

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**CABINET MEETING
TUESDAY, 19 MARCH 2024**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET COMMITTEE HELD ON
TUESDAY 19 MARCH 2024 AT 1000 HOURS IN COMMITTEE ROOMS
3&4, COUNCIL HOUSE, VICTORIA SQUARE, BIRMINGHAM, B1 1BB**

PRESENT: - Councillor John Cotton, Leader in the Chair

Councillor Nicky Brennan, Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities
Councillor Liz Clements, Cabinet Member for Transport
Councillor Jayne Francis, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness
Councillor Brigid Jones, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources
Councillor Majid Mahmood, Cabinet Member for Environment
Councillor Karen McCarthy, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families
Councillor Robert Pocock, Interim Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care
Councillor Saima Suleman, Cabinet Member for Digital, Culture, Heritage and Tourism
Councillor Sharon Thompson, Deputy Leader of the City Council

ALSO PRESENT:-

Councillor Robert Alden, Leader of the Opposition (Conservative)
Councillor Morriam Jan, (Liberal Democrat)
Councillor Ewan Mackey, Deputy Leader of the Opposition (Conservative)
Professor Graeme Betts, Acting Chief Executive
Richard Brooks, Director, Strategy Equalities and Partnerships
Pam Harris, Commissioner
Deborah Carter-Hughes, Assistant Director, Corporate Law
Max Caller, Lead Commissioner
Paul Clarke, Assistant Director (Programmes, Performance, and Improvement)
Craig Cooper, Strategic Director of City Operations
Louise Collett, Director, Adult Social Care
John Coughlan, Commissioner
Katy Fox, Director of People Services
Mark Gamble, Head of East Birmingham Development
Fiona Greenway, Interim Finance Director and Section 151 Officer
Sue Harrison, Strategic Director of Children & Families (DCS)
Paul Kitson, Strategic Director of Place, Prosperity and Sustainability.
Paul Langford, Strategic Director, City Housing
Philip Nell, Director for Property and Investment
John Quinn, Interim Chief Operating Officer
Marie Rosenthal, Interim City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer
Jane Smith, Enterprise Zone Programme Manager
Jo Tonkin, Assistant Director, Partnerships Insight and Prevention (online)
Lindsey Trivett, Head of Service, Education and Skills

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Errol Wilson, Committee Team Leader

NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

321. The Chair welcomed attendees and advised, and the Committee noted, that this meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Public-I microsite ([please click this link](#)) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.
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APOLOGIES

322. An apology for lateness was submitted on behalf of the Deputy Leader Councillor Sharon Thompson.
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DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

323. The Chair reminded Members that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and other registerable interests arising from any business to be discussed at the 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.

Any declarations will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

MINUTES

324. **RESOLVED:** -

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2024, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

EXEMPT INFORMATION – POSSIBLE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

As there were no reports with an exempt or private appendix the Chair advised that the public meeting would carry on to consider the recommendations.

325. RESOLVED:-

That, in accordance with Regulation 4 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of those parts of the agenda designated as exempt on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information.

ENTERPRISE ZONE PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT LEVY

The Leader introduced the item and drew the attention of Cabinet to the information contained in the report. He highlighted that the report sets out proposals around the Enterprise Zone (EZ) and that the city remained open for business and we continue to see high levels of investments and developments within the city.

The Enterprise Zone Programme Manager noted Councillor Alden's comments and enquiries concerning the number of jobs created; the business rates and the liquidation and gave the following responses:

- We were aware of the number of jobs created but we have a programme management system we were working with, and the figure would be updated shortly.
- In regard to the business rates query, this figure was included, and the business rates uplift and the £3m would come out of that figure as agreed.
- In terms of paragraph 3.11 the liquidation has happened, and all documents had been transferred to the Council. Currently £1.8m - £1.9m had been transferred to the Council from the liquidators.

The Chair advised that on the last bullet point this had happened as he had to swear and sign a document in front of a lawyer.

326. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: -

That Cabinet:-

- I. Approved in its capacity as the Council and as Accountable Body for the Enterprise Zone, the provision of up to £5,744,123 funding from ring-fenced EZ Business Rates Uplift Income to wholly cover programme costs for the period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2028;
- II. Approved the receipt of the GBSLEP Ltd residual funds, estimated to be £1.8m, at the point of that company's liquidation and that the management of these funds in accordance with conditions and guidance set by GBSLEP Ltd is

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subsumed into the existing accountable body role of the council for the Enterprise Zone and Legacy Funds;

- III. Delegated authority to the Strategic Director of Place, Prosperity and Sustainability to take such actions as are necessary to ensure that the correct organisational structure and resources are in place to deliver the outcomes required within the timescales and budgets that have been set in compliance with the Council's policies and procedures; and
- IV. Authorised the City Solicitor to negotiate, execute and seal and complete all necessary agreements and documentation to give effect to the above decisions.

BEAS ENERGY EFFICIENT GRANT (DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY SECURITY AND NET ZERO) ACCEPTANCE OF MANAGEMENT FEE

The Leader introduced the item and drew the attention of Cabinet to the information contained in the report. He advised that paragraph 1.4 of the report should read '*... approval to accept an additional £1,575,000 to cover management fees to deliver BEAS ...*' and not ... approval to accept an additional £1,575,000 to cover management fees to deliver BEAS...'

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness commented that she was fully supportive of the acceptance of this additional monies and the management fee to deliver this important energy efficient grant programme. Without doubt this money will be instrumental in supporting energy efficient businesses in the West Midlands and will help transition to net zero mitigating the impacts of energy costs rises.

The Cabinet Member for Environment commented that he was pleased that this would help to support SME's to mitigate against the rise in energy costs and the transition to net zero.

327. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: -

That Cabinet:-

- I. Accepted the offer of £1,575,000 as management to deliver the £10,500,000 BEAS Energy Efficiency Grant Programme; and
- II. Authorised the City Solicitor (or their delegate) to negotiate, execute, and complete all necessary documentation to give effect to the above decisions.

CHANGE TO ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 328.** The Chair advised that he would take Agenda items 10, 11, 12, 13 and 9 ahead of agenda item 8 until the Deputy Leader arrive at the meeting. The Deputy Leader having submitted an apology for lateness.

SHELFORCE MACHINERY REPLACEMENT

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness presented the item and drew the attention of Cabinet to the information contained in the report.

