

# **BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

## **MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**TUESDAY, 07 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 14:00 HOURS**  
**IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL HOUSE, VICTORIA SQUARE,**  
**BIRMINGHAM, B1 1BB**

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

#### **1 NOTICE OF RECORDING**

Lord Mayor to advise 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.

#### **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

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

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

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

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

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

**3 MINUTES**

To confirm and authorise the signing of the Minutes of the Meetings of the Council held on 11 July 2023, 12 September 2023, and of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 25 September 2023.

**4 LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**(10 minutes allocated) (1400-1410)**

To receive the Lord Mayor's announcements and such communications as the Lord Mayor may wish to place before the Council.

**5 PETITIONS**

**(10 minutes allocated) (1410-1420)**

To receive and deal with petitions in accordance with Council Rules of Procedure (B4.4 E of the Constitution)

As agreed by Council Business Management Committee a schedule of outstanding petitions is available electronically with the published papers for the meeting and can be viewed or downloaded.

**6 QUESTION TIME**

**(70 minutes allocated) (1420-1530)**

To deal with oral questions in accordance with Council Rules of Procedure (B4.4 F of the Constitution).

- A. Questions from Members of the Public to any Cabinet Member or Ward Forum Chair (20 minutes)
- B. Questions from any Councillor to a Committee Chair, Lead Member of a Joint Board or Ward Forum Chair (up to 10 minutes)
- C. Questions from Councillors other than Cabinet Members to a Cabinet Member (up to 20 minutes)
- D. Questions from Councillors other than Cabinet Member to the Leader or Deputy Leader (up to 20 minutes)

**7 APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNCIL**

**(5 minutes allocated) (1530-1535)**

To make appointments to, or removal from, committees, outside bodies or other offices which fall to be determined by the Council.

**217 - 222**      8      **LEAD MEMBER REPORT: WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

**(45 minutes allocated) (1535-1620)**

Councillor Sam Forsyth. Lead Member, West Midlands Police and Crime Panel to move the following recommendation:

"That the report be noted."

(break 1620 – 1650)

**223 - 246**      9      **LEAD MEMBER REPORT: WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY TRANSPORT DELIVERY COMMITTEE**

**(45 minutes allocated) (1650-1735)**

Councillor Mary Locke, Lead Member, West Midlands Combined Authority Transport Delivery Committee to move the following recommendation:

"That the report be noted".

**247 - 250**      10      **MOTIONS FOR DEBATE FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

**(90 minutes allocated) (1735-1905)**

To consider the attached Motions of which notice has been given in accordance with Council Rules of Procedure (B4.4 G of the Constitution).





**MEETING OF BIRMINGHAM  
CITY COUNCIL,  
TUESDAY, 11 JULY 2023**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL HELD  
ON TUESDAY, 11 JULY 2023 AT 1400 HOURS IN THE COUNCIL  
CHAMBER, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

**PRESENT:-** Lord Mayor (Councillor Chaman Lal) in the Chair.

**Councillors**

Saima Ahmed	Adrian Delaney	Ewan Mackey
Alex Aitken	Diane Donaldson	Basharat Mahmood
Deirdre Alden	Barbara Dring	Majid Mahmood
Robert Alden	Jayne Francis	Lee Marsham
Gurdial Singh	Sam Forsyth	Karen McCarthy
Atwal	Ray Goodwin	Saddak Miah
Raqeeb Aziz	Rob Grant	Gareth Moore
Shabina Bano	Colin Green	Yvonne Mosquito
David Barker	Fred Grindrod	Richard Parkin
David Barrie	Roger Harmer	Rick Payne
Baber Baz	Deborah Harries	David Pears
Matt Bennett	Kath Hartley	Miranda Perks
Jilly	Adam Higgs	Rob Pocock
Birmingham	Des Hughes	Julien Pritchard
Marcus	Jon Hunt	Hendrina Quinnen
Bernasconi	Mumtaz Hussain	Lauren Rainbow
Bushra Bi	Mahmood Hussain	Darius Sandhu
Sir Albert	Shabrana Hussain	Kath Scott
Bore	Timothy Huxtable	Rinkal Shergill
Nicky	Mohammed Idrees	Ron Storer
Brennan	Zafar Iqbal	Saima Suleman
Kerry Brewer	Katherine Iroh	Jamie Tennant
Marje Bridle	Ziaul Islam	Sharon Thompson
Martin Brooks	Morriam Jan	Paul Tilsley
Mick Brown	Kerry Jenkins	Lisa Trickett
Zaker	Meirion Jenkins	Penny Wagg
Choudhry	Brigid Jones	Ian Ward
Debbie	Jane Jones	Ken Wood
Clancy	Amar Khan	Alex Yip
Liz Clements	Ayoub Khan	Waseem Zaffar
Maureen	Mariam Khan	
Cornish	Izzy Knowles	
John Cotton	Bruce Lines	
Jack Deakin	Mary Locke	

