



## CITY COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN 2023/24 – MARCH 2024

CBM	Item	City Council	Item
9 May 2023	Education and Children’s Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Co-Optees and Voting Rights (verbal update) Proportionality City Council Appointments Review of the City Council’s Constitution Schedule of Travel and Inward Delegations Petitions Update	23 May 2023	ANNUAL MEETING Annual Report of the Lord Mayor 2022/23 Presentation to Honorary Alderman Updated Pay Policy Constitution Review City Council Appointments
30 May 2023	Terms of Reference of the Council Business Management Committee Appointment of Sub-Committees and Other Bodies – Request to Appoint Recruitment to the Independent Remuneration Panel and Standards Committee Petitions Update Order of Motions for 2023/24	13 June 2023	Executive Business Report (Leader and Children, Young People & Families) Housing Ombudsman Update – report requested by Full Council in January 2023

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26 June 2023	<p>Petitions Update</p> <p>The Lord Mayoralty Formula</p> <p>Reports not on the Forward Plan</p> <p>Appointment of CBMC Sub-Committees and Other Bodies – to note confirmed memberships</p>	11 July 2023	<p><b>Council as Trustee Meeting on Highbury Hall</b></p> <p>Scrutiny Business Report</p> <p>Srebrenica Memorial Day (Cross Party / CBMC Motion)</p> <p>Reports not on the Forward Plan</p>
29 August 2023	<p>Schedule of Travel and Inward Delegations</p> <p>Review of Polling Districts and Places</p> <p>The Lord Mayoralty Formula</p> <p>Membership for Council House Sub-Committee / Female Cllr Working Group</p> <p>Changes to the Constitution to enable reports on Equal Pay to Full Council on a quarterly basis (Verbal Update)</p>	12 September 2023	<p>Youth Justice Plan</p> <p>Executive Business Report (Environment and Transport)</p> <p>Lead Member Report - WMCA Scrutiny</p>
23 October 2023	<p>Petitions Update</p> <p>Options Paper ref Changes to the Constitution to enable reports on Equal Pay to Full Council on a quarterly basis.</p>	7 November 2023	<p>Lead Member Report - West Midlands Police &amp; Crime Panel</p> <p>Lead Member report: Transport Delivery O&amp;S Committee (moved from the 11 July meeting to align with annual reporting cycle)</p>
20 November 2023	<p>1 September 2023 Extraordinary Meeting Minutes</p> <p>Reports not on the Forward Plan</p> <p>Petitions Update</p> <p>Schedule of Travel and Inward Delegations</p> <p>Exempt Accommodation – issues to be considered as part of the Motion Tracker item</p>	5 December 2023	<p>Executive Business Report (Health and Social Care and Social Justice, Community Cohesion and Equalities)</p> <p>Equal Pay Update</p> <p>Reports not on the Forward Plan</p> <p>Independent Member Recruitment (Under Appointments Update Item)</p>
18 December 2023	<p>Petitions Update</p>	9 January 2024	<p><b>Extraordinary Council Meeting (1.30pm)</b></p>

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	Changes to the Constitution IRP Appointments		Changes to the Constitution IRP Appointments – to be picked up under the Appointments by the Council Lead Member Report - West Midlands Fire Authority Route to Zero Annual Report Scrutiny Inquiry - Children and Young People’s Mental Health
22 January 2024	Petitions Update Budget Council – Discussion Lord Mayor Nomination – 2024/25 – Discussion Reports not on the Forward Plan	6 February 2024	<b>LM Elect (Informal Meeting)</b> <b>Council as Trustee (Highbury – TBC)</b> Reports not on the Forward Plan Members Allowances (IRP Report) Scrutiny Business Report
12 February 2024	Budget Council – Discussion Petitions Update Schedule of Travel and Inward Delegations Suspension of Standing Orders (Budget Council)	5 March 2024	BUDGET MEETING -
2 April 2024	CBMC / Council Dates for 2024/25 Updated CBMC / Council Work Programme Dispensation for non-attendance at committee meetings – including any members unwell or on maternity/paternity leave (if required) Petitions Update	16 April 2024	<b>Council as Trustee Meeting – Highbury TBC</b> Executive Business Report (Housing & Homelessness) Improvement and Recovery Plan Scrutiny Inquiry - Child Criminal Exploitation Annual Report from the Chair of Audit Committee

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			<b>Note – In view of the items listed above it was suggested by CBMC on 18 December that would not be any Motions considered at this meeting.</b>

**Four Yearly or ad-hoc items:**

Appointment to the Roll of Honorary Alderman (May 2026); Appointment of the Leader (May 2026), Appointment of the Council’s External Auditor (2027)

**Items to be scheduled / proposed:**

Changes to the Constitution (May 2024)

Reports not on the Forward Plan (June 2024)

Scrutiny Business Report (June 2024)

Annual Report – Standards Committee (Debate not Hate) – Date TBC

SACRE constitution – timing TBC

Executive Business Reports – June 2024 (Digital, Culture, Heritage and Tourism and Deputy Leader), Sept/Nov, January and April – need to reschedule Finance and Resources

Quarterly Scrutiny Business Reports

Lead Member reports: West Midlands Fire Authority (January); Transport Delivery O&S Committee (November); WMCA Scrutiny (September); GBSLEP Scrutiny (date tbc); West Midlands Police & Crime Panel (November/tbc)