Councillor Robert Alden commented that Shelforce was a real asset to the city and that he welcomed the report for the investment of the new machinery to ensure that they could continue trading.

The **officer** noted Councillor Ewan Mackey's comments concerning the machinery having no book value due to depreciation each year and advised that we would be using the machinery as back-up but fundamentally we will use it as ancillary machinery. He added that we have a plan in terms of utilising that machinery. It will not be the full production level that we were currently doing as we were almost doubling the capacity of the factory of its previous run rate on that machinery. It was a valid case that should we ever wanted to dispose of that equipment that there could be some worth in the marketplace and we would look at that as an option.

329. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: -

That Cabinet:-

- (i) Approved capital spend of £573,590 in 2023/24 in order to replace vehicles and machinery within the Shelforce factory;
- (ii) Delegated authority to the Strategic Director for City Housing (or their delegate), in consultation with the Assistant Director Corporate Procurement (or their delegate), the Interim Finance Director (s151 Officer), (or their delegate) and the Interim City Solicitor & Monitoring Officer (or their delegate) to approve the procurement strategy and the award of contract(s) for the replacement vehicles and machinery outlined in this report; and
- (iii) Authorised the Interim City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer to prepare, execute, and complete all relevant legal documentation to give effect to the above decisions.

A45 BIRMINGHAM TO AIRPORT AND SOLIHULL SPRINT PHASE 2 FULL BUSINESS CASE

The Cabinet Member for Transport introduced the item and drew the attention of Cabinet to the information contained in the report and highlighted paragraph 3.8.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources commented that it was vital in terms of mobility and a game changer in terms of access and jobs to other parts of the city.

The Cabinet Member for Environment commented that this was great public transport infrastructure through East Birmingham was being improved in this

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way and showed how the Council could work productively in partnership with other organisations and agencies. Anything that promotes public transport will help us in our route to net zero. It was pleasing that the impact on trees would be less than originally planned.

The Cabinet Member for Transport noted Councillor Morriam Jan's comments in relation to the disruptions for the residents and assurances to be given that the residents would be listened to etc. and advised that there will be some disruption during the construction phase. She stated that based on the number of visits she had made to the A45 in the last year sadly one of them was as a result of a who was riding a bicycle being killed on the A45. The community along the A45 came together (particularly in Hay Mills) to say they wanted traffic to move slower and for better safety for cyclists. This was a bus priority scheme but reallocating road space towards mass transit would help to slow traffic and improve the experience of everybody travelling along the A45 corridor. This scheme was a key part of delivering that as a reliable public transport system gives people the confidence they could swap onto busses for their everyday journeys.

The Cabinet Member for Transport further noted Councillor Morriam Jan's query concerning rat-running on the side roads due to the work on the A45 and stated that if the local Councillors in the area were interested in working with their residents in the communities to develop low traffic neighbourhoods and implement the low traffic approach which was also a key part of the Birmingham Transport Plan she would support them in that, and the officers would also work with them on those schemes. For all of our communities reducing volumes of traffic would provide better road safety a pleasant environments and healthy neighbourhoods and streets where it was pleasant to walk and cycle.

330. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: -

That Cabinet:-

- a. Noted the content of the report and approved the Full Business Case for A45 Birmingham to Airport and Solihull Sprint Phase 2 as set out in Appendix A, to the report, at a total scheme cost to WMCA of £9.000m, and authorises the Assistant Director Transport and Connectivity in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport to agree the final detail of the scheme with WMCA who are acting in their capacity as project promoter and funder;
- b. Approved, subject to WMCA having the necessary approvals and funding in place, the City Council entering into legal agreements with WMCA to allow the works to be carried out on the public highway within Birmingham, and for the legal agreement to be made without a bond being required from WMCA as detailed in paragraph 7.3.3, to the report;
- c. Noted that following implementation, WMCA will be financially responsible for the ongoing maintenance resulting from the highway works at an estimated cost of £0.012m per year as detailed in Paragraph 7.3.8, to the report;

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- d. Noted the expenditure of fees and other costs for internal staff costs up to a value of £0.300m for the City Council to complete design reviews, legal agreements, traffic regulation orders and site inspections, and that the City Council will be reimbursed by WMCA based on actual costs rather than a fixed fee percentage, subject to an agreed cap on overhead rates of 15%;
- e. Approved the installation of one further BLE camera in addition to the four reported in the original Cabinet report, at an estimated additional cost of £0.020m to be funded by WMCA as part of the overall project, and notes that following completion of the scheme the City Council will be responsible for the on-going operation of the BLE activity and the resultant income and expenditure including future maintenance obligations; and
- f. Authorised the Interim City Solicitor & Monitoring Officer (or their delegate) to negotiate, execute, seal and complete all necessary documentation to give effect to the above decisions.

WALSALL TO BIRMINGHAM SPRINT PHASE 2

The Cabinet Member for Transport presented the item and drew the attention of Cabinet to the information contained in the report.

Councillor Morriam Jan stated that due to all the works businesses in her Ward had suffered. She added that a number of petitions have been submitted due to the loss of income as a result of the roadworks. With regard to Scott Arms if people wanted to cycle the roads needed to be safer.

The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families expressed thanks to the Cabinet Member for the report and stated that it was important for routes like the A34 have this service. We wanted people and our young people to get around the city easily and the sprint route would encourage the use of public transport rather than private cars.

The Interim Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care commented that he welcomed the report for the following reasons – we needed to remember the economic benefits to be gotten out of improving the connectivity between Birmingham and Walsall which was a major economic benefit to Walsall Town and Birmingham as a city. The estimate of the benefit cost ratio 2.74 was one of the best measures of value for money that we get from these schemes. This was strategically important economic regeneration initiative for the West Midlands and not just for Birmingham. Secondly, now we have these bus shelters and the rapid transport system that brought people into the City Centre much more speedily it would encourage a preferred mode of transport shift towards the public transport option.

The decision not to extend the road widening scheme would of-et some of the concerns raised by Councillor Jan about the disruption would perhaps help as would the junction improvements that were in the pipeline.

The Cabinet Member for Transport noted Councillor Jan's comments and stated that she was sympathetic to the comments in relation to the businesses, but as she was aware a lot of transformation was being done for transport around Perry Barr. A new rail station, the A34 blue route that goes from the City Centre up to the Alexander Stadium which was extended as a result of the Commonwealth Games. Since being a Cabinet member we have had two indicators on the A38 and A34 blue routes and live information on how many cyclists have passed that point. There was also a website called the *Westmidlandscycletron* which was set up by an innovative person to collate all the data from the cycle routes across the region. In terms of the number of people cycling in the city we were talking of a small number, and we needed to work hard to create an environment here it was safe to cycle.

331. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: -

That Cabinet:-

- (i) Noted the content of this report and approves the Full Business Case for A34 Walsall to Birmingham Sprint Phase 2 as set out in Appendix A, to the report, at a total scheme cost to WMCA of £4.600m, and authorises the Assistant Director Transport and Connectivity in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport to agree the final detail of the scheme with WMCA who are acting in their capacity as project promoter and funder;
- (ii) Approved, subject to WMCA having the necessary approvals and funding in place, the City Council entering into legal agreements with WMCA to allow the works to be carried out on the public highway within Birmingham, and for the legal agreement to be made without a bond being required from WMCA as detailed in paragraph 7.3.3, to the report;
- (iii) Noted that following implementation, WMCA will be financially responsible for the ongoing maintenance resulting from the highway works at an estimated cost of £0.001m per year as detailed in Paragraph 7.3.8, to the report;
- (iv) Noted the expenditure of fees and other costs for internal staff up to a value of £0.280m for the City Council to complete design reviews, legal agreements, traffic regulation orders and site inspections, and that the City Council will be reimbursed by WMCA based on actual costs rather than a fixed fee percentage, subject to an agreed cap on overhead rates of 15%;
- (v) Approved the installation of one further BLE camera in addition to the four reported in the original Cabinet report, at an estimated additional cost of £0.020m to be funded by WMCA as part of the overall project, and notes that following completion of the scheme the City Council will be responsible for the on-going operation of the BLE activity and the resultant income and expenditure including future maintenance obligations; and

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- (vi) Authorised the Interim City Solicitor & Monitoring Officer (or their delegate) to negotiate, execute, seal and complete all necessary documentation to give effect to the above decisions.

SCHOOLS' CAPITAL PROGRAMME – SCHOOL CONDITION ALLOCATION, BASIC NEED ALLOCATION 2024-25+ FUTURE YEARS

The Cabinet Member for Children Young People and Families presented the item and drew the attention of Cabinet to the information contained in the report.

Councillor Alden commented that it was vital to ensure that proper consultations with communities to get the right location. He stated that in his Ward Queensbridge School extended creating an off-site 6th Form which we were happy to support into the former Osborne Nursery School building which was closed as they went back into the original Victorian building. It was ensuring that we find the right places and there were a number of old school sites in north Birmingham that could be looked at to ensure the right places were chosen.

Councillor Alden referred to paragraph 7.4.1 of the report and stated that as a Council it was needed to ensure that we were getting best value for every penny that we were spending in this area.

The Cabinet Member for Environment stated that the report showed we were providing the best school places to give young people in our city the best start in life. This reminded him how we have missed initiatives like Building Schools for the Future programme that did so much in their time to help deliver new and refurbished schools in this city. We must not forget that the scrapping of the Building Schools for the Future programme by Michael Gove, MP, during his time in charge of education has been put forward as one of the reasons we then faced the RAAC crisis that came late last year.

The Cabinet Member for Children Young People and Families stated that on the locations of the three schools the local MPs and Councillors have been involved and there will be further consultations. The need for the three special schools were complicated and existing sites may not be suitable, but we will continue to talk to those involved and at the appropriate time to involve the community. In terms of Acivico she was pleased that over the last year she had the opportunity to put the views of schools to Acivico and to our officers who dealt with those aspects of the contract. There was a better understanding now of what schools needed.

332. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: -

That Cabinet:-

- a. Noted the progress on the delivery of the Schools' Condition Programme and Schools' Basic Need Capital Programme, as outlined in the report;

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- b. Approved the OBC for the Schools' Condition (SCA) Programme (Appendix 2, to the report) and the anticipated allocation of up to £14.000m for the delivery of this programme;
- c. Approved the OBC for the Schools' Basic Need (BN) Programme (which includes the High Needs Provision Allocation for SEND places) (Appendix 3, to the report) for the delivery of this programme;
- d. Approved the procurement strategy for the Basic Need and Schools' Condition Allocation schemes above the procurement governance threshold of £0.250m (ex VAT) and delegates the award of contract to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families in consultation with the Strategic Director for Children and Families;
- e. Approved the allocation of £3.000m of Basic Need Grant for the development of Feasibility Studies, to include undertaking surveys, detailed design and planning, to inform Full Business Cases (FBC) in order to deliver the Basic Need and High Needs Provision Programme;
- f. Noted that in dual funded projects, approval will only be sought for the Council's contribution to the cost of the project; and
- g. Authorised the City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer to negotiate, execute, seal and complete all necessary documents to give effect to the above decisions.

ACIVICO FURTHER CONTRACT EXTENSION – UPDATED DEFERRED REPORT

The Deputy Leader introduced the item and drew the attention of Cabinet to the information contained in the report highlighting the key points. She expressed thanks to the Members of the Cabinet Committee Group Company Governance Committee who were flexible for another meeting that needed to take place.

Max Caller, Lead Commissioner stated that he was grateful that the Leader had allowed him to attend the Cabinet meeting and speak to this item. He made the following statements:-

One of the things we knew from all the interventions was that Councils that got into trouble frequently did not understand how to set up and govern local authority companies. This was one such example from its very outset. Many Councils have put into local authority companies problems that they did not know how to solve at the short time and thought that by hiding it away in a company structure the problem would go away, and they did not. When you set up a local authority company you needed to have an effective client side so that you could test whether or not the company served its clients well and delivered good value for money and you needed a strong contract process.

And the reality was you could see from the history was that Cabinet had asked for this to happen over many years and Members were unable to get officers to do what they had asked. It was really unfortunate for Mr Philip Nell here who

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had been left with a parcel when the music stopped when actually all the failure happened way before he had any responsibility for it. But these things were significant and now we were in a situation where the company was at risks whether or not it delivered good services because of the failure to get the right report at the right time. It was very disappointing to hear Members being told and in full meeting that it was their fault why officers had not got the right report which he found completely unacceptable. He was please that the officer was no longer here to give advice to members because you cannot go on like that.

