

Housing and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 15 December 2022

Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety & Equalities – Priorities 2022/23

Community Safety

- **Preparation for Serious Violence Duty and development of Birmingham reducing serious violence strategy (including knife crime and youth violence) working alongside the Violence Reduction Partnership**
 - Invest £1m into tackling youth violence
 - Develop and embed a public health and early intervention and prevention approaches to violence reduction, including gangs and domestic abuse.

- **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and Disorder**
 - Increase the number of re-deployable CCTV cameras available to target crime and anti-social behaviour hotspots.
 - Explore options to create a new neighbourhood warden team, who can target local environmental problems and work with WM Police to address anti-social behaviour and safety concerns.
 - Review the “Community Trigger” process, so that anti-social behaviour case reviews are dealt with speedily and supportively.

- **Violence Against Women and Girls**
 - Tackle violence against women and girls through the “Everyone Should Feel Safe” campaign
 - Develop and embed a violence against woman and girls Birmingham strategy
 - Work with partners to increase learning and awareness regarding male attitude towards females.
 - Work in partnership to increase safety in and around the night-time economy

- **Domestic Abuse**
 - Continue to implement the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 Part 4. This sets out a new statutory duty on Local Authorities relating to the provision of support to victims of domestic abuse and their children residing within safe accommodation.
 - Develop a whole system approach to tackling domestic abuse with the aim of ensuring victims safety, across key areas, police and criminal justice service, Childrens services and Housing.
 - Work towards achieving the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance Accreditation.
 - Work across the Council to implement the Employers Domestic Abuse Covenant, a pledge taken by organisations to support women subjected to domestic abuse, back into sustainable employment. It also involves campaigning to raise awareness of domestic abuse in the city, sharing workplace opportunities with providers, and ensure that our workplace has the policies and infrastructure in place to best support survivors of domestic abuse.

- **Modern Slavery**
 - Continue to raise awareness of modern slavery and work in partnership to disrupt the associated activities
 - Continuedly improve the victim’s journey and pathways

- Ensure modern slavery champions are supported and training is refreshed. Increase the number of champions.
- Ensure the city councils modern slavery statement is renewed and honoured
- **Criminal Exploitation of Young People**
 - Working with Birmingham Children's Trust ensure that exploitation of young people is disrupted.
 - Working in partnership to identify and disrupt county lines.
- **Tackling and Reducing Hate Crime**
 - Continue to work to improve safety for LGBT+ people, not only in the Gay Village, but across the city.
 - Make it easier to report hate crimes and hold agencies to account for their responses through our new Tackling Hate, Taking Action partnership
- **Local Partnership Delivery Groups – link to local offer**
 - Work with Police and Crime Commissioner to get extra 450 police officers onto our streets
 - Introduce locality-based tasking with West Midlands Police in Lozells and Sparkbrook, with a view to expanding this approach if successful.

Bereavement Services and Register Office

- **Improving Cemeteries and Crematoria**
 - Commence project to extend Kings Norton Cemetery (complete Sept.2024)
 - Install drainage in undeveloped areas of Handsworth Cemetery to increase number of available graves
 - Provide a new Muslim Section in Quinton Cemetery
 - Commence rebuild the crematorium at Yardley, including installation of better gas emission technology and better energy efficiency measures (complete Summer 2023)
- **Improving the City Council's Mortuary Provision**
 - Prepare plans to provide a fit for the future Mortuary in the longer term, including provision of CTPM technology and more freezer space
 - Continue to provide an interim solution for the provision of a CTPM Scanner for use by the Coroner of Birmingham and Solihull prior to the construction of a new mortuary
- **Improving Customer satisfaction with the services**
 - Review and improve the existing rules and regulations for cemeteries and crematorium
 - To consider how part backfills can be managed and costed (with potential for backfills to be provided at an additional cost),
 - Develop a system that enables shroud burials for the Muslim and other communities.
 - Explore the introduction of a six-day working at crematoria
 - Explore the introduction of a seven-day working at more than one cemetery
 - Introduce a customer satisfaction index for all services
- **Ensuring the workforce better represents the make-up of Birmingham's communities**

- Review the future operating models of services to make them more customer responsive and consider the introduction of apprenticeships and succession planning as part of the models.
- Carry out what measures are necessary to work towards the workforce being more representative of the communities of Birmingham
- **Engaging community groups**
 - Introduce at least one Friends Groups
 - Set up a bereavement steering group initially addressing issues with religious funerals
- **Extend the partnership working with the Bereavement Roundtable**
 - Work in partnership with others to improve the bereavement process for all sectors of the community
- **Ensuring there are better long-term plans in place for the Bereavement Services**
 - Prepare a medium to long term Bereavement Services Strategy
 - Prepare a Future Capital agenda for service areas to be included in the 25-year property/asset strategy

Councillor John Cotton

Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety & Equalities