

# **BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

## **HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**THURSDAY, 15 DECEMBER 2022 AT 14:00 HOURS**  
**IN COMMITTEE ROOM 6, COUNCIL HOUSE, VICTORIA SQUARE,**  
**BIRMINGHAM, B1 1BB**

### **A G E N D A**

1 **NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST**

The Chair to advise/meeting to note that this meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's meeting You Tube site ([www.youtube.com/channel/UCT2kT7ZRPFCXq6\\_5dnVnYlw](http://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 **APOLOGIES**

To receive any apologies.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

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

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

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

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

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

- 3 - 20**
- 4 **ACTION NOTES AND ACTION TRACKER**
- To agree the action notes of the meetings held on 10 November 2022 and 29 November 2022 and to note the action tracker.
- 21 - 26**
- 5 **CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND EQUALITIES - PRIORITIES 2022/23**
- Councillor John Cotton, Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities, to present his priorities for 2022/23, as they relate to the Committee's remit.
- 27 - 46**
- 6 **BIRMINGHAM COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT**
- Councillor John Cotton, Chair, Birmingham Community Safety Partnership/Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities, Waqar Ahmed, Assistant Director, Community Safety and Resilience, and Pam Powis, Senior Service Manager, Community Safety Team.
- 47 - 70**
- 7 **WORK PROGRAMME**
- To agree the work programme.
- 8 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
- To note that the next meeting is scheduled to be held at 1400 hours on Thursday 12 January 2023.
- 9 **REQUEST(S) FOR CALL IN/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION/PETITIONS RECEIVED (IF ANY)**
- To consider any request for call in/councillor call for action/petitions (if received).
- 10 **OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**
- To consider any items of business by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) that in the opinion of the Chair are matters of urgency.
- 11 **AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS**
- Chair to move:-
- 'In an urgent situation between meetings, the Chair jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee'.

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

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

**1400 hours on Thursday 10 November 2022**

**Committee Room 6, Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1BB**

**Action Notes**

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**Present:**

Councillor Mohammed Idrees (Chair)

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

**Also Present:**

Councillor Majid Mahmood, Cabinet Member for Environment

Jonathan Antill, Head of Business Improvement and Support, City Operations

Mira Gola, Head of Business Improvement and Support, City Housing

Paul Langford, Interim Director of Housing Management - online

Gary Messenger, Assistant Director, City Housing Services and Support - online

Sajeela Naseer, Director of Regulation and Enforcement

Darren Share, Assistant Director, Street Scene

Natalie Smith, Head of Service for Housing Management

Steve Wilson, Project Director, Asset Management - online

Jayne Bowles, Scrutiny Officer

Amelia Murray, Overview and Scrutiny Manager

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**1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST**

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the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

## 2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Kerry Brewer and an apology for lateness from Councillor Ken Wood.

## 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

## 4. ACTION NOTES AND ACTION TRACKER

(See documents 1 and 2)

### **RESOLVED:**

- Cllr Harmer referred to the outstanding action for an updated list of HMOs by ward and requested this be progressed;
- The action notes of the meeting held on 13 October 2022 were agreed;
- The action tracker was noted.

## 5. PERFORMANCE MONITORING

(See documents 3 and 4)

### **City Housing**

Mira Gola, Head of Business Improvement and Support, presented the City Housing Performance Report.

Natalie Smith, Head of Service for Housing Management, was also in attendance for this item and Paul Langford, Interim Director of Housing Management, Gary Messenger, Assistant Director, City Housing Services and Support, and Steve Wilson, Project Director, Asset Management, were in attendance online.

The key points were highlighted, including that there was a placeholder in the report for a corporate KPI on Tenant Satisfaction which, although signed off by Government, won't be implemented until April 2023.

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

- **Number of Households in B&B and Temporary Accommodation** – Oscott Gardens has been developed to house larger families and is being used for families who have been in B&B for too long. Whilst it has kept B&B numbers a little lower, it is not quite full yet and it is expected that will happen over the next month or so;
- It was acknowledged that B&B numbers are quite high but there is a national housing crisis and it is a struggle to secure affordable accommodation;

- Birmingham is a little bit behind some other local authorities in terms of using private rented accommodation as an alternative to social housing;
- There is a team that works with private sector landlords and when families are threatened with homelessness, if they approach the council, this team, along with the Housing Options service, will negotiate to keep them in their homes where possible. However, this is likely to get more difficult with the higher interest rates, etc;
- It was recognised that the only way real progress can be made is to create more accommodation and ideally build more houses for social rent, or if not to do more along the lines of Oscott Gardens;
- Members were told there were a number of bespoke programmes to mitigate the use of B&B but all the different projects and programmes have to be balanced;
- The big picture is that Temporary Accommodation has doubled across the country due to a lack of social housing. The key is to try and prevent homelessness in the first place and this includes discharging into the private sector;
- **Percentage of Housing Applications awaiting assessment** – The drop in performance due to reduced resources was queried and Members were told that the council has been proactive in recognising backlogs have built up and a backlogs team has been created to address that;
- Applications did start to climb and a couple of agency workers had been lost, which resulted in the drop in the percentage over the last month or two, however the team is now back to full strength and it is hoped the figure will go back up to 85%;
- **Percentage of Repairs resolved within 30 days** – it was queried whether this included where there are routine repeat issues (an example was given of a broken shower door due to mould where this had been fixed within the period but in a matter of months it broke again, because the issue is actually the mould, not the shower door);
- Where there are follow-on repairs, both would be factored into the calculation. Repairs are counted individually so it would have been two repairs in the example given;
- All members should be aware that the repairs contract is up for renewal in 2024 and a right first time indicator will be built in to monitor how many repairs are completed on the first visit;
- There are 250,000 repairs a year, so almost 1,000 every working day;
- **Tenant Satisfaction** – With regard to the new system the Government is introducing, it was queried how the council currently measures tenant satisfaction, where this is reported and how the Government proposal is different from what is being done already;
- In line with the legislation from the White Paper, there are currently 19 tenant satisfaction measures that need to be completed and published;
- This will be quite different to the transactional measures which allow services to be changed more rapidly;
- In terms of transactional satisfaction, there is only ASB currently being measured when cases close;

- **Void turnaround times** – the current contractors are Equans in the North and since April also in the West, Central and East (replacing Waites), and Fortem in the South;
- Equans are doing a really good job, turning voids around in 20-23 days, which is really positive and a massive improvement;
- Performance in the South is not so good and is adversely affecting performance across the city with collective performance currently 31 days. This is 5 days improvement since the summer but it needs to be 28 days to achieve the target;
- Meetings have been held with the Chairman and Managing Director of Fortem and they have been given an intervention notice. They are being made to pay for all rent loss and council tax cost for the duration they hold any void property so the longer they take, the more they will pay;
- As part of a deep-dive review it was noted that not only was there a time delay issue but also a quality issue and a bold decision was made to get the quality right and the next stage is to improve times;
- Fortem are taking this seriously. They are trying really hard and have recruited a new Operations Manager;
- **Right to Buy** – Right to Buy has been in place since the 1980s and the rules have changed over the decades;
- When selling on a Right to Buy property, there is an obligation in the first 1-10 years to offer the council the right to buy it back, and the council has now started to use that legislation;
- Where a property is sold on within 5-10 years, this has to be at market value;
- If sold within 1-5 years, any discount has to be paid back;
- It was agreed the Right to Buy rules, including the qualifying period for accessing Right to Buy, would be shared with members;
- **Empty Property Strategy** – there is an acquisition programme – purchasing 220 properties with a £60m budget for the benefit of temporary accommodation and buying up empty properties is one of the things they are trying to do;
- **Affordable housing** – the percentage of genuinely affordable housing is below target and anything that can be done to increase the affordable housing supply will help address those issues previously discussed.

### City Operations

Jonathan Antill, Head of Business Improvement and Support, presented the City Operations Performance Report.

Darren Share, Assistant Director, Street Scene, and Sajeela Naseer, Director of Regulation and Enforcement, were also in attendance for this item.

The key points were highlighted and members were asked whether they would like the Community Safety KPIs to be included in future reports, with attendance from the Assistant Director of Community Safety and Resilience, and this was agreed.

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

- **Private Rented Sector Team staffing issues** – When the Private Rented Sector Team moved to City Operations in September 2021 a review of staffing was undertaken and a strategy was produced, accompanied by a service review and restructure with proposed new posts;
- The Licensing Team was understaffed by 30% (4 posts) and the Empty Properties Team was understaffed by 25% (1 post). Members were told these posts are now being recruited to;
- It was noted that recruiting Environmental Health Officers was difficult;
- **Reported Missed Collections** – Reference was made to the Ombudsman quote that “continued failure to address public concerns effectively is as much a matter of corporate leadership as it is of day-to-day service delivery” and it was stressed that the root cause needs to be sorted out;
- Members were told that there had been a trend of failure throughout the whole of the year and the service is working hard to try and correct that;
- Where collections have been missed, the crew report back on the reason, for example whether they ran out of time, there was a vehicle breakdown or a staffing issue, etc;
- Additional resource has been added to the management team to tackle ongoing issues and there has been a major change in data and data reporting;
- There are still issues at the moment due to operating with paper maps and paper reports and performance will increase once the crews move to electronic live data in the “slab in the cab” – one depot is now fully operating on that and another has started to implement it and will have rollout into cabs by the end of December;
- In response to a question about whether Members could go out and see it working, it was confirmed a demonstration could be arranged;
- **Recycling** – It was queried how recycling had improved since the introduction of the mobile household recycling centres and Members were told that there has been a greater tonnage of residual waste rather than recycle, with just under 100 tonnes of recycle coming through that process.

**RESOLVED:** -

- That the Right to Buy rules, including the qualifying period for accessing Right to Buy, be shared with Members;
- That the offer of a demonstration of the “slab in the cab” technology be followed up;
- That the report be noted.

**6. PROGRESS REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION: REDUCING FLY-TIPPING**

(See document 5)

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

Councillor Mahmood reported on progress with each of the outstanding recommendations – R01 and R03 – and in the course of the discussion the following were among the main points raised:

### **Recommendation 01 – Cabinet Member’s Assessment ‘2’ (Achieved – Late)**

- There would be another Grimewatch video released the following week;
- Another 10 cameras had been ordered and discussions were taking place regarding a new type of solar camera and a new software system;
- Members said that they would welcome more information on this and expressed concern that it had taken so long to release another Grimewatch video since the first one had been in March;
- The delay had been due to legal hurdles with very strict guidance from the legal team as to what could be publicised and when;
- The Committee did not agree with the Cabinet Member’s assessment for this recommendation and agreed it should be changed to ‘3’ (Not Achieved – Progress Made) with a further report back to Committee in January 2023.

### **Recommendation 03 – Cabinet Member’s Assessment ‘2’ (Achieved – Late)**

- Members were not satisfied that this recommendation had been achieved and stressed that a proper review of prosecution strategies was needed;
- Councillor Mahmood said that he would need to have a conversation with the Leader, the Chair of Licensing and Public Protection and legal officers;
- A request was made for the statistics for the number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued to be provided and Members were told the Licensing and Public Protection Committee publishes this information online;
- Councillor Mahmood informed members that the mobile household recycling centres have been operating for over a year now and fly-tipping has decreased;
- The Committee did not agree with the Cabinet Member’s assessment for this recommendation and agreed it should be changed to ‘3’ (Not Achieved – Progress Made) with a further report back to Committee in January 2023.