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**NOTICE OF RECORDING**

- 154 The Lord Mayor advised that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcasting via the Council’s Public-I website and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.
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**DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

- 155 The Lord Mayor reminded Members that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests relating to any items of business to be discussed at the meeting.

Councillor Waseem Zaffar declared a pecuniary interest in relation to agenda item 8, Srebrenica Memorial Day, where a previous trip taken by Councillor Zaffar to Bosnia in 2016 (in his capacity as a Councillor) had been paid for by an external organisation.

Councillor Ray Goodwin declared a pecuniary interest in relation to agenda item 11, Motions for Debate from Individual Members, Motion A (specifically related to Warm Spaces). Councillor Goodwin would leave the Chamber for this item.

Councillor Kerry Jenkins declared a pecuniary interest in relation to agenda item 11, Motions for Debate from Individual Members, Motion B as she was an employee of Unite the Union. Councillor Jenkins would leave the Chamber for this item.

Councillor Matt Bennett declared a pecuniary interest in relation to agenda item 11, Motions for Debate from Individual Members, Motion B which had been shared with the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting. Councillor Bennett would leave the Chamber for this item.

Councillor Sam Forsyth declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to agenda item 11, Motions for Debate from Individual Members, Motion B as her birth mother was one of the claimants in relation to the equal pay claim. Councillor Forsyth would leave the Chamber for this item.

Councillor Mahmood Hussain declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to agenda item 11, Motions for Debate from Individual Members, Motion B as he was a Member of Unite the Union. Councillor Hussain would leave the

Chamber for this item.

Councillor Ziaul Islam declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to agenda item 11, Motions for Debate from Individual Members, Motion B as he was a Member of Unite the Union. Councillor Islam would leave the Chamber for this item.

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Chaman Lal, declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to agenda item 11, Motions for Debate from Individual Members, Motion B as he was a Member of Unite the Union. The Lord Mayor had been granted a dispensation by the Monitoring Officer.

Councillor Gurdial Singh Atwal declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to agenda item 11, Motions for Debate from Individual Members, Motion B as he was a Member of Unite the Union. Councillor Singh Atwal would leave the Chamber for this item.

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## **MINUTES**

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and –

156

### **RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the City Council meeting held on 13 June 2023 be taken as read and confirmed and signed.

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## **LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **1 King's New Year's Honours**

The Lord Mayor indicated his first announcement related to those mentioned in The King's Birthday Honours list, for services to Birmingham or who lived in Birmingham.

Awarded a CBE:

Ann Bentley

Awarded an OBE:

Professor Aravinthan Coomarasamy  
Stephen Glyn Hughes; and  
Reverend Dr Richard John Sudworth

Awarded an MBE:

Darnish Amraz  
Dr Desmond Jadoo; and  
Aftabur Rahman

Awarded the British Empire Medal:

Zoe Bennett  
Rekesh Chauhan  
Geoffrey Cole  
John Desmond Smith; and  
Erma Lewis

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**RESOLVED:-**

That the Council joined the Lord Mayor in congratulating all of the above individuals on their marvelous achievements.

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**PETITIONS**

**Petitions Relating to City Council Functions Presented at the Meeting**

The following petitions were presented:-

(See document No. 1, 'Additional Meeting Documents')

In accordance with the proposals by the Members presenting the petitions, it was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and:-

158

**RESOLVED:-**

That the petitions were received and referred to the relevant Chief Officer(s).

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**Petitions Update**

A Petitions Update had been made available electronically:-

(See document No. 2, 'Additional Meeting Documents')

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and

159

**RESOLVED:-**

That the Petitions Update be noted and those petitions for which a satisfactory response has been received, be discharged.

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### **QUESTION TIME**

160 The Council proceeded to consider Oral Questions in accordance with Council Rules of Procedure (B4.4 F of the Constitution).