I just wanted to make this serious point that you needed to have officers that served you well and understand what you do in real time, that you needed to set things up in the right way. That companies that worked for you needed to have proper client management and properly understood the services that they ran. In Acivico's case this was particularly important because you needed the Corporate Landlord model to work to be able to drive efficiencies so that you could save money next year which would not have an impact on services. Acivico presently were providing client-side activity to make this work. You needed a contract but probably not this one in the long-term which was why you were doing this now because you have not had a proper report to be brought forward at the right time to help your Deputy Leader to do the job she was trying to do.

Councillor Ewan Mackey commented that e just recently had an independent governance review that came across with some good recommendations that was discussed in Cabinet. The recommendation was scathing about the Cabinet's attitude to risk, and this fell into that slot. Cabinet in 2014 decided to bolt on a number of additional services into Acivico way beyond what its original model was. The report arrived at Cabinet with no risk assessment attached to it and no discussions around how that would impact the viability of the company but that was passed unanimously through Cabinet.

It was Cabinet that decided in 2017 to outsourced the design construction facilities amongst what was referred to as Design Construction Facilities Management (DCFM). That was based on an incomplete report which had no risk assessment attached to it which Cabinet was happy to unanimously approved. It was only the Council's Auditors themselves that came in and looked at Acivico and highlighted the general risk around the governance. Cabinet then reversed its 2017 decision pending an overall review of the company. It was thought that where we have been saying for the whole time of how poor the Cabinet attitude to risk was and highlighted all these reports that came with no risk assessment, we were told many times that *we know that*, but it just was not put in the report.

Councillor Alden referred to the report and stated that some information was missing from the report as it mentioned in the background that the company started in 2012. But it was silent on what happened in 2012 and 2017. In 2014 the Cabinet decided to add on a load of additional services without any risk assessment taken or any consideration of how that would impact the viability of the company. In 2017 it decided to outsourced the DCFM based on an incomplete report with no risk assessment. This was only changed after the Council's Auditors intervened. It was Cabinet ever since that was overseeing Acivico through the Cabinet Committee Group Company Governance

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established in response to the auditors concerns. The Cabinet should have been aware of what was happening all this time. It was important to understand that if there was something in a Cabinet report that was incomplete or as the Commissioner had described that this was not good local governance standards then it leaves as much on the Cabinet if they approved that report as it was on the officer who wrote that report. We have sat in this meeting time and again over the last 12 years pointing out missing things that was needed to properly make a decision from the Cabinet report.

In all cases almost those reports were voted on and accepted by the Cabinet and that they would find out the information afterwards. It should also be noted that before any report got to Cabinet it was already looked at by the Cabinet Member for that area and agreed. It was also looked at by the Scrutiny Chairman and agreed with them, so it was already approved by the Member of the Cabinet before it got published in the Cabinet papers. It was worth also pointing out that even if officers were not raising concerns about Acivico, we did not need officers to raise concerns because the statutory recommendations from the auditors twice made it very clear what the issues were around this. Every Member of the Council should have been absolutely aware of those concerns.

Councillor Alden referred to paragraph 6.3 of the report and requested that it be confirmed that if a contract was in place a letter of assurance from the Council will not be needed or will this still be needed regardless.

Councillor Jan stated that she had concerns about Acivico raised by youth clubs libraries as to whether we got value for money and whether there was any value for money.

The Cabinet Member for Transport stated that she had joined the Cabinet Committee Group Company Governance last summer and it was her understanding that both the current Deputy Leader and the previous Deputy Leader had been chasing a performance-based information to try and address the situation and this simply did not happen. She added that she had attended a number of meetings and it we have not had timely information. This was an area needing improving working together as Cabinet Members and officers. The positive news was that the Cabinet Committee Group Company Governance have taken on board the feedback the Lead Commissioner of the need to ensure that we were working in compliance with the LACO the tool kit that managed local authorities and companies and we have had a couple of reports now to implement that best practice. As Members of the sub-committee we needed to be rigorous and ensured that the governance arrangements of all our companies were in line with what was best practice in the sector.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources stated that in 2014 she was knee-deep in dealing with the Trojan horse affair but as for the period where she was chairing the Cabinet Committee Group Company Governance and did have this in her portfolio the Lead Commissioner has stated all that could be said.

The Deputy Leader expressed thanks to everyone for their comments particularly to Councillors Alden and Mackey. She stated that Cabinet do take

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its role seriously and we do asked questions and take risks seriously. As Members there was a fine line between operational and the policy side that we were looking at and implementation and we would asked questions based on the things that came in front of us. The Deputy Leader stated that when she picked up this portfolio she had pushed as much as she could to get questions answered. She added that she would like to think that her colleagues would say the same even consulting on a cross-party basis and getting views as well and ensuring questions that needed to be asked were asked. It must be noted also that my predecessor Councillor Brigid Jones had done the same and in meetings with her. What we should not be doing as it was not helpful to anyone was to get into a blame game at this point with officers and Members.

The Deputy Leader continued where things have gone wrong we needed to look at governance and culture -and we have had a review on that - and we will be looking at that strand and things will need to change, and they will change. As we were going through that process we needed to get to not missed focus on some of this. We will deal with those issues, but we also needed to deal with the issues in hand in terms of Acivico and ensuring we were getting that right. This was the reason this report was brought to Cabinet so that we could put any issues to bed once and for all and move forward in a sensible way that will bring value for money for the residents we were elected to serve.

333. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: -

That Cabinet:-

1. Approved a further extension, from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2026, to the contracts between the Council and Acivico (DCFM) Ltd/Acivico Ltd regarding the design, construction and facilities management services and Acivico Ltd regarding the building consultancy services;
 2. Approved the contract extension with options for the Council to exercise the right to terminate with three months' notice;
 3. Authorised the Interim City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer (or their delegate) to negotiate, execute and complete all necessary legal documents to give effect to the above decision;
 4. Noted that the full review of the contract and performance framework with Acivico is to take place during this period and company/group position review is part of the council's improvement recovery plan stream, Companies and Traded Services; and
 5. Requested a further progress report to be provided to Cabinet be provided by September 2024 providing a comprehensive plan (including milestones) on when and how this will be progressed.
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WEST MIDLANDS INVESTMENT ZONE AND GROWTH ZONES

The Deputy Leader introduced the item and drew the attention of Cabinet to the information contained in the report. She advised that there was a slight amendment required which was the removal of the words from paragraph 2.8 noting that Birmingham City Council had set out its position in paragraph 7.3.10 of the report. This was on the basis that we needed to continue conversation with the Combined Authority to ensure we were bottoming out and last issues that needed to be dealt with. The Deputy Leader expressed thanks to all the officers from BCC and the Combined Authority that worked on this, the Elected Members including the local MP and local people and her predecessor Councillor Brigid Jones who had started the process in terms of the levelling up agenda.