### **RESOLVED: -**

- That the Cabinet Member’s assessment for both recommendations R01 and R03 be changed to ‘3’ (Not Achieved – Progress Made);
- That a further report on progress be brought back to Committee in January 2023;
- That the report be noted.

## **7. WORK PROGRAMME**

(See document 6)

The following matters were raised:

- Cross-committee work – the Co-ordinating O&S Committee will be having a session on Domestic Abuse on 17<sup>th</sup> February and an invitation will be sent to Housing and Neighbourhoods O&S members;
- December meeting – Cllr Cotton’s Priorities Report and the Annual Report of the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership (BCSP) are on the agenda. Members were given the opportunity to flag anything they would want to see included in the BCSP report;



- January meeting – Reports back on Reducing Fly-tipping.

**RESOLVED:**

The work programme was noted.

**8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED:**

The date of the next meeting was noted.

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

None.

**10. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

**11. AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS**

**RESOLVED:**

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

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The meeting ended at 1532 hours.



**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

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

**1430 hours on Tuesday 29 November 2022**

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

**Action Notes**

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**Present:**

Councillor Mohammed Idrees (Chair)

Councillors: Ray Goodwin, Saqib Khan, Lauren Rainbow and Ken Wood

**Also Present:**

Councillor Rob Grant

Councillor Julien Pritchard

Dean Billingham, Sub-Category Manager, Procurement

Paul Langford, Acting Strategic Director, City Housing

Asha Patel, Interim Head of Repairs and Maintenance

Jayne Bowles, Scrutiny Officer

Amelia Murray, Overview and Scrutiny Manager

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**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Kerry Brewer, Marje Bridle and Roger Harmer.

### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

### 4. REQUEST FOR CALL-IN: HOUSING REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE AND INVESTMENT 2024

(See documents 1 to 5)

Cllr Rob Grant, Cllr Julien Pritchard, Paul Langford, Acting Strategic Director, City Housing, Asha Patel, Interim Head of Repairs and Maintenance, and Dean Billingham, Sub-Category Manager for Procurement, were in attendance for this item.

The Chair advised the meeting that unfortunately the Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness had not been able to attend and had given her apologies.

The Chair invited Cllrs Grant and Pritchard to explain the reasons for their request for this decision to be called in and in doing so the following were among the main points raised:

- The call-in proforma gave a brief explanation of the reason for the request, which was that there were “some concerns with potential issues around the transparency and decision-making and approval for this contract” and “some concerns about the recommendations in the report versus the options that were suggested”.
- The three main concerns were around:
  - How the report proposed to split and procure the contract;
  - Tenant engagement;
  - How the contract would be awarded – which was the main reason for the request for call-in.
- **Division of the contract:** The report seemed to suggest two contracts, which went against the recommendation from the consultant that there should be four;
- This would result in two very large contracts and potential risks if one of those failed;
- **Tenant and leaseholder engagement:** The report did not go into a lot of detail about how tenants and leaseholders would be engaged in the process;
- It was noted that at the Cabinet meeting reference had been made to tenants being involved in the procurement shortlisting process, but this had not been included in the report;
- It was queried how residents would be picked to be part of that process to ensure wide representation and also what the balance would be between tenants and council officers in the process;
- **Contract award:** The main reason for the request for call-in was the decision in the report to delegate authority to officers to award the contract once the procurement process had been completed;
- Whilst it was accepted that technically this delegation can be given, this is a very large contract over a number of years and the view was a contract of this scale – affecting 60,000 council properties - should go back to Cabinet for final sign-off;

- Reference was made to the waste disposal contract, which it was understood would be going to Cabinet for final sign-off;
- In summary, the Committee was requested to call-in the decision because of the way the contract was being split, contrary to the consultant's advice, to get more clarity around the representation of tenants and most importantly that to ensure political accountability Cabinet should make the final award.

Officers responded and the following were among the main points raised:

- In terms of the importance of this contract, it was acknowledged that it is one of the biggest of its kind in the country, significant in scale and hugely important to residents;
- With regard to the independent advice, there had been 21 recommendations made by the consultant and 19 of those in terms of adjustments to the process had been accepted in full, one was partially accepted and one was not accepted, with reasons;
- The two recommendations which were not fully accepted related to the length of the contract and the geographical areas;
- **Length of contract:** Originally, a potential 15 year contract had been looked at as this length of time is appealing in terms of economies of scale, however on the basis that there needs to be a balance between giving certainty and appropriate breaks in the contract to allow for review, it was decided to go for a five year contract with the option to extend for a further period of five years through a contract extension process;
- This is nearer to what the industry standard would look like, 7-10 years is normal;
- **Geographical areas:** the report talked about four areas across the city and whilst it was right to say that two would result in very big contract areas, there was an overriding benefit in terms of client management;
- From significant experience, whilst competition from smaller companies was positive, the bigger Tier 1 companies have the expertise and capacity to deliver on a larger scale and this does lead to service improvements;
- In the last six to ten years, there have been three to four contracts, which has not guaranteed performance;
- **Contract award:** whether or not the decision goes back to Cabinet due to the scale of the contract would need to be looked at by the Chief Legal Officer, however it was noted that unnecessary delays could result in timescales being missed and at the moment the process is on course;
- **Tenant and leaseholder involvement:** There was support for making sure the tenant voice is loud and clear and is meaningful, not just about the procurement but also how the service is monitored;
- As part of the first stage of consultation with leaseholders, over 26 individual observations were received and these have been written into the contract documentation, so tenderers are being challenged to emphasise what they will do;
- Work was also being done with customer strategy colleagues with regard to what is included in tender documents and with housing management colleagues with regard to getting customers involved in the detail and how their expertise and opinions are harnessed;

- Throughout the whole process officers will continue to liaise with Cabinet Members and will also work closely with the consultant.

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

- Members pointed out that it was very clear the consultant's recommendation was for four contract areas and there was concern that the council appears to be overriding that advice;
- With regard to the list of contractors ARK had spoken to, clarity was sought as to how many of those were Tier 1 and how many Tier 2, as the report did not make this clear;
- Members were told that 8 of the companies listed in the report were Tier 1 contractors;
- The report makes it clear that Tier 1 is very risky and very limited on the number of contractors who might be able to tender, which doesn't seem to be opening doors very much, certainly for local contractors;
- Social value will be brought into the tender documents, for example how many suppliers are in Birmingham, how many people in the workforce are within Birmingham, etc, and local providers often do well by being a dedicated part of the supply chain to bigger contractors;
- It was requested that key performance indicators be identified to demonstrate the social value and local economy benefits from this contract;
- One of the concerns with going down the route of two contract areas was what would happen if one of the two companies failed. It is not uncommon for contractors to hit financial difficulties – the example of Sandwell Council was cited and the need to spread the risk;
- Members were told that there will be a financial stress test on each bidder as part of the evaluation process, which takes into account liquidity and gearing, not just turnover;
- The wider capability of the bigger contractors was reiterated in terms of striking a balance between responsive repairs and capital investment;
- There was further concern around the length of the contract and what the incentive was for contractors to perform in the second five years, with a view that this should be broken down;
- Members were told that there will be performance management throughout the first five years and an annual review with contractors to address any areas of concern;
- If contractors failed to deliver on any of the KPIs, a Service Improvement Notice can be issued, so there are incentives for them to consistently perform;
- The Committee has seen recent performance figures and there is no doubt that Equans have performed better than the previous contractor, however performance in the north of the city has gone down slightly and it was queried whether that was due to the contractor taking on too much.
- The Committee wanted to understand how the work undertaken by TPAS informed the tenant engagement.

Following the discussion, the Chair moved to a vote and the Committee agreed not to call in the decision, by a vote of three members to two. It was, however, agreed that a letter setting out the Committee's concerns would be sent to the relevant Cabinet Members and that a draft would be shared with committee members for comment before being sent.

**RESOLVED:** -

- That the decision was not called in;
- That a letter setting out the Committee's concerns be sent to the relevant Cabinet Members.

**5. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED:**

The date of the next meeting was noted.

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

None.

**7. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

**8. AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS**

**RESOLVED:**

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

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The meeting ended at 1552 hours.





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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Notes</b>
29-Nov-22	Request for Call-In: Housing Repairs, Maintenance and Investment 2024	A letter setting out the Committee’s concerns to be sent to the relevant Cabinet Members.	Letter sent on 7 <sup>th</sup> December.
		A report on tenant and leaseholder involvement to be brought to a future committee meeting.	
10-Nov-22	Performance Monitoring	Right to Buy rules, including the qualifying period for accessing Right to Buy, to be shared with Members.	
		The offer of a demonstration of the “slab in the cab” technology to be followed up.	
	Progress Report on Implementation: Reducing Fly-tipping	A further report on progress to be brought back to Committee in January.	Work Programme updated.
13-Oct-22	Localisation	Leader to come back to committee in March with a further update.	Work Programme updated.
		Populated version of the table attached to the letter sent to the former Cabinet Member to be circulated to committee members.	Emailed to members on 9 <sup>th</sup> November.
		Letter from Cllr Thompson to the Leader regarding ward plan to be shared with committee members.	
		Email sent to members regarding the NAC pilot and pairing up of wards to be re-circulated and named person to be added for each of the wards.	This has been emailed to the members it affects.

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

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Notes
		Directorate self-assessments which came out of the Star Chamber to be shared with committee members.	Emailed to members on 23 <sup>rd</sup> November.
	Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness: Priorities 2022/23  City Wide Housing Strategy 2022-2027 Consultation	Tenant Engagement Delivery Plan and Action Plan to be brought to committee before being finally ratified.	Included on Work Programme for February.
		Timeline to be provided for the repairs contracts extension arrangements and re-tendering for the South.	Emailed to members on 14 <sup>th</sup> November.
		Affordable Housing Plan to be brought to future committee meeting.	Timing to be confirmed (currently scheduled for February).
26-Sep-22	Action Notes and Action Tracker	Updated list of HMOs by Ward to be requested (raised by Cllr Harmer).  Voids – deep dive piece of work still to be programmed (raised by Cllr Wood).	Emailed to members on 23 <sup>rd</sup> November.  Programmed for March 2023 (TBC).
	Petition: Ban Use of Pesticides	A letter setting out the Committee’s resolution to be sent to the Cabinet Member.  Final report to be brought back to a future committee meeting (timing to be confirmed).	Letter sent on 11 <sup>th</sup> October.
	Request for Call-In: Capital Funding Bid for the Proposed Introduction of Car Parking	A letter setting out the Committee’s concerns to be sent to the Cabinet Member.	Letter sent on 11 <sup>th</sup> October.

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

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Notes
	Charging across selected BCC Parks		
	Delays in Birth and Death Registrations	Further report to be brought back to Committee in 4-6 months' time.	
	Work Programme	Cleaner Streets to be programmed for November, December and January to allow time to influence the budget.	Work Programme updated.



