

Birmingham City Council

Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee

21 December 2023



Subject: Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme

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

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1 Purpose

- 1.1 This report sets out the proposed work programme for the Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) for 2023-24, based on the Committee's meeting to date. Appendix 1 outlines the topics identified, aims and objectives and the preferred method of scrutiny to achieve these objectives. Appendix 1 also refers to other topics, which the Committee has identified, for future consideration, and this will be continuously updated during the year. The Governance Review reported to Cabinet on 12 December also makes recommendations for the focus for future scrutiny work.
- 1.2 In November 2023, the Committee met informally to inform the proposed Road Harm Reduction Strategy consultation plan. At this time, they also received an update on the current position of the Highways PFI, and further developed the terms of reference for the Road Safety inquiry. Appendix 2 sets out the minutes from informal this meeting.
- 1.3 Further to this, this report will also include a verbal update on the progress of the Active Travel inquiry, and Appendix 3 sets out the Terms of Reference for the Road Safety Inquiry.
- 1.4 At Co-ordinating OSC on 15 September 2023, it was acknowledged that Overview and Scrutiny work programmes will need to refocus, giving priority on issues around the Section 114 Notice, the Council's financial situation and recovery.
- 1.5 A Finance and Resources OSC Budget Scrutiny Task and Finish Group has been set up to consider proposals to close the 2023/24 budget gap, contribute to the

development of the 2024/25 Budget proposals and the Council's future financial plans.

2 Recommendations

2.1 That the Committee:

- Notes the information set out in Appendix 1 and reviews the work programme in view of Recommendation 5 from the Governance Review regarding Scrutiny's role in assurance and improvement as set out in Section 4 of this report.
- Agrees, subject to further input from the Chair and Deputy Chair, the issues that the Committee will consider during January - March 2023, the proposed aims and objectives and the preferred method of scrutiny.
- Notes the minutes from the informal meeting in November.
- Notes the update on the Active Travel Inquiry.
- Notes, subject to further input from the Chair and Deputy Chair outside of the meeting, its proposed work programme will be submitted to Co-ordinating O&S to enable work to be planned and co-ordinated throughout the year.

3 Background

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

3.2 Effective Overview and Scrutiny should:

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

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

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

- 3.4 Effective scrutiny needs to add value. A well planned and timely work programme enables Overview and Scrutiny Committees to be involved at the right time and in the right way, and ensure their involvement is meaningful and can influence the outcome.
- 3.5 Members often have a number of topics suggested to them and are therefore required to **prioritise** matters for consideration. The Scrutiny Framework sets out the following factors to be considered:
- Public interest: concerns of local people should influence the issues chosen.
 - Ability to change: priority should be given to issues that the Committee can realistically influence.
 - Performance: priority should be given to areas in which the Council and Partners are not performing well.
 - Extent: priority should be given to issues that are relevant to all or a large part of the city.
 - Replication: work programme must take account of what else is happening to avoid duplication.

Looking Ahead

- 3.6 Overview and Scrutiny Committees will identify a 'menu' of issues (including policy development, policy review, issues of accountability and statutory functions) at the start of the year. Each Committee should then regularly review their 'menu' and decide which issues need to be examined further, and how that work would be undertaken. Scrutiny activities should be thorough and undertaken in a timely manner.

Scrutiny Methods

- 3.7 There are a range of ways to undertake scrutiny. The approach for 2023-24 enables flexible scrutiny and outlines a shift from monthly formal meetings to a combination of approaches. The Committee will choose the most effective scrutiny method to achieve the desired aims and objectives for each topic.
- 3.8 Based on Statutory Guidance published in 2019, different scrutiny methods include (but are not limited to):
- A single item, or items, on a committee agenda – this method fits more closely with the "overview" aspect of the Scrutiny function and provides limited opportunity for effective scrutiny. It is most appropriate for specific issues where the committee wants to maintain a watching brief.
 - A single item meeting, either as the committee or a more limited number of Members. It has the capacity to enhance the previous option by taking evidence from a number of witnesses.

- A task and finish day - provided that these are properly focused, they ensure Councillors can swiftly reach conclusions and make recommendations and are effective even for complex topics.
- A task and finish review – this is an enhancement of the previous option being held over four or six meetings spread over a limited number of months.

Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee

3.9 The Committee's Terms of Reference is to fulfil its functions as they relate to any policies, services and activities concerning:

- Sustainable transportation policy and programmes, projects and initiatives
- Strategic highways matters
- Maintenance of roads and streets, traffic management and car parks and enforcing rights of way
- Cooperation with the WMCA and Mayor in relation to the key route network
- An Air Quality strategy for Birmingham
- A financially and environmentally sustainable waste strategy
- A robust re-use and recycle strategy
- A strategy for sustainability, liveability and environmental improvements
- Citywide and national policy development to tackle the causes and consequences of climate change

3.10 The Committee is chaired by Cllr Lee Marsham, and its membership comprises Cllrs Saima Ahmed, David Barker, Martin Brooks, Timothy Huxtable, Colin Green, Richard Parkin and Waseem Zaffar

4 Work Programme 2023-24

4.1 Appendix 1 sets out the topics the Committee previously agreed to be included in the Committee's work programme for the year.

4.2 The [Governance Review](#) of Birmingham City Council by the Centre for Public Scrutiny will be considered by Cabinet at the meeting on 12 December. 5 of the report sets out the need to reframe the scrutiny work programme to focus on the Council's improvement and recovery priorities:

- Having an active part in the 2024/25 budget development process.
- The safe and effective delivery of key services supporting vulnerable people.
- Critical performance issues emerging "by exception".
- Equality and equity issues arising from the development of the 24/25 Budget, the Emergency Budget (to be identified by exception), and other priority scrutiny activity relating to the Budget.
- Culture, behaviour change and organisational development.

- 4.3 It will be important for all Scrutiny Committee's to reflect on the findings and recommendations of the Governance Review and how the work programme aligns with the issues set out above.
- 4.4 The Committee may decide to add further items to the work programme during the course of the year. When considering this, the Committee is advised to consider where it can best add value through scrutiny aligning to the Council's priorities and improvement journey, and how it can prioritise topics for consideration based on the Scrutiny Framework referred to in 3.5.
- 4.5 The Council's latest [December 2023 Forward Plan \(cmis.uk.com\)](https://cmis.uk.com) may assist Members in identifying future topics. The following reports are of particular relevance to this Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

Reference	Title	Portfolio	Proposed Date of Decision
011969/2023	Transportation and Infrastructure Partnership Procurement Strategy Report	Finance & Resources	19 Mar 2024
011821/2023	Transportation & Highways Delivery Programme 2024/25 to 2029/30 - Annual Programme Update	Transport	13 Feb 2024
011742/2024	Draft Financial Plan 2024-2028	Finance & Resources	13 Feb 2024
010756/2023	A45 Birmingham to Airport and Solihull SPRINT Phase 2 – Full Business Case	Transport	19 Mar 2024
010763/2023	A34 Walsall to Birmingham Sprint Phase 2 – Full Business Case	Transport	19 Mar 2024
011429/2023	Southside Public Realm Improvement Scheme - Revised Financial Appraisal	Transport	13 Feb 2024
011743/2024	Financial Plan 2024-2028	Finance & Resources	27 Feb 2024
010635/2023	Paradise Phase 3	Leader	19 Mar 2024
010173/2022	Our Future City Plan 2040 – Draft Central Birmingham Framework	Leader	19 Mar 2024
011584/2023	Average Speed Enforcement: Revised Approach	Transport	19 Mar 2024

- 4.6 Overview and Scrutiny Chairs are advised to maintain regular engagement with Cabinet Members to enable flexibility to be built into the Overview and Scrutiny work programme, so as to respond to the Council's policy priorities in a timely way. Appendix 3 provides additional information on the Cabinet Member for Environment's current priorities as they fall across this Committee, and also the Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 4.7 The work programme, as set out in Appendix 1, also cross references the work of the Committee with the Council's Corporate Priorities 2022-26. During the period

June – December 2023 the work of this Committee will contribute to 8 Corporate Priorities.

Budget Task and Finish Group

4.8 In October 2023, a cross party Budget Scrutiny Task and Finish Group was established by Co-ordinating OSC to examine the following key issues:

- How the Council will close the in year budget gap during 2023/24?
- How Scrutiny can contribute to the development of the Budget proposals for 2024/25 and financial plans for the following years?
- Comments and recommendations the Task and Finish Group will report to Cabinet when the 2024/25 budget proposals are considered.