The Cabinet Member for Digital, Culture, Heritage and Tourism welcomed the investment into Birmingham knowledge Quarter and the development of the Birmingham Innovation Zones. She stated that by working with our partners including the universities and businesses this Quarter would stimulate the development of the wider Nechells area around the Birmingham to Fazeley Canal as envisaged in the Councils Future City Plan Framework. She added that as Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Digital agenda she was pleased and excited that this Innovative Knowledge Quarter will deliver new engineering and advanced digital technology research capabilities. The digital industries were important to the city and there was already some excellent work and innovations taking place in this field. Further research and capabilities in this area will greatly enhance this providing not only development and jobs but further capacity for future digital inclusion across the whole city.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources commented that it was exciting to see this coming forward. If any convincing was needed as to why such important project particularly the Growth Zone she would direct us to the equality impact assessment at the end of the report which showed just how the sheer levels of deprivation in the area that we were trying to affect. This was entrenched for generations and what the opportunity was for doing something different here.

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness stated that she fully agreed with the comments of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources. Having looked at the areas there were neighbourhoods that were crying out for this level of investments. She added that she was happy to support the establishment of a West Midlands Investment Zone and Growth Zones. The designation was essential for driving economic growth and helping to attract investment creation opportunities for our region more widely.

Councillor Alden stated that he was in support of the principle and that the key thing was maximising the benefit for the city and to ensure that these changes enabled sites that would not otherwise been developed to come forward and deliver economic benefits for the city.

The Head of East Birmingham Development noted Councillor Alden's request for information around how the specific sites were actually chosen and what the criteria were and made the following statements:-

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- There were two separate processes, the Growth Zones and the Investment Zone had something in common in that there was a Business Rate retention mechanism within them, but they derive from two separate places.
- One from the Devolution Deal in this case the Growth Zones and the Investment Zone from the Government's policy perspectives.
- The Investment Zone perspectives in particular had some quite stringent requirements for what kind of land qualified.
- Over the course of the last 12 months we worked with Government and the Combined Authority to identify sites within Birmingham and then to argue that they were eligible and should be designated an Investment Zone.
- Through that process we worked through different options. We had a lot of work to do convincing Government that Birmingham should be eligible for a site and through a process of sifting the Knowledge Quarter was the only site in Birmingham that Government agreed was suitable.
- The Growth Zones for East Birmingham was based on a previous planning and understanding of the area.
- It essentially took in all of the key employment land and all the sites where we expect to be significant potential for Business Rate growth over the next 25 years.

The Deputy Leader stated that this will be hugely important to the city and if we look at London's Innovation Hubs and the way they drove part of the economy this was something that was needed across the West Midlands and certainly in Birmingham and was a brilliant collaboration between public, private and academic partners which was exciting. She added that she was happy to bring something back to Cabinet for a future date for an update.

334. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: -

That Cabinet:-

1. Noted the proposals for the establishment of a West Midlands Investment Zone (WMIZ) and Growth Zones (GZ);
2. Endorsed the designation by Government of land within Birmingham for:
 - Investment Zone Tax Incentives.
 - Investment Zone Business Rate Retention.
 - Growth Zone Business Rate Retention;
3. Ratified the governance arrangements for the WMIZ, including the role of the Investment Zone Joint Committee or any successor IZ Board, as set out in paragraphs 3.25 - 3.33 and Appendix 3, to the report;
4. Approved the proposal for Business Rate Retention as set out in paragraphs 7.3.6 - 7.3.11, to the report;
5. Noted that a Delivery Plan will be prepared which will set out a programme of infrastructure investment for the WMIZ;

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6. Noted that proposals for the governance and financial and project management arrangements for the Growth Zone will be brought as a future report to Cabinet;
7. Delegated further decision making regarding the establishment and project management of the WMIZ to the Strategic Director of Place, Prosperity and Sustainability in consultation with the Interim Director of Finance (Section 151) that would otherwise not be taken by the Investment Zone Joint Committee, or for any financial undertaking, by Birmingham City Council Cabinet;
8. Delegated to the Interim Finance Director, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader, subject to the concurrence of Commissioners authority to confirm the final financial structure of the IZ with WMCA; and
9. Authorised the City Solicitor to prepare, negotiate, execute and complete all relevant legal documentation to give effect to the above decisions.

GRANTS TO SCHOOLS AND PRIVATE, VOLUNTARY AND INDEPENDENT CHILDCARE PROVIDERS FOR THE DFE WRAPAROUND PROGRAMME AND EARLY YEARS CHILDCARE EXPANSION - CAPITAL AND REVENUE FUNDING.

The Cabinet Member for Children Young People and Families presented the item and drew the attention of Cabinet to the information contained in the report highlighting the key points.

The Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities commented that as a working parent she was in support of the report. She stated that the wraparound support for her was an absolute lifeline. It meant that her child with SEND did not have to transition from one childcare provider to another because she was in school the whole time. This made a huge difference to how her child felt, but it also meant she could go to work which was important to her and her family.

Councillor Alden stated that he welcomed the Government's support for this and the work that the Council had done on this so far. Increasing the amount and the affordability of childcare was vital. It was good to see this happening and it was also important to recognised not just the benefit it will have on people who already have children, it was the benefit that it will have on enabling people to have children who might not otherwise be able to afford to pay for childcare provision or to access provision that they would require if they wanted to.

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness stated that everyone at the meeting would welcomed the funding of affordable high-quality childcare. It covered so many bases not just in enabling parents or carers to go to work but its benefits for children were enormous. It would be hugely beneficial if the Government would be able to outline a long-term plan both in terms of the

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childcare workforce and in terms of affordability and access quality childcare for parents. Wraparound childcare in particular was vital and was about the whole range of provision from breakfast clubs to afterschool clubs. It was important to add that the provision that would be available and the funding for it was only available in term time. There was still that huge question mark about what happened during the summer holidays and the half-terms. It was hoped we could do some work as a Council to address this complex issue.