# Birmingham City Council

## Housing and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date 15 December 2022



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**Subject:** Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety & Equalities Priorities

**Report of:** Cllr John Cotton, Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety & Equalities

**Report author:** Marcia Wynter, Cabinet Support

### 1 Purpose

- 1.1 To update the Committee on the Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety & Equalities priorities

### 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members note the report and agree any comments/recommendations

### 3 Any Finance Implications

- 3.1 None

### 4 Any Legal Implications

- 4.1 None

### 5 Any Equalities Implications

- 5.1 None

### 6 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety & Equalities Priorities



## 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



# Birmingham City Council

## Housing and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022



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**Subject:** Annual Report of the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership

**Report of:** Cllr John Cotton, Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities

**Report author:** Pam Powis, Senior Service Manager, Birmingham Community Safety Team

### 1 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide an overview of activity linked to the work of the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership (BCSP) for 2021/22.
- 1.2 The report includes more recent information and activity and includes information regarding the refreshing of the governance structure and priorities of the BCSP.

### 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To note and approve the 2021/22 annual report of the BCSP.

### 3 Any Finance Implications

- 3.1 None

### 4 Any Legal Implications

- 4.1 None

### 5 Any Equalities Implications

- 5.1 None

### 6 Appendices

Appendix A: Local Partnership Delivery Group Map

## **Birmingham Community Safety Partnership Annual Report 2021/22**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Crime and Disorder Act (1998) mandated all local authority areas to establish Crime and Disorder Partnerships. In Birmingham, this partnership is referred to as the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership (BCSP).
- 1.2 The core membership of the BCSP includes all Responsible Authorities. These include Birmingham City Council; Birmingham Children's Trust; West Midlands Police; West Midlands Fire Service; National Probation Service; and Birmingham and Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group, now referred to as the Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Board. Co-opted members are Birmingham Social Housing Partnership, West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP), Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for the West Midlands and the Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Trust.
- 1.3 The BCSP has responsibility for discharging the following statutory requirements:
- Work together to form and implement strategies to prevent and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, and the harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse. This will include producing an annual plan.
  - Produce plans to reduce reoffending by adults and young people.
  - Manage the Community Trigger process.
  - Commission Domestic Homicide Reviews.
  - To work in partnership to reduce serious violence – This duty will come into effect in January 2023 and involves the introduction of an Offensive Weapon Homicide Review.
  - Consult and engage with the community.
- 1.4 In addition to the above, the BCSP will also support partner organisations to discharge their legal duties for:
- Prevent
  - Modern Slavery
  - Contextual Safeguarding
  - Domestic Abuse
- 1.5 The BCSP Executive Board is accountable for the work of the BCSP. The four thematic groups have been established to co-ordinate activity around each of the priorities above, which are led by members of the Board and supported by officers within the Birmingham City Council Community Safety Team (BCC CST). Each thematic group will set up working groups as needed.
- 1.6 As part of the governance of the BCSP, there are six Local Partnership Delivery Groups (LPDGs) which help co-ordinate tactical and operational activity in neighbourhoods.
- 1.7 The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for the West Midlands is also represented at the Executive Board. The OPCC provided £660k in 2021-2022 for the BCSP to support the BCSP work programme. All projects delivered

through this funding were in alignment with the OPCC priorities, as well as the BCSP priorities. The OPCC also commission services that operate within Birmingham and the BCSP works in partnership with the OPCC to ensure linkage and reduction in duplication. The West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP), established in 2019, also commissions services and projects. The BCSP is linked in to both the VRP and OPCC to ensure collaborative working.

- 1.8 Birmingham City Council hosts the BCSP and Cllr John Cotton, Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities, is Chair of the Executive Board. Chief Superintendent Mat Shaer, NPU Commander West Midlands Police acts as Vice-Chair of the Executive Board.

## **2. Birmingham Community Safety Partnership Activities 2021/22**

- 2.1 **Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)** – The PSPO was introduced in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and is one of the tools that can be used to support the reduction of ASB. A PSPO is an order that is used in a public space and restricts certain actions. An evidence pack must be produced that meets a civil legal standard.

- 2.1.1 In the past 12 months 3 PSPOs have been introduced. These are:

- I. Erdington High Street – Conditions include an alcohol restriction area, preventing groups gathering, and being in possession of intoxicating substances.
- II. City Centre - Groups causing anti-social behaviour, being under the influence of intoxicating substance and/or alcohol while in a public place, and damage or destruction of property (graffiti).
- III. Station Road Abortion Clinic -: Protesting, namely engaging in any act of approval or disapproval with respect to issues related to abortion services. Interfering, or attempting to interfere, whether verbally or physically, with a Robert Clinic service user, visitor, or member of staff; Intimidating or harassing, or attempting to intimidate or harass, a Robert Clinic service user, visitor, or a member of staff; Recording or photographing a Robert Clinic service user, visitor or member of staff or displaying any text or images relating directly or indirectly to the termination of pregnancy.

- 2.1.2 To date there have been 53 breaches, all within Erdington High Street and the City Centre. Of the 53 breaches, 28 have been within the City Centre and have all received warning letters with no second breaches. Erdington has had 25 breaches, again all have received warning letters with 2 receiving fixed penalty notices.

- 2.1.3 There is also a PSPO in place within the Newtown shopping area, which expires in December 2022. Due to the lack of breaches this will not be renewed. Further PSPOs are being considered in the Soho Road area and Moseley and Kings Heath. The BCSP are also looking at the possibility of a PSPO as an option to deal with ASB complaints around traffic lights.

- 2.1.4 It is also worth noting that the Regulation and Enforcement team have 2 PSPOs in place for dog fouling and noise related ASB in the city centre.

- 2.2 **Supported Housing Pilot** – The Community Safety Team are working in partnership with BCC’s City Housing, Adult Social Care, Planning, and Housing Benefit teams on a Supported Housing (also known as Exempt Accommodation) Pilot. The community safety element involves the introduction of a small team with a focus on crime and ASB in exempt accommodation. The team also includes a seconded Police Officer, which enables the Council to work very closely with the West Midlands Serious and Organised Crime Team.
- 2.2.1 In the past 12 months, as part of the pilot, the community safety team have carried out 884 visits/inspections with partners in addition to 736 investigations, which have resulted in: 13 community protection warnings being issued, 164 evictions, and supported information that has led to 22 arrests and the decommissioning of 20 properties.
- 2.2.2 The Community Safety Team continue to manage a weekly partnership tasking meeting and have introduced a weekly new business process and ASB policy for providers/landlords to use as part of their tenancy conditions.
- 2.3 **Partnership Street Tasking (PST)** – The Partnership Street Tasking (PST) receive referrals from outreach services when ASB issues related to begging have occurred and engagement and outreach services can no longer support, or the individuals are no longer engaging with services. The PST meets fortnightly and partners include the BCC Community Safety Team, Trident Reach, BCC Housing Solutions, and WM Police. The Community Safety Team have 3 Intervention Officers who engage with the street community to offer support and signpost to appropriate services, as well as undertaking enforcement action if required when all options have been exhausted. In the past 12 months, the PST have received over 2,500 referrals. All referrals have had an element of complexity, be that mental health, substance misuse, homelessness, criminal activity, anti-social behaviour, or a combination of these factors. The partnership assesses each referral and a plan is put in place for each individual with agreed actions. Some outcomes have included increased access to support services including providing accommodation and the use of civil powers to issue warning letters and verbal warnings, community protection notices, injunctions, and criminal prosecutions.
- 2.3 **West Midlands Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) Project** – The BCC Community Safety Team are commissioned by the West Midlands OPCC to look at introducing a West Midlands approach to DHRs. This has included the standardisation of templates, action plans and processes during the past year. The Team have introduced learning events across the West Midlands and have commissioned 46 events, with more planned for 2023. These events were launched in November under the ‘16 Days of Action Against Domestic Violence’ national campaign. A West Midlands repository will be introduced that will enable all the West Midlands Community Safety Partnerships to have access to learning from the DHR’s and continue to develop and learn from these each other.
- 2.4 **Operation Hercules** – Operation Hercules is held within the Section 222 injunction for car cruising. Due to the amendments heard at the London High Court

with regards to Section 222 Injunctions and the use of 'persons unknown', Birmingham's injunction was put on hold. We have received permission from the High Court to re-apply for this injunction, which is now in the process of being submitted. To ensure that the BCSP continue to deal with issues related to car cruising, a West Midlands partnership was formed and is Chaired by the West Midlands Police. Partners include the Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Sandwell and Dudley Community Safety Teams and legal departments, West Midlands Police Op Hercules Team, and the West Midlands Fire Service.

2.4.1 The Operation Hercules partnership has introduced a diversionary scheme that is based on the speed awareness approach. West Midlands Police carry out enforcement under Section 59 and offer the scheme instead of taking criminal action. They are referred to the Birmingham Community Safety Team who manage the payment and booking for the course, which is delivered by West Midlands Fire Service. To date, 59 people have attended the course and this has created an Op Hercules income of £3,068. Of the income received, 5% is given to charities and the remainder supports the ongoing partnership work under Op Hercules. The BCSP have also developed and introduced a joint community protection warning process, with 99 community protection warnings being issued to date.

2.5 **Community Trigger** – The community trigger is an ASB case review process that is triggered when a person who has reported ASB to any partner, including a landlord, police or regulation and enforcement, feel that their complaint/report has not been dealt with appropriately. The threshold for a community trigger in Birmingham is 3 reports in the previous 6 months, with the last report being in the last month. In the past 12 months the Community Safety Team have received 63 community triggers with 34 having met the threshold. A panel meeting has taken place with 4 having been processed through the appeal process. Each panel will produce an action plan with clear timescales for actions which can include referrals to statutory and/or 3<sup>rd</sup> sector services, to organisations making changes in their policies or approaches to ASB.

2.5.1 Following the learning taken from the community triggers received throughout 2021, a pre assessment stage was introduced in July 2022. This has enabled the Council and partners to work with applicants to ensure their concerns are dealt with much more efficiently. The BCSP have also introduced a new process for the community trigger, which includes an independent chair for all panel meetings. Members on the panel include West Midlands Police, BCC Regulation & Enforcement, Community Safety, the Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Board Previously known as (the Clinical Commissioning Group), and landlords (BCC and registered providers). The BCSP are currently working with the OPCC to consider how they could be involved in the appeal process.

2.6 **Partnership Consequences Management Meeting (CMM)** – West Midlands Police carry out a CMM process in response to a serious incident. Working with the Community Safety Team, the process has been further developed during 2021/22 with the involvement of additional partners. This allows partners within a certain neighbourhood to be involved in a discussion around the incident and offer information and support. To date, the team has supported 16 CMM processes.

These have been related to reports of gunfire, gang related stabbings (injury and deaths) funerals of gang members, and the death of an infant.