4.9 The membership of the Group comprises all Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairs and Cllrs Robert Alden, Cllr Alex Yip and Cllr Paul Tilsley.

5 Any Finance Implications

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

6 Any Legal Implications

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

7 Any Equalities Implications

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

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

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

7.3 The Committee should ensure that it addresses these duties by considering them during work programme development, the scoping of work, evidence gathering and making recommendations. This should include considering how policy issues impact on different groups within the community, particularly those that share a relevant protected characteristic; whether the impact on particular groups is fair and proportionate; whether there is equality of access to services and fair representation

of all groups within Birmingham; and whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people are being realised.

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

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1: Work Programme 2023-24, December
- 8.2 Appendix 2: Minutes of informal November meeting
- 8.3 Appendix 3: Proposed Terms of Reference – Road Safety

9 Background Papers

- 9.1 [Birmingham City Council Constitution](#)
- 9.2 Birmingham City Council Overview and Scrutiny Framework April 2021
- 9.3 [Cabinet Report 12 December, Governance Review of Birmingham City Council by Centre for Governance and Scrutiny](#)

Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023/24

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
August	Highways PFI Corporate Priorities: 1 and 9	Inform the development of the proposed Highways PFI contract	Other – Briefing outside of Committee	PFI Contract Manager - Domenic De Bechi		This took place on 2 August 2023. Outcome – informed Sponsorship Board ahead of Cabinet consideration in September.
August	Active Travel Corporate Priorities: 1, 9, 14 and 19	Gather evidence for the inquiry, specifically carrying out site visits to identified locations within Birmingham	On Location	Head of Transport Planning – Mel Jones	Active Travel Portfolio Lead - Andy Middleton	Further information on this inquiry can be found in the Terms of Reference (CMIS > Meetings) agreed in July's O&S Committee. This will take place on Thursday 10 August, and will be hosted by Birmingham City Council's Transportation team. The identified locations are: A38 Bristol Road 'Blue Cycle Route' /Selly Oak High Street and some examples of cycle infrastructure in the City Centre
August	Active Travel Scheme Corporate Priorities: 1, 9, 14 and 19	Gather evidence for the inquiry, specifically to understand how the Council currently delivers Active Travel schemes	Task and Finish Group	Assistant Director, Transport and Connectivity – Phil Edwards	Head of Transport Planning – Mel Jones	Further information on this inquiry can be found in the Terms of Reference (CMIS > Meetings) agreed in July's O&S Committee.

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
August	Road Safety Corporate Priority: 9	Prepare the Terms of Reference for this inquiry	Task and Finish Group	Overview and Scrutiny Manager – Amelia Wiltshire		To be agreed at September’s O&S Committee meeting. Further sessions to be updated to the work programme after this approval and will follow the conclusion of the Active Travel schemes work.
September	Active Travel Schemes Corporate Priorities: 1, 9, 14 and 19	Gather evidence for the inquiry, specifically to consider information from key stakeholders who	Committee Meeting single item: 7 September 2023 at 2pm Venue: Committee Room 3 and 4, Council House Deadline for Papers: 30 August 2023	None	Better Streets for Birmingham Pushbikes Living Streets Sustrans 20s Plenty for Birmingham Active Travel England Transport for West Midlands Wolverhampton City Council Cabinet Member for Transport Officers from Transport & Connectivity (BCC) Others TBC	An outline Terms of Reference will be discussed and confirmed at July’s Committee. The work will contribute towards the broader road safety work.