Reports not on the Forward Plan (quarterly basis)

Annual Report from the Chair of Audit Committee to City Council (early February)

Schedule of Travel and Inward Delegations (quarterly basis TO CBMC)

Annual Standards Committee Report (Contact: Rob Connelly, Assistant Director, Legal and Governance)

Balsall Heath Governance Review TBC

The Lord Mayoralty Formula (updated each June/July)

\* Pre-meeting of members to select Lord Mayor elect    \*\* Annual Council Photograph

**Appendix 1: City Council Resolutions – Tracker**

Ref no	Date	Summary of Council Resolution	Lead Cabinet Member / Officer(s)	Update
1.	12 July 2022	<p><b>(Other) Changes to the Constitution</b></p> <p>That the following two areas be clarified in the next review of the constitution to reflect previous custom and practice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The rules around the time available for questions (Section B 4.4) be amended to ensure that the full allocation of time, usually 70 minutes, is used for questions to ensure accountability of the executive and other office holders. This may be done by amendment to clause (v).</li> <li>- Ensure that significant changes to the constitution are reported to Full Council and that there is a clear process for gaining all party approval and notifying all councillors of changes when it is deemed that changes do not need approval of Full Council.'</li> </ul>	Leader / Deputy Leader	<p>A cross party working group has been established, by Council Business Management Committee, to look at options ahead of reporting back to City Council. This work is being carried out over a number of stages, with the issue opposite being reviewed as part of this.</p> <p><b>Stage 1 Immediate Changes (Completed)</b></p> <p>New terms of reference for the Audit Committee were agreed by Full Council in January 2024. In addition, the Constitution was updated at the same time to reflect the new Cabinet Committee Property, established by Cabinet in December.</p> <p><b>Stage 2 Priority Changes (Underway)</b></p> <p>This stage is current underway and has included completion of a statutory requirements check list, with findings from this being considered by the cross-party working group in March and April. Priority review areas have now been identified, so proposed changes can be considered by CBMC/Full Council ahead of the start of the 2024/25 Municipal Year.</p> <p><b>Stage 3 Comprehensive Review (To start in May 2024)</b></p> <p>This stage will commence following the conclusion of stage 2 (above) in May 2024. This stage will focus on making the Council’s Constitution fit for purpose, for a financially secure 21<sup>st</sup> Century Council. This stage will also ensure a training programme is in place to enable both Members and Officers to understand and comply</p>

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				with its provision, ahead of the next administration in May 2026.
2.	1 November 2022	<p><b>Motion B – Educational Attainment</b></p> <p>Council ... resolves to call on the Government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deliver on its pledge to restore education spending, in real terms. to 2010 levels.</li> <li>- End tax exemptions for independent schools, using the £1.7 billion raised to fund state school efforts to bridge the attainment gap.</li> </ul> <p>Council further resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure that 'Change For Children and Young People', Birmingham Children’s Partnership (BCP) Board's emerging Children and Young People’s Plan 2023-2027, identifies and addresses gaps in attainment.</li> <li>- Call on the Government to adopt the solutions proposed by the cross-party Education Select Committee report and continue to review its findings.</li> <li>- Call on the City Council Executive to ensure that the report’s findings and solutions where appropriate to Birmingham, are factored into existing and developing strategies including</li> </ul>	Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families	<p>Our Birmingham Children’s Partnership Board brings together the city council, our Birmingham Children’s Trust, NHS Integrated Care Board, NHS health providers, the police, and the voluntary sector. During 2022, the Board has overseen the development of a cohesive framework for the delivery of our Plan.</p> <p>Over 4,000 of Birmingham’s children and young people told us about the outcomes that matter most to them. Our Plan: Change for Children and Young People 2023-27 will be based on what they told us. Our ambition is for Birmingham to be a great place for us to grow up, ensuring our children and young people are at the heart of everything we do.</p> <p>There continues to be progress on implementing the recommendations from Breaking the Barriers report, to improve the experiences of children and young people in education and employment opportunities.</p> <p>This work has continued and a report on progress on all 10 recommendations was presented at City Partnership Board on 14 December 2022. In 2023, an employers forum will be established to ensure a greater focus on this area as part of the Council’s year of change for children and young people. This will be complemented by the development of our Good Employment Charter which aims to support employers in providing attractive opportunities for the citizens of Birmingham.</p>

Ref no	Date	Summary of Council Resolution	Lead Cabinet Member / Officer(s)	Update
		<p>‘Everyone’s Battle, Everyone’s Business’ and its emerging Inclusion Strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Call on Overview and Scrutiny to incorporate these Birmingham-specific strategies into their work programmes to track outcomes and monitor actions taken to address issues, ensuring they receive full analysis of achievement by socio-economic and ethnic background</li> <li>- Work with employers to ensure opportunity is spread equally, by creating career pathways for the most disadvantaged and deprived areas of the city.</li> <li>- Build on the findings of the Breaking Down Barriers report to develop communication and social media strategies to target the many young and disenfranchised pupils, in particular NEETS, who do not normally engage with standard and legacy forms of Council communication.</li> <li>- Promote vocational training, apprenticeships and entrepreneurship in schools.</li> <li>- Ensure that solutions are fully inclusive to ensure the city’s most disadvantaged young people, including those in the care system, have access to a full range of opportunities through a school system empowered to work collectively for the benefit of all students.</li> </ul>		<p>Our employer forum will play a key role in encouraging local businesses and industries to expand their operations and reskill local people and grow their workforce. In addition, in partnership with the combined authority we will be refreshing our careers offer to support schools, colleges and training providers to provide the best vocational advice for young people who do not wish to pursue an academic route.</p> <p>In April 2023, Birmingham City Council adopted as policy: <a href="#">CHANGE for children and young people 2023-2028</a>, a plan to make Birmingham a great place to grow up for children and young people. This Plan aims to improve outcomes for all babies, children, and young people in our city, and is delivered via <a href="#">Birmingham Children and Young People’s Partnership</a>, which is a formal collaboration between Birmingham City Council, Birmingham Children’s Trust, Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Board, West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner, West Midlands Police, and Birmingham Voluntary Services Council.</p> <p>Birmingham has been accepted onto UNICEF’s Child Friendly City Programme, the 11th place in the UK to join. An updated version of the Change for Children and Young People Plan, including Birmingham’s Child Friendly City action plan, will be taken to Cabinet in 2024. <b>Ongoing</b></p>



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue to highlight the risks to students of failure to maintain school budgets and, in particular, levels of pupil premium".</li> </ul>		
4.	18 April 2023	<p><b>Motion A</b></p> <p>This Council acknowledges that work on improving road safety, requires co-operation between Birmingham City Council, West Midlands Police and the Combined Authority, but calls on the Council continue to be proactive in working with these partners and delivering projects that will make our roads safer. It specifically requests for the Government to be lobbied to release findings of the national parking on pavements consultation and for the Executive to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Ask the Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review and help shape the Council’s new Road Safety Strategy including looking into relevant criteria and a near miss strategy, which would enable criteria such as records of non-injury accidents, proximity to schools, community facilities with high pedestrian and cyclist use, and recorded levels of speeding to be considered.</li> </ul>	Cabinet Member for Transport	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p> <p>Officers continue to engage with the Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee to support and inform the development of the refreshed Road Harm Reduction Strategy. The new strategy aligns closely with the Birmingham Transport Plan and wider best practice in road harm reduction, following Vision Zero and the Healthy Streets approach.</p> <p>In November, a working draft of the new Road Harm Reduction Strategy was shared with the Task and Finish Group of the Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee, set up to focus on road safety issues.</p> <p>The terms of reference for this enquiry are focused primarily on enforcement, and the findings will feed into</p>

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		<p>b. Work with partners including the police and other metropolitan local authorities to publish a clear plan for the promised development of the average speed camera network.</p> <p>c. Ensure, where possible and practicable, road and pavement resurfacing programmes are aligned with any potential road safety work.</p>		<p>the new Strategy and operational practice, as appropriate.</p> <p>Comments received from the group are being used to update and improve the strategy in advance of public consultation commencing in January 2024.</p> <p>The results of this consultation process will be analysed, and findings presented to the Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee to steer completion of the final version of the new Road Harm Reduction Strategy, before it is presented to the Cabinet to approve its adoption in spring/summer 2024.</p> <p>BCC, West Midlands Police and West Midlands Metropolitan Local Authorities continue to deliver a programme of coordinated enforcement activity, on an intelligence-led basis.</p> <p>BCC officers continue to work in close partnership with West Midlands Police, Transport for West Midlands and partner authorities to develop a revised, regional operating model for delivery of speed enforcement (including Average Speed Enforcement) across Birmingham and the wider West Midlands metropolitan area. Regrettably, this process has stalled whilst partners seek to reach consensus. Intense work is underway to overcome these issues, and BCC officers are proactively supporting these efforts.</p> <p>As soon as regional consensus is reached and a workable regional model is identified, it is proposed to seek Cabinet approval for the principles of this work, with detailed arrangements approved subsequently by the Cabinet Member for Transport.</p>

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		<p>d. Ensure use of all potential funding sources for road safety work is maximised, including community chest, town council and parish council funding and funding for other highways projects and money from the clean air zone revenue where appropriate. And not limit itself to the small, dedicated funding for road safety schemes from Government. Noting the importance of not fettering local ward councillor discretion in how funds such as Community Chest are best applied in their area and that local funding pots, including those listed above, must remain recommended by' the relevant ward councillors. And money from the clean air zone revenue where appropriate.</p>		<p>The Road Harm Reduction Strategy will not include a bespoke delivery programme. Instead, the approach involves mainstreaming road harm reduction across Birmingham's transport and highways delivery programme via the Birmingham Transport Plan: Delivery Plan. This approach will deliver a number of significant advantages, including the ability to coordinate with planned maintenance activities more efficiently, and enabling schemes to attract funding from a much wider range of potential sources to deliver greater overall value for money, through economies of scale.</p> <p>As above c.</p> <p>The new Road Harm Reduction Strategy includes the introduction of a 'Healthy Street Fund', to replace the Ward Minor Measures Fund. This will be presented for approval in the Transport and Highways Delivery Programme via Cabinet Report in January.</p> <p>This fund will support Local Ward Councillors, in their role as local community leaders, to identify and deliver interventions which comply with the Healthy Streets approach via Local Engineering Teams in their local areas. Officers are currently working with Lucy Saunders of Healthy Streets, to identify a training package for officers, Local Ward Councillors and partners to support the transition towards this proactive approach.</p> <p>As above d.</p>

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		<p>e. Encourage ward councillors in their role as local community leaders to bring forward road safety priorities in ward plans.</p> <p>f. Reaffirm its commitment to a vision zero approach for road safety in the new road safety strategy, which should aim to eliminate all deaths and serious injuries on Birmingham’s roads by 2034.</p> <p>g. Ensure the new road safety strategy: (i) Prioritises the most vulnerable road users (E.g. those on foot, on bike, or with access needs, such as wheelchair users), in line with the new Highway Code hierarchy of road users; (ii) Includes measures to tackle speeding, and anti-social obstructive and dangerous parking (e.g on pavements, cycle lanes, and across dropped kerbs) in a way that prioritises the most vulnerable road users.</p> <p>h. Ensure road safety schemes and other highway improvements work to design out speed and other harmful behaviours.</p> <p>Reaffirm Birmingham City Council’s commitment to 20mph on all its residential roads.</p>		<p>The refreshed Road Harm Reduction Strategy has Vision Zero at its heart and seeks to eliminate fatal and serious injuries on Birmingham’s roads.</p> <p>The refreshed Road Harm Reduction Strategy proposes the adoption of the Healthy Streets approach to deliver road harm reduction. This holistic approach involves gradual, proactive redesign of the streetscape to prioritise the needs of people above motorised traffic.</p> <p>As above g.</p> <p>The approach to lobbying is being reviewed currently in the light of the recent publication of the Government’s Plan for Drivers.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Lobby Government once again for the powers to make this change to 20mph without having to resort to costly Traffic Regulation Orders for every change of speed limit on every residential road.</li> <li>j. Lobby West Midlands Police for more monitoring and enforcement of speed and more enforcement of anti-social, obstructive and dangerous parking that is under their jurisdiction.</li> <li>k. Investigate what can be done to give greater support to groups wanting to set up and run Community Speedwatch sessions”.</li> </ul>		<p>As above b.</p> <p>As above b.</p>
3.	18 April 2023	<p><b>Motion B</b></p> <p>The Council resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• formally support the Show Us You Care Too campaign and adopt ‘care experience’ as an additional equality strand alongside the protected characteristics as set out in the Equality Act 2010.</li> <li>• formally call upon our partners to treat care experience as a Protected Characteristic.</li> <li>• lobby Government to amend the Equality Act 2010 to include care experience as a protected characteristic.</li> <li>• continue to build on the work of our Children’s Trust and to continue to support the efforts of our Corporate Parenting Board”.</li> </ul>	Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p> <p>Meetings are being arranged to ensure progress is being made to take forward resolutions agreed.</p> <p>A new Elected Member handbook has been created that will be available to elected members regarding their Corporate Parenting responsibilities. This will have links to information for individuals, businesses, and organisations.</p> <p>A new Corporate Parenting Video produced to share with individuals, businesses and organisations across Birmingham and promote way to get involved.</p> <p>A ‘Social Value’ support document has been drafted for council and Birmingham Childrens Trust contracts on how they can support those with care experience.</p>

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				<p>Work being undertaken to support changes within council contracts to ensure weighting includes and prioritises those with care experience.</p> <p>Plans developed and underway, so all Birmingham Children’s Trust contracts are shaped and weighted through our Corporate Parenting Team and ‘Social Value’ support document.</p> <p>Offers developed with businesses and organisations we procure with as a council and as Birmingham Childrens Trust (e.g., Kier, Equans and Fortem).</p> <p>Some good examples from businesses and partners can be seen with Lovell Homes who have launched a new training, employment and housing pathway, titled ‘We Got You’ <u>Lovell - We've Got You</u></p> <p>NHS are supporting care experienced young people to access Free Prescriptions and “Priority Cards’ for GP appointments through their work with the Corporate Parenting Board.</p> <p>NHS are supporting care experienced young people to access Free Prescriptions and “Priority Cards’ for GP appointments through their work with the Corporate Parenting Board.</p> <p>Co-Produced Perinatal Pathway launch ensuring our care experienced young parents get the right support.</p>

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				<p>This includes access to support and services that can provide early support that has been designed with young parents.</p> <p>The Corporate Parenting Board has an ongoing Action Tracker so that members and partners can be accountable for their actions.</p>
4.	13 June 2023	<p><b>Motion A</b></p> <p>This Council commits to working with the local community to find suitable places to place defibrillators, acknowledging that they are most effective within 3 minutes of a person collapsing.</p> <p>This Council, therefore, resolves to work with partners to commission a report into the accessibility of defibrillators and bleed kits in Birmingham and to ascertain what steps are necessary to ensure that there is a defibrillator and bleed kit within a 3-minute radius of our local centres and high-streets including a campaign of improved public awareness of where these are and how to use them as well. This ongoing work requires a multi-agency, collaborative approach to ensure the maximum impact.</p> <p>The council resolves to facilitate the provision of bleed kits in schools, colleges, youth clubs, bars and nightclubs, and ensure that training in their use is provided by a qualified practitioner.</p> <p>Trained users should have refresher training every three years. New persons should be appointed when trained individuals step down or leave.</p>	Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p> <p>A full report on the accessibility of both defibrillators and bleed kits across Birmingham has been produced by the Public Health Division, working alongside community safety colleagues.</p> <p>The report is to be circulated to the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership in advance of its meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024 and will be discussed at this meeting to identify further actions. A copy of the report has also been sent the BSol Integrated Care System for consideration.</p> <p><b>RECOMMEND TO DISCHARGE</b></p>

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		<p>The council will write to the Police Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands requesting that all West Midlands Police vehicles carry first aid kits that include bleed kits.”</p>		<p>Letter sent</p>
5.	13 June 2023	<p><b>Motion B</b></p> <p>This council further calls for the government to pass legislation to allow English councils to set up municipal bus companies on the model of the award-winning Nottingham City Transport.</p> <p>Getting people onto public transport and out of cars vital for reducing congestion, and this is a key pledge for the Council’s “route to zero” commitment which aims for carbon neutrality by 2030, and the WMCA ambition of carbon neutral travel by 2041. The WMCA green paper stated that 92% of respondents were concerned about climate change.</p> <p>Road space reallocation and bus priority are vital to make bus journeys quicker across Birmingham, and this council re-affirms its commitment to them and to the principles set out in the Birmingham Transport Plan.</p> <p>It also reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that buses are accessible to everyone, including disabled people and people with additional needs of all kinds, and will continue to use its influence through the Enhanced</p>	Cabinet Member for Transport	<p>Lobbying letters were sent to the Secretary of State for Transport and the West Midlands Combined Authority in October 2023. A response from DfT was received on 13 November 2023: <a href="#">MarkHarper.pdf</a></p> <p>The government have recently announced that the voluntary fares cap will remain at £2 per journey through the whole of 2024, rather than increasing to £2.50 in November 2023 as originally proposed.</p> <p>Greater Manchester have launched the first part of their franchised ‘Bee’ Network and are proposing to roll it out to other parts of their conurbation next year.</p> <p>A Bus Franchising Working Group has been convened by TfWM which meets fortnightly and includes senior transport officers from all of the West Midlands authorities. This will provide steer, review and challenge to the technical work now underway on franchising options for the area.</p> <p>The re-basing of the CRSTS programme has been completed by TfWM, and is now subject to review and</p>



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		<p>Partnership and Bus Alliance to ensure that bus operators provide accessible services.</p> <p>Since the pandemic, services have been cut, and reliability has been patchy.</p> <p>Bus scheduling shouldn't be devolved to private companies but should be run for the public good.</p> <p>Government must provide an adequate and consistent level of bus recovery funding and end its current stop-start approach. With services in the West Midlands still badly affected by a shortage of bus drivers, government must also work with the bus operators to increase the number of applicants and respond to the bus industry's calls for bus drivers to be added to the UK immigration shortage occupation list.</p> <p>This council calls on the government to live up to its own requirement that half of all journeys in towns and cities are on foot, bike or public transport by 2030. This means a 'London-style' transport system in cities across the country to make public transport accessible and the natural choice.</p> <p>Transport for the West Midlands, Birmingham City Council and its partner councils in the WMCA need the powers and the funding to make this a reality.</p> <p>The 2017 Bus Services Act gave Mayoral Combined Authorities the powers to regulate bus services and create bus franchising schemes. However, this also</p>		<p>ratification by DfT. Subject to dFT approval, this will retain funding for Cross-City Bus and Sprint Phase 2 public transport priority schemes.</p> <p>TfWM has undertaken a briefing session with the Cabinet Member for Transport, to which all local Councillors were invited, to brief them on current issues and developments in bus policy and the bus industry, including an update on the technical work now underway to develop franchising options for the area. Similar sessions are being undertaken within the other West Midlands authorities.</p>

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		<p>specifically prevented Combined and Local Authorities from setting up new municipally owned bus operators. The few remaining municipally owned bus companies in the UK are some of best performing bus operators both on price and quality of service.</p> <p>The Council calls on the West Midlands Mayor and the West Midlands Combined Authority to use what powers they do have to move to franchise and regulate West Midland bus services.</p> <p>The Council calls on Westminster to give local and combined authorities the full range of powers to regulate, franchise and own local bus services, depending on what is appropriate for their local area.</p> <p>The Council calls on Westminster for an expansion of current fare subsidy with the aim to get to a £1 single bus fare.</p> <p>The Council resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Transport to lobby for powers to regulate franchise and set up local bus operators.</p> <p>The Council resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Transport to lobby for a funding model that helps move to cheaper £1 single bus fares.</p> <p>The Council resolves to lobby the West Midlands Mayor and Combined Authority to move to a franchising model for West Midlands bus services and use the full extent of their powers for bus regulation.</p>		

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		The Council resolves to lobby and work with the West Midlands Mayor and Combined Authority to improve cross-suburban bus routes.”		
6.	12 September 2023	<p><b>Motion B</b></p> <p>...This Council believes in adopting a Psychologically-Informed and Trauma-Informed Practice. This is a strengths-based, non-pathologizing approach, which seeks to understand and respond to the impact of trauma on people’s lives. The approach emphasises physical, psychological, and emotional safety for everyone and aims to empower individuals to re-establish control of their lives.</p> <p>We call on the Executive to take the following steps to help the Council to become ‘trauma informed’: Use the learning and research on trauma to inform change in practice and thus be better able to reduce the negative effects of trauma on the lives of all with whom we come in contact.</p> <p>Look into providing Trauma Informed Practice training to officers and members.</p> <p>Assess options to broaden and embed Trauma Informed Practice within Council directorates.</p> <p>Continue to work with our partners and key stakeholders as a trauma informed network and implement a consistent approach across all bodies.</p>	Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p> <p>Dates to be agreed with service areas to look at how the council can become more trauma informed. Also to look at types of training that is needed.</p>

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		<p>Deliver services by responding to individuals' needs and creating nurturing and supportive environments where people feel valued, and efforts are made to resist inadvertent re-traumatisation.</p> <p>Adopting the trauma-informed principles of safety, trust, choice, collaboration, empowerment, and cultural sensitivity so that we can help people to overcome the effects of trauma and improve both access to services and long-term outcomes.</p>		
7.	7 November 2023	<p><b>Motion A</b></p> <p>This Council believes that the City's heritage and cultural assets are fundamental to our ambitions to attract investment and visitors and essential to the physical and mental well-being of our residents...</p> <p>...Council... commits to continue to look at all possible ways to:</p> <p>Protect all cultural and heritage assets, including all libraries, parks, playing fields, public open spaces and museum sites, from any capital disposals.</p> <p>Work with community campaigns such as the 'Save Birmingham – protect our community places' campaign by Cooperatives West Midlands, by supporting community asset transfers and other community-led governance models where these can be shown to be the best and most sustainable solution to protecting the long-term future of these assets.</p>	Cabinet Member for Digital, Culture, Heritage & Tourism	<b>In progress</b>

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		<p>Work closely with Arts and Culture organisations, the community sector, external funding organisations and other partners to promote that the city is open for business despite the Council’s own challenges and that its arts and culture offering remains rich and vibrant, with world-class performances and exhibitions with something for everyone.</p>		<p>Officers have initially been focusing on securing alternative funding streams to support sector activity, this includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £1.635m Enterprise Zone funding for Cultural Action Areas,</li> <li>• £0.440m for culture and £0.100m for Tourism projects from Shared Prosperity Funding this year and in 2024-25,</li> <li>• £0.307m cultural engagement funding plus £0.350m for Birmingham Weekender Festival from WMCA Legacy funds.</li> </ul> <p>They are actively supporting other funding bids including Round 4 of the ACE Cultural Development Fund for the likes of Art Quarter Digbeth and the Grand Union / BOM joint project. Spend Approvals have also been submitted to support Birmingham Heritage Week and Black History Month for one more year.</p> <p>In the meantime officers have managed to facilitate a major concert promoter to stage ‘Indie’ music concerts in Centenary Square in August. They are also supporting the Cultural Curator (appointed by Colmore BID) on new cultural initiatives such as ‘One hundred days (of culture)’ and lighting events to attract visitors in the city centre. The next step is to work with Culture Central (the cultural sector members organisation) and West Midlands Growth Company colleagues on promoting Birmingham being ‘open for business’</p>

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		<p>Replicate Friends of Parks and/ or Birmingham Open Spaces Forum resident volunteer models to help manage and maintain cultural and heritages sites and services, and;</p> <p>Develop a work programme for Scrutiny to review the policy plans of the “Digital, Culture, Heritage and Tourism” portfolio to assess the current ‘health’ of our arts, heritage and cultural assets, their risk of disposal and strategies to protect their provision in the short-, mid- and long-term.”</p>		<p>The Cabinet Member for Environment, as part of his regular engagement with Birmingham Open Spaces Forum (BOSF), has highlighted the work of the Save Birmingham campaign and the potential for new community groups to emerge with an interest in maintaining and supporting their local parks and open spaces. BOSF, as the leading umbrella agency for such groups on a city-wide basis, has confirmed it will support anyone seeking to formally establish their own local groups. The Cabinet Member is also committed to actively signposting anyone who enquires to him/his office in the direction of BOSF.</p>
8.	7 November 2023	<p><b>Motion B</b></p> <p>This council recognises that the horrors and repercussions of the conflict in Palestine and Israel have had a profound affect across all communities, but notably the Muslim and Jewish communities here in Birmingham...This Council therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will write to the Government seeking the provision of a support package for refugees fleeing the</li> </ul>	Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities	<p><b>In progress</b></p> <p><b>Letter sent</b></p>

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		<p>conflict and provide further aid to assist the UN Agencies in their humanitarian work so that British citizens can get home safely, and Palestinian people are able to stay in their homeland.”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will support the active engagement of the voluntary sector in delivering aid and support to refugees from the conflict.</li> <li>- Will proactively engage with any Government schemes to house refugees from the conflict to ensure that all refugees are given a warm welcome in Birmingham.</li> <li>- Calls on everyone in Birmingham to show tolerance and respect at this time of significant stress to many communities; especially those of the Muslim and Jewish faiths.</li> <li>- Will work with faith communities to explore setting up more third-party hate crime reporting mechanisms and write to the Home Secretary to urge Government to reverse its decision to downgrade the monitoring of non-crime hate incidents specifically related to antisemitism and Islamophobia so they can be logged by the police.”</li> </ul>		<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

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9.	5 December 2023	<p>This council resolves:</p> <p>To adopt The Co-Operative Party’s Diverse Councils Declaration to increase diversity in our local government: This Council commits to being a Diverse Council. We agree to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide a clear public commitment to improving diversity in democracy.</li> <li>2. Demonstrate an open and welcoming culture to all, promoting the highest standards of behaviour and conduct.</li> <li>3. Set out a local Diverse Council Action Plan ahead of the next local elections. Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Encourage political groups to work with each other and local party associations to encourage recruitment of candidates from under-represented groups.</li> <li>- Encourage and enable people from under-represented groups to stand for office through the provision of activities such as mentoring and shadowing programmes and information and learning events for people interested in standing as official candidates.</li> <li>- Proactive engagement and involvement with local community groups and partner organisations supporting and representing under-represented groups.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<p>Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities</p> <p><b>THIS SHOULD BE ASSIGNED TO DEPUTY LEADER</b></p>	<p><b>In progress</b></p> <p>Leader has issued letter to opposition leaders encouraging their parties, as per the declaration.</p> <p>Duty of care to members The Council provides Councillors with the same access to its Employee Assistance Programme in the same way that employees have access to it. Councillors can access the service irrespective of whether it relates to their official role. The scheme allows access to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confidential help and guidance, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year</li> <li>• In-the-moment advice and support</li> <li>• Up to six counselling sessions, per issue, per year – this includes Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) (if indicated)</li> <li>• Counsellors with debt advice training</li> <li>• Critical incident trained counsellors</li> <li>• Short-term focussed support model</li> <li>• Citizens Advice help</li> <li>• Online information and webinars</li> <li>• An online chat function</li> <li>• A budgeting calculator</li> </ul> <p>Further information can be found at Employee Assistance Programme (EAP)   Birmingham City Council Portal</p>



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure that all members and candidates complete a candidates' and councillors' survey distributed at election time.</li> <li>- Encourage political groups to set targets for candidates from under-represented groups at the next local elections.</li> <li>4. Work towards the standards for member support and development as set out in the LGA Councillor Development Charter and/or Charter Plus.</li> <li>5. Demonstrate a commitment to a duty of care for councillors by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- providing access to counselling services for all councillors having regard for the safety and wellbeing of councillors whenever they are performing their role as councillors.</li> <li>- taking a zero-tolerance approach to bullying and harassment of members including through social networks.</li> </ul> </li> <li>6. Provide flexibility in council business by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- regularly reviewing and staggering meeting times</li> <li>- encouraging and supporting remote attendance at meetings</li> <li>- agreeing recess periods to support councillors with caring or work commitments.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		<p><b>Zero-tolerance approach to bullying and harassment of members including through social networks.</b></p> <p>Guidance on personal safety (which is based on the LGA templates) has been updated and whilst previous guidance was circulated in October, the updated guidance will be recirculated.</p> <p>Currently member services are undertaking a review of recent incidents as case studies to review how reporting can be improved and what further practical support can be provided including additional legal remedies. This includes improved communication with the Police and the possible adoption of a single point of contact.</p> <p>LGA briefings have been offered on Social Media Guidance for Elected Members (attendance10%) and Personal Safety Awareness Workshop (attendance10%). Need to review effectiveness of the training.</p> <p>Provide flexibility in council business by:</p> <p>regularly reviewing and staggering meeting times</p> <p>encouraging and supporting remote attendance at meetings</p> <p>agreeing recess periods to support councillors with caring or work commitments.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Write to &amp; lobby Government for the powers to run formal council meetings remotely or as hybrid meetings and allow councillors to vote &amp; attend virtually.</li> <li>7. Ensure that all members take up the allowances and salaries to which they are entitled, particularly any reimbursement for costs of care, so that all members receive fair remuneration for their work and that the role of member is not limited to those who can afford it.</li> <li>8. Ensure that the council adopts a parental leave policy setting out members' entitlement to maternity, paternity, shared parental and adoption leave and relevant allowances.</li> <li>9. Ensure that councillors from under-represented groups are represented whenever possible in high profile, high influence roles.</li> <li>10. Support Disability Rights UK's campaign to reinstate the Access to Elected Office Fund.</li> <li>11. Write to &amp; lobby Government asking for the Access to Elected Office Fund to be reinstated and to ensure it includes Council elections."</li> </ul>		<p>An initial draft survey assessing timings of Committee meetings prepared in July 2023 which was updated at the end of August 2023. Subject to final approval this is ready for circulation and will enable us to develop a clearer understanding of Councillors views ahead of a cost benefit analysis with contributions from IDT, Building management and possible consultation with staff.</p> <p>Council now has the necessary IT equipment in place to support remote attendance, but it should be noted that the Government rejected an amendment to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (as it was then) to change the current law to allow remote meetings.</p> <p>However this does not apply to informal meetings. Flexibility will also be picked up as part of the constitutional review in terms of the number and frequency of meetings.</p> <p>The Leader has written to Government urging Government to reconsider the evidence into the impact that the emergency legislation issued during Covid had, and to reconsider bringing forward new legislation. To allow formal council meetings to be held as hybrid meetings to allow councillors to vote and attend virtually.</p> <p>Through allowing formal meetings to be held in a hybrid fashion, we can attract the very best talents to local government, without forcing them to quit their jobs or forgo their caring commitments.</p>

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				<p>This view is upheld by research by the LGA which found that 72 per cent of councillors surveyed in a poll agreed that a hybrid model could attract more young people, people from an ethnic minority background, and women, all of which are groups which have been historically under-represented in local government.</p> <p>The LGA also found that 84 per cent of councils found their councillors with work commitments would benefit from hybrid meetings, whilst 64 per cent thought that councillors with childcare commitments would also take advantage of the changes.</p> <p><b>Parental leave policy</b>  The current Members Allowance Scheme sets out current policy which, amongst other things provides: Section 8.1 Basic Allowances - "All Members shall continue to receive their Basic Allowance in full in the case of maternity, paternity and adoption leave for six months subject to review, with a presumption that this will be extended for another six months if requested". Further provision is made for those members in receipt of a SRA (section 8.2), including Maternity and paternity leave, adoptive parent leave and shared parental leave.</p> <p>The current members allowance scheme allows for a carers allowance (see section 4) which provides:</p> <p>A Carers' Allowance can be claimed where Councillors necessarily incur expenditure in arranging</p>

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				<p>care of their children or dependents when undertaking the same range of duties for which travel allowances and expenses can be claimed [Section 7].</p> <p>Allowance Rate The rate that can be claimed will depend on the nature of the care involved: For independent care the maximum hourly rate that can be claimed will be the living wage. For professional qualified carer with supporting documentation, the maximum hourly rate that can be claimed will be set at the Council's Care Assistant rate. The current maximum hourly rates are shown in the Appendix.</p> <p>CARERS' ALLOWANCES Independent care – hourly rate 9.90 Professional care with supporting documentation – hourly rate 10.32</p> <p>The Leader has sent a letter to Government seeking the reinstatement of the Elected Office Fund to be reinstated.</p>
10	9 Jan 2024	<p>Council resolved to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support the Climate and Ecology Bill, subject to central government developing an appropriate environmental delivery strategy, including the provision of appropriate financial and other resources for local authorities;</li> <li>2. Inform local residents and local press/media of this decision;</li> </ol>	Cabinet Member for Environment	<p><b>Complete</b></p> <p>The passing of this motion was a form of support for the Climate and Ecology Bill.</p> <p>A press release on the approval of the motion was issued to local media by the council's Corporate Communications team.</p>

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		<p>3. Write to MPs, Lords and local Environmental groups to inform them that this motion has been passed, and urge them to sign up to support the CE Bill—or thank them for already doing so;</p> <p>4. Write to Zero Hour, the organisers of the cross-party campaign for the CE Bill, expressing the Council’s support (<a href="mailto:councils@zerohour.uk">councils@zerohour.uk</a>).</p> <p>5. Continue the work of the Climate Change, Nature and Net Zero Advisory Committee, which advocates and supports the strategic objectives of the Climate Change, Nature and Net Zero Programme.</p> <p>6. Encourage discussion about environmentalism and green issues at ward meetings.</p> <p>7. Ensure that the Route to Zero Strategy remains a top priority during the council’s current transformation process.”</p>		<p>Letters have been written by the Cabinet Member for Environment to local MPs, Lords and environmental groups with an interest in this matter, as well as to the Zero Hour movement, with positive feedback received.</p> <p>The work of the Climate Change, Nature and Net Zero Advisory Committee is ongoing, with regular meetings scheduled and diarised.</p> <p>A template briefing pack of information, relating to the city council’s most recent Annual Route to Net Zero report has been finalised. Its content was used for the first time by the Cabinet Member for Environment when attending the Acocks Green Ward Forum on 7 February 2024. The pack can be made available to Ward Forums upon request.</p> <p>Environmental Impact Assessments are a cornerstone of the decision-making process when items reach settings such as Cabinet, and all relevant legislation is always given due regard when policies and proposals are shaped. One tangible example of how Route to Zero remains a top priority is the emerging waste service transformation plan which includes the roll-out of food waste recycling collections by the spring of 2026.</p> <p><b>Recommend to Discharge</b></p>
11	9 Jan 2024	<p>This Council resolves to:</p> <p>1. Further lobby the Government to reconsider significant long-term investment in the city’s roads and highways infrastructure. Call on the Mayor of</p>	Cabinet Member for Transport	

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		<p>the West Midlands to use all of the powers at his disposal to speed up the extension of the Metro to East Birmingham and to bring about a franchising model for the bus network.</p> <p>2. Lobby the Mayor and the Government to bring forward meaningful rail solutions that will ease the burden on our existing lines, deliver the full complement of platforms at Curzon Street and London Euston, and put Birmingham at the centre of a modern, high-speed network and ensure that we get our fair share of transport funding.</p> <p>3. Call upon the Government, and future Governments, to reinstate the HS2 development between Birmingham and Manchester”.</p>		
12	6 Feb 2024	<p>“This Council believes that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Residents in Birmingham deserve answers on what has brought about a situation where they are not only seeing an increase in the taxes they pay on their income but an increase in their council tax bills alongside cuts to their local public services.</li> <li>- Learning why this has happened in Birmingham and all councils across England is essential for ensuring that Birmingham City Council has a sustainable future.”</li> </ul> <p>This Council therefore resolves to:</p>	Leader	<p>Leader raised verbally with Minister Simon Hoare MP and follow up letter issued on 15 February.</p>

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		<p>Write to the Government to follow up on the request made by the Leader of the Council to begin the local inquiry as quickly as is practicable.</p> <p>Work with the LGA and Core Cities to lobby the government to provide long-term, sustainable funding for local authorities in England to end the crisis in local government”.</p>		<p>We continue to work with LGA and Core Cities on funding, Household Support Fund and other local government issues.</p> <p><b>Recommend to Discharge</b></p>