- 2.7 **Commonwealth Games (CWG)** – The Community Safety Team led on a partnership approach to reduce incidents of ASB within the street community, having secured extra funding from the CWG Board. The team increased its presence within neighbourhoods and routes to and from key CWG locations. Working with the Violence Reduction Partnership, the team introduced eight ‘Step Together’ routes which provided chaperones during the Games. The chaperones engaged with groups or individuals and signposted to services within that location. Colleagues within the BCC Housing Solutions Team commissioned services to work with, and support people begging, and the Community Safety Team had 9 Community Safety Intervention Officers available on the streets over this period who engaged with over 9,000 people. Although these were short term engagements, they resulted in 1,232 referrals being made to support services.
- 2.8 **Domestic Abuse (DA)** – The Community Safety Team continue to work in partnership at a strategic and local level to reduce domestic abuse and increase awareness. The six Local Partnership Delivery Groups continue to focus on a partnership approach to dealing with offenders and supporting victims at a local level. There are currently 12 cases a day being heard at MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) and the Community Safety Team have been working with Adult Social Care to improve the support provided by Birmingham City Council at these meetings.
- 2.9 Officers within the Community Safety Team have established a working group that will help develop the Birmingham Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy (VAWG). This includes working with 3<sup>rd</sup> sector providers to ensure we include lived experiences. As a result, the team are developing a partnership with survivors of domestic abuse.
- 2.9.1 Funding was also secured within the Safer Streets 3 programme, which enabled the team to provide training for partners who work with our street community to raise awareness about the risks of sexual violence that female rough sleepers can face and the support they can access. Approximately 280 people received this training provided by the delivery partner RSVP (Rape and Sexual Violence Project), a specialist sexual violence charity based in the city.

### 3. **Projects and Commissioned Services**

- 3.1 During 2021/22, the BCSP Board commissioned several interventions to support the BCSP priorities and delivery programmes. These are set out below:
- 3.2 **Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)** – Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) came into effect in April 2011 under section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime, and Victims Act 2004. Since then, Birmingham has received 52 notifications, 48 of which have been progressed as DHRs. 18 have been concluded and published, 5 are with the Home Office and there are 4, for different reasons, that have been concluded but will not be published. The remainder are at different stages within the



DHR panel process. The Community Safety Team continue to work with other Local Authorities where cases have crossed boundaries. In the last 12 months the team have delivered 8 learning events focused on early intervention and coercive control and a further 16 have been commissioned and will start in January 2023. The BCSP Board introduced a process just before the covid lockdown which included a DHR core group made up of Executive Board members. This process is now under review and a task and finish group has been established. The group is Chaired by the Strategic Director of Nursing, Quality and Safeguarding for the Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care System and members include West Midlands Police, Birmingham Children's Trust, The Coroner's Office, and the BCC Community Safety Team.

- 3.3 **Modern Slavery** – Within the Community Safety Team, there is a dedicated and externally funded Modern Slavery Coordinator role. Although this post is currently vacant, the team are actively looking to fill it. During the last 12 months, there have been a number of successful outcomes achieved under this project. The coordinator has continued to provide a strategic and operational point of contact for all BCC concerns related to modern slavery, including attending all relevant forums, and representing BCC at strategic forums across the region, including the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Strategic Board and the Local Authority Modern Slavery Leads forum. The coordinator has provided second-tier advice on 57 individual cases and delivered training and input to 232 persons, including presenting on work of Birmingham City Council on Modern Slavery at the Liberty Conference in Northumberland.
- 3.3.1 The Community Safety Team have helped recruitment to the Home Office's Multi-Agency Assurance Panels, supporting the review and challenging of negative National Referral Mechanism (NRM) decisions where appropriate. The team have also updated the Modern Slavery Transparency Statement 22-23, which has been signed off at all relevant governance levels.
- 3.3.2 A new training package has been developed for BCC Housing Officers as part of the Housing Directorate redesign and will be offered as a rolling training offer. A three-part Modern Slavery Champions training package for Housing Officers has also been developed and will be delivered in three phases. This was also offered out to Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid staff and the modern slavery project at St Basils. 75 new Champions across Housing, St Basils, and Women's Aid were also trained.
- 3.3.3 The Community Safety Team has continued to collate and distribute the BCC Modern Slavery Monthly Updates, now reaching a distribution list of over 300 people and with further amplification through the Birmingham Migration Forum, the Violence Reduction Partnership, the EMPOWERu Hub, and the Birmingham Safeguarding Adult Board. The team has also collaborated with the OPCC on developing work around a public health approach to modern slavery across the

West Midlands region. New pieces of work and guidance have been developed, including: collaborative work with HMPPS on the NRM referrals in prison; working with the Commonwealth Games Association; a landlords' forum through West Midlands Police; a Roma Exploitation working group and developing the Serious and Organised Crime Exploitation (SOCEX) partnership forum. Work was also undertaken with the Commonwealth Games B2022 Committee to support their modern slavery processes and provide a single point of contact for any concerns raised during the games.

3.4 **SIFA - Modern Slavery and Homelessness Project** - This project has emerged from ongoing work over the last few years and reflects learning to date. It also reflects ongoing discussion with West Midlands Anti-Slavery Network (WMASN) about collaboration to develop a joint approach and strengthening systems to identify, reach and support a very vulnerable (and often hidden) group of people. Officers from SIFA have been trained as Modern Slavery Champions and now sit within the community safety team champion list. Since June 2022, SIFA have supported 12 people through this project. The champions also work in partnership with our EUSS project worker, who has provided specialist settled status support to 3 of the cases.

3.5 **Street Intervention Officers** – Within the Community Safety Team, there are 3 intervention officers that operate within the city centre. They work in partnership with West Midlands Police, Trident Reach, Business Improvements Districts (BID), outreach services and BCC Regulation & Enforcement Team including City Centre operations. Their focus is to intervene at an early stage to reduce crime and ASB related to issues within the street community. The officers carry out daily patrols and, in some cases, this is with other partners e.g. WM Police, BID Wardens or Outreach Services.

3.5.1 In the past 12 months the officers have made 1,285 contacts/engagements, of which 265 were rough sleepers with no accommodation. 234 referrals were made to outreach services including: Shelter, Trident Reach, and Change Grow Live (CGL). 128 verbal warnings and 99 written warnings were issued by the team, as well as a Community Protection Warning and a Community Protection Notice. The lower number of formal civil enforcement measures demonstrates the effectiveness of the engagement first and early warning approach that was introduced during 2020/21. Officers have also issued 1 injunction which was obtained against an individual causing ASB in the city centre, following the individual breaching the conditions within his community protection notice. The injunction also included positive requirements.

3.6 **Exploitation and Homelessness Project (Young Adults 18-24)** - This project introduces a role that will have partnership support from the BCC Modern Slavery Coordinator, particularly in arranging training and on oversight of the deliverables. The Barnardo's ICTG service will also offer specialist training support too. This role

also has some cross-organisational partnership support from the Modern Slavery Project at SIFA Fireside. The project supports young adults aged 18-24 who had either been identified in the youth accommodation schemes or had presented at the youth hub experiencing homelessness and exploitation. It includes the support to understand their options, rights, and entitlements as victims of modern slavery, including access to safehouse provision through the NRM or safeguarding within the local community where appropriate. Since June 2022 exploitation and homelessness role is now active, and casework is being delivered 10 individuals have been supported. St Basil's' Modern Slavery Pathway has been revised.

- 3.7 **Forced marriage, Honour Based Violence and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Engagement** – In the past 12 months, 21 community awareness sessions on FGM have been delivered. FGM training for staff/volunteers has been provided to organisations including Restore, British Red Cross, The Salvation Army, St. Chad's, BAOBAB, and Women with Hope. Individual support is provided to women/victims that is tailored to their needs, including health, psychological, housing, and legal and immigration support. This work is done in partnership with an NHS midwife with responsibility for FGM. 24 Community Champions have now been recruited and trained offering support/advice and sign posting in their neighbourhoods. Since April 2022, open support has been provided to 35 women. There have been several training events delivered which included 155 professionals. Contact has been made with 133 GP practices to offer training, support, and referral process.
- 3.8 **Virtual Decisions (VD)** – This project is delivered in partnership with Round Midnight who have developed a virtual reality educational tool 'Virtual Decisions', in which participants can experience a simulated true-to-life scenario covering the themes of peer pressure, gang culture, anti-social behaviour, and youth violence. By wearing a VR headset, each participant is placed in a realistic live-action scenario in which they must make a number of choices. Each choice results in various outcomes, demonstrating that every action has a consequence. Following the 8-minute VR film is a workshop that explores the issues raised in more depth. The Project looks at the motivations behind the characters' behaviour, whether peer pressure contributed to the outcome and the positive/negative responses each user receives from characters based on their decisions. Several sessions have been held since April 2022, with 53 children across Birmingham attending in total. These have consisted of shorter sessions and workshops during the summer holidays. A programme has been developed aimed at victims of violent crime, which started in October 2022. This project will be delivered into 12 schools and to young people referred by WM Police who have received an out of court disposal.
- 3.9 **For the Community by the Community Phase 2** – This is a project that is delivered in neighbourhoods and engages with parents/carers who are now ready to build on journey by advocating for each other and learning experientially from this process Crime & Exploitation. Parents/carers with complex needs around

poverty, school exclusion, poor health, poor housing, child exploitation, serious youth violence, being subject to a care plan by social services or the local authority (sometimes experiencing all these factors); advocates enabled parents to navigate these issues; with better outcomes for their children and themselves. Since May 2022, 15 parents/cares have been supported to complete OCN level 3 courses to undertake community research in their communities strengthening understanding of the causes of serious youth violence and the solutions people want to see.

- 3.9.1 Communities of Kingstanding & Newtown, Lozells were badly shaken by community tensions following the trial for the murder of a child, a significant house fire (which disposed 30 people), and the murder of another child. Having this initiative in place meant that partners were able to respond to issues at hand via timely and meaningful interventions. Funding and volunteer support was identified and brought in to support a Kingstanding Event, held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2022, to respond to community tensions which provided free food and helped bring the community together at a critical time; parents and professionals took part in roundtable discussions to bring better interventions to the area, provided a presence in the area to ensure there was no conflict between White and Black communities, and donated gifts for families disposed. The event was a success with 1,000 attending right help at the right time.
- 3.9.2 The Newtown/Lozells community was further traumatised and rocked by a murder of 16-year-old child 8 days later, on the 11th of July. Because of the project footprint in the area (parents/carers, young people, professionals, CICs, and faith leaders) the providers were able to implement an intervention within 24 days that greatly reduced the severity and quantity of further violence, including retaliatory action.
- 3.10 **Re-deployable CCTV** – The Community Safety Team currently have access to 11 re-deployable cameras and 2 automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras that are used in line with Government legislation to reduce the impact of Crime and ASB in a neighbourhood. A process is now in place for approval to deploy the CCTV, which is managed through the LPDG's and approved through the BCC Resilience team. The 2 ANPR cameras are being used to support Operation Hercules which is the Section 222 injunction for car cruising.
- 3.11 **Re-Engage** - This Project focuses on targeting those young offenders who due to experience of trauma and a history of offending are unable to engage successfully with mainstream Education, Training and Employment and are at risk of permanent exclusion from college / school / training provision. There is increasing evidence of the causal link between adverse childhood trauma experiences and disengagement with education and training. This disengagement leads to an increased propensity to go on and commit serious youth violence or become at risk of Child Criminal Exploitation or Child Sexual Exploitation. There are now 4 providers in place and referrals are being received. The Re-Engage Programme

continues to receive referrals from several agencies including schools. 38 young people have successfully been engaging on the Project. Due to the success of this project, Birmingham Children's Trust will now be mainstreaming the work in the 23/24 financial year. The Trust have also part funded the current project which has allowed them to introduce the Engage Through Work project. The main challenge for this project concept is whether appropriate employers and hosts for the extended work experience placements can be identified. This is because they need to be able to manage the risks associated with children open to youth offending services, particularly those with serious youth violence offences, gang affiliation and weapon offences. The first entrepreneurial business course has been successfully delivered, giving the participants experience of running a fashion design business.