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
October	Scrutiny of Delivery of 2023/24 Budget Savings and Update on Council's Response to Section 114 Notice and Financial Recovery Plan	To monitor the agreed savings for 2023/24 as set out in the MFTP.	Committee Meeting single item: 12 October 2023 at 2pm Venue: Committee Rooms 3 and 4, Council House Deadline for Papers: 4 October 2023			Co-ordinating O&S Committee on 15.09.23 agreed that all committees should have a standing item on the delivery of existing savings for 2023/24 particular to the remit of the Committee.
December	Brum Breathes Corporate Priorities: 18	To outline the progress to date on the Clean Air Strategy and its deliverables. To advise on the future next steps. To inform the Committee on the new regional Air Quality framework.	Committee Meeting single item: 21 December 2023 at 2pm Venue: Committee Room 6, Council House Deadline for Papers: 13 December 2023	Cllr Liz Clements, Cabinet Member for Transport Stephen Arnold, Head of Clean Air Zone		Information on the Air Quality programme will be available in early 2024. The Committee may request an additional report at this time.
December	Highways PFI Corporate Priorities: 1 and 9	Update on the current position of the PFI contract and the mobilisation of the new contract.	Committee Meeting single item: 21 December 2023 at 2pm Venue: Committee Room 6, Council House	Cllr Liz Clements, Cabinet Member for Transport Stephen Walton, Head of Highways PFI Procurement		This follows two informal briefings to the Committee in August and November.

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
			Deadline for Papers: 13 December 2023			
January	Public Transport Corporate Priorities: 1, 3 and 19	To be determined by the Committee	Committee Meeting single item: 11 January 2024 at 2pm Venue: Committee Room 2, Council House Deadline for Papers: 18 December 2023			The intention is to consider information from multiple bus providers as well as the rail sector and WMCA. It may be followed by visits to public transport facilities.
January	Illegal Dropped Kerbs Corporate Priorities: 9, 10 and 16	Consider the policy towards addressing the illegal dropped kerbs	Committee Meeting single item: 11 January 2024 at 2pm Venue: Committee Room 2, Council House Deadline for Papers: 18 December 2023	Mark Shelswell, Assistant Director Highways and Infrastructure		This was identified by the Committee following complaints and local media stories.
January	Active Travel Inquiry	Agree the Active Travel Inquiry key findings and recommendations	Committee Meeting single item: 11 January 2024 at 2pm	Amelia Wiltshire, Overview and Scrutiny Manager		

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
			Venue: Committee Room 2, Council House Deadline for Papers: 18 December 2023			
March	Annual Flood Risk Management Plan Corporate Priorities: 11 and 17	Review the plan and work undertaken to mitigate against flooding within the city over the past 12 months	Committee Meeting single item: 7 March 2024 at 2pm Venue: Committee Rooms 3 and 4, Council House Deadline for Papers: 21 February 2023	Hannah Hogan, Flood Risk Manager		This is an annual report. Latest report to the Committee is here .

*Outcome: This will be populated once the item/topic has been completed. It will highlight the added value and impact.

Menu of Options for Future Consideration

The following items had been identified as potential topics for future consideration. This approach enables the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to remain flexible and respond in a timely manner to emerging issues.

This is a live work programme work programme. New items may be added, or items removed during the course of the year. Proposed aims and objectives as well as scrutiny methodology may also be subject to change.

Item/ Topic	Proposed Aims and Objectives	Proposed Scrutiny Method	Additional Information
Customer Services – Highways Repairs	Monitor the progress and impact of the recommendations from the Customers Services programme (as previously undertaken by Co-ordinating O&S Committee)	To be confirmed in September 2023	Co-ordinating O&S Committee convened Task and Finish groups to identify, and monitor progress of, recommendations to improve customer services in 4 areas including Highways Repairs. A final Task and Finish group took place on 7 July 2023, and a report presented to Co-ordinating O&S in July. It was agreed that Sustainability and Transport O&S Committee takes forward this work for Highway Repairs in the future.
Highways PFI	Update on the current position of the PFI contract and the mobilisation of the new contract.	To be confirmed	No formal from Government as yet. This follows two informal briefings to the Committee in August and November.
Recycling and Waste Reduction	To be determined.	To be confirmed	No further information at this time
Route to Net Zero	Consider how the Council is supporting community leadership. Other aims and objectives to be determined.	To be confirmed	If this is an in-depth piece of work, to be scheduled following the completion of the Road Safety topic. Therefore, this is likely to be picked up in early 2024.

