

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

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

1400 hours on Thursday 12 January 2023

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

Action Notes

Present:

Councillor Mohammed Idrees (Chair)

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

Also Present:

Councillor Majid Mahmood, Cabinet Member for Environment

Pam Powis, Senior Service Manager, Community Safety Team

Darren Share, Assistant Director, Street Scene

Jayne Bowles, Scrutiny Officer

Amelia Murray, Overview and Scrutiny Manager

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chair advised that this meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's meeting You Tube site (www.youtube.com/channel/UCT2kT7ZRPFCXq6_5dnVnYlw) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

2. APOLOGIES

None.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

4. ACTION NOTES AND ACTION TRACKER

(See documents No 1 and No 2)

RESOLVED:

- That the action notes of the meeting held on 15 December 2022 were agreed;
- That the action tracker was noted.

5. PROGRESS REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION: REDUCING FLY-TIPPING

(See document No 3)

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

The Cabinet Member Assessments for each of the two outstanding recommendations were confirmed:

- Recommendation 01: 4 - Not Achieved (Obstacle).
- Recommendation 03: 2 – Achieved (Late).

During the discussion, and in response to Members' questions, the main points included:

- There are 10 new CCTV cameras and another 10 have been ordered. These are solar-powered and are easier to install as they can be tagged around objects (eg trees, posts). These cameras have been tried and tested with other Local Authorities and have been through the court system.
- Members felt, however, that 20 cameras was not enough and more needed to be done so people think there is a significant risk of being seen.
- It was accepted that more could be done and that discussions were taking place with the Community Safety Team about utilising other cameras.
- Members referred to the list of wards where the 10 cameras had been deployed but it was pointed out that this totalled 8, not 10.
- Cllr Mahmood referred to the invitation to Councillors to visit their local depot and encouraged Members to attend and ask questions of officers, for example how they can influence the locations of cameras.
- The length of time between the two Grimewatch videos being released was of concern to Members and also the viewing figures, which for the March video was 2,000. Cllr Mahmood said that he would be speaking to officers about boosting viewing.
- It was noted that the number of fly-tipping incidents was reducing and that this was due to a number of activities, for example an increase in litter picking groups, extra crew and the Mobile Household Recycling Centres (MHRCs).

- Neighbourhood Co-ordinators will play a key role in bringing services together and the incredible efforts of volunteers, litter picking groups and Friends of Parks was noted.
- There was a discussion about identifying the best locations for the MHRCs and it would be helpful to get an idea of tonnage as the implication is that if the tonnage is low, the location is not right. However, there are a number of factors which have to be considered, eg access, room to turn around, and parking issues.
- With regard to enforcement, Cllr Mahmood told Members that he had spoken to the Director of Regulation and Enforcement regarding the monthly report of littering and fly-tipping offences and they are working towards reporting to all Members on a monthly basis rather than having to access this on CMIS.
- It was acknowledged that on the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) other councils were more robust in their approach and that Birmingham is more risk averse.
- There has been an increase in the number of staff in the Waste Enforcement Team which will result in more activities.
- It was queried whether the Neighbourhood Co-ordinators could play a bigger role as a conduit between Enforcement and prosecutions.
- Members were of the view that not enough had been achieved in the two years since the report went to Council and requested that Legal Services be invited to explain why the Barking and Dagenham approach had not been adopted.
- The Committee accepted the Cabinet Member's Assessments in respect of both recommendations but requested that further reports be brought back to a future meeting, addressing the following points:
 - **Cameras**
 - Grimewatch: why the gap between the two videos, update on viewing numbers and impact.
 - List showing the wards where the 10 cameras have been deployed to be updated (as it currently shows only 8).
 - Process and timescale on installing CCTV cameras.
 - How that can be localised – improving information and comms/involving councillors and residents.
 - **Prosecution strategies:**
 - What Birmingham does.
 - What Barking and Dagenham does.
 - Why Birmingham is not adopting the Barking and Dagenham approach.
 - Legal Services to be invited to attend.

RESOLVED: -

- That the Committee accepted the Cabinet Member's assessments.
- That the further reports requested would be scheduled for a future meeting and that Legal Services would be invited to attend.
- That the report was noted.

6. BIRMINGHAM COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP RE-DEPLOYABLE CAMERAS

(See document No 4)

Pam Powis, Head of Partnership, Birmingham Community Safety Team, was in attendance for this item and the following points were highlighted:

- This report followed on from the presentation of the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership Annual Report presented at the last committee meeting when Members had requested a further report on the process for the deployment of Community Safety re-deployable cameras.
- The report explains the 6 stages of the process, with timescales.

During the discussion, and in response to Members' questions, the main points included:

- The Birmingham Community Safety Partnership receives grant funding from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC).
- The OPCC ring-fences £1.5m for support to Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and looks at crime figures and percentages it to determine the funding for each of the 7 CSPs in the West Midlands.
- For Birmingham, in 2022/23 this amounted to £660,000 and has to cover all the priorities of the Partnership.
- It was queried whether there was any way to tap into the proceeds of crime fund.
- Members were told that there is nothing stopping the Partnership from tapping into other funding streams.
- The approved budget for 2022/23 for the re-deployable camera scheme is £19,940 and they try to predict how often the cameras will have to be moved around, utility costs and repairs and maintenance.
- It costs between £500 and £1,000 to move a camera – the higher figure would be by exception, eg on major arterial routes where there might be increased health and safety measures, but the majority would be nearer the £500.

RESOLVED:

That the report was noted.

7. WORK PROGRAMME

(See document No 5)

The Chair confirmed that the further reports requested in relation to Reducing Fly-tipping would be programmed and that Legal Services would be invited to attend.

Members discussed Voids, currently scheduled for March, and it was agreed that a draft work outline would be brought to the February meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the work programme was noted.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted.

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

None.

10. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

11. AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS

RESOLVED:

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

The meeting ended at 1516 hours.