- 3.12 **Locality working** - This project seeks to support the development of locality working at a neighbourhood level and increase the neighbourhood partnership working pilots being delivered in Sparkhill/Sparkbrook and Lozells. This project will be delivered in Stockland Green and Erdington as a continuation of the safer streets work delivered in 2020/21 in Stockland Green. Pioneer have been commissioned to deliver this project and lead on community engagement. They will continue to work with the existing residents in Stockland Green and expand into Erdington. This pilot will be a neighbourhood approach co-designed by the community and working in partnership with neighbourhood coordinators and will involve community 'all out' days to support the requests made from community members
- 3.13 **Safer Estates Group WEB partnership case management system (SEGWEB)** - SEGWEB is a case management tool utilised by BCSP partners for crime and ASB partnership work around individuals. It is the only partnership software platform in Birmingham that both internal (BCC) and external partners can jointly case manage. The LPDG's use SEGWEB to introduce, manage, monitor, and take joint action against individuals and groups who are having an impact in a neighbourhood. Between July and October 2022 there were 48 new cases opened by partners across the city, 5 were closed of the cases which that were closed, 2 cases had developed action plans which were monitored by the LPDG, and the others were closed as resolved. In the past 12 months 202 new cases have been opened.
- 3.14 **Training to Increase Awareness of the Impact of Gangs on Girls and Young Women** - Young women and girls affected by gangs or gang activity can remain a hidden group in our communities due to a lack of specialist knowledge and practice around working with these cohorts within statutory services. Anecdotal evidence suggests that young women affected by gangs do not believe services, understand their experiences, or believe that they can keep themselves safe. Young women can therefore find themselves dealing with adversity, risk, and harm within their peer group, rather than reaching out for professional support. This project delivers

training that will improve professionals' knowledge and skills in working with gang affected young women and girls, with the expectation that, in turn, it will improve the relationships between them and through improved understanding enable young women to reach out for professional support. The project was commissioned in October 2022 and work has started. Dates and locations will be confirmed throughout November.

- 3.15 **Operation Encompass** - Operation Encompass was initially set up as a charitable organisation in 2011. Operation Encompass is a police and education early information sharing partnership, which directly connects the police with schools to ensure support for children living with domestic abuse when police have attended domestic abuse incidents. The direct connection between the police, schools and early years settings means children are better safeguarded against the short, medium, and long-term effects of domestic abuse. The Operation Encompass Steering Group has become well established and meets monthly. Webinars have been delivered to schools and they have completed the Operation Encompass Key Adult training. 394 out of a possible 504 schools have signed up. West Midlands Police have contributed to the setting up of the project and helped improve capabilities and capacity. 234 key adults in schools have completed their training and sent in their certificates. This equates to approximately 175 schools and West Midlands Police have started to mainstream the project due to its success.

#### 4. **Crime Impact in Birmingham**

- 4.1 Although the majority of crime measures provided in the BCSP performance dashboard have continued to rise as expected, violence related offences have, for the first time in recent years, shown a reduction both during Q2 this year (Q2 2022/23) and in comparison, to Q2 last year (Q2 2021/22).

#### 4.2 **Increases**

- 4.2.1 Vehicle theft offences recorded the largest increases in the year-to-date figures. Hotspot areas are identified within the vicinity of Birmingham City Centre and may be ascribed to the return of footfall in the city centre. The increase in vehicle theft has been driven by a global shortage of car parts. Offences peaked during July 2022; although these reduced during August and September, offences remain at an elevated level. This increase is mirrored across the West Midlands.

- **Theft from a Motor Vehicle** rose by 60% in comparison to Q2 last year (Q2 21/22) and 24% since the previous quarter (Q1 22/23). During Q2 (22/23) the majority were recorded in Harborne (103), Nechells (101) and Aston (94).
- **Theft of a Motor Vehicle** increased by 53% in comparison to Q2 last year (2021/22) and 12% since the previous quarter (Q1 2022/23). The highest amount was recorded in the neighbourhoods of Harborne (60), Moseley & Kings Heath (58) and Kings Norton (54).

- **Theft from Shop/Stall** increased by 37% in comparison to Q2 (2021/22) and 1% since Q1. Birmingham City Centre recorded the most with 316 offences.
- **Drug offences** increased by 45% in contrast to the same quarter last year (Q2 2021/22) and 9% since the previous quarter (Q1 2022/23). The highest amount was recorded in Birmingham City Centre (94) followed by Aston and Bordesley Green (56 offences in each). 78% of offences related to Possession of Drugs and 22% concerned Trafficking of Drugs.
- **Knife crime** increased by 9% in comparison to Q2 last year (2021/22) and 1% since the last quarter (Q1 2022/23). During Q2 (2022/23): A weapon was 'used causing injury' in 276 offences (27%).
  - Most common weapons used were described as knife (unknown) and kitchen knife.
  - Most common offence recorded was Robbery (Personal Property) 32%.
  - The highest neighbourhoods were Lozells & East Handsworth (59) followed by Aston (50) and Longbridge (42).
- **Modern Slavery** offences increased by 206% (109 offences) since Q2 last year and 42% since the previous quarter (48 offences). Please note that this figure is based on offences recorded during Q2 (22/23) - 70% of offences reported during this quarter were committed prior to July 2022. This increase has been partly attributed to better crime recording and on-going initiatives.

### 4.3 Decreases

- **Violence against the Person** offences accounted for 41% of TRC. This decreased by 4% in comparison to Q2 last year and 1% since Q2 (2022/23). YTD figures show violent offences have increased. The locations in which the most offences took place during the most recent quarter were Lozells & East Handsworth (633), Aston (581) and Shard End (562).
- **Youth Violence** measures Violence with Injury under 25 (non-DA); this decreased by 1% in comparison to Q2 last year (2021/22) and 13% since the last quarter (Q1 2022/23).
- **Domestic Abuse (DA)** DA offences rose significantly during the pandemic since October 2021 these have reduced. This follows extensive work in a number of key initiatives to help victims, which includes the promotion of Clare's Law where people can apply for information on a partner's or ex-partners previous abusive or violent offending.
- DA decreased by 4% in comparison to Q2 last year (2021/22) and 1% in contrast to the last quarter (Q2 2022/23). DA accounted for 17% of total recorded crime during Q2. The neighbourhoods of Shard End (283), South

Yardley (241) and Lozells & East Handsworth (239) recorded the highest amount of DA related offences during Q2.

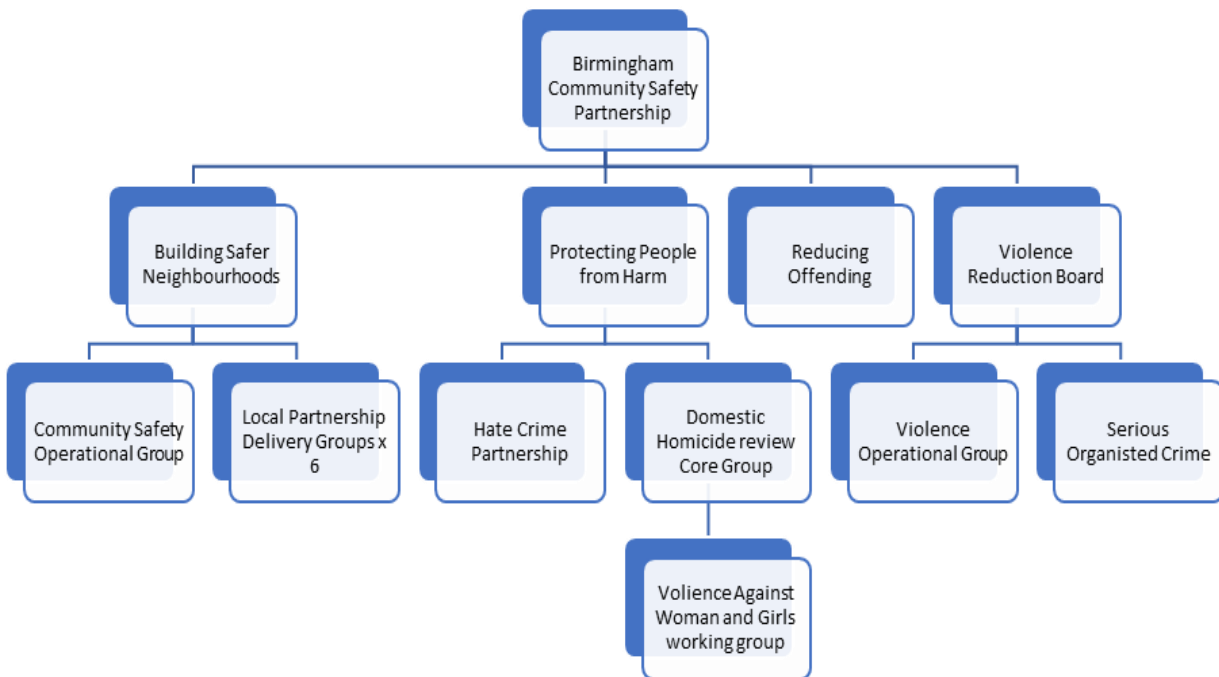
- **Hate crime** decreased by 9% in comparison to last year Q2 (2021/22) but has increased by 6% since the last quarter. The highest reporting neighbourhoods were Birmingham City Centre (90), followed by Lozells & East Handsworth (67) and Winson Green (58). 78% of offences were classified as 'racial', 15% 'sexual orientation', 7% 'religious', 4% 'disability' and 2% 'transgender'.
- **ASB (Police)** reduced by 5% (-151 incidents) since the last quarter and 31% (-1136 incidents) in comparison to Q2 last year. High levels of ASB over the last 2 years have been attributed to increased reporting due to Covid-19 breaches. Levels of ASB has continued to decrease since the end of national restrictions last year. The majority were reported in the neighbourhoods of Aston, Ladywood and Acocks Green
- **ASB (BCC)** reduced by 8.4% (-142 incidents) since the last quarter and 4.2% (-82 incidents) in comparison to Q2 last year. The majority were reported in the neighbourhoods of Bartley Green, Longbridge & West Heath, and Glede Farm & Tile Cross. The top three types of ASB reported are noise, aggressive behaviour, and harassment.