Scrutiny Method Options:

Committee meeting - single item

Committee meeting - single theme

Task and Finish Group (outline number of meetings)

On location

Other - (describe)

Corporate Priorities, Performance and Outcomes

Corporate Priorities 2022 – 26:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Support inclusive economic growth | 11 Increase affordable, safe, green housing |
| 2 Tackle unemployment | 12 Tackle homelessness |
| 3 Attract inward investment and infrastructure | 13 Tackle health inequalities |
| 4 Maximise the benefits of the Commonwealth Games | 14 Encourage and enable physical activity and healthy living |
| 5 Tackle poverty and inequalities | 15 Champion mental health |
| 6 Empower citizens and enable citizen voice | 16 Improve outcomes for adults with disabilities and older people |
| 7 Promote and champion diversity, civic pride and culture | 17 Improve street cleanliness |
| 8 Support and enable all children and young people to thrive | 18 Improve air quality |
| 9 Make the city safer | 19 Continue on the Route to Zero |
| 10 Protect and safeguard vulnerable citizens | 20 Be a City of Nature |
| | 21 Delivering a Bold Best in Class Council |

Information on the Corporate Priorities, Performance and City Outcomes was reported to the Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee OSC in June 2023: [Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](https://cmis.uk.com)

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSPORT O&S COMMITTEE

INFORMAL MEETING - NOTES

1400 hours on 9TH November, Committee Room 6, Council House

Present:

Councillor Lee Marsham (Chair)

Councillors Saima Ahmed, David Barker, Martin Brooks, Colin Green, Timothy Huxtable, Richard Parkin and Waseem Zaffar

Also Present:

Stephen Walton, Head of Highways PFI Procurement

Mel Jones, Head of Transport Planning

Martin Rowe, Transport Planning Manager - Streetscape

Rebecca Hawthorne, Travel Demand Manager

Amelia Wiltshire, Overview & Scrutiny Manager

Baseema Begum, Scrutiny Officer

1. DRAFT BIRMINGHAM ROAD HARM REDUCTION STRATEGY

The Chair introduced the item and outlined that this was an opportunity for Members to provide feedback on the proposed strategy before it is finalised for consultation.

Martin Rowe, Transport Planning Manager shared a presentation circulated to Members and highlighted the key points from the proposed strategy.

It was confirmed that the consultation will run for 12 weeks commencing on 26th November and is expected to finish at the end of February. The possibility of pre-decision scrutiny was raised before the final report to Cabinet, and this will need to be confirmed.

A variety of methods of engagement and communication will be used including BeHeard, social media, press and other partner outlets. The Council will seek to engage across several sectors as well as businesses and residents. Initial engagement with campaign groups thus far has also been supportive and further engagement will continue.

It was confirmed that this work would be funded through the Birmingham Transport Plan Delivery Plan and where possible and available external monies would be used with the emphasis being on getting best value (as spend control is in place for anything outside of officer time). Road safety is a statutory duty that the local authority must provide, and it was added that a number of measures have been introduced to reduce speed and volume of traffic on the city's roads in line with the objectives of the Birmingham Transport Plan.

Feedback was positive with Members highlighting that there was focus on areas outside of the city centre and an emphasis on equity.

Members were keen to ensure that the strategy included everyday terms that were clear and understandable and that most people recognise and use. This included using the opportunity explain transport related terms more easily.

The possibility of using community-based meetings already planned such as ward forums, coffee mornings etc for engagement with local people was shared. It was felt that local meetings were a valuable resource to gather local views with support from officers. It was noted with the limited officer capacity that not all meetings could be covered.

Officers requested that where possible Members could share contact details for specific groups including those with disabilities as connecting with these groups to date has proved challenging.

2. UPDATE ON HIGHWAYS PFI

Stephen Walton, Head of Highways PFI Procurement explained the latest position in relation to the Highways PFI programme.

The Council is awaiting a decision from DfT since it had submitted the business case in the summer and was expecting a decision to be made imminently.

Several milestones on the timeline for implementation of the new contract that will begin on 1st February 2024 have now been missed as it was imperative that the DfT gave approval by 30th October to enable the necessary transition and mobilisation activities to be completed for the new contract to begin. On the timeline this was the latest day that Government were expected to give a positive decision by, to achieve a 1st February start date.

The current contract Interim Services Contract with Kier finishes on 31st January 2024. Steps are being put into place that will allow the Council to extend the contract should approval from DfT not be received for up to 6 months while further contingency measures are put into place and new procurement activities begin.