The Head of Service, Education and Skills noted Councillor Alden's comments concerning the timelines in Appendix C and stated that this work had been ongoing since the point of the report being written. The absolute timeline we have in effect a three-year programme so the funding we will make available as soon as we have gone through the right governance process. This will be made available over the three years of the programme. The statutory responsibility was that we had to have this available and accessible to every primary school by September 2026. We have a few years yet to get to that end point but the work we were doing was set out and an updated version will be done so that we can circulate to Members.

The Cabinet Member for Children Young People and Families stated that this was only the first steps, and that the emphasis was on the working parents needs and every child would benefit from at least part of what has been offered.

335. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: -

That Cabinet:-

- a) Approved the development of the Wraparound Childcare and Expanded Early Years Offer Capital and Revenue capacity building programmes;
- b) Approved the rollout of the Capital and Revenue funding programmes to schools and childcare providers in Birmingham; and
- c) Delegated authority to the Director of Children and Families in consultation with the Interim Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer), the City Solicitor and the Head of Early Years and Childcare (or their delegates) to award funding to Childcare providers within existing Council financial and legal governance frameworks including the execution and completion of all necessary documents.

SOHO, LOZELLS AND EAST HANDSWORTH PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER

The Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities presented the item and drew the attention of Cabinet to the information contained in the report.

The Interim Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care commented that it was sometimes misrepresented that Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) were a punitive regime which was far from the case. There were two strong positive

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benefits of this initiative the first of which was the wellbeing benefits to residents who felt that there was more that could be done around the issues of anti-social behaviour. Concerns about anti-social behaviour have negative economic impact effects as people will not go out to the shops and so trade fell off. There was also the mental health and wellbeing issues with people being concerned about crime and the depressive effects of the fear of crime and any measures that could be taken to off-set that problem was welcomed.

There was also a Council initiative within the PSPO to provide help and support for individuals who may be having trouble with drugs, addictive behaviour and alcohol so this was not a punitive initiative by any means but was a way in which support could be provided and it was welcomed to see the Soho Road Business Improvement Districts etc. was involved all coming together with a positive initiative to helping people in difficulty as well as providing that wider community assurance.

The Cabinet Member for Digital, Culture, Heritage and Tourism stated that as a Council it was important that we were listening too our partners and communities and were using our statutory powers to make the areas our residents live be a nicer and safer place for all. The report came about through consultation with local communities and was a good example of how the Council could work with communities to make the changes that people wanted to see in their areas.

The officer noted Councillor Alden's comments concerning the timeliness of PSPOs coming to Cabinet for approval and stated that it was hoped that the report laid out part of the reasons this particular PSPO took so long. She advised that they had gone out to consultations on two occasions as we were not getting the response that we felt we could warrant that we could show that we did a proper and full consultation. It took a bit longer as we started this during the Covid-19 period and we were struggling to do the type of activities that we needed to do to show that we had tried all other options before we looked at a PSPO. She added that she was in agreement with Councillor Alden's comments on timeliness and that in the last 10 months a review of the process was undertaken particularly with the Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan now coming in from the Government and also the added powers that may come in from the Government as a result of that. The officer assured Cabinet that as a result of us looking at that and part of the report we had looked back on previous PSPOs to assess the impact and have put things in place where moving forward the process around PSPOs will be quicker. It was hope that the next PSPO submitted to Cabinet would reflect that.

The Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities stated that this was something that we worked well in partnership with residents local BIDs and the Police with and it was hoped this proposal would move forward.

336. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: -

That Cabinet:-

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- (i) Noted the reasons for a PSPO application within the defined restricted areas and the outcome of the formal consultation; and
- (ii) Approved the recommendation to move forward with the implementation of the PSPO on the basis of the evidence collated and consultation findings and instructs the Strategic Director of City Operations to proceed with plans to implement the PSPO.

KEY DECISION PLANNED PROCUREMENT ACTIVITIES (APRIL 2024 – JUNE 2024) AND QUARTERLY CONTRACT AWARDS (OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2023)

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources presented the item and drew the attention of Cabinet to the information contained in the report.

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness stated that it was essential for Cabinet to approve these activities to ensure transparency and effective governance and procurement processes. The proposed delegations to contracts award decisions aligned with the established governance framework and will enable efficient decision making in line with the Council's Constitution. We acknowledged and appreciated the Commissioner's comments, and we will incorporate them into our plans moving forward.

Councillor Alden referred to the *Children and Young Peoples Travel Service: Delegated Framework Award Report for Children and Young People's Travel Service (CYPTS)* and stated that this was an area where there was a lot of press coverage about the Council's contract over the last year. He added that this was something that needed to be carefully monitored by the Cabinet in terms of how this progressed so we could try and ensure that there was not another big issue that came forward like as happened previously. The Commissioner had highlighted the need to ensure there was a check after six months that we were getting value for money, but he would add an additional check that needed to happen on that to ensure that the children using the service were safe as this was an area where again there had been issues in the past around DBS checks and whether or not they had taken place by providers. We needed to be assuring ourselves of that as well.

Councillor Alden also referred to the *Waste Fleet Maintenance* and stated that before the 2019 Fleet Replacement Strategy which was three years late and was supposed to have delivered 247 new vehicles by now but only 76 of those have been done so far and the last update on this was postponed and that he was in agreement with the Commissioner's comments.

The Cabinet Member for Environment stated that the Commissioner's comment was a constructive point and was one that was needed to be considered more broadly and strategically. This was because this would not just cover the Environment portfolio, but may other service areas used vehicles as part of their operations. He added that he was fully supportive of anything that trade sufficiency in this way. Integrated transport unit was set to come forward as a Council wide initiative would help with this and he was committed to do his bit and work with officers to assess in line with the Commissioner's statement.

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The Cabinet Member for Children Young People and Families reassured Councillor Alden that the Children’s Travel Service team had robust processes to monitor both the contract and the savings that we expected from the change in procurement and the safeguarding of the children and young people using the contracted services was a top priority.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources stated that the officers responsible for misleading Members on the safety of children in that service had exited from the Council quite some time ago and significant changes have been made to that service. She added that the rest of the helpful comments would be taken on board.

337. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: -

That Cabinet:

- (i) Approved the planned procurement activities and approve Chief Officer delegations, set out in the Constitution for the subsequent decisions around procurement strategy for the following:
 - Mediation Service for City Housing and Housing Options Tenants
 - The repair, maintenance and major refurbishments of lifts in housing, council buildings and schools
 - Provision of Dog Kennel Services
- (ii) Noted the contract award decisions made under Chief Officers delegation during the period October 2023 – December 2023 as detailed in Appendix 3, to the report.

