unfortunately, this cannot be undertaken in the immediate timescales stipulated for this response.

However, if Councillor Moore has a query about a particular area, please let me know and I will ask officers to look into the matter and provide an appropriate response.

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

A9 Bank Accounts

Question:

What is the Council's estimate for the number of individuals in the City without a bank account?

Answer:

It is estimated that approximately 1.2 million people in the UK are without access to a bank account. Key findings from the FCA Financial Lives report estimate that 3% of people in the West Midlands are unbanked, equal to the UK average. However, this estimation rises to 4% for core cities. 1,141,400 people live in Birmingham according to the 2018 mid-year population estimates of which approximately 854,000 are aged 18 and over. This would place our estimated unbanked at 34,160 adults.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR DARIUS SANDHU**

A10 Press Enquiries

Question:

Since you became Leader, how many times have the Council asked the press not to run a story, or to pull a story already published, broken down by publication? Please state in each case which area of the council it related to.

Answer:

The communications team will, as any professional comms function would in any organisation, seek clarifications, amends or retraction of specific content if any media articles or items are misleading or inaccurate.

Sometimes a media enquiry or published story/broadcast contains inaccuracies and, following clarification from the council press office, a media organisation may subsequently take the decision not to publish or to pull/correct content.

This been the case across council administrations, regardless of the political composition.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR CHARLOTTE HODIVALA**

A11 Alternative Site – Birmingham Wheels

Question:

Please provide details of all attempts made to identify an alternative site for the Birmingham Wheels since this was identified as an agreed action by Full Council?

Answer:

- The Wheels site was previously managed by a charitable company who had a long lease on the site. Due to non-payment of rent the City Council sought forfeiture of the Birmingham Wheels site through the Courts and the Court granted possession of the site on the 19th November 2019. The City Council subsequently took physical possession of the site at the end of January 2020. The outstanding rent at the date of the Court Order was £797,206.81 plus daily interest of £176.02 from 20 November which totalled £810,056.27 by the end of January when the Wheels Company surrendered the site. No payment has been received to date.
- In accordance with the resolution of Council on the 14th January 2020 officers negotiated with the remaining occupiers of the site regarding a temporary lease on the site. Subsequently a short term contracted out lease was granted to one of the former occupiers of the site which expires on the 31st October 2021. Originally discussions focussed on a 12 month lease but this was increased to October to enable the occupiers to complete the 2021 event programme.
- Since the forfeiture of the Wheel's Company's long lease on the site in January 2020 a number of the former occupiers have left the site over the last year or so – including the main 'drifting' company, the motorcycle training operation and the off-road karting operation. In part they have been replaced by a new drifting operation and off-road rallying business (who should have been aware of the short term nature of the new lease). The promoters of the stock car track have also changed.
- The occupiers of the site wish to remain at the site and have asked to extend the current short term lease. The lease deliberately does not allow for any automatic extensions and it was only ever granted as a fixed 12 month term. The tenant's request has been turned down in order to allow site preparations to commence which will allow for the onward development and regeneration of the site. A crucial part of the works is to clear over 9,000 sq m of the highly invasive plant, Japanese Knotweed, if which not treated within the next growing season could considerably delay the regeneration of the site.

- On the 17th June 2021 a Levelling Up Fund (LUF) bid was submitted to government for the remediation of the site (including the treatment of Japanese Knotweed). The bid totalled £19.05m (£17.145 from government with City Council co-funding of £1.905m (the LUF guidelines require a 10% contribution)) and it is anticipated that the decision on the bid will be received in early Autumn. It is a requirement of LUF that successful bidders commence expenditure this financial year (by the end of March 2022).
- The Speedskaters Club is the operation on the site which most met the charitable objectives of the original Wheels Company and provides sporting opportunities for the local community and schools. The City Council is working with the speedskaters regarding their potential relocation. A range of sites have been considered and currently opportunities for links with sporting facilities at Castle Vale are being explored.
- Consultants currently acting for the City Council with respect to specialist property advice for the development of the Wheels site have also conducted a search of potential sites for the other occupiers on the site and a schedule of initial opportunities has been shared with them. Most of these are not in council ownership and a wide range of issues would have to be explored regarding detailed suitability and availability.
- The reason why the City Council is bringing forward employment development on the site is set out in both the Bordesley Park Area Action Plan (AAP) and the East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Strategy and is a response to the need to address the long standing challenges within East Birmingham. The site will be a catalyst for regeneration in a part of the city where over a quarter of the workforce is unemployed (as evidenced by current unemployment claimant counts of 28.2% and 27.3% in Ladywood and Hodge Hill respectively). The development of this underutilised site will create up to 3000 jobs with employment and skills programmes put in place to connect these opportunities to the local community.
- There has been significant and ongoing consultation with the occupiers of the site over several years during the preparation of the Bordesley Park AAP and this will continue as the scheme moves forward

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR KEN WOOD**

A12 Key Decisions

Question:

In each year for the last 5 years, how many ‘key decisions’ (i.e. decisions which incur expenditure or saving of more than £500km for revenue and £1m for capital, or which are likely to have a significant impact on more than one ward) have been taken by

- a) Joint Chief Officer and Cabinet Member**
- b) Officers under delegated authority?**

Answer:

In line with the Constitution, all key decisions are taken by Cabinet (B3.1vii) unless they fall under one of the following exemptions:

- Specific exemptions set out in B3.1 of the Constitution – these are reported as per the Constitution;
- A key decision may also be delegated specifically by Cabinet report to a Cabinet Member or officer (see section B3.1). These are set out in each Cabinet report.
- Decisions taken under the Planned Procurement arrangements – as reported to Cabinet via the Planned Procurement Activity Report each meeting;
- Urgent Decisions taken by the Chief Executive (Part 3.1F of the Constitution). There are 3 such decisions in the last five years listed on CMIS:
 - 29 December 2017 - Cashflow support to Birmingham Wholesale Market Company (BWMC) to support Traders' relocation to New Market
 - 13 December 2019 – CWG Bus Depot Relocation
 - 17 August 2021 – Termination of Home to School Transport Provider

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

A13 Key Decisions 2

Question:

For every key decision taken outside of full Cabinet, please provide a breakdown of

- a) The number taken by each Cabinet Member or, for officer decisions, the relevant directorate.**
- b) The number which appeared on a forward plan no less than 28 clear calendar days in advance of the decision being taken.**
- c) The number received a specific exemption, including agreement of the O&S Chair, to be taken with less than 28 calendar days on a forward plan.**

Answer:

Please see response to question A12: the only key decisions taken outside full Cabinet are those specifically exempt as listed in A12, and are therefore not required to be listed on the Forward Plan.

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

A14 Council Owned Companies

Question:

In each of the last 6 years, which Council owned companies has the Council borrowed money from and how much interest has been paid to each?

Answer:

Borrowing from Acivico, Birmingham Children's Trust and InReach is not specifically undertaken to meet the Council's borrowing requirements but is taken primarily to support the companies' short-term cashflow management.

| Depositing company | Acivico Ltd | Birmingham Children's Trust CIC (2) | InReach (Birmingham) Limited | PETPS (Birmingham) Pension Funding Scottish Limited Partnership (3) |
|--|--|---|------------------------------------|---|
| | Interest amount paid to company | | | |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| 2015/16 | 5,135 | - | - | - |
| 2016/17 | 12,468 | - | 542 | - |
| 2017/18 | - | - | 1,847 | 54,755 |
| 2018/19 | - | 39,703 | 1,143 | 264,091 |
| 2019/20 | - | 223,843 | 1,110 | 201,962 |
| 2020/21 | - | 113,714 | 746 | 138,640 |
| 2021/22 (1) | - | 5,768 | 12 | 93,301 |
| Total interest paid | 17,603 | 383,028 | 5,400 | 752,749 |
| Balance remaining at 08/09/2021 | 0 | 51,500,000 | 241,012 | 2,452,749 |

- 1) Interest paid in 2021/22 so far.
- 2) The Birmingham Children's Trust deposits and drawdowns are for cash flow (timing) management purposes. The monthly contract sum payments are deposited and then drawn down as the trust incurs expenditure on its day to day activities.

In 2017, as part of an asset backed funding structure in respect of NEC Limited Pension Fund, BCC set up wholly owned companies PETPS (Birmingham) Capital Limited and PETPS (Birmingham) General Partner Limited which established this Partnership. The Partnership was capitalised with £17.2m cash, which has been loaned back to the Council. Payments are made by the Council to the Partnership under the terms of the loan. This arrangement relates to the management of the NEC Ltd Pension Fund and was not specifically intended to meet the Council's borrowing requirements.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR EDDIE FREEMAN**

A15 Section 106 1

Question:

Please provide a breakdown of the most up to date position in relation to S106 money, including

- **Total amount owed**
- **Total amount received**
- **Total amount spent**

Answer:

This would require a multi-disciplined co-ordinated team response as the information requested needs to be collated, analysed and presented in an appropriate form.

Unfortunately, this cannot be undertaken in the immediate timescales stipulated for this response.

Ward specific S106 information is circulated to Members by Community Governance Managers every six months. However, if Councillor Freeman has a query about a particular S106 scheme, please let me know and I will ask officers to look into the matter and provide an appropriate response.

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

A16 Section 106 2

Question:

Please provide a breakdown how much S106 money has been received and spent in each Ward.

Answer:

This would require a multi-disciplined co-ordinated team response as the information requested needs to be collated, analysed and presented in an appropriate form.

Unfortunately, this cannot be undertaken in the immediate timescales stipulated for this response.

Ward specific S106 information is circulated to Members by Community Governance Managers every six months. However, if Councillor Storer has a query about a particular S106 scheme, please let me know and I will ask officers to look into the matter and provide an appropriate response.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR ADAM HIGGS**

“Section 106 3”

Question:

For each S106 agreement since 2016, please provide a breakdown of

- **Amount owed**
- **Amount spent in the Ward the development took place**
- **Amount spent in another Ward to which the development took place (and which Ward)**
- **Amount remaining owed**
- **Amount remaining held by Council**

Answer:

This would require a multi-disciplined co-ordinated team response as the information requested needs to be collated, analysed and presented in an appropriate form.

Unfortunately, this cannot be undertaken in the immediate timescales stipulated for this response.

Ward specific S106 information is circulated to Members by Community Governance Managers every six months. However, if Councillor Higgs has a query about a particular S106 scheme, please let me know and I will ask officers to look into the matter and provide an appropriate response.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR BRUCE LINES**

A18 Safer Streets Fund

Question:

Has the Council submitted any bids to the Government's Safer Streets Fund for non-PFI land? If so, please provide details

Answer:

In partnership with West Midlands Police, the Council has secured £432,000 funding from the Government's Safer Streets – Round 2 – for a range of physical interventions in Stockland Green to address acquisitive crime. Acquisitive crime includes burglary, robbery and theft as well as vehicle crime. Some of this funding will be spent on non-PFI land (approx £145k) to support those acquisitive crime interventions linked to residents' homes and service roads around their properties. This includes security measures for properties, crime prevention assessments and gating. All of these interventions were highlighted in the Government's Safer Streets programme as examples of good practice.

The Council has additionally submitted a bid to the Government's Safer Streets – Round 3 – which is specifically focused on safety of women and girls. Again, this proposal has been developed in partnership with West Midlands Police and focuses on physical interventions around student areas. It does not include any proposals for non-PFI land. We are currently waiting for a decision on this funding application.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR DOMINIC STANFORD**

A19 BHMT Building Programmes

Question:

Have you issued any instructions to officers, or been advised by officers, to speed up BHMT building programmes or any other council development, in order to be in place before November 2022?

Answer:

Whilst there is the ambition to accelerate housing delivery where possible to meet the need for new affordable homes in the city, there have been no instructions to speed up the BMHT build programme before November 2022

However, there are transitional arrangements which will impact on some development schemes in order to implement proposed Building Regulation changes to part L of the regs (to do with fabric efficiency and conserving fuel and power). Transitional arrangements will apply to individual buildings where work on an individual building has not commenced by June 2023, the uncommenced buildings must be in line with the 2021 Part L uplift. For notices submitted after June 2022 all homes must be in line with the 2021 uplift

All schemes which are in design and not yet achieved planning approval are being designed to the new updated BMHT specification. The new specification goes further than the Government proposed uplift on some elements of the u values for thermal comfort (it is worth noting that the previous BMHT specification met or exceeded the Government proposed uplift on u values). The Council is also specifying Air Source Heat Pumps instead of gas for new schemes to future prove housing developments.

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

A20 Current Council Development Projects

Question:

Of all current council development projects at outline business case stage or beyond, which ones were originally scheduled for completion post November 2022 but have been moved forward to a date before that?

Answer:

All projects currently in development at Outline Business Case stage or beyond have been developed in accordance with the Councils Gateway process for developing and delivering projects. It is my understanding that no projects scheduled for completion post November 2022 have been brought forward to an earlier date.

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

A21 Council Development Projects

Question:

For all council development projects that have commenced preparation in last 2 years, regardless of what stage, how many have followed an expedited process to ensure compliance before November 2022?

Answer:

All projects currently in development at Outline Business Case stage or beyond have been developed in accordance with the Councils Gateway process for developing and delivering projects. It is my understanding that no projects scheduled for completion post November 2022 have been brought forward to an earlier date.

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

**A22 Report of Joint Officer and Cabinet Member, DPS Strategy and
Award, 24 December 2019**

Question:

A 16 March 2021 Cabinet Report (PROCUREMENT STRATEGY FOR THE PROVISION OF HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT) refers in the background papers to a Joint Officer and Cabinet Member Decision taken on 24 December 2019, entitled ‘DPS Strategy and Award.’ However CMIS lists no Joint Officer and Cabinet Member meeting as taking place on that date and there is no record of any decision for that day either. Please can you confirm when the decision was taken and if it was posted correctly in accordance with requirements of the constitution (and with a link to this). If not, please explain how the decision supposedly taken at this meeting could be impacted as well as subsequent decisions taken based on this earlier ‘decision’ to ensure the council is not acting ultra vires in this matter.

Answer:

I have asked officers to look into this matter and am advised that a response will be provided by the end of September 2021.

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

A23 Council Buildings

Question:

Please list all Council Buildings that the Council has identified as not being required in the long term for council employees to be based at?

Answer:

The Council has currently identified Lancaster Circus and Margaret Street.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR SUZANNE WEBB**

A24 Surplus Council Property

Question:

Please provide a list of all council owned land and buildings that have been declared surplus but not yet sold, or had alternative uses identified?

Answer:

This would require a multi-disciplined co-ordinated team response as the information requested needs to be collated, analysed and presented in an appropriate form.

Unfortunately, this cannot be undertaken in the immediate timescales stipulated for this response.

However, if Councillor Webb has a query about a particular property or piece of land, please let me know and I will ask officers to look into the matter and provide an appropriate response.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR GARY SAMBROOK**

A25 Bromsgrove Development Plan

Question:

Please provide a copy of the Council's submission to the Bromsgrove Development Plan Consultation.

Answer:

Birmingham City Council's response to the Bromsgrove District Plan Review Issues and Options Consultation is available on Bromsgrove District Council's website.

<https://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/media/4730468/landO-consultation-responses-table-24-09-19.pdf>

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

A26 Public Realm Spending

Question:

Please provide a breakdown of the £8.7 million Public Realm spend (identified in the cabinet quarterly contract awards report on 7th September 2021) and where this funding has been sourced from. This should include how much has been allocated/spent on the fountain and Victoria Square paving.

Answer:

The Full Business Case approved by Cabinet on 29th January 2021 included financial appendix G that covered forecast spend profile and funding sources.

The approval granted £12.3m spend for City Centre Public Realm Phase 1 of which £10.163m including contingency is assigned for construction cost.

Funding for Phase 1 of the works totalling £12.3m is comprised £4m Transforming Cities Fund and £8.3m Clean Air Zone Net Revenue, again outlined and approved in the Full Business Case.

The Contractors price was received after competitive tender and a target cost contract agreed for £8.7m for works. This is within the budgeted and forecast £10.163m as outlined in the approved award report.

The breakdown of the target cost indicates the Water Feature cost to be £1.2m (taken from TCF funding) with the subsequent public realm works (Victoria Square, Colmore Row, Waterloo Street, Lower Temple Street and associated HVM) to be £7.5m (taken from remaining TCF + Clean Air Zone).

The Contract was awarded during late August 2021, with works programmed to commence during late September/early October 2021. No payments have been under the contract so far.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
JON HUNT**

A27 Vacant Retail Spaces

Question:

As more than one in seven shops are now vacant on UK high streets, retail parks and shopping centres could the Leader provide an explanation of what is being done to encourage businesses to come back to the city?

Answer:

High street vacancy rates were increasing nationally pre-pandemic. The impacts of Covid-19 have accelerated this trend and magnified changing consumer behaviour (such as online shopping) while the cost of operating has remained high for businesses. This can be seen through the number of brand name retailers leaving the high street in recent months.

Because of this, 'high streets' now need to consider a broader range of uses for currently vacant retail units, such as community, leisure, flexible working or health services.

The Council is working with stakeholders across the city to help our high streets remain at the heart of their communities and embrace opportunities that, for example, changing working patterns present. Officers are working with the twelve business improvement districts as well as emerging business and community groups to identify opportunities and monitor vacant units. Anecdotal evidence suggests there is increasing interest from new occupiers taking space in currently vacant units across our city, especially in the local centres with vacant units turning over quickly in these areas.

Through the Council's Welcome Back Fund, the Council will commission a review into the 'future of high streets' in Birmingham, developing a framework to take advantage of opportunities to enhance local centres and encourage a broad mix of uses that are relevant to local people and continue to make Birmingham a great place to live, work or invest in. The 'Welcome Back Fund' will also, through partners including the city centre BIDs, deliver six events in the city centre this calendar year to help increase footfall and build citizens' confidence in returning to public spaces once again. The Fund will also deliver deep cleaning and graffiti removal projects to ensure the city centre remains a welcoming place to visit and shop.

The city centre remains the economic hub of the city and the Future Business District study, led by Colmore Business District, is an example of the Council's work with key stakeholders to ultimately deliver positive change and build resilient, appealing places for people and businesses as the country emerges from the challenges of multiple Covid-19 lockdowns.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
ROGER HARMER**

A28 High Street Recovery

Question:

Statistics provided by ‘Centres for Cities’ for July have shown Birmingham has been given an overall recovery index of 46 and is in the bottom 10 cities for both footfall and spend post lockdown. Whereas cities such as Blackpool and Bournemouth score highly and are in the top 10 London, Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds scoring poorly. Could the Leader give an indication of the initiatives they will be putting in place to improve this position, setting out his understanding of the reason for the city centre is faring so badly?

Answer:

Whilst footfall in core cities has been negatively impacted by the slow return of staff to offices – this will increase over coming weeks and months. Major office floorspace take-ups (e.g. Arup, Atkins, Goldman Sachs) have demonstrated that there is still strong demand for office space in central Birmingham and that occupiers are seeking high quality and central, highly accessible locations.

According to Centre for Cities data and feedback from BIDs, city centre footfall is increasing steadily. Data from the ‘Weekend Index’ also shows steady improvement over 2021 suggesting more people are returning for social, leisure and retail uses following the last Covid lockdown.

Centre for Cities data focuses purely on city centres and does not consider the increased use of local centres over the past 18 months. As Birmingham has at least ten major local centres (identified in the Urban Centres Framework) it is understandable that major city centres such as Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds are showing a slower return to pre-pandemic levels of footfall and spend given the increased appeal and ease of use of high streets and local centres on peoples’ doorsteps. It should also be noted the figures are from July, which is the very start of the recovery, and Blackpool and Bournemouth are both seaside resorts and will have benefitted over the summer from the fact that many people are holidaying in the UK this year.

There are several initiatives in delivery that will ensure Birmingham and the City Centre will continue to attract investment, create jobs and grow businesses. Alongside the Commonwealth Games, Metro extension and HS2, the next decade will see tremendous growth for the City.

The Council’s ‘Welcome Back Fund’ will, through partners including the city centre BIDs, deliver six events in the city centre this calendar year to help increase footfall and build citizens’ confidence in returning to public spaces once again. The Fund will also deliver deep cleaning and graffiti removal projects to ensure the city centre remains a welcoming place to

visit and work. The Council is working with partners to explore retaining and developing further outdoor seating and 'café culture' schemes in the city centre.

The Council is also delivering major improvements to public realm at Southside, Snowhill, Digbeth, helping to create an attractive and welcoming city centre for workers and residents, especially pedestrians and cyclists. Alongside other major developments, such as Perry Barr and Smithfield, the Council is delivering new homes, employment space and transport improvements for the future.

The Future City Plan will promote the importance of culture, night-time economy, and will offer a range of activities within attractive, safe, green spaces to draw and retain both visitors and residential communities.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR KEN WOOD**

B1 Service Level Agreement for Member Enquiries

Question:

Please provide a copy of all SLAs that relate to Officer communication with Members (e.g. Member Enquiries response times), including the date these were approved.

Answer:

The Member's Complaint Protocol, which includes the SLA, was discussed at Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny on 15th December 2020 with revisions presented on 7th January 2021. This was also sent to wider members on 18th February 2021 for comment. At a meeting with the Deputy Leader on 5th March 2021 it was agreed that after final amendments it would be formally signed off by officers. This was agreed by the Director of Digital and Customer Services on 26th March 2021.

The agreed SLA times are

| If registered as a Members' Enquiry | |
|--|---|
| Acknowledgement to Member | 48 hours (2 working days) |
| Response from Service | 10 working days inclusive of the 48 hours |
| Urgent Enquiries | 24 hours (1 working day) |
| If registered as a Members' Complaint | |
| Acknowledgment to Member | 48 hours (2 working days) |
| Response Completed | 15 working days inclusive of the 48 hours |
| Urgent Complaints | 24 hours (for exceptions within the escalation process this will be actioned immediately) |
| Complex Complaints (i.e. Social Care Complaints) | 15 working days to 6 months |

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

B2 Mobile Phone Masts

Question:

Further to written question A5, which I asked on 13 July 2021, in relation to 'Phone Masts' which read 'The Council previously had a policy of allowing two wards the proceeds of rental from phone masts on the highway', the Leader's response was that he was not able to identify such a policy and asked for further details.

The following recommendation was made in the Report to the City Council entitled 'Review of the Siting of Telecommunications Equipment on Council Land and Premises' (5 July 2005) which was presented to Council by the Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Recommendation 13 related to the following 'That at least 50% of the income derived from the siting of telecommunications equipment should be returned for the collective benefit of the tenants/residents/users of that facility and that the implementation of this provision is reviewed annually by the Deputy Leader'.

Could the Deputy Leader state whether this policy still remains in place?

Answer:

Yes, this policy remains in place, details of which are provided below. Due to changes in Cabinet Member portfolios since 2005, monitoring of this policy now falls under the Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods

Implementation of this policy is administered through our housing management and repairs and maintenance services, working with finance colleagues.

The housing service receive 50% of the revenue generated by having aerials/phone masts on our tower blocks. Some blocks have more than one funding stream, as they have more than one aerial.

Tenant Participation Officers are responsible for engaging and consulting with the tenants, so that funding can be spent on projects within these blocks and the immediate area. Previous projects have included improvements to internal decorations, replacement flooring and some outside works to add planters and trip rails, etc.

If the tenants within tower blocks have no interest in this funding, which has happened when all of their suggested projects have been completed, tenants in the area surrounding the block are consulted. In a small number of cases this is extended to the ward. This approach was agreed with tenants when the funding was introduced.

Policy details

ALL residents living in a block that receive an Aerial Mast Budget, must be consulted and the majority should agree the projects paid for out of this budget.

The budget does **NOT** have to be spent on the block that receives the Aerial Mast Budget. But it **MUST** be spent within the constituency. Project funded by the Aerial Mast Budget must not benefit just one person.

If residents choose to spend it on their own block, and if it is a block that is due to be demolished, the money will be used to remove graffiti, redecoration of communal areas etc. BCC preferred contractor must be used to carry out the work.

The criteria for projects funded by this budget is as follows:

- Projects that work to reduce crime, vandalism and anti-social behaviour.
- Projects that compliment other improvements carried out on estates.
- Projects that would have a benefit for communities and **NOT** an individual.
- Projects that increase community cohesion and sustainability of an area.
- Projects that increase access or encourage involvement.
- Projects that are a combination of the above.

NB

ONLY BCC preferred contractors must be used to deliver the work on projects.

On **No** account does the HLB have the authority to spend the Aerial Mast Budget.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR SIMON MORRALL**

B3 Written off Debt

Question:

For each year since 2012, what is the total value per Ward of Council Tax and Business Rate debt written off by the Council. Please split this between debt written off by Cabinet and debt written off under delegated authority.

Answer:

Due to the level of data that is required to be processed it has not been possible to provide this information by ward in the timeframe required. A further response will follow with this information provided.

Business Rates

| Year | £25k and over - Cabinet | Under £25k – Under delegated authority | Total | Total number of accounts |
|-------|-------------------------|--|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 2012 | | £ 33,815.45 | £ 33,815.45 | 257 |
| 2013 | | £ 1,481,339.23 | £ 1,481,339.23 | 746 |
| 2014 | £ 452,843.47 | £ 1,238,756.26 | £ 1,691,599.73 | 544 |
| 2015 | £ 1,363,480.45 | £ 3,657,299.81 | £ 5,020,780.26 | 1543 |
| 2016 | £ 1,957,957.06 | £ 1,103,831.53 | £ 3,061,788.59 | 455 |
| 2017 | £ 542,272.71 | £ 3,199,875.17 | £ 3,742,147.88 | 1111 |
| 2018 | £ 2,151,413.49 | £ 4,289,378.33 | £ 6,440,791.82 | 1789 |
| 2019 | £ 2,413,188.61 | £ 14,673,379.64 | £ 17,086,568.25 | 4390 |
| 2020 | £ 196,529.80 | £ 2,287,168.05 | £ 2,483,697.85 | 1087 |
| 2021 | | £ 21,476.64 | £ 21,476.64 | 23 |
| Total | £ 9,077,685.59 | £ 31,986,320.11 | £ 41,064,005.70 | 11,945.00 |

Council Tax (all under delegated authority)

| Year | Total | Total number of accounts |
|------|---------------|--------------------------|
| 2012 | £67,422.61 | 6489 |
| 2013 | £138,910.16 | 9173 |
| 2014 | £2,422,261.49 | 15933 |
| 2015 | £3,344,064.34 | 16996 |
| 2016 | £256,666.37 | 7983 |
| 2017 | £2,915,797.01 | 13080 |
| 2018 | £6,818,943.11 | 23211 |

| | | |
|-------|----------------|--------|
| 2019 | £10,978,402.00 | 36533 |
| 2020 | £2,183,939.12 | 13362 |
| 2021 | £134,028.75 | 1504 |
| Total | £29,260,434.96 | 144264 |

The figures supplied relate to write offs for debt raised during the tax years 2012 to 2021. For context during the same 2012 to 2021 period liabilities totalling £3.59bn for Council tax and £3.78bn for Business rates were raised.

Before submitting a balance for write off, staff will make checks of the authority systems and known third parties i.e. solicitors, credit reference agencies and letting agents. If, after a six-month period, a new address is not established, the debt will be submitted for write off. Should a debtor be subsequently traced, a debt will be re-instated if considered economically viable to recover and it is within the statute of limitations.

Staff are required to take action to collect all debts; however, in some cases, this might not be possible, and debts do become irrecoverable e.g. due to insolvency, absconded, uneconomical to collect, vulnerability, custodial sentences, deceased. Writing off irrecoverable items represents good financial management. It allows staff to concentrate on recoverable debts and ensures that the level of customers' arrears within the accounts is accurate and represents a true and fair reflection of the Council's financial position.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, SKILLS
AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR KEN WOOD**

C1 SEND Improvement

Question:

Please provide a list of all dates of the SEND Improvement Board and which of those you attended since it was established in your cabinet role with joint responsibility SEND alongside the Cabinet Member for Children's Wellbeing.

Answer:

I have not been a member of the SEND Improvement Board and thus have not been invited to or attended any board meetings.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, SKILLS
AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR MIKE WARD**

C2 Additional Support

Question:

The School Standards Minister, Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP, recently announced funding of £10m to provide pupils, in participating schools, with additional support in maths and English. It is understood programmes will be targeted at pupils starting primary and secondary school and will begin from the 2021 autumn term.

Could the Cabinet Member give details of all City Schools that will be participating in this scheme?

Answer:

This scheme is being administered by the Department for Education (DfE) and information has not been provided to local authorities about which schools are participating.

Officers have asked officials at the DfE for an update on participation of Birmingham schools. If an update is provided, I will share this with councillors as soon as possible

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR EDDIE FREEMAN**

D1 Expiring Contracts

Question:

According to the most up to date contract register (Q1 2021/22), there were 188 contracts that expired by 31 August 2021, including 111 that expired before the end of Quarter 1. There are a further 119 that a due to expire before the end of the calendar year. Can you please provide details of what has happened with each of these expired or expiring contracts. This should include the procurement route followed to extend or retender these contracts or where they have expired whether this is because the services are no longer needed or if they are continuing outside of contractual arrangements.

Answer:

From an initial review it is noted that the figures as presented above are correct.

Given the level of detail required and the time that it will take to collate it a full answer with the information requested will be provided and circulated to Members in advance of October's meeting of the City Council. However, I would like to reassure Members that work is already underway to better manage the process with regards to expired or expiring contracts.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PEARS**

D2 CAZ Camera Solutions

Question:

The technology for the CAZ ANPR cameras was procured through a contract with Siemens that was subject to call-in in September 2020. At that Call-in it was explained that Siemens were originally procured by Capita under the Service Birmingham Contract which was why no proper procurement exercise was carried out but that the contract had novated over to the Council in August 2019 as part of the termination of the Service Birmingham Contract. Given the Council's relationship for the cameras is now directly with Siemens, and not via Capita, can you explain why (according to Open Data) invoices totalling £631.5k were paid to Capita during the 2020/21 with the summary title of "Hways CAZ Camera Solutn" and how these payments relate to the £107.2k also paid directly to Siemens in the same year and to the contract that was called in in September 2020.

Answer:

Capita Birmingham Limited (Capita) were appointed by the Council to deliver the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and Back Office IT Solution, including the managing the procurement process, as per the standing agreement at that time.

As a consequence of the partial termination of the relationship with the Council, the contract with Siemens, who had been procured by Capita to deliver the ANPR and Back Office IT Solution, was novated to the Council without amendment. All payments related to this contract continued to be made to Capita, in line with the termination agreement.

Subsequent payments to Siemens are for an additional scope of works, which required a modification of the contract that had been in place. A purchase order for this additional scope of works was sent to Siemens following the Cabinet meeting of 8 September 2020 at which Cabinet approved the Implementation of Main CAZ Infrastructure - Civil Engineering Cameras Solution - Full Business Case (FBC).

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT ALDEN**

D3 Cabinet Executive Report

Question:

On 17th March 2020, Cabinet agreed to withdraw an Executive Report entitled ‘Single Contractor Negotiations – Clean Air Zone Mitigations Application and Case Management System’ to give further consideration following concerns raised at call-in by Councillors Robert Alden and Ewan Mackey over the lawfulness of the procurement route proposed. It was later decided that the solution could be delivered in house using existing software already under contract.

Give this procurement did not proceed the figure that the Executive intended to spent on this had it not been called in, is no longer commercially sensitive. Can you confirm the total money that you and Councillor Zaffar asked Cabinet to approve in the original report and the cost of the alternative route subsequently follow for this system?

Answer:

The estimated costs for the ‘Clean Air Zone mitigations application and case management system’ were £0.217m (capital) for the development of a ‘minimum viable product’, £0.100m (capital), which was to be held as contingency and an ongoing revenue cost of £0.024m per annum to support any ongoing costs for licences and support, noting that ongoing support would transfer to the Council’s Corporate IT department following completion of development.

The development of an in-house solution was completed in two phases. The first phase involved the creation of simple online application forms, without supporting case management functionality. The cost of this development was absorbed by the Council’s webteam. This phase of activity also enabled the Clean Air Zone team and the Council’s IT business analysts to refine the scope of work for the second phase of activity.

The second phase of development involved the creation of a ‘case management’ solution and a refinement of the online application forms created in phase one. The system developed during this phase of activity was to a reduced scope to the one originally requested, for example the removal of integration with the Council’s financial systems.

The estimated cost for this second phase of activity was £0.034m with an annual support cost of £0.008m.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR MATT BENNETT**

D4 Contract – Web Services

Question:

The contract with Jadu Limited for the provision of web services expired in either January 2021 or 31 March 2021, depending on whether you believe the Cabinet Procurement Intentions report or the Q4 2021/20 contract register on the open data platform. According to the Q1 2021/2022 contract register, the new contract was not signed until 18 May 2021. This is despite it appearing on the procurement intentions report in October with a target sign off date of 13 November 2011.

Please can you confirm if January or March date is correct for the expiry of this contract and what happened in the interim when the Council appears to have been operating outside of contract for a period of either 4 or 2 months with a service that includes the collection of residents personal data?

Answer:

We can confirm that the JADU contract expired on 31st March 21.

A 3-month extension approved via Officer delegations was put in place to cover the period 1st April 21 to 30th June 21 which negated any risk to the collection of residents' personal data.

This enabled additional time for contracts to be drafted for the new contract covering 1st July 21 for a 4-year period.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR CHARLOTTE HODIVALA**

D5 External Recruitment Agencies

Question:

What has the Council spent in each year since 2012 with external recruitment agencies to support recruitment?

Answer:

From an extract of the Council's Finance System and based on known vendors for external recruitment agencies to support recruitment the data is as follows:

Spend Figures for recruitment agencies to support recruitment 2012 – 2021

| Period | Spend |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 2012 - 2013 | £101,078 |
| 2013 - 2014 | £118,578 |
| 2014 - 2015 | £143,916 |
| 2015 - 2016 | £131,706 |
| 2016 - 2017 | £138,708 |
| 2017 - 2018 | £123,636 |
| 2018 - 2019 | £162,108 |
| 2019 - 2020 | £134,396 |
| 2020 - 2021 | £128,923 |
| 2021 - 08.09.2012 | £59,451 |
| | <u>£1,242,500</u> |

Detailed analysis of the above has not been undertaken and may include spend on things other than recruitment.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR MAUREEN CORNISH**

D6 Apprentices/Trainees

Question:

How many apprentice or trainee Environmental Health Officers has the Council employed in each year since 2012?

Answer:

The service has not appointed any apprentices historically. The table below identifies 2 officers in 2021 and they are the first apprentices as of September 2021.

| Year | Students Trained |
|------|------------------|
| 2012 | 4 |
| 2013 | 4 |
| 2014 | 4 |
| 2015 | 4 |
| 2016 | 10 |
| 2017 | 8 |
| 2018 | 4 |
| 2019 | 0 |
| 2020 | 0 |
| 2021 | 2 |

Due to the nature of our work being so diverse and there being large numbers of “jobs”, BCC Environmental Health is an excellent training ground for students. The service did up until 2018 provide this opportunity to support the West Midlands local universities in providing unpaid placements. The students in 2016 and 2017 were funded externally, but when this funding stream ceased, Regulation and Enforcement were advised the City Council could no longer offer unpaid training. No additional funding was available to replace the original funding and in 2019 the Coronavirus pandemic overtook this priority. The 2021 officers are on the apprenticeship, but it will take three years for them to complete their training.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR MEIRION JENKINS**

D7 Interims/Agency Staff

Question:

Since 2016, how many interims or agency staff have been used to cover roles of suspended employees and what has been the total cost of this? Please split between JNC and other employees.

Answer:

This information is not held centrally and will take longer to compile from information held within each Directorate than is available. The required information will be sourced and forwarded to Members in advance of the October meeting of the City Council.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR KEN WOOD**

D8 JNC Recruitment

Question:

How many JNC level recruitments are planned for the rest of the year to end of March 2022?

Answer:

JNC recruitment has to be approved first via the JNC Core panel before a recruitment exercise can be commenced. As of the 9th September 2021 we have approval to recruit to 9 posts as detailed below:

| Post | Progress |
|--|---|
| Director of Strategy, Equality & Partnerships | Closing date 28 th September 2021 |
| Strategic Director of Place, Prosperity & Sustainability | Closing date 24 th September 2021 |
| AD Corporate Procurement | Final Interviews 22 nd September 2021 |
| AD HR | Approved but awaiting restructure consultation which is planned to be commenced 29 th September 2021 |
| Director of Planning, Transport and Sustainability | Process currently being designed |
| AD Housing Management | Acting up in place, permanent process being scoped |
| AD Housing Services | Acting up in place, permanent process being scoped |
| AD Regulation and Enforcement | Interim in post, permanent process being scoped |
| HR Director (Interim) | Final Interview 21 st September 2021 |

It is expected that there will be other posts to be recruited before the end of March 2022, but as yet these are not defined or approved by the JNC panel.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR DOMINIC STANFORD**

D9 NDA's

Question:

How many NDA's has the Council signed with staff past or present each year since 2012?

Answer:

It is assumed the question is referring to Settlement Agreements.

Records held within Legal Services state that since 2012, 184 settlement agreements have been entered into. This figure does not include COT3 settlements entered into as a result of resolution of Employment Tribunal proceedings against the Council.

| Year | No. of Matters Opened |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 2012 | 17 |
| 2013 | 50 |
| 2014 | 18 |
| 2015 | 31 |
| 2016 | 22 |
| 2017 | 3 |
| 2018 | 5 |
| 2019 | 27 |
| 2020 | 8 |
| 2021 | 3 |
| Grand Total | 184 |

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR PETER FOWLER**

D10 Suspended JNC Officers

Question:

**How many JNC level officers were suspended for any part including for how long listed
by year and pay grade since 2012?**

Answer:

HR records indicate that only one JNC officer (grade BO2, for a period of 11 months) has been suspended since 2018, when the earliest records of this data are available.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR ADAM HIGGS

D11 Recruitment - JNC Officers

Question:

How many recruitments to JNC level posts have been run each year since 2012 including any launched but not completed?

Answer:

| Year | Successful Recruitments | Advertisements |
|------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2012 | 2 | Information not recorded |
| 2013 | 5 | Information not recorded |
| 2014 | 5 | Information not recorded |
| 2015 | 16 | Information not recorded |
| 2016 | 22 | Information not recorded |
| 2017 | 11 | Information not recorded |
| 2018 | 15 | 19 |
| 2019 | 20 | 19 |
| 2020 | 13 | 15 |
| 2021 | 11 | 20 |

- The above data includes staff moving from one JNC post to another.
- Advertisement data not recorded prior to 2018.
- The above data does not include successful interim recruitments.
- 2021 Advertisements figure does not include those that have recently received JNC Core Panel approval (5 permanent posts) that are currently being scoped.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR DARIUS SANDHU**

D12 North Birmingham Travel Signatories

Question:

Were North Birmingham Travel signatories to the Birmingham Business Charter for Social Responsibility?

Answer:

North Birmingham Travel were accredited to the Birmingham Business Charter for Social Responsibility on the 27/10/2015. They were Organisation No. 251 in [the Council's published list of accredited organisations](#).

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR SIMON MORRALL**

D13 Charges and Fines

Question:

How many charges and fines have the council had to pay up until the 31st August 2021 for the Clean Air Zone?

Answer:

In responding to this question we have interpreted 'charges' as referring to the Clean Air Air Zone daily fee (£8) and 'fines' as referring to the Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) fee (either £120 or the reduced fee of £60 if paid within 14 days of issue).

Unfortunately, the Clean Air Zone team is unable to provide details for 'charges' paid by the Council as we are unable to identify the names of individuals or organisations from the payment platforms.

In terms of fines Birmingham City Council had been issued with 834 PCNs up to 31 August 2021. To date 751 of these PCNs have been paid. 617 were at the £8 daily fee rate, 132 were at the reduced PCN rate of £60. The remainder (2) were at the full PCN rate (£120).

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR ALEX YIP**

D14 DPS Contract Details

Question:

On what date did North Birmingham Travel sign the DPS contract for home to school transport and on what date did they sign the deed of variation to ensure compliance with the recommendations of the ATG audit report and with promises made about safety checks?

Answer:

The DPS contracts were dated 6 January 2020 with the vast majority of services commencing on 24 February 2020. These were all awarded via formal letter prior to commencement of services. However, when it was discovered that the InTend electronic tendering platform had not captured the date that their original signatures had been received the DPS contract, data agreement and the 2 deeds of variation were all re-signed by NBT in June 2021.

This matter is now being investigated internally to identify why that was the case.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN LINES**

D15 Decision Notice

Question:

Please provide a copy of the decision notice for each time North Birmingham Travel were awarded any contract with Birmingham City Council, including anytime they were added to an existing framework.

Answer:

NBT were only awarded work at the start of the DPS and therefore covered under the original award report and did not win further work via the mini competition process.



D15 P0504 Home to
School provision Awa

Delegated Award Report

Birmingham City Council

Report to: Assistant Director, Education and Skills

Date 20th April 2020



Subject: **CONTRACT AWARD - PROVISION OF HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT (P0504)**

Report of: Home to School Transport Head of Service, Education and Skills

Report author: Carol Woodfield, Commissioning Manager,
Telephone No: 07860 906331
Email Address: carol.woodfield@birmingham.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. To provide details of the outcome of the mini-competitions undertaken for the provision of Home to School Transport service for eligible SEND children and young people and seeks approval to award contracts to the preferred providers.
- 1.2. These stages were undertaken via a mini-competition using the Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) agreement which was established on 1 November 2019. In accordance with 2.4 of the Delegated Award Report – Home to School Transport (P0504), approved on 24 December 2019, these are the subsequent stages of mini-competition.
- 1.3. These contracts will be for a period of 4 years commencing on 27th April 2020 with the option to activate a break clause after 2 years, or unless an eligible child's requirements alter or cease within that time.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the Director, Education and Skills in conjunction with the Assistant Director, Development and Commercial (or their delegate) Chief Finance

Officer (or their delegate) and the Acting Interim City Solicitor (or their delegate):

- 2.2. Approves the award of the transport routes for the provision of Home to School Transport Services to the providers detailed in Appendix 1, commencing 27th April 2020 for the consolidated value of £10.520m over four years.
- 2.3. Authorises the Acting Interim City Solicitor (or their delegate) to execute and complete all necessary legal documents to give effect to above.

3. Background

3.1. Background

- 3.1.1. The relevant background and chronology of key events was explained in the Procurement Strategy for the Provision of Home to School Transport Service approved on 20 August 2019. The procurement strategy for the DPS was agreed by Cabinet on 20 August 2019. The acceptance of the applications onto the DPS was approved by the Head of Procurement on 29 November 2019. Contracts are called off from the DPS via a mini-competition process.
- 3.1.2. This is the continuation of waves of mini-competition, the Delegated Award Report – Home to School Transport (P0504) approved on 24 December 2019 awarded 75% of the provision for a total value of £27.084m over four years.

3.2. Invitation to Tender (ITT) Stage

- 3.2.1. The contract for the provision of services was tendered via mini-competitions processes pursuant to the DPS.
- 3.2.2. The opportunities were advertised via the 'in-tend' portal to all the DPS suppliers, namely;

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| AFJ | Kingsnorton coaches |
| AJ Executive Travel | Lawrence's Garage |
| Attain Travel Ltd | Mark Taylor Private Hire, |
| Bearwood Coaches / Minibuses | North Birmingham Travel Ltd |
| Beaufort Cars | Plaza Cars (Birmingham) Ltd, |
| Castle Cars Birmingham Ltd | Select Private Hire Ltd |
| Community Transport | Shencare Community Transport Ltd |
| County Cars (2003) Limited | Star Cars and Coaches Limited |

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Elite Radio Cars Ltd | Taxie |
| Great Barr Cars | TC Cars |
| Green Destinations Ltd | Touchwood Private Hire Ltd |
| Holistic Transport Services Ltd | West Midlands Travel Limited |

3.2.3. Questions raised by tenderers during the mini-competitions were addressed by issuing clarifications to all tenderers.

3.2.4. Tenders were received from:

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| AFJ Ltd | Mark Taylor Private Hire |
| AJ Executive Travel | North Birmingham Travel Ltd |
| Bearwood Minibuses / Coaches | Plaza Cars (Birmingham) Ltd, |
| Beaufort Cars | Select Private Hire Ltd |
| Community Transport | Shencare Community Transport Ltd |
| Elite Radio Cars Ltd | Star Cars and Coaches Ltd |
| Great Barr Cars | Taxie |
| Green Destinations Ltd | TC Cars Ltd |
| Holistic Transport Services Ltd | Touchwood Private Hire Ltd |
| Kings Norton Coaches | West Midlands Travel Limited |
| Lawrence's Garage | |

3.2.5. Consultation with the organisations who did not return tenders was carried out to understand why they did not submit. The majority did not engage in the mini-competition process due to not having the capacity or resource currently to deliver the route(s) or submit a tender.

3.3. Evaluation and Selection Summary

3.3.1. Details of the evaluation including the criteria for selection was set out in the Procurement Strategy for the Provision of Home to School transport dated 20 August 2019 and outlined that tenders received would be evaluated using a split of 40% quality and 60% price. Due to the value of contracts with each provider being unknown until after the award of the all the school routes, Social Value was not evaluated at this stage but providers were requested to

complete a draft action plan that would only be enacted once the contract value exceeded the £200,000 threshold.

- 3.3.2. The evaluation was undertaken by officers from the Home to School Transport service, supported by Corporate Procurement Services.

3.3.3. Overall Evaluation

The overall results of the evaluation are summarised in Appendix 1.

3.3.4. Coverage of Provision

This round of procurement covers the remaining 25% of service provision and all schools and routes have been covered.

4. Service Delivery Management

4.1. Contract Management

- 4.1.1. The contract will be managed operationally by the Home to School Manager with support from Corporate Procurement Services.

4.2. Performance Management

- 4.2.1. Details of the performance management is set out in section 12.2 of the Procurement Strategy for the Provision of Home to School transport Service approved 20 August 2019 and the same continues to apply.

5. Alternative Options considered and Recommended Proposal

- 5.1.1. Not to award the contract – this is not an option as it would leave the Council without contracts for 25% of provision for the Home to School Transport for

the transport of eligible children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

5.2. Recommendations

- 5.2.1. It is recommended that the contracts for the Home to School Provision be awarded to the Providers as detailed in Appendix 1, based on the rankings for each school provision after the quality and price evaluations.

6. Consultation

6.1. Internal

- 6.1.1. The Procurement Strategy was approved in the Cabinet Members for Education, Skills and Culture; Children's Wellbeing; Health and Social Care and Finance and Resources jointly with the Director for Education and Skills:
- 6.1.2. Procurement Strategy for the Provision of Home to School Transport, approved 20 August 2019.
- 6.1.3. The establishment of the DPS was approved by the Head of Commissioning and Procurement and the Assistant Director Education and Skills on 31 October 2019.
- 6.1.4. Officers from City Finance, Corporate Procurement and Legal and Governance have been involved in the preparation of this report.

6.2. External

- 6.2.1. None.

7. Compliance Issues:

- 7.1. How are the recommended decisions consistent with the City Council's priorities, plans and strategies?
- 7.1.1. The details were included in the Procurement Strategy for the Provision of Home to School Transport, approved 20 August 2019 and the same continues to apply.

7.2. Legal Implications

- 7.2.1. The Education Act 1996 places duties on the Council to make the travel arrangements that it considers necessary to facilitate the attendance of eligible children, young people and adults at their educational establishments.
- 7.2.2. The Education Act 1996 also places a duty on the Council to promote the use of sustainable modes of travel to meet the school travel needs of its area.
- 7.2.3 Section 111 Local Government Act 1972 allows the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of its functions.

Financial Implications

The estimated cost for the DPS element of the Home to School Transport Service was £10.018m per annum, as approved in the Procurement Strategy for the Service on 20 August 2019.

The budget estimates for 2020/21 includes a provisional allocation of £0.890m to cover the additional costs for the implementation of Birmingham's Clean Air Zone (CAZ) and the City's commitment towards Real Living Wage.

Of the £16.896 annual budget, £6.161m is committed to the NEAT contract, leaving approximately £10.735m towards the DPS contract element. The previous award of 75% at an annual value of £6.771m, and this subsequent recommendation to award the remaining 25% at an annual value of £2.630m is held within the Travel Assist service as reflected in the following table:

| | 2020/21 £'000s |
|--|-------------------|
| Budgets | |
| Transport Hire | 16,006 |
| Additional budget for CAZ and Real Living Wage | 890 |
| Total Transport Hire | 16,896 |
| Applicable Expenditure on contracts | |
| NEAT | (6,161) |
| DPS - award 75% of contracts | (6,771) |
| DPS – award 25% of contracts | (2,630) |
| Total Contracts Awarded | (15,562) |
| Budget remaining | 1,334 |

- 7.2.4 It should be noted that this is a demand driven service, with the Council legally obligated to provide the service to qualifying pupils. As such, the actual spend is likely to fluctuate in line with demand changes. The terms and conditions of the contract allows for price variation when mileage is increased / decreased over 10%.
- 7.2.5 In accordance with 7.3.2 of previous Delegated Award Report – Provision of Home to School Transport (P0504) approved on 24 December 2019, the commissioning arrangements were adjusted from a route basis to a “whole school approach”. Under the T23 agreement the actual annual cost of provision is currently valued at £11.248m. A comparative cost of day rates for each school shows revised cost of £9.401m and a potential annual cost reduction of £1.847m under the new DPS agreements. A reduction of £0.665m was assumed in the Home to School budget re-basing as part of the 2020/21 budget exercise, therefore, the net potential additional cost reduction is £1.182m. However, it needs to be emphasised that due to a change in the basis of pricing of provision from routes to schools and issues with the accuracy of data systems in School Transport that these figures need to be treated with caution.
- 7.2.6 Any savings generated as a result of this exercise will contribute to the delivery of the Council procurement savings target as set outlined in the budget consultation proposal reference S FG003 20+ and the principle supported by CLT on 20th January 2020. A virement of £0.582m will be made to the Procurement budget to reflect the likely savings against the contract above that already assumed in the School Transport budget. However, given the uncertainties flagged in 7.2.5 it is proposed that tracking of actual costs is undertaken over a 3-month period to the end May 2020 to ensure cost reductions are confirmed and sustainable, before any further budget transfer is considered.
- 7.2.7 **Impact of Covid-19** - As at 1st April 2020, there are approximately 40-60 routes still operating as some of the schools have remained open for the more vulnerable SEND children. As the situation progresses, it is being continually monitored to ensure the children who need to attend school, have the transport provision to do so.
- To ensure the Council has a flexible and reliable supply chain able to adapt and react quickly, there are ongoing discussions about future payment terms, offering a retainer to Providers, suggestions are between 75 -100% of their daily cost minus marginal costs that would not be incurred. This is an unprecedented and fluctuating situation we find ourselves in, however, ultimately the costs to the Council will not increase but we need to ensure the Council can deliver a service if / when required.

Procurement Implications

7.2.8 This report concerns the contract awards for the Provision of the Home to School Transport Service, and the implications are detailed throughout the report.