It was confirmed that in the event of no further PFI funding the Council would likely receive Integrated Transport Block funding as other local authorities do and this would be a sum of approximately £10-15m.

It was agreed that the Committee would hold a further discussion at their December meeting.

3. ROAD SAFETY INQUIRY – TERMS OF REFERENCE

Cllr Barker, Chair of the Road Safety Task & Finish Group outlined the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the proposed inquiry.

Members noted the inclusion of the term 'road harm reduction' on the draft strategy discussed earlier.

It was highlighted that all future items of work will need to demonstrate an impact on finances. It was suggested that cost efficiency should be added to sections 4&5 of the TOR.

A suggestion was made that, if possible, meetings of the Task & Finish Group are hybrid so that Members not on the group can observe.

It was agreed that the Scrutiny Manager would draft a paragraph and share with the Task & Finish Group on how the new piece of work could contribute to cost efficiencies.

4. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

Amelia Wiltshire, Overview & Scrutiny Manager outlined future work programme items.

Proposed items for December include Air Quality Monitoring and the Clean Air Zone. Items for future consideration were raised including poor public transport links and public transport reliability issues and it was suggested that a session could be held with bus and rail partners in the new year.

It was agreed that a briefing note could be provided to cover issues raised relating to road safety outside schools, parking enforcement and encouraging young people to take up active travel.



Work Outline / Terms of Reference

Road Safety Enforcement Inquiry

Reporting to Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee

<p>Our key question:</p>	<p>How can the Council and partner organisations improve road safety through better enforcement and reporting?</p>
<p>1. How is O&S adding value through this work?</p>	<p><i>The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Framework, 2021, outlines suggested criteria to ensure inquiries add value. This inquiry meets the criteria listed below:</i></p> <p>A high degree of public interest, political importance or sensitivity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Issue identified by members as a key issue for public- <i>improving road safety is always a priority for communities across the city, however this has significantly increased in recent months. This follows several tragic incidents on Birmingham's streets where cyclists, pedestrians and motorists, both adults and children, have died or been injured, and resulted in strong public interest. The Council, West Midlands Mayor and the Police and Crime Commissioner have all responded to this through stakeholder engagement and commitments for the future.</i></p> <p><i>All Members have high caseloads relating to road safety and parking related enquiries. They feel that there is community feeling that there is more which could be done by the Council and partner organisations towards improving the effectiveness of enforcement action.</i></p> <p>Public interest issue covered in local media – <i>this has been extensively covered in local media coverage.</i></p> <p>Policy Overview work (where Cabinet Members are developing or seeking to develop new policy).</p> <p><i>Birmingham City Council is currently developing a new Road Harm Reduction Strategy for the Council, which will drive forward a new strategic vision for how these issues can be addressed. This strategy will be underpinned by a delivery plan, which aims to deliver change in the short, medium and long term. More information will become available on the proposed strategy as it enters its consultation period in Autumn 2023.</i></p> <p><i>The intention of this Inquiry is not to duplicate existing work. With the advent of a new Road Harm Reduction strategy, the inquiry seeks, at this time, to shine a particular focus on enforcement. The Inquiry acknowledges a successful local approach towards road safety encompasses a range of strands, and enforcement is one of many interconnecting themes. However, the inquiry group considers there are opportunities to add value to the impact of the proposed new strategy by influencing the development of new enforcement approaches through this inquiry's key findings and recommendations.</i></p>