NON-KEY DECISION PLANNED PROCUREMENT ACTIVITIES (APRIL 2024 – JUNE 2024) AND QUARTERLY CONTRACT AWARDS (OCTOBER 2023 – DECEMBER 2023)

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources presented the item and drew the attention of Cabinet to the information contained in the report.

Councillor Alden referred to the Commissioners comments concerning the *A457 Dudley Road Improvement Scheme* and stated that it was important that there was an understanding as this had gone wrong elsewhere in the Council in the past that whilst external expertise might be brought in because there was a need for their expertise this did not externalised the responsibility for the delivery and ensuring that what was stated happened. The responsibility laid with the Cabinet and the officers still. Councillor Alden stated that the A457 Dudley Road Improvement Scheme had been through procurement a number of times before and enquired how this interlaced to the previous people hired to do this work. He further queried whether the work was completed or whether it was an overrun or an additional work.

The Strategic Director for Place, Prosperity and Sustainability advised that this was down to the longevity of the project, and it was suspected that there were different management arrangement at different stage of the project such as early design, later design and implementation. On the point made about

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ensuring that we have full accountability even when we used external project managers we do have excellent project management arrangement in the transport connectivity team. He added that he had no doubt that the Assistant Director fully understood that using external support had not absconded any responsibility and that he was sure he would be on top of the management of that contract.

The Cabinet Member for Transport stated that it was a scheme we had received levelling up funding for in the first round and was a major scheme to be modelled like Dudley Road putting bus priority, cycle infrastructure and was on-going. It involved bringing in a new bridge and it was understood that here will be a Ministerial visit within the next few weeks to look at progress there. At the moment what was happening was resurfacing of the road surface. This required a dedicated project management. The Cabinet Member for Transport undertook to share the weekly update on the scheme with Councillor Alden if he was happy for this to be done as it was a major scheme.

338. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: -

That Cabinet:-

1. Approved the planned procurement activities and approve Chief Officer delegations, set out in the Constitution for the subsequent decisions around procurement strategy for the following:
 - Project Management for A457 Dudley Road Improvement Scheme
 - Supply of Identity Plates for Private Hire Vehicles and Hackney Carriages
 - Digital Autopsy Services
2. Noted the contract award decisions made under Chief Officers delegation during the period October 2023 – December 2023 as detailed in Appendix 3, to the report.

NEW WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY AND PROCEDURE

The Deputy Leader introduced the item and drew the attention of Cabinet to the information contained in the report.

In response to questions and comments the Deputy Leader made the following statements:-

- The policy had this morning been uploaded to the Intranet and along with officers she has had conversations about whether we could do something in ne of the staff webinars with the Acting Chief Executive so that officer on all levels understood where that was.
- That she had enquired whether the policy would be made available to new starters when they join the Council as part of HR and the induction process to ensure that people knew where the policy was.

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- We were also ensuring that the policy was fed through the organisation through conversations.
- The Deputy Leader gave assurance that with the conversations she was having with officers it was about what this meant to people on the ground that were working.
- That she did not want a policy that hit the goals and missed the point and will continue to work with officers around this.
- It cannot be emphasised enough how much culture and governance needed to be looked at within the organisation not as a tick-box exercise but as an exercise that this was a healthy place for all of us to thrive whether its Members or our officers or our partners.
- The culture piece would be picked up and she has had conversations with the Lead Commissioner and John Coughlan about anything that we were doing at the moment in terms of changes and policies that we could look at the culture as we go forward and pick up anything that we needed to tweak in practice.

339. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: -

That Cabinet:-

- a. Agreed the two new whistleblowing policies and the new whistleblowing procedure and that they be adopted and published on the Council's internet and intranet and that an update on the policy be submitted to Cabinet within 6 months; and
- b. Agreed that a communication strategy for the new Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure is agreed with the Deputy Leader for the launch of the new process.

CORPORATE PLAN 2022-2026: PERFORMANCE AND DELIVERY MONITORING REPORT

The Deputy Leader presented the item and drew the attention of Cabinet to the information contained in the report.

The Interim Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care highlighted the work being done for the bold health Birmingham aspect of the plan and paid tribute to the work of the officers who had delivered this. He added that he would like to emphasised in particular the progress made on supporting young people who were transitioning to adulthood. This was a key strategic improvement in the way we were working and was identified some while ago that this cliff edge occurred as people moved from children into adulthood in the adult social care system. He stated that a lot of hard work was being done to make that transition effective in preparation for adulthood as being a tough job but progressed according to schedule. The shared lives programme was also an important work. There were some Red ratings most of which were still within sight of completion. He further emphasised the suicide strategy which was initially raised by some Members a few years ago which was now incorporated in the mentally healthy system. The work on assessment was an important area and we had to put effort elsewhere in the service for a while, but we needed to intensify the efforts and commitments which had been given to

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intensified the efforts to do these reassessments in order to help a strength-based approach to be taken.

The Cabinet Member for Children Young People and Families referred to the children's indicators on page 31 of the report which enabled all children and young people to thrive. The delivery milestones were looking good, and the Amber ratings were in two areas that have been a challenge for quite some time. We were working with the Children's Trust on the care leavers indicators and indeed will be working with the care leavers group next week on some of these issues. We were hoping that the publicity around the extension to the early years entitlement would help us reach more families and improve the take up.

In terms of the Red indicator on percentage on the education health care plans issued within 20 weeks this was something that had improved dramatically over the last 2 years but has now dipped out of the tolerance zone and was showing as Red. It was thought that this may be related to the fact that we were now able to replace interims and agency staff with permanent staff and that this was a temporary blip and was high on our list to keep an eye on. It was worth noting a couple of points – the improvement plan sets a target of 60% which we have achieved but we will always accept a stretched target where appropriate. The national average was 50% and even though we were not within our tolerance zone we were exceeding the national average.

Councillor Alden referred to page 662 of the Agenda Pack point 7 and stated that six of 12 non-static measures were worsening. He queried how this would be turned around. On page 726 in relation to the NHS health checks he voiced concerns that we were showing an optimism bias on how we rated these. This was rated as Green and was below the all England benchmark and was to two decimal points just hitting the target but the direction of travel was that it was worse 30% in a quarter. He stated that he would not say that this was a Green but should be rated as Amber so that we were properly monitoring and seeing what issues were there. With regard to procurement he questioned whether this was an issue elsewhere in the Council and whether any measures had been taken elsewhere in the Council to make that procurement system more accessible for people who would otherwise be bidding for work. This would particularly be an issue for small SMEs who have the less expertise corporately to be able to bid in the procurement systems.

Turning to page 733 the measures on missed collections – actual missed collections was something that had been promised for a while and the commentary stated that the KPI was still under review however it was previously reported in January 2023 that the Council was now able to collect this information. This was over a year taken to decide a KPI which was unacceptable. He questioned when this KPI would be put in place and when will the results start being shared with the public in the city. Moving to the report on missed collections per 100k, Birmingham's result was 207. A Freedom of information (FOI) in 2022 showed across the country the 10 best performing authorities that had missed collection rates of less than 14 properties per 100k compared to 207 in Birmingham and 304 back in 2022.

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Page 735 the amount of Business Rates collected – this was currently below target. The report highlighted that it was 4% better than last year, but if you go back a year further it was actually not ahead of where it was in 2021/22. This was important because at the end of 2021/22 we did not hit the target. Convincing ourselves because we were 4% ahead of last year when we did not hit the target, this trend showed that we were not going to hit the target. If we were to replicate this trend we would end up 2.92% behind the amount of Business Rates collected that we benchmarked for. He questioned what work was happening to ensure that we could close that gap of the current trend suggested there be.

The Deputy Leader stated that anything that was declining and in Red were being kept under review and escalated when it was needed by officers and Cabinet Members. In terms of the missed collections on page 733 the Strategic Director for City Operations stated that the waste service have clearly not delivered for the people of the city for a long time, and we were at a rate that was just reducing below 100. The Transformation Plan was key to that, and we needed to stabilise the service and there were some significant costs that needed to come out of it but fundamentally it was about culture of delivery, culture of the workforce and this could not be turned around in six months.

A transformation team had been established, a new Assistant Director and a new post for the city as an Assistant Director Waste started in January. The metric itself was recognised as a national standard. We do seem to be recording missed roads, but we needed to be recording missed bins to a much better standard and that work would come out over the next six months as we reset the way of working. This was a two-year programme not only stabilising the service initially but seeing the improvements in service delivery and as the Cabinet Member stated it was also about adapting and moving to the new expectations up from the Environment Act improving recycle rates, food collections and looking at different ways to collect residual waste going forward. All of that will see a significant change in the way that the three depots operate over the next 18 months as we get to a point of delivering against the Environment Act.

The Assistant Director, Partnerships Insight and Prevention advised that NHS health checks were delivered in Primary Care by multiple providers, and we have been reprocurring NHS health checks and we have been through two phases each time we have assessed where the kind of coverage was across the city. We needed to ensure a good coverage across the city and one that addressed inequalities. There was a third phase of re-procurement, and a paper will be submitted at the next meeting to cover that off. We have seen a drop in NHS health check that have been offered and we expected that it will recover.

The Interim Finance Director and Section 151 Officer advised that a fuller written response with regard to the Business Rates would be given on the figures. She gave assurance around that and that there was one item that we were awaiting that would be allocated into the accounts which was not yet taken into the numbers which was quite significant. She undertook to get Members the updated figures on the issue. She further advised that she was

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meeting with officer colleagues on a fortnightly basis to ensure this was pulled back on track.

The Interim Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care referred to Councillor Alden's comment concerning the wider issues of procurement and whether or not we were finding a notoriety of organisations and people being unable to bid for it because it was too complex and advised that paper would be submitted at the next Cabinet meeting about the process. He added that it was obviously determined by the NHS criteria.

340. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: -

That Cabinet noted the performance and progress against the priorities and ambitions set out in the Council's Corporate Plan 2022-2026.

APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Leader introduced the item and drew the attention of Cabinet to the information contained in the report.

Councillor Alden stated that the change was noted of the person sitting on the West Midlands Pension Committee and that there were issues with the Council's attendance in the past and there were issues with the roll out that had caused a lot of impact to the people who were trying to withdraw their pensions from the Pension Fund, so he welcomed the change.

341. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: -

That Cabinet agreed to appoint representative(s) to serve on the Outside Bodies detailed in the appendix, to the report, as follows:-

- a. Agreed the replacement of Cllr Shabina Bano (Lab) with Cllr Mary Locke (Lab) on the Midlands Art Centre Board for the remainder of the term i.e. 19 March 2024 until 25 June 2024;
- b. Agreed the replacement of Cllr Ray Goodwin (Lab) with Cllr Mary Locke (Lab) on the West Midlands Pension Committee for the remainder of the term i.e. 19 March 2024 until 25 June 2024;
- c. Agreed the replacement of Cllr Kirsten Kurt-Elli (Lab) with Cllr Jamie Tenant (Lab) on the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital Board of Governors for the remainder of the term i.e. 19 March 2024 until 25 June 2024;
- d. Agreed the replacement of Martin Straker Welds (Lab) with Cllr Zafar Iqbal (Lab) on the NICE – Centre for Movement Disorders for the remainder of the term i.e. 19 March 2024 until 25 June 2024;
- e. Agreed the appointment of Councillor Sam Forsyth (Lab) as the second Councillor representative to the YMCA City Board for the remainder of the period ending on the 25 June 2024;

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- f. Agreed the replacement of Councillor Mick Brown (Lab) with Councillor Lee Marsham (Lab) on the Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Trust for the remainder of the term i.e. 19 March 2024 until 25 June 2024;
 - g. Agreed the appointment of Councillor Rob Grant (Green) as nominative trustees for a period of 2 years on The Fields Millennium Green Trust expiring on the 18 March 2026; and
 - h. Agreed the replacement of Cllr Zafar Iqbal (Lab) with Cllr Saddak Miah (Lab) on the Yardley Great Trust Board for the remainder of the term i.e. 19 March 2024 until 16 January 2027.
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OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

342. Whistleblowing Policy

Councillor Robert Alden commented that after the Whistleblowing item an officer had sent him a screenshot of the Intranet news article that the Council had posted yesterday stating that the Cabinet had agreed a new Whistleblowing Policy. He added that we should not be having press items going out stating that something had been agreed the day before Cabinet too place.

The Chair commented that it appeared that someone was slightly *trigger happy* and that this would be picked up.

The meeting ended at 1042 hours.

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CHAIRPERSON