## 5. 2022 Birmingham Community Safety Partnership Governance Review

- 5.1 A key focus of the activity in 2022 has been to review the governance of the BCSP and to revisit priorities. The BCSP Board met in September 2022 and agreed that BCSP Governance required adjustment to ensure effective oversight and accountability for strategic priorities and to enable effective collaboration with, and across, other strategic boards such as: the Health and Wellbeing Board and their priorities to deliver on the '*From Harm to Hope*' 10 Year drug strategy, which includes crime reduction; the Adult Safeguarding Board to ensure joint working around modern slavery, exploitation and victims of crime; the Children's Safeguarding Partnership and their work on tackling child exploitation, early help and prevention; the West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership in preparing for the introduction of the new serious violence duty and the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board delivering against responsibilities within the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
- 5.2 Under the existing thematic groups, a number of sub-groups and partnerships had been established. However, these had little connection or information flows back to the overall BCSP and unclear lines of accountability/communication with other key structures in the City. The discussions at the BCSP away day resulted in a new governance structure being introduced that better reflects and facilitates



oversight and delivery against the statutory responsibilities and function of the BCSP.



5.2 Partnerships with joint responsibilities include: Youth Justice Board, Domestic Abuse partnership Board, Contextual Safeguarding Board, and the Violence Reduction Partnership.

5.3 The work programme of the BCSP for 2022/23 falls under the following thematic groups:

- **Building Safer Neighbourhoods** – Chair, Rob James - Strategic Director City Operations BCC
- **Protection People form Harm** – Chair, Di Rhoden – Director of Nursing – Quality & Safeguarding, NHS, Birmingham & Solihull Integrated Care System.
- **Violence Reduction Board** – Chair, Superintendent Sally Simpson - West Midlands Police
- **Reducing Re-Offending** – Chair, Glen Baynton - Director HMPPS, Probation Services

5.4 The Birmingham Community Safety Partnership Board and thematic groups will be supported and facilitated by the BCC Community Safety Team with support from West Midlands Police.

5.5 The BCSP has joint Governance with the Children Safeguarding Board for the Contextual Safeguarding Hub (EMPOWERu) and is working with the Health &

Wellbeing Board to have joint Governance of the Drug & Alcohol Strategy and Delivery Plan.

5.6 Birmingham City Council is the accountable body for the BCSP, and the Community Safety Team facilitates the management and administration of the BCSP Board structure, including both the thematic priority groups and subgroups that support the thematic delivery.

5.7 **Violence Reduction Board (VRB)** - The purpose of the VRB is to provide co-ordinated oversight of joint working to disrupt gangs, serious violence, and organised criminality in the city. This includes preparing for the new Serious Violence Duty which comes into effect in January 2023. To prepare for this, a violence profile has been produced and the Birmingham Reduction Violence Strategy is being developed. These arrangements seek to ensure each agency will safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people, and vulnerable adults, and protect the public in Birmingham. The VRB will develop and implement the strategic objectives within the new Serious Violence Duty, as well as a whole system approach incorporating policy, prevention, disruption, protection, and support across multiple agencies. This work is being done in partnership with the VRP, Public Health, the Children's Trust, and CCG. Key activity includes:

- Working with the Home Office on an Offensive Weapon Homicide Review pilot which is due to start in early 2023. West Midlands has been nominated to deliver the pilot in Birmingham and Coventry.
- Working in partnership with the VRP providing strategic overview of delivery of programmes within Birmingham and ensuring the community navigators and educational programmes are delivered and supported within Birmingham.
- Supporting the introduction of the Youth Endowment Fund (YEF). The BCSP and the West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership have been working closely with the YEF throughout the initial stages of the project development and are actively supporting the programme. The first part of the programme which is to carry out a feasibility study has been completed. The next stage is to co-design the action community plan working closely with the selected location. Based on the findings of the feasibility study, the proposed area of focus covers the whole of Lozells and parts of Newtown that border the south and east of Lozells.
- Serious Organised Crime – a partnership scoping exercise and report was produced in June 2022. The recommendations from this report have been developed into an action plan and a tasking group is in place to delivery.
- Continuing partnership work to help reduce knife crime and county lines activities within Birmingham.

5.8 **Building Safer Neighbourhoods Thematic Group** – The purpose of this group is to work together to form and implement strategies to prevent and reduce crime, anti-social behaviour, and the harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse within localities. This will include producing a 3-year rolling strategy, reviewed annually, which identifies citywide priorities. The group will also oversee the community trigger process and deliver an approach towards engaging and consulting with citizens. Key activity includes:

- Leading on the review of the ASB strategy and process; the community trigger has been the first process reviewed. The next stage is to develop an integrated ASB offer for Birmingham. This will include working with partnership from BCC City Housing, Regulation and Enforcement, Registered Social Landlords, and West Midlands Police, and will include learning from the community trigger panels.
- Governance of the LPDGs. As part of the governance review of the BCSP, work has started to review the LPDGs, providing better clarity for purpose and role, working alongside and complementing other locality forums.
- Locality working is a priority for the Building Safer Neighbourhood Group and pilot work is being delivered in Sparkbrook and Lozells. Plans to develop this work into Erdington and Stockland Green have started. This work is being delivered in partnership with WM Police and the BCC Neighbourhood Development & Support Unit.
- As part of BCSP's consult and engage priorities, the group has started to look at opportunities through different partnerships and working with the LPDGs to plan neighbourhood consultation and engagement events. The information obtained will be fed back to ensure the BCSP Board delivers against community concerns and priorities.

5.9 **Protecting People from Harm Thematic Group** – This thematic group has a focus on protecting people and ensuring the BCSP is discharging their statutory responsibilities, with particular regard to the embedding learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews, preventing violent extremism and modern slavery, supporting the BCSP Violence Reduction Board theme, and working with the Violence Reduction Partnership. Key activities include:

- Continuing to grow and develop a Hate Crime Partnership that is represented by a wide range of partners and has 83 members. The Hate Crime Partnership has an action plan in place and has had several themed workshops. On the 14 November 2022 an Islamophobia awareness event was delivered, with over 80 people in attendance.
- Develop and produce a Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy. A working group is being developed, scoping has been completed and work has started to build a workplan. The working group links into existing partnerships, for example Birmingham Domestic Abuse Board,

West Midlands Sexual Violence and Rape Board and Domestic Abuse Board. The VAWG strategy will link with the Birmingham Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy to ensure no duplication.

- The process around Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) is supported and monitored within this thematic group. Within the past 12 months Birmingham was notified of 3 DHRs. We have commissioned learning events which were launched during the 16 Days of Action campaign which started on 25 November.
- Modern Slavery Oversight is held within this thematic group and ongoing work includes the support and development of a clear and robust victim's pathway. A multi-agency approach to support victims has been introduced and a modern slavery awareness event was delivered by the Community Safety Team to improve collaborative working and awareness of issues amongst partners and communities.
- Oversight of joint working within the Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy and ensure that the work within the BCSP Domestic Abuse agenda is linked into the Strategy.
- Work has started to introduce a Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and working group. This will include priorities around rape and sexual assault. Working groups have been set up with Adult Social Care colleagues, WM Police, Public Health and working alongside voluntary and community sector providers. A profile has been commissioned, which will help direct the work of this group.

5.10 **Reducing Offending Thematic Group** – This thematic group will focus on working with the partnership to produce plans to reduce reoffending by adults and young people and reduce first time entrants. Key activities include:

- Reviewing and updating the current reducing reoffending strategy and ensuring work involving reducing first time entrants is included.
- Introduce partnership plans and actions to reduce reoffending.
- Have oversight and support the Problem-Solving Court pilot in Birmingham, which has a focus on female offenders, and ensuring appropriate support and interventions are identified that could assist courts to consider and identify other options before sentencing.

5.11 **Community Safety Operational Group** – This is a monthly partnership meeting that looks at city-wide issues. Partners work together to look at solutions and processes that have an impact across the city. Partners include: the BCC Community Safety Team, WM Police (at Chief Inspector level), BCC Regulation & Enforcement, WM Fire Service, BCC Housing Services, BCC Youth Service, Registered Providers, and BVSC. The group has introduced the Partnership

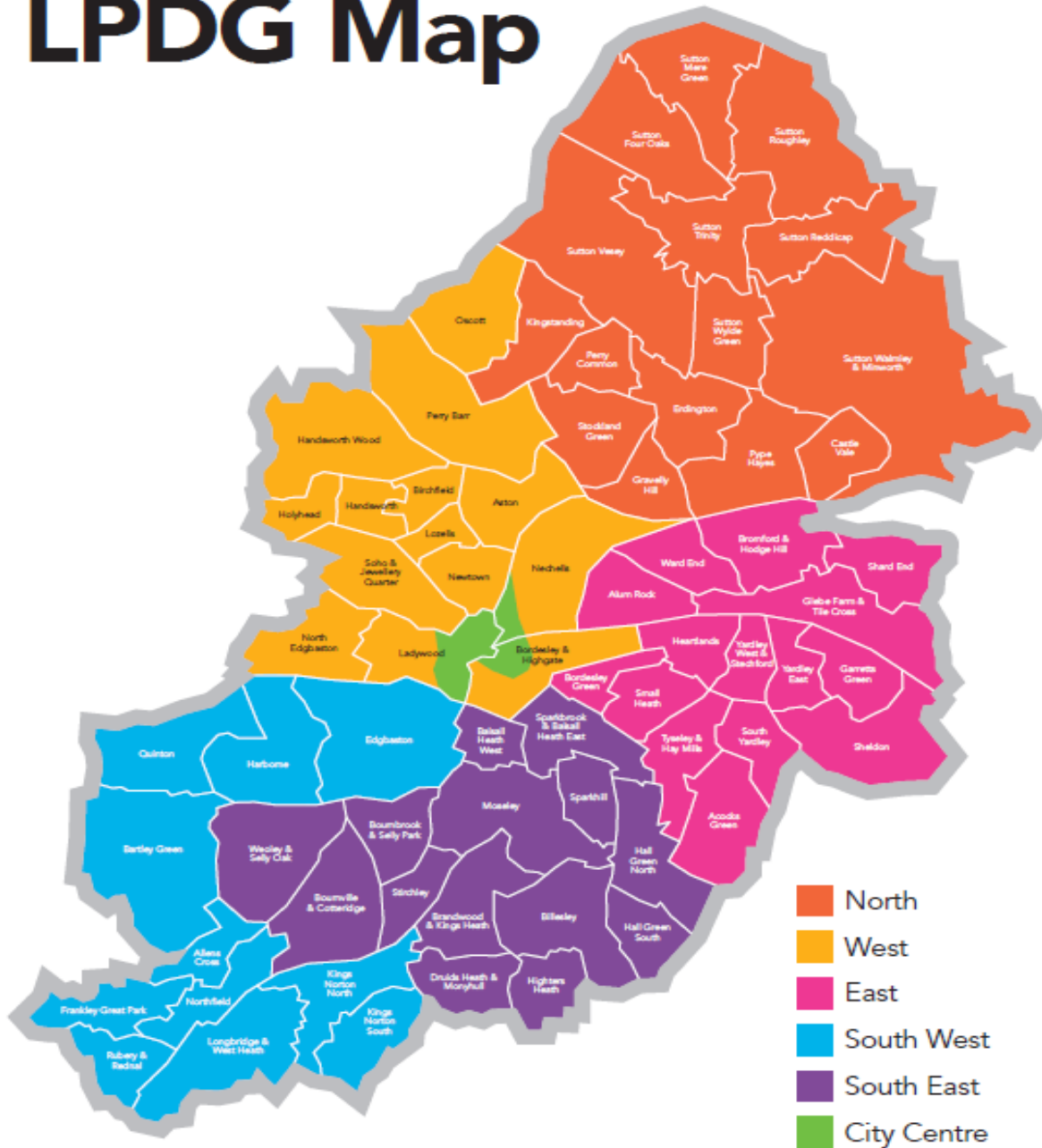
Street Tasking Group and deals with issues escalated from the Local Partnership Delivery Groups.