	<p><i>The inquiry acknowledges the financial challenges facing the Council at this time. However, the inquiry believes that there are opportunities to use resources more effectively and deliver better outcomes for communities.</i></p> <p><i>Finally, the inquiry recognises that the recommendations it makes will be for the Council. However, it will consider evidence from other statutory organisations to inform these recommendations.</i></p>
<p>2. What needs to be done?</p>	<p><i>The Inquiry will receive evidence from a range of stakeholders to consider the following key issues:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• What would the most successful reporting system and enforcement approach look like? What are the key measures which make a difference?</i> <i>• What are the challenges to achieve this?</i> <i>• What is the current road safety enforcement approach (including parking) within Birmingham? How is the Council specifically using existing legislation?</i> <i>• How well are the Council and partners working together?</i> <i>• How do we currently understand where there are problems within the city? How do we capture community intelligence? How can we do this better?</i> <i>• What are the roles and responsibilities for individual organisations and their services? How well is this understood by the public?</i> <i>• What level of enforcement would be required to achieve an acceptable level of compliance with the rules of the road?</i> <i>• Are parking/moving traffic contravention fines set at an appropriate level to adequately cover costs of enforcement?</i> <i>• How can we improve community confidence in road safety enforcement measures?</i> <i>• How do we build community support for road safety enforcement?</i> <i>• What role can residents play, and how can they be empowered?</i>
<p>3. What timescale do we propose to do this in?</p>	<p><i>The intention is that this Inquiry will conclude in March 2024.</i></p> <p>Scoping: <i>Terms of Reference: to be agreed at O&S Committee on 7 December 2023.</i></p> <p><i>Delivery Plan: to be completed by end November.</i></p> <p>Evidence Gathering: <i>scheduled to commence in December.</i></p> <p>Key Findings and Recommendations/ Report Preparation: <i>to be confirmed once the evidence gathering has commenced.</i></p> <p>Committee/Council: <i>a decision will be made at the key findings and recommendations stage whether this report will be presented to Committee only or Council. If it is decided to present this report to Council, all recommendations will be subject to the '8-day rule' as outlined in the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Framework, 2021.</i></p>
<p>4. What outcomes are we looking to achieve?</p>	<p><i>This inquiry will make recommendations which will contribute towards:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Making Birmingham roads safer by reducing dangerous driving and parking (Outcome 1)</i>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Improving how communities can report road safety issues (including parking) (Outcome 2)</i> • <i>Improving how road safety issues are enforced (Outcome 3)</i> • <i>Build trust and confidence from communities in the Council and partners to tackle road safety (including parking) issues (Outcome 4)</i> <p>Birmingham City Council’s Corporate Plan 2022-2026</p> <p><i>Priority 9: Make city safer</i></p>
<p>5. What is the best way to achieve these outcomes and what routes will we use?</p>	<p><i>A Task and Finish Group has been the recommended approach by the Committee to gather and review evidence for this inquiry. This Task and Finish group will comprise cross party membership.</i></p> <p>Stakeholders</p> <p><i>The following stakeholders will be requested to provide information to this inquiry:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Birmingham City Council – Community Safety, Highways and Infrastructure and Transportation. The Highways and Infrastructure service will lead.</i> • <i>Community groups</i> • <i>Other Local Authorities -to provide examples of best practice.</i> • <i>Police and Crime Commissioner (West Midlands)</i> • <i>Residents</i> • <i>West Midlands Fire Service</i> • <i>West Midlands Police</i> • <i>West Midlands Combined Authority</i> <p><i>Other stakeholders may be identified as evidence gathering commences.</i></p> <p><i>The inquiry also welcomes suggestions for additional stakeholders to seek evidence from all stakeholders listed above and Members of the Council. All suggestions should be highlighted to the lead officer listed below.</i></p> <p>Members</p> <p><i>All Members of the Council will also be invited to provide evidence. In addition to this, all members of the Council may request to attend evidence gathering sessions. If a Member is interested in this, they are invited to contact the lead officer for further information.</i></p> <p>Evidence</p> <p><i>Stakeholders will be invited to provide evidence in a variety of formats. This will be finalised as part of the scoping stage. In general terms:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For organisations and community groups listed above, this may be information in writing and/or a face-to-face presentation. Organisations will be advised of the relevant format for their evidence individually when invited to provide information to the inquiry.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>For residents in Birmingham and other community groups, they will be invited to complete a survey to provide information to the inquiry.</i>• <i>The inquiry group may also undertake site visits, as appropriate, to support their inquiry.</i>
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Member / Officer Leads

<i>Lead Member:</i>	<i>Chair: Cllr. David Barker</i>
<i>Members of the Task and Finish Group:</i>	<i>Councillors Izzy Knowles; Richard Parkin and Waseem Zaffar</i>
<i>Lead Officer and support:</i>	<i>Lead Officer: Amelia Wiltshire Support Officer: Baseema Begum</i>