7.2.9 The duration of the DPS agreement will be for a period of 4 years as per the Procurement Strategy for the Provision of Home to School Transport, approved 20 August 2019.

7.3 Public Sector Equality Duty

7.3.1 The requirements of Standing Order 9 in respect of the Council's Equality Policy and the Equality Act 2010 have been specifically included in the tender documentation.

7.3.2 The Council has reviewed again whether an equality assessment is required and has decided that it is not, please see paragraph 8.6 of the Procurement Strategy for the Provision of Home to School Transport, approved 20 August 2019.

8 Background Documents

8.1 Cabinet Members for Education, Skills and Culture; Children's Wellbeing; Health and Social Care and Finance and Resources jointly with the Director for Education and Skills - Report: Procurement Strategy for the Provision of Home to School Transport, approved 20 August 2019.

8.2 Delegated Award Report of Director of Education in conjunction with the Assistant Director Commercial and Development, Chief Finance Officer and the Interim City Solicitor – Report: Contract Award for the Provision of Home to School Transport (P0504), approved 24 December 2019.

9 List of Appendices accompanying this Report

9.1 Appendix 1 – List of awarded suppliers.

Recommendations Approved by:



Date 14/10/2020

Director, Education and Skills (or their delegate)



Date 22/4/20

Assistant Director, Development and Commercial (or their delegate)



Date 7/8/20

Chief Finance Officer (or their delegate)



Date 11/09/20 (Rec'd 10/9/20)

Acting Interim City Solicitor (or their delegate)

Appendix 1

| School | Provider | OVERALL TOTALWEIGHTED SCORE |
|---|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Access to Creative College | Star Cars | 93.20 |
| Alderbrook School and Arts College (Solihull) | Taxie Ltd | 87.8 |
| Anglesey Primary School | Select | 71.6 |
| Ark Oakbridge School | Lawrence's | 85.2 |
| Arc School Ansley (Nuneaton) | Lawrence's | 85.2 |
| Arc School Old Arley (Nuneaton) | TC Cars | 84.8 |
| Arc School Napton (Warwickshire) | Plaza | 84.2 |
| Arena Academy | TC Cars | 84.8 |
| Argent College (Part of Ruskin Mill) | Great Barr | 72.4 |
| Ark Boulton Academy | AFJ | 89.9 |
| Ark Kings Academy | Elite | 77.3 |
| Arthur Terry School / Mere Green combined | TC Cars | 84.8 |
| Balaam Wood School | AFJ | 89.9 |
| Bartley Green School | Shencare | 84.5 |
| Baskerville School | North Birmingham | 88.8 |
| Billesley Primary School | Taxie Ltd | 72.4 |
| Bishop Challoner Rc School / King Edwards VI Camp Hill School for Girls | Touchwood | 88.8 |
| Birmingham Independent College | Great Barr | 72.4 |
| Bladon House School (Burton-On-Trent) | TC Cars | 84.2 |
| Bordesley Green Girls' School & Sixth Form | TC Cars | 84.8 |
| Bournville School and Sixth Form Centre / Dame Elizabeth Cadbury | Elite | 70.4 |
| Bournville College | Elite | 84.0 |
| Braidwood School For The Deaf | AFJ | 89.9 |
| Calthorpe Teaching Academy | Touchwood | 88.8 |
| Chadsgrove School (Bromsgrove) | Elite | 84.0 |

City Council – 14 September 2021

| | | |
|---|------------------------|-------|
| Cherry Orchard Primary School | Lawrences | 72.0 |
| Christ The King Catholic Primary School | Plaza | 84.2 |
| City of Birmingham School (Ashbourne Centre) | TC Cars | 84.8 |
| City of Birmingham School (Millpool Centre) | Plaza | 84.2 |
| City of Birmingham School (Minerva Centre) | Kings Norton | 84.4 |
| City of Birmingham School (Fishbrook) | Green Destination Ltd | 75.0 |
| City of Birmingham School (Link Centre) | Touchwood | 72.8 |
| City of Birmingham School (Marywood Centre) | Community Transport | 73.6 |
| City United Academy | Green Destinations | 96.8 |
| Dame Elizabeth Cadbury School | Elite | |
| Dame Ellen Pinsent School (The) | AFJ | 89.8 |
| Dovedale Centre (James Brindley School) | Select | |
| Elmwood School | TC Cars | 84.8 |
| Exhall Grange School And Science College (Coventry) | Shencare | 84.48 |
| Fairfax | North Birmingham | 88.8 |
| Fairway Primary Academy | Elite | |
| Farleigh Further Education College - Frome (Frome) | Green Destinations Ltd | 79.5 |
| Ferndale Primary School (Sandwell) | Green Destinations Ltd | 96.8 |
| Flexible Learning Centre | Plaza | 70.4 |
| Forest Oak School (Solihull) | TC Cars | 84.8 |
| Fox Hollies School And Performing Arts College | Touchwood | 88.8 |
| Gilbertstone Primary School | Touchwood | 88.8 |
| Glasshouse College (Stourbridge) | Green Destinations | 96.8 |
| Gloverspiece Mini Farm School (Worcestershire) | Green Destinations | 96.8 |
| Great Barr Primary | Green Destinations | 89.8 |
| Greenwood Academy | TC Cars | 84.8 |
| Halesowen College (Halesowen) | Green Destinations | 96.8 |
| Hall Green School / Hall Green Infant School | AFJ | 89.8 |
| Hallmoor School | North Birmingham | 88.8 |
| Hamilton School | North Birmingham | 88.8 |
| Hamstead Hall Academy | Green Destinations | 96.8 |

City Council – 14 September 2021

| | | |
|---|--------------------|------|
| Harborne Academy | Green Destinations | 96.8 |
| Hawthorn Ji School | Plaza | 84.2 |
| Hazel Oak School (Solihull) / Peterbrook | Lawrence's | 85.2 |
| Hodge Hill Girls' School | Green Destinations | 84.5 |
| Hollywood Primary School | Kings Norton | 84.4 |
| Holte School | Touchwood | 88.8 |
| Holy Trinity Catholic Media Arts College | Green Destinations | 96.8 |
| Holyhead School | Green Destinations | 96.8 |
| Horizon School For Children With Autism (Rugeley) Rugeley School (Staffordshire) | Lawrences | 85.2 |
| Hunters Hill College | Select | 71.6 |
| John Henry Newman Catholic College (Solihull) | Green Destinations | |
| Joseph Chamberlain Sixth Form College | Green Destinations | 96.8 |
| King Edward VI Camp Hill School For Girls | Touchwood | |
| King Edward VI Handsworth School For Girls | TC Cars | 84.8 |
| King Edward VI Sheldon Heath Academy | Green Destinations | 96.8 |
| Kingfisher | Green Destinations | 96.8 |
| Kings Heath Primary School | AFJ | 89.8 |
| Kings Norton Girls' School | Shencare | |
| Langley School | Lawrences | 85.2 |
| Langley School, Specialist College For The Performing Arts, Languages And Training (Solihull) | Touchwood | |
| Light Hall School (Solihull) | Green Destinations | 96.8 |
| Lindsworth School (KS2) | Touchwood | |
| Lode Heath School And Sports College (Solihull) | Touchwood | 88.8 |
| Longdon Hall School (Rugeley) | TC Cars | 84.8 |
| Longdon Park School | TC Cars | 84.8 |
| Longwill A Primary School for The Deaf | Select | 71.6 |
| Lyndon Green Infant School / Junior School | Lawrences | 85.2 |
| Mander Portman College | Green Destinations | 96.8 |
| Maple Hayes Hall School (Lichfield) | TC Cars | 84.8 |

City Council – 14 September 2021

| | | |
|--|------------------------|------|
| Mayfield School | National Express | 87.6 |
| Meadows Primary School (The) / St. Columba's | Shencare | 84.4 |
| Meadows Sports College | Green Destinations Ltd | 96.8 |
| Merstone School (Solihull) | AFJ | 89.8 |
| Nelson Mandela School (Nc) | AFJ | 89.8 |
| New Elizabethan School (Kidderminster) | Green Destinations Ltd | 96.8 |
| Ninestiles School, An Academy | TC Cars | 84.8 |
| Northern House School (Solihull) | TC Cars | 84.8 |
| Northfield Centre (James Brindley School) | Touchwood | 88.8 |
| Norton College (Norton) | Green Destinations | 96.8 |
| Nova Training | Green Destinations | 96.8 |
| Oscott Academy | Green Destinations | 96.8 |
| Paget Primary School | Green Destinations | 88.1 |
| Parkway Centre | Touchwood | 88.8 |
| Percy Shurmer Academy | AFJ | |
| Peterbrook Primary School (Solihull) | Lawrences | |
| Phoenix Primary Ebd School (Walsall) | Green Destinations | 96.8 |
| Pines Special School (The) | Lawrences | 85.2 |
| Pitcheroak School (Redditch) | Green Destinations | 96.8 |
| Plantsbrook School | AFJ | 89.8 |
| Priestley Smith School | AFJ | 89.8 |
| Q3A | Green Destinations | 96.8 |
| Queen Alexandra College | Taxie | 87.8 |
| Queen'S Croft Community School (Lichfield) | Lawrences | 85.2 |
| Queensbridge School | AFJ | 89.8 |
| Queensbury School | North Birmingham | 88.8 |
| R.Y.A.N Education Academy | TC Cars | 84.8 |
| Reynolds Cross School (Solihull) | Green Destinations | 96.8 |
| Rigby Hall Day Special School (Bromsgrove) | Green Destinations | 96.8 |
| Riverside Education | Green Destinations | 96.8 |
| Riverside Vocational College | Green Destinations | 96.8 |

City Council – 14 September 2021

| | | |
|---|--------------------|-------|
| Rockwood Academy | Green Destinations | 96.8 |
| Rodbaston | Green Destinations | 96.8 |
| Rookery School | Green Destinations | 96.8 |
| Saltley Academy | Green Destinations | 96.8 |
| Selly Oak Trust School | North Birmingham | 88.8 |
| Silver Birch | Green Destinations | 89.11 |
| Skilts School | AFJ | 74.0 |
| Small Heath Leadership Academy | Green Destinations | 96.8 |
| Smithswood Academy | TC Cars | 84.8 |
| Solihull Academy | Touchwood | 88.8 |
| Solihull College | TC Cars | 84.8 |
| South & City College Birmingham (Hall Green) | Green Destinations | 96.8 |
| Spring Hill High School | Taxie | 87.8 |
| Springfield House Community Special School | AFJ | 74.0 |
| St Columba'S Catholic Primary School | Shencare | |
| St Edmund Campion Catholic School & Sixth Form Centre | AFJ | 74.0 |
| St Edward'S Catholic Primary School | Green Destinations | 96.8 |
| St Georges School Edgbaston | Taxie Ltd | 72.4 |
| St Laurence Church Junior School | Great Barr | 72.4 |
| St Pauls School | Select | 71.6 |
| St Paul'S School For Girls | Green Destinations | 96.8 |
| St Rose's School | TC Cars | 84.8 |
| St Teresa'S Catholic Primary School | Green Destinations | 90.4 |
| Stockland Green School | Green Destinations | 96.8 |
| Sunfield School (Stourbridge) | Green Destinations | 96.8 |
| The Island Project School (College) | Taxie | 87.8 |
| The Island Project School (Coventry) (The Island Project College) | Elite | 83.09 |
| The Meadows School (Sandwell) | Green Destinations | 96.8 |
| Three Spires Academy | Green Destinations | 96.8 |
| Timberley Academy | AFJ | 89.8 |
| Topcliffe Primary School | Lawrences | 85.2 |

City Council – 14 September 2021

| | | |
|---|------------------------|------|
| Trinity Specialist College Ltd | TC Cars | 71.2 |
| Two Rivers High School (Staffordshire) | Taxie Ltd | 72.4 |
| Two Rivers Primary School (Tamworth) | Beaufort | 70.4 |
| Uffculme School | Plaza | 70.4 |
| University of Birmingham School (The) / Kings Norton Girls School | Shencare | 84.4 |
| Values Academy | Green Destinations | 92.9 |
| Waverley School | Community Transport | 90.6 |
| Waseley Hill High School and Sixth Form Centre (Worcestershire) | Elite | 70.4 |
| Welford Primary School | Green Destinations Ltd | 96.8 |
| Welsh House Farm Community School | Taxie | 87.8 |
| Wenlock School (Dudley) | Green Destination Ltd | 77.3 |
| Wightwick Hall School (Wolverhampton) | Green Destinations | 96.8 |
| Woodhouse Primary Academy / Worlds End Junior School | Kingsnorton Ltd | 84.4 |
| Woodlands (Warwickshire) | TC Cars | 84.8 |
| World's End Infant and Nursery School | Shencare | 84.4 |

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR GARETH MOORE**

D16 Engagement with Providers

Question:

What engagement took place (including dates and method used) with providers on the existing DPS framework for home to school transport to establish a lack of capacity to replace North Birmingham Travel? If the same did not take place with all providers on that framework please specify the different levels of engagement with different providers, including where none took place at all.

Answer:

A recent mini competition held in July for contingency provision indicated that the DPS was saturated, with many providers not bidding citing they were already at maximum capacity. Given, the need to replace NBT at pace an alternative framework was used with the aim of identifying new operators. For these reasons the council did not use the DPS and instead advertised the opportunity on a national framework for transport providers.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR TIMOTHY HUXTABLE**

D17 Tender Advert

Question:

Please provide a copy of the tender advert/notification for the replacement provider for North Birmingham Travel which followed an expedited procurement route.

Answer:

The alternative provider was commissioned using a DPS open to public bodies via a mini competition and used an escalated procurement timeline, as authorised via report to Chief Executive in August 2021 as an emergency decision in accordance with part B6.6 of the Councils Constitution.

The advert wording is as follows:

Good afternoon,

The mini competition for the Birmingham City Council core vehicle requirement is now live on the Digital Marketplace ending at 08:00 on the 19th August 2021. I have attached the relevant documentation for review prior to bidding.

In addition to the currently active mini-competition for resources within Birmingham City Council Home to School transport, a second mini-competition will be posted to secure contingency vehicles should they be required. Birmingham City Council have confirmed the requirement of these contingency vehicles to ensure the full service is covered. The provider awarded the contingency resources may not be required to cover routes at the times planned however this will be confirmed by BCC as and when required. This contingency will be required until the October 2021 half term - 22nd October 2021.

The notice period or cancellation period as confirmed by BCC is 12 hours prior to the vehicle start time.

The breakdown of contingency vehicles is as follows:

- 6 vehicles running 07:00 – 10:00 Monday to Friday. 3 of these vehicles will be holding paid in full regardless of usage with the remaining 3 on standby pay as used.*
- 6 vehicles running 14:00-17:00 Monday to Friday. 3 of these vehicles will be holding paid in full regardless of usage with the remaining 3 on standby pay as used.*

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR EWAN MACKEY**

D18 Emergency Procurement Decision

Question:

In a statement to the press the Cabinet Member for Vulnerable Children stated, “owing to the extra contingency that the City Council bought in in preparation for any unforeseen issues, we are able to replace this resource immediately.” With that in mind, why then do you believe an emergency procurement decision was required to authorise a new expedited procurement process rather than using this ‘extra capacity’ whilst a proper process was followed?

Answer:

The contingency vehicles were procured prior to the decision to terminate NBT in anticipation of potential market failure at the start of term. On further assessment officers’ advice was then to re-procure the service in full, keeping this contingent resource available for other unforeseen potential challenges. We now know this to have been the right decision, as we have in fact needed the contingency to address shortfalls elsewhere in our provision. The current market is currently at saturation point and commissioners are working to bring new suppliers into Birmingham to help meet rising demand. The contract HATS was procured using a proper process, procured through a national framework for transport providers inline with council procurement regulations.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR RON STORER

D19 DBS Umbrella Checks

Question:

How many external organisations does the Council provide a DBS checking service for in its accredited role as a DBS Umbrella Organisation? Please provide this broken down between, including the gross and net revenues figures for this service –

- **VCS organisations**
- **Private Companies**
- **Council Owned companies**
- **Council contracted organisations**

Answer:

DBS

| Organisations | Number | Gross Revenue | Net Revenue |
|----------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| VCS | 7 | £1,261.60 | 1,179.00 |
| Private | 158 | £90,778.44 | £84,943.20 |
| Council Owned Companies | 1 | £76,084.00 | £69,560.00 |
| Council Contracted Organisations | 267 | 138,678.90 | £130,236.00 |

| | | | |
|---|------|-------------|-------------|
| Private Hire & Hackney Carriage Drivers | 1837 | £138,138.00 | £138,138.00 |
|---|------|-------------|-------------|

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR BOB BEAUCHAMP**

D20 DBS Update Service

Question:

Does the Council require contracted organisations for whom DBS checks are required to sign up to the DBS Update Service and does it require it of its own employees?

Answer:

In respect where a Contract has been assessed that it requires Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checks the default position is that the requirements are typically covered as part of the tender arrangements through application of the Council's Standard Terms and Conditions to the Contract.

The Council's Standard Terms and Conditions for contracted organisations do include the requirement that the provider carries out the appropriate employment checks; other checks as required by the DBS and that the provider complies with the DBS Code of Practice. The Standard Terms and Conditions do not specifically refer to the update service, although it does refer to the Code of Practice.

The Council does include this requirement for Council employees where they undertake regulated activities.

There may be occasions where Contracts are not formed on Council Standard Terms and Conditions, but this should be the exception as opposed to the default. In such cases the necessary due diligence would be required by the authorised officer(s) to ensure appropriate safeguards are in place, contractually and operationally, with engagement from Legal Service and / or Corporate Procurement Service as required.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR BRUCE LINES**

D21 DBS employee checks

Question:

How many DBS checks does the council complete for its own staff per year, split between new recruits and rechecks of existing staff

Answer:

Between 1st August 2020 and 31st July 2021 there were 679 new starters (employees and workers) of which 203 of these were eligible for a DBS check and these were duly completed. A further 815 DBS checks were completed during this period for existing employees and workers where a recheck was due.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID BARRIE**

D22 DBS employee checks 2

Question:

How many council posts currently require an up-to-date DBS check to be in place and how many of these can you confirm are in place?

Answer:

There are currently 5131 positions where a DBS check is required to work within the role. All employees that require a DBS check have one.

Following a change in policy in February 2020, employees in roles where a DBS check is required must also register with the DBS update service, which requires a new DBS check to be completed. This is being conducted in a phased approach and will continue until the time when all eligible employees are registered with the DBS update service. 747 employees are currently registered.

For new starters, where a DBS is required to carry out a role the employee/worker cannot start work until a DBS clearance is received.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR ZAKER CHOUDHRY

E1 Social Care Assessments

Question:

Following reports that least 75,000 people in England wait six months for a social care assessment, could the Cabinet Member provide details on (a) how long a vulnerable person has to wait between initial application and initial assessment by a city social worker (b) how many applications are currently waiting to be assessed (split by ward) (c) what is the average waiting time (split by ward) and (d) what steps are being taken to improve this situation in the city?

Answer:

- Since September 2020 to August 2021 - Adult Social Care have received 13779 referrals/ requests for an assessment, the number of outstanding assessments is 1310.
- Average waiting time of 27.5 days over a period of 12 months.
- Please see table below for question B and C
- Throughout the covid pandemic, ASC have continued to risk manage the awaiting allocations, annual reviews and other key prioritise to ensure citizens that supported, offered advice and support. When citizens first contact the service advise, guidance and signposting is provided in addition to the assessment.
- Commencing September 2021 – weekly Assistant Director monitoring of outstanding allocations has commenced, focusing on any awaiting allocations after 28 days from referral date.

****Please note the figures are subject to data tidy-ups, and delays in system processing.**

Citizens waiting for assessment by Ward.

| Ward (alphabetical) | Waiting |
|---------------------|---------|
|---------------------|---------|

5599

City Council – 14 September 2021

| Ward (alphabetical) | Waiting |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Acocks Green | 28 |
| Allens Cross | 4 |
| Alum Rock | 35 |
| Aston | 36 |
| Balsall Heath West | 17 |
| Bartley Green | 11 |
| Billesley | 27 |
| Birchfield | 29 |
| Bordesley & Highgate | 16 |
| Bordesley Green | 25 |
| Bournbrook & Selly Park | 30 |
| Bournville & Cotteridge | 42 |
| Brandwood & King's Heath | 37 |
| Bromford & Hodge Hill | 30 |
| Castle Vale | 6 |
| Druids Heath & Monyhull | 31 |
| Edgbaston | 7 |
| Erdington | 13 |
| Frankley Great Park | 3 |
| Garretts Green | 14 |
| Glebe Farm & Tile Cross | 25 |
| Gravelly Hill | 15 |
| Hall Green North | 29 |
| Hall Green South | 7 |
| Handsworth | 26 |
| Handsworth Wood | 52 |
| Harborne | 13 |
| Heartlands | 18 |
| Highter's Heath | 17 |

5600

City Council – 14 September 2021

| Ward (alphabetical) | Waiting |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Holyhead | 17 |
| King's Norton North | 7 |
| King's Norton South | 3 |
| Kingstanding | 24 |
| Ladywood | 31 |
| Longbridge & West Heath | 7 |
| Lozells | 29 |
| Moseley | 42 |
| Nechells | 28 |
| Newtown | 28 |
| North Edgbaston | 29 |
| Northfield | 1 |
| Oscott | 39 |
| Perry Barr | 38 |
| Perry Common | 13 |
| Pype Hayes | 12 |
| Quinton | 8 |
| Rubery & Rednal | 4 |
| Shard End | 15 |
| Sheldon | 17 |
| Small Heath | 30 |
| Soho & Jewellery Quarter | 53 |
| South Yardley | 10 |
| Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East | 35 |
| Sparkhill | 31 |
| Stirchley | 20 |
| Stockland Green | 11 |
| Sutton Four Oaks | 1 |
| Sutton Mere Green | 1 |

5601

City Council – 14 September 2021

| Ward (alphabetical) | Waiting |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Sutton Reddicap | 7 |
| Sutton Roughley | 2 |
| Sutton Trinity | 5 |
| Sutton Vesey | 6 |
| Sutton Walmley & Minworth | 3 |
| Sutton Wylde Green | 1 |
| Tyseley & Hay Mills | 11 |
| Ward End | 9 |
| Weoley & Selly Oak | 18 |
| Yardley East | 10 |
| Yardley West & Stechford | 11 |
| Grand Total | 1310 |

Citizens average waiting time

| Ward (alphabetical) | Ave. days wait |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Acocks Green | 18.3 |
| Allens Cross | 18.5 |
| Alum Rock | 32.1 |
| Aston | 47.0 |
| Balsall Heath West | 42.4 |
| Bartley Green | 18.8 |
| Billesley | 34.9 |
| Birchfield | 36.1 |
| Bordesley & Highgate | 39.1 |
| Bordesley Green | 45.3 |
| Bournbrook & Selly Park | 42.0 |
| Bournville & Cotteridge | 40.9 |
| Brandwood & King's Heath | 36.3 |
| Bromford & Hodge Hill | 29.1 |
| Castle Vale | 16.0 |

5602

City Council – 14 September 2021

| Ward (alphabetical) | Ave. days wait |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Druids Heath & Monyhull | 33.8 |
| Edgbaston | 22.8 |
| Erdington | 13.9 |
| Frankley Great Park | 11.1 |
| Garretts Green | 16.3 |
| Glebe Farm & Tile Cross | 42.0 |
| Gravelly Hill | 18.6 |
| Hall Green North | 23.3 |
| Hall Green South | 23.2 |
| Handsworth | 42.6 |
| Handsworth Wood | 62.3 |
| Harborne | 16.3 |
| Heartlands | 27.5 |
| Highter's Heath | 28.6 |
| Holyhead | 47.9 |
| King's Norton North | 16.2 |
| King's Norton South | 13.7 |
| Kingstanding | 25.9 |
| Ladywood | 41.1 |
| Longbridge & West Heath | 16.5 |
| Lozells | 46.8 |
| Moseley | 45.4 |
| Nechells | 40.2 |
| Newtown | 42.4 |
| North Edgbaston | 31.5 |
| Northfield | 14.5 |
| Oscott | 48.9 |
| Perry Barr | 57.0 |
| Perry Common | 14.3 |

5603

City Council – 14 September 2021

| Ward (alphabetical) | Ave. days wait |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Pype Hayes | 18.1 |
| Quinton | 21.8 |
| Rubery & Rednal | 16.2 |
| Shard End | 40.7 |
| Sheldon | 16.1 |
| Small Heath | 31.4 |
| Soho & Jewellery Quarter | 51.5 |
| South Yardley | 22.8 |
| Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East | 40.4 |
| Sparkhill | 27.9 |
| Stirchley | 46.2 |
| Stockland Green | 20.6 |
| Sutton Four Oaks | 7.5 |
| Sutton Mere Green | 8.7 |
| Sutton Reddicap | 9.8 |
| Sutton Roughley | 8.3 |
| Sutton Trinity | 7.5 |
| Sutton Vesey | 13.6 |
| Sutton Walmley & Minworth | 7.3 |
| Sutton Wylde Green | 5.7 |
| Tyseley & Hay Mills | 16.4 |
| Ward End | 39.1 |
| Weoley & Selly Oak | 20.5 |
| Yardley East | 15.6 |
| Yardley West & Stechford | 14.0 |
| Grand Total | 27.5 |

CITY COUNCIL – 14 SEPTEMBER 2021

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR ROGER HARMER

E2 Vaccine Rollout

Question:

With high levels of adult residents in many of the City's wards still not vaccinated against Covid19, what further work is going to be done to ensure all residents in our communities have easy access to the vaccinations and to encourage them to take up the opportunity to have both jabs?

Answer:

The current COVID-19 vaccination figures show that 65.1% of adults aged 16+ in Birmingham have had their 1st vaccine dose whilst 56.4% have had their second dose. This affirms that a high proportion of our adult residents in the city are still unvaccinated. The age groups with vaccine uptake lower than the Birmingham average (1st and 2nd doses) include 16-17, 18-29- and 30-39-year olds. Similarly, the recent figures show that 24 out of 69 wards have uptake lower than 60% in adults aged 16+.

The NHS lead the vaccine delivery programme and the Council has supported them in enabling pop-up sites and with data and insight work.

The qualitative data obtained from our engagement activities with local elected members, faith leaders, champions, commissioned providers, schools, universities, businesses/workplaces and other local stakeholders, suggests that there are various factors that contribute to vaccine hesitancy amongst our residents. Examples of such factors include concerns about safety, fertility, effectiveness of the vaccines and feeling that younger adults have lower risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

We have worked in partnership with communities and the NHS to raise awareness, build trust, influence vaccine delivery and address misinformation through proactive communications and engagement across the City to help increase vaccine confidence. There are ongoing vaccine campaigns aimed at increasing access by taking the vaccination to residents' doorsteps based on requests from our local communities.

We report on the engagement work on a monthly basis through the Local Outbreak Engagement Board Covid overview report. The September LOEB included a detailed presentation on the work of our commissioned community partners over the last year as well which demonstrates the breadth of activity and use of different platforms we have used to support the vaccine programme.

Some highlights of our work to support vaccination includes:

City Council – 14 September 2021

- We have held and are planning more webinars/Q&As with various community groups and leaders jointly delivered with key stakeholders across the ICS including NHS, voluntary sector and commissioned community providers.
- We have commissioned face-to-face engagement activities on the ground talking to real people and collating themes (currently being evaluated).
- We regularly share information from engagement events with partners to support the coordination between vaccine van deployment and engagement teams targeting priority wards based on the weekly dashboard report
https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/downloads/download/3667/covid-19_community_champions
- We share links to mobile vaccine campaigns/locations across various channels to increase awareness of locations: <https://www.birminghamandsolihullcovidvaccine.nhs.uk/walk-in/>
- We proactively hold weekly meetings with faith groups, community champions, youth champions, community providers to discuss and understand the need through in-depth conversations with groups.
- We successfully used the feedback from discussions above to signpost people to physical vaccine locations in the community and arrange mobile vaccination where required.
- We use proactive social media engagement via HealthyBrum brand and Council Corporate brand on twitter, Instagram and Facebook.
- We hold weekly live Q&A on local and regional radio with the Director of Public Health.
- We co-produced posters with community groups with information on vaccine locations to support delivery.
- We co-produced our vaccine toolkit translated and in BSL for champions and community leaders including elected members to use to support understanding and address concerns.
- We have facilitated targeted digital and non-digital community led engagement to specific communities via voluntary organisations, 19 commissioned providers/partners, elected members including for specific groups with lower uptake including Black, African, Caribbean, Pakistani, Bangladeshi communities and younger adults who may be complacent.
- We plan to produce short vaccine videos with key stakeholders, representatives and as many residents to represent the diverse communities including carers, champions, health and social care workers, parents, young people, university students etc using the learning and feedback from our ongoing engagement.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR GARETH MOORE**

F1 Exempt Accommodation

Question:

For each year since 2015, how many individuals has the Council placed in or referred to Exempt Accommodation, broken down by ward*?

***please note this refers to the ward in which the exempt accommodation is located in not where the individual comes from.**

Answer:

Unfortunately, our systems currently do not allow us the ability to pull together the information at this level of detail including by Ward. However, we did a snapshot exercise last year which identified that from 31.03.2020 – 31.03.2021 just for the single homeless walk in's we saw 1983 Clients. Of those, we placed 514 people into exempt supported accommodation known to be good providers. It roughly equates to 26% of the Clients that have presented.

This is just a snapshot picture from the Covid Pandemic and walk in's at the councils Hub for homeless over 25s (SIFA) and does not cover the whole of the homeless team.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR EDDIE FREEMAN**

F2 Tenants Placement

Question:

Will Inreach, or any other Council owned Company operating within the Private Rented Sector, including for temporary accommodation allow tenants placements to be placed by other local authorities, such as through the West London Out of London Project and will you retain the final say over all tenants taken by arms length organisations like Inreach?

Answer:

InReach (Birmingham) Ltd currently operates a 92 apartment building, Embankment, solely for market rent within the private rented sector, it does not provide temporary accommodation within the site and has no plans to.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR MATT BENNETT**

F3 Sprinklers

Question:

How many sprinklers in council owned tower blocks are currently not working or not operational?

Answer:

Sprinklers have been fitted and fully commissioned in 156 blocks. Work is in progress in 38 blocks, of these, 25 will still activate in the event of a fire.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR SIMON MORRALL**

F4 Licensing Scheme

Question:

On how many occasions has the Council formally requested a landlord licensing scheme including how many were rejected?

Answer:

The Housing Act 2004 requires local authorities to have a mandatory licensing scheme. This means that houses in multiple occupation (HMO) must have a licence once they meet the criteria below:

- A property that has five or more people who form two or more households, and
- Tenants share toilet, bathroom and/or kitchen facilities

The City Council started this scheme in 2006.

The legislation also allows the local authority the power to implement discretionary licensing of smaller HMOs and private rented accommodation. The two schemes are:

Additional Licensing - this applies to HMOs with 3 – 4 people sharing. The City Council has not implemented an additional licensing scheme.

Selective Licensing (SL) – this applies to all privately rented accommodation in designated areas of the local authority. Before an area can be designated, it must have a high proportion of private rented accommodation. In 2017, the City Council considered introducing a selective licensing scheme in Stockland Green and Soho Wards. As well as the primary condition of a high level of private rented accommodation, the Council must demonstrate that one of the six conditions for SL has been met. The six conditions are:

- Area is or likely to become an area of low demand;
- Area suffers from Anti-Social Behaviour– attributed to the private rented sector;
- Area is suffering from poor property conditions;
- Area has a high level of migration;
- Area has high levels of deprivation;
- Area has high levels of crime.

In addition, where the designation is to be based on property conditions, migration, deprivation or crime, the local authority may only make a designation if the area has a high proportion of property in the private rented sector i.e. minimum of 19%.

A local housing authority must also identify the objective or objectives that a designation will help it achieve.

Following the consultation on the proposed Stockland Green and Soho Ward scheme and advice from counsel, it was decided not to implement the scheme as it was not possible to demonstrate the necessary conditions for it had been met. As the scheme was less than 19% of the Birmingham area it did not need to be submitted to MHCLG.

The City Council has not previously submitted any proposed SL schemes to MHCLG.

For information, since November 2014 an Article 4 Direction under planning legislation has been in place in the Selly Oak, Harborne and Edgbaston wards. This means that planning permission is required to change residential properties to small HMOs of 3 -6 people. The Article 4 Direction became city wide from June 2020.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT ALDEN**

F5 Covenant

Question:

Previously at Cabinet and other meetings, we have called on the Council to introduce a covenant on all council properties preventing them being used as a HMO or exempt accommodation. Will the Council finally introduce a covenant?

Answer:

Birmingham City Council tenants are bound by the conditions of tenancy. One of the main conditions is that the tenant must use it as their sole and principle home. It is stated in the tenancy conditions that written permission must be sought to take in a lodger or sub-let part of the property. An example of this would be where a person is subject to the 25% underoccupancy charge. Tenants cannot sub-let the whole property.

Any decision to allow such an arrangement would be carefully considered by the local team to ensure it is appropriate and being entered voluntarily. We also work closely with benefit services and Birmingham Audit to ensure we meet our responsibilities around the Prevention of Social Housing Fraud Act 2013.

It is also a breach of the conditions of tenancy to purposely overcrowd a property unless it is by the natural growth of a family unit.

If the question relates to council properties that are sold through Right to Buy, the standard Right to Buy transfer contains covenants that the property must be used as a single private dwelling house and that it complies with the statutory permissible number of persons occupying the property. There are also covenants not to cause nuisance or annoyance to neighbouring properties.

we are currently exploring with legal services to what extent we can place additional covenants covering future use. In addition to this we are also exploring opportunities to exploit our ability to buy back as we have a first right of refusal to buy back within a certain period of time.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR RON STORER**

F6 Environmental Impact of Council developments

Question:

**What work is done to consider the carbon impact when the council is assessing
BMHT\Inreach builds on parks, public open space or playing fields?**

Answer:

- When land such as Playingfields that are not used and are declared surplus BMHT will undertake the following process before building.

Internally a process is undertaken to appropriate the land for housing.

BMHT work with Employers Agents who provide technical support including the services of architects for the sites being worked on. A site analysis is carried out including any necessary surveys such as ground condition, environmental assessments, flood risk assessment, tree surveys, title checks etc. will be undertaken as required. Depending on the recommendations for the sites as each will be different, the recommendation in the assessments will be looked at and implemented as appropriate. Other departments such as planning, and highways are included in design team meetings to draw up a plan for the site. BMHT Officers will check with Landscape Practice Group for an assessment of any commuted sum for the loss of provision or new high-quality provision of the open space/park or play areas. Consultation is then carried out in the local area. After consultation further design team meetings are undertaken to confirm the plans before submission to planning. After which a tender process is undertaken for the appointment of a contractor.

Future Changes to Building Regulations for new build

- The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government have undertaken consultation on **The Future Homes Standard**, on changes to Part L (conservation of fuel and power) and Part F (ventilation) of the Building Regulations for new dwellings.

These homes will be expected to produce 31% less CO2 emissions compared to current standards. The consultation proposed that from 2025, new homes will be expected to be built to the Future Homes Standard.

To be ready for these changes BMHT have updated the building specification for houses to meet these future new standards. By making these changes now BMHT homes will be fit for the future, better for the environment with low carbon heating

and high fabric standards. In addition, this approach stops the need for further costly retrofitting work in our new build properties in the future.

- With the new build programmes BMHT have included external environmental works in and around the front and back gardens of the properties. This includes plants, grass and railings as required. With larger BMHT schemes such as Meadway and Primrose new high-quality parks have been installed.

2 Pilot Schemes for reduction in carbon emissions

- A pilot scheme in Glebe Farm and Tile Cross ward which has 36 council properties, 2,3,4,5 and 6 bed houses. The purpose of this scheme is to trial a variety of energy saving technologies and assess their effectiveness at reducing carbon, their ease of procurement, installation and use in occupation, and their value for money, whilst assuring ourselves that they do not increase fuel poverty for our residents.

The technologies include – Air Source or Ground Source Heat Pumps, Photo Voltaic on the roof, battery storage, electric car charging points, triple glazing. This scheme was successful in receiving European Regional Development Fund monies to assist with payment of these technologies. Once the properties have been built and tenants have moved in, monitoring and evaluation of the scheme will be undertaken to inform other BMHT Schemes. Please note as the properties are being built with no gas and the use of energy saving technologies these will reduce carbon emissions.

- A pilot scheme in Kings Heath Ward known as Dawberry Fields is a Passivhaus House project. Passivhaus was developed in Germany in the 1990s. It is a quality assured standard and methodology for low energy building, which can help create buildings which use approximately 75% less energy than standard practice for UK newbuild.
- Passivhaus design relies on a simple ‘tea cosy’ effect maximising the use of super insulation and stringent airtightness and paying meticulous attention to the removal of thermal bridges. By combining this with passive solar gain and mechanical ventilation and heat recovery systems, Passivhaus design can create healthy and comfortable buildings that require minimal heating.
- This scheme will be monitored and evaluated to learn lessons for future BMHT schemes. It is currently in the developmental stages, once the overall scheme design is confirmed, officers will present a report to Cabinet with recommendations and move forward to submit a planning application.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR ROGER HARMER**

F7 Evictions

Question:

New figures have revealed furloughed workers who are privately renting and having rental arrears could be at risk of losing their homes when pandemic support measures are taken away on 1 October. Could the Cabinet Member give details of the support that will be made available from the Council to city residents who find themselves caught in this situation?

Answer:

Birmingham city Council along with its partners provide services to support those at risk of homelessness, this can include welfare rights and debt advice, access to discretionary housing payments, advice on fuel poverty or sign posting to other organisations that may be able to support specific requests for services.

However, anyone who is at risk of homelessness will be offered a full Housing Needs Assessment.

Staff will have access to the Homelessness Prevention Fund, to help bridge the gap for a period of time whilst families secure other employment options or downsize.

We also have access to an organisation funded to provide specialist mediation between family members, or between landlord and tenant when the relationship has become fractured.

The Council has the capacity to refer to debt management advice within 7 days of contact via the NAIS service and Birmingham Settlement and can support with deposits and rent in advance to secure families in new private rented sector properties.

We can also provide referrals to support services to enable a more holistic response to families picking up issues around crime, education and family support.

CITY COUNCIL – 14 SEPTEMBER 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND EQUALITIES FROM COUNCILLOR JON HUNT**

G1 Racial Tensions

Question:

Following the judgement in the recent case of former PC Declan Jones, a number of questions have been raised regarding policing the black community and in particular racial profiling.

Could the cabinet member state what discussions he will be holding with West Midlands Police to address this problem?

Answer:

The City Council rejects all forms of racism and racial profiling, and as set out in our commitments in “Everyone’s Battle, Everyone’s Business”, we will challenge and call out these practices whenever and wherever they manifest in our city.

The conduct of former PC Jones was utterly shameful and the Chief Constable’s decision to dismiss this individual from police service without notice is wholly correct. I also welcome the statement made by the Chief Constable reinforcing his commitment that the police must confront the realities and address the disproportionate use of force on Black men.

We have an ongoing engagement with the police and other partners on the issues of structural discrimination and how we eradicate racism from the city’s institutions and wider society. This case has demonstrated that there is still much we have to do to, collectively, in this regard. I will be raising the specific issues arising from this case, together with the wider concerns that it reflects, in my regular meetings with both the senior leadership of West Midlands Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION,
COMMUNITY SAFETY & EQUALITIES FROM COUNCILLOR BABER BAZ**

G2 Autopsy Scanner

Question:

Now the trial appears to be ongoing, can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the Autopsy Scanner?

Answer:

Birmingham and Solihull Coroners service sent over 557 cases for CT scans in the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, meeting the contracted target to send at least 500 cases in the year. The contract has been renewed on the same terms and conditions for 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

The process itself is not as effective as it could be if a scanning machine was located at the mortuary. The deceased has to be booked in for a scan, allocated a time slot and be brought to the Central mortuary under the Coroner's jurisdiction and then be transported to the scanner which introduces a delay in the process. This and the need for the pathologist to view the deceased post scan, or post mortem the deceased if required and waiting for the completed report (which must be available to the pathologist when they view the deceased) does mean that the process is taking slightly longer than if the deceased was dealt with via the standard post mortem route, but all parties are working hard to ensure that there are no unnecessary delays.

It is envisaged the Centre of Excellence project for mortuary and pathology services (which is being worked up to a business case) would resolve most of the issues experienced. This project is to be subject to a review as to its viability late 2021.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND EQUALITIES COUNCILLOR MIKE WARD**

G3 Support for rough sleepers

Question:

It has been recently reported Birmingham is one of the 12 local authorities to be receiving money from MHCLG as part of the ‘Respite Rooms Trial Programme’. Could the Cabinet Member provide an overview of (a) what this money will be spent on (b) which wards this will affect and (c) when this support will be made available and to who?

Answer:

(a) What this money will be spent on?

Birmingham City Council has received £355,404 over two years to deliver a Respite Rooms Trial Programme. The aim of which is to support women, who are unlikely to approach statutory services or traditional pathways of support for domestic abuse and who may have been living on the streets or in otherwise very precarious situations, with histories of domestic abuse / wider Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

In line with the requirements set out by MHCLG, our pilot will provide safe, single gender space for women, for a short period of time with intensive, trauma informed support to make choices and decisions around next steps for recovery.

There will be a range of support available including outreach, triage, specialist support, accommodation, legal assistance, and move-on.

Working in partnership with Domestic Abuse providers, money is being distributed on:

- Staffing costs – a service lead, a support worker, 2 Domestic Abuse navigators, 2 night workers, and other additional staffing costs.
 - Navigators will take referrals from pathways, and link in with specialist domestic abuse and rough sleeping support to ensure the citizens get the support they need.
- Personalisation – helping women survive and get their lives back, for example getting new ID documents, new starter packs, towels, bedding, travel cards etc.
- Accommodation fund – this is to be able to offer if needed a selection of accommodation suitable for the woman’s needs, such as a hotel room for 1-2 nights to consider options before moving into respite accommodation.

There will be 9 units of accommodation: 4 fixed units of respite accommodation which will be self-contained, safe single gender spaces. These will include space for specialist staff

to work alongside. There will be an additional 5 units of accommodation to support a pathway for more sustained housing and support.

The Respite is part of wider referral pathways including emergency accommodation, complex needs, long-term support, and Transition Centre.

(b) Which wards will it affect?

These units of accommodation are already leased by Trident in partnership with Midland Housing.

All Birmingham wards will be affected positively, as this project is providing options for vulnerable victims of domestic abuse across Birmingham who need the support.

(c) When will this support be made available, and to who?

This project is a one-year pilot from October 2021 – September 2022. Trident Reach already identified the accommodation and we are working with our commissioned domestic abuse services to provide the 2 domestic abuse navigators to support the women. This support should be in place for October.

The aim is to support women who are unlikely to approach statutory services or the National Domestic Abuse Helpline, and who may have been living on the streets or in otherwise very precarious situations, with histories of domestic abuse / wider Violence Against Women and Girls. This includes (but is not exclusive to):

- Domestic Abuse
- Sexual Assault
- Rape
- Physical Assault
- Stalking / Harassment
- Exploitation by other rough sleepers
- Sex Work

We hope that this will reach extremely vulnerable women who need specialist support to recover from the trauma of violence and abuse. This will often include women with multiple or complex needs, who often fall through the gaps in service provision.

The funding will also support the delivery aims of the City's Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy 2018+ with a clear focus on high quality crisis support and accommodation.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND
PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR MIKE WARD**

H1 Mobile Recycling Unit

Question:

How are residents informed that a mobile recycling unit will be visiting their community?

Answer:

The list is shared in advance by our media team and the local Elected Member(s). It is also shared with any registered community groups the service is aware of who can share in the best way for their community. Properties are leafleted a few days in advance of the visit and informed via hyperlocal websites and social media groups by Corporate Communications. We openly welcome the Elected Members and registered community groups to use their local links to inform residents of the date and time of our visit.

This is an innovative pilot programme and we are developing and refining our processes, including how we communicate with residents.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR ROGER HARMER

H2 Mobile Recycling Unit

Question:

Please list the locations (noting the ward they are in) the new mobile recycling units have visited to date and the volume of recycling collected at each.

Answer:

Locations visited are detailed in the table below.

| | Lifford | | Montague Street | |
|--------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| | Location | Ward | Location | Ward |
| 13-Jul | Arden Road | Frankley Great Park | | |
| 14-Jul | Sedgehill Ave | Harborne | | |
| 15-Jul | Vincent Drive | Edgbaston | | |
| 16-Jul | Pennyacre Road | Druids Heath and Monyhull | | |
| 17-Jul | | | | |
| 18-Jul | | | | |
| 19-Jul | Bristol Road South | Longbridge and West Heath | | |
| 20-Jul | Yardley Wood Road / Haunch Lane | Billesley | | |
| 21-Jul | Beilby Road | Stirchley | | |
| 22-Jul | Fairfax Road | Longbridge and West Heath | | |
| 23-Jul | Simmonds Drive | Quinton | | |
| 24-Jul | | | | |
| 25-Jul | | | | |
| 26-Jul | Edgewood Road | Rubery and Rednal | | |
| 27-Jul | Wyndham Road | North Edgbaston | | |
| 28-Jul | Fitzroy Road | Allens Cross | | |
| 29-Jul | Vardon Way | Kings Norton South | | |
| 30-Jul | Partons Road | Brandwood and Kings Heath | | |
| 31-Jul | | | | |
| 01-Aug | | | | |
| 02-Aug | Arden Road | Frankley Great Park | | |
| 03-Aug | Gillot Road | North Edgbaston | James Turner Street | Soho and Jewellery Quarter |
| 04-Aug | Highfield Road | Billesley | Victoria Road | Aston |
| 05-Aug | Spring Road | Edgbaston | Old Bridge Street | Newtown |
| 06-Aug | Lye Avenue | Bartley Green | Oliver Street | Nechells |
| 07-Aug | | | | |

City Council – 14 September 2021

| | | | | |
|--------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 08-Aug | | | | |
| 09-Aug | Woodstock Road | Moseley | Holly Road | Handsworth |
| 10-Aug | The Roundabout | Northfield | Brougham Street | Lozells |
| 11-Aug | Castle Road | Weoley and Selly Oak | Civic Close | Ladywood |
| 12-Aug | Pound Road | Druids Heath and Monyhull | Chandlers Close | Soho and Jewellery Quarter |
| 13-Aug | Sladepool Farm Road | Highters Heath | Penshurst Avenue | Aston |
| 14-Aug | | | | |
| 15-Aug | | | | |
| 16-Aug | Sisefield Road | Kings Norton South | Burlington Street | Newtown |
| 17-Aug | Rodney Close | Ladywood | Mount Street (op. 262) | Nechells |
| 18-Aug | Woodside Road | Bournbrook and Selly Park | Hinstock Road | Handsworth |
| 19-Aug | Welsh House Farm Road | Harborne | Carlyle Road | Lozells |
| 20-Aug | Honeycomb Way | Allens Cross | King Edwards Road | Ladywood |
| 21-Aug | | | | |
| 22-Aug | | | | |
| 23-Aug | Caynham Road | Bartley Green | Chapel Street | Soho and Jewellery Quarter |
| 24-Aug | Chinn Brook Road | Billesley | Whitehead Road | Aston |
| 25-Aug | Dale Road | Bournbrook and Selly Park | Gee Street | Newtown |
| 26-Aug | Dawberry Fields Road | Brandwood and Kings Heath | Sycamore Road | Nechells |
| 27-Aug | Brockworth Road | Druids Heath and Monyhull | Laurel Road | Handsworth |
| 28-Aug | | | | |
| 29-Aug | | | | |
| 30-Aug | Richmond Hill Road | Edgbaston | No Service | No Service |
| 31-Aug | Ingoldsby Road | Bournville and Cotteridge | Wills Street | Lozells |

Unfortunately, the volume of recycling collected is not available on a Ward basis as the MHRC vehicle is not always tipped on a daily basis. The tonnage breakdown for July and August is detailed in the table below. Staff are still trialling different methods of tipping which is why some items are recorded differently.

JULY

| Lifford | | | | | |
|---------|------|---------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-------|
| | RCV | MHRC Textiles | MHRC Paper and Cardboard | MHRC Plastic & Cans | Total |
| 13-Jul | 1.0 | | | | 1 |
| 14-Jul | 2.52 | | | | 2.52 |
| 15-Jul | 2.8 | | | | 2.8 |
| 16-Jul | 1.6 | 0.26 | 0.46 | | 2.32 |
| 17-Jul | | | | | 0 |
| 18-Jul | | | | | 0 |

City Council – 14 September 2021

| Lifford | | | | | |
|---------|-------|------|------|------|-------|
| 19-Jul | 1.65 | | | | 1.65 |
| 20-Jul | 2.7 | 0.15 | 0.6 | | 3.45 |
| 21-Jul | 3.0 | 0.26 | 0.4 | 0.08 | 3.74 |
| 22-Jul | 1.5 | | | | 1.5 |
| 23-Jul | 19.6 | 0.26 | 0.46 | | 20.32 |
| 24-Jul | | | | | 0 |
| 25-Jul | | | | | 0 |
| 26-Jul | 1.7 | 0.26 | 0.46 | | 2.42 |
| 27-Jul | 2.84 | | | | 2.84 |
| 28-Jul | 2.98 | 0.16 | 0.36 | | 3.5 |
| 29-Jul | 0.5 | | | | 0.5 |
| 30-Jul | 1.8 | | | | 1.8 |
| 31-Jul | | | | | 0 |
| Total | 46.19 | 1.35 | 2.74 | 0.08 | 50.36 |

AUGUST

| Lifford | | | | | | | | Montague St. | | | | | Total |
|---------|------|----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------|
| | RCV | MHRC Textil es | MHRC Paper & Card | MHRC Plastic & Cans | MHRC Glass | MHRC Textil e and Reuse | MHRC Reuse/ T'Pak/ Batt. | RCV | MHRC Textil es | MHRC Paper and Card | MHRC Co- min | MHRC Unspe c | |
| 01-Aug | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 02-Aug | | 0.12 | 0.22 | 0.08 | | | | | | | | | 0.42 |
| 03-Aug | 1.58 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1.58 |
| 04-Aug | | | | | | | | 1.3 | | | | | 1.3 |

5623

City Council – 14 September 2021

| Lifford | | | | | | | | Montague St. | | | | | |
|---------|-------|------|------|------|-----|------|--|--------------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 05-Aug | 0.9 | 0.12 | 0.08 | 0.02 | | | | 0.14 | | | | | 1.26 |
| 06-Aug | 4.5 | | | | | | | 0.28 | | | | | 4.78 |
| 07-Aug | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 08-Aug | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 09-Aug | | 0.3 | 0.32 | | | | | 0.22 | | | | | 0.84 |
| 10-Aug | 1.62 | | | | | | | 4.24 | | | | | 5.86 |
| 11-Aug | 1.96 | | | | | | | 1.48 | | | | | 3.44 |
| 12-Aug | | | | | | | | 1.68 | | | 0.08 | 0.14 | 1.9 |
| 13-Aug | 2.94 | | 0.12 | | 0.1 | | | 0.12 | | | | 0.2 | 3.48 |
| 14-Aug | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 15-Aug | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 16-Aug | | 0.14 | 0.12 | | | | | 0.2 | | | | | 0.46 |
| 17-Aug | | | | | | | | 0.82 | | | | | 0.82 |
| 18-Aug | 1.94 | 0.18 | | | | | | 4.28 | | | | 0.18 | 6.58 |
| 19-Aug | 2.22 | | 0.24 | | | | | | 0.16 | 0.2 | | | 2.82 |
| 20-Aug | 2.88 | | | | | 0.16 | | 5.64 | | | | | 8.68 |
| 21-Aug | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 22-Aug | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 23-Aug | 2.64 | | 0.26 | | | | | | | | | | 2.9 |
| 24-Aug | 1.54 | | | | | | | 1.88 | | 0.16 | | | 3.58 |
| 25-Aug | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 26-Aug | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 27-Aug | 1.747 | | 0.24 | | | | | | | | | | 1.987 |
| 28-Aug | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 29-Aug | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |

5624

City Council – 14 September 2021

| Lifford | | | | | | | | Montague St. | | | | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| 30-Aug | 3.6 | 0.2 | 0.48 | | | | 0.22 | | | | | | 4.5 |
| 31-Aug | | | | | | | | 10.42 | 0.12 | 0.36 | | | 10.9 |
| Total | 30.06 7 | 1.06 | 2.08 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.16 | 0.22 | 32.7 | 0.28 | 0.72 | 0.08 | 0.52 | 68.08 7 |

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR MORRIAM JAN

H3 Holford Drive Household Waste Centre

Question:

Since the Household Waste Centre at Holford Drive is closed, where can residents dispose of their rubbish or bulky waste, as some of the residents are elderly or will struggle to travel. Have you put anything in place for this and if so what?