Details of the questions asked are available for public inspection via the webcast.

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### **APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNCIL**

Councillors Des Hughes addressed the Council and it was-

161 **RESOLVED:-**

That the appointments be made to serve on the Committees and other bodies set out below:-

Cllr Kath Scott off the Police and Crime Panel and to be replaced by Cllr Shabina Bano.

Cllr Raqeeb Aziz will be the substitute for Cllr Bano and Cllr Ray Goodwin will be substitute for Cllr Forsyth.

Cllr Jilly Bermingham off the Trusts & Charities Committee and onto the Licensing & Public Protection Committee

Cllr Zafar Iqbal off the Licensing & Public Protection Committee and onto the Trusts & Charities Committee.

Cllr Des Hughes to be replaced as Chair of the Housing Consultative committee by Cllr Sam Forsyth.

Councillor Baber Baz addressed the Council and it was-

162 **RESOLVED:-**

That the appointments be made to serve on the Committees and other bodies set out below:-

Councillor Morriam Jan replaced Councillor Deborah Harries on the Education, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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### **SREBRENICA MEMORIAL DAY**

A report of the Council Business Management Committee was submitted:-

(See document No. 3, agenda item 8)

The Lord Mayor proposed that Standing Orders were suspended for this item.

This was seconded and agreed.

Councillor Martin Brooks moved the recommendation which was seconded by Councillors Alex Yip, Izzy Knowles and Julien Pritchard.

A debate ensued.

Councillors Waseem Zaffar, Paul Tilsley and Majid Mahmood spoke during the debate where a period of one minutes' silence was held to remember the victims of Srebrenica.

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor Martin Brooks to sum up.

It was therefore-

163

**RESOLVED:-**

1.) That City Council agreed to support the bullet points as outlined in the Motion included in the report.

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**DECISIONS NOT ON THE FORWARD PLAN AND THOSE AUTHORISED FOR IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION**

A report from the City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer was submitted:-

(See document No. 4, agenda item 9)

Councillor John Cotton moved the recommendation which was seconded from the floor.

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor John Cotton to sum up.

It was therefore-

164

**RESOLVED:-**

1.) That City Council noted the report.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

165

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and-

**RESOLVED:-**

That the Council be adjourned until 1655 hours on this day.

The Council then adjourned at 1625 hours.

At 1655 hours the Council resumed at the point where the meeting had been adjourned.

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**SCRUTINY BUSINESS REPORT**

A report from the Chair of the Co-Ordinating Overview and

Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Sir Albert Bore was

submitted:-

(See document No. 5, agenda item 10)

Councillor Sir Albert Bore moved the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Kerry Jenkins.

A debate ensued.

Councillors Jon Hunt, Marje Bridle, Alex Yip, Julien Pritchard, Lee Marsham, Ewan Mackey, Jack Deakin and Robert Alden spoke during the debate.

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor Sir Albert Bore to sum up.

It was therefore-

166

**RESOLVED:-**

1.) That City Council noted the report.

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**MOTIONS FOR DEBATE FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

The Council proceeded to consider the Motions of which notice had been given in accordance with Council Rules of Procedure (B4.4 G of the Constitution).

Councillor Ray Goodwin left the Chamber for Motion A.

**A. Councillors Sharon Thompson and Jamie Tennant had given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-**

(See document No. 6, agenda item 11)

Councillor Sharon Thompson moved the Motion which was seconded by Councillor Jamie Tennant.

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure, Councillors Deirdre Alden and Alex Yip gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No. 7, 'Amendments – City Council')

Councillor Deirdre Alden moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Alex Yip.

A debate ensued.

Councillors Morriam Jan, Julien Pritchard, Lisa Trickett, Matt Bennett, Lee Marsham, Gareth Moore and Liz Clements spoke during the debate. During the debate, Councillor Gareth Moore declared a non-pecuniary interest as he was a trustee of Birmingham LGBT centre which was a Warm Space.

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor Sharon Thompson to sum up.

The amendment to the Motion in the names of Councillors Deirdre Alden and Alex Yip having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be lost.

The Motion having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

**RESOLVED:-**

“This Council notes that:

In the face of the Tory cost of living crisis, Birmingham City Council responded quickly by working with faith and community groups to set up over 200 Warm Welcome Spaces across the city. The Council also supported foodbanks to ensure that there was a sufficient supply of food.