- 5.12 **Local Partnership Delivery Groups (LPDG)** – Following the BCSP Board away day in September, the LPDGs are being reviewed and re-designed. This should be concluded by March 2023. The review will include a new approach to help reduce youth violence in localities, which is being led by west midlands police. Currently the LPDGs have a place and people-based focus.
- Place – LPDGs will focus on key neighbourhoods in their geography where there are higher levels of crime/ ASB demand. They will develop operational multi-agency plans which deliver and monitor targeted activity on key trends and drivers of crime.
  - People – LPDGs will provide a forum for case management discussions about complex ASB cases in their local area and/or cases where there is a significant impact on the community. This part of the meeting will be restricted in line with the current Information Sharing Agreement. This group discussion will support the development of multi-agency case plans; track enforcement action and monitor impact.
- 5.13 There are six LPDGs within Birmingham (See Appendix A for Map). Each LPDG meets monthly, and partners include: WM Police, who chair four of the six meetings, Registered Providers, who chair two of the meetings, WM Fire Services, Birmingham Children’s Trust, including the youth offending team and family support, BCC Housing, BCC Regulation & Enforcement, the Violence Reduction Partnership, Local Councillors and the voluntary and community sector.

# Appendix A: Local Partnership Delivery Group Map

Local Partnership Delivery Group

# LPDG Map



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## Housing and Neighbourhoods O&S Committee: Work Programme 2022/23

<b>Chair:</b>	Cllr Mohammed Idrees
<b>Deputy Chair:</b>	Cllr Marje Bridle
<b>Committee Members:</b>	Cllrs: Kerry Brewer, Marje Bridle, Ray Goodwin, Roger Harmer, Saqib Khan, Lauren Rainbow and Ken Wood
<b>Officer Support:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Manager: Amelia Murray (07825 979253) Scrutiny Officer: Jayne Bowles: (303 4810) Committee Manager: Mandeep Marwaha (303 5950)

### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The remit of the Housing and Neighbourhoods O&S Committee is 'to fulfil the functions of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee as they relate to any policies, services and activities concerning housing; waste management; neighbourhood management; parks and allotments; localisation; bereavement services and community safety'.
- 1.2 This Committee shall be the Crime and Disorder Committee (Police and Justice Act 2006).
- 1.3 This report provides details of the proposed scrutiny work programme for 2022/23.

### 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee considers its work programme, attached at Appendix 1, and considers whether any amendments are required.

### 3 Background

- 3.1 *"Scrutiny is based on the principle that someone who makes a decision...should not be the only one to review or challenge it. Overview is founded on the belief that an open, inclusive, member-led approach to policy review...results in better policies in the long run."* (Jessica Crowe, former Executive Director, Centre for Governance and Scrutiny).
- 3.2 Developing an effective work programme is the bedrock of an effective scrutiny function. Done well, it can help lay the foundations for targeted, inclusive and timely work on issues of local importance, where scrutiny can add value. Done poorly, scrutiny can end up wasting time and resources on issues where the impact of any scrutiny work done is likely to be minimal.



3.3 As a result, the careful selection and prioritisation of work is essential if the scrutiny function is to be successful, add value and retain credibility.

## 4 Work Programme

4.1 Appendix 1 sets out the future work programme for this Committee. This provides information on the aims and objectives, together with lead officers and witnesses, for each item. The attached work programme also includes items to be programmed where dates are still to be confirmed, and any outstanding items including the tracking of previous recommendations.

4.2 As the work programmes for the Committees have developed a number of cross cutting issues have been identified. To avoid duplication Members will be invited to attend different Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings for relevant reports as set out below:

Lead Committee	Meeting and Agenda Item	Members to be invited and reason
Commonwealth Games, Culture and Physical Activity O&SC	Meeting: TBC Report on employment and skills Legacy of the Commonwealth Games	Members of the Economy and Skills O&SC At the meeting on the 8 <sup>th</sup> July Co-ordinating O&SC decided that this issue falls within the remit of the CWG, Culture and Physical Activity O&SC, and as it has been identified during the work planning for the Economy and Skills O&SC as an issue of interest Members of this Committee would be invited to the relevant meeting.
Co-ordinating O&SC	17 February 2023 Domestic Abuse To enable O&SC to inform the development of the Domestic Abuse Strategy	Housing and Neighbourhoods O&SC This O&SC is the appointed Crime and Disorder Committee for the Council. Cllr Yip has been appointed by Co-ordinating O&SC to undertake work with partners in advance of this meeting.

## 5 Other Meetings

5.1 There are no other meetings scheduled at this time.

### Call in Meetings:

On 8 November 2022, Cabinet approved the decision on Housing Repair, Maintenance and Investment 2024. A request for a Call-In of this Decision was received on 14 November 2022. This Overview and Scrutiny Committee reviewed this request on 29 November 2022. The Committee decided this request did not meet the criteria for a Call-In as set out in Part B (11.9) of the Constitution, and therefore did not Call-In this decision.





## Petitions

*None scheduled*

## Councillor Call for Action requests

*None scheduled*

## 6 Forward Plan for Cabinet Decisions

- 6.1 Since the implementation of the Local Government Act and the introduction of the Forward Plan, scrutiny members have found the Plan to be a useful tool in identifying potential agenda items.
- 6.2 The following decisions, extracted from the CMIS Forward Plan of Decisions, are likely to be relevant to the Housing and Neighbourhoods O&S Committee's remit. Members may wish to consider whether any of these issues require further investigation or monitoring via scrutiny. The Forward Plan can be viewed in full via Forward Plans ([cmis.uk.com](http://cmis.uk.com)).

<b>ID Number</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Proposed Date of Decision</b>
009966/2022	Housing Strategy 2022-2027	Housing and Homelessness	13 Dec 22
010175/2022	Druids Heath Regeneration Update	Housing and Homelessness	13 Dec 22
009647/2022	Supported Housing Strategy	Housing and Homelessness	17 Jan 23
010451/2022	Affordable Housing – sites for disposal	Leader	17 Jan 23
010882/2023	Proposed Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Council: Outcome of Consultative Ballot and Next Steps	Leader	17 Jan 23
010589/2022	Ladywood Regeneration Estate	Leader	14 Feb 23
010634/2023	Ladywood Regeneration Estate: CPO Authority in Principle	Leader	14 Feb 23
010770/2023	Interim Investment Plan – Housing Rent Account	Housing and Homelessness	14 Feb 23
007349/2020	Waste Vehicle Replacement Programme	Environment	21 Mar 23
009213/2021	BMHT Dawberry Fields Road, Passivhaus Development	Housing and Homelessness	21 Mar 23
010707/2023	Stockfield Road Housing Development	Housing and Homelessness	21 Mar 23



010840/2023	Asset Management Strategy – 5 Year Strategy	Housing and Homelessness	25 Apr 23
009489/2022	Pool Farm/Shannon Road Contract Award and Revised FBC	Housing and Homelessness	27 Jun 23
010625/2023	Bromford Housing Development, Open Space Improvement, Procurement Strategy and Revised FBC	Housing and Homelessness	27 Jun 23

## 7 Legal Implications

7.1 There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report.

## 8 Financial Implications

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

## 9 Public Sector Equality Duty

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

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

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

9.3 The Committee should ensure that equalities comments, and any recommendations, are based on evidence. This should include demographic and service level data and evidence of residents/service-users views gathered through consultation.



## 10 Use of Appendices

### 10.1 Appendix 1 – Work Programme for 2022/2023



## HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2022-23 WORK PROGRAMME

Date of Meeting: 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Item/ Topic	Type of Scrutiny	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Visits	Additional Information (including joint working / links with other O&S Committees)
Cabinet Member Portfolio Overview	Update Report	Provide a summary of Cabinet Member priorities for 2022-23, and identifying opportunities for O&S to add value	Jon Lawton, Cabinet Support Officer	Cllr Majid Mahmood, Cabinet Member for Environment	None Required	
Performance	Quarterly Report	Outline Month 2 (May) performance for City Operations, and provide more detailed commentary on areas of improvement or for concern	Jonathan Antill, Head of Business Improvement and Support	Paul Lankester, Interim Assistant Director, Regulation and Enforcement  Darren Share, Assistant Director, Street Scene	None Required	
Performance	Quarterly Report	Report outlining Month 2 (May) performance for Housing, and provide more detailed commentary on areas of improvement or for concern	Mira Gola, Head of Business Improvement and Support	Natalie Smith, Head of Service Housing Management  Steve Philpott, Head of Service Housing Solutions and Support	None Required	
Work Programme Development	Decision	Discuss work programme for 2022-23 with a particular focus on refining aims and	Amelia Murray, Overview and Scrutiny Manager	Fiona Bottrill, Senior Overview and Scrutiny Manager	None Required	<i>A Cleaner Streets inquiry proposal has been submitted to Co-</i>

		objectives, and any additional topics to consider				<i>ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This Committee will consider all in-depth inquiry proposals at their July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. This will ensure an achievable work programme for 2022-23.</i>
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**Final Deadline: Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

**Publication: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

Meeting Date: 15 September 2022 (Meeting not held – Items to be considered at meeting 26.09.22)

Item/ Topic	Type	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Visits	Additional Information
Petition – Ban Use of Pesticides	Debate	To debate the Petition and formulate a clear formal resolution on the matter for agreement	Darren Share, Assistant Director, Street Scene	Ms Laura Hackett, Lead Petitioner  Cllr Izzy Knowles, Presenting Councillor  Cllr Majid Mahmood, Cabinet Member for Environment  Darren Share, Assistant Director, Street Scene	None Required	The Petition from Bee Friendly Brum was presented to City Council on 12 <sup>th</sup> July 2022
Delays in birth/ death registrations	Update Report	Provide progress on steps being undertaken to reduce delays in births and deaths registrations, and to develop a new mortuary facility, including a digital autopsy scanner	Paul Lankester, Interim Director, Regulation and Enforcement	Sajeela Naseer, Assistant Director, Regulation and Enforcement	None Required	This has been scheduled in response to Full Council motion – 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2022. Further to this, it follows on from previous related updates: 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2022 and 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2019

**Final Deadline: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**Publication: Wednesday 7th September 2022**

Housing and Neighbourhoods O&S Committee, December 2022- Appendix 1

Date of Meeting: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022 (Agenda Items re-scheduled from 15<sup>th</sup> September meeting)

Item/ Topic	Type	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Visits	Additional Information
Petition – Ban Use of Pesticides	Debate	To debate the Petition and formulate a clear formal resolution on the matter for agreement	Darren Share, Assistant Director, Street Scene	Ms Laura Hackett, Lead Petitioner  Cllr Izzy Knowles, Presenting Councillor  Cllr Majid Mahmood, Cabinet Member for Environment  Darren Share, Assistant Director, Street Scene	None Required	The Petition from Bee Friendly Brum was presented to City Council on 12 <sup>th</sup> July 2022
Request for Call-In: Capital Funding Bid for the Proposed Introduction of Car Parking Charging Across Selected BCC Parks	Request for Call-In	To consider whether the Committee should, or should not, exercise its power of Call-In, that is whether to formally request that the Executive reconsiders its decision	Rob James, Strategic Director, City Operations	Cllr Yvonne Mosquito, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources  Cllr Majid Mahmood, Cabinet Member for Environment  Rob James, Strategic Director, City Operations	None Required	



Delays in birth/ death registrations	Update Report	Provide progress on steps being undertaken to reduce delays in births and deaths registrations, and to develop a new mortuary facility, including a digital autopsy scanner	Paul Lankester, Interim Director, Regulation and Enforcement	Sajeela Naseer, Assistant Director, Regulation and Enforcement	None Required	This has been scheduled in response to Full Council motion – 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2022. Further to this, it follows on from previous related updates: 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2022 and 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2019
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**Publication: Wednesday 16th September 2022**

Date of Meeting: Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Item/ Topic	Type	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Visits	Additional Information
Localisation	Update Report	Provide progress on delivery of the Working Together in Neighbourhoods White Paper, including the Neighbourhood Action Co-ordination programme. Respond to the challenge presented by O&S (27 <sup>th</sup> January 2022) for a rapid 4-point stocktake – ‘Councillors and Officers’ Review against the 4 Measures of Success set for ‘Working Together in Birmingham’s Neighbourhoods’	Chris Jordan, Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods	Cllr Ian Ward, Leader of the Council  Chris Jordan, Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods	None Required	Working Together in Neighbourhoods White Paper: <a href="#">Working Together in Birmingham's Neighbourhoods (White Paper)   Birmingham City Council</a>
Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness Portfolio Overview	Update Report	Provide a summary of Cabinet Member priorities for 2022-23, and identifying opportunities for O&S to add value	Marcia Wynter, Cabinet Support Officer	Cllr Sharon Thompson, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness	None Required	
Housing Strategy 2022-2027	Consultation	Outline the development of the new Housing Strategy. Consider the strategic priorities and workstreams identified and inform the	Julie Griffin, Managing Director, City Housing	Naomi Morris, Housing Modernisation and Partnerships Manager	None Required	

		direction of this strategy's development		Guy Chaundy, Housing Modernisation and Partnerships Manager		
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**Final Deadline: Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

**Publication: Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

Date of Meeting: Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Item/ Topic	Type	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Visits	Additional Information
Performance	Quarterly Report	Report outlining performance for Housing, and provide more detailed commentary on areas of improvement or for concern	Mira Gola, Head of Business Improvement and Support	Paul Langford, Interim Director of Housing Management  Gary Messenger, Assistant Director, City Housing Services & Support  Steve Wilson, Project Director, Asset Management  Stephen Philpott, Acting Head of Housing Solutions and Support Service  Natalie Smith, Head of Service for Housing Management	None Required	This will pick up the action from Item 5 (Customer Services and Complaints) at Co-ordinating OSC (23 September 22)
Performance	Quarterly Report	Report outlining performance for City Operations, and provide more detailed commentary on areas of improvement or for concern	Jonathan Antill, Head of Business Improvement and Support	Sajeela Naseer, Assistant Director, Regulation and Enforcement  Darren Share, Assistant Director, Street Scene	None Required	

Inquiry: Reducing Fly-tipping	Tracking	Provide further clarification on Recommendations R01 and R03. Consider if the Inquiry is concluded.	Darren Share, Assistant Director, Street Scene	Cllr Majid Mahmood, Cabinet Member for Environment  Darren Share, Assistant Director, Street Scene	None Required	Further information has been requested in relation to the progress of these recommendations at the meeting in March 2022. For background, this Inquiry was approved at Full Council on 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2021.
Cleaner Streets	Evidence-gathering	Understand what best practice looks like in other Local Authorities and how this is achieved Explore how Cleaner Streets services are delivered, in particular in relation to localisation. Consider how this could inform future service delivery in Birmingham	Amelia Murray, Overview and Scrutiny Manager	Local Authority presentation  (Birmingham City Council) Cllr Majid Mahmood, Cabinet Member for Environment  Darren Share, Assistant Director, Street Scene	None Required	This is part of a series of closed sessions to be held immediately after the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Final Deadline: Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022**

**Publication: Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022**

**Date of Meeting: Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

<b>Item/ Topic</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Aims and Objectives</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Witnesses</b>	<b>Visits</b>	<b>Additional Information</b>
Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities Portfolio Overview	Update Report	Provide a summary of Cabinet Member priorities for 2022-23, and identifying opportunities for O&S to add value	Marcia Wynter, Cabinet Support Officer	Cllr John Cotton, Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities	None Required	
Birmingham Community Safety Partnership Report	Annual Report	Discharge the statutory requirement as the Crime and Disorder Committee to receive an annual report from the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership  Provide an overview of the Community Safety strategy and key headlines for the past 12 months	Waqar Ahmed, Assistant Director for Community Safety and Resilience	Cllr John Cotton, Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities  Chief Superintendent Mat Shaer, West Midlands Police  Waqar Ahmed, Assistant Director for Community Safety and Resilience  Pamela Powis, Senior Service Manager, Safer Places	None Required	

## Informal Session

Cleaner Streets	Evidence-gathering	<p>Understand what best practice looks like in other Local Authorities and how this is achieved.</p> <p>Explore how Cleaner Streets services are delivered, in particular in relation to localisation.</p> <p>Consider how this could inform future service delivery in Birmingham</p>	Amelia Murray, Overview and Scrutiny Manager	<p>Local Authority presentation</p> <p>(Birmingham City Council) Cllr Majid Mahmood, Cabinet Member for Environment</p> <p>Darren Share, Assistant Director, Street Scene</p>	None Required	This is part of a series of informal sessions to be held immediately after the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
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**Final Deadline: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

**Publication: Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

Date of Meeting: Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Item/ Topic	Type	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Visits	Additional Information
Inquiry: Reducing Fly-tipping	Tracking	Provide further clarification on Recommendation, R01. Consider if the Inquiry is concluded.	Darren Share, Assistant Director, Street Scene	Councillor Majid Mahmood, Cabinet Member for Environment  Darren Share, Assistant Director, Street Scene	None Required	Further information has been requested in relation to the progress of these recommendations at the meeting in November 2022. For background, this Inquiry was approved at Full Council on 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2021.
Inquiry: Reducing Fly-tipping	Tracking	Provide further clarification on Recommendation, R03. Consider if the Inquiry is concluded.	Darren Share, Assistant Director, Street Scene	Councillor Majid Mahmood, Cabinet Member for Environment  Darren Share, Assistant Director, Street Scene	None Required	Further information has been requested in relation to the progress of these recommendations at the meeting in November 2022. For background, this Inquiry was approved at Full Council on 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2021.

#### Informal Session

Cleaner Streets	Evidence-gathering	Understand what best practice looks like in other Local Authorities and how this is achieved.	Amelia Murray, Overview and Scrutiny Manager	Local Authority presentation  (Birmingham City Council) Cllr Majid	None Required	This is part of a series of informal sessions to be held immediately after the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
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		<p>Explore how Cleaner Streets services are delivered, in particular in relation to localisation.</p> <p>Consider how this could inform future service delivery in Birmingham</p>		<p>Mahmood, Cabinet Member for Environment</p> <p>Darren Share, Assistant Director, Street Scene</p>		
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**Final Deadline: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2022**

**Publication: Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

Date of Meeting: Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Item/ Topic	Type	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Visits	Additional Information
Performance	Quarterly Report	Report outlining performance for Housing, and provide more detailed commentary on areas of improvement or for concern	Mira Gola, Head of Business Improvement and Support	TBC	None Required	This will pick up the action from Item 5 (Customer Services and Complaints) at Co-ordinating OSC (23 September 22)
Performance	Quarterly Report	Report outlining performance for City Operations, and provide more detailed commentary on areas of improvement or for concern	Jonathan Antill, Head of Business Improvement and Support	Sajeela Naseer, Assistant Director, Regulation and Enforcement  Darren Share, Assistant Director, Street Scene	None Required	
Tenant Engagement Strategy	Policy Development	Provide an outline of the new engagement strategy to inform its future development and delivery  Provide an overview of how tenant engagement will inform and shape Housing Repairs, Maintenance and Investment 2024	TBC	TBC	None Required	Part of this item follows on from the Housing and Neighbourhoods OSC on November 29. This Committee considered a Request to Call-In of the Cabinet Decision (8 November) Housing Repairs, Maintenance and Investment 2024. The decision was not Called-In but a letter to the

						Cabinet Member has been sent. One of the key points raised by the OSC relates to tenant engagement.
Affordable Housing Plan	Update Report	Provide an outline of progress	Kerry Scott, Housing Delivery Programme Lead	Guy Chaundy, Housing Modernisation and Partnership Manager	None Required	

**Final Deadline: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**Publication: Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**Date of Meeting: Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

<b>Item/ Topic</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Aims and Objectives</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Witnesses</b>	<b>Visits</b>	<b>Additional Information</b>
Localisation	Update Report	Provide progress on delivery of the Working Together in Neighbourhoods White Paper, to include case studies from the Neighbourhood Action Co-ordinator Programme pilot in the 22 wards.	Chris Jordan, Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods	Cllr Ian Ward, Leader of the Council  Chris Jordan, Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods  Karen Cheney, Head of Service, Neighbourhood Development and Support Unit	None Required	Working Together in Neighbourhoods White Paper: <u><a href="#">Working Together in Birmingham's Neighbourhoods (White Paper)   Birmingham City Council</a></u>  Progress Report presented in October: <u><a href="#">Localisation Update 13 October 2022</a></u>
Voids – Improving Standards	Evidence-gathering	To undertake a deep-dive into Voids with a focus on improving the standard of properties.	TBC	TBC	TBC	

**Final Deadline: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**Publication: Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**Date of Meeting: Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

<b>Item/ Topic</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Aims and Objectives</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Witnesses</b>	<b>Visits</b>	<b>Additional Information</b>
Mobile Household Recycling Centres	Update Report	Provide an overview of the scheme, and highlight impact to date	Darren Share, Assistant Director, Street Scene	Darren Share, Assistant Director, Street Scene	None Required	

**Final Deadline: Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**Publication: Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**TO BE SCHEDULED:**

1. Final Nature Recovery Strategy to be brought back to committee (following debate on Petition: Ban Use of Pesticides on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022)
2. Selective and Additional Licensing Schemes for Private Rented Sector
3. Flats above shops
4. Further Update on Bereavement Services – as requested in September 2022 Committee
5. Proposed Introduction of Car Parking Charging across selected BCC Parks – update following consultation