Answer:

As was briefed to councillors prior to the closure, the closest recycling centre with availability is the Castle Bromwich Household Recycling Centre (HRC) located at Tameside Drive, Castle Bromwich, B35 7AG. However, residents do have the ability to book a slot to visit any of the Birmingham HRC's, the locations for these are detailed below:

- Sutton Coldfield - Norris Way, Sutton Coldfield, B75 7BB
- Tyseley - James Road, Tyseley, B11 2BA
- Kings Norton - Lifford Lane, Kings Norton, B30 3JJ

There are available slots at all sites. Residents can also book bulky waste collection and although there is a cost to this waste will be collected directly from the property.

Birmingham City Council is working in partnership with Veolia to redevelop the Perry Barr Household Recycling Centre (HRC) and Waste Transfer Station. The current site is at the end of its economic life and in need of a complete rebuild. The new site will have improved facilities available to the public that will enhance the user experience, increase recycling, and continue the processing of waste and recycling with minimal disruption to the environment and area.

An additional mobile HWRC will be in operation around the Perry Barr area within the next 3 weeks. This will provide a very local collection service for some of the materials the Perry Barr HWRC would have been able to take.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR ZAKER CHOUDHRY

H4 Fly tipping hotspots

Question:

The council has issued public statements that six wards will be targeted for specific fly tipping action, Could the cabinet member name the wards, stating what additional services these wards will receive and what additional fly tipping services will be available to the other 63 wards?

Answer:

The top 6 Wards with the highest recorded fly tipping are

1. Sparkbrook and Balsall Heath East
2. Bordesley and Highgate
3. Soho and Jewellery Quarter
4. Alum Rock
5. Small Heath
6. Aston

The above Wards will have a new Engagement and Enforcement Officer dedicated to the Ward. These posts were included as a recommendation following an Overview and Scrutiny review on fly-tipping. The wards were detailed in press releases and in an email to all councillors.

Resources are allocated using fly tipping data. 4 specialist fly-tipping crews have been created. 3 operate from Redfern Depot and the 4th from Perry Barr Depot. Three new deep clean crews will also operate to tackle the hot spots across the city and the Love Your Streets team is currently being recruited to support multi-agency action across the city.

The new CCTV cameras and Waste Enforcement Team operate across the whole City and this team has recently been increased to 24 staff. They will seek to prosecute criminals who blight our city with dumped rubbish.

This sits alongside the new bag collection crews to clear the worst-affected streets, our four new mobile household recycling crews, our new graffiti teams, more support for the brilliant volunteers who help to keep our neighbourhoods tidy and a partnership with Keep Britain Tidy to influence changes in behaviour.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND
PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL TILSLEY**

H5 Plastic Waste

Question:

We have received reports from residents that waste, such as plastic bottles, has been left on authority owned green spaces before any grass has been cut, leaving microplastic in the environment. Could the Cabinet Member explain why these areas were not properly cleared before grass cutting, relating it to the Council's Policy on Plastic Waste?

Answer:

The staff carrying out grass cutting should carry out a check of the grass before proceeding to cut and if necessary, the area should be litter picked before the operation takes place. Occasionally litter is missed and accidentally cut up; this is not ideal, and staff will be reminded of their obligations. Litter should be collected and disposed through our normal disposal process.

CITY COUNCIL – 14 SEPTEMBER 2021

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND
PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR BABER BAZ**

H6 Fly tipped Fridge Freezers

Question:

How many fly-tipped fridges/freezers have been collected by month, by ward by the specialist crew employed for this purpose over the past 4 years?

Answer:

Details of fly-tipped fridges/freezers are provided in the attached spreadsheet.

Duplicate reports have been removed where possible.

Note that this is the number of worksheets rather than the number of actual fridges/freezers/fridge-freezers (as requested) as we do not hold the individual number of items picked up. There may have been multiple items dumped at single sites.

The Ward boundaries have changed within the requested date range. In the majority of cases, categorisation has been done using the new Ward name. However, where the Ward has not been updated on the system for an old property, it is grouped by the old Ward name and denoted with an asterisk before it.



Fly Tipping
fridges.xlsx

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE
AND PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID BARRIE**

H7 Environmental Protection Act

Question:

In each year since 2012, please list all notices under Section 91 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 that have been sent to the Council, including the location.

Answer:

Whilst we do take any service complaint extremely seriously we do not hold a record of the actual number of notices received. However, I'm very pleased to report that out of those that have been received only one has resulted in proceedings being issued to the Magistrate Court and that was in 2014.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND
PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR ALEX YIP**

H8 Electrify Council Fleet

Question:

By what year does the Council plan to fully electrify its fleet?

Answer:

I am unable to give you a specific answer to this question. We have recently replaced 74 vehicles but the market did not respond in the tender process with any alternative fuel vehicles.

We are keen to investigate all alternative fuel vehicles including electric and hydrogen and will be going back through the procurement process hopefully very soon.

The capital works at the Perry Barr depot and at the proposed new depot to relocate the Montague Street and Redfern Depots both include charging infrastructure for electric vehicles in preparation.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR PETER FOWLER

H9 Missing and damaged bins

Question:

In each year since the introduction of wheelie bins, including current year to date how many bins have been reported missing or damaged, broken down by:

- **Household Waste Bin**
- **Recycling Bin**
- **Paper recycling pod**
- **Green waste bin**
- **Trade waste bin**

Answer:

Quantity of bins

| | Household waste bin | | Recycling Bin | | Paper recycling pod | | Green waste bin | | Trade waste bin |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------|---------------|---------|---------------------|---------|-----------------|---------|---------------------|
| Year | Damaged | Missing | Damaged | Missing | Damaged | Missing | Damaged | Missing | Damaged/ Missing |
| 2014 | 52 | 154 | 24 | 68 | 27 | 475 | 70 | 20 | 932 |
| 2015 | 384 | 740 | 150 | 317 | 206 | 2592 | 249 | 108 | 933 |
| 2016 | 3129 | 1096 | 205 | 459 | 309 | 3940 | 491 | 46 | 702 |
| 2017 | 1805 | 1326 | 298 | 655 | 297 | 5111 | 208 | 101 | 600 |
| 2018 | 2021 | 1776 | 476 | 849 | 502 | 6481 | 278 | 75 | 765 |
| 2019 | 3152 | 2212 | 1099 | 1565 | 668 | 8481 | 373 | 55 | 826 |
| 2020 | 4347 | 2889 | 2291 | 3632 | 1416 | 12163 | 907 | 12 | 552 |
| 2021 (to 08/09/21) | 3503 | 2406 | 1990 | 2627 | 1493 | 9256 | 831 | 21 | 361 |

To put these numbers into context the service supplies and collects approximately 700,000 household bins (residual and recycling), 70,000 garden bins and 12,000 trade bins. It should be noted that the system does not have trade bins broken down by the reason – only ‘container repair or exchange’. Only those classed on the system as ‘trade container’ have been included i.e. 660L/1100L/1280L bins. This therefore excludes bins collected by front/rear end loaders etc.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SCREET SCENE
AND PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR DOMINIC STANFORD**

H10 Missing and damaged bins cost

Question:

In each year since the introduction of wheelie bins, including current year to date what has been the total cost of replacing missing or damaged bins and how much of this has been recouped by charging residents or businesses, broken down by:

- **Household Waste Bin**
- **Recycling Bin**
- **Paper recycling pod**
- **Green waste bin**
- **Trade waste bin**

Answer:

Due to issues with how old historic data is held this can only be produced from financial year 2016/17

In terms of Trade Waste, business are responsible, through the contract that they have with the council, for any container issued to them. Below are the figures for charges levied for replacement containers

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| 2016/17 | £200,070 |
| 2017/18 | £171,000 |
| 2018/19 | £218,025 |
| 2019/20 | £235,410 |
| 2020/21 | £157,320 |
| 2021 /22(to 8 Sept) | £104,690 |

In terms of the cost of replacing the Trade Waste containers, whilst we know the number of containers overall that we have charged for, we are not able to break this down by container type to give a cost of replacement due to the great variety of containers in use

In terms of recouping costs from domestic users, the paper recycling pod and recycling bin is free of charge to encourage recycling and in some circumstances the residual bin is also

City Council – 14 September 2021

replaced free of charge for example when the bin has been damaged. For all other domestic containers, the following has been recouped but it is not possible to say from which container type.

The income from the charges for replacement bins is as follows although unfortunately, data earlier than October 2019 is not available due to a change in the IT system used to record such information.

| 2019/20 from 15th Oct 2019 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 to 10th Sep |
|-------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| 22,140.00 | 48,180.00 | 24,820.00 |

The net cost of replacing domestic containers has been as follows

Household Waste Bins

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| 2016/17 | £30,583.80 |
| 2017/18 | £31,228.94 |
| 2018/19 | £41,430.44 |
| 2019/20 | £59,823.44 |
| 2020/21 | £78,363.18 |
| 2021 /22(to 8 Sept) | £65,144.72 |

Recycling Bins & Pods

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| 2016/17 | £8,361.43 |
| 2017/18 | £11,937.35 |
| 2018/19 | £13,932.65 |
| 2019/20 | £26,530.25 |
| 2020/21 | £61,311.00 |
| 2021 /22(to 8 Sept) | £44,678.75 |

Green Waste Bin

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| 2016/17 | 1,308.42 |
| 2017/18 | 2,002.77 |
| 2018/19 | 1,466.75 |
| 2019/20 | 1,266.75 |
| 2020/21 | 1,102.00 |
| 2021 /22(to 8 Sept) | 1,172.25 |

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE
AND PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR ADAM HIGGS**

H11 Mobile HRC Visits

Question:

Broken down by location, how much in total has been collected by the mobile household waste and recycling wagons, broken down by waste type (recycled, reused, sent for incineration etc.)

Answer:

Locations visited are detailed in the table below.

| | Lifford | | Montague Street | |
|--------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| | Location | Ward | Location | Ward |
| 13-Jul | Arden Road | Frankley Great Park | | |
| 14-Jul | Sedgehill Ave | Harborne | | |
| 15-Jul | Vincent Drive | Edgbaston | | |
| 16-Jul | Pennyacre Road | Druids Heath and Monyhull | | |
| 17-Jul | | | | |
| 18-Jul | | | | |
| 19-Jul | Bristol Road South | Longbridge and West Heath | | |
| 20-Jul | Yardley Wood Road / Haunch Lane | Billesley | | |
| 21-Jul | Beilby Road | Stirchley | | |
| 22-Jul | Fairfax Road | Longbridge and West Heath | | |
| 23-Jul | Simmonds Drive | Quinton | | |
| 24-Jul | | | | |
| 25-Jul | | | | |
| 26-Jul | Edgewood Road | Rubery and Rednal | | |
| 27-Jul | Wyndham Road | North Edgbaston | | |
| 28-Jul | Fitzroy Road | Allens Cross | | |
| 29-Jul | Vardon Way | Kings Norton South | | |
| 30-Jul | Partons Road | Brandwood and Kings Heath | | |
| 31-Jul | | | | |
| 01-Aug | | | | |
| 02-Aug | Arden Road | Frankley Great Park | | |
| 03-Aug | Gillot Road | North Edgbaston | James Turner Street | Soho and Jewellery Quarter |
| 04-Aug | Highfield Road | Billesley | Victoria Road | Aston |
| 05-Aug | Spring Road | Edgbaston | Old Bridge Street | Newtown |
| 06-Aug | Lye Avenue | Bartley Green | Oliver Street | Nechells |
| 07-Aug | | | | |

City Council – 14 September 2021

| | | | | |
|--------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 08-Aug | | | | |
| 09-Aug | Woodstock Road | Moseley | Holly Road | Handsworth |
| 10-Aug | The Roundabout | Northfield | Brougham Street | Lozells |
| 11-Aug | Castle Road | Weoley and Selly Oak | Civic Close | Ladywood |
| 12-Aug | Pound Road | Druids Heath and Monyhull | Chandlers Close | Soho and Jewellery Quarter |
| 13-Aug | Sladepool Farm Road | Highters Heath | Penshurst Avenue | Aston |
| 14-Aug | | | | |
| 15-Aug | | | | |
| 16-Aug | Sisefield Road | Kings Norton South | Burlington Street | Newtown |
| 17-Aug | Rodney Close | Ladywood | Mount Street (op. 262) | Nechells |
| 18-Aug | Woodside Road | Bournbrook and Selly Park | Hinstock Road | Handsworth |
| 19-Aug | Welsh House Farm Road | Harborne | Carlyle Road | Lozells |
| 20-Aug | Honeycomb Way | Allens Cross | King Edwards Road | Ladywood |
| 21-Aug | | | | |
| 22-Aug | | | | |
| 23-Aug | Caynham Road | Bartley Green | Chapel Street | Soho and Jewellery Quarter |
| 24-Aug | Chinn Brook Road | Billesley | Whitehead Road | Aston |
| 25-Aug | Dale Road | Bournbrook and Selly Park | Gee Street | Newtown |
| 26-Aug | Dawberry Fields Road | Brandwood and Kings Heath | Sycamore Road | Nechells |
| 27-Aug | Brockworth Road | Druids Heath and Monyhull | Laurel Road | Handsworth |
| 28-Aug | | | | |
| 29-Aug | | | | |
| 30-Aug | Richmond Hill Road | Edgbaston | No Service | No Service |
| 31-Aug | Ingoldsby Road | Bournville and Cotteridge | Wills Street | Lozells |

Unfortunately, the volume of recycling collected is not available on a Ward basis as the MHRC vehicle is not always tipped on a daily basis. The tonnage breakdown for July and August is detailed in the table below. Staff are still trialling different methods of tipping which is why some items are recorded differently.

JULY

| Lifford | | | | | |
|---------|------|---------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-------|
| | RCV | MHRC Textiles | MHRC Paper and Cardboard | MHRC Plastic & Cans | Total |
| 13-Jul | 1.0 | | | | 1 |
| 14-Jul | 2.52 | | | | 2.52 |
| 15-Jul | 2.8 | | | | 2.8 |
| 16-Jul | 1.6 | 0.26 | 0.46 | | 2.32 |
| 17-Jul | | | | | 0 |
| 18-Jul | | | | | 0 |
| 19-Jul | 1.65 | | | | 1.65 |
| 20-Jul | 2.7 | 0.15 | 0.6 | | 3.45 |
| 21-Jul | 3.0 | 0.26 | 0.4 | 0.08 | 3.74 |
| 22-Jul | 1.5 | | | | 1.5 |
| 23-Jul | 19.6 | 0.26 | 0.46 | | 20.32 |
| 24-Jul | | | | | 0 |
| 25-Jul | | | | | 0 |
| 26-Jul | 1.7 | 0.26 | 0.46 | | 2.42 |

5636

City Council – 14 September 2021

| Lifford | | | | | |
|---------|-------|------|------|------|-------|
| 27-Jul | 2.84 | | | | 2.84 |
| 28-Jul | 2.98 | 0.16 | 0.36 | | 3.5 |
| 29-Jul | 0.5 | | | | 0.5 |
| 30-Jul | 1.8 | | | | 1.8 |
| 31-Jul | | | | | 0 |
| Total | 46.19 | 1.35 | 2.74 | 0.08 | 50.36 |

AUGUST

| | Lifford | | | | | | | Montague St. | | | | | Total |
|--------|---------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------|--------|
| | RCV | MHRC Textiles | MHRC Paper & Card | MHRC Plastic & Cans | MHRC Glass | MHRC Textile and Reuse | MHRC Reuse/ T'Pak/ Batt. | RCV | MHRC Textiles | MHRC Paper and Card | MHRC Co-min | MHRC Unspec | |
| 01-Aug | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 02-Aug | | 0.12 | 0.22 | 0.08 | | | | | | | | | 0.42 |
| 03-Aug | 1.58 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1.58 |
| 04-Aug | | | | | | | | 1.3 | | | | | 1.3 |
| 05-Aug | 0.9 | 0.12 | 0.08 | 0.02 | | | | 0.14 | | | | | 1.26 |
| 06-Aug | 4.5 | | | | | | | 0.28 | | | | | 4.78 |
| 07-Aug | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 08-Aug | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 09-Aug | | 0.3 | 0.32 | | | | | 0.22 | | | | | 0.84 |
| 10-Aug | 1.62 | | | | | | | 4.24 | | | | | 5.86 |
| 11-Aug | 1.96 | | | | | | | 1.48 | | | | | 3.44 |
| 12-Aug | | | | | | | | 1.68 | | | 0.08 | 0.14 | 1.9 |
| 13-Aug | 2.94 | | 0.12 | | 0.1 | | | 0.12 | | | | 0.2 | 3.48 |
| 14-Aug | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 15-Aug | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 16-Aug | | 0.14 | 0.12 | | | | | 0.2 | | | | | 0.46 |
| 17-Aug | | | | | | | | 0.82 | | | | | 0.82 |
| 18-Aug | 1.94 | 0.18 | | | | | | 4.28 | | | | 0.18 | 6.58 |
| 19-Aug | 2.22 | | 0.24 | | | | | | 0.16 | 0.2 | | | 2.82 |
| 20-Aug | 2.88 | | | | | 0.16 | | 5.64 | | | | | 8.68 |
| 21-Aug | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 22-Aug | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 23-Aug | 2.64 | | 0.26 | | | | | | | | | | 2.9 |
| 24-Aug | 1.54 | | | | | | | 1.88 | | 0.16 | | | 3.58 |
| 25-Aug | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 26-Aug | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 27-Aug | 1.747 | | 0.24 | | | | | | | | | | 1.987 |
| 28-Aug | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 29-Aug | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 30-Aug | 3.6 | 0.2 | 0.48 | | | | 0.22 | | | | | | 4.5 |
| 31-Aug | | | | | | | | 10.42 | 0.12 | 0.36 | | | 10.9 |
| Total | 30.067 | 1.06 | 2.08 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.16 | 0.22 | 32.7 | 0.28 | 0.72 | 0.08 | 0.52 | 68.087 |

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE
AND PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR SIMON MORRALL**

H12 Mobile HRC Usage

Question:

Broken down by location, how many people per day have used the mobile household waste and recycling wagons?

Answer:

Information on the number of people using the service is not recorded.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE
AND PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY**

H13 Mobile HRC Performance Monitoring

Question:

What metrics are being used to measure the effectiveness of the Mobile Household Waste and Recycling Wagons?

Answer:

Initially the tonnage of waste collected is being recorded. In the future, we will investigate if there is a related change in LAMS and fly-tipping data in localities visited. We will shortly be seeking feedback from citizens using the service and from councillors.

This is an innovative service, so we will be looking for ways to improve it further.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE
AND PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR RON STORER**

H14 Mobile HRC Performance Data

Question:

Please provide a copy of all monitoring data held for the Mobile Household Waste and Recycling Wagons?

Answer:

The below tables detail the tonnages collected in July and August. Presently this is the only information being recorded. Staff are still trialling different methods of tipping which is why some items are recorded differently.

JULY

| Lifford | | | | | |
|---------|-------|---------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-------|
| | RCV | MHRC Textiles | MHRC Paper and Cardboard | MHRC Plastic & Cans | Total |
| 13-Jul | 1.0 | | | | 1 |
| 14-Jul | 2.52 | | | | 2.52 |
| 15-Jul | 2.8 | | | | 2.8 |
| 16-Jul | 1.6 | 0.26 | 0.46 | | 2.32 |
| 17-Jul | | | | | 0 |
| 18-Jul | | | | | 0 |
| 19-Jul | 1.65 | | | | 1.65 |
| 20-Jul | 2.7 | 0.15 | 0.6 | | 3.45 |
| 21-Jul | 3.0 | 0.26 | 0.4 | 0.08 | 3.74 |
| 22-Jul | 1.5 | | | | 1.5 |
| 23-Jul | 19.6 | 0.26 | 0.46 | | 20.32 |
| 24-Jul | | | | | 0 |
| 25-Jul | | | | | 0 |
| 26-Jul | 1.7 | 0.26 | 0.46 | | 2.42 |
| 27-Jul | 2.84 | | | | 2.84 |
| 28-Jul | 2.98 | 0.16 | 0.36 | | 3.5 |
| 29-Jul | 0.5 | | | | 0.5 |
| 30-Jul | 1.8 | | | | 1.8 |
| 31-Jul | | | | | 0 |
| Total | 46.19 | 1.35 | 2.74 | 0.08 | 50.36 |

City Council – 14 September 2021

AUGUST

| Lifford | | | | | | | | Montague St. | | | | | Total |
|---------|--------|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------|
| | RCV | MHRC Textile s | MHRC Paper & Card | MHRC Plastic & Cans | MHRC Glass | MHRC Textile and Reuse | MHRC Reuse/ T'Pak/ Batt. | RCV | MHRC Textile s | MHRC Paper and Card | MHRC Co-min | MHRC Unspec | |
| 01-Aug | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 02-Aug | | 0.12 | 0.22 | 0.08 | | | | | | | | | 0.42 |
| 03-Aug | 1.58 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1.58 |
| 04-Aug | | | | | | | | 1.3 | | | | | 1.3 |
| 05-Aug | 0.9 | 0.12 | 0.08 | 0.02 | | | | 0.14 | | | | | 1.26 |
| 06-Aug | 4.5 | | | | | | | 0.28 | | | | | 4.78 |
| 07-Aug | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 08-Aug | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 09-Aug | | 0.3 | 0.32 | | | | | 0.22 | | | | | 0.84 |
| 10-Aug | 1.62 | | | | | | | 4.24 | | | | | 5.86 |
| 11-Aug | 1.96 | | | | | | | 1.48 | | | | | 3.44 |
| 12-Aug | | | | | | | | 1.68 | | | 0.08 | 0.14 | 1.9 |
| 13-Aug | 2.94 | | 0.12 | | 0.1 | | | 0.12 | | | | 0.2 | 3.48 |
| 14-Aug | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 15-Aug | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 16-Aug | | 0.14 | 0.12 | | | | | 0.2 | | | | | 0.46 |
| 17-Aug | | | | | | | | 0.82 | | | | | 0.82 |
| 18-Aug | 1.94 | 0.18 | | | | | | 4.28 | | | | 0.18 | 6.58 |
| 19-Aug | 2.22 | | 0.24 | | | | | | 0.16 | 0.2 | | | 2.82 |
| 20-Aug | 2.88 | | | | | 0.16 | | 5.64 | | | | | 8.68 |
| 21-Aug | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 22-Aug | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 23-Aug | 2.64 | | 0.26 | | | | | | | | | | 2.9 |
| 24-Aug | 1.54 | | | | | | | 1.88 | | 0.16 | | | 3.58 |
| 25-Aug | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 26-Aug | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 27-Aug | 1.747 | | 0.24 | | | | | | | | | | 1.987 |
| 28-Aug | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 29-Aug | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 30-Aug | 3.6 | 0.2 | 0.48 | | | | 0.22 | | | | | | 4.5 |
| 31-Aug | | | | | | | | 10.42 | 0.12 | 0.36 | | | 10.9 |
| Total | 30.067 | 1.06 | 2.08 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.16 | 0.22 | 32.7 | 0.28 | 0.72 | 0.08 | 0.52 | 68.087 |

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE
AND PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR BOB BEAUCHAMP**

H15 Mobile HRCs Member requests

Question:

How many requests have cabinet members made for visits of Mobile Household Waste and Recycling Wagons, including how many of them have been accepted and if they have already happened?

Answer:

There have been no requests made from Cabinet Members for operational visits from MHWRWs

A visit by the wagon from Lifford was made to a police event to try to educate residents about this new service, but it was not deployed to collect waste and not promoted as such.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND
PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR CHARLOTTE HODIVALA**

H16 Mobile HRCs Member requests non-exec

Question:

How many requests from non-cabinet members have been made for visits of Mobile Household Waste and Recycling Wagons, including how many of them have been accepted and if they have already happened?

Answer:

Every ward in the City will be visited. Locations have been chosen by officers reviewing data and carrying out site visits. There have been some local alternative sites suggested by local elected members once they have been informed of a visit to their ward.

These will be taken into account and considered along with the data and the safety and practicality of the sites proposed.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR MORRIAM JAN

I1 Covid Testing at Aston University

Question:

Residents have been contacting me with their shock at having to pay the full CAZ charge when they attend Aston University for a Covid test and have further advised they have not been made aware of this, saying it's an unjustified charge.

Can the Cabinet Member give a full explanation as to why this charge has been levied to residents who are attending this venue for Covid vaccinations and Covid testing, stating whether the charge will be refunded?

Answer:

The Council has worked closely with the NHS to support its COVID-19 testing and vaccination programmes. This support has included the provision of free parking and an exemption from the Clean Air Zone daily fee for people attending the mass vaccination centre at Millennium Point. The support provided to people attending this specific location recognised its importance to the mass vaccination programme at that particular point in time.

The testing venue at Aston University is one of many similar locations in Birmingham and Solihull therefore people wanting a COVID-19 test have a choice about which location they choose to attend.

There are exemptions from the Clean Air Zone daily fee for people living and working in the Clean Air Zone and the Council continues to issue exemptions to applicants fulfilling the eligibility criteria for these schemes.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR BABER BAZ

I2 Road Resurfacing Programme 2021/22

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member provide full details, split by ward, of (a) the roads that are to be resurfaced as part of the 2021/22 programme and (b) full details of the wards that have no highways allocated to the work programme for this period?

Answer:

The first tab in the attached spreadsheet summarises the number of footway and carriageway schemes being proposed as part of the Highways Investment Works Programme (IWP) by ward and the wards which do not have any schemes proposed.

The second and third tabs on the spreadsheet identify those IWP works by road location.

Whilst these are the intended IWP schemes for 2021/22, the programme is subject to potential further changes as the schemes are developed and finalised.

It should be noted that the IWP is only one programme of surfacing works for 2021/22. Similar works are also programmed as part of the routine delivery of highways services over the same period that will see over £100m of investment being placed into our roads and highway assets. Those other programmes are developed in response to emerging surfacing repair issues and therefore tend to have shorter periods of advance notice, but we are working with our highway services provider over the coming months with the aim of providing improved public access to that programme information.



Copy of
210908_Question-W

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR PETER FOWLER

I3 CAZ Grant

Question:

Please provide a breakdown detailing for each grant available to individuals and businesses for the Clean Air Zone, including for each:

- **Name of grant**
- **Total amount of funding available**
- **Total number of applications**
- **Total value of applications**
- **Total number paid out**
- **Total value paid out**

Answer:

The following table provides an update on the Clean Air Zone mitigation schemes:

| NAME OF GRANT SCHEME | APPLICATIONS | | SCHEME FUNDING | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|----------------|
| | SUBMITTED | APPROVED | ALLOCATED | PAID | PENDING FY21/22 | SUB TOTAL | REMAINING |
| HACKNEY CARRIAGE SUPPORT | 260 | 164 | £7.75m | £0.67m | £0.00m | £0.67m | £7.08m |
| PRIVATE HIRE SUPPORT | 1,849 | 1,126 | £7.00m | £1.41m | £0.00m | £1.41m | £5.59m |
| VEHICLE SCRAPPAGE AND TRAVEL CREDIT | 120 | 47 | £10.58m | £0.00m | £0.09m | £0.09m | £10.49m |
| HEAVY DUTY VEHICLE FUND | 63 | 11 | £10.05m | £0.06m | £1.22m | £1.28m | £8.77m |
| TOTALS | 2,292 | 1,348 | £35.38m | £2.14m | £1.31m | £3.45m | £31.93m |

NOTE: All financial values have been rounded to two decimal places.

The table above provides a summary of the various Clean Air Zone grant funds. The scheme to support Birmingham-licensed hackney carriage and private hire drivers has been split into the respective funding 'pots' available to each type of licence.

The Heavy Duty Vehicle (HDV) Fund includes the total number of applications and applications that have been approved, however, it is worth noting that this scheme enables a small to medium sized enterprise (SME) based in the West Midlands to submit an application requesting support for the upgrade or replacement of more than one heavy goods vehicle or coach in their fleet. So, while this scheme has approved 11 applications this equates to 85 vehicles that have been upgraded or replaced.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ADAM HIGGS

I4 Low Traffic Neighbourhoods

Question:

What is the total cost of each of the Council's existing and planned Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, broken down by scheme and amount already spent and final forecast cost?

Answer:

Tranche 1

The costs of the Active Travel Fund Tranche 1 Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTN) are as follows:

Lozells – £129,786.96

Kings Heath & Moseley - £390,119.32

Places for People (Castle Vale & Bournville) – £151,374.82

Design costs for schemes listed above - £50,000.00

Tranche 1 Traffic regulation orders – £6,000.00

Total spend to date - £727,281.10

Final forecast for Tranche 1 - £765,157.04

Maintenance Costs

Regular weekly maintenance checks on the above Low Traffic Neighbourhoods installations, for any defects from 20th November 2020 to 31st March 2022 - £40,949.84

Rectification and repairs to damage for the above Low Traffic Neighbourhoods installations - £13,434.00

Tranche 2

The forecasted budgets for the Active Travel Fund Phase 2 LTN's are detailed below noting that these are subject to change following design development and public consultation:

Lozells £ 75,000.00

Kings Heath £ 480,000.00

Bournville £ 112,500.00

Castle Vale £ 37,500.00

City Council – 14 September 2021

| | |
|---------|--------------|
| Moseley | £ 45,000.00 |
| TRO | £ 6,000.00 |
| Total | £ 756,000.00 |

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR BOB BEAUCHAMP

I5 Procurement CAZ Payment Software

Question:

Given you claimed the procurement for the CAZ payment software was sorted in time for the launch of the zone, and was not reason for delay, can you explain why neither the contract with Stripe or GoCardless appear on the open data website for 2021/22 Q1 Details of Contracts Awarded

Answer:

Details of contracts awarded during a quarter are reported in arrears via the Planned Procurement Activities Report (PPAR). Confirmation of the contract awards to Go Cardless and Stripe are confirmed in the latest PPAR which was published with the papers for the 7 September 2021 Cabinet, in line with the existing process.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR GARETH MOORE

I6 E-scooters

Question:

Please provide a copy of the full consultation results from the TfWM survey on the E-Scooter Trials.

Answer:

We will obtain this information in a suitable format from TfWM and forward directly.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DOMINIC STANFORD

I7 Seized Vehicles

Question:

In each year since 2015/2016, how many vehicles have been seized by the Council for suspected involvement in environmental crime, including how many of these have been crushed?

Answer:

Vehicles seized by the Waste Enforcement Unit since its creation in October 2015.

| | SEIZED | CRUSHED |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 2015/2016 | 3 | 3 |
| 2016/2017 | 10 | 2 |
| 2017/2018 | 13 | 6 |
| 2018/2019 | 10 | 3 |
| 2019/2020 | 9 | 3 |
| 2020/2021 | 6 | 0 |
| 2021/2022 (till Sept 2021) | 5 | 0 |

City Council – 14 September 2021

Vehicles seized by Trading Standards

| | SEIZED | CRUSHED |
|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| 2019 | 2 | 0 |
| 2020 | 6 | 0 |

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY

I8 Seized Vehicles

Question:

Please list the number of cameras installed (or planned to be installed) for LTNS and the City Cell system to enforce compliance with the new measures.

Answer:

The Council currently only has powers to enforce these measures if they are 'made' with a bus lane or bus gate. None of the segments or LTN measures currently in place as part of the Active Travel Fund (ATF) programme include bus only restrictions. However, in the case of the city centre, some segment boundaries are defined by a bus lane or gate and may or may not have camera enforcement (e.g. Moor St Queensway that does have a camera).

Proposals for the second phase of ATF do include bus only restrictions – a firm aspiration remains to enforce these with cameras if required in the future, but the current proposals do not include the inclusion of any enforcement cameras.

The Government is in the process of extending powers (Traffic Management Act 2004 Part 6) to local authorities to enforce other types of moving traffic offence and the Council will look to pursue this in due course. This could be of benefit in terms of the effectiveness of schemes such as LTNs and the segments.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR SIMON MORRALL

I9 Birmingham Wheels

Question:

Given the Birmingham Wheels site currently works on a net carbon neutral basis, what assessment has been made of the carbon impact of the current proposals to replace it within a new development, including the impact of demolition, removal of hazardous waste, construction and running of the new development?

Answer:

As the Wheels site is currently used for wheeled activities including stock car and banger racing, driving experience days, karting and drifting, officers would not consider it currently as a net carbon neutral operation.

The site is former landfill and underused. Its regeneration will remediate the site and address the extensive Japanese Knotweed on site. Its redevelopment, generating up to 3,000 jobs targeted at the local community will be a significant brownfield regeneration in accordance with City Council and national planning policy.

The Outline Business Case is currently being developed for the site and the final approach will depend, in part, on the success or otherwise of a Levelling Up Fund (LUF) bid for the remediation of the site. The preferred/chosen option will determine the project approach on the sustainable development methods to be implemented on the development to achieve the reduction of carbon on site by delivering development that utilises green energy and supports the City Council's drive towards zero carbon.

Once the option appraisal recommends the best development for the city, the Wheels delivery team will work closely with the R20 team to reduce the city's carbon footprint.

Two key policies are currently included in the Birmingham Development Plan (BDP) that relate to the sustainability of new developments. These are TP3 (Sustainable construction) and TP4 (Low and zero carbon energy generation). Policy TP3 requires development to maximise energy efficiency, minimise waste and consider the type and source of materials used, as well as BREEAM Excellent for non-residential buildings of a certain threshold.

In addition to the BDP review, the new City Council 'Our Future City Plan - Central Birmingham 2040' is currently being progressed. The plan sets the vision for the City Centre for the next 20 years. The City Council's R20 initiative is at the heart of the plan that includes a zero-carbon approach to development. The Council already has provision within the Birmingham Business Charter for Social Responsibility to address this under the Green and Sustainable theme. All proposals in the development of Bordesley Park would have to adhere to these Council policies.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PEARS

I10 Active Travel Scheme- risk assessment

Question:

The risk assessment for the Active Travel Scheme (appended to Cabinet report of 20 September 2020) gave a risk of ‘Failure of schemes to assist in the COVID-19 recovery’ which the council judged to be ‘possible’ with a ‘Critical impact on the achievement of objectives and overall performance.’ Whilst the Council judged this to be ‘tolerable’ it stated that additional steps to be taken to manage the risk were ‘ongoing.’ Please provide details of the ongoing evaluation of this risk, including monitoring of schemes to judge how they were helping economic recovery and additional steps taken to manage this.

Answer:

The monitoring and evaluation strategy for the Active Travel fund programme includes both outputs and outcomes, both of which are used for our own internal purposes and also for upward reporting to Transport for West Midlands and the Department for Transport. This is broadly based around four themes:

- Data – e.g. traffic counts, air quality etc. but also over time mode shift/ behaviour change;
- Engineering – looking at what has physically been delivered but also the road safety audit process;
- Equalities – impact on any of the protected characteristics; and
- Perceptions/Engagement – based on public feedback.

As the programme has developed, it is clear that it would only be possible to make a subjective assessment of the impact on the recovery based on more scheme specific monitoring.

The Cabinet report and appendices were drafted/approved at a relatively early stage in the project. As such, the understanding of the likely risks at that time would have been quite high level and generic.

A programme level risk register has now superseded the risks identified for the Cabinet report.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID BARRIE

I11 Active Travel Scheme - Costs

Question:

For each scheme implemented under the Active Travel Scheme, please provide a breakdown of

- **Detail of work undertaken**
- **Original budgeted cost of implementation**
- **Actual cost of implementation**
- **Original budgeted cost of removal of temporary measures**
- **Actual cost of removal. (For schemes that remain in place, any revised budget for removal and date of planned removal)**
- **Funding source for each**

Answer:

The information requested is provided in the below table:

City Council – 14 September 2021

| WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID BARRIE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|-------------|------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|-----------|--------------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| ACTIVE TRAVEL FUND | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Budget | | | 10/09/2021 | | | | | | | |
| Scheme Name: | Scheme Description | Capital | Revenue | Total Budget | Actual Cost* | Maintenance Costs** | TRO Costs | Design Costs | Budgeted Removal Costs | Actual Removal Costs | Removal Date | Funding Source |
| Moseley High Street Local Centre - Relocation of space | Provision of temporary footway extensions, installing temporary barriers, ramps and bus stop buildouts; Covid social distancing pavement markings and signs | £32,500.00 | £11,000.00 | £43,500.00 | £17,002.96 | £15,906.06 | £2,000.00 | £1,315.79 | £6,811.15 | £3000* | 09/09/2021 Part | The Emergency Active Travel Fund |
| Stirchley Local Centre - Relocation of space | Provision of temporary footway extensions, installing road bollards and ramps along Pershore Road; Junction re-alignment with stick down temporary kerbs on Bourville Lane, new road markings. | £72,500.00 | £11,000.00 | £83,500.00 | £55,185.00 | £41,000.00 | £2,000.00 | £5,000.00 | £0.00 | £7,000* | TBC | The Emergency Active Travel Fund |
| Lozells - Low Traffic Neighbourhood | Installation of planters and bollards to create a Low Traffic Neighbourhood Installation of road markings to create turning facilities | £97,500.00 | £26,000.00 | £123,500.00 | £129,786.96 | £41,000.00 | £2,000.00 | £10,000.00 | £0.00 | £7,235.00 | 23/12/2020 Part | The Emergency Active Travel Fund |
| Kings Heath - Low Traffic Neighbourhood | Installation of planters and bollards to create a Low Traffic Neighbourhood Installation of road markings to create turning facilities | £97,500.00 | £26,000.00 | £123,500.00 | £390,119.32 | £41,000.00 | £2,000.00 | £25,000.00 | £0.00 | £7,421.00 | 20/03/2021 Part | The Emergency Active Travel Fund |
| Places for People - Low Traffic Neighbourhood | Provision of pop-up cycleways using road bollards, new lit cycle way signage, road humps buildouts and new road markings. Installation of planters and road bollards to lower and re-direct traffic. | £72,000.00 | £16,000.00 | £88,000.00 | £151,374.82 | £41,000.00 | £2,000.00 | £15,000.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | N/A | The Emergency Active Travel Fund |
| City Centre Cells | Provision of segments using barriers within the City Centre to reduce the traffic levels along side roads, installing advisory cycle routes using road markings and installing bus gates on St Chads Queensway and on Old Snow Hill (Outside Lloyd House). | £272,500.00 | £76,000.00 | £348,500.00 | £69,858.18 | £41,000.00 | £2,000.00 | £6,480.00 | £0.00 | £18,126.43* | 29/04/2021 Part | The Emergency Active Travel Fund |
| Sutton Coldfield - Pop-up Cycle Lanes | Provision of pop-up cycleways using road bollards, new lit cycle way signage, pavement extensions, buildouts, removal of existing road markings and provision of extensive new road markings. Park Road made one way. All works re-instated including high friction surfacing. | £45,000.00 | £4,000.00 | £49,000.00 | £79,148.85 | £41,000.00 | £2,000.00 | £10,000.00 | £0.00 | £34,047.55 | 20/11/2020 | The Emergency Active Travel Fund |
| City Centre to Small Heath (A45) - Pop-up Cycle Lanes | Provision of pop-up cycleways using road bollards, new lit cycle way signage, buildouts, bus stop extensions and new road markings. | £170,000.00 | £4,000.00 | £174,000.00 | £222,736.12 | £41,000.00 | £2,000.00 | £25,000.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | N/A | The Emergency Active Travel Fund |
| Selly Oak to Northfield (A38) - Pop-up Cycle Lanes | Provision of pop-up cycleways using road bollards, new lit cycle way signage, buildouts, bus stop extensions and extensive new road markings. Road markings and high friction surfacing reinstated between Selly Oak and Northfield. | £72,500.00 | £4,000.00 | £76,500.00 | £182,863.15 | £41,000.00 | £2,000.00 | £25,000.00 | £0.00 | £139,154.00 | 23/05/2021 Part | The Emergency Active Travel Fund |
| City Centre to Fort Dunlop (A47) - Pop-up Cycle Lanes | Provision of pop-up cycleways using road bollards, new lit cycle way signage, buildouts, bus stop extensions and new road markings. | £120,000.00 | £4,000.00 | £124,000.00 | £220,960.46 | £41,000.00 | £2,000.00 | £20,000.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | N/A | The Emergency Active Travel Fund |
| City Centre to City Hospital Via Jewellery Quarter - Pop-up Cycle Lanes | Provision of pop-up cycleways using road bollards, new lit cycle way signage, buildouts, bus stop extensions and new road markings. | £105,000.00 | £4,000.00 | £109,000.00 | £195,046.76 | £41,000.00 | £2,000.00 | £15,000.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | N/A | The Emergency Active Travel Fund |
| Bradford Street (City Centre) - Pop-up Cycle Lanes | Provision of pop-up cycleways using road bollards, new lit cycle way signage, buildouts, bus stop extensions and new road markings. | £97,500.00 | £4,000.00 | £101,500.00 | £187,522.70 | £41,000.00 | £2,000.00 | £8,640.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | N/A | The Emergency Active Travel Fund |
| A38 to A34 - Pop-up Cycle Lanes | Provision new advisory cycle lane using road markings and new lit cycle way signage. | £102,500.00 | £4,000.00 | £106,500.00 | £18,031.19 | £41,000.00 | £2,000.00 | £5,400.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | N/A | The Emergency Active Travel Fund |
| Footnote | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ** From 20th November 2020 to 31 March 2022 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| * Actual Costs to Date Subject to agreement of Final Account | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Note | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Above figures exclude V.A.T | | | | | | | | | | | | |

5658

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR RON STORER

I12 Carbon Emissions

Question:

Per year since 2012, what are the estimated annual carbon emissions for:

- a) The City Council**
- b) Combined City Council owned companies**
- c) The city as a whole**

Answer:

a) The City Council

The City Council does not yet monitor its own emissions year on year. A carbon baselining study was completed by Anthesis in 2020 and estimated that the Council's own emissions were 417,772tco2e in 2018. Emissions directly related to Council Scope 1, 2 and 3 activities and operations represent 417,772 tCO2e, just 8% of the total emissions of the city. Carbon emissions can be divided into three categories:

- Scope 1 (direct): Emissions from sources you own or control, such as boilers and fleet vehicles you own.
- Scope 2 (energy indirect): indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, heat, steam etc.
- Scope 3 (other indirect): indirect emissions (i.e. those owned, controlled and generated by others) which result from the organisation's activities such as travel, procurement, water and waste.

We do hold data on the City Council's building's energy consumption, which is as follows:

| Year | tCO2e |
|------|---------|
| 2012 | 122,178 |
| 2013 | 168,109 |
| 2014 | 121,960 |
| 2015 | 68,004 |
| 2016 | 64,287 |
| 2017 | 52,283 |
| 2018 | 44,800 |
| 2019 | 34,323 |

Please note that the cannot be apportioned to as a number of buildings mainly for the year on year

reduction in emissions energy efficiency measures were sold so this accounts reduction.

b) Combined City Council owned companies

The City Council do not hold this data.

c) The City as a Whole

Please see data below:

| Year | Ktco2 |
|------|---------|
| 2012 | 5,679.9 |
| 2013 | 5,530.2 |
| 2014 | 4,905.4 |
| 2015 | 4,763.5 |
| 2016 | 4,530.5 |
| 2017 | 4,277.9 |
| 2018 | 4,249.1 |
| 2019 | 4,083.2 |

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR CHARLOTTE HODIVALA

I13 Park & Ride Commonwealth Games

Question

Please list all proposed locations for the Commonwealth Games Park & Rides.

Answer:

Existing park and ride sites are available for Tram, Train and Bus services into Birmingham and key Games venues as shown below:

Longbridge Park and Ride

Tram Stops

The Hawthorns
Wednesbury Parkway
Black Lane
Bradley Lane
Priestfield

Train Stations

Bromsgrove
Longbridge
Sutton Coldfield
Northfield
Rowley Regis
Tile Hill
Four Oaks
Whitlocks End
Stourbridge Junction

Work led by Transport for West Midlands is ongoing to plan and deliver additional park and ride spaces across the region, specifically to enable travel to the Alexander stadium. More details of these locations can be provided once final agreements with landowners are complete.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR BRUCE LINES

I14 CAZ- Non-UK vehicles

Is the Clean Air Zone currently enforcing charges and penalties for all non-UK registered vehicles?

Answer:

Birmingham's Clean Air Zone is currently not pursuing enforcement against non-UK vehicles that do not meet the emission standards for the zone.

Based on the data from the Clean Air Zone ANPR cameras, non-UK vehicles account for 0.2% (on average) of all unique vehicles that enter the Clean Air Zone. There is currently no data available to determine the percentage of these vehicles that do not meet the emission standards for the Clean Air Zone. The Council is developing a procurement specification and strategy to support the enforcement against non-UK registered vehicles.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR MAUREEN CORNISH

J1 DBS Checks

Question:

Since 2016 how many drivers across all contracts within the Home to School Transport have had positive DBS checks or no DBS check in place whilst driving for any length of time (split between the two)?

Answer:

BCC stated its formal historic position regarding positive DBS in the response to an FOI issued on 18 January 2021.

This stated that:

| Issue | FOI Response |
|--|--|
| Since 2016, how many drivers have had positive DBS checks whilst driving | <p>The Home to School Transport service holds information relating to the numbers of positive DBS drivers dating to February 2020. It was at this point when the current BCC DBS Panel started assessing driver applications to work on BCC routes.</p> <p>The process identified 74 drivers with positive DBS, 50 were cleared to drive, 24 required assessment.</p> <p>It is important to note that not all positive disclosures would render a driver unsuitable to drive on school transport routes. There are many drivers with positive DBS disclosures who, following assessment of their disclosure information, have previously and are currently safely transporting vulnerable pupils</p> |
| Since 2016, how many drivers with no DBS checks in place whilst driving | The service was made aware of 23 children who were transported to school |

| Issue | FOI Response |
|-------|---|
| | <p>by a driver in a case involving a breach of the DBS checking process in 2019. This driver was accompanied by a BCC employed Travel Guide on all journeys, and therefore did not have unsupervised access to the children being transported. Action was taken to investigate this matter and to ensure that no children were at risk.</p> <p>Cleansing exercises completed then identified that 3 other individuals who had been driving on BCC routes were found to have criminal records and these were then cleared through the BCC DBS process.</p> |

Travel providers are legally obliged to provide this information to us on a monthly basis.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VULNERABLE
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR EDDIE FREEMAN**

J2 Requirement - Contracts

Question:

Is it a requirement of the contracts for home to school transport services for contracted providers to disclose any action taken against them by the Office of Traffic Commissioner and for this to be provided for those wishing to be added onto the DPS contract?

Answer:

Details of the assessments made when providers apply to join the DPS are listed in the response to J15.

At this stage, we do not currently ask specifically about disclosing any action taken against them by the Office of Traffic Commissioner. We are currently exploring whether to add this requirement to the contract.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VULNERABLE
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR CHARLOTTE HODIVALA**

J3 Employees – North Birmingham Travel

Question:

How many employees do North Birmingham Travel have to whom TUPE regulations apply, as referenced in the emergency Chief Executive Report of 17th August regarding termination of the contract?

Answer:

TUPE will apply to all North Birmingham Travel (NBT) staff that predominately work on the BCC Home to School Transport contract. As yet, NBT have not cooperated with the transfer process and have failed to provide employee information. We are doing everything in our power to ensure this information is provided to us as soon as possible.

Drivers who have the right to TUPE to a new provider will not be able to drive on home to school transport routes until they comply with HATS and BCC's DBS requirements.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VULNERABLE
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY**

J4 Monitoring Visits/Audits

Question:

For each provider of home to school transport services, please provide a list of all dates that monitoring visits/audits have taken place (Please include North Birmingham Travel in this list even though they are no longer providing services to the Council.

Answer:

Quality assurance checks have been introduced and a new Compliance Function (interim) has been created. Work is being carried out to ascertain the size and shape of the function needed permanently in order to carry out the appropriate level of monitoring visits needed.

An onsite audit of DBS compliance will be completed for all operators by the end of October.

The team aims to check 50 routes each school week. This is reported through the weekly SITREP reports. The outcomes of these audits drive improvements.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VULNERABLE
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR MEIRION JENKINS**

J5 DBS Check

Question:

Out of the total number of drivers currently working on home to school transport routes, how many have the Council physically seen verified DBS checks for.

Answer:

Before the start of the school term we wrote to all transport providers asking them to provide details of any drivers with positive DBS checks that have not previously been disclosed to the council.

Drivers with positive DBS checks are reviewed by the BCC HR Panel and will not drive until clearance has been provided.

Travel providers are legally obliged to provide this information to us on a monthly basis in any event, but again we wanted to ensure that providers are fully meeting their obligations prior to the start of the new school term.

A deed of variation has now been agreed by all providers which requires them to provide DBS certificates to the council for independent verification.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VULNERABLE
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR DOMINIC STANFORD**

J6 SEND School Places

Question:

For every child who has a specific school setting named in their EHCP, how many are currently still waiting for a place to be allocated in that school, split between those currently in a different setting and those not in education, or home schooling?

Answer:

Where a specific school setting is named in a child's EHCP, admission must be arranged with the relevant governing board. There are no children waiting for a place to be allocated at a school named in their EHCP.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VULNERABLE
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR SIMON MORRALL**

J7 Cleared DBS Checks

Question:

In total, how many drivers currently working on home to school transport routes at any point have been discovered not to have had cleared DBS in place?

Answer:

Currently, on the evidence provided to the council by our contractors, there are no drivers working on home to school transport routes without a cleared DBS check in place.

The service at my request are conducting a full audit, carried out by an external provider, of all providers that will be completed by the end of October to provide additional reassurance on this matter.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VULNERABLE
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN LINES**

J8 Positive DBS Checks

Question:

For the positive DBS checks found to be held by North Birmingham travel drivers, how long had those drivers been driving any home to school transport routes (including numbers of days, number of journeys and number of children transported)?

Answer:

I would refer to the report presented to Cabinet on 17 August 2021. There is an ongoing investigation into this currently, so it is not possible to comment further at this stage.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VULNERABLE
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR ADAM HIGGS**

J9 Verification of DBS Checks

Question:

Following the discovery of individual with known sexual convictions working as drivers for ATG, the Council eventually agreed to check every other provider and then 2 years later (3 years after the Council become aware of the problem) in January 2021, categorical assurance was provided by the Executive that no individual working on the home to school transport service did not have a fully cleared and certified DBS in place. Whilst we now know this was not true, can you please confirm that at the point of providing that answer, how (out of how many) DBS checks had been verified, and how many have been done since per month?

Answer:

BCC stated its formal historic position regarding positive DBS in the response to an FOI issued on 18 January 2021.

This stated that:

| Issue | FOI Response |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| How many DBS checks had been verified | <p>The Home to School Transport service holds information relating to the numbers of positive DBS drivers dating to February 2020. It was at this point when the current BCC DBS Panel started assessing driver applications to work on BCC routes.</p> <p>The process identified 74 drivers with positive DBS, 50 were cleared to drive, 24 required assessment.</p> <p>It is important to note that not all positive disclosures would render a driver unsuitable to drive on school transport routes. There are many drivers with positive DBS disclosures who, following assessment of their disclosure information, have previously and are currently safely transporting</p> |

| Issue | FOI Response |
|-------|--|
| | vulnerable pupils |
| | <p>The service was made aware of 23 children who were transported to school by a driver in a case involving a breach of the DBS checking process in 2019. This driver was accompanied by a BCC employed Travel Guide on all journeys, and therefore did not have unsupervised access to the children being transported. Action was taken to investigate this matter and to ensure that no children were at risk.</p> <p>Cleansing exercises completed then identified that 3 other individuals who had been driving on BCC routes were found to have criminal records and these were then cleared through the BCC DBS process.</p> |

All operators are contractually required to comply with the council's process around enhanced DBS checks.

At the time of responding to the question in January 2021 the information available was that to the best of our knowledge all contractors had complied with the contract conditions related to enhanced DBS checks.

The council is now using an external provider to undertake additional checks to cross-reference all our data with the HR clearances and this will be completed by the end of October.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VULNERABLE
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR PETER FOWLER**

J10 Safeguarding Complaints

Question:

Please list all dates on which any safeguarding complaint has been received regarding any provider of home to school transport, broken down by provider and including North Birmingham Travel?

Answer:

A small number of safeguarding complaints have been received and all have been/are being investigated. Based on legal advice and the risk of identifying pupils/drivers, information on these complaints cannot be discussed publicly.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VULNERABLE
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID BARRIE**

J11 LADO Referrals

Question:

Please list all dates on which any LADO referrals have been made regarding any provider of Home to School Transport, broken down by provider, including North Birmingham Travel?

Answer:

The service has made referrals to the LADO on several occasions and regularly seeks their advice. Based on legal advice and the risk of identifying pupils/drivers, information on these referrals cannot be provided publicly.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VULNERABLE
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PEARS**

J12 North Birmingham Employees

Question:

How many employees does North Birmingham Travel have to whom TUPE regulations may apply?

Answer:

TUPE will apply to all North Birmingham Travel (NBT) staff that predominately work on the BCC Home to School Transport contract. As yet, NBT have not cooperated with the transfer process and have failed to provide employee information. We are doing everything in our power to ensure this information is provided to us as soon as possible.

Drivers who have the right to TUPE to a new provider will not be able to drive on home to school transport routes until they comply with BCC's DBS requirements.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VULNERABLE
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR EWAN MACKEY**

J13 Complaints

Question:

Of all the complaints received regarding home to school transport, how many (out of how many) related to routes operated by North Birmingham Travel, including as a percentage of routes operated by them?

Answer:

Since April 2021, 81 complaints regarding home to school transport have been logged via the complaints process. Of these none were related to routes operated by NBT.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VULNERABLE
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR RON STORER**

J14 Contract Date

Question:

Since North Birmingham Travel began providing Home to School Transport services for BCC, how many drivers have been used by them?

Answer:

BCC's records show that NBT used a total of 174 drivers since it began providing transport in February 2020. This includes drivers for sub-contractors.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VULNERABLE
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR TIMOTHY HUXTABLE**

J15 DPS Contract

Question:

In introducing the new DPS contract for home to school transport, what assessment was made of quality based on previous performance and compliance for those companies who also operated under the previous framework agreement, including assessment criteria used and evidence sources (e annual review meetings, complaints etc.)?

Answer:

All operators underwent an application process to gain access to the DPS. This involved basic checks regarding their eligibility to undertake council services on our behalf. Bids for work were evaluated based on quality and price in line with council procurement regulations. Previous poor performance of operators was considered in this evaluation when it had been formally documented as a rectification or contract default.

At the first stage of receiving applications to be on the Home to School DPS, suppliers are asked multiply questions, such as, if they have any convictions held, significant deficiencies in the performance of a previous contract and to confirm all operational staff have had enhanced DBS checks. This is followed with a series of PASS / FAIL Quality Questions asking the provider to demonstrate relevant experience and contract examples and to evidence their technical and Professional Ability around such areas as safeguarding.

If providers have passed all these checks then they are approved onto the DPS. Individual procurement exercises are undertaken for specific H2S routes using the evaluation criteria of 40% quality and 60% price. The Quality Criteria and questions broken down to cover the following areas – Service Provision, Business & Sustainability and Current Fleet and are evaluated by the Home to School Team.

The questions involved in the application process can be changed if new requirements are identified.

The ongoing contract management, including annual review meetings / complaints are dealt with within the Home to School service.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VULNERABLE
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR KEN WOOD**

J16 Annual Review Meetings

Question:

For each supplier on the original Home to School Transport agreement please list all annual review meetings that took place since 2012 (inc dates) as per terms of that framework agreement?

Answer:

Under the previous framework, review meetings were planned to took place with each provider in August. The service have informed me that these will now take place on six to twelve monthly basis.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VULNERABLE
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE ALDEN**

J17 SEND latest Data Breach

Question:

How many letters on Home to School Transport that went to the incorrect address went to former partner of someone fleeing domestic violence?

Answer:

We are sorry that some letters regarding transport were recently sent to incorrect addresses.

I have been informed by officers that to the best of their knowledge, no letters went to the former partner of someone fleeing domestic violence.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VULNERABLE
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR ADRIAN DELANEY**

J18 Home to School Transport – notice of travel arrangements

Question:

How many parents did not have full details of confirmed travel arrangements (agreed by them) for home to school transport -

- a) 10 days before the start of term**
- b) 5 days before the start of term**
- c) 3 days before the start of term**
- d) 24 hours before the start of term**
- e) Before the start of term**

Answer:

Families were informed of the travel arrangements made by the council for their child by letter from BCC. Many families were also contacted direct by their child's transport provider.

3400 letters were sent in two batches (5th and 12th August) informing families of the transport arrangements, both more than 10 days before the start of term.

The remaining 603 letters were sent in the week before the start of term.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VULNERABLE
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR BOB BEAUCHAMP**

J19 Home to School Transport –HATS and Green Destinations

Question:

Has every DBS for all drivers operating on routes now provided by Healthcare and Transport Services and Green Destination (following the failure of previous providers to comply with DBS requirements) been physically seen and verified by the Council and has every positive check been cleared by the Safer Recruitment Panel before the first day of term?

Answer:

All drivers on BCC routes are required under their conditions of contract to have their BCC home to school transport ID badge with them at all times when operating. BCC will not issue an ID badge until we have verified the driver's DBS. They are issued face to face so that the driver's likeness can be verified.

All operators were reminded of this requirement by the Monitoring Officer and the Home to School Transport Service prior to the start of term.

During mobilisation at the start of term, where required temporary badges were issued to providers where the DBS had been seen by the provider, but there was insufficient time for the driver to attend in person to collect their badge. These will only be valid for one month, before which time all drivers will have to attend in person to collect a permanent badge.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR ALEX YIP

J20 Home to School Transport – Missed Routes

Question:

Please provide a list of all routes (including the route number) that have been missed since the start of the Autumn Term 2021-22. Please breakdown into the reasons for the route being missed (i.e. wrong type of transport for the Child's needs arrived) and how many times the route has been missed.

Answer:

The information that was available at the end of Friday 10th September (when this response was drafted) is below:

| | Routes planned | Routes delivered | Routes missed | Percentage of routes missed | Missed due to operator issues | Missed due to guide sickness | Missed due to other reason (eg non attendance of pupils) |
|----------|----------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 06/09/21 | 661 | 639 | 22 | 3.3% | 2 | 0 | 20 |
| 07/09/21 | 795 | 788 | 7 | 0.9% | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| 08/09/21 | 850 | 825 | 25 | 2.9% | 15 | 1 | 9 |
| 09/09/21 | 868 | 856 | 12 | 1.4% | 2 | 1 | 9 |

NB This data excludes route information from HATS as this was not available at the time of preparing this answer.

The data below includes **all** providers.

| | Routes planned | Routes delivered | Routes missed | Percentage of routes missed | Missed due to operator issues | Missed due to guide sickness | Missed due to other reason (eg non attendance of pupils) |
|----------|----------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 10/09/21 | 991 | 922 | 59 | 7% | 51 | 1 | 7 |

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR GARETH MOORE

J21 Temporary Accommodation

Question:

As of 31 August, since the start of the calendar year, how many people had the council placed in temporary accommodation each month, broken down by accommodation type (b&b, hostel, dispersed, exempt etc)?

Answer:

Please see below for TA Admissions taken since 4 January 2021 and up to 31 August 2021

| Counted on Person Reference TA type | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Month and Year | Bed And Breakfast | Dispersed Hostel Tenancy | Hostel Daily | PSL Tenancy | Grand Total |
| Jan 2021 | 179 | 2 | | | 181 |
| Feb 2021 | 134 | 1 | | 2 | 137 |
| Mar 2021 | 155 | | | | 155 |
| Apr 2021 | 131 | | 1 | 2 | 134 |
| May 2021 | 174 | 3 | | | 177 |
| Jun 2021 | 169 | 3 | | 1 | 173 |
| Jul 2021 | 238 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 243 |
| Aug 2021 | 225 | 2 | | | 227 |
| Grand Total | 1405 | 14 | 2 | 6 | 1427 |

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VULNERABLE
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR BRUCE LINES**

J22 Temporary Accommodation

Question:

Does the business case to provide temporary accommodation, per the July Cabinet Report, include any presumptions of income from housing residents from other local authorities? If so, what is the value of this and the total number of individuals expected to accommodate per year?

Answer:

No, the July Cabinet Report did not include any presumption of any income from housing residents from other local authorities. The model only assumes households are from within Birmingham.

We do not provide temporary accommodation for other local authorities. However, If it is deemed that someone has a local connection to Birmingham City Council, once assessed under the homelessness legislation, we may have a duty to provide temporary accommodation, therefore the project may be used on these occasions.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VULNERABLE
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR DARIUS SANDHU**

J23 New Oscott Gardens Temporary Accommodation

Question:

For the proposed new Oscott Gardens Temporary Accommodation please provide a breakdown of council employees on site, including:

- **Type of role**
- **Number on site at any one time**
- **Number on site out of hours**
- **Number based there but not directly working there (eg other housing staff using it as a base but not specifically assigned to support accommodation there)**
- **Number based there but on flexible working arrangements including working from home**

Answer:

The proposed temporary accommodation at Oscott Gardens consists of 9 residential blocks in 6 buildings, between 3 and 4 storeys high. Some buildings are paired and some single, with flats grouped into 6 and 7 bed grouping either side of central staircases. In total there are 414 bedrooms and some communal spaces, with a central administration hub and security office.

When the accommodation is fully open, the following numbers of staff will be required:

Type of roles

- Homeless Centre Manager x 1
- Senior Homeless Centre Support Officer x 6
- Homeless Centre Support Officer x 30
- Security Officers x 12
- Cleaners x 10
- Total - 59 staff

There will 24 hour, 7 day a week security to monitor the CCTV / site access and carry out foot patrols.

All Officers will be site based delivering the service for approximately 9 hours a day again, for 7 days a week. They will be providing a move on support service addressing the barriers that prevent families from securing permanent accommodation, including maximising income and support with accessing social and private sector housing. This will include signposting to other agencies and a multiagency approach to complex cases.

The role also includes assisting with security measures, carrying out rooms checks and safety inspections.

Number on site at any one time (during office hours)

- Homeless Centre Manager x 1
- Senior Homeless Centre Support Officer x 4
- Homeless Centre Support Officer x 25
- Security Officers x 4
- Cleaners x 8

- Total - 42

Number on site out of hours

- Senior Homeless Centre Support Officer x 1
- Homeless Centre Support Officer x 5
- Security Officers x 4

- Total - 10

Number based there but not directly working there (e.g. other housing staff using it as a base but not specifically assigned to support accommodation there)

- No housing staff using it as a base

Number based there but on flexible working arrangements including working from home

- No housing staff based there on flexible working arrangements

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN
AND FAMILIES COUNCILLOR ZAKER CHOUDHRY**

J24 Homelessness and Rough Sleeping

Question:

If the Government is to deliver its manifesto pledge of ending rough sleeping by 2024, it must continue the principles and funding of the 'Everyone In' initiative otherwise there are fears there could be "a post-pandemic surge" in the number of people sleeping on the streets. Could the Cabinet Member explain (a) how the City proposes to deal with this in the long term and (b) if the Council's proposals have changed since the easing of lockdown?

Answer:

The directive for 'everyone-in' was very much about Covid-19 security. It was effective in bringing some people in, though never fully eliminated some people choosing to sleep rough. As part of the 'everyone-in' approach Birmingham secured hotel accommodation for rough sleepers as an alternative option for accommodation choice; provided a Housing Options service targeting single homeless and rough sleepers; and was able to accommodate and provide subsistence to homeless people with 'no recourse to public funds'.

- a) Birmingham has maintained the position that there is always a bed (not in a night shelter) for someone who is rough sleeping or imminent risk of rough sleeping, just as 'everyone-in' required. This is funded through the Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) for 2021-22 and should continue to be so. This funding allows the Rough Sleeper Bed Navigator to purchase flexible options where required by individual circumstances, including hotel. The Housing Options provision has been maintained and strengthened, provided by Council Officers at Sifa-Fireside Daycentre, funded partly through RSI and included in the Housing Options Redesign work.
- b) With the easing of lock-down the public health case to allow for the expenditure of public funds on people with 'no recourse to public funds' reduced. On 11th August 2021 the City Council ceased funding accommodation and subsistence to the remaining 30 individuals (of a total of 166) being provided for. Most had a move-on plan, of those without a secure plan, none have to date presented as rough sleeping on the street. There are a small number of individuals with 'no recourse to public funds' who under 'everyone-in' might have more options than those now available to them.

Under lockdown there was a substantial increase in government funding to help people who sleep rough. In the RSI settlement for 2021-22 this has been maintained so that services set up under lockdown have been able to continue. This includes an extension to street outreach allowing for night shifts 7 nights a week, tenancy rescue support, befriending and activity options, a dedicated Social Worker post, a Bed Navigator and a Housing Options Officer specific to people

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE LICENSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL TILSLEY

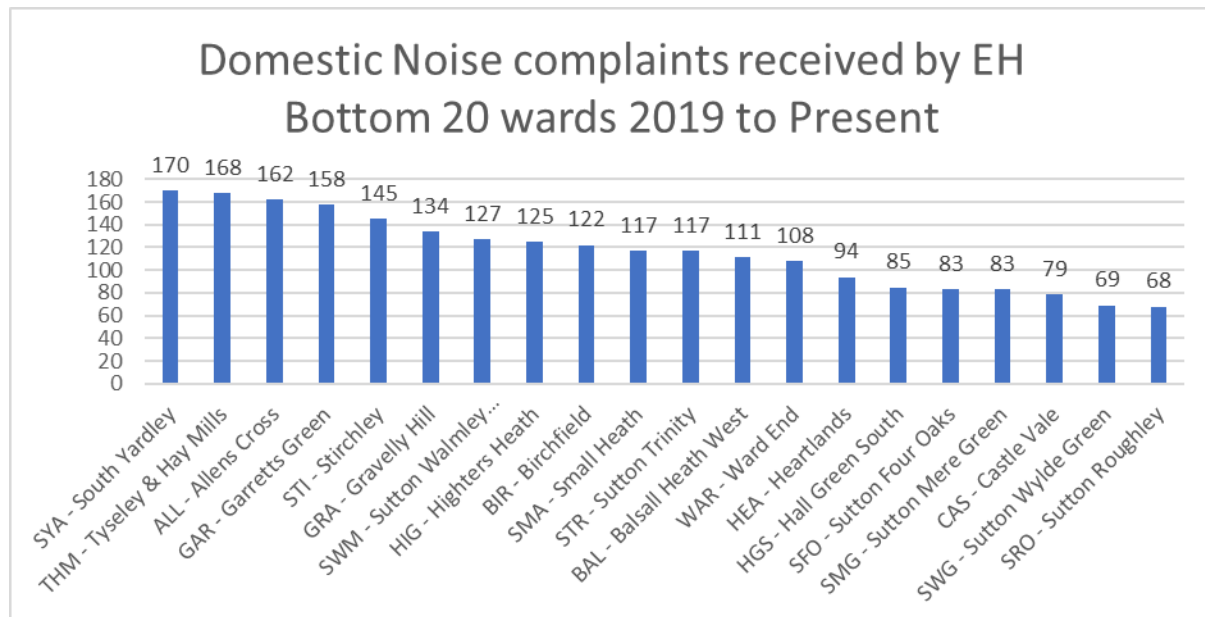
J25 Noise

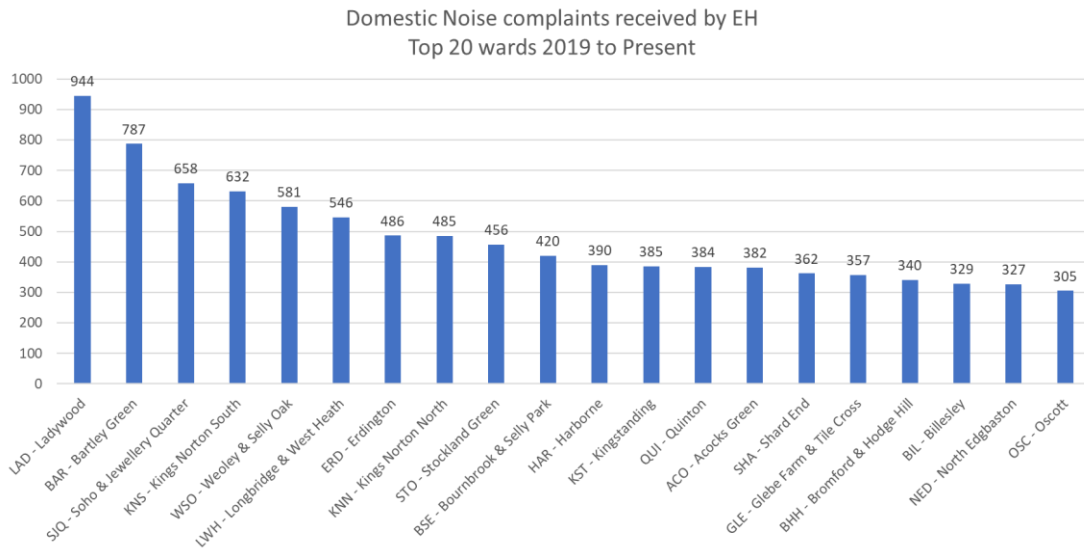
Question:

Could you provide full details of the trends received from complaints residents have made about noise from 2019 to the present day (split by ward)?

Answer:

Below is the graph of the number of noise complaints by ward followed by the number of complaints over the same time frame by month.





**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE FROM
COUNCILLOR JON HUNT**

L1 New fees for prior approval applications

Question:

The Government has amended the planning fees regulations to introduce new fees for prior approval applications under the General Permitted Development Order 2015 from 30 July 2021.

Could the Chair of the Planning Committee advise if the Planning Department will be raising their fees in line with this?

Answer:

The Council does not set or raise Planning fees as in England they are set nationally by the government and Birmingham City Council has no discretion in whether to charge those fees or not.

The national fees are set out in the Town and Country Planning (Fees for Applications, Deemed Applications, Requests and Site Visits) (England) Regulations 2012, as amended.

In 2021 revisions to the 2012 Fees Regulations were indeed amended to include fees for certain applications under the General Permitted Development Order.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF PLANNING COMMITTEE FROM
COUNCILLOR PETER FOWLER**

L2 Applications – speed of decision making

Question:

In each of the last 4 years, what is the total number of minor planning applications received and determined, broken down by:

- **Total number received**
- **Total number determined within 8 weeks excluding those where extension of time agreed**
- **Total number determined outside 8 weeks but within agreed timescales**
- **Total number determined outside agreed timescales**

Answer:

| Calendar Year | Total number of minor applications received | Total of minor application determined within 8 weeks | Total of minor applications determined with an agreed extension of time | Total of minor applications determined outside of agreed timescales |
|---------------------|---|--|---|---|
| 2017 | 1011 | 632 | 107 | 272 |
| 2018 | 1061 | 488 | 158 | 414 |
| 2019 | 1041 | 460 | 239 | 342 |
| 2020 | 898 | 441 | 294 | 163 |
| 2021 (year to date) | 622 | 274 | 298 | 50 |

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF PLANNING COMMITTEE FROM
COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY**

L3 Planning Enforcement Complaints

Question:

In each of the last 3 years, how many planning enforcement complaints have been received where work has been carried out after a planning application was refused?

Answer:

The planning software system does not specifically record when an enforcement complaint relates to development carried out after planning permission has been refused. However, a search of the database where the term 'refused' or 'refusal' was used in the description has revealed the following number of cases;

2018 = 3 cases

2019 = 3 cases

2020 = 0 cases

2021 = 0 cases

Of the three cases in 2018, none of the complaints resulted in the service of an enforcement notice because in all three cases the investigation revealed that no works carried out related to the refused development and the works related to a different development.

Of the three cases in 2019, in the first case a subsequent planning permission was granted, in the second case the unauthorised development was removed following investigation and in the third case it was considered not expedient to issue an enforcement notice because there was a lawful fallback position which meant there was no material difference between the two and therefore an enforcement notice would have been almost certain to fail on appeal.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF PLANNING COMMITTEE FROM
COUNCILLOR ROBERT ALDEN**

L4 Planning Enforcement Complaints

Question:

In each of the last 3 years, how many enforcement actions have been taken against individuals who have carried out work after after a planning application was refused?

Answer:

The planning software system does not specifically record when an enforcement complaint relates to development carried out after planning permission has been refused. However, a search of the database where the term 'refused' or 'refusal' was used in the description has revealed the following number of cases;

2018 = 3 cases

2019 = 3 cases

2020 = 0 cases

2021 = 0 cases

Of the three cases in 2018, none of the complaints resulted in the service of an enforcement notice because in all three cases the investigation revealed that no works carried out related to the refused development and the works related to a different development.

Of the three cases in 2019, in the first case a subsequent planning permission was granted, in the second case the unauthorised development was removed following investigation and in the third case it was considered not expedient to issue an enforcement notice because there was a lawful fallback position which meant there was no material difference between the two and therefore an enforcement notice would have been almost certain to fail on appeal.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF PLANNING COMMITTEE FROM
COUNCILLOR KEN WOOD**

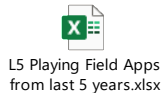
L5 Playing Fields

Question:

Please provide a breakdown of all planning applications for building on playing fields in the last 5 years where funding in lieu of a playing field has been included within the approvals, including which development, developer, total contribution, total amount of contribution received, total amount of contribution spent and what allocated against again in initial planning agreement and what actually spent (or now earmarked to be spent on).

Answer:

Please see the attached spreadsheet outlining the requested information.
The planning applications identified are those whose boundaries intersect a public or private playing field/facility.



**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF PLANNING COMMITTEE FROM
COUNCILLOR ADAM HIGGS**

L6 Planning Committee Advice

Question:

The Portfolio for the Cabinet Member for Transport and the Environment contains specific reference to responsibility for advice to Planning Committee on highways matters. How many times has since he was appointed, has the Cabinet Member provided such advice to Planning Committee or Planning Officers for:

- a) All planning applications**
- b) Planning applications submitted by, or on behalf of the Council**

Answer:

Cllr Waseem Zaffar – Transport and Environment was appointed as Cabinet member on 22nd May 2018 and from then to 31st August 2021 there have been 10952 responses to consultations. This figure includes formal re-consultations on the same application. In addition, a transportation officer attends Planning Committee on Cllr Zaffar's behalf to answer any questions from Members.

Executive Business Report

Birmingham City Council

City Council

2nd November 2021



Subject: Executive Business Report

Report of: Cabinet

Report author(s): Dr Graeme Betts (Director, Adult Social Care)
Kevin Crompton (Director, Education & Skills)
Dr Justin Varney (Director, Public Health)

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential:

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. On 10th September 2019, Full Council accepted the recommendations of the Coordinating O&S Committee review in respect of changes to the Full Council agenda.
- 1.2. Recommendation 3 of the review requested that the Executive provide an update to Full Council on its work via the provision of an Executive Business Report ('EBR'). EBRs will be provided to Full Council four times per municipal year and will include details of progress made in relation to Council strategic outcomes and priorities linked to two Cabinet Member portfolios.
- 1.3. Following the outbreak of Covid-19 in March 2020, previous EBRs (from June 2020 to July 2021) have been used to provide an update on the whole Council's response to the pandemic, including emergency planning, impact on services and plans for recovery. As the Council has now stepped down the emergency response to Covid-19, a decision has been taken to revert to the original purpose and format of EBRs.
- 1.4. This EBR provides an update on two Cabinet Member portfolios:
 - Health & Social Care; pages 2 – 20

- Education, Skills & Culture; pages 20 - 41

- 1.5. It also includes a brief update on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and the Home to School Transport Service, both of which fall under the Vulnerable Children and Families portfolio. This is provided as an appendix to the main report.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the report be noted.

3. Health & Wellbeing Portfolio

3.1. Adult Social Care

- 3.1.1. Since the last Executive Business Report update in July 2021, we have continued to see further lifting of Covid restrictions with a sense of normality returning to many areas of daily activity. For the Adult Social Care and Health system however, ongoing high demand means the system is already experiencing pressures that would not normally emerge till the peak of the winter period (around January time). As such this update will outline some of the pressures and priorities for the Adult Social Care directorate over the rest of the year, as well as highlight some of the very positive examples of how Council staff and partner agencies have worked together to respond to unprecedented demands and ensure our citizens are always at the forefront of our response.
- 3.1.2. The re-opening of day centres has continued to be impacted by ongoing Covid restrictions which still apply to our care settings, and we outline how this has affected the number of people receiving support both pre-pandemic and now. There is also an update on how we are supporting our vulnerable citizens post-lockdown, alongside progress made around Neighbourhood Networks.
- 3.1.3. The successful development of Neighbourhood Networks schemes, and the importance of these support networks to our Covid-19 response, was highlighted during the recent Pause and Learn Review. Further findings from this very positive peer review, led by the Director of Adult Social Care and the Lead Elected Member for Social Care at Coventry City Council, are presented for your consideration.

Pressures, Priorities and Positive Responses

Pressures

- 3.1.4. The Adult Social Care directorate continues to experience unprecedented pressures related to the Covid-19 pandemic, ongoing recovery, and longer-term increases in demand for support. The directorate is experiencing ongoing severe challenges in recruiting and retaining sufficient workforce to deliver our

statutory duties. Whilst the directorate has a growing reputation as an excellent place to work, positioned at the forefront of the development of adult social care, our rates of pay are lower than most of our neighbours. This lower rate of pay, combined with growing levels of inflation across the economy, means that too many of our social work, occupational therapy and specialist staff are reluctantly choosing to leave the Council and work for other organisations who can offer a higher rate of pay.

- 3.1.5. Increases in the price of fuel, food prices and general cost of living are not only felt by staff, but also our providers. Pressure on the care market is felt directly at the front door of social care and the increasingly difficult economic situation is putting further pressure on a market which is often already struggling to cope.
- 3.1.6. The care sector continues to experience difficulties in recruitment and the ongoing changing requirements related to the pandemic e.g. PPE, testing regimes for staff and visitors, enhanced infection control requirements. These difficulties, combined with the introduction of compulsory vaccination requirements, combine to form a serious threat to the viability of a number of providers at what is already the most difficult time of year.
- 3.1.7. Our hospitals are operating at a level of pressure normally only seen in the depths of winter. This is impacting workers who support the acute sector, early intervention services, and our providers. Staff are being asked to work long hours to respond to this need and many are anxious about how the system will continue to operate as demand is expected to continue to rise over the coming months.
- 3.1.8. As a system, the Council and partners in the NHS, care market and voluntary sector continue to work with relentless dedication to maintain a safe and responsive health and care system for citizens. However, we are collectively bracing ourselves and planning for a very difficult winter.

Priorities

- 3.1.9. Responding to the pressures on the health and care system is a key priority for the directorate over the next six months. Much of our ability to respond successfully to the evolving situation will be delivered through our ongoing focus on bedding in the changes made in Phase 1 transformation and pushing ahead with the implementation of Phase 2.
- 3.1.10. Last year we updated our vision in recognition of the tremendous progress made in implementing the original work programme, and to define Phase 2 of transformational change within the Adult Social Care directorate. However, our overall strategic vision for adult social care continues to focus on supporting adults in the city to 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.

- 3.1.11. Implementation of Phase 2 transformation lies at the heart of our priorities for the rest of the year. As a city, and as a linked health and care system, the success of our response to the pandemic would not have been possible without the Phase 1 transformation and redesign of adult social care. The continuation of Phase 2 of this programme is critical to the Council continuing to meet demand and respond to the growing pressures on the sector.
- 3.1.12. Our revised vision includes some important additions which build on the progress made to date, including the continued development of our joint health and care response to early intervention, which is essential to maintaining our ability as a system to respond and to support recovery. Growth in demand, which hit critical levels during the pandemic, has not reduced in line with usual seasonal trends. Instead we have seen an ongoing level of demand which is already 34% higher than this time last year. The development and implementation of new models of care, at pace and in partnership, has been central to avoiding failure of the Birmingham health and care system.
- 3.1.13. Our joint work with children's services on transitions and preparation for adulthood is crucially important to maintain our current financial position. Having firmly established and proven the benefit of these services, we are not stepping up our offer of support. This will not only lead to greatly improved outcomes and life chances for young people in Birmingham, but will also play a crucial role in delivering savings targets.
- 3.1.14. The challenges we are facing to recruit both permanent and agency staff is a risk to the delivery of our strategic priorities, as our current rates of pay are lower than our neighbouring local authorities. Work is being prioritised to work towards improving the Council's position on this matter, but at the present time it continues to present as a significant risk.

Successes

- 3.1.15. Against this difficult backdrop, however, the directorate has continued to deliver some excellent outcomes for citizens. Staff have worked tirelessly to ensure the needs of our most vulnerable users have been safely and effectively met.
- 3.1.16. To note and celebrate the hard work and success of staff during the pandemic, the directorate recently held an online directorate recognition and achievement event. This event highlighted the vast array of services the directorate delivers, the unique challenges faced by staff, and demonstrated that those in need of support have always been put front and centre in our response.
- 3.1.17. The Chief Executive joined the Director of Adult Social Care to hear directly about some great examples of the excellent adult services being delivered to

Page 4 of 41

our residents, which have been especially valuable in the past 18 months. Staff were passionate about their roles being 'more than just a job'. This ongoing energy and commitment to supporting our citizens was also recognised by external Peer Reviewers as part of the Pause and Learn Review of Adult Social Care carried out in July 2021.

- 3.1.18. The progress made by the directorate has been largely sustained throughout the pandemic. In recognition of this, we were pleased to learn that BCC, along with our Birmingham Integrated Care Partnership (BICP) partners, have been shortlisted at the Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Awards in the Health and Social Care category.

Support to Service Users: Day Centres in Birmingham

- 3.1.19. Ongoing Covid-19 restrictions continue to impact the full and safe re-opening of day services in the city.
- 3.1.20. The Day Opportunities service supports approximately 2000 citizens with a wide range of support needs, including older people, people with learning disabilities, autism, physical disability and people with mental ill health.
- 3.1.21. Following government guidance in March 2020, building-based day opportunity services (day centres) were closed. Since 26th April 2021, the process of re-opening building-based day opportunity services (day centres) has taken place in line with the relaxing of restrictions announced by Government in February 2021 and the 'Roadmap out of Lockdown'. The phased re-opening of internal and external day centres was also informed by the SCIE guidance 'Delivering Safe Reopening of Face to Face Adult Day Care'.
- 3.1.22. The table below indicates the pre-Covid and current capacity of day centres (as at 1st October 2021), which continue to operate at a reduced level to comply with Covid related requirements.

| Name of BCC Day Centre | Total weekly occupancy figures (pre-pandemic) | Total weekly occupancy figures (current) |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Alderman Bowen | 110 | 52 |
| Ebrook RC | 74 | 22 |
| Elwood RC | 81 | 59 |
| Heartlands RC | 93 | 45 |
| Harborne RC | 81 | 46 |
| Hockley SDC | 111 | 57 |
| Mosley RC | 89 | 33 |
| Fairway RC | 30 | 20 |

| | | |
|--|-------------|---|
| Beeches Gold | 22 | 0 (building remains closed due to restrictions) |
| Total | 691 | 334 |
| | | |
| External Day Care (40 day centres) | 1325 | 919 |

3.1.23. Outreach support continues for those citizens who cannot attend building-based day opportunity services, either due to ongoing restrictions or a choice to delay return for health reasons. Monitoring of both building-based and outreach activity will continue, to provide the service with intelligence on the impact on citizens and carers.

3.1.24. Feedback from day centres on the reopening process shows that clients are happy to return and regain some independence and activities of their choice. Many have enjoyed local walks and rebuilding their relationship with staff. Staff have shared that it has been good to see service users happy, interacting and having structure and routine again. The positive impact of reopening centres has also been reported by families and carers, who have noted an improvement in mental health and wellbeing of clients who have returned to centre.

Support to citizens and communities

Supporting the third sector

3.1.25. The close relationship between the Council and the third sector, which played such an vital role in the city's response to the pandemic, continues to grow. Commissioning officers are working with the sector to understand changing demands and how we can work together to respond. Work is also underway via the Birmingham Voluntary Service Council (BVSC) to support organisations to bid for additional external funding, supporting the sustainability of the sector whilst also meeting the priorities for the City and Adult Social Care.

3.1.26. Further support for the community and voluntary sector is planned, strengthening the focus on asset-based community development, compassionate communities and social justice. This will not only increase the capacity of the sector to support our most vulnerable citizens, but support our wider priorities for the sector and the delivery of our prevention agenda.

3.1.27. We continue to meet with BVSC every two weeks to review and progress both community recovery and economic recovery efforts, with an emphasis on how we can achieve longer term resilience based upon robust insights. The

thematic leads across key areas are also working together to prepare for the anticipated difficult winter period ahead and ensure the community and voluntary sector can support the pressures within the wider system.

Household Support Fund Grant Scheme

- 3.1.28. DWP has announced a national Household Support Fund grant scheme for local authorities. The expectation is that this should be used to support households in most need with food, energy and water bills or costs related to those items, including free school meals in holiday periods for eligible families.
- 3.1.29. Birmingham has been allocated £12.79m to cover the period 6th October until the end of March 2022. At least 50% of this funding must be spent upon families with children. Cross-directorate meetings are taking place to plan expenditure and ensure a joined up approach between Adult Social Care and Education & Skills directorates.

Developing our Neighbourhood Networks

- 3.1.30. Neighbourhood Network Schemes (NNS) play a key role in helping to prevent, reduce and delay the need for formal adult social care services (where appropriate). There is an expectation that social care workers get to know their locality, their local assets, and routinely link in with their local NNS provider.
- 3.1.31. Between 2019 and 2021, NNS have issued over 350 community grants, mapped over 1700 community assets, and created networks for organisations to link into sustainability and developmental opportunities.
- 3.1.32. Current NNS contracts are due to end in March 2022, with Cabinet approval for the service to be recommissioned and continue running for a further five years. There will be an option to extend for a further two years, subject to satisfactory performance and budget availability. Re-commissioning timelines are on track, with the live tendering process closing in November 2021.
- 3.1.33. From April 2022, new NNS services will include:
- The expansion of NNS to benefit younger adults aged 14-49 with a long-term disability (including learning disability, physical disability, mental health, autism, sensory loss or impairment), to complement the older adults 50+ service and to support the life course approach. This is subject to funding approval in February 2022.
 - A new city-wide NNS structure to benefit communities who are thinly spread across the city and for whom place-based model does not work
 - NNS Digital, a coordinated approach to community activities available across the city that can be accessed digitally. This will include digital inclusion projects commissioned by NNSs directly as well as their own digital presence

- The development of Compassionate Communities principles
- The introduction of the Asset Based Community Development model approach within NNS

3.1.34 These new additions to NNS services are based on feedback from stakeholders on how to further support Birmingham citizens.

Birmingham Pause and Learn Review

3.1.35 The transformation of adult social care services across the city was clearly evident to Peer Reviewers undertaking Birmingham's recent Pause and Learn review.

3.1.36 Peer Reviews are normally undertaken every two years, face to face, with a review team on site. However, due to the pandemic, ADASS has redesigned the process to develop a more flexible and light touch approach. This new form of Peer Review, called a 'Pause and Learn Review' is more focused but enables local authorities to continue to learn from each other and support sector led improvement.

3.1.37 The Birmingham Review Team was led by the Director of Adult Social Care and the Elected Member for Social Care from Coventry City Council, 2 Assistant Directors from Dudley and Stoke local authorities, and ADASS leads.

3.1.38 It took place in July 2021, incorporating Teams meetings with more than fifty Birmingham attendees across ten sessions, including: front line workers, Adults Management Team, Cllr Paulette Hamilton, and wider partners.

3.1.39 We received the feedback in August and shared the outcomes and our response during September 2021, with briefings and online sessions held across the Council.

3.1.40 The review team focused on two key lines of enquiry:

- To gather reflections from staff on how our approach to listening actively, connecting people and families to things that matter and how they work intensively with people in crisis to enable them to regain stability and control, has worked during the pandemic
- To identify where the offer to support people in their local community using preventative services such as neighbourhood assets, Family Group Conferencing and emerging Covid related community support, has been particularly effective and how this can be developed further including with third sector partners.

3.1.41 Colleagues from the Pause and Review found that:

- The commitment and passion to focus on prevention and early intervention was very visible.

- The shared purpose in working at a community and neighbourhood level was very powerful.
- Relationships and connections between commissioners and the voluntary sector are clearly strong with a real sense of mutual respect and value.
- Many individuals felt well supported by their managers and colleagues to deal with the impact of the pandemic on themselves and those they supported or cared for. This was much appreciated.
- The change in culture started pre Covid helped different teams offer mutual support to each other and the Out of hours team was mentioned on a number of occasions has been very supportive.
- The consistent message that prevention matters, has had a significant impact on behaviours and commissioning for outcomes rather than services. Staff feel energised with a shared purpose that helps them manage demands.
- The renewed focus on social justice and new collaborations in local neighbourhoods are examples of how people felt that ASC demonstrated the commitment to the population of Birmingham and tackling inequalities
- The pandemic has highlighted the importance of data and how when combined with local knowledge of assets and opportunities it really helps bring to life to the approach.
- Working in and around local communities is seen as key to success.
- Having a flexible and agile approach to work-life balance, with new freedoms, has really felt of benefit to individuals and teams.
- Continuing to implement the customer journey & strengths-based model helped us respond to the post pandemic challenges, including those faced by our diverse and mobile population.
- The work in neighbourhoods and the strong partnership with BVCS enabled a very rapid civic society response at the beginning of Covid-19.
- Digital inclusion and the right IT was recognised as a risk area early on and the city moved quickly to equip staff effectively.
- The importance of more regular communication within the directorate and with users and carers was recognised, and the improvements made to increase this were appreciated.

3.1.42 Recommendations from the review are presented in the below table, alongside the response from the directorate.

| Recommendations | Response |
|--|---|
| Build on Transformation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 2 of Transformation Journey underway. |
| Think about how to continue to support the workforce to avoid burnout and maintain work life balance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing to promote wellbeing offer, particular focus on supporting staff through winter pressures. 1-1 with all staff as part of New Ways of Working. Implementation of Directorate zones and dedicated work areas where required in main buildings. |
| Think about how to support the wellbeing of your NNW voluntary services workers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NNS providers granted access to wider wellbeing support (e.g. MH staff helplines) Ongoing work with sector to identify any further forms of support. |
| Consider closer linkages of prevention offer with Social Prescribing and approaches to prevention by health colleagues | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work underway to reconnect workers to NNW offer Discussions are ongoing with health colleagues to progress work to integrate the prevention offer across health and social care. |
| Make sure that there is space for teams to be honest about pressures and how these can be managed. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work is being led by the Operational ADs to understand and respond to any concerns in this area. |
| Keep close to subtle changes in need and demand; and people presenting at a later more traumatic stage. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further work with staff to understand changes in needs and the nature and scale of this. Ongoing work with commissioners and Care Market to adapt offer to respond to any changes in need, demand and/or complexity. |
| Work with partners to reflect on future funding | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing investment in joint early intervention services, such as Discharge |

| | |
|---|--|
| model as COVID monies disappear and check resources are in the right place and sufficient to maintain quality of care provision and manage risks | <p>to Assess which identify, map and respond to needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue close alignment between emerging demand data and links to commissioners to shape care market response. • Progress work with MH and Transitions services to continue to improve and reshape services to better support young people and adults. |
| Reiterate to the workforce that they have freedom to shape and try out how they work flexibly as restrictions relax; why not lead the way for the Council? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is being led by the operational ADs to support staff as we reintroduce face to face visits, more direct contact between managers and colleagues and visits to care providers. • Guidance is now available to support these 1-1 discussions and ensure staff feel supported to do this in a safe way. |
| Celebrate and appreciate all your efforts of the past few years, recognising that the strong political leadership and the commitment at every level has introduced a new confidence in the ability of adult social care to deliver within the council | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Series of briefing and engagement events to celebrating Pause and Learn feedback • Increased Communications to acknowledge achievements in Directorate, Council and wider media. • We have collated a book of staff achievements to recognise their incredible work during the pandemic and had a staff event, with the Chief Executive to recognise their dedication and work. • We have undertaken Teams events to acknowledge the excellent work and support delivered to citizens during Covid. • We are exploring how to celebrate the work of our amazing community organisations too. |

Performance

- 3.1.43 The ASC directorate continues to support citizens to take control over how their support is provided, particularly by promoting the update of Direct

Payments. Whilst access to community resources has been impacted by the pandemic, we continue to be a high-performing authority, and comfortably inside the top quartile of authorities on this measure nationally. We recognise that for some individuals their preference will be for the council to directly commission and organise their care. To ensure we commission quality led care services, we continue to focus on working with providers rated as Silver and Gold, and we have performed above our target in this area and continue to see a slight upward trend.

- 3.1.44 At the start of the pandemic we saw an impact on our long-term admissions to care homes. Whereas we had previously seen steady positive progress in supporting more people to receive care at home (rather than in a residential or nursing setting), the pandemic resulted in a rise in admissions and a move away from our target. Our performance on reducing admissions to care homes has been improving quarter-on-quarter since the initial impact of the pandemic, and we are better than the median local authority on this measure. Performance relating to the percentage of people receiving care in their own home has been mixed but with an overall upwards trend over the last 12 months. We have several policies in place to reduce the number of people being admitted to care homes, including “home first” for hospital discharges, and the Three Conversations model for community referrals.
- 3.1.45 The number of people receiving Shared Lives services had increased from April 2021, but dropped again for September; however, this still represents an overall increase over the last twelve months. As well as making new placements, the service has to replace ones that come to an end, which often happens for positive reasons like the citizen acquiring the skills to allow them to live independently. The service has an ‘invest to save’ business case currently going through the signoff process to increase their capacity.
- 3.1.46 The proportion of clients reviewed, reassessed, or assessed within twelve months has improved month-on-month since April 2021, and is up nearly 4 percentage points on this time last year. Each locality team is now following a bespoke action plan and receives a list of reviews to carry out each month, which they address in meetings with their Head of Service.
- 3.1.47 The percentage of concluded safeguarding enquiries where the individual or representative was asked what their desired outcomes were, and the percentage where at least one was met during the enquiry, has fluctuated but nearly always remained above target. The safeguarding team has some identified capacity challenges, and senior managers are actively exploring mitigations for them.
- 3.1.48 Since 2019/20 Q3, we have seen increases in the number and percentage of parents or carers satisfied with the transition plan co-produced with their young people, as well as the number and percentage of young people transitioning

to the Integrated Transitions Team who feel that they can achieve their outcomes. This relates to a new proof-of-concept process which is still being established.

Finance

- 3.1.49 Adult Social Care has a £337m budget in 2021/22. This made up of £315m for third sector care provision and Direct Payments (£93m of which is recovered through client contributions), £81m for staffing, £70m of contracts for universal or preventative services, £30m of grant and partner income and £5m of internal recharges and use of reserves.
- 3.1.50 Recruitment and staff retention has been an issue this year, with the service spending £12m on agency staff to cover some vacancies, and underspending by £6m due to unfilled posts, which has been used this year to contribute to the Council's workforce saving target.
- 3.1.51 Care provision has seen demand at higher levels than historically, which is being closely monitored to evaluate whether it is a short-term surge post-restrictions or a new ongoing pattern. Much of this demand is being picked up by our Early Intervention work to ensure that longer term care packages are appropriate and focussed on promoting independence. However, there is still a pressure from this demand anticipated to be £3.4m by March 2022.
- 3.1.52 The service is investing in preventative initiatives through the Transformation Programme to reduce the ongoing growth in people needing, and cost, of services. It is recognised that this brings longer-term savings. The intention from next year is to spend around £3.3m a year for staffing and contracts to focus on Transition, community assets and complex care needs, with the dual benefit of better outcomes for residents and reduction in the financial pressure to the council.

3.2 Public Health

Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy Development

- 3.2.34 The Public Health Division is supporting the refresh of the Health and Wellbeing Board's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 'Creating a Healthier City'.
- 3.2.35 The Strategy, which sets out the key health and wellbeing priorities for the city for 2022-2030, has selected areas for action based upon the latest data, the public consultation on the Public Health Green Paper, the commissioned Covid impact ethnographic study, Covid insight surveys and findings from local seldom heard voices engagement. The strategy ensures that Covid-19 recovery is a cross-cutting element throughout.

- 3.2.36 The strategy is currently out for consultation until 10th December. The link for the consultation is [here](#). To support the consultation, the public health team are holding additional focus groups and engagement sessions and ward members have been offered an opportunity for public health officers to attend their ward forum if it falls within the consultation period.

Creating A Healthy Food City

- 3.2.37 A wide range of work is underway on the Food agenda. The Creating a Healthy Food City Forum is in the process of developing a Food Strategy for the city, and an initial outline has been reviewed by the Food Poverty Core Group and other key stakeholders and experts.
- 3.2.38 The Food Team has made connections with organisations and partnerships leading research and innovation across Birmingham. This includes the Mandala Consortium, whose focus is on transforming urban food systems for planetary and population health, with a project centered on the city of Birmingham. Living Labs from Food Trails, funded through the EU Horizon 2020 Programme, is addressing the call 'Food 2030 – Empowering Cities as agent of food system transformation'. Other key organisations leading work include: NIHR School for Public Health Research (of which the University of Birmingham is now a member), Centre of Economics of Obesity at University of Birmingham, Food Foundation, and a variety of academics, professors and researchers from universities and colleges across Birmingham.
- 3.2.39 Birmingham has been elected to one of two seats representing European cities in the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Secretariat. Birmingham is leading the pan-city thinking on cultural dimensions of the food system and the political narrative around Food Justice. On behalf of Birmingham, Councillor Hamilton launched a global city pledge on food justice whilst presenting at the Barcelona conference in October 2021. As part of this work, a food affordability tool has been developed to examine differences in food availability and prices across Birmingham. It is based on the Lancet EAT Planetary diet. The idea is that this will also be tested in Pune and Johannesburg to see if it is transferable to other countries.
- 3.2.40 Through a food resilience grant from Sustainable Food Places, The Active Wellbeing Society has been commissioned to develop a growing network, to deliver workshops and to explore how unused land could be used for growing.
- 3.2.41 The Childhood Obesity Trailblazer Programme is continuing to develop following a pause on activity during Covid-19. Partners have been commissioned to develop and evaluate an apprenticeship health and wellbeing curriculum. In addition, a healthy planning toolkit has been developed and the public consultation feedback is now shaping the final tool. Officers across BCC will meet to review how it can be embedded into planning policy. Finally, work is also taking place to explore the Birmingham food

system, and to capture data and insights about citizen's food habits and behaviours which will be used to guide the food strategy action plan.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

- 3.2.42 Birmingham City Council was invited to bid for up to £792,973 under the government's Mental Health Recovery Action Plan 2021-2022 to ensure the mental health impacts of Covid-19 were swiftly addressed. Funding was allocated to the top 40 most deprived local authorities, under a Section 31 grant (Local Government Act) following an expression of interest process overseen by Public Health England (PHE).
- 3.2.43 A range of interventions were selected using evidence to address mental health and wellbeing needs across the life-course. These included universal programmes alongside targeted interventions for certain groups, including ethnicity, populations by identity or behaviour, and faith groups. The interventions chosen were considered to have lasting legacies beyond the term of the funding.
- 3.2.44 Some of these projects are outlined in the table below:

| |
|---|
| <p><u>Projects aimed specifically at children and young people</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Mental Health Peer Support: Youth mental health peer support workers who will enable and increase access to mental health services in the 0-25-year age group and reduce stigma around mental health and associated barriers to existing care. • Psychologically Informed Environments (PIE) Peer Support Programme: Delivering PIE training to 25 Peer Support workers who will support 300 young people with complex needs such as those experiencing homelessness or substance misuse. • New Start East Project: a whole school approach to mental health support covering 25 primary schools in two of our most deprived wards involving pupils, teachers, and parents. |
| <p><u>Projects aimed specifically at targeted groups</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cruse Birmingham Bereavement Support increasing equity of access: Bereavement service - targeted intervention to increase reach and uptake in the most deprived areas aimed at LGBT, Black African, Black Caribbean, Pakistani, Indian, Bangladeshi, and Central and Eastern European populations. • The Mindful Muslim: Intervention offering peer-to-peer bereavement support for the Pakistani Muslim community facilitated by qualified and registered counsellors (adult population only). • The Wise Step Connector Programme: This intervention will deliver 'train the trainer' programmes to organisations and communities within the African, Caribbean, Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, |

| |
|--|
| <p>Central and Eastern European, and Chinese communities to raise awareness and provide training to identify and support people at risk of suicide.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Mental Health First Aid Training: Train the trainer targeted in community organisations within the most deprived quintile (IMD, LSOA), faith organisations and community groups supporting Black African, Black Caribbean, LGBT, Disabilities Groups, Asian, Central Eastern Europeans, and Chinese populations. Birmingham LGBT Mental Health Awareness: The interventions proposed are to increase counselling hours, undertake an LGBT needs assessment, develop strategic priorities, provide mental health awareness training to increase cultural competency, and provide an evaluation report focusing on the impact of these interventions. (Birmingham LGBT has sent an Eventbrite survey to providers and partners asking for feedback on this project.) Mental Wellbeing Support for Women with multiple complex needs: The intervention is targeted at women aged 35-50 years with multiple complex needs. Current service users include those within the criminal justice system, victims of domestic abuse, rape, sexual exploitation, and substance misuse. |
| <p><u>Projects aimed specifically at adult population</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birmingham Mind Being Well programme: Mental Health and wellbeing training targeted at people aged 18 plus who have mild to moderate mental health issues. |
| <p><u>Projects for universal population</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birmingham Mind Mental Health Helpline Volunteer Support: The funding will recruit a 30-hour volunteer co-ordinator to train the first group of 10 volunteers. Contracts have now been issued to providers. A webinar was delivered to providers demonstrating how PHE would like monthly reporting done. Providers requested a video to help them with this rather complex spreadsheet that was provided by PHE. Public Health colleagues will make a video on 17 September as a matter of urgency. <p>Public Health will fund the following projects from their core budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Time to Change Hub – a small contribution to help with running costs. Birmingham Mind – funding for a Data Analyst to work on the Helpline data. Breathe Education - Creation and delivery of online resources that offer evidence-informed educational interventions, self-help tools and guidance through a suite of educational modules, self-help |

Community Health Profiles

- 3.2.45 In addition to Covid-19 specific community engagement, the Public Health Division Communities Team has developed a framework for profiling the health and wellbeing of Birmingham's communities. The team is looking into four specific areas: faith, ethnicity, LGBTQ+ and disability. Currently ten profiles are expected to be completed by March 2022, starting with Sikh and Bangladeshi communities. This detailed analysis and narrative will be used to inform need and service delivery in the post-Covid recovery phase.

Inequalities

- 3.2.46 Addressing inequalities remains high on the agenda for the Creating a City without Inequality Forum (CCWIF) that convenes members across systems to shape and influence work across the Birmingham landscape. The aim is to develop strategic action to tackle health inequalities by broadly working towards Marmot's six policy areas for reducing and mitigating inequalities across the life course.
- 3.2.47 In June 2021, the Forum refreshed its aims and objectives, and approved a new forward plan. Following this, the first CCWIF workshop took place in September 2021 and focused on tackling disparities associated with ill health, disability, complex needs, and employment under the Marmot's policy area of Creating Fair Employment and Good work for All. The discussions from the workshop informed the agenda of the associated forum that took place in October 2021, and several agreed actions are being progressed
- 3.2.48 The Forum also supports the Birmingham Poverty Truth Commission delivered by Birmingham Thrive Together (BTT), the aim of which is to strengthen the connection between the council, city partners and our citizens through learning from lived experience of poverty and incorporating those insights into policy and decision making.
- 3.2.49 Our Public Health Inequalities Team are leading on a joint review of the health inequalities experienced by Black African and Black Caribbean populations in Birmingham and Lewisham. This review, known as the Birmingham - Lewisham African and Caribbean Health Inequalities Review (BLACHIR), takes an in depth look at the evidence and lived experiences of inequality across the life course including the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. The partnership between Birmingham City Council and Lewisham Council shares knowledge and resources through a collaborative review process.

- 3.2.50 An external advisory board, consisting of individuals with lived experience, and an academic advisory board were recruited to examine the available evidence and shape draft recommendations. The main objective of the review is to produce a joint final report that brings together the findings from all the themed reviews and a series of recommendations being referred to as opportunities for action. The final report will also include data analysis conducted by the review group throughout the 18-month period.

Infant mortality task force

- 3.2.51 An infant mortality task force has been convened and is moving forward work to develop an infant mortality action plan. An independent chair has now been recruited to lead the task force, to engage with partners around this agenda.
- 3.2.52 Two working groups are being established, focusing on clinical data and genetics alongside wider determinants and health inequalities. Both these areas will be underpinned by the latest research.

Training of Community Researchers

- 3.2.53 Training is complete for three of the community researchers' groups from the following communities:
- South Asian
 - Black African
 - Polish and Eastern European
 - Chinese

- 3.2.54 The final researchers will have completed their training by December 2021.
- 3.2.55 Support and supervision for this initial project is in place, ensuring safe oversight for researchers. The first project that the community researchers will work on is understanding cultural competence and cultural compassion from the community perspective.

Future Parks Accelerator

- 3.2.56 The Future Parks Accelerator programme has continued to highlight the benefits of green spaces within the City, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 3.2.57 Our Health and Wellbeing Pilot in the north of the city, in Witton Lakes, has gone well showing that citizens can benefit from connecting to nature both virtually and physically. Our virtual skills showcase has been well received, highlighting the range of jobs young people can access for a career in the environmental sector. Our work in Dawberry Fields has shown the positive impact that activating a park – through nature trails, family activities and volunteering opportunities – has on children and families in the area.

- 3.2.58 Covid-19 has shown just how important green space and nature are to people. Improvements have already been seen in how residents engage with green spaces across the three pilot sites. A successful Crowdfunding initiative led by the Birmingham & Black Country Wildlife Trust on behalf of FPA led to £2,000.00 being raised for Dawberry Fields, our Children's pilot site, for Slow Worms (a rare native legless lizard present on the site). The money will pay for habitat enhancement and a nature trails to help bring this local wildlife to life.
- 3.2.59 Strong links have also been made with the Route To Zero (R20) Taskforce with the evolving vision for the FPA programme now becoming 'Birmingham: A City of Nature'. This will be one of the 5 city priorities.

Covid Response

Health Protection Response

- 3.2.60 Incidence, morbidity and mortality rates continue to decrease in Birmingham, hand in hand with an increase in vaccination rates. The Public Health team are focusing on reviewing the incidence of Covid-19, particularly variants of concern, testing, hospitalisation and morbidity, situation rates, common areas of exposure, vaccination rates and inequalities
- 3.2.61 Alongside Public Health England we are closely monitoring, following up and managing cases which are variants of concern. The Test and Trace team are scenario and contingency planning, for the following three potential scenarios:
- Enduring transmission, where the incidence rates remain higher than the national average for long periods of time.
 - Multiple ongoing outbreaks, many of which are variants of concern.
 - A third wave of the virus in the UK, with a very large increase in incidence rates.

Testing

- 3.2.62 Public Health continues to lead the development and implementation of a testing strategy for Birmingham.
- 3.2.63 The ease of test access and use, combined with the increase in speed before seeing a result, has meant a proportionally greater increase in self-administered lateral flow testing. Nationally there has been a move to reduce lateral flow testing by providers in fixed sites, shifting to a model where residents collect tests from community sites and pharmacies to bring home for testing in addition to ordering these tests online for home delivery. All residents are now being advised to test regularly and upload their results nationally.
- 3.2.64 The Council is also piloting home testing kit collection pop-ups in supermarkets and other high footfall areas at weekends to increase the reach of distribution.

These have been very well received and were extended at some sites into weekday pop-ups. Where possible we are alerting members the day before to help promotion of these temporary sites.

4 Education, Skills & Culture Portfolio

4.1 Schools

Reopening of schools

- 4.1.1 Schools reopened for the start of the new academic year in early September 2021, following the lifting of all Covid-19 restrictions for educational settings.
- 4.1.2 In advance of schools reopening, the council produced an outbreak management plan template for schools to use. A webinar for school leaders with the Director of Public Health also took place on the first day of term and was very well-attended with positive feedback received.
- 4.1.3 We have continued the support to schools by holding several webinars in the first few weeks of term. These have included a focussed session on ventilation, support with contact tracing and managing pupil attendance. Supporting schools via webinars has been a key part of BCC's response to the pandemic and these will continue throughout the academic year. The presentations and recordings from all our school webinars are shared with all schools and posted on the council's website.
- 4.1.4 Current government guidance is that pupils under 18 do not need to self-isolate while waiting for a PCR test result if they are the contact of a confirmed case of Covid-19. Schools are also not operating bubbles for pupils this term. Schools are continuing to work with Public Health Birmingham, BCC Education and Skills and the UK Health Protection Agency where they have confirmed cases of Covid-19.
- 4.1.5 As has been the case throughout the pandemic, officers are closely monitoring attendance through the data schools provide in their daily attendance returns to DfE. As at 29th September 2021, overall attendance in Birmingham schools was 90.7% compared to an average of 89.7% for core cities, 88.3% for the West Midlands and 89.8% for England.
- 4.1.6 Attendance levels in Birmingham have begun to be impacted by Covid-19 cases during the first few weeks of term, as across the rest of the country. As of Wednesday 29th September, 1.7% of Birmingham pupils were absent from school for reasons related to Covid-19, compared to 2.5% nationally. Officers meet with senior officials from the Department for Education (DfE) regularly to discuss school issues, including attendance. Encouraging regular attendance will be prioritised in the coming weeks and months.

4.1.7 Schools have been provided with clear guidance from the City Council and Public Health about reporting confirmed cases of Covid-19 in their settings. In accordance with national guidance, schools who have encountered an outbreak will, with advice from Public Health, consider reintroducing control measures such as additional testing, face coverings in communal areas or limiting parental attendance at the setting.

4.1.8 The Covid-19 vaccination programme for children aged 12-15 has begun and officers from Education and Skills have been working with NHS colleagues to support schools with this programme. A risk assessment template has been provided to schools and BCC has arranged two webinars for schools on the vaccination programme with NHS colleagues.

School improvement

4.1.9 The City Council recently awarded the contract for school improvement to the Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP).

4.1.10 BEP held its annual conference for Birmingham school leaders on 4th October 2021, focusing on the quality of school governance, working with local maths hubs and science learning partnerships, effective Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education, and the role and remit of new Teaching School Hubs. There was also an update from Ofsted's Senior HMI for the West Midlands and plenty of opportunities to share best practice from across the city's schools.

4.1.11 BEP's key priorities in delivering the contract are centered around improving standards at the end of the primary phase and developing a cadre of leaders to drive progress.

Schools causing financial concern

4.1.12 Officers are continuing to support and challenge schools who are in financial difficulties. Improvements are beginning to be seen, and data reported to Schools Forum indicated that the number of local authority (LA) maintained schools in deficit has decreased and is now 28 (11.9% of the total number of LA maintained schools). The cumulative value of deficits has decreased by £2.401m to £6.323m.

4.1.13 Early indications are that the pandemic has led to a reduction in expenditure on items such as exam fees, premises, and utilities, which has led to larger underspends being incurred than in previous years. Schools have also been working with the Council's Schools Financial Service to focus on their financial management responsibilities to ensure balanced budgets.

4.1.14 This will remain a focus for activity over the remainder of the academic year.

Anti-racism work

- 4.1.15 School workshops have taken place with brap (Birmingham Race Action Partnership) to explore what it means to be anti-racist in Britain today and what is involved in offering an anti-racist education to children and young people.
- 4.1.16 The ongoing offer from brap from September 2021 is 'Education is the Common Wealth', to support understanding and appreciation of Commonwealth citizenship in Birmingham. We are continuing to research the impact of this work with schools and the University of Birmingham.

Commonwealth Games schools programme

- 4.1.17 Schools were provided with information about the Commonwealth Games education programme before the summer break and a presentation was delivered at the recent Birmingham Education Partnership conference. Primary schools have also been provided with information on how to arrange a visit to their school by Perry, the Birmingham 2022 mascot.
- 4.1.18 Pupils from a number of Birmingham schools were invited to be flagbearers at the launch of the Queen's Baton Relay which took place at Buckingham Palace on 7th October 2021. Student ambassadors from Prince Albert High School visited Alexander Stadium as part of the QBR launch to watch the Queen deliver her message and were interviewed by the BBC.

Summer holiday activities

- 4.1.19 Birmingham Holiday Activities 2021 programme 'Bring it on Brum' sought to address holiday hunger, inactivity, isolation and learning loss, by children:
- Having access to safe, non-stigmatising places to go for positive activity
 - Eating more healthily over the school holidays
 - Spend time with friends and being more active during the school holidays
 - Taking part in engaging and enriching activities which support the development of resilience, character and wellbeing along with their wider education attainment
 - Being safe and not socially isolated
 - Being ready to return to school, college or to move on to work
 - Supported with healthy recipes and cooking on a budget
 - Be signposted and supported (where required) to local early help/family services

- Have the opportunity to continue participating in sport and physical activity beyond the holidays.

4.1.20 Across the city, a whole host of activities took place over the summer holidays in schools, leisure centres, youth clubs, community venues and parks to ensure that children, young people (and their parents) had fulfilling, active, fun-filled and healthy school holidays. Activities included indoor and outdoor games, cookery skills, arts and crafts, sports, fitness and dance, health and wellbeing; quizzes, park activities and nature trails.

4.1.21 243 providers delivered provision across 278 sites in Birmingham. Over 30,000 children participated, 70% of whom were eligible for free school meals and 78% were from disadvantaged households. Over 365,000 meals were provided as part of the programme, ensuring children had warm, nutritious food during the holidays.

4.1.22 The success of the programme is still being evaluated and will be built on for activities during the Christmas holidays.

Virtual Schools

4.1.23 In July 2021, DfE announced an extension of the role of the Virtual School Head. The Virtual School Head role for children with a social worker is a strategic leadership responsibility and sits within BCC's Education and Skills Directorate.

4.1.24 Virtual School Heads are now strategic leaders who champion the educational attendance, attainment and progress of children with a social worker. This means that they will help to:

- make visible the disadvantages that children with a social worker can experience, enhancing partnerships between education settings and local authorities to help all agencies hold high aspirations for these children.
- promote practice that supports children's engagement in education, recognising that attending an education setting can be an important factor in helping to keep children safe from harm.
- level up children's outcomes and narrow the attainment gap so every child can reach their potential. This will include helping to make sure that children with a social worker benefit from support to recover from the impact of COVID-19.

4.1.25 Virtual School Heads are not being asked to work with individual children and their families, respond to requests from parents or carers to offer individual advice, intervention or support, or take responsibility for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) who do not require or need a social worker.

- 4.1.26 To enable coordination and strengthen partnership, Birmingham's Virtual School Headteacher will be developing a strategic board with governance to achieve the new duties. Birmingham's Virtual School recently bid successfully to join two national DfE pilots. The first is developing a model of success for the use of Pupil Premium for Post 16 young people to secure a successful education pathway. The second is a family reading pilot to improve reading progress measures in Years 5 and 6.

4.2 Jobs and Skills

Jobs and Skills Taskforce

- 4.2.1 The Employment and Skills Service is supporting the development of the Council's Covid-19 Economic Strategy Taskforce Action Plan. The Plan will identify emerging evidence and actions for the Council and partners across the city, to tackle unemployment both in the context of Covid-19 and in areas with historically high levels of unemployment and claimant counts. These proposed actions are currently being developed.
- 4.2.2 Over the next 18-24 months, partners will share progress on ongoing actions through day-to-day joint working with the Council, as well as developing new actions jointly.
- 4.2.3 Actions will focus on those groups most in need of support. These include young people aged 18-24, who have seen the fastest rise in claimant numbers locally during the pandemic (76%), as well as other disproportionately impacted groups such as Black, Asian and minority ethnic workers, lower skilled/income occupations and temporary/casual workers.
- 4.2.4 The recently published 'Breaking Down Barriers' report explores youth unemployment in Birmingham in the context of Covid-19, as well as the broader impact of the pandemic on young people's physical and mental health, financial status and opportunities. The report sets out ten recommendations with clearly identified actions to improve the quality and visibility of the support offer across the Council.
- 4.2.5 As part of the Taskforce Delivery Plan we are commencing delivery of recommendations arising from the report, including:
- working in partnership e.g. with West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) and local community organisations on information portal options for jobs and skills and work experience.
 - linking to the GBSLEP team, who have gained initial funds to create a local youth employment wage subsidy programme which will consist of developed learning from the Kickstart model.

- 4.2.6 We are also exploring options with new providers bringing innovation in other parts of the country for curriculum-based careers platforms that are designed with industry leads for earlier careers content in schools and employer-links that go right through the education stages to jobs.
- 4.2.7 Immediate taskforce actions include:
- Jobs Fairs: To provide immediate support, the Employment and Skills Service is working with West Midlands Combined Authority and Jobcentre Plus to deliver a regional scale Birmingham Jobs Fair for all Birmingham residents on 2nd November. Generously hosted by Aston Villa FC, the fair will host 50 employers/training providers. The service will provide workshops and help surgeries to support a target of 1000 residents on the day, enabling 500 to progress (job/training etc) as a result of attending.
 - Employer partnerships expansion: Moving focus from small-scale frontline delivery for over-25s (World of Work Project) to prioritise building employer partnerships, forging links with the Council's capital development and supply chain partners to link all the jobs created to local communities.
- 4.2.8 We already have excellent working arrangements in place with employers who are linked to the Council due to planning and development opportunities and we use our sector knowledge to lead and develop jobs and skills commitments. We also work with providers to monitor jobs created and whether local people gained them. In 2019 this resulted in around 700 jobs successfully gained by local people. Prior to this work, construction teams would often be brought in by contractors from other areas and local people did not gain access to the vacancies.
- 4.2.9 We are also working on a plan with Procurement colleagues to provide the same driving force to the rest of the Council's supply chain, to ensure that unemployment residents are linked in with new job opportunities.
- 4.2.10 The Employment and Skills Service continues to support the Council's role as a partner in the Birmingham Anchor Network. Current projects include achieving more inclusive and community-based recruitment into public sector roles. This is as part of the work by the Integrated Care Services (previously the Strategic Transformation Partnership), a collaboration of NHS Trusts and Social Care providers which is moving apace with Birmingham and Solihull Councils providing the area link for community-based organisations to be part of a delivery framework.
- 4.2.11 University Hospital Birmingham are driving this exciting systems-change work which will see removal of unnecessary recruitment barriers such as qualification levels and previous NHS experience, and truly allow residents

with transferable experience and skills to apply via local supported routes. This will be launched in November with training and job recruitment in early 2022. Adult Social Care are commencing involvement in a similar working group with other authorities later this month.

4.2.12 The directorate is working with the CWG Jobs and Skills Academy to promote training pathways alongside the Volunteer programme - this includes links to the Youth Programme and the focussed NEET support/Functional Skills delivery for 17-year olds (joint development work with the 14–19 Tracking Service).

4.2.13 We are also linking to the CWG cultural programme team to provide an offer of advice and support to the array of arts and events companies involved. The CWG team are running a volunteer programme around the Culture programme, and the providers will be encouraged to provide legacy via links to business start-up (referrals to Library of Birmingham team) and job creation/traineeships with advice from Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership Apprenticeship Hub.

Youth Employment

Kickstart

4.2.14 As part of the national Kickstart programme for unemployed 16-14 year olds, the Council has pledged to deliver 50 placements for young people in Birmingham. Placements will last for six months, and include a salary top-up from Minimum Wage to the Real Living Wage.

4.2.15 Eight placements have been offered or filled as part of this commitment so far, with a further 21 interviews to be held by 14th October. Remaining placement opportunities are either out to advert or in development.

4.2.16 We have applied to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to offer 100 more placements within the Council, and have a joint action plan with HR to achieve this.

4.2.17 We have also supported external businesses to bring forward 38 placements so far, with 70 more placement opportunities at the application stage.

Youth Promise Plus (YPP)

4.2.18 The Youth Promise Plus employment project has been extended to December 2023. The project funds the Council's Careers and Youth Services for young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs), as part of a partnership with five other agencies. The partnership provides routes to employment, education and training for young people, linking in with mentoring, training and work experience opportunities.

4.2.19 YPP engaged just over 700 unemployed/NEET young people into support from January-June 2021, with around 300 young people moving into

Page 26 of 41

employment/ education or training. This is strong performance for this point in the year.

Youth Hubs

- 4.2.20 We have supported Jobcentre Plus to open a city-wide network of Youth Hubs, as well as the rapid development of a central Hub at Library of Birmingham. The central hub is delivered by Jobcentre Plus and the Employment and Skills Team alongside project partners including the Prince's Trust.
- 4.2.21 Officers attended a Ministerial Round Table with Mimms Davies MP in October 2021, to share learning and best practice. The target is to support 200 young people per week by December 2021, through the provision of weekly events and support workshops in a friendly and dynamic environment. Initial feedback from young people accessing Youth Hubs has been positive.

Birmingham Careers Service

- 4.2.22 Birmingham Careers Service (BCS) delivers an impartial careers information advice and guidance service for young people who are aged 16-19. The service also delivers a traded service for schools who wish to purchase a guidance service for their students and plays a major role in the delivery of the Youth Promise Plus project.
- 4.2.23 Over spring and summer 2021, 1513 careers guidance interviews and careers plans were produced from Year 11 referrals within our traded schools. Over 5,709 students aged 16-18 have had impartial careers advice given on a one to one basis during 2021 so far.
- 4.2.24 Birmingham Careers Service has recommenced face to face in person delivery of impartial careers information advice and guidance following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions. The development of digital and agile routes for support will continue, including the website, webinars, Microsoft Teams sessions, and social media channels.
- 4.2.25 In response to the increasing demand for services and new challenges around NEETS and youth unemployment, we have revised our public service delivery. We now offer a drop-in service from three main locations in the city (including an increased presence of three days a week at the Library of Birmingham) plus the Factory & Lighthouse Youth centres. Delivery via appointment basis for young people is available at 14 other locations across the city.
- 4.2.26 We have seen an increased demand for our impartial careers' guidance service from 16-19-year-old NEETS. Despite this, all referrals of young people are allocated an individual careers adviser within four days, with engagement commencing in line with a young person's individual needs.
- 4.2.27 There is also an ever-increasing interest and demand for the Careers Information and Guidance (CIAG) traded service from schools, colleges and

learning providers across Birmingham recognising the BCS brand stands for quality, independence and impartiality. We currently trade with 30 mainstream or special schools offering a careers guidance service in line with what the institutions require from us to meet the needs of their pupils. Development of the digital service will also increase both the volume of and geographical reach within the market.

- 4.2.28 Throughout the pandemic, BCS maintained contact with all schools, encouraging the referral of all Year 11, 12 and 13 pupils who are at risk of becoming NEET. This will assist in managing resources appropriately and responding correctly to this key time of year as young people are starting their next destinations after leaving school and college. Monitoring against key performance indicators around NEET, Not Knowns and starter information is crucial and in place.
- 4.2.29 BCS is the major contributing service to reducing the 16-18-year-old NEET figures as a result of the statutory requirements it discharges on behalf of BCC around enabling assisting and supporting young people to enter into employment, education or training.

14-19 Participation and Skills Team

- 4.2.30 14-19 Participation and Skills Team are responsible for reporting on statutory duties for young people's participation through the Education Act 1996, Education and Skills Act 2008 and Children and Families Act 2014.
- 4.2.31 The cohort size of 16-18-year olds in Birmingham is 31,018 young people. This is approximately 1,600 more young people than last year, and cohort size is will continue to increase in future years.
- 4.2.32 The 14-19 Participation and Skills Team are currently in the business-critical element for September Guarantee and Annual Participation Survey. These are the reporting monthly periods that the DfE publish on an annual basis around participation, NEET and Not Known young people 16-18 years and up to 25 with an education health and care plan (EHCP).

September Guarantee

- 4.2.33 September Guarantee monitoring recorded that 91.8% of young people in Years 12 and 13 in Birmingham had received an offer to participate in education or employment with training. This equates to 97% of young people in Year 12 and 85% of young people in Year 13. To date this year, 92% of the combined cohort have offers to participate from September 2021 which exceeds the final combined position last year.
- 4.2.34 98% of Year 11s into Year 12s have offers recorded. There are more offers recorded per person than in previous years on the NCCIS (National Client

Caseload Information System) reporting system, also meeting and exceeding the national average from previous years.

- 4.2.35 88% of Year 12s into Year 12s have offers recorded. This is again more offers recorded per person than in previous years on the NCCIS (National Client Caseload Information System) reporting system. The aspiration is to close the gap with the national average of 93%, and work is being undertaken to record as many offers as possible.

Annual Participation Survey (APS)

- 4.2.36 Information on enrolments has been requested from General Further Education colleges earlier than in previous years to test the market to see if it would reduce the number of young people whose participation status is currently not known. This is a new stage in the APS cycle.
- 4.2.37 As a result, for the first time in over a decade the percentage of young people whose participation status is 'not known' has reduced from 65-70% down to 20.05%. Whilst this still leaves Birmingham in the bottom reporting quintile with the DfE around its statutory duties, it has demonstrated that education settings are gathering information on offers and conversion sooner than in previous years. Through established relationships with local authority colleagues, providers are sharing information in a more timely manner which ultimately reduces the volume of not known young people and supports the wider safeguarding agenda.
- 4.2.38 Earlier reporting has also supported early identification of those young people at risk of disengaging, and Birmingham Careers Service have early intervention strategies in place to support the impartial advice and guidance on the local offers to raise participation.
- 4.2.39 NEET is currently below the national average and in the previous year plateaus out between 2.5-3% of the overall cohort.
- 4.2.40 This year is the first time that the Year 13 'Not Known' figure has been below the Year 12 figure in over a decade. This could be because of the lessons learnt from College Collaboration Fund projects (funded projects to provide educational providers with additional one-off funding to improve data collection and share best practice and providers working more closely with the LA). Other contributing factors may include provider dialogue to concentrate more resource to support 'Not Known' young people, and the use of enrolment data to support recording young people on apprenticeship programmes.
- 4.2.41 Data capture is strengthening across the 14-19 team with internal and external partners.
- 4.2.42 The below figure shows the position as at 6th October (all figures are subject to change, awaiting confirmation from the DfE).

| Summary of NCCIS Cohort Years 12 and 13 by Participation, NEET and Not Known Status | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|---------------|--------|-----------|--------|--------|
| Date Run: 06/10/2021 | | | | | | | |
| | NEET | | Participating | | Not Known | | Cohort |
| | Count | % | Count | % | Count | % | |
| Yr12 | 149 | 0.97% | 12006 | 78.18% | 3174 | 20.67% | 15357 |
| Yr13 | 371 | 2.37% | 12250 | 78.10% | 3051 | 19.45% | 15686 |
| Total | 520 | 1.68% | 24256 | 78.14% | 6225 | 20.05% | 31043 |

- 4.2.43 The 14-19 Participation and Skills Team are also working with existing Post-16 delivery providers to meet the provision gaps in the city – e.g. expand the hospitality offer and other sector areas in readiness for CWG.

Birmingham Apprenticeship Levy Transfer Fund

- 4.2.44 The apprenticeship levy is payable by employers with an annual pay bill of more than £3 million at a rate of 0.5%. As a levy-paying employer, the City Council can gift up to 25% of its annual levy fund to small and medium businesses and non-levy paying schools to pay for the training and assessment costs of an apprenticeship.
- 4.2.45 This fund will be launched in October and Birmingham City Council will give around £700,000 worth of unused apprenticeship levy funds to help fund apprenticeships and support businesses, as well as support employers to pay for immediate apprenticeship training costs.
- 4.2.46 The original plan was to focus on the council's supply chain, voluntary, community and social suppliers and schools. However, as the pandemic has had such a huge impact on the city's core economy, including previously thriving leisure, retail and hospitality providers, as well as our creative sector, transport providers and some manufacturing sectors, there has been a change of focus.
- 4.2.47 The Council's revised aims for gifting the levy are therefore:
- To create apprenticeship opportunities in known skills shortage areas, such as the Health & Social Care sector, Engineering and Digital and Creative Sectors.
 - To support smaller employers across the city and wider conurbation to recover and reskill/diversify following the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic with apprenticeships targeted at Birmingham residents.

- 4.2.48 The Council's Employment and Skills team is working in partnership with Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership's Skills and Apprenticeship Hub to deliver the scheme.

Birmingham and Solihull Redundancy Taskforce

- 4.2.49 BCC currently Chairs this multi-partner group, which aims to reduce the impact of redundancy by promoting joined-up effective support to employers and employees across the Birmingham and Solihull areas. This is achieved by confidential sharing of information about companies where there is a risk of redundancy, or redundancies have been reported to Jobcentre Plus.
- 4.2.50 The group also shares latest research and economic data to inform actions and uses partnership working to remove obstacles to delivery and find solutions to problems/ technical queries as well as producing targeted public information and fostering mainstreaming and dissemination. The group has created an information leaflet promoting support offered at the end of furlough which is available for all the partnership to use and promote.

4.3 Youth Service

- 4.3.1 Birmingham Youth Service are working closely with the Commonwealth Games team to develop a menu of opportunities in local communities for young people to be fully engaged in the games. This includes creating local youth hubs in youth centres to make the games accessible and inclusive to young people.
- 4.3.2 Birmingham Youth Service are delivering two externally funded programmes that address the increasing issue around youth violence. The one is around young people as peer researchers, change makers and is focussed on social action, targeting 582 young people. The second externally funded programme will develop a new approach to working with young people around youth violence, including a new mentoring toolkit.
- 4.3.3 From April to September 2021 there have been 32,000 attendances at our youth projects and we have had meaningful contact with over 3,000 individual young people aged between 11–19 years old.
- 4.3.4 Birmingham Youth Service also delivered on the Healthy Activities Programme 'Bring It On Brum' which focused on healthy eating and ensuring young people had access to healthy food, as well as physical activity and an enrichment programme. This proved to be a resounding success.
- 4.3.5 Young people have been actively involved in supporting Public Health in the development of their initiatives, including the recruitment of BCC senior officers, the development of a serious youth violence strategy and redevelopment programmes. The service is working hard to ensure that the

young people's voice is fully represented in some of the major initiatives in the city.

4.4 Birmingham Adult Education Service (BAES)

- 4.4.1 Since September 2021, there have been 10,500 enrolments in BAES courses. This is 4,600 more enrolments than at the same time last year. This is the result of BAES commitment to supporting the city recovery through an intense learning campaign.
- 4.4.2 Learner Enrolments in the academic years 2019-20 and 2020-21 decreased due to the pandemic. However, the service has seen a strong enrolment trends in English (1884 enrolments), Maths (2723 enrolments), Digital (1111 enrolments), SEND (261 enrolments) and Health and Social care (620 enrolments). The current enrolment numbers as at October 2021 match the enrolments achieved in October 2017-18. This has been possible through the individual support that our learners received through the pandemic year, which helped them achieve and progress into the next level for this year. We have recruited 48% more new learners than last year.
- 4.4.3 Our Health and Social care provision has attracted more learners than 2018-19. The majority of the current enrolments (450) are in Level 2 and Level 3 courses. These include our Healthcare Support - Level 3 Diploma, Understanding Autism and Understanding Mental Health at Level 3 and Working in the Health Care Sector Level 2 amongst others. These courses have a high rate of employment outcomes and are valued by learners who are seeking employment or looking to change career as a result of the pandemic.
- 4.4.4 During the pandemic the Service launched the Route to Work programme (2020/21 academic year year) with more than 1,000 enrolments. This programme is aimed at learners looking for work, to complement the skills they are learning in a vocational course, English, Digital, Maths or ESOL. The programme is now open to members of the public and enrolments are expected to reach 2,000 by the end of this year.
- 4.4.5 BAES will run events and workshops related to the 'Time to Be Bold' Campaign and the CWG Culture programme starting in November and leading up to the games.
- 4.4.6 BAES has supported the CWG volunteering programme, running information sessions in collaboration with CWG and WMCA between May and July 2021 in Birmingham. Dudley Adult Learning and Wolverhampton Adult Education also offer these sessions, with Birmingham leading their organisation. BAES ran courses in Volunteering, workshops with a volunteering theme and "Interview Preparation for The Commonwealth Games Volunteering Opportunities" workshops. These programmes attracted approximately 200

enrolments between May and July 2021, and we expect a further 200 potential enrolments between October 2021 and May 2022.

- 4.4.7 To support the city's cultural recovery from Covid-19, BAES has reviewed its arts and culture programme and is currently offering a variety of arts and culture courses taking place in Adult Education centres across the city, with a potential to attract over 250 enrolments.
- 4.4.8 BAES will also offer a festival of languages and culture, titled 'Cultural Exchanges' that will take place during December 2021 at the Library of Birmingham (Brasshouse Centre). We expect a participation of over 500 learners in these cultural exchanges.
- 4.4.9 BAES is running a number of Sector-Based Work Academy Programmes in the Green sector, construction, digital marketing and logistics.
- 4.4.10 Finally, BAES will be leading on the roll out of the Digital Inclusion plan for Birmingham in partnership with stakeholders with public, private and voluntary sector (strategy and funding approved by Cabinet in Sept 2021). The delivery team is under recruitment and activity is set for January 2022 start. The launch event takes place on 30th November 2021.

4.5 Library Services

Library of Birmingham

- 4.5.1 September saw the first full calendar month of full library opening hours, plus access to all services throughout the building including public terraces. Visitor figures totalled 46,000 for the month which represents a return to pre-Covid numbers.
- 4.5.2 The Volunteer Selection Centre for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games is operating at the Library of Birmingham from September until the end of February 2022. It is open 6 days a week (Mon-Sat) with around 400-500 people visiting each day. It is expected that over 25,000 people will visit in total.
- 4.5.3 A range of initiatives are currently being offered around jobs and skills support at the Library. These include:
 - British Intellectual Property Centre (BIPC)
 - Enterprise for Success – Business Start-up Support in partnership with GBSLEP
 - DWP Youth Hub – based on lower ground floor
 - Birmingham Careers Service – operating several times a week

- LoB Business learning team provide programme of workshops/events/activities in all libraries
- Access to employment related resources including; databases, workbooks, ESOL material

4.5.4 The Library is working in partnership with the University of Birmingham (UoB) and more than 40 local community organisations to deliver 'Everything to Everybody', a community engagement project to modernise Birmingham's Shakespeare library. The project team from LoB and UoB have secured extra funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to extend the project by an extra year, increasing the grant by £116,200 to a total of nearly £800,000.

4.5.5 Community engagement workshops and events have restarted with a blended approach combining physical and virtual attendees. On 9th October, during National Libraries Week, the first LoB-wide project Family Day will be delivered. It is a co-production between the 'Everything to Everybody' project team, staff from the Children's library, and local heritage engagement organisation Mrs History.

Community Libraries

4.5.6 The total visits to community libraries stood at 21,366 for the first week in October, which is a 41% reduction for the same week pre-Covid in 2019. Community libraries in the region (Dudley and Warwickshire) have similarly seen around 50/60% reduction in footfall compared to pre-Covid levels.

4.5.7 33 community libraries in Birmingham are currently operating with a full-service offer. The lease for the new Aston Library was signed in early October so work is now underway to open this library in November. Similarly, the library located at the Touchbase building in Selly Oak will reopen in December following facility alterations.

4.5.8 In September 2021, Community library memberships stood at 351,000, an increase of 3% on figures for September 2019.

4.5.9 3,122 children were recorded in community library buildings and through the online offer as a result of the Summer Reading Challenge 2021, a six week summer programme.

4.5.10 Birmingham's Business and Intellectual Property Centre is launching a neighbourhood-based offer at Sutton Coldfield Library on 21st October offering bespoke support for business start-ups. This will be rolled out to other community libraries such as Acocks Green, Handsworth and South Yardley.

4.5.11 Perry Common Library has partnered with Witton Lodge Community Association, meaning that the library is now able to open an extra day per week to offer health, wellbeing and employment advice.

- 4.5.12 Sutton Coldfield Library is working in partnership with the Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council to evaluate the Heritage and Archive collection, held within the Library, with a bespoke Archive project.
- 4.5.13 Community libraries are aiming to deliver 330 workshops in community libraries between 1st April 2021 and 31st December 2021 as part of the Step On Programme. Developed with the Birmingham Centre for Arts Therapies, this programme aims to support residents to be creative through tutor-led activities such as art, movement, music, drama and mindfulness. As at 30th September, workshops across the community library estate have attracted 1,100 participants. Weekly STEP-ON sessions have been developed at 8 community libraries.
- 4.5.14 Directly targeting the well-being of children and young people, 35 STARZ workshops consisting of dance, music, drama and play have taken place at 11 community libraries on Saturdays and during school holidays.

4.6 Culture

Cultural Sector Recovery

- 4.6.1 The viability and sustainability of Birmingham's cultural sector at large has been 'touch and go' over the last 18 months, primarily because the business models of our cultural organisations rely heavily on earned/trading income (which was decimated during the pandemic). This contrasts with many European city cultural organisations that are heavily subsidised by the state/local regional authority. Consequently, many of our arts organisations have depleted their general reserves which places them in a precarious situation in being able to meet any further challenges.
- 4.6.2 Culture Central, Birmingham's cultural sector's membership organisation, report that many cultural organisations have lost a lot of their previous cultural sector workforce and 50-70% of organisations are struggling to recruit to public facing and technical roles as well as more senior roles. These challenges have been compounded by complex changes to VAT and increased costs generally that make managing costs, admin and customer expectations more challenging.
- 4.6.3 Whilst the film & TV sector in the city managed to continue with some projects (despite Covid-19 restrictions), and have almost come back to pre-Covid levels of activity, freelancers and independent artists/creative practitioners were hit particularly hard (despite the Government Self-Employed Scheme). In a local survey, 71% said they would struggle to survive. Many freelancers and independent artists were forced to seek out other job opportunities and may be lost to the sector.

- 4.6.4 There is no doubt that the Government's Cultural Recovery Fund (successfully administered by Arts Council England) has been the significant factor in sustaining the majority of subsidised (and many private) cultural sector organisations across the city. The City Council has also played its part in maintaining its Support To The Arts grant funding and maintaining Birmingham Museums Service Contract fee. In addition, some funded cultural community activities were able to be delivered online, such as Birmingham Heritage Week and Black History Month.
- 4.6.5 The council's culture team have been directly supporting Culture Central's Cultural Recovery Unit, providing advice, guidance and support. This includes arranging webinars and seminars online on topics such as identifying financial support, HR, and legal and governance protection. The Head of Cultural Development is also a member of a regional authorities' Culture and Tourism Officer Group, coordinated by the WMCA, meeting regularly to share intelligence and advice to support the sector across the West Midlands.
- 4.6.6 During the last eighteen months, council officers processed and administered a wide range of different Government funding streams, many supporting the cultural sector. These include Business Rates Relief, Contract Supplier Relief and funding from Reopening High Streets Safely Fund and the current Welcome Back Fund (which have enabled delivery of cultural activity to bring back customers/visitors in town centres and high streets across the city). However, many support packages such as the Job Retention (Furlough) Scheme are coming to an end and the third (and last) round of Cultural Relief Funding will only support those organisations at risk of collapse.
- 4.6.7 The impact of the pandemic has not gone away and, whilst cultural activity has restarted in earnest and venues are opening back up, organisations are reporting lower than usual ticket sales indicating potential issues with consumer confidence/ cost barriers. There is still caution and lack of confidence across certain audience demographics to return to events in person, especially indoor venues. Organisations continue to operate socially distanced performances with increased costs for Covid-19 measures which also has a negative impact on their income.
- 4.6.8 In comparison to pre-Covid, it is still too early to say what the downturn in audiences (and income) will be, and we don't yet know if there will be another resurgence of the pandemic/reintroduction of restrictions this winter. Therefore, it will be important to maintain the council's investment in our cultural sector to not only sustain a healthy cultural infrastructure to deliver a successful cultural programme for CWG's 2022 but also, to develop the cultural offer that is so important to the growth of the Tourism and Visitor Economy for the city in the longer term.
- 4.6.9 There is no doubt that our funded arts sector will be keen for the city to maintain its investment in their operation, as all of them will be reapplying to Arts Council England in 2022 to retain their National Portfolio Organisation status from 2023 - 2026.

- 4.6.10 While Local Authorities have been sighted on a Heads of Terms for the Government's 'UK Shared Prosperity Fund', we have yet to understand how the Levelling Up agenda will manifest itself in Birmingham e.g. proposed investment in communities and places, including cultural facilities.
- 4.6.11 In the meantime, we await a decision about a joint regional authorities' submission led by Culture Central to the Community Renewal Fund (a Pilot scheme to UKSPF). If successful, this will result in circa £0.5m investment into two Cultural Action Zones (one in the South and another in the North of the city) to animate empty shop units, providing cultural activity in different spaces to attract visitors/shoppers and, provide development and skills training for creatives.

Commonwealth Games 2022 (CWG) Cultural Programme

- 4.6.12 The CWG's Organising Committee Cultural Programming Team are responsible for coordinating the commissioning and delivery of the CWG's Cultural Programme which will run from March 2022 to the end of the Games. This includes the £2m funding from BCC invested in the local Creative City Grants Programme
- 4.6.13 The cultural programme has now officially been branded as 'Birmingham 2022 Festival'. There will be a soft launch of the proposed programme in November 2021 with the main announcement coming in January 2022
- 4.6.14 The Cultural Programme team have established regular feedback meetings with senior city council members and officers to update on the main programme developments
- 4.6.15 The City Council's culture team is assisting the OC cultural programme team, advising on delivery and facilitating projects on the ground. The service also convenes a monthly internal officers event group to coordinate and process the myriad of events taking place across the city over the next twelve months.
- 4.6.16 The city council culture team is directly investing £100,000 in 2021-22 across ten independent Birmingham cultural organisations, for cultural projects that were developed in consultation with local communities
- 4.6.17 The City Council and CWG's Cultural Programme team have coinvested in a major international cultural project coming to Birmingham (Edington) on 28th October. This is being considered as a 'pilot' project for the CWG's cultural programme.

Birmingham Cultural Compact/Cultural Strategy

- 4.6.18 Due to the additional activity required to deliver the 2022 Commonwealth Games, and the unforeseen challenges for the cultural sector presented by the pandemic, the creation of a new Cultural Strategy for the city has been delayed. The further development of Birmingham's Cultural Compact has also been delayed, compounded by the lack of capacity within BCC and Compact partners to recruit a new independent chair for the Compact.

- 4.6.19 Funding was secured from Arts Council England to support the work of the Compact. One initiative, following on from the national Cultural Investment Enquiry, has been to co-commission a piece of work with Coventry City Council on investigating the feasibility of viable fiscal innovations for the cultural sector. A consultancy practice (BOP) was appointed in July and their findings will be presented in the New Year.
- 4.6.20 In addition, a brief to review the outcomes of the previous Cultural Strategy and consult with city partners to inform the framework of a new strategy will be commissioned in October. It is envisaged that 2022 will be the platform year to launch a new Cultural Strategy for the city.

4.7 Museums & Heritage

- 4.7.1 A draft refresh of Birmingham's Heritage Strategy has been consulted with the sector and awaits incorporation into a new Heritage Strategic Planning Document for the city – including the convening of a new Heritage and Conservation Panel for Birmingham
- 4.7.2 The council is recruiting a new Museums & Heritage officer to help monitor the museums contract, coordinate Birmingham's Heritage Group and lead on Public Art matters.
- 4.7.3 Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery (BMAG) remains closed due to major rewiring works at Council House and Extension. Phase 1 of the 1885 wing is due to reopen in March 2022. Works will continue through to 2023.
- 4.7.4 BCC is applying for up to £5m from a Government MEND Fund scheme to enable infrastructure repairs and improvements to Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. The decision on this funding will be announced in February 2022.
- 4.7.5 Thinktank Museum at Millennium Point celebrated its 20th Anniversary in September including the launch of a new 'Climate Change' Gallery and development area for young people.
- 4.7.6 Following a request from Sutton Coldfield District Council, BCC is in the process of handing over the District Council's civic regalia/silver from the city council's collection where it has been held under the custody and curation of Birmingham Museums Trust.
- 4.7.7 A 'Museum of Youth Culture' and new 'Museum of Birmingham Music' have been proposed as part of a new development taking place at Upper Trinity Street in Digbeth.
- 4.7.8 Work is progressing with Birmingham Museum Trust and The Science and Industry Museum Group on the vision and feasibility of a new museum for the city. Findings will be presented in Spring 2022.

4.8 Festivals and Cultural Events

- 4.8.1 Birmingham Weekender 2021 successfully took place over August Bank Holiday Weekend. Organised by Hippodrome Theatre's Festival team in partnership with Grand Central and Bullring. This was one of the first major public festival events taking place in the city since the end of Covid-19 restrictions.
- 4.8.2 Birmingham International Dance Festival (BIDF) 2020 finally took place both online in June 2021 and in live sites across the city in September. Planning for BIDF 2022 is already underway and the ambition is that this will be a transitional year for a new annual international festival as one of the cultural legacies from 2022.
- 4.8.3 Birmingham Heritage Week 2021 took place from 9th – 19th September. The festival, which coincides with the National Heritage Open Days, has grown exponentially since its inception in 2017 and is now a ten-day event.
- 4.8.4 Black History Month launched at Legacy Centre in Aston on 18th September 2021, followed by a launch online on 1st October. The organisers (Black Story Partnership) have coordinated a wide range of events and activities across the city. This year's launch marked a return to live events and featured inspiring speakers and creative performances, with many drawing on their and the wider community's experiences. The event was attended by a live audience and is also available to view online. As well as reflecting the city's diversity and heritage, this year's programme also reflects on the continued impact of Covid-19 on Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities. Birmingham's Black heritage and its citizens' own stories also raised awareness of the challenges and the perceptions that have restricted their access to opportunities, progress and participation in our society.
- 4.8.5 Amal 'The Walk' is a large-scale puppet representation of a nine-year-old refugee girl walking across North Africa and Europe looking for her mother. This event to highlight the plight of migrants and refugees started in Turkey in July and has been making its way across North Africa and Europe coming to several UK cities including Birmingham (Erdington Town Centre) on 28th October, before culminating at the Manchester International Festival.
- 4.8.6 The World Reimagined is a national arts education project on the Transatlantic Slave Trade taking place with schools, businesses and communities across key cities including London, Bristol, Leeds, Swansea and Birmingham. This project will culminate in September 2022 with a trail of large globe sculptures in the city centre after the CWG's – coordinated by 'Wild in Art' who brought the previous painted animal sculpture trails to the city.
- 4.8.7 Birmingham Pride, which brought tens of thousands of people into the City over the event weekend of 25th-26th September 2021, was a resounding success and one of the most successful Pride events in history. A significant amount of money was also raised for charity, details of which will be released over the coming weeks.

4.9 Tourism

Birmingham Visitor Destination Plan

4.9.1 Birmingham City Council appointed a new Tourism Officer in April 2021.

4.9.2 In September 2021, the City Council held an internal roundtable with BCC officers on initial research findings, and discussed recommendations for next actions/proposed initiatives in the development of the Plan. Work is now taking place against the following initiatives:

- The commissioning of a feasibility study for a City Attractions Pass
- The creation of two business advice hubs, in the form of an Accessibility Tourism Portal and a Sustainable Tourism Portal
- The development of attractions workshops to develop local audiences and understand West Midlands Cultural Mapping data
- Re-engaging with coach operators, identifying and distributing the information and resources required for the travel trade to return to Birmingham after the pandemic and major construction works.
- Work with West Midlands Growth Company (WMGC) to develop Familiarisation Trips, educating the travel trade on Birmingham's tourism, heritage and cultural offer.
- A JRR Tolkien Experience Scoping Project, supporting the University of Birmingham and Arts Council England in assessing the feasibility of a JRR Tolkien-inspired attraction or experience.

4.9.3 The next stage is stakeholder consultation, which will take place during October 2021. Consultation will consist of a minimum of ten 1-to-1 meetings with leading industry members, a focus group with BIDs and four focus groups with members of visitor economy businesses and heritage attractions.

4.9.4 Therefore, the presentation and wider consultation of the draft Visitor Destination Plan framework document has been put back to November 2021, with the final version due to be presented in January 2022.

Business and Tourism Programme

4.9.5 Following a lengthy procurement process, West Midlands Growth Company (WMGC) is working with a number of marketing agencies to develop campaign strategies for domestic and international tourism markets. BCC will be asked for feedback on draft strategies, campaign creative and tactical delivery.

4.9.6 BCC attended the UKInbound Annual Convention in September to promote Birmingham and the Commonwealth Games to domestic and international travel buyers. Representatives from the Council will also be attending a CWG's Queens Baton Relay Regional Tourism summit at Birmingham Airport on the 8th October.

- 4.9.7 WMGC and the Council are developing a Commonwealth Games Visitor Map, working alongside partners in BCC, TfWM and the CWG Organising Committee. The map is due for publication in February/March 2022 in time for the Cultural Programme.

Appendix 1. SEND Update

1. Vulnerable Children and Families Portfolio Overview

- 1.1. Since the formation of the new Vulnerable Children and Families portfolio in August 2021, we have provided a number of briefings on current progress.
- 1.2. We are totally committed to transparency and ensuring our children, young people and their families are involved in the process of shaping much needed improvements in our services. We will be sharing regular updates on:
 - Progress that has been made as well as providing an update on areas where we have not made as much progress as we might have liked
 - ‘You Said, We Did’, giving an update on feedback we have received and what we have done about it
 - Information on opportunities for co-production or feedback so that we can hear from children and young people, families, schools and other stakeholders
- 1.3. Birmingham City Council and the Birmingham and Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) take the findings of the Local Area revisit extremely seriously, and are working hard to address all issues raised in order to deliver an improved service for families.
- 1.4. The journey towards turning around our SEND services will take time. Based on learning from our own improvement journey in children’s social care, and similar transformation programmes that have taken place in other local authorities, it will take several years until our services reach the level we aspire to for Birmingham’s children and families.
- 1.5. We will ensure that we have key milestones mapped out, and will be robustly monitoring these to ensure timely improvements are being made. To ensure that we provide some key improvements for our children and young people sooner, we will be focusing on ensuring priority improvements are closely monitored and sustained.
- 1.6. There is a clear need to understand the legacy of the past - but we also need to move forward to address pressing issues including: the backlog of reviews, recruitment of permanent staff against the backdrop of a national and regional shortage of skilled and experienced case workers, and the need to improve IT services. We also need to address the conception that Birmingham is currently not seen as a good place to work in SEND.

- 1.7. Nevertheless, we are seeking assurances and robustly questioning the plans that are being put in place, to ensure we can address all these and deliver an improved service.

2. Inspection Revisit and Immediate Next Steps

- 2.1. The SEND Local Area Inspection Revisit took place in May 2021 and identified that insufficient progress had been made by the local area in all but one of the thirteen areas of weakness identified.

- 2.2. As a result of the findings of the May 2021 revisit, the Department for Education (DfE) have appointed a Commissioner, John Coughlan, to hold the local area to account and work with us on the required SEND improvements.

- 2.3. One of the Commissioners first tasks is to write a report for the Education Minister, which will consider the Council's ability to ensure that SEND services will improve. It is anticipated that this will be completed by end of January 2022.

2.4. Accelerated Programme Plan

- 2.4.1. The DfE, in conjunction with NHS England, have also requested that the local area prepare an Accelerated Progress Plan (APP), which will have to demonstrate how the local area will resolve the 12 outstanding areas of significant weakness identified in the original inspection in 2018. The latest draft is attached as Appendix 2. The plan is a working document and will be continually revised.

- 2.4.2. The APP will be approved by the Improvement Board, which will be chaired by the DfE Commissioner.

- 2.4.3. The APP will have clear targets and milestones and will be regularly monitored by the Improvement Board in order to ensure that it is having the planned impact and improving the experience of children, young people and their families and improving outcomes.

- 2.4.4. The service area began work on the APP by holding four parent and carer events during August and September 2021. These were attended by a total of over 150 people, both in person and online. The events allowed parents and carers to feedback on their experience and express their feelings. We will include all this feedback in the APP and are grateful to the Parents and Carers Forum (PCF) for their help with these events.

- 2.4.5. Some issues which require more urgent attention are already being addressed. In particular, the restructure of the Special Educational Needs Assessments and Review Service (SENAR) operations team is being accelerated, and we are currently recruiting additional case workers to meet

demand. This will enable case work to be done more quickly and give greater access for parents and carers to individual officers who know their child well. This will also enable better communication between the service and schools.

2.5. **Together We CAN!**

- 2.5.1. A new improvement programme is being launched to deliver the actions in the APP. Following feedback from the SEND Youth Forum/RISE Youth Forum that they do not feel that the term 'SEND' represents them, the partnership has joined their campaign to replace its usage with Children with Additional Needs (CAN).
- 2.5.2. As a result, we will begin to use CAN in all appropriate situations including the Improvement programme. We will, however, continue to use SEND where it is currently required under the Code of Practice and as required by the DfE.
- 2.5.3. The name of our programme highlights the fact that improving the experiences of our children and young people with SEND and their families is a priority for all of us and something we all need to work together to deliver. It also emphasises our commitment to co-production, and to ensuring that the voice of children and young people and their families is at the heart of all we do.
- 2.5.4. We have heard strongly from parents and carers the message 'Nothing About Us Without Us', and we will commit to ensuring that every parent and child voice is heard, valued and informs our work.

2.6. **Local Authority Progress Update**

- 2.6.1. Since May 2021, the Council has been working on improving the Special Educational Needs Assessments and Review Service (SENAR). In September 2021, we asked families what the most important improvements they would like to see were.
- 2.6.2. This feedback is shown in the below table, alongside the action that we are taking in response.

| You Said | We Did/ Are Doing |
|--|---|
| Improve communication: answer calls and emails | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ A Head of SENAR Operations has been appointed to work alongside the current Head of Service to transform the SENAR service, by improving processes, increasing the service capacity and |

| You Said | We Did/ Are Doing |
|--|--|
| | <p>working more closely with families and professionals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recruiting more staff to work in the SEND Service and carry out vital casework. I have been informed that recruitment of experienced staff in the current market is difficult the service have worked with a number of agencies. As a result, 22 out of the extra 30 posts agreed have been filled and most will start work in late October / early November when DBS and other checks are completed. There are still carrying a high number of vacancies at present, so we are recruiting both internally and externally to cover this. Until the new structure of SENAR is designed and approved most of the appointment will be of agency staff but we are considering permanent recruitment options. ▪ The service are working on a comprehensive communications plan to all young people, families and schools so they are clear on who to contact. This will information will be published as soon as it is finalised. ▪ The service has realigned all the interim staff to permanent senior case officers and team managers. |
| <p>We need a named, accessible plan co-ordinator for Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The SENAR team are working in locality teams – North, South, East & West – with a clear management structure in each team. The area teams have been allocated schools and young people dependent upon postcodes. This will ensure that there is ownership of cases within the service. We will communicate this to families and education settings soon. ▪ Additional staff have been recruited (see above) ▪ The Parent Link service is aligned alongside our resolutions team to provide further support to parents and young people when they have an issue – the service are looking at how parents can use the service to find resolutions to their issues as quickly as possible. ▪ The business support structure has also been realigned to facilitate better support to the service, additional posts are being recruited into this area to ensure adequate support functions are in place. |
| <p>Professionals need better data, so that</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The service is reviewing the case management system (NEXUS) to establish new more streamlined processes. A project is underway and |

| You Said | We Did/ Are Doing |
|---|---|
| errors happen less frequent | will conclude in April 2022. This will also include a parent portal and schools' portal. |
| Ensure that there is timely and appropriate provision and support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The service is working through the internal process around reviews and assessment to ensure that we streamline the work to help us achieve 100% compliance with the timelines set in the SEND Code of Practice and have a more positive outcome for families and young people. ▪ The service are improving decision-making processes to ensure consistency of outcomes are managed by professionals and experts within the SEND service, working in partnership with Health and Social Care. Giving autonomy for smaller decisions back to the senior case workers who know the young person rather than everything being held up in a multi-agency panel. |
| We need coproduced fit for purpose EHCP plans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The service have recruited an expert in the SEND Code of Practice to ensure that all staff are acting within the guidelines set within the code – this officer is building a comprehensive training programme for all current officers alongside an induction programme for all new starters. |

2.7. Health (CCG) Progress Update

- 2.7.1. In Birmingham, healthcare services work together with partners to best support children, young people, adults and their families, and to improve health services for everyone across the city.
- 2.7.2. The feedback provided to health services from the September 2021 engagement exercise is provided in the below table, alongside the actions that are being taken in response.

| You Said | We Did/ Are Doing |
|---|---|
| Waiting lists are too long for Community Therapy services and Autism Assessments. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extra resources have been used to support with reducing all waiting lists ▪ Transformation work is taking place to support Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) services ▪ There is active involvement in progressing a whole system autism pathway ▪ Services are using virtual ways of assessing for autism and offering therapy appointments |

| You Said | We Did/ Are Doing |
|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trialling a faster way of completing assessments for autism for children under 7 years ▪ Services are completing reviews of the children on the autism waiting lists ▪ All waiting lists are regularly monitored to try and make sure the plans are working ▪ The average waiting times for Speech and Language Therapies initial assessments have reduced from 24.1 weeks (March 2021) to 7.6 weeks (August 2021). ▪ The maximum waiting times for Speech and Language Therapies intervention have reduced from 128 weeks (March 2021) to 95 weeks (August 2021). |
| What support is available for families that are waiting? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advice lines are available for families whilst on the waiting list for all therapy services ▪ Information advice and guidance is available online ▪ Linking with the iKnow project to make intervention / support packages available for families during their wait (link with Birmingham university) ▪ https://www.bhamcommunity.nhs.uk/childrens-healthcare/services/ |
| We need better access to Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) support services. We need more support post diagnosis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A Pre-Post Autism Diagnosis support offer is in development ▪ Health are working with the Communication and Autism Team (CAT) and a few mainstream primary schools in the city to pilot 'Autism in schools project' |
| Out of hours support for Mental Health crisis does not always meet the needs of Children and Young People with Learning Disabilities and Autism. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Forward Thinking Birmingham (FTB) offer 24/7 Mental Health crisis support to 0-25 year olds in Birmingham ▪ Reviewing how their out of hours Crisis provision supports people with Autism and Learning Disabilities ▪ Work is happening with partner agencies to ensure that all children and young people are supported well at the right time by staff who have the right knowledge and expertise ▪ During weekday hours (9-5) FTB teams have duty lines. The number to contact is 0300 300 0099. |

| You Said | We Did/ Are Doing |
|--|---|
| Invest more in MH support for parents and children | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment in Mental Health Services has taken place and is ongoing NHS, voluntary and other services are working together to make sure investment leads to better outcomes for children, young people and adults in Birmingham and Solihull |
| <p>What is the update on health appointments and social distancing guidance?</p> <p>How much is virtual now and what can parents expect?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most Health providers in Birmingham are offering a mix of face to face and virtual or telephone appointments The type of appointment offered to a child or young person and their family is typically based clinical need, whether it is possible for it to be virtual and if it is safe for it to be face to face. Many providers still have a one visitor/parent/carer policy for appointments however; if this is not suitable it is often possible to request for others to attend by getting in touch ahead of time. |

2.8. Birmingham Children's Trust Progress Update

- 2.8.1. Birmingham Children's Trust (BCT) have invited the Council and health partners into the new SEND Early Help Hub. As part of this Hub, professionals will signpost families for help and support, offer Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) advice, and support families to navigate the local offer.
- 2.8.2. The Early Help Hub is expected to open in November 2021.

3. Home to School Transport Service

- 3.1. The Home to School Transport Services provides a service to approximately 4,000 children every day across Birmingham. For the vast majority of our children and young people the service provided is good; however, we recognise that improvements are needed, and they are being progressed.
- 3.2. The oversight and input of all stakeholders, including children, young people, and families, is key to the improvement of services.
- 3.3. An update of current performance is set out in Appendix 3.

- 3.4. Members are aware that we are continuing to pilot 365 Response, an app that allows parents to make direct contact with the service. The Home To School Transport Service is conducting a wholesale data cleanse, as well as continuing to test the system and evaluate the pilot to ensure everyone's information is up to date before this new service is launched.
- 3.5. Earlier this year, a more robust system of compliance was introduced by the Council (using a revised contract) to compel transport providers to ensure that none of their drivers can drive with a positive DBS unless they have received clearance from our HR panel. For the avoidance of doubt, when we use the term 'positive DBS' this means that a driver may have committed an historic criminal offence.
- 3.6. Transport providers are also legally obliged (pursuant to the terms of the contract they have with us) to provide information in relation to their driver's DBS checks to the Council by way of an application for an identification badge which they must wear when operating Council contracts. In addition, on a monthly basis, operators are obliged under their contract to provide management information which includes details of their drivers/guides, their DBS status and details of routes they have operated on. This management information is reviewed by Council Officers to ensure compliance with the above requirements. Further on-site compliance visits take place where required and if any provider is found to be in breach of these requirements the contract can be suspended, in whole or in part, or terminated, depending on the severity of the non-compliance.
- 3.7. Earlier this academic year, we found that two of our contractors had not complied with their contractual obligations to alert the Council to the positive DBS of their drivers. This was discovered as a result of our routine compliance checks. It is on that basis that we have taken proactive action to terminate a contract with one provider and suspended a contract with another. The service area were able to replace these suppliers at short notice due to contingency plans that we have in place.
- 3.8. There is still more to do to get the service operating more effectively for our children and young people, but this is a much improved picture which has been aided by better communication between the operators, the service, schools and parents and carers.

SEND Improvement Programme

DRAFT Accelerated Progress Plan

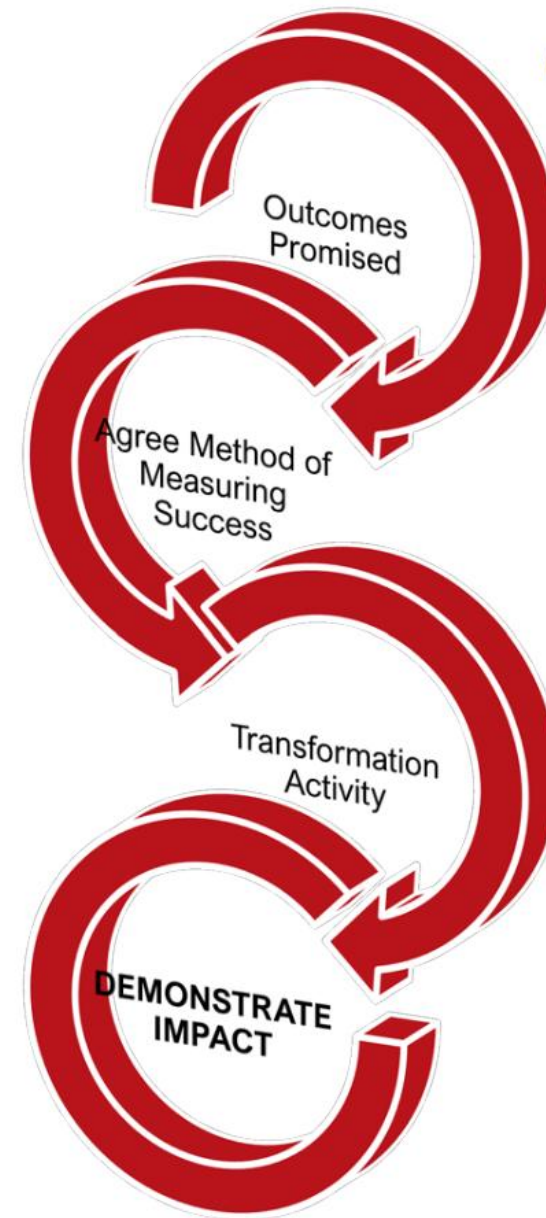


Introduction

- The focus of this presentation is to present the proposed methodology and put forward a proposal for how the SEND Improvement Programme (SIP) could be structured, managed and monitored. This in effect will be the Local Area's Accelerated Progress Plan.
- The Local Area accepts that insufficient progress has been made against 12 out of the 13 Areas of Significant Weakness identified in the 2018 Local Area SEND Inspection.
- This outcome was due to insufficient co-production, engagement and accountability since the Written Statement of Action (WSOA) was approved in January 2019.
- The Local Area is committed to fully co-produce a new SEND Improvement Programme (SIP) based on identifying desired outcomes, which will be appropriately scrutinised by an Improvement Board chaired by the DfE appointed Commissioner.

Methodology

- The Local Area has identified 4 Objectives for CYP with SEND in Birmingham.
- As the Objectives are now agreed, the workplans will be aligned to be able to meet those objectives, and to measure the progress against achieving the desired benefits.
- Each Objective will have its own sponsor, project plans and benefits to be realised.
- The Programme will be held accountable by a multi-partnership Board who has the DfE Commissioner as chair.



Feedback received from young people (RISE Youth Forum)

We are Additional Needs,
not Special.
#additionalnotspecial

Prefer mini-assessments,
helps with preparation
and managing our anxiety

We would like support
with work experience.

We want tailored
support for exams

Provide support
on how to revise
for exams.

We need
alternative ways of
learning

Improve support for
anxiety and mental
health

We want professionals
to talk to each other

We need more awareness
in schools on what
“additional” means

Don't want to be
defined by my
additional need.

We want more
opportunities for extra-
curricular activities.

We are all individuals
with different needs
and abilities.

We would like the SEND
Improvement
Programme to be called
“Together we CAN”
(Children with Additional
Needs)

Feedback received from parents/carers

Have more opportunities for parents to meet professionals

Have a clearly explained process that we all understand

Be transparent on funding and ensure education settings provide the right support

Ensure that there is permanent staff working for our children

Provide coproduced fit for purpose EHCP plans

Provide genuine multi agency working

Speedy access to diagnosis and treatment

Ensure that there is timely and appropriate provision and support

Improve communication: answer calls and emails

Stop sending EHCPs to the wrong people

Appropriate social care respite and support

Apprenticeship for autism school leavers

Having a named, accessible plan co-ordinator

Reduce waiting times for services like S&L, OT, etc.

Invest more in MH support for parents and children

More specialist training for mainstream schools

Feedback received from education settings

We would like more of these reflective conversations to keep the momentum going

Need to ensure professionals understand their remit

We need to keep SEND Support Provision Plans

Need better transition planning from one phase to the next.

The authority needs permanent staff

We need interim emergency funding to be able to support pupils

Need a fair and transparent funding system

We need clarity on top-up funding for EHCPs

Need to ensure that we decrease the number of children awaiting placements

We need support, so that we reduce part-time timetables

Feedback received from the voluntary and community sector

We would like to be more involved

We need more support for 14-19 olds

Focus on Early Intervention

The processes for parents and professionals need to be clearer

We need more respite provision in Birmingham

Invest more in Art Therapy

Parents come to us when the professionals are not responsive

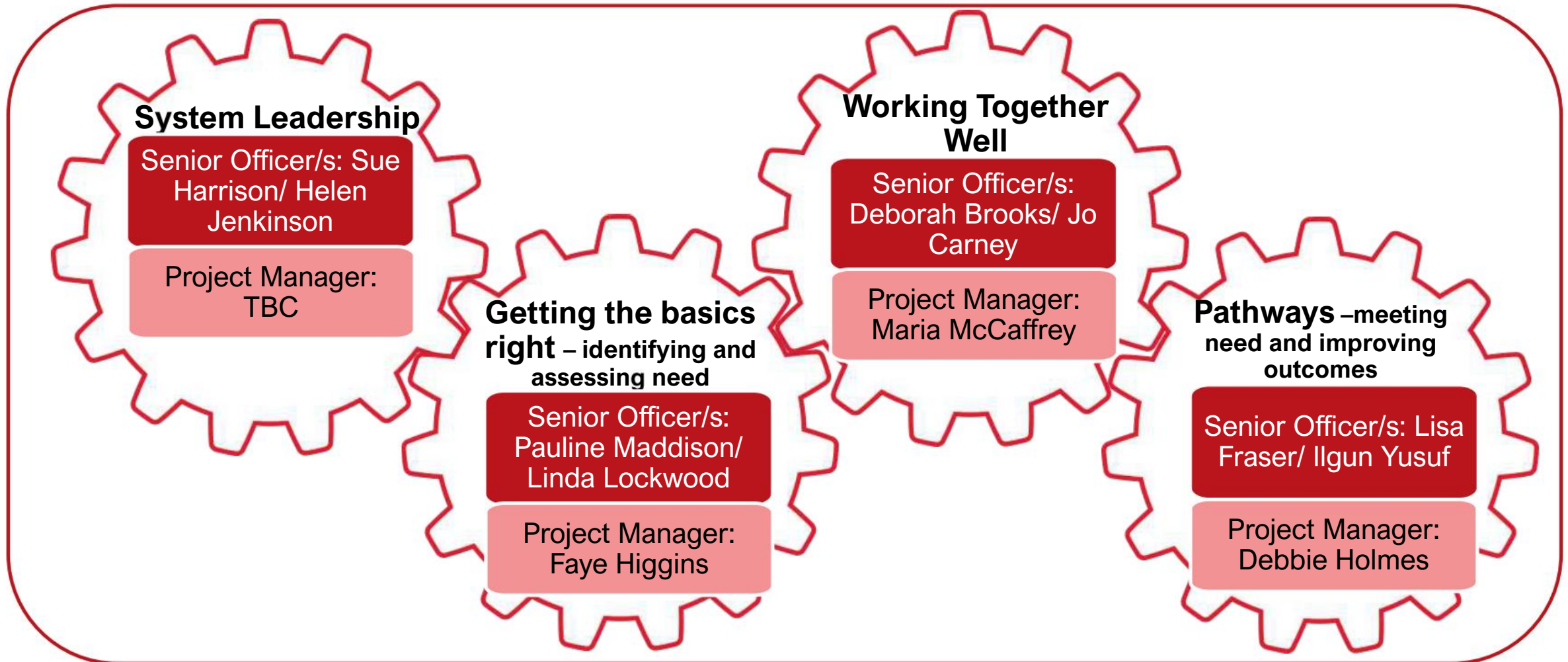
The process to get support needs to be shorter

Support education settings to understand needs better

Proposed Objectives and Projects

| Theme | Area of Significant Weakness | Improvement Projects at a glance |
|--|--|---|
| System Leadership | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategy Inter-agency working Local Offer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refresh the SEND Strategy Develop a Joint Working Protocol with Standard Operating Procedures across the partnership Develop and Implement a Learning and Development Strategy across the partnership Improve the Local Offer Website Improve Data Management |
| Getting the basics right – identifying and assessing need | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination of Assessments Quality of EHCPs Waiting Times | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build a sustainable SENAR service Improve the EHNCA and Annual Review Processes Upgrade the Case Management System Agree a Quality Assurance Framework Improve waiting times for Therapies and Neuro-Developmental Pathways |
| Working Together Well | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-Production Parental Engagement Parental Satisfaction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement a co-production and engagement framework and plan Set up a Voluntary Sector Partnership Group Develop and implement a communications strategy Launch Parent Portal as part of the SENAR Case management System Upgrade Agree and sign a Partnership Compact Review and Strengthen the role of SENDIASS |
| Pathways – meeting need and improving outcomes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic Progress Attendance and Exclusions Employment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an Inclusion Strategy Deliver the Developing Local Provision project Review the Children Out of School Process for CYPs with EHCPs Review the allocation of the HNB 14-19 Review of Employment Pathways for YP with SEND Review internal processes to ensure that CYPs pathways are correctly tracked |

Objectives



Governance



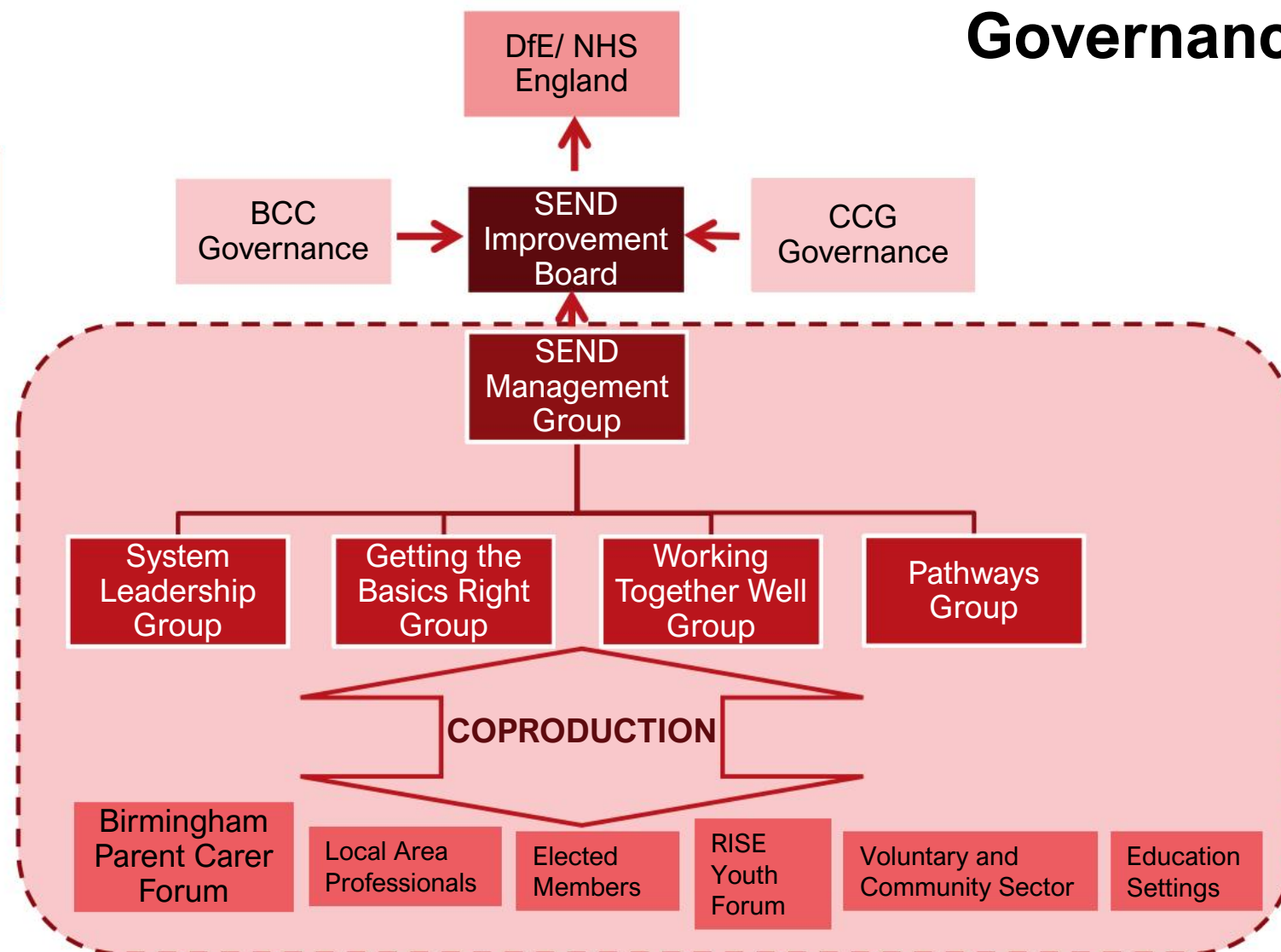
**Birmingham
RISE Youth
Forum**



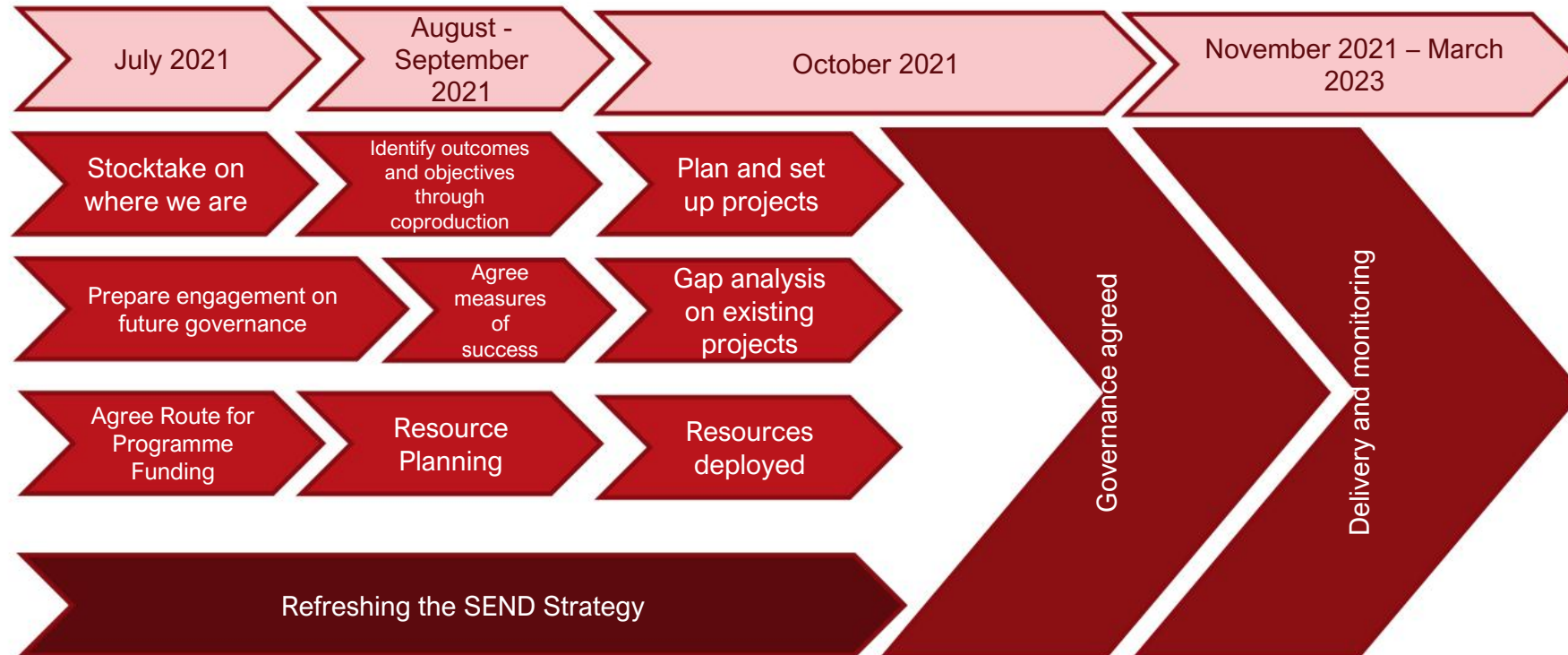
**BIRMINGHAM
CHILDREN'S TRUST**



Birmingham and Solihull
Clinical Commissioning Group



Timescales



Objectives/ Projects/ Key Measures of Success

Objective 1 - System Leadership (SEND Strategy, Inter-agency Working, Local Offer)

| Project | Responsible officers | By When |
|--|---|--|
| Develop a new SEND Strategy | AD Commissioning | 30 Aug 2022 |
| Develop a Joint Working Protocol with Standard Operating Procedures across the partnership | AD SEND, Inclusion and Wellbeing/ Director of Nursing and Quality/ Director of Practice | 1 Mar 2022 |
| Develop and Implement a Learning and Development Strategy across the partnership | AD SEND, Inclusion and Wellbeing/ Director of Nursing and Quality/ Director of Practice/ HR&OD Departments | 1 September 2022 |
| Develop a Workforce Strategy | Director of Education and Skills | 1 April 2022 |
| Improve the Local Offer Website | AD SEND, Inclusion and Wellbeing/ Director of Nursing and Quality | 31 December 2022 (ensuring compliance with COP15) |
| | | 1 September 2022 |
| Review of Data Management and Introduction of New Data Management and Performance Policy | Transformation Director, Education and Skills | 31 Mar 2022 |

Objective 1 - System Leadership (SEND Strategy, Inter-agency Working, Local Offer)

| Impact measures and KPIs | Area of Significant Weakness that it relates to |
|---|---|
| % of professionals in the partnership that understand the vision | SEND Strategy |
| % of pupils with EHCP educated in mainstream environment | SEND Strategy |
| % EHCNA advice received within 6 weeks | Inter - Agency Working |
| Attendance monitoring at mandatory SEND training | Inter - Agency Working |
| Satisfaction rates Local Offer Website through a dedicated survey | Local Offer |
| Local Offer Website Traffic monitoring | Local Offer |

Objective 2 - Getting the basics right – identifying and assessing need (Coordination of Assessments, Quality of EHC Plans)

| Project | Responsible officers | By When |
|--|---|-------------|
| Improve EHCNA process by looking at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coproducing the 20 week process - Coproducing the templates and letters | AD SEND, Inclusion and Wellbeing | 31 Mar 2022 |
| Improve Annual Review process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coproduce the general annual review process - Coproduce the phase transfer processes | AD SEND, Inclusion and Wellbeing | 31 Mar 2022 |
| Upgrade SENAR Case Management System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update the system - Launch the schools portal - Deliver training to staff and partners - Complete data cleansing activity | AD SEND, Inclusion and Wellbeing | 22 Apr 2022 |
| Build a sustainable SENAR service capable of delivering good outcomes for CYP with SEND, in accordance to the CFA14 and COP15. | AD SEND, Inclusion and Wellbeing | 31 May 2022 |
| Agree a Quality Assurance Framework | AD SEND, Inclusion and Wellbeing/ Director of Nursing and Quality/ Director of Practice | 1 Mar 2022 |

Objective 2 - Getting the basics right – identifying and assessing need (Waiting times)

| Project | Responsible officers | By When |
|--|--|--|
| Develop recovery trajectory planning to support the robust management of waiting lists (for all therapy services) | Director of Joint Commissioning (CCG)/ Divisional Director (BCH) | Ongoing |
| Continue to improve the process for monitoring and managing waiting lists | Director of Joint Commissioning (CCG)/ Divisional Director (BCH) | Ongoing |
| <u>Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) transformation to the Balanced System</u> - reduce waiting times and embed a system wide approach to SLCN, developing an integrated approach to continuous monitoring of wait times during the transition period. | Director of Joint Commissioning (CCG)/ Divisional Director (BCH)/ AD SEND, Inclusion and Wellbeing | Phased transformation commencing Sept 2021 – March 2024 |
| <u>Joint Commissioning arrangement for SLCN</u> – Continue to monitor impact resulting from the formalised arrangement between BSol CCG and Birmingham City Council. | Director of Joint Commissioning (CCG) / AD SEND, Inclusion and Wellbeing | ongoing |
| <u>Increase capacity to support autism assessments</u> (over 7year olds) - Commission additional capacity from Healios (phase 3) for autism assessments – Healios will be able to see a further 850 children. | Director of Joint Commissioning (CCG)/ Divisional Director (BCH) | November 2021 |
| <u>Improve the ASD assessment process and wait times to ensure children under 7yrs old are assessed in a timely manner</u> – development of a new timetable for under 7-year-old waits (ASD assessments). | Director of Joint Commissioning (CCG)/ Divisional Director (BCH) | Jan 2022 (linked to 0-16 pathway below) |
| <u>Improve timeliness of ADHD assessments</u> - continue to monitor implementation of a new tool and upskilling of staff (CDC and ND staff) to support utilisation of the tool in order to speed up the assessment process for ADHD and reduce waiting lists. | Director of Joint Commissioning (CCG)/ Divisional Director (BCH) | New process commenced Oct 2020 ongoing |
| <u>Development of a 0-16year old ND pathway</u> - including recruitment strategy in line with national staff shortage issues e.g., clinical psychology and working on an exit plan for Healios. | Director of Joint Commissioning (CCG)/ Divisional Director (BCH) | Implementation Jan 2022 |

Objective 2 - Getting the basics right – identifying and assessing need (Coordination of Assessments, Quality of EHC Plans, Waiting Times)

| Impact measures and KPIs | Area of Significant Weakness that it relates to |
|--|---|
| %EHCPs issued within 20 weeks | Coordination of Assessment |
| Family Satisfaction with the EHCNA process | Coordination of Assessment |
| SENCO Satisfaction with the EHCNA process | Coordination of Assessment |
| % Annual Reviews actioned within 4 weeks of the meeting | Coordination of Assessment |
| % of EHCPs rated good and outstanding | Quality of EHCPs |
| % of CYP who complete their secondary phase transfer by the 15 th of February | Coordination of Assessment Quality of EHCPs |
| % of EHCPs NEET | Quality of EHCPs |
| Average and longest wait for OT | Waiting Times |
| Average and longest wait for SLT | Waiting Times |
| Average and longest wait for PT | Waiting Times |
| Average and longest wait for ND | Waiting Times |

Objective 3 - Working Together Well (coproduction, parental engagement, parental satisfaction)

| Project | Responsible officers | By When |
|--|---|-------------|
| Design a co-production and engagement framework and plan | Coproduction Officer | 31 Dec 2021 |
| Set up a Voluntary Sector Partnership Group | Director of Education and Skills | 31 Dec 2021 |
| Design and implement a communications strategy | Comms from BCC, CCG and BCT | 1 Feb 2022 |
| Launch Parent Portal as part of the SENAR Case management System Upgrade | Transformation Director, Education and Skills | 1 Feb 2022 |
| Agree and sign a Partnership Compact | Coproduction Officer | 31 Dec 2021 |
| Review and Strengthen the role of SENDIASS | Director of Education and Skills | 31 Mar 2022 |

Objective 3 - Working Together Well (coproduction, parental engagement, parental satisfaction)

| Impact measures and KPIs | Area of Significant Weakness that it relates to |
|--|--|
| % of parental surveys returned | Coproduction Parental Engagement Parental Satisfaction |
| % of parental satisfaction measured through the parental surveys | Coproduction Parental Engagement Parental Satisfaction |
| % of education settings responding positive to surveys | Coproduction |
| % of partner organisations responding positive to surveys | Coproduction |
| Number of appeals lodged at SENDIST | Parental Satisfaction |
| Number of Complaints | Parental Satisfaction |
| % of Complaints that were satisfactorily dealt with | Parental Satisfaction |

Objective 4 - Pathways – meeting need and improving outcomes (academic progress, attendance and exclusions, employment)

| Project | Responsible Officer | By When |
|---|--|--|
| Develop an Inclusion Strategy | AD SEND, Inclusion and Wellbeing/ AD Education and Early Years | 1 Sept 2022 |
| Deliver the Developing Local Provision project | AD SEND, Inclusion and Wellbeing | 1 Sept 2021 – Start 31 Jul 2022 – Review First Year 31 Jul 2023 – Review Second Year |
| Review the Children Out of School Process for CYPs with EHCPs | AD SEND, Inclusion and Wellbeing/ AD Education and Early Years | 1 May 2022 |
| Review the allocation of the HNB | AD SEND, Inclusion and Wellbeing | 31 Dec 2021 |
| 14-19 Review of Employment Pathways for YP with SEND | AD Employment and Skills | 1 Sept 2022 |
| Review of Internal Processes to ensure that CYPs pathways are correctly tracked | Director of Education and Skills/ Chief Nurse/ Director of Commissioning and Corporate Parenting | 31 Dec 2021 |

Objective 4 - Pathways – meeting need and improving outcomes (academic progress, attendance and exclusions, employment)

| Impact measures and KPIs | Area of Significant Weakness that it relates to |
|---|---|
| Attainment and Progress data EHCPs | Academic Progress |
| Attainment and Progress data SEN Support | Academic Progress |
| Attendance for SEN Support and EHCPs | Attendance |
| % of the Unknowns in the NEET category | Attendance Exclusions |
| % of Special Schools rated Good or Outstanding | Academic Progress |
| % of Mainstream Schools rated Good or Outstanding | Academic Progress |
| % of Early Years rated Good or Outstanding | Academic Progress |
| % of CYP with EHCPs that attend settings rated Good or Outstanding | Academic Progress |
| % of Take up of 2 Year Old Offer | Attendance |
| % of permanent exclusions and fixed term exclusions for EHCPs | Exclusions |
| % of permanent exclusions and fixed term exclusions for SEN Support | Exclusions |
| % young people with LD in paid employment or apprenticeship | Employment |

Home to School Transport Service Update



Start of new Academic Year 2021 - 2022 Headlines

- Intense Mobilisation and Operational Readiness activities undertaken throughout summer
- Some letters and communications were sent out later than we would have wanted due to problems with data
- Schools returned through staggered starts from 3rd Sep; all schools are now returned
- Operational readiness and existing compliance checks identified the need to terminate a transport provider and then commission a new provider just weeks before start of term to safeguard our service users
- Mobilising a new provider at short notice led to a downturn in performance which is now stabilising
- Overall service performance has continued to improve daily and has been operating within tolerance for the few weeks
- The HTS service has mobilised successfully (**week ending 24th Sep**):
 - 1052 daily routes operating (99.17%)
 - 3517 pupils who needed to travel were transported (99.82% - note that not all pupils travel every day)

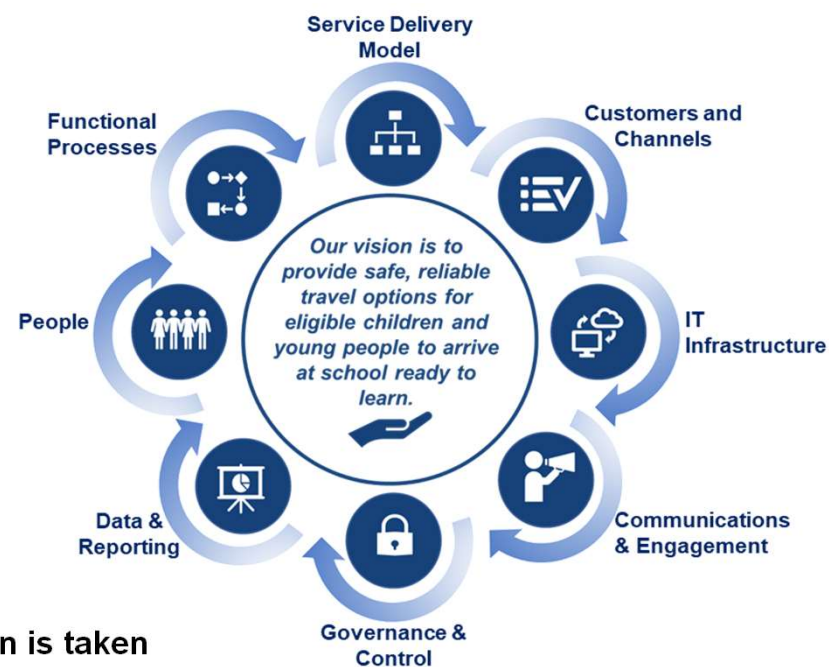
Summary of Key Progress

- **Safeguarding** – there are **5 safeguarding cases**:
 - 3 relate to incorrect drop-off details; all were resolved at school and pupils were safe at all times
 - 2 new safeguarding issues raised identified this period are under review
- **Complaints** – **34 complaints with none overdue as at 24th Sep**
 - As is usual at this time of year, there is an increase in complaints and these are dealt with as part of normal operational service and tracked through the Complaints process following which a Complaints Response is issued
- **Telephone calls**
 - **95% of calls answered on Fri 17th Sep**, for the whole of the week 88.5% of phone calls were answered (**831** answered out of **939** received); on average the service receives 600 calls a week.
 - Week ending **Fri 24th Sep, 93.59%** calls answered throughout the week (**over 96% achieved each day Tues to Fri**).
 - The service doubled its call handling capacity for the start of term, which included both service resource and also support from other areas of the council
- **Routes** – **99.17%** of routes were **delivered** and **99.82%** of **pupils transported**, that needed to be. **99.13%** of routes delivered were delivered **on time**.
- **Bus pass applications** – As is normal for this time of year and despite encouraging parents to apply early, the service is receiving an increase in applications for mainstream Bus Passes after the start of term.
 - Significant work undertaken to eliminate outstanding bus passes, including late applications and the current number awaiting assessment is 291 (at the same time last year this was 1106).

Ensuring safeguarding – enforcing contractual compliance

Providing safe, reliable travel options

- Participation in Safeguarding Stocktake forum
- HTS Safeguard Review
- Establishment of the Compliance team and processes
- Clear Governance & Controls
- Regular gateway reviews to check and challenge DBS status
- Our systems and processes work to safeguard our service users
- Termination of non-compliant transport provider
- **The service does not run until we are appropriately assured**
- **If issues are highlighted following mobilisation then compliance action is taken**



Providing safe, reliable travel options

- Compliance team identified issue with existing transport provider during review of Operational Readiness/ Management information.
- Decision taken to terminate this contract to protect safeguarding standards
- Immediate and robust procurement exercise undertaken - HATS Group awarded contracted just over 2 weeks before start of term
- Expediated mobilisation of vehicles, staffing, and route information undertaken – HATS have undertaken this process numerous times without issue (but this time had to proceed with an uncooperative predecessor)
- However, due to compressed timescales a number of challenges emerged:
 - 55 trained drivers did not arrive for work on Day 1 and 2 of the new operation
 - Current contact information for all parents/carers needed to be checked and where not available supplied by schools to be able to advise all parents of new arrangements (not all families share this information with the Service as a matter of course)
- Impact of these challenges led to pause of HATS mobilisation on Wed 8th Sep
- Daily calls commenced with HATS Group to resolve issues and check progress of phased reintroduction of service
- Impact of these issues did have some impact on the ability of parents using other contractor services to immediately contact the Service in first few days (which improved in the days after the mobilisation pause).
- Ongoing improved service levels and transition to operational BAU

HATS Performance Fri 24th Sep:

100% routes ran to 6 schools: 123 routes with 756 pupils transported

Providing safe, reliable travel options

- HTS is on a journey to improve its services and we've already commenced an internal review of how we performed
- We have recently sent out a survey to schools to ask them about the service last year to help us improve the service this year
- We held an event for parents impacted by the mobilisation of the new provider
- Head of Service is engaging with schools directly to review and support resolution of issues
- Staff have two sessions planned from October to review lessons from this period
- We will use the knowledge and understanding from this experience to inform continuous improvement, key actions include:
 - Improving our annual service plan
 - Developing annual communications and engagement plan – to mitigate unclear or inaccurate information via social media channels
 - Improving our data and functional processes
 - Ensuring sufficient staff available for call-handling



Benefits of 365 Implementation:

- **Safeguarding** of our children at the centre of all activities on 365
- **Better information** for leaders and senior management teams
- Single source of the truth
- Joined up working practices
- Real time data on transport of children and operators transporting our children for parents and schools

Current Activities:

- Formal Decision Points introduced which evaluate testing take place before next activity can start
- Validation of new academic year pupil and route information prior to transfer into 365
- Implementing a route change control process to ensure the information remains accurate at all times
- Correct data is being loaded and maintained in 365
- Operators and their drivers are being engaged about use of 365
- Monitoring system performance to ensure it delivers BCC contracted requirements

Providing safe, reliable travel options

- Review and refresh of original implementation plan undertaken
- Constrained resources were redirected over summer to support the start of academic year
- Significant data validation undertaken and upload to the system progressing to support extended pilot
- Whilst this impacted project delivery timeline, it has also provided opportunity to understand upstream dependencies for 365 on data quality
- Regular engagement activities now scheduled with supplier
- Project undertaking assurance checks against available functionality and its performance to support HTS service requirements
- Phased release of functionality subject to rigorous testing
- Exploring opportunities to harness other product modules to exploit system fully

Birmingham City Council

City Council

2 November 2021



Subject: West Midlands Combined Authority - Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Report of: Vice-Chair of the WMCA's Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Report author: Councillor Lisa Trickett

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential:

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of the work of the West Midland Combined Authority's Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Vice-Chair, Councillor Lisa Trickett) and Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee (Chair, Councillor Liz Clements).

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

3 Background

- 3.1 Overview & Scrutiny is a statutory requirement for the West Midlands Combined Authority to undertake. The committee has the responsibility to review the work of the elected Mayor of the West Midlands, the WMCA Board and its committees, to make recommendations to the WMCA Board and its committees and call-in decisions for further scrutiny.
- 3.2 The committee performs two functions: 'overview' focusses on the development of future policy and 'scrutiny' looks at decisions that have been made or are about to be made.
- 3.3 The Overview & Scrutiny produces an annual report that sets out its work over the last year. The latest report attached as appendix 1 for information.

- 3.4 During this current year 2021/22, the work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee has had a strong focus on the WMCA's developing Corporate Strategy, Environment Bill and its potential impacts on combined authorities, and Brownfield Land Remediation Fund.

4 Pre-Development Scrutiny: WMCA's Corporate Strategy

- 4.1 Following the Mayoral election, the WMCA has worked with the Mayor and Leaders to agree a set of aims and objectives to guide the activity of the authority. These aims and objectives will help inform the WMCA's Medium-Term Financial Plan, as well as its annual budgets and deliverables.
- 4.2 The committee has worked closely with the Head of Policy & Programme Development on the development of the Corporate Strategy. The latest draft version of the strategy will be presented to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 8 November prior to its submission to the WMCA Board for approval on 19 November.

5. Pre-Development Scrutiny: Environment Bill

- 5.1 The committee has been working with the Inclusive Growth & Public Service Reform directorate on the likely implications of the Environment Bill and on the development of an Air Quality Options paper that will be presented to a forthcoming WMCA Board. The report will provide an overview of the impacts of air pollution across the West Midlands, summarise the existing work that is currently taking place to address air quality issues and the scope for further measures to tackle air quality across the region.
- 5.2 The timing of this report will be significant given the anticipated Environment Bill, which will update national legislation and governance around all aspects relating to the natural environment, including air quality. It is likely that changes will primarily relate to strengthening regulations on air quality (including new standards on particulates) as well as outlining expectations on new ways of working to reduce emissions.

6. Scrutiny Review: Brownfield Land Remediation Fund

- 6.1 Overview & Scrutiny Committee have endorsed a review to examine the role and remit of the WMCA to deliver affordable housing within the West Midlands through the use of Brownfield Land & Property Investment Fund and to consider how this supported and added value to the responsibilities of constituent authorities in respect of affordable housing provision.
- 6.2 The objectives of the review include;
- How was the region's affordable housing needs determined and what account was taken for sub-regional socio-economic differences in the calculation of regional need?

- What was the role of the WMCA in the supply of affordable housing in the West Midlands? How did the Brownfield Land & Property Investment Fund help support this role, and how clearly was this role understood across the region and amongst partners?
- How did this role support and contribute to the constituent authorities' responsibility for the delivery of affordable housing within their area?
- To understand the number of sites funded through the Brownfield Land & Property Investment Fund to date, the number of housing units delivered on these sites, and the percentage of these units that had been designated as affordable.
- Did the Brownfield Land & Property Investment Fund adequately use its commissioning and contracting influence to maximise the delivery of affordable housing units within the individual schemes it funds?
- What were the impacts and implications on the Brownfield Land & Property Investment Fund of the differential cost of land remediation across the region?

6.3 It is envisaged that the review will be undertaken between October and December with a final report presented to Overview & Scrutiny Committee in January 2022 for consideration.

7. Mayoral Q&A Sessions

- 7.1 As part of its role in holding the Mayor of the West Midlands and WMCA Board to account, the committee held a Q&A session with the Mayor and questioned him on policy related matters including mayoral powers, manufacturing, skills, employment, economic development, energy innovation zones, infrastructure and connectivity, public transport investment, bus franchising, rail electrification, affordable housing delivery vehicle, housing need within the region and air quality.
- 7.2 The observations and conclusions arising from the Q&A session will be presented to the WMCA Board on 19 November 2021. The recording of the Q&A session can be viewed here >> [Mayoral Q&A 14 October 2021](#)
- 7.3 The committee will hold its second Q&A of the year with the Mayor on 15 December, which will have a focus on the WMCA's proposed budget for 2022/23.

8. Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee

- 8.1 The Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee, chaired by Councillor Liz Clements, has focussed on the development of the new West Midlands Local Transport Plan for the region. Transport for West Midlands had published a Green Paper to help build awareness of the role of transport in creating a more prosperous and better connected West Midlands which was fairer, greener and healthier. Members' views were used to help inform a session with the leaders of the West Midlands on the future transport policy.

9. Pre-Decision Scrutiny: Bus Delivery Options

- 9.1 As part of its work programme for 2021/22, the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee has examined the e-scooter trial, West Midlands Cycle Hire Scheme and the Sustainable Transport Settlement Bid but in particular has undertaken pre-decision scrutiny on future bus delivery options prior to a decision being sought from the WMCA Board in January 2022.
- 9.2 In 2019, WMCA Board had asked Transport for West Midlands to assess future delivery options for bus services in the West Midlands in order to best achieve the objectives of the WMCA's Vision for Bus strategy. This work had reviewed options available under the Bus Services Act 2017, including franchising.

10. WMCA's Portfolio Lead Member for Transport Q&A Session

- 10.1 At its meeting held on 22 October, the sub-committee held a Q&A session with Councillor Ian Ward, the WMCA's Portfolio Lead Member for Transport on transport policy related matters. Questions focussed on the Commonwealth Games, the bus network, the economic impact of congestion, capital projects, transport levy and the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement. A Q&A session with the Chair of the WMCA's Transport Delivery Committee (Councillor Kath Hartley) will be held in February 2022.

West Midlands Combined Authority **Overview & Scrutiny Committee** Annual Report 2020/21



West Midlands
Combined Authority

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Foreword – Councillor Lisa Trickett | 3 |
| Foreword – Councillor Cathy Bayton | 4 |
| Committee Members 2020/21 | 5 |
| Introduction | 7 |
| Overview & Scrutiny holding the Mayor of the West Midlands and portfolio lead members to account | 8 |
| Mayoral Q&A Sessions – Key Findings | 11 |
| Spotlight Sessions | 14 |
| Pre-Decision Scrutiny | 15 |
| Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee | 16 |
| Transport Scrutiny Pre- Development Scrutiny | 17 |
| Transport Scrutiny: Holding those responsible for transport to account | 18 |
| Connect With Scrutiny | 19 |

Foreword

Chair – Councillor Lisa Trickett

In a year that has seen lives and livelihoods lost and our public services at the forefront of responding to the COVID-19 crisis, it can feel that the work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee is fairly irrelevant. But whilst we quite rightly left the Mayor and his Portfolio Leads free to respond to the immediate crisis, it is in such challenging times as these that I would argue the role of scrutiny is at its most critical. Our role is to provide a perspective outside the main decision makers to reflect the combined concerns and challenges of the communities that form part of the WMCA.

In a post-truth age, it is critical that the integrity of the policy process is maintained and that we ensure that in developing policies and measuring success we are truly drawing on the evidence before us and, critically for Overview & Scrutiny Committee this year, reflecting back into the combined authority the lived experience of our constituents. We must always seek to understand how policy and investment is helping to drive better outcomes for all communities. Our work this past year has shown that the combined authority has some way to go in terms of levelling up or closing the gap between constituent authorities and the life chances of children in our region, but there is still much to be proud of, not least the way in which the communities and combined public services in the region came together during the COVID-19 crisis.

What we are keen to ensure is that we truly did set out the foundations to build back better. The need for jobs, housing and a skills pathway that reflected the challenges of our region are key challenges. The fact that we do not have the powers and resources to adequately address these key challenges is an area where we have found agreement and where I would hope that in the new mayoral term scrutiny can focus on this issue further.

As always, my huge gratitude to members of the committee for the time they have given freely and for the thoughtful and valuable contributions they have all made. The role of scrutiny officers and those who support our governance processes has been critical in ensuring we have maintained balance and integrity of process - not always easy in an election year!

Finally, my congratulations to our Mayor Andy Street on his successful re-election, and goodbye (but, in my case as a Brummie councillor, welcome back!) to Deborah Cadman, the departing Chief Executive whose support for scrutiny has been much appreciated.



Foreword

Chair of Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee – Councillor Cathy Bayton

This past year has been a memorable one as the country has collectively gone through a very difficult time and everyone has been affected in some way. The pandemic has presented incomparable challenges to the transport network as reoccurring lockdowns and enforced social distancing have reduced the demand for travel and public transport use has significantly reduced.

During this challenging time, Overview & Scrutiny Committee has formed the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee that emerged from a review into the effectiveness of transport governance within the combined authority. I am particularly pleased this year by the work the sub-committee has undertaken, including its focus on the student transport arrangements and young people returning to education, the development of a new Local Transport Plan, transport planning for the 2022 Commonwealth Games and public Q&A sessions held with the Chair of the Transport Delivery Committee and the Portfolio Lead for Transport.

It has been a pleasure to work with colleagues on the sub-committee that are also members of transport scrutiny committees within their own constituent authorities, and it is clear that this type of joined up working shows the value of a combined authority through improved engagement between councils.

Looking forward into next year, the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee will want to focus on the cost of the delay to the region of HS2, alternative ticketing policies in use in comparable cities and regions, and how the transport-related benefits of hosting a major sporting event can be enjoyed by all communities across the region. We will be keen to see if the legacy effects of the environmental sustainability of the Commonwealth Games can then be used to support the region's wider carbon reduction strategies in subsequent years.

I would like to thank my colleagues and officers for their support and commitment during this year, and I look forward to continuing with this work in the coming year.



Committee Members 2020/21



Councillor Lisa Trickett

Birmingham
Committee Chair



Councillor Cathy Bayton

Dudley
Committee Vice-Chair



Councillor Naeem Akhtar

Coventry



Councillor Suky Samra

Walsall



Paul Brown

Black Country LEP



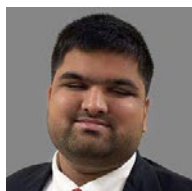
Councillor Stephen Simkins

Wolverhampton



Councillor Dean Carroll

Shropshire



Councillor Ahmad Bostan

Sandwell



Councillor Peter Fowler

Birmingham



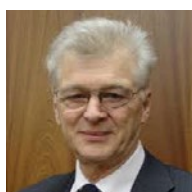
Councillor Chris Cade

Rugby



Councillor Angus Lees

Dudley



Councillor Mike Chalk

Redditch

Committee Members 2020/21



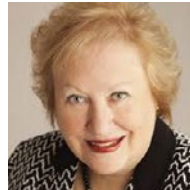
Councillor Robert Grinsell
Solihull



Councillor Diane Todd
Cannock Chase



Mike Lyons
Greater Birmingham &
Solihull LEP



Councillor Kate Wild
Solihull



Councillor Lucy Seymour-Smith
Birmingham



Sarah Windrum
Coventry & Warwickshire LEP



Councillor Paul Sweet
Wolverhampton

Introduction

Overview and scrutiny is a statutory requirement of the West Midlands Combined Authority. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee discharges this responsibility through oversight of the work of the Mayor, Portfolio Lead Members and the wider WMCA decision making process in order to hold decision makers to account and improve the quality of decisions that the WMCA takes.

Overview & Scrutiny Committee members may make recommendations to the WMCA Board and other committees and call in decisions for further scrutiny and challenge that have already been made. The committee acts as an advocate for residents of the West Midlands by investigating issues that are important to local people and by looking further into matters brought to its attention by the public. From improving the economy to tackling inequality, environmental matters and ensuring that the affordable housing needs for the region are addressed, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, comprising the region's local councillors, is the body that oversees how all this is done.

While the committee's membership includes local councillors nominated by the WMCA's 18 member councils, it also has three representatives from the region's local enterprise partnerships. This brings a private sector perspective to discussions and ensures that the views of the region's commercial sector are heard at the highest levels of decision making.

The committee performs two functions 'overview' and 'scrutiny'. 'Overview' focuses on the development of policy and 'scrutiny' that looks at decisions that have been made or are about to be made.

Overview & Scrutiny Committee in 2020/21

This year the committee has focused on the post-COVID-19 recovery plan, as it seeks to address the economic and social impact of the pandemic and has scrutinised and challenged across the WMCA to ensure investments and interventions are targeted at closing the region's inequalities and fulfilling the ambition of inclusive growth and tackling climate change.

The committee has continued to have broad oversight to the policies of the WMCA and reviews the effectiveness of its key decisions. It has an important role in reviewing and scrutinising the Mayor, Portfolio Lead Members and the WMCA about plans, priorities, corporate governance arrangements and financial affairs.

Overview & Scrutiny's Objective 2020/21

“What is the return on investment for our communities?”

Overview & Scrutiny holding the Mayor of the West Midlands and portfolio lead members to account

Mayor of the West Midlands

The committee has undertaken a number of public Mayoral Q&A sessions, with questions focusing on the key challenges for the WMCA.

In October, the committee questioned Andy Street on the delivery and impact of the WMCA policies and on matters relating to:

- WMCA's response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Economic and community recovery work
- Government funding allocations to the region (including the 'Recharge West Midlands' investment case)
- Further funding asks to support recovery work
- Support required for different economic sectors and those facing the prospect of unemployment once the Government's furlough scheme ended

In December, the committee held its second Q&A and questioned the Mayor on financial matters relating to the developing budget for 2021/22, with a particular focus on:

- The use of reserves to achieve a balanced budget for 2021/22
- Longer term financial stability
- Risky assumptions
- Financial planning and modelling reflecting the needs of the region and its diverse communities
- Transport budget and protection of accessible and supported transport services

The Mayor was also joined by the Portfolio Lead for Finance, Councillor Bob Sleight, who was questioned on matters relating to the Investment Programme.

“These public Q&A sessions were an important part of providing public accountability and transparency of decision-making for the WMCA's only directly elected politician”

Councillor Mike Bird, Portfolio Lead for Housing & Regeneration

In November 2020, the committee invited Councillor Mike Bird, Portfolio Lead for Housing & Regeneration to a Q&A session focusing on housing and regeneration-related matters. Members questioned him on:

- **Brownfield Land Redevelopment Fund**
- **Spend versus the number of housing units delivered to date**
- **Context in which the WMCA was operating in terms of supporting the housing needs of the region**
- **Affordable and social housing**
- **Affordable housing definition**



Councillor Ian Brookfield, Portfolio Lead for Economy & Innovation

During the year, Overview & Scrutiny Committee has had a strong focus on the regional recovery plan following the COVID-19 pandemic and has met with Councillor Ian Brookfield, Portfolio Lead for Economy & Innovation to better understand the economic recovery work undertaken by the COVID-19 Economic Impact Group and the thematic priorities that formed the region's 'asks' to attract new Government investment.

In addition, Overview & Scrutiny Committee has also met with Deborah Cadman, Chief Executive and Julia Goldsworthy Director of Strategy to understand the work being undertaken to support the economic recovery of the region following the COVID-19 pandemic in areas such as:

- **form that the recovery might take**
- **arrangements for the strategic leadership and co-ordination of recovery priorities**
- **workstream planning across the WMCA's portfolio areas**
- **work to address the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on the region's Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic communities**

“Methods of growth for the region need to reflect and address inequalities, ensuring a difference is made to communities and the local economy”

Councillor Lisa Trickett



Outcome

As a result of the Q&A sessions with the Mayor and the Portfolio Lead Members, the following workstreams were undertaken:



A review of a detailed breakdown of the region's 'Recharging the West Midlands' investment case to Government which set out the key immediate asks of the Government from the West Midlands region, totaling £3.2bn of investment

An assessment of the extent that projects contained within the 'Recharging the West Midlands' investment case addressed structural needs within the region; in particular:

- Grand Central diagnostics hub
- Battery Gigafactory

The development of an economic funding tracker that mapped Government funding allocations against the 'asks' made within the regional investment case, scrutinised on a bi-monthly basis.

A focus on the Health of the Region and the Regional Health Impact of COVID-19

Establishing a task & finish review: Black Country Economic Recovery

Mayoral Q&A Sessions

Key Findings

Delivery and Impact of the WMCA's Policies

The committee had reached a number of conclusions arising out of the responses it had received from the Mayor and drew the following matters to the attention of the WMCA Board in November:

- Whilst recognising the value of the 'Recharge West Midlands' asks of the Government, did it adequately address the existing embedded and systemic inequalities in the region and the challenges currently being faced by residents across the West Midlands seeking to recover from the economic impacts of the pandemic?
- Did the WMCA have a clear plan to enable it to transition its policy objectives to meet the new and emerging challenges across the region, including the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and automation, especially within sectors and communities still impacted by previous transitions?
- Was there sufficient ambition with the devolution discussions with the Government to deliver to the WMCA the powers and resources necessary to meet the economic and social challenges of the region, and did the WMCA maximise its other sources of funding to address these challenges?
- Did the outputs of the WMCA meet its stated ambitions, and could better use be made of aligning the region's priorities in order to close the inequality gap that currently existed and, as a consequence, deliver lasting inclusive growth?
- Has the WMCA developed sufficient policies that would drive its inclusive growth ambitions and deliver lasting change?
- The development of new practices and reporting to strengthen and consolidate performance information.

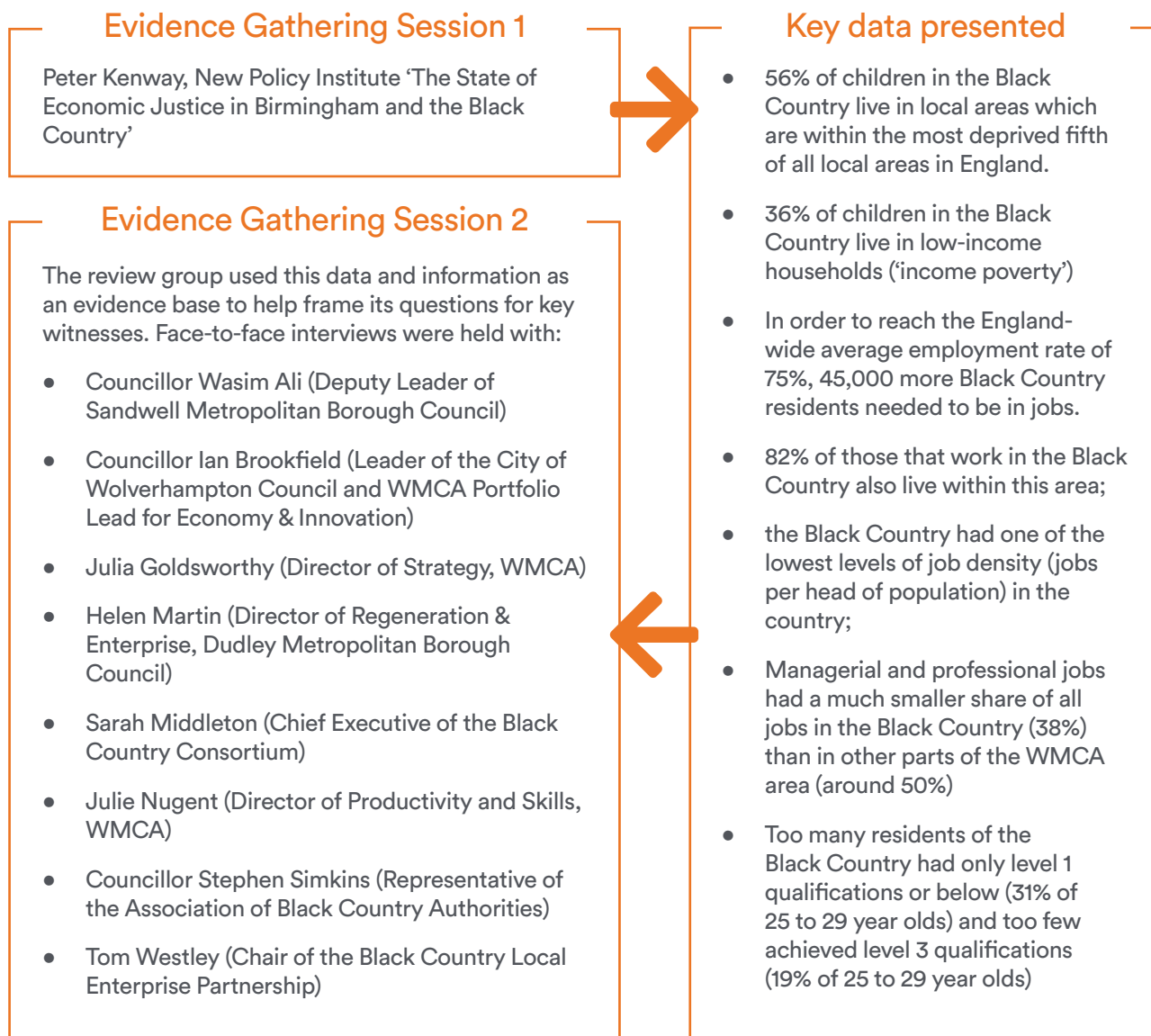
WMCA's Budget 2021/22

The following matters were drawn to the attention of the WMCA Board in January, during consideration of the WMCA's 2021/22 budget:

- The need to use reserves to achieve a balanced budget for 2021/22 was noted, but concern was expressed as to the risks associated with this and the limitations it had as a longer term approach to budget planning.
- The WMCA should continue to seek to achieve longer term financial stability that would better enable it to plan for and respond to the needs of the region.
- The Medium Term Financial Plan currently included a number of assumptions that could have a significant negative impact on the WMCA's financial base. It was important that difficult decisions were considered early on in the financial planning process to help to better mitigate potential consequences.
- All future financial planning and modelling should ensure that it reflected and addressed the priorities and needs of the region and its diverse communities.
- The WMCA should lobby for greater flexibility over the use of its direct funding, with which it had previously achieved better outcomes when it had been able to use it in an innovatively way.
- Concern over the possible longer term viability of the transport budget given the likely changes in travel patterns linked to evolving ways of working that could see a permanent reduction in the number of employees commuting into town and city centre locations.

Economic Needs of the Black Country Scrutiny Review

The committee undertook a scrutiny review to consider whether the regional economic recovery proposals were meeting the specific needs identified within the Black Country sub-region.



The Overview & Scrutiny Committee made a number of recommendations to the WMCA Board in March grouped around four key areas of activity:

- Coherence of the funding landscape
- Scaling-up immediate support for businesses and people whose jobs were at risk
- Working towards a long-term, whole-life approach
- Co-ordination, governance and accountability across the Black Country



Call-in

The committee has the power to call in decisions of the Mayor and the WMCA Board which have been made but not yet implemented. It exercised this power during the course of the year.

Call-in: Affordable Housing Collaborative Delivery Vehicle

The proposals for the establishment of a new Affordable Housing Delivery Vehicle had been developed following consideration of the matter by the Housing & Land Delivery Board.

The key purpose for this dedicated vehicle was to unlock challenging brownfield sites in the region which would demonstrably not come forward through other means and to deliver additional affordable housing supply.

The Portfolio Lead for Housing & Regeneration and Director for Housing & Regeneration attended Overview & Scrutiny Committee in November to answer questions put to them.

Reason for Call-In:

“The Housing & Land Delivery Board was not made aware of the extent of need and possibility of specifying a purpose to deliver on social housing requirements. Overview & Scrutiny Committee was concerned that members had not been given the information required to make an informed decision and that the report unduly fettered the opportunity to use such a vehicle to deliver on housing need in the region”

Impact/Outcome:

As a result of the Call-In, in January the Housing & Land Delivery Board reconsidered the Affordable Housing Delivery Vehicle report that had been amended to include more detail than that summarised previously and now included information on:

- the history and context of the proposal; and
- addressed the issues raised by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee insofar as:
 - it explained the position with ‘affordability’ with it being measured against the regional definition
 - assurance regarding the work on governance arrangements for the Delivery Vehicle; and
 - resources in terms of finance

Spotlight Sessions

An agile and lighter touch approach to scrutiny reviews

Recharge West Midlands - Investment Case to Government

In 2020/21, the committee held three spotlight sessions with a view to assess the extent that projects addressed structural needs within the region and to review the progress being made in respect of community recovery as a result of the pandemic.

Grand Central Diagnostics Hub

The committee questioned the Director of Implementation on the Grand Central Diagnostics Hub at Birmingham New Street station, focussing on:

- the accessibility of Grand Central station and whether this location successfully met the needs of those suffering from health inequalities.

A further request for information on the assessment being completed on those individuals from inner city communities accessing Grand Central station and those from Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic communities suffering from health inequalities was made.

Information on the suggested individual profile was also requested, as well as the return on investment and target numbers for the usage of the diagnostic hub.

Battery Gigafactory

A spotlight session was held with the Chief Executive of Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership and the Director of Business, Investment & Culture for Coventry City Council on the Gigafactory proposition. The committee sought further information on:

- the readiness of the WMCA in terms of re-skilling and re-training, particularly in respect of those individuals who may have lost their jobs during the pandemic.
- assurance on the WMCA's efforts to support the Gigafactory bid going forward.
- The beneficial impact for the wider West Midlands region.
- How the project would address issues such as deprivation, educational attainment and poor health across the region

The Health of the Region 2020 / Regional Health Impact of COVID19

In January, the Director of Inclusive Growth & Public Service Reform attended Overview & Scrutiny Committee to report on the health and wellbeing inequalities and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in the West Midlands. Questions focused on:

- The community recovery work
- The various workstreams being set up to address and improve outcomes for the minority communities
- Commitments and recommendations to Government
- Initiatives for 'invisible' illnesses and infants missing out on baby classes and socialisation
- Housing being a key contributing factor to health inequalities
- Consideration of those families that were in temporary housing

Pre-Decision Scrutiny

Looking at decisions before they are made provides an important opportunity to influence those decisions, and to improve them. It gives scrutineers an opportunity to challenge assumptions that may have been made as the decision was developed, and also gives them the chance to consider how decision-makers have considered what risks might arise from the implementation of the decision, and how those risks might be mitigated.

Comprehensive Spending Review – Draft Submission

Overview & Scrutiny Committee scrutinised the draft response to the Government's 2020 Comprehensive Spending Review consultation, focusing on:

- HS2 Interchange
- Further proposals to consider the #WM2041 environmental ambitions and the need to invest into transport infrastructure
- The need to clearly identify which proposals were being prioritised to reflect the needs of the region to make a difference

Overview & Scrutiny Committee's observations and comments helped to form the final draft of the consultation response that was considered by the WMCA Board in September.

Annual Delivery 2020/21 Mid-Year Update

Overview & Scrutiny Committee reviewed the Annual Delivery 2020/21 Mid-Year Update that provided an update on the progress against portfolio deliverables for 2020/21, prior to its submission to the WMCA Board in November.

Members requested that future updates included spend broken down across the seven constituent authorities which would help identify a clearer picture of the allocations across the region in terms of investment and resources.

Pre-decision scrutiny is the process that enables councillors to engage with the WMCA Board and Mayor before they take decisions.

1. It enables scrutiny councillors to gain information and develop an understanding on particular issues.
2. It contributes to scrutiny's role as a 'critical friend' to ask questions on upcoming Mayoral or board decisions.
3. It is a valuable opportunity for scrutiny to inform and influence decision making through debate and challenge.

WM2041 Five Year Plan: 2021 - 2026

Overview & Scrutiny Committee challenged the Director of Public Service Reform & Inclusive Growth and the Head of Environment on the development of a five-year plan to help meet the #WM2041 net zero carbon ambitions, focusing on:

- The Local Transport Plan
- Regional Air Quality Issues
- Concern that the plan was not ambitious enough and lacked direction in terms of clear and coherent interventions that would lead the region in a net zero carbon environment
- The importance of ensuring systematic inequalities that further disadvantaged certain sections of the population needed to be adequately addressed
- The importance of work on behaviour change.

Overview & Scrutiny Committee's observations and comments helped to form the preparation of the report prior to its submission to the WMCA Board in March.

Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Sub-Committee Members 2020/21

In 2019/20, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee had recommended the strengthening of the Authority's transport governance arrangements within the West Midlands Combined Authority and across the region. The acceptance of the recommendations had led to the establishment of the Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee.



Councillor Cathy Bayton

Dudley
Chair



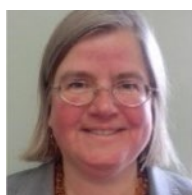
Councillor Philip Bateman MBE

Wolverhampton
Vice-Chair



Councillor Rois Ali

Coventry



Councillor Liz Clements

Birmingham



Councillor Ken Hawkins

Solihull



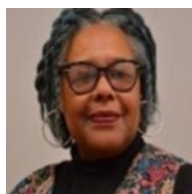
Councillor Matt Rogers

Dudley



Councillor Gurmeet Singh Sohal

Walsall



Councillor Jackie Taylor

Sandwell

Transport Scrutiny:

Pre-Development Scrutiny

Pre-development scrutiny examines the Mayor and/or WMCA Board's proposals, objectives and draft programmes in order to inform their development before they are further developed and enacted. In this way, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee can help the WMCA to achieve optimum impact by avoiding mistakes and grasping opportunities in its target-setting, policy-making and service delivery.

This approach to pre-development scrutiny is carried out some time before a decision is made – in some instances months ahead of a final decision.

Commonwealth Games Transport Plan

The Director Network Resilience and Technical Director for the Commonwealth Games attended Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee to seek their comments, thoughts and to answer questions in relation to the development of the Commonwealth Games Transport Plan prior to its submission to the WMCA Board in June for approval to consult. Discussions and questions focused on:

- The role of TfWM
- WMCA and TfWM commitments to the Games
- Games Transport Plan, Programme and Timeline of activity
- Legacy principles and priorities
- Transport Legacy
- Sustainability – Clean and Green Games
- Transport Security

The following recommendations and observations were fed into the subsequent approval process:

- The importance of capitalising on the whole-region offer of the Commonwealth Games, along with the need for strong working relationships with all delivery partners, specifically in respect of the tourism offer of the region and Transport for West Midlands' ability to help enable towns that were not hosting sporting events to be able to capitalise on the economic benefits hosting the Commonwealth Games provided.
- To better understand the transport-related benefits communities across the region would derive from the hosting of the Commonwealth Games, particularly how the legacy effects of the intention for the games to be environmentally sustainable could be used to support the region's carbon reduction strategies in subsequent years.
- The firm commitment that the Commonwealth Games would commence as planned in July 2022 was welcomed, but the need for a strong contingency plan for circumstances where this turned out not to be possible (eg. a continuation of COVID-19 restrictions) was necessary.

Transport Scrutiny:

Holding those responsible for transport to account

Councillor Ian Ward, Portfolio Lead for Transport

In 2020/21, the first ever Q&A session was held with Councillor Ian Ward, Portfolio Lead for Transport, on transport policy related matters. Members questioned him on:

- The three immediate priorities for transport
- Bus franchising
- Cycle hire scheme
- e-scooters
- Concessionary Fares Scheme

The following observations and recommendations were accepted by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Portfolio Lead Member for Transport and WMCA Board:

- The key priorities identified by the Portfolio Lead for Transport were endorsed, namely:
 - To ensure the bus network recovered to service and patronage levels across the region that existed pre-COVID-19.
 - To complete all current Metro capital schemes.

- To pursue further walking and cycling initiatives to help support and encourage the modal shift seen across the region this year.

- Given the current economic situation and the WMCA's financial challenges, existing concessionary travel policies should be maintained in recognition of the wider societal benefits they underpinned.
- The Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee should undertake a scrutiny review of alternative ticketing policies (including their funding arrangements) in use in comparable cities/regions around the world with a view to making appropriate recommendations for the Portfolio Lead for Transport's consideration.
- The WMCA and Transport for West Midlands should consider undertaking a programme of appropriate lobbying in support of the 'levelling up' of funding for public transport services and infrastructure across the UK, to better enable residents to have the ability and capability to play their part in the region's economic recovery.
- Transport for West Midlands should liaise with public transport operators/providers to ensure that all workers on the public transport network were provided with appropriate personal protective equipment.

The Young Combined Authority's Involvement in Transport Scrutiny – Kashmire Hawker

Transport scrutiny for me delivered a very insightful experience, which has not just expanded my mindset on how the WMCA's scrutiny responsibilities work, but enabled younger people's voices be heard loud and clear and to get a major understanding of the transport plans currently in place.

The art of good scrutiny is to ensure the right questions can be asked and people can be held accountable. With the scale and scope of the transport-related projects currently being undertaken across the West Midlands, I have developed a real sense of fascination and have a sense pride at playing a small part in region's renaissance!



Councillor Kath Hartley, Transport Delivery Committee, Chair

In February, Councillor Kath Hartley attended a Q&A session to answer questions on transport delivery matters across the region. Questions focussed on:

- Transport Delivery Committee's relationship with the Mayor and transport cabinet members
- How Transport Delivery Committee engaged with other WMCA policies, such as #WM2041 and the carbon reduction targets it contained.
- Work of the Lead Member Reference Groups
- The role of the committee in terms of the recent Gigafactory proposals that were announced for Coventry and how they would improve connectivity to this employment site and other parts of the region.

- The committee's performance management role

Recommendations focussed on:

- Refreshed terms of reference, including specifically setting out role and responsibilities
- The development of member role profiles
- Annual work planning process
- A review of the role and purpose of the committee's Lead Member Reference groups to improve transparency

The recommendations were considered and supported by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and WMCA Board in March.

Connect with Scrutiny:

Address: WMCA, 16 Summer Lane, Birmingham, B19 3SD

Email: lyndsey.roberts@wmca.org.uk

Twitter: @WMCA_Scrutiny

Web: <https://governance.wmca.org.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=138>





West Midlands
Combined Authority

Birmingham City Council

City Council

02 November 2021



Subject: Amendments to the Constitution
Report of: Suzanne Dodd, City Solicitor
Report author: Emma Williamson, Head of Scrutiny Services

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? ☐ Yes ☒ No

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Constitution is reviewed on an ongoing basis through the year, with the aim of improving processes, providing further clarity, updating with good practice, guidance and legislation etc. This report sets out proposed amendments to the Constitution and asks Council to approve the changes.

2 Motion

- 2.1 That Council agrees the proposed amendments set out in this report and the appendices, and that the City Solicitor be authorised to implement the changes with effect from 3rd November 2021.

3 Proposed Changes

- 3.1 In summary the changes are:
- **Member Code of Conduct** – following the adoption of a revised code in May 2021, there are some additional minor changes resulting from amendments made by the LGA in May 2021. There is also an additional clause in relation to disorder at meetings. See Appendix 1 for a tracked change version of the amendments.
 - **Financial Regulations – approval of applying for bids or grant funding:** in light of the often short timescales for bidding for new money, it is proposed to amend the financial regulations so that the relevant Cabinet Member can approve the bid, in consultation with City Solicitor and Director of Council Management. The decision as to whether accept the bid/grant (assuming successful) would then come back to Cabinet. See Appendix 2 for a tracked change version of the amendments.
 - **Part B7 under Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources** remove “Internal Trading Operations” on the grounds that the concept and practice of ‘wooden dollars’ is being phased out and is currently held to account within

normal budget management reporting and governance. Any trading by services that provide offers to schools, residents and businesses would be covered by the Commercialisation accountability. See Appendix 3 for a tracked change version of the amendments.

- Part C7.13 – quoracy amended to accurately reflect Part B18 as below;

7.13 Membership of Committee and Virtual Meetings

- i. Membership of the JNC Panel shall comprise the Leaders of the three main political parties (or their nominees), and two other members subject to the proportionality rules. The Chair of the Panel will be the Leader of the Council or his/her nominated deputy.
 - ii. The quorum for each meeting of the JNC Panel is ~~five~~three, including a member of main opposition party.
 - iii. There may be circumstances when a decision of the JNC Panel may be agreed by all five members of that Panel in consultation with the Chief Executive and Director of Human Resources and Monitoring Officer or their nominated deputies without an actual meeting of that Panel taking place. The exercise of such decision shall be noted on the record of decision including setting out the reasons for the urgent circumstances.
- Part C6 Employee Code of Conduct – the text will be removed from the Constitution and replaced with a link to the code on the website, so as to ensure there is only one version in circulation.

For Noting

- 3.2 Members should also note that Part E is being updated by the City Solicitor to reflect changes in council structure notably amendments in relation to the Director of Council Management, Managing Director of City Operations and Managing Director of City Housing posts.
- 3.3 Part B7 Cabinet portfolios was also amended in August to reflect changes announced by the Leader (see Appendix 3 for tracked changes).

C4. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS

4.1 Introduction

- i. It is important that councillors can be held accountable and all adopt the behaviours and responsibilities associated with the role. Your conduct as an individual councillor affects the reputation of all councillors. The role of councillor should be one that people aspire to and individuals from a range of backgrounds and circumstances should be putting themselves forward to become councillors.
- ii. This Code has been designed to protect your democratic role, encourage good conduct and safeguard the public's trust in local government.

4.2 Definitions

- i. For the purposes of this Code of Conduct, a "councillor" means a member or co-opted member of a local authority or a directly elected mayor. A "co-opted member" is defined in the Localism Act 2011 Section 27(4) as "a person who is not a member of the authority but who
 - a) is a member of any committee or sub-committee of the authority, or;
 - b) is a member of, and represents the authority on, any joint committee or joint sub-committee of the authority;
 and who is entitled to vote on any question that falls to be decided at any meeting of that committee or sub-committee".
- ii. For the purpose of this Code of Conduct, "local authority" includes district councils, parish councils and town councils.

4.3 Purpose of the Code of Conduct

- i. The purpose of the Code is to assist you, as a councillor, in modelling the behaviour that is expected of you to provide a personal check and balance, and to set out the type of conduct that could lead to action being taken against you. It is also to protect you, the public, fellow councillors, officers and the reputation of the council.
- ii. The fundamental aim of the Code is to create and maintain public confidence in the role of councillor and local government.

4.4 General principles of councillor conduct

- i. Everyone in public office at all levels, all who serve the public or deliver public services, including ministers, civil servants, councillors and local authority officers, should uphold

the Seven Principles of Public Life, also known as the Nolan Principles (see section 4.6 below).

- ii. Building on these principles, the following general principles have been developed specifically for the role of councillor.
- iii. In accordance with the public trust placed in me, on all occasions:
 - I act with integrity and honesty;
 - I act lawfully;
 - I treat all persons fairly and with respect; and
 - I lead by example and act in a way that secures public confidence in the role of councillor.
- iv. In undertaking my role:
 - I impartially exercise my responsibilities in the interests of the local community;
 - I do not improperly seek to confer an advantage, or disadvantage, on any person;
 - I avoid conflicts of interest;
 - I exercise reasonable care and diligence;
 - I ensure that public resources are used prudently in accordance with my local authority's requirements and in the public interest;
 - I affirm my commitment to and encouragement of others to promote Corporate Parenting (including their safeguarding and welfare) in respect of the City Council's children in care;
 - I will take into account and abide by all other relevant council policies and procedures.

4.5 Application of the Code of Conduct

- i. This Code of Conduct applies to you as soon as you sign your declaration of acceptance of the office of councillor or attend your first meeting as a co-opted member and continues to apply to you until you cease to be a councillor or co-opted member.
- ii. This Code of Conduct applies to you when you are acting in your capacity as a councillor which may include when:
 - you are acting in your capacity as a councillor and /or as a representative of your council;
 - you are claiming to act as a councillor and/or as a representative of your council;

- you are giving the impression, or the circumstances may give rise to the perception, that you are acting as a councillor and/or as a representative of your council;
 - you refer publicly to your role as a councillor and/or as a representative of your council.
- iii. This Code applies to all forms of communication and interaction, including:
- at face to face meetings;
 - at online or telephone meetings;
 - in written communication;
 - in verbal communication;
 - in non-verbal communication; and
 - in electronic and social media communication, posts, statements and comments.
- iv. You are also expected to uphold high standards of conduct and show leadership at all times when acting as a councillor.
- v. The Monitoring Officer has statutory responsibility for the implementation of the Code of Conduct, and you are encouraged to seek advice from your Monitoring Officer on any matters that may relate to the Code of Conduct. Town and parish councillors are encouraged to seek advice from their Clerk, who may refer matters to the Monitoring Officer.

4.6 The Nolan Principles

Everyone in public office at all levels, all who serve the public or deliver public services, including ministers, civil servants, councillors and local authority officers, should uphold the Seven Principles of Public Life, also known as the Nolan Principles. These are:

Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

Integrity

Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

Objectivity

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

Openness

Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

Honesty

Holders of public office should be truthful.

Leadership

Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

4.7 Standards of Conduct

This section sets out your obligations, which are the minimum standards of conduct required of you as a councillor. Should your conduct fall short of these standards, a complaint may be made against you, which may result in action being taken. Guidance is included to help explain the reasons for the obligations and how they should be followed. Guidance is shown in italics.

i. Respect

As a councillor:

1.1 I treat other councillors and members of the public with respect.

1.2 I treat local authority employees, employees and representatives of partner organisations and those volunteering for the local authority with respect and respect the role they play.

Respect means politeness and courtesy in behaviour, speech, and in the written word. Debate and having different views are all part of a healthy democracy. As a councillor, you can express, challenge, criticise and disagree with views, ideas, opinions and policies in a robust but civil manner. You should not, however, subject individuals, groups of people or organisations to personal attack. As part of this you should not swear or use inappropriate language during any meetings. In your contact with the public, you should treat them politely and courteously. Rude and offensive

behaviour lowers the public's expectations and confidence in councillors.

In return, you have a right to expect respectful behaviour from the public. If members of the public are being abusive, intimidatory or threatening you are entitled to stop any conversation or interaction in person or online and report them to the local authority, the relevant social media provider or the police. This also applies to fellow councillors, where action could then be taken under the Councillor Code of Conduct, and local authority employees, where concerns should be raised in line with the local authority's councillor-officer protocol.

ii. Bullying, harassment, discrimination and victimisation

As a councillor:

2.1 I do not bully any person.

2.2 I do not harass any person.

2.3 I promote equalities and not discriminate unlawfully against any person.

2.4 I do not victimise any person.

The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) characterises bullying as “offensive, intimidating, malicious or insulting behaviour, an abuse or misuse of power through means that undermine, humiliate, denigrate or injure the recipient”. Bullying might be a regular pattern of behaviour or a one-off incident, happen face-to-face, on social media, in emails or during phone calls, in the workplace or at work-related social events. Such behaviour may not always be obvious or noticed by others.

The Protection from Harassment Act 1997 defines harassment as conduct that causes alarm or distress or puts people in fear of violence and must involve such conduct on at least two occasions. It can include repeated attempts to impose unwanted communications and contact upon a person in a manner that could be expected to cause distress or fear in any reasonable person.

Unlawful discrimination is where someone is treated unfairly because of a protected characteristic. Protected characteristics are specific aspects of a person's identity defined by the Equality Act 2010. They are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

The Equality Act 2010 places specific duties on local authorities. Councillors have a central role to play in ensuring that equality issues are integral to the local authority's performance and strategic aims, and that there is a strong vision and public commitment to equality across public services.

iii. Impartiality of officers of the council

As a councillor

3.1 I do not compromise, or attempt to compromise, the impartiality of anyone who works for, or on behalf of, the local authority.

Officers work for the local authority as a whole and must be politically neutral (unless they are political assistants)⁴. They should not be coerced or persuaded to act in a way that would undermine their neutrality. You can question officers in order to understand, for example, their reasons for proposing to act in a particular way, or the content of a report that they have written. However, you must not try and force them to act differently, change their advice, or alter the content of that report, if doing so would prejudice their professional integrity.

iv. Confidentiality and access to information

As a councillor:

4.1 I do not disclose information:

- a. given to me in confidence by anyone;**
- b. acquired by me which I believe, or ought reasonably to be aware, is of a confidential nature, unless:**
 - i) I have received the consent of a person authorised to give it;**
 - ii) I am required by law to do so;**
 - iii) the disclosure is made to a third party for the purpose of obtaining professional legal advice provided that the third party agrees not to disclose the information to any other person; or**
 - iv) the disclosure is:**
 - 1) reasonable and in the public interest; and**
 - 2) made in good faith and in compliance with the reasonable requirements of the local authority; and**
 - 3) I have consulted the Monitoring Officer prior to its release.**

4.2 I do not improperly use knowledge gained solely as a result of my role as a councillor for the advancement of myself, my friends, my family members, my employer or my business interests.

4.3 I do not prevent anyone from getting information that they are entitled to by law.

Local authorities must work openly and transparently, and their proceedings and printed materials are open to the public, except in certain legally defined circumstances. You should work on this basis, but there will be times when it is required by law that discussions, documents and other information relating to or held by the local authority must be treated in a confidential manner. Examples include personal data relating to individuals or information relating to ongoing negotiations.

v. Disrepute

⁴ Officers of the Council must abide by the Employee Code of Conduct- set out in part C of the constitution

As a councillor:

5.1 I do not bring my role or local authority into disrepute.

As a councillor, you are trusted to make decisions on behalf of your community and your actions and behaviour are subject to greater scrutiny than that of ordinary members of the public. You should be aware that your actions might have an adverse impact on you, other councillors and/or your local authority and may lower the public's confidence in your or your local authority's ability to discharge your or its functions. For example, behaviour that is considered dishonest and/or deceitful can bring your local authority into disrepute.

You are able to hold the local authority and fellow councillors to account and are able to challenge constructively and express concern about decisions and processes undertaken by the council whilst continuing to adhere to other aspects of this Code of Conduct.

vi. Use of position

As a councillor:

6.1 I do not use, or attempt to use, my position improperly to the advantage or disadvantage of myself or anyone else.

Your position as a member of the local authority provides you with certain opportunities, responsibilities and privileges, and you make choices all the time that will impact others. However, you should not take advantage of these opportunities to further your own or others' private interests or to disadvantage anyone unfairly.

vii. Use of local authority resources and facilities

As a councillor:

7.1 I do not misuse council resources;

7.2 I will, when using the resources of the local authority or authorising their use by others:

a. act in accordance with the local authority's requirements; and

b. ensure that such resources are not used for political purposes unless that use could reasonably be regarded as likely to facilitate, or be conducive to, the discharge of the functions of the local authority or of the office to which I have been elected or appointed.

You may be provided with resources and facilities by the local authority to assist you in carrying out your duties as a councillor.

Examples include:

- office support
- stationery

- *equipment such as phones and computers*

- *transport*
- *access and use of local authority buildings and rooms.*

These are given to you to help you carry out your role as a councillor more effectively and are not to be used for business or personal gain. They should be used in accordance with the purpose for which they have been provided and the local authority's own policies regarding their use.

viii. Complying with the Code of Conduct

As a councillor:

8.1 I undertake Code of Conduct training provided by the local authority;

8.2 I cooperate with any Code of Conduct investigation and/or determination;

8.3 I do not intimidate or attempt to intimidate any person who is likely to be involved with the administration of any investigation or proceedings;

8.4 I comply with any sanction imposed on me following a finding that I have breached the Code of Conduct.

It is extremely important for you as a councillor to demonstrate high standards, for you to have your actions open to scrutiny and for you not to undermine public trust in the local authority or its governance. If you do not understand or are concerned about the local authority's processes in handling a complaint you should raise this with your Monitoring Officer.

Protecting your reputation and the reputation of the local authority

ix. Interests

As a councillor:

9.1 I register and disclose my interests.

Section 29 of the Localism Act 2011 requires the Monitoring Officer to establish and maintain a register of interests of members of the authority.

You need to register your interests so that the public, local authority employees and fellow councillors know which of your interests might give rise to a conflict of interest. The register is a public document that can be consulted when (or before) an issue arises. The register also protects you by allowing you to demonstrate openness and a willingness to be held accountable. You are personally responsible for deciding whether or not you should disclose an interest in a meeting, but it can be helpful for you to know early on if others think that a potential conflict might arise. It is also important that the public know about any interest that might have to be disclosed by you or other councillors when making or taking part in decisions, so that decision making is seen by the public as

open and honest. This helps to ensure that public confidence in the integrity of local governance is maintained.

You should note that failure to register or disclose a disclosable pecuniary interest as set out in Table 1, is a criminal offence under the Localism Act 2011.

Appendix B sets out the detailed provisions on registering and disclosing interests. If in doubt, you should always seek advice from your Monitoring Officer.

x. Gifts and hospitality

As a councillor:

10.1 I do not accept gifts or hospitality, irrespective of estimated value, which could give rise to real or substantive personal gain or a reasonable suspicion of influence on my part to show favour from persons seeking to acquire, develop or do business with the local authority or from persons who may apply to the local authority for any permission, licence or other significant advantage;

10.2 I register with the Monitoring Officer any gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £50 within 28 days of its receipt;

In order to protect your position and the reputation of the local authority, you should exercise caution in accepting any gifts or hospitality which are (or which you reasonably believe to be) offered to you because you are a councillor. The presumption should always be not to accept significant gifts or hospitality. However, there may be times when such a refusal may be difficult if it is seen as rudeness in which case you could accept it but must ensure it is publicly registered. However, you do not need to register gifts and hospitality which are not related to your role as a councillor, such as Christmas gifts from your friends and family. It is also important to note that it is appropriate to accept normal expenses and hospitality associated with your duties as a councillor. If you are unsure, do contact your Monitoring Officer for guidance.

4.8 Conduct at Meetings of the Council

Councillors are expected to treat each other with respect and abide by the Code of Conduct when attending meetings of the council.

The Chair may, as she/he sees fit, direct a Councillor to discontinue his/her speech.

If there is more general disorder, the Chair may direct a Councillor causing such disorder to retire from the meeting.

APPENDIX TO CODE

Registering interests

Within 28 days of becoming a member or your re-election or re-appointment to office you must register with the Monitoring Officer the interests which fall within the categories set out in Table 1 (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) which are as described in “The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012”. You should also register details of your other personal interests which fall within the categories set out in Table 2 (Other Registerable Interests).

“Disclosable pecuniary interest” means an interest of yourself, or of your partner if you are aware of your partner's interest, within the descriptions set out in Table 1 below.

"Partner" means a spouse or civil partner, or a person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or a person with whom you are living as if you are civil partners.

1. You must ensure that your register of interests is kept up-to-date and within 28 days of becoming aware of any new interest, or of any change to a registered interest, notify the Monitoring Officer.
2. A 'sensitive interest' is as an interest which, if disclosed, could lead to the councillor, or a person connected with the councillor, being subject to violence or intimidation.
3. Where you have a 'sensitive interest' you must notify the Monitoring Officer with the reasons why you believe it is a sensitive interest. If the Monitoring Officer agrees they will withhold the interest from the public register.

Non-participation in case of disclosable pecuniary interest

4. Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to one of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in **Table 1**, you must disclose the interest, not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that you have an interest. Dispensation may be granted in limited circumstances, to enable you to participate and vote on a matter in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest.
5. Where you have a disclosable pecuniary interest on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it.

Disclosure of Other Registerable Interests

6. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to the financial interest or well-being of one of your Other Registerable Interests (as set out in Table 2), you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also 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 you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Disclosure of Non-Registerable Interests

7. Where a matter arises at a meeting which ***directly relates*** to your financial interest or well-being (and is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest set out in Table 1) or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate, you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also 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 you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.
8. Where a matter arises at a meeting which ***affects*** –
- a) your own financial interest or well-being;
 - b) a financial interest or well-being of a friend, relative, close associate; or
 - c) a financial interest or well-being of a body included under Other Registerable Interests as set out in Table 2
- you must disclose the interest. In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied
9. Where a matter (referred to in paragraph 8 above) ***affects*** financial interest or well-being:
- a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision; and
 - b) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest.
- You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also 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 you have been granted a dispensation.
- If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Where you have an Other Registerable Interest or Non-Registerable Interest on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet Member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it.

Table 1: Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

This table sets out the explanation of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012.

| Subject | Description |
|---|---|
| Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation | Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain. |
| Sponsorship | <p>Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses.</p> <p>This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.</p> |
| Contracts | <p>Any contract made between the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a firm in which such person is a partner, or an incorporated body of which such person is a director* or a body that such person has a beneficial interest in the securities of*) and the council —</p> <p>(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and</p> <p>(b) which has not been fully discharged.</p> |
| Land and Property | <p>Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the council.</p> <p>‘Land’ excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners (alone or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income.</p> |
| Licenses | Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer. |

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Corporate tenancies | Any tenancy where (to the councillor's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the council; and (b) the tenant is a body that the councillor, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners is |
|---------------------|--|

| Subject | Description |
|------------|--|
| | a partner of or a director* of or has a beneficial interest in the securities* of. |
| Securities | <p>Any beneficial interest in securities* of a body where—</p> <p>(a) that body (to the councillor's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the council; and</p> <p>(b) either—</p> <p>(i) the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or</p> <p>(ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the councillor, or his/ her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.</p> |

'director' includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.

* 'securities' means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

Table 2: Other Registerable Interests

You must register as an Other Registerable Interest:

- a) Any unpaid directorships
 - b) any body of which you are in general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority;
 - c) any body
 - (i) exercising functions of a public nature
 - (ii) directed to charitable purposes or
 - (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union).
- of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management.

Appendix A: Financial Approval Framework

| CFO – Chief Finance Officer | | Within Director Delegations (note 1) | Above Director Delegation & below Key Decision | Key Decision |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| | | Below £200,000 | £200,000 – up to £500,000 | £500,000 (revenue) |
| 1. | Revenue Budget and Resources Approvals | | | |
| | | | | |
| 1.5a | Approval to bid for external revenue resources (including any associated Accountable Body Roles) to be included in an Outline Business Case Report. | Relevant Director with CFO | Either relevant Cabinet Member with CFO, or Regulatory Committee | Either relevant Cabinet Member with CFO, or Regulatory Committee |
| 1.5b | Approval to accept external revenue resources (including any associated Accountable Body Roles) | Relevant Director with CFO | Either relevant Cabinet Member with CFO, or Regulatory Committee | Cabinet |
| 1.6 | Approval to incur expenditure funded by accepting external revenue resources (including any associated Accountable Body roles) including where 1.5 is not applicable (e.g. where no bid submission was required). (Specific Government Grants and similar funding are excluded from this and are covered by 1.8) <i>In consultation with the ward members (where applicable)</i> | Relevant Director with CFO | Either relevant Cabinet Member with CFO, or Regulatory Committee | Cabinet |
| | | | | |
| 2. | Capital Budget and Resources Approvals | | | |
| 2.7a | Approval to bid for external capital resources (including any associated Accountable Body roles) – this should be sought as part of an Outline Business Case Report. | Relevant Director jointly with the CFO | Either relevant Cabinet Member with relevant Director and CFO, or Regulatory Committee | Either relevant Cabinet Member with relevant Director and CFO, or Regulatory Committee |
| 2.7b | Approval to accept external capital resources (including any associated Accountable Body roles) – this should be sought as part of an Outline Business Case Report. | Relevant Director jointly with the CFO | Either relevant Cabinet Member with relevant Director and CFO, or Regulatory Committee | Cabinet |

CFO – Chief Finance Officer

| | | Within Director Delegations (note 1) | Above Director Delegation & below Key Decision | Key Decision |
|-----|---|---|--|---------------------------|
| | | Below £200,000 | £200,000 – up to £500,000 | £500,000 (revenue) |
| 2.8 | Approval to incur expenditure funded by accepting external capital resources (including any associated Accountable Body roles) where 2.7 is not applicable (e.g. where no bid submission was required). | Relevant Director jointly with the CFO | Either relevant Cabinet Member with relevant Director and CFO, or Regulatory Committee | Cabinet |

B7. CABINET PORTFOLIOS

7.1 Leader's Portfolio

The Leader has ultimate political responsibility for the Council, and accountability for the following strategic functions:

| Area | Further detail |
|--|---|
| Strategic policies | Development and implementation of the Council Business Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy/Budget |
| Structure and Governance of the Council | Overall organisational design of the Council, including the Council's corporate governance arrangements. |
| Lord Mayor's office | Appropriate support to the Lord Mayor and other holders of civic office. |
| Communications | Internal and external stakeholder engagement and formal consultation on Council performance and use of resources. |
| Financial strategy | In conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources, the Council's strategic approach to the use of financial resources and budget, including alignment between other local authority bodies (e.g. Combined Authority), partners (e.g. Health, LEP etc), the BCC General Fund, Housing Revenue Account, capital spending and the use of reserves. |
| Council Wide Efficiency and Improvement | Jointly, with the Deputy Leader, to take a strategic lead in relation to efficiency and improvement across all Council services and to foster lean governance in all areas of Council work. |
| Policy and Partnerships | Promotion of collaborative working relationships with stakeholders and partners as part of the city's 'Civic Family', whilst positioning Birmingham as a leader in public policy development at city, regional, national, European and international levels. Representing the Council's policy agenda as appropriate through proactive engagement with Government, national policy networks and relations with the media. |
| West Midlands Combined Authority | Appropriate arrangements for the Council's response and review to changes in the Constitution, consultation and devolution deals. Representing the City Council on the West Midlands Combined Authority Board. |
| Major projects | Responsibility for major physical regeneration and infrastructure projects in the city and engagement with key economic growth partners, partnerships and investors. |
| Promotion of the city and Inward Investment | Promotion of Birmingham regionally, nationally and internationally. This includes work with partners such as the West Midlands Growth Company, the universities and cultural organisations of citywide, regional or national significance. Marketing strategies to encourage investment in Birmingham. |
| Commonwealth Games, Sports and Events Development | Development, delivery and promotion of sports, events and festivals. Delivery of Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022 and its legacy. |
| Council land use and property assets including appropriation | Oversight of the Council's land use and property strategy and asset management plan including framework for reuse, disposal and requisition of land and property in the Council's priorities – including assets of heritage and community value. Including oversight of Council owned land and property facilities, amenities and services including markets. |

| Area | Further detail |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Economic growth and jobs | Strategic approach to economic growth and regeneration programmes and strategic planning policy. Representing the City Council on the Local Enterprise Partnership Board. |
| Business Improvement Districts | Partnerships with the Business Improvement Districts, including city centre management opportunities. |
| Land Use Planning | Local Development Plan, Neighbourhood Plans, Development Briefs and Supplementary Guidance; including advice to Planning Committee. |
| Housing Development | To review the supply of housing and tenure based on an analysis of housing need. |
| Enforcement | To ensure enforcement policies and implementation are in place. |

7.2 Deputy Leader's Portfolio

The Deputy Leader will act as Council Leader where the Leader is not available and has accountability for the review and improvement of all council services, management of all corporate resources of the Council, and oversight of the management of services and delivery of outcomes on:

| Area | Further detail |
|--|--|
| Business Change | All major business change programmes. |
| Efficiency and improvement for the Council – including governance and performance of third-parties | Jointly, with the Leader, to take a strategic lead in relation to efficiency and improvement across all Council services and to foster lean governance in all areas of Council work. Oversight of good governance in relation to Council representation on outside bodies; Trading Services; Council-owned companies; and strong 'client' governance for externalised services (when Executive decisions needed). |
| Risk Management | Strategic risk management, internal audit and holding senior officers to account on the management of risks. |
| Revenues and Benefits Service | To ensure effective management of the Revenues and Benefits service. |
| Customer Services | To take a strategic lead in the provision of the City Council's customer services functions. |
| External Scrutiny and Local Government Ombudsman | To take appropriate action in response to external scrutiny of the Council through inspectorate, peer or Government improvement and / or local government ombudsman reports. |
| Open data and Information systems | To provide strategic leadership and advising all Cabinet Members of initiatives that need to be taken in relation to the development of world class technological capability and connectivity in Birmingham. |
| Whistleblowing and Corporate Complaints Procedure | To take a corporate lead in relation to Whistleblowing and complaints. |
| Emergency Planning | Arrangements for the Council's response to emergencies including chairing the Contest Board. |
| Impact and implications of Brexit | Assessment of the implications of Brexit for Birmingham and co-ordination of requisite strategies by way of response. |
| To take a lead on information law and data protection matters | Overall leadership and organisation of information law and data protection matters for the Council. |

| Area | Further detail |
|--|--|
| To challenge any lack of transparency in all work carried out by the Council | To ensure transparency in all areas of Council work. |
| ICT | Oversight of the Council's ICT strategy, Information Governance and General Data Protection Regulations (G.D.P.R.) |
| Legal | Oversight of the Council's legal services function including political engagement with the Council's Monitoring Officer. |

7.3 **Cabinet Member for Vulnerable Children and Families**

The Cabinet Member has accountability for:

Commented [EW1]: Amendment for noting – change made by the Leader in August 2021

Deleted: Children's Wellbeing

| Area | Further detail |
|---|---|
| Lead Member for Children's Services (LMCS) | Political accountability for all the local authority children's services, including education and social care. This post is required by law to hold direct local accountability for the effectiveness, availability and value for money of the local authority's children's services (particularly education and children's social care.) This role will therefore require close joint working and formal reporting with the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Culture to ensure appropriate accountability for statutory education functions contained within the LMCS role – including fair access to schooling for all children, high quality early years provision and children's involvement in public decision making. |
| Safeguarding Children and Young People | With statutory partners, the safety and wellbeing of all children. |
| Children's Services | Leadership, strategy and effectiveness of children's services – responding to the needs of all children and young people, especially the most disadvantaged and vulnerable, and their families and carers. |
| Overseeing the Children's Trust | Oversight of the 'client side' role of the Children's Trust to ensure the delivery of agreed outcomes, KPIs and finances within the legal and contractual framework agreed |
| Overseeing Early Years | Ensuring a sufficiency of places and a citywide Early Years Health and Wellbeing offer. |
| Corporate Parenting | Political leadership on improving the lives of looked after children. Ensuring all Council members, officers and services understand and actively promote the Council's responsibilities to looked after children. |
| Lead Member for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and Inclusion | Lead Member for the SEND agenda across children's agencies and holding officers and partners to account for the delivery of the Birmingham SEND strategy. |
| <u>Housing Options</u> | <u>Assessing housing need, options for vulnerable adults, children and young people and offenders.</u> <u>Temporary accommodation provision.</u> <u>A coherent strategy to address homelessness, including short-term engagement, education and enforcement with rough sleeping.</u> |

Commented [EW2]: Amendment for noting – change made by the Leader in August 2021

7.4 Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Culture

The Cabinet Member has accountability for:

| Area | Further detail |
|---|---|
| Education of Children and Young People | Political leadership on strategic and statutory duties, including school improvement, school places and travel to and from school. Oversight of Dedicated Schools Grant. |
| Arts and Culture and Tourism | Sustaining and promoting art, culture and tourism, including management of grants and associated economic opportunities. |
| The Library of Birmingham and Community Libraries | Oversight of the regional and city-wide role of the Library of Birmingham and the community library service; including the vital part libraries play in communities, learning and skills. |
| Museums | Oversight of the provision and activity of the Birmingham Museums Trust. |
| Skills, expansion for key growth sectors enterprise and innovation | Developing the skills and employability of Birmingham's workforce, thereby enabling each citizen to realise their potential. Engaging with the skills agenda throughout the Council and Birmingham in liaison with local, regional and national partners. |
| Youth Engagement and Youth Service, along with Lifelong Learning (post 14 skills and adult education) | Clear progression and vocational pathways from education into further and higher education and employment. Provision of all-age guidance, skills development, training and work experience to meet the economic needs of the city now and in the future. |
| Skills and Entrepreneurship in Schools | Development of 14-19 career pathways, enterprise and entrepreneurship in Birmingham schools. |
| Employment Opportunities | Enabling all residents to access employment through the development and delivery of local employment plans. |

7.5 Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources

The Cabinet Member has accountability for:

| Area | Further detail |
|-----------------|--|
| Finances | Overall financial direction within the Financial Strategy developed by the Leader, including Best Value and appropriate financial, accounting and audit controls and procedures. |
| Human Resources | An effective organisational development function for shaping the future workforce of the Council. Development of effective change/transformational programmes deployed corporately. Member development programmes. Processes and procedures to support good staff performance development and equality objectives. Staffing structures at JNC level and personnel procedures that comply with good practice and natural justice (in consultation with the Leader). [The Council Business Management Committee deals with issues around the employment of staff and their terms and conditions of employment]. |

| Area | Further detail |
|---|--|
| Birmingham Business Charter for Social Responsibility | Application of the Birmingham Business Charter for Social Responsibility that requires contractors to offer, inter alia, local employment and training opportunities, and to adopt the Birmingham Living Wage policy. |
| Commercialisation | To take the strategic lead in the consideration of all commercial opportunities available to the Council |
| Procurement | Oversight of procurement management. |
| Contract Management | Strategic approach to and compliance with contract management policy to ensure best value. |
| Oversight of Consultants | Oversight of the use of consultants with particular focus on their duration, renewal and cost |
| Commissioning | Strategic approach to, and compliance with, the commissioning approach. Ensuring that council commissioning supports its wider social objectives such as employment provision, training, encouraging social enterprise and delivering social cohesion, internally and externally in line with the Council's objectives |

Deleted: Effectiveness and holding to account the management of all internal trading operations in conjunction with Deputy Leader

7.6 Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

The Cabinet Member has accountability for:

| Area | Further detail |
|------------------------------|--|
| Adult Social Care and Health | Development of the Health and Wellbeing Board and relationships with the NHS and private providers. Strategic leadership of social care services and safeguarding for adults. Development of an integrated health and social care economy in Birmingham and neighbouring local authorities around the relevant Sustainability and Transformation Plan. |
| Public Health | Leadership on public health services, working with the Health and Wellbeing Board to reduce health inequalities. |
| Healthy Communities | Championing healthy living through sport and leisure services and influencing resident choices through proactive behaviour change initiatives. |

7.7 Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods

The Cabinet Member has accountability for:

| Area | Further detail |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Council housing management services | Oversight and direction of estate management services and best use of housing stock (across all housing providers). Repairs and maintenance programmes. |
| Registered Social Landlords | Liaison with the Birmingham Social Housing Partnership on neighbourhood management initiatives and the housing growth agenda. |

| Area | Further detail |
|---|--|
| Private Rented Sector | Licensing and regulation. Private Tenancy Unit activities. Bond and deposit scheme initiatives. |
| Housing Options | Assessing housing need, options for vulnerable adults, children and young people and offenders. Temporary accommodation provision. A coherent strategy to address homelessness, including short term engagement, education and enforcement with rough sleeping. |
| Tenant engagement in social housing | Tenant engagement in the management and development of social housing and Housing Liaison Boards. |
| Neighbourhood Management | Development of the Council's neighbourhood engagement model and work with wider Council and partners to ensure integration at the local level. |
| Bereavement Services and Register Office | Strategic leadership for the development of Cemeteries, Crematoria and Mortuary and Coroners Court Services; and Register Office services. |

Commented [EW3]: Amendment for noting – change made by the Leader in August 2021

Commented [EW4]: Amendment for noting – change made by the Leader in August 2021

7.8 Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, Community Safety and Equalities

The Cabinet Member has accountability for the following:

| Area | Further detail |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Safer Communities | Strategic citywide leadership to community safety in Birmingham, including anti-social behaviour, fear of crime and public spaces and ensuring effective support for victims of crime. Effective relationships and clear shared priorities with the Police and Crime Commissioner and West Midlands Police. Leadership on youth offending issues. CCTV and liaison with Police. Strategic leadership in relation to Prevent. |
| Social Cohesion and Inclusion | Approaches to ensure that all Birmingham citizens have opportunity across the social and economic life of the city, within a safe city - including in education, employment, housing, health and social care, civil society and political participation – whether these are delivered by the City Council itself, partner agencies, or by private or third sector organisations. Holding to account other relevant Cabinet Members and officers for the delivery of those functions that impact on social cohesion and inclusion. |
| Tackling Inequality | Strategic approaches to reduce inequalities including around health, education and employment outcomes; 'access to services'; and participation in civic life. Neighbourhood advice and information services. Holding to account other relevant Cabinet Members and officers for the delivery of those functions that impact on inequalities and inclusion. |
| Equalities within the Community | Development and promotion of shared values and mutual respect across the diverse communities of Birmingham. Ensuring that community and cultural events promote social cohesion and inclusion |

| Area | Further detail |
|---|---|
| External Challenge | Ensuring that partner agencies, private or third sector organisations are challenged on their contribution to improving social cohesion and inequalities. |
| Third Sector Partnership and Engagement | Working with, and coordination of, third sector and partner agencies around equalities, cohesion and inclusivity. |
| Domestic Violence | All Council activity relating to domestic violence, its impact on families and children and implementing a city-wide domestic violence strategy with partners including advice to the Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods on the provision of accommodation and taking advice from the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care on the health implications of domestic violence. |
| <u>Bereavement Services and Register Office</u> | <u>Strategic leadership for the development of Cemeteries, Crematoria and Mortuary and Coroners Court Services; and Register Office services.</u> |

Formatted Table

Commented [EW5]: Amendment for noting – change made by the Leader in August 2021

7.9 Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Parks

The Cabinet Member has accountability for:

| Area | Further detail |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Waste Strategy and Services | Development of a financially and environmentally sustainable waste strategy for the city and ensuring delivery. Collection and sustainable disposal of waste from residential and other properties within the city and street cleansing. |
| Pest Control | Provision of the Pest Control Service. |
| Cleaner Neighbourhoods | Street cleansing, litter prevention, fly tipping, graffiti, placarding, scrap yards and motor salvage operators. |
| Recycling | Development of a robust re-use and recycle strategy for the city and ensuring delivery. |
| Parks and Allotments | Provision and usage of facilities including grounds maintenance. |

7.10 Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment

The Cabinet Member has accountability for:

| Area | Further detail |
|---|--|
| Transport Strategies | Sustainable transportation policy and strategy, programmes, projects and initiatives to improve connectivity and road safety for the city across all modes of travel. |
| Highways | Strategic highways matters. Maintenance of roads and streets, traffic management and car parks and enforcing rights of way. |
| Advice to Planning Committee (Highways) | Providing advice, where appropriate, including the effect of proposed developments in relation to roads and transport and working in cooperation with the West Midlands Combined Authority and Mayor in relation to the key route network. |

| Area | Further detail |
|----------------|--|
| Air Quality | Leading the development and delivery of an Air Quality Strategy for Birmingham, to comply with national and pan-national regulations together with key partners. |
| Green City | Working with partners to develop a strategy for sustainability, liveability and environmental improvement for the city. |
| Climate Change | Engaging in proactive citywide and national policy development to tackle the causes and consequences of climate change. |

Birmingham City Council

City Council

2nd November 2021



Subject: Suicide Prevention Update

Report of: Councillor Paulette Hamilton
Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care

Report author: Dr Justin Varney, Director of Public Health

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential :

1 Motion

- 1.1 That Council notes the progress being made as set out in this report, and asks Members of the Council to undertake the ZSA Suicide Awareness E-Learning. This training can be accessed via [learning pool](#) and is available for all (search 'zero suicide alliance'). This will equip Members with information and training in respect of Suicide Prevention so that they can better support themselves, their constituents, and their colleagues.

2 Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Suicide Prevention Action Plan now mirrors the Scrutiny method of tracking the implementation of recommendations, and this allows us to effectively demonstrate evidence of progress against each of the actions. The Action Plan is set out in the Appendix.
- 2.2 Despite the ongoing pandemic, good progress is being made against actions with most being either, In Progress or Achieved.
- 2.3 We are now working on moving the two Year 2 Actions forward with plans underway to ensure progress is achieved and bids received as part of the Better Mental Health Fund will help toward this.

2.4 Local Data:

- 2.4.1 The Ministry of Justice recently published its [Annual Report](#) for 2020. For Birmingham and Solihull this confirms that there were 79 conclusions of

suicide recorded in 2020 with 65 being male and 14 being female. This accounts for 11% of our inquest conclusions which is a slight reduction from the previous year.

2.5 National Data:

- 2.5.1 In 2020, there were 5,224 suicides registered in England and Wales, equivalent to an age-standardised mortality rate of 10.0 deaths per 100,000 people and statistically significantly lower than the 2019 rate of 11.0 deaths per 100,000.
- 2.5.2 The decrease is likely to be driven by two factors; [a decrease in male suicides at the start of the coronavirus \(COVID 19\) pandemic](#), and delays in death registrations because of the pandemic.
- 2.5.3 Around three-quarters of registered suicide deaths in 2020 were for men (3,925 deaths; 75.1%), which follows a consistent trend back to the mid-1990s.
- 2.5.4 The England and Wales male suicide rate of 15.4 deaths per 100,000 is statistically significantly lower than in 2019 but consistent with rates in earlier years; for females, the rate was 4.9 deaths per 100,000, consistent with the past decade.
- 2.5.5 Males and females aged 45 to 49 years had the highest age-specific suicide rate (24.1 male and 7.1 female deaths per 100,000).

2.6 Wave 3 Update

2.6.1 Training – the Zero Suicide Alliance

- 2.6.2 We launched the Zero Suicide Alliance: Basic Suicide Awareness Skills training across Birmingham and Solihull on 28th June 2021. It is hosted on the TLDS Learning Pool website meaning that anyone can sign up for an account and undertake the training. There are two sets of e-learning on the platform; 37 have looked at it, the first e-learning (New Normal) which is about 10 minutes long has 32 completing, the second e-learning (Let's Talk About Suicide) which is about 25 minutes long has been completed by 23 people. 3 people have chosen to leave feedback for ZSA which has all been positive. In total across BSol, we had over 150 people access the ZSA training from our WSPD campaign. This training is being promoted internally at BCC as well as through the Covid Champions network.

2.6.3 Bereavement Postvention

- 2.6.4 A survey has been created (in collaboration with various bereavement services) to understand the experience of those who have been bereaved by suicide's experience in accessing services and what could be improved. This can be completed by anyone (over the age of 18-years) who has been bereaved by suicide, professional or personal, across [Birmingham and Solihull](#).

2.6.5 Real Time Surveillance (RTS) System

2.6.6 Work around implementation of our RTS system is ongoing and we are currently waiting to confirm the pathway with the police and identify the capacity of the Vulnerable Persons Officers to support this. We are also including the triage team from Single Point of Access in our discussions to map put the pathway from the RTS to bereavement support.

2.7 Public Health Lunch & Learn – Suicide Awareness

2.7.1 Public Health held a Lunch & Learn session on Suicide Awareness which was held on 30th September. It was incredibly well attended with 98 people in attendance. All participants agreed that it would be a good idea for the Zero Suicide Alliance Training to become mandatory for all managers so they can better support staff who are experiencing suicidal thoughts and feelings and staff members who have been bereaved by suicide. A lot of social workers who attended the training shared that they would be encouraging members of their teams and people they support to undertake the training through TLDS.

2.7.2 This session will be run again for individual teams who have expressed interest in having it as part of their team meeting. A suicide support group has also been mooted and I will be looking into the feasibility of setting this up for staff members who need support.

3 Background

- 3.1 The [Birmingham Suicide Prevention Strategy](#) was formally approved through the Health and Wellbeing Board. Full Birmingham City Council (BCC) agreed the Strategy on the 6th November 2019; the Strategy received unanimous cross-party support. It has been co-produced with high profile partners including the Coroner, Network Rail, NHS, Police, voluntary and community sectors, business and academic sectors of the City and with the support of Public Health England and NHS England.
- 3.2 The Birmingham Suicide Prevention Advisory Group is a collective for all our organisations (and specialisms) service providers and users, work together to reach a collective outcome of Zero Suicides. Engaging with all partners and stakeholders to ensure successful delivery is key to our success.
- 3.3 The Birmingham Suicide Prevention Advisory Group meets on a bi-monthly basis and was reconvened on 10th June 2021 after being stepped down in June 2020 so Public Health could focus on the emergency pandemic response.
- 3.4 Collaborative cross-sector working is evident with a number of service providers and stakeholders swapping details so they can find new ways in which to work together to ensure services are provided consistently and as widely as possible.
- 3.5 We are working with stakeholders from a wide-range of services, these include: -

3.5.1 Samaritans, Network Rail, the Aston Villa Foundation, CRUSE, Mind, the Coroner, Forward Thinking Birmingham, RSVP, Birmingham & Solihull Women's Aid, Centrala and the Polish community, the Slovak community, PHE, the LGBT Centre, BSol CCG, Kaleidoscope Plus, Birmingham Education Partnership, The Delicate Mind, Forward for Life, Common Unity, Liaison & Diversion Service, Papyrus.

4 Appendices

4.1 Suicide Prevention Action Plan

Appendix 4.1

The Tracking Process

In making its assessment, the Advisory Group may wish to consider: -

- What progress/ key actions have been made against each recommendation?
- Are these actions pertinent to the measures required in the recommendation?
- Have the actions been undertaken within the time scale allocated?
- Are there any matters in the recommendation where progress is outstanding?
- Is the Committee satisfied that sufficient progress has been made and that the recommendation has been achieved?

| Category | Criteria |
|--|--|
| 1. Achieved | The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has been fully implemented within the timescale specified. |
| 2. Not Achieved (Obstacle) | The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has not been fully achieved, but all possible action has been taken. Outstanding actions are prevented by obstacles beyond the control of the Council (such as passage of enabling legislation). |
| 3. Not Achieved | <p>The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has not been fully achieved, but there has been significant progress made towards full achievement.</p> <p>An anticipated date by which the recommendation is expected to become achieved must be advised.</p> |
| 4. In Progress | It is not appropriate to monitor achievement of the recommendation at this time because the timescale specified has not yet expired. |
| 5. Achieved (outcomes to be monitored) | The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has been fully implemented within the timescale specified. |

| | |
|--|--|
| | <p>However, the outcome has not yet materialised, or “work on the ground” has yet to be seen.</p> <p>Reporting on the recommendation as part of the tracking process ceases. However, a report back on the outcome or continuing implementation will be reported back to the Committee as determined by the members in consultation with the Cabinet Member.</p> |
|--|--|

Progress with Actions

| Priority 1: Reduce the risk of suicide in key high-risk groups | | | | |
|---|---|--|-----------|------------|
| No. | Recommendation | Responsibility | Timescale | Assessment |
| 1.1 | <p>Men: raise awareness among men of the support available and work with and through partners with specific focus on men's engagement to reduce the stigma among men to discuss mental health and suicidal thoughts.</p> <p>Focus opportunities for awareness raising and health promotion in locations frequented by men (job centres, youth centres, sports venues, barbers, tattoo artists, music venues, pubs and clubs) drawing on existing good practice.</p> | <p>CRUSE (Lesley Hales)</p> <p>Common Unity (Caron Thompson)</p> <p>Forward for Life (Terry Rigby)</p> <p>Aston Villa Foundation (Ryan Hollings)</p> | Ongoing | 4 |
| Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved') | | | | |
| <p>Male specific groups are not yet being run face to face and CRUSE are awaiting the 'go-ahead' for these therapies to resume. These sessions are very diverse and well attended. Direct phone calls have gone up to Common Unity and Forward for Life and both services are seeing more direct engagement from men who are actively looking for support. The Teamwork programme is still providing outdoor sports activities and are currently engaging 60 males on a weekly basis to help improve their mental and physical health. Organisations will continue to collaborate and link directly with one another (TWR & AVFC re: Gladiator Sports).</p> | | | | |

Money has been made available from the Better Mental Health Fund and we are seeking to commission community organisations, faith organisations and community groups across Birmingham to provide Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training and Mental Health First Aid Instructor Training to their staff and communities. One of the lots has been allocated to men, specifically; "MHFA and MHFA Instructor Training for organisations supporting Men". We will be going out to re-tender on Find it in Birmingham to ensure this lot is met.

| Priority 1: Reduce the risk of suicide in key high-risk groups | | | | |
|--|---|--|-----------|------------|
| No. | Recommendation | Responsibility | Timescale | Assessment |
| 1.2 | <p>Self-Harm/ Self-Injury: implement NICE guidance on the treatment of self-harm, including assessments at Emergency Department, including psychosocial assessments and mental health liaison services with appropriate follow-up support and care, and ensuring that serial presentations of self-harm should be red-flagged as a high suicide risk.</p> <p>Ensure people are being asked why they are self-harming when they present to services; if someone is presenting with an eating disorder, are they being asked about self-harm?</p> | Forward Thinking Birmingham (Lisa McGowan) | Ongoing | 4 |
| Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved') | | | | |
| <p>FTB is seeing much closer collaboration between themselves, BEP, and the Education teams; they are running films, webinars, and video calls for students. Anxiety concerns have been raised around isolation and bereavement and workshops have been held. Work is developing around teachers with Breathe Education providing advice and support. Looking to invest in bespoke films and courses along with SP awareness, self-harm and anxiety tools for teachers.</p> <p>FTB have been awarded funding from Public Health to support and sustain the needs of Teachers; Parents and Early Years staff in the Covid era to maintain Children & young people's mental health and wellbeing and reduce emerging mental health difficulties through easy access to responsive and bespoke online Early Preventative Educational Interventions. The Breathe</p> | | | | |

Education website will be a digital 'one-stop' online repository for online education and resources supporting adults who work with or support CYP's mental health & wellbeing.

Priority 1: Reduce the risk of suicide in key high-risk groups

| No. | Recommendation | Responsibility | Timescale | Assessment |
|---|---|----------------------|-----------|------------|
| 1.3 | Substance Misuse: ensure that Mental Health and Substance Misuse services are working collaboratively to implement the NICE Dual Diagnosis guidance and establish coherent dual diagnosis pathways of care. | CGL (Kerry Clifford) | Ongoing | 2 |
| Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved') | | | | |
| NS emailed on 11/06/21 for update | | | | |

Priority 1: Reduce the risk of suicide in key high-risk groups

| No. | Recommendation | Responsibility | Timescale | Assessment |
|-----|---|---|-----------|------------|
| 1.4 | <p><u>Mental Health Inpatient Settings:</u></p> <p>Ensure through commissioning levers and proactive support that all mental health in-patient providers have 'zero suicide ambition in-patient action plans' in place that are being implemented and are demonstrating progress.</p> <p><u>IAPT & Community Mental Health Services:</u></p> <p>Ensure that the commissioning of IAPT and community mental health services does not create referral or exclusion barriers for treatment for individuals with a history of self-harm or suicidal intent.</p> | CCG (Virginia Muchena) SP Coordinator (Aarti Kumari) | Ongoing | 4 |

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| | <p><u>Primary Care:</u></p> <p>Ensure through commissioning and service improvement levers that all primary care clinical staff and front-line administrative staff have suicide awareness and prevention training. Suicide prevention training for all GP's.</p> | | | |
| Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved') | | | | |
| BSMHFT now has a robust strategy along with mitigations in place; more visible staff, a more therapeutic environment, and reduced ligature points/ items. This work is ongoing, but progress has been (and continues to be) made. Safer prescribing practices are also in place to ensure there is no medical stockpiling. IAPT Services are running across BSMHFT and CAMHS. Work is being undertaken with the CCG around training and BSol Training Hub has been identified as appropriate for Primary Care Staff. | | | | |

| Priority 1: Reduce the risk of suicide in key high-risk groups | | | | |
|--|--|---|------------------|-------------------|
| No. | Recommendation | Responsibility | Timescale | Assessment |
| 1.5 | <p>Work with Polish and Eastern European communities, and the groups that are most engaged with them, as well as with service providers to ensure mental health and wellbeing services are culturally appropriate/ sensitive.</p> <p>Through the partnership with Warsaw, develop a shared learning approach to suicide prevention with Polish and Eastern European communities.</p> | <p>Centrala</p> <p>Slovak Club</p> <p>Public Health (Mo Phillips, Natalie Stewart, Graham Lines).</p> | Ongoing | 4 |
| Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved') | | | | |
| We are working with the Polish and Eastern European communities around the bereavement offer to ensure it is culturally competent and a meeting has been scheduled to discuss what services need to look like for these communities. PH will also be | | | | |

meeting with Alicja and Dana to discuss what their needs are and how PH can help. Common Unity has also been delivering face to face SCHEMA for frontline staff across the BSol footprint for Polish and Eastern European communities.

Money has been made available from the Better Mental Health Fund and we are seeking to commission community organisations, faith organisations and community groups across Birmingham to provide Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training and Mental Health First Aid Instructor Training to their staff and communities. One of the lots has been allocated to men, specifically; "MHFA and MHFA Instructor Training for organisations supporting Polish & Eastern European Communities". We will be going out to re-tender on Find it in Birmingham to ensure this lot is met.

| Priority 1: Reduce the risk of suicide in key high-risk groups | | | | |
|---|--|--|-----------|------------|
| No. | Recommendation | Responsibility | Timescale | Assessment |
| 1.6 | People in skilled trade occupations: work with employers, developers and trade professional bodies to raise awareness of suicide and reduce the risks associated with the workplace. | Public Health (Mo Phillips, Natalie Stewart) CRUSE (Lesley Hales) Samaritans | Ongoing | 4 |
| Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved') | | | | |
| We are currently working with Mates in Mind to ensure employers, developers, and trade professionals have an awareness of suicide and reduce the risk in the workplace by signposting to training. This is especially important given that Birmingham will be hosting the Commonwealth Games in 2022 and work is being done to ensure that tradespeople coming into the city can access services if they need them. | | | | |

| Priority 2: Tailor approaches to improve mental health in specific groups | | | | |
|---|---|----------------|-----------|------------|
| No. | Recommendation | Responsibility | Timescale | Assessment |
| 2.1 | Those in prison or facing a custodial sentence: engage the Criminal Justice System in a way that will ensure those most | Public Health | Ongoing | 5 |

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| | vulnerable are identified and supported across organisational boundaries. | | | |
| Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved') | | | | |
| <p>This action fits with the work that The Criminal Justice Liaison and Diversion service provide. They are a specialized team provided by Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust (BSMHFT) to work within police custody suites and Birmingham Magistrates Court and Birmingham Crown Court.</p> <p>Liaison & Diversion Practitioners offer assessments to individuals with vulnerabilities, making referrals to services to meet their needs if appropriate. They liaise with all professionals involved with the service user, in order to safeguard, care plan and provide relevant and timely support.</p> <p>The outreach service works with service users, both adults and youth, towards a mutually agreed goal, focusing on addressing any health or social needs through the use of relevant statutory or non-statutory community services.</p> <p>The Service also has dedicated support workers based within Birmingham Changing Futures and ANAWIM and Peer Mentors from Shelter who are available to accept direct referrals and offer support.</p> | | | | |

| Priority 2: Tailor approaches to improve mental health in specific groups | | | | |
|--|--|---|------------------|-------------------|
| No. | Recommendation | Responsibility | Timescale | Assessment |
| 2.2 | Children and Young People: work with partners to improve the awareness of suicide risk and prevention for children, young people and parents across the 0-19yr workforce. i.e. midwives, health visitors, teachers, youth workers, community sport coaches, etc. | Forward Thinking Birmingham (Paul Patterson) PAPYRUS Children's Trust BEP | Ongoing | 5 |

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| | <p>Work with schools and youth services to raise awareness and reduce the risks and promote anti bullying, promote mental wellbeing and tackle self-harm.</p> <p>Support schools to work with parents to have conversations regarding mental health resilience.</p> <p>Support staff and settings working with young people facing multiple challenges that might put them at greater risk to have appropriate training and awareness of how to prevent suicide e.g. looked after children, young offenders, children with special educational needs, LGBT youth.</p> | | | |
| Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved') | | | | |
| <p>FTB is seeing much closer collaboration between themselves, BEP, and the Education teams; they are running films, webinars, and video calls for students. Anxiety concerns have been raised around isolation and bereavement and workshops have been held. Work is developing around teachers with Breathe Education providing advice and support. Looking to invest in bespoke films and courses along with SP awareness, self-harm and anxiety tools for teachers. National trial on bullying is ongoing in 30 schools. PAPYRUS are engaging with schools, colleges, and universities with their Schools Guide resource.</p> <p>FTB have been awarded funding from Public Health to support and sustain the needs of Teachers; Parents and Early Years staff in the Covid era to maintain Children & young people's mental health and wellbeing and reduce emerging mental health difficulties through easy access to responsive and bespoke online Early Preventative Educational Interventions. The Breathe Education website will be a digital 'one-stop' online repository for online education and resources supporting adults who work with or support CYP's mental health & wellbeing.</p> | | | | |

| Priority 2: Tailor approaches to improve mental health in specific groups | | | | |
|---|--|---|-----------|------------|
| No. | Recommendation | Responsibility | Timescale | Assessment |
| 2.3 | Survivors of abuse or violence, including sexual abuse: ensure that pathways of care and support for victims of violence and abuse consider mental health support and suicide prevention explicitly in risk assessment and through staff training. | Birmingham & Solihull Women's Aid (Tanya Edwards) RSVP (Lisa Thompson) | Ongoing | 4 |
| Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved') | | | | |
| Public Health are now linked in with the Community Safety Partnership and we are working together to ensure joined-up working across the teams on Domestic Abuse and the Rape and Sexual Violence Strategy for Women and Girls. | | | | |

| Priority 2: Tailor approaches to improve mental health in specific groups | | | | |
|---|---|---|-----------|------------|
| No. | Recommendation | Responsibility | Timescale | Assessment |
| 2.4 | Veterans: work with partners in the armed forces to consider how best to support veterans and reduce risk of suicide, especially among those who are Early Service Leavers. | Public Health Armed Forces Covenant Steering Group | Ongoing | 4 |
| Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved') | | | | |
| The Armed Forces Covenant Partnership meetings are currently running on a quarterly basis | | | | |

| Priority 2: Tailor approaches to improve mental health in specific groups | | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|-----------|------------|
| No. | Recommendation | Responsibility | Timescale | Assessment |

| | | | | |
|---|---|------------------------|---------|---|
| 2.5 | People with Long Term Health Conditions: work with NHS partners to embed mental health awareness and suicide prevention and risk assessment into chronic disease care and support pathways through direct commissioning and staff training. | CCG (Virginia Muchena) | Ongoing | 5 |
| Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved') | | | | |
| NS and VM to meet to discuss. | | | | |

| Priority 2: Tailor approaches to improve mental health in specific groups | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| No. | Recommendation | Responsibility | Timescale | Assessment |
| 2.6 | People with untreated depression: increase general awareness of the signs and symptoms of depression and ensure that people are aware of the support available and how to access it themselves or to signpost others. | Public Health | Ongoing | 4 |
| Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved') | | | | |
| We are linking in with the GP Trainee to run a series of Webinars around Depression based on the BHealthy model from the Wellbeing Cell. This will include engagement with community leaders and connectors, and promotion of the Helpline. | | | | |

| Priority 2: Tailor approaches to improve mental health in specific groups | | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| No. | Recommendation | Responsibility | Timescale | Assessment |
| 2.7 | People who are especially vulnerable due to social and economic circumstances: consider how in the welfare support pathways, especially around financial and debt advice, homelessness and bereavement there is active integration of | Anawim (Joy Doal) | Ongoing | 4 |

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| | suicide awareness and prevention alongside training of frontline providers | | | |
| Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved') | | | | |
| <p>Money has been made available from the Better Mental Health Fund for Anawin Birmingham Centre for Women to deliver Mental Wellbeing Support for Women with multiple complex needs. The intervention is targeted at women aged 35-50 years with multiple complex needs. Current service users include those within the criminal justice system, victims of domestic abuse, rape, sexual exploitation, substance misuse. The intervention is based within one of Birmingham's most deprived wards with a large Bangladeshi population and comprises training on Regulating Emotions and Dealing with Distress (REDD), and Seeking Safety. It would develop digital content and translated training and support resources and offers a series of events including coffee mornings and walking groups.</p> | | | | |

| Priority 2: Tailor approaches to improve mental health in specific groups | | | | |
|--|---|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| No. | Recommendation | Responsibility | Timescale | Assessment |
| 2.8 | <p>Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people: work with providers and frontline services to increase awareness of suicide risk and mental health inequalities affecting LGBT people, especially young LGBT people, those with disabilities, from BAME communities and the elderly.</p> <p>Ensure that mental health services are accessible and culturally competent to support LGBT people.</p> <p>Work with the Community Cohesion and PREVENT team to amplify and support work to reduce homophobic, transphobic and biphobic hate crime and discrimination which may contribute to suicide and self-harm.</p> | Public Health LGBT Centre | Ongoing | 4 |
| Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved') | | | | |

A provider has been commissioned on behalf of the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner to deliver work around the PREVENT agenda and hate crime. The LGBT Centre has been commissioned to deliver against the following actions as part of the Better Mental Health Fund bid:

Direct service delivery: increase counselling hours in order to support people on the waiting list by using sessional counsellors to support people with specialist LGBT affirmative person-centred counselling.

Work with the creating a Mentally Healthy City partnership to develop strategic priorities and provide recommendations for the way forward following the intervention.

Provide LGBT mental health awareness training to professionals working across the mental health system in both the statutory and third sector aimed at increasing the cultural competency of frontline staff.

Provide an evaluation report focusing on the impact of the intervention, identifying what works and making key recommendations for next steps.

Money has been made available from the Better Mental Health Fund for the LGBT Centre to deliver Mental Health Awareness to Young People, Adults, Older Adults (LGBT community experiencing domestic abuse, and isolation). COVID-19 adversely impacted on the city's LGBT community. Local and national evidence has shown that social isolation, domestic abuse and mental health issues over the pandemic has increased. The interventions proposed are to increase counselling hours, undertake an LGBT needs assessment, develop strategic priorities, provide mental health awareness training to increase cultural competency, and provide an evaluation report focusing on the impact of these interventions

| Priority 2: Tailor approaches to improve mental health in specific groups | | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|-----------|------------|
| No. | Recommendation | Responsibility | Timescale | Assessment |

| | | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|---------|---|
| 2.9 | <p>Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups: work with communities and front –line organisations to reduce stigma around mental health and suicide in Diverse Ethnic Communities.</p> <p>Bridge the gap between service providers and communities to ensure individuals in need are able to access support and that services can provide culturally relevant and competent services.</p> <p>Work with faith leaders and communities to support positive and constructive approaches to suicide prevention and improving mental wellbeing.</p> | The Delicate Mind (Nikhwat Marawat) | Ongoing | 4 |
| Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if ‘Not Achieved’) | | | | |
| <p>The Delicate Mind has been delivering a series of online sessions and seminars around mental health our most recent one being from an international perspective with speakers from across the world discussing the relevant mental health issues in their countries, we have just completed a research document for a third party organisation that is publishing a piece of work about how to best support Muslim Mental Health and has wider guidance for mental health professionals.</p> <p>We are continually signposting our communities to wider support available and are trialling options regarding long term mental health support we offer in house.</p> <p>Money has been granted under the Better Mental Health Fund to the Delicate Mind to fund the Mindful Muslims Programme (offering Peer to Peer bereavement support). This initiative will be offering peer-to-peer bereavement support for the Muslim community facilitated by a qualified and registered counsellor thereby ensuring emotional safeguarding. Will also include hosting a series of seminars to increase awareness and confidence building on issues surrounding mental health.</p> | | | | |

| Priority 2: Tailor approaches to improve mental health in specific groups | | | | |
|---|---|-------------------|-----------|------------|
| No. | Recommendation | Responsibility | Timescale | Assessment |
| 2.10 | Refugees and asylum seekers: work to ensure active consideration of suicide prevention and risk assessment in refugee and asylum seeker care and support pathways and that there is appropriate access to mental health support and care when required. | BCC Commissioning | Ongoing | 2 |
| Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved') | | | | |
| NS emailed Bethany Finch again (13/10/21). | | | | |

| Priority 3: Reduce access to the means of suicide | | | | |
|---|---|---|-----------|------------|
| No. | Recommendation | Responsibility | Timescale | Assessment |
| 3.1 | <p>Planning and Building Design (High Risk Environments): amend the Birmingham Developers Toolkit to reflect suicide prevention measures when reviewing planning applications.</p> <p>Work with the Local Authority Property and Housing team to include suicide risk in building design considerations for major refurbishments and upgrading of social housing stock and corporate assets and as an active consideration for 'high rise buildings' such as multi-storey car parks.</p> <p>Mapping potential high-risk sites through reviewing self-harm data and reports from health and police services and take action to reduce risk e.g. barriers, signage.</p> | <p>Samaritans (Dave Brown)</p> <p>Network Rail (Richard Godwin)</p> | Ongoing | 5 |

| |
|---|
| Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if ‘Not Achieved’) |
| Network Rail shared the Suicide Prevention Guidance for Developers that was developed by Stoke-on-Trent City Council in June of 2020. Good collaboration on this Action with Network Rail and the Samaritans keeping us apprised of any incidents on the Rail Network and what mitigations have been put in place to reduce risk – barriers/ signage etc. |

| Priority 3: Reduce access to the means of suicide | | | | |
|---|--|--|------------------|-------------------|
| No. | Recommendation | Responsibility | Timescale | Assessment |
| 3.2 | Suicide Prevention Training for those working in high risk settings: increase awareness of suicide risk, and steps to intervene, in staff working in high risk areas e.g. park wardens, traffic wardens. | Common Unity (Caron Thompson) Forward for Life (Terry Rigby) Samaritans (Dave Brown) | Ongoing | 5 |
| Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if ‘Not Achieved’) | | | | |
| <p>SCHEMA has been adapted into online training which has since been delivered to frontline staff along with Wise Steps; 250 members of staff trained since November 2020. This will also be rolled-out to staff and community members through the Better Mental Health Fund bid, next target is teachers. WMCA involved in getting the Private Sector trained.</p> <p>Samaritans’ rail specific suicide prevention training, Managing Suicidal Contacts, made available to front line rail staff within the region. Staff training levels are monitored, and training promoted. Targeted promotion actively undertaken in Priority and Escalated locations.</p> <p>Money has been granted under the Better Mental Health Fund to Common Unity and Forward for Life to deliver the Wise Step Community Connector Programme (Suicide Prevention Training to Black African, Black Caribbean, Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Central and Eastern European, and Chinese Communities. This intervention will deliver ‘train the trainer’ programmes to organisations and communities to raise awareness and be better prepared to identify and support people at risk of suicide. Tailored materials and learning resources along with a roll out of personalised Wise Steps courses that are culturally-</p> | | | | |

specific for suicide prevention support for our Black African, Black Caribbean, Pakistani, Indian, Bangladeshi, Central and Eastern European, and Chinese citizens as identified within the Birmingham Suicide Prevention Strategy.

| Priority 3: Reduce access to the means of suicide | | | | |
|---|--|--|-----------|------------|
| No. | Recommendation | Responsibility | Timescale | Assessment |
| 3.3 | Identification and reduction of High Frequency Locations on the rail network. Samaritans and Network Rail to continue to collate real time data on rail incidents in the region and feed into the group. Appropriate preventative and reactive measures to be taken by Network Rail, train operators and Samaritans, based on the specifics of individual incidents and their locations. Wider group to support Network Rail / Samaritans in actions where appropriate, particularly where community engagement would be beneficial. | Network Rail (Richard Godwin) Samaritans (Dave Brown) | Ongoing | 4 |
| Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved') | | | | |
| Dave Brown updated the group on recent incidents at Selly Oak and Stechford stations since the group last met, together with the actions undertaken in response. Monitoring of emerging risk locations is constantly ongoing within the rail industry, with data examined on fatalities, injurious attempts and life-saving interventions, together with the demographics of the individuals. | | | | |

| Priority 3: Reduce access to the means of suicide | | | | |
|---|--|------------------------|-----------|------------|
| No. | Recommendation | Responsibility | Timescale | Assessment |
| 3.4 | Safer prescribing: reduce the risk of medication stockpiling through safer prescribing practice, especially for patients in high risk groups and with high risk medication such as painkillers and anti-depressants through the NHS Medicines Management Programme | CCG (Virginia Muchena) | Ongoing | 5 |

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved') | | | | |
| This work is ongoing, but progress has been (and continues to be) made. Safer prescribing practices are in place to ensure there is no medical stockpiling. | | | | |

| Priority 3: Reduce access to the means of suicide | | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| No. | Recommendation | Responsibility | Timescale | Assessment |
| 3.5 | Control of gasses and liquids: support retailers and vendors to consider suicide risk in the sale of potentially fatal gases and liquids. | Trading Standards | Ongoing | 2 |
| Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved') | | | | |
| Due to the ongoing pandemic, evidence of progress was deferred but NS emailed Donna Bensley for an update on 14/06/21. | | | | |

| Priority 4: Provide better information and support to those bereaved or affected by suicide | | | | |
|---|--|--|------------------|-------------------|
| No. | Recommendation | Responsibility | Timescale | Assessment |
| 4.1 | Support Resources: increase visibility of signposting resources such as 'Help is at Hand' and Waiting Room Resource Key through front line professionals working with individuals who are affected by suicide. | Common Unity (Caron Thompson) Samaritans (Pam Rutter) | Ongoing | 5 |
| Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved') | | | | |
| The Waiting Room has now been translated into over 100 languages and the website (to date) has recorded over 100,000 hits. The Waiting Room fobs have also been distributed via food packages to vulnerable persons. Collaborative work ongoing between Common Unity and FTB to target school students. | | | | |

| Priority 4: Provide better information and support to those bereaved or affected by suicide | | | | |
|--|--|--|-----------|------------|
| No. | Recommendation | Responsibility | Timescale | Assessment |
| 4.2 | <p>Support Services: work with commissioners across the city partnership to review the provision of bereavement support, including specialist support for bereavement through suicide.</p> <p>Work with service providers and commissioners and front-line services to develop a more coherent postvention pathway for individuals affected by suicide.</p> <p>Encourage employers to use the Business in the Community/PHE suicide prevention and postvention toolkits.</p> | <p>Common Unity (Caron Thompson)</p> <p>CRUSE (Lesley Hales)</p> | Ongoing | 5 |
| Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved') | | | | |
| <p>As part of the Suicide Wave 3 Transformational funding, priority was given to expand our bereavement service and to look at ways to strengthen our postvention offer across BSol. A Bereavement Services Survey is being drawn up to seek opinions about how we can improve the support we provide in suicide bereavement. A Bereavement Signposting flyer has been drawn up and is in the process of being agreed through BCC and Solihull MBC Comms.</p> <p>A survey has been created (in collaboration with various bereavement services) to understand the experience of those who have been bereaved by suicide's experience in accessing services and what could be improved. This can be completed by anyone (over the age of 18-years) who has been bereaved by suicide, professional or personal, across Birmingham and Solihull.</p> <p>Birmingham and Solihull Bereavement by Suicide Survey</p> | | | | |

| |
|---|
| Priority 5: Support the media in delivering sensitive approaches to suicide and suicidal behaviour |
|---|

| No. | Recommendation | Responsibility | Timescale | Assessment |
|--|--|--|-----------|------------|
| 5.1 | Promotion of expert guidelines: Work with local and regional media, especially considering media focused on high-risk communities, to increase awareness of well-developed expert guides for journalists such as by The Samaritans (https://www.samaritans.org/media-centre/media-guidelines-reporting-suicide) | Samaritans (Dave Brown) BEP BCC Comms Team | Ongoing | 5 |
| Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved') | | | | |
| Media monitoring is in place and the Suicide Prevention Advisory Group has also been tasked with monitoring and signposting to the Samaritans guidance. Online training for journalists is also available and very accessible. | | | | |

| Priority 6: Support research, data collection and monitoring | | | | |
|---|--|---|-----------|------------|
| No. | Recommendation | Responsibility | Timescale | Assessment |
| 6.1 | <p>Increase intelligence: work with partners across the West Midlands to develop the approach to real time surveillance to start to identify trends and hot-spots across the region – recognising that this is more effective than a single city approach due to the small numbers.</p> <p>Consider additional research into the reasons people decide to take their own life, especially in the context of high-risk groups.</p> <p>Consider work to consolidate an ongoing focus on best practice evidence base as future work emerges as part of the annual refresh of the action plan.</p> | DHSC (Paul Sanderson) Wave 3 Group (Aarti Kumari, Virginia Muchena, Jo Luxmore-Brown, Natalie Stewart) | Ongoing | 4 |
| Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved') | | | | |
| A meeting was held with the Birmingham Coroner to discuss the RTS proposal on 6 th April. The RTS system requires robust partnership working across several agencies including Police, Coroners, Birmingham and Solihull LA's and the CCG, amongst | | | | |

others. Progress has been made regarding the sign off of on data sharing agreement that has all key partner input. One key decision to be made is whether the BSol RTS will be coroner led or police led. We are currently exploring the pros and cons of both systems and working with partner agencies to decide on the best model for BSol. The next stage for this work is for further discussions to take place with our Coroners and with West Midlands Police and have a clear understanding on the sharing of responsibilities.

BTP has implemented a system akin to RTS in collection of data and initially shared that they had enquired with WMP regarding this data collection but had not received any contact. Since then it seems that WMP have responded and come on board with this process, and whilst they acknowledge there are limitations in the data they collect, they will help in any way they can. This is great news and will hopefully help to raise awareness of some of the issues we have locally, on a wider scale with data collection. The Wave 3 team will meet with our contacts from WMP to progress this.

Birmingham City Council

City Council

14 September 2021



Subject: Motions for Debate from Individual Members

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential:

To consider the following Motions of which notice has been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules (section B4 G of the Constitution).

A. Councillors Peter Fowler and Darius Sandhu have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

“This Council believes that Local High Streets and independent businesses are the life blood of communities, supporting not only the local economy but also helping to address issues from crime and antisocial behaviour to social isolation. Long term decline from online and out of town competition has been exacerbated by the COVID pandemic and from a lack of investment in the suburbs by the City Council in favour of city centre developments.

The Christmas Period provides an ideal opportunity for the council to begin the redress this imbalance through a series of short term support measures, backed up by a longer term strategy to unleash the potential of our local businesses and high streets.

Council therefore calls on the executive, as a matter of urgency, to –

- Support local Christmas markets in local centres, showcasing the best of local businesses
- Fund Christmas light displays in local centres
- Lead a ‘Shop Local this Christmas’ campaign across the City
- Work with local Business Improvement Districts to support and promote initiatives in their areas
- Make council owned empty units available at discounted rates for pop up businesses
- Provide Free Parking in all council owned car parks near to high streets
- Provide additional street cleaning crews in all local high streets

In addition, Council therefore calls on the executive, as a matter of urgency, to bring forward a plan to -

- Rebalance spending commitments to ensure that suburban areas do not continue to lose out to the city centre
- Review Transport Plans to assess impact on all local businesses of any restrictions on travel imposed and any unintended consequences of those decisions
- Develop more Extra Care Villages in and around local high streets to support older generations to access these facilities
- Carry out a review of the Council's relationship with Business Improvement Districts, including looking at approaches taken elsewhere, to assess opportunities to strengthen these relationships and in particular areas in which different council departments can work more cohesively to be an enabler, rather than barrier to change
- Review Council assets located on high streets to ensure that are being maximised to their full potential, including where these could be used to create local 'hubs' for residents to access council and partner services and other key services such as banking"

B. Councillors Paul Tilsley and Jon Hunt have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

"This Council notes that:

- The Birmingham Transport Plan makes reference to antisocial parking on pavements or across dropped kerbs causing a serious hazard to pedestrians, especially those with sight loss, parents with pushchairs, wheelchair users, young children, those with movement disorders and other disabled people.
- Most pavements are not designed to take the full weight of vehicles, whether stationary or moving.
- Over time the pavement surface degrades and can subside which causes further issues for pedestrians as well as incurring costly repairs that could take up to six months to complete.
- Action to tackle antisocial pavement parking in the City is problematic because of the current legislation which can be confusing with limited legal remedies available to tackle nuisance parking.
- A key part of the Council's green, post-Covid recovery is to encourage more residents to choose active travel, such as walking, so it is vital pavements remain accessible for everyone.
- In many neighbourhoods, there has been considerable disruption to pavement integrity with heavy HGV's driving on and off in order to deliver commercial skips.
- Skips that are placed on private drives do not incur the £30 charge levied for placing a skip on the highway, in spite of the risk of damage to the pavement.

This Council resolves to:

- Ask the relevant Cabinet Member to arrange for a survey to be conducted amongst elected members of the Council asking them to identify streets within their ward where nuisance or antisocial parking occurs.
- Ask the relevant Cabinet Member to bring to a future meeting of Council, a report with the findings of this survey and details of the enforcement action this Council proposes to take, taking into account any new powers the Government promises to make available as a result of the national consultation on managing pavement parking.
- Ask the relevant Cabinet Member to undertake a review of procedures for granting approval for skips to be sited on the road and extend this to include payment for skips located on private drives, to also include photographic evidence of the pavement before the skip was delivered and after, with this evidence used to hold skip companies to account should the pavement integrity be damaged as a result.
- Ask the relevant Cabinet Member to take steps to ensure that if there are any instances of parking across dropped kerbs, Traffic Wardens are able to take appropriate enforcement actions.

”