The actions of hundreds of volunteers in running the warm welcome spaces across the city shows the true spirit of Birmingham and this Council extends its thanks and gratitude to every one of them.

The Council resolves that:

1. The Leader will write to every registered Warm Welcome Space and foodbank in Birmingham to express the gratitude of the Council.

2. The Council will continue to support this programme for as long as this Tory created crisis continues.

3. The Council will write to the government to demand action to address this Tory cost of living crisis.”

Councillors Kerry Jenkins, Matt Bennett, Sam Forsyth, Mahmood Hussain, Ziaul Islam, Chaman Lal and Gurdial Singh Atwal left the Chamber for Motion B.

**B. Councillors Robert Alden and Ewan Mackey had given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-**

(See document No. 8, agenda item 11)

Councillor Robert Alden moved the Motion which was seconded by Councillor Ewan Mackey.

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure, Councillors Roger Harmer and Paul Tilsley gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No. 9, ‘Amendments – City Council’)

Councillor Roger Harmer moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Paul Tilsley.

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure, Councillors John Cotton and Sharon Thompson gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No. 10, ‘Amendments – City Council’)

Councillor John Cotton moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Sharon Thompson.

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure, Councillors Julien Pritchard and Rob Grant gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No. 11, ‘Amendments – City Council’)

Councillor Julien Pritchard moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Rob Grant.

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor Robert Alden to sum up.

The amendment to the Motion in the names of Councillors Roger Harmer and Paul Tilsley having been moved and

seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

The amendment to the Motion in the names of Councillors John Cotton and Sharon Thompson having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

The amendment to the Motion in the names of Councillors Julien Pritchard and Rob Grant having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

The Motion as amended having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

It was therefore-

**RESOLVED:-**

“Given the seriousness of the current situation brought about by the Council’s reported equal pay liability, this Council is taking a range of urgent actions to address the unsustainable growth in Equal Pay liability, improve governance and strengthen organisation capacity, including:

- Appointing three Strategic Expert Advisers to support the Council’s Directors and Cabinet
- Formally commissioning an independent Governance Review in collaboration with the Department for Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities
- Commissioning an independently chaired, internal management review to ascertain the root causes of the failure to effectively implement Oracle
- Setting out plans to instigate a judge-led inquiry to determine the causes of the equal pay liability growth since 2012, to begin following the outcome of the Governance Review
- Implementing mandatory spending restrictions

To oversee this work, a new Strategic Delivery Board will be created to develop and deliver plans for improvement. To ensure openness and transparency, the Strategic External Advisers will produce an independent report on a quarterly basis with an update on progress and an analysis on whether there is adequate grip and pace in relation to the delivery of the change that is required.

This Council commits to bringing these reports to Full Council each quarter to update members and allow a debate of not less than one hour on progress against actions to address the crisis. This should continue until such a time as the situation is fully resolved as agreed by a future resolution of Council.

Council Business Management Committee is asked to consider revisions to the Council's Constitution to accommodate this.

Further, this Council resolves that any amendment to the 2023/24 Council Budget, made in response to the Equal Pay Crisis, should come to Full Council for debate and approval.

In addition the Council resolves to ask the Executive to ensure that all political groups are fully briefed on any developments between Council meetings.

The Council also believes that ordinary residents, particularly those most in need and those most left behind, should not have to pay for the Council's financial crisis.

Further, there are ongoing existing challenges, particularly in the Council's housing service, that urgently need to be addressed.

The cost-of-living crisis is still massively affecting our residents and one of the best ways of tackling high energy bills are measures that also address the climate crisis, such as energy efficiency measures.

This Council therefore resolves, and asks the Executive, that future debates and decisions, including around the values framework:

- Prioritise improving the City Council's appalling housing conditions
- Protect services for those residents who need them most, particularly social care
- Protect our vital youth and library services
- Protect investment in our most left behind communities
- Prioritise action to tackle the cost-of-living crisis
- Ensure the Council lives up to its climate commitments".

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The meeting ended at 1855 hours.

**CITY COUNCIL**

**11 JULY 2023**

**WRITTEN  
QUESTIONS TO  
CABINET MEMBERS  
AND CHAIRS OF  
COMMITTEES/WARD  
FORUMS**



## WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR RON STORER

### “Authority to negotiate direct award”

#### Question:

At Cabinet on 27 June a report was agreed to issue a direct reward to Hays Recruitment for the supply of temporary and agency workers, with an annual spend of £82m, this is despite the previous cabinet report decision being for a full procurement. Under the authority was the direct reward negotiated with Hays given the previous cabinet decision was for full procurement?

#### Answer:

The previous Cabinet report (April 2021) sought approval to delegate approval of the procurement strategy for a series of lots (by worker type) to chief officers on the basis that no existing framework was capable of meeting the diverse contingent worker requirements of the Council.

Since approval of that report a detailed options appraisal was undertaken for the re-procurement exercise which considered compliant routes to market.

During this process, it was identified that the YPO (Yorkshire Procurement Organisation) Framework Agreement Managing Temporary and Permanent Recruitment was capable of meeting the Council's requirements.

The YPO framework is compliant route to market and with its existence brings together the likely limited cohort of suppliers who would be able to meet the scope and scale of the Council's needs but in a manner that reduced the administrative process of the Council running its own full procurement. Limited value would likely have been achieved from the Council running its own procurement process and indeed potentially would have increased timescales and risks from doing so.

The framework further allows for the requirements to be placed to a supplier via a permissible direct award. As part of this consideration around direct award value for money, tests around the HAYS offer was carried out. Key benefits from appointing HAYS includes but not limited to:

- Single source supplier to manage a significant contingent workforce
- Managed service delivery that supports getting the right candidates in a timely manner

- Reliable management information to help inform and manage the contingent work force
- Regulatory compliance e.g. IR35 and DBS checks
- The opportunity to address and consolidate non contracted spend.
- Retention of current pricing
- Key contributions to delivering social value

It is also important to note that whilst the estimated contract spend of £82 million accounts for total spend, typically 90-95% of this value is relates to the salaries and statutory costs for workers.

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

## WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID BARRIE

### “Accountability”

#### **Question:**

At Cabinet on 27 June, you stated that you had strengthened accountability around Oracle and that you were taking responsibility. To be clear, does this mean you will take personal responsibility as Leader if Oracle is not sorted, or if it costs even more than the £100m currently estimated?

#### **Answer:**

I have already taken responsibility, ensuring that governance has been significantly strengthened with the Chief Executive chairing a weekly dedicated ‘Gold’ task force setting the strategy for the Oracle Programme. In addition, there are weekly Silver Boards, chaired by Graeme Betts (SRO) which manages the overall programme and executes the strategy set by Gold, overseeing the risks, issues and mitigations whilst monitoring progress. Weekly Bronze meetings chaired by the Oracle Programme Director, Craig Buckley, oversees short term priorities and manages risks, issues, and progress.

Progress is overseen directly by myself, as Leader of the Council and other senior elected members by two Member Oversight Boards – one focusing on financial governance and council finances, and the other on the Oracle Programme as a whole. Two independent experts support these Boards – Ian O’Donnell for Finance and Jonathan House for technical aspects.

A Design Authority has also been established, chaired by Richard Brooks with the Chief Information Officer (CIO) as Deputy Chair. The core purpose of the Design Authority is to provide assurance on the design and specification of the Oracle solution, in line with overall strategy. This Authority makes recommendations to Gold based on expert technical advice. There are two key workstreams at present:

1. Review work underway to achieve ‘safe and compliant’ state, to ensure it is necessary and in line with sound criteria
2. Establish the approach to future design of the system in a way that supports successful implementation and benefits realisation.

There has also been a change in leadership in key areas of responsibility. Rebecca Hellard has resigned from her role as Strategic Director of Council Management, which included responsibility for Finance, HR, and IT. Fiona Greenway has been appointed as interim Director of Finance and will be supported by local government finance expert, Ian O’Donnell. Professor Graeme Betts is now the Senior Responsible Officer for the Oracle programme.

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR RICK PAYNE**

**“Equal Pay meetings”**

**Question:**

**Which officers and elected members were involved in the decision to cancel the last 3 Equal Pay meetings on 17 March 2023, 29 March 2023, and 28 June 2023?**

**Answer:**

The Monitoring Officer made the decision to cancel the last 3 Equal Pay Meetings.

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR ROBERT ALDEN**

**“Value statement”**

**Question:**

Please provide a copy of the Values statement you submitted to council officers for the purposes of developing the budget proposals to respond to equal pay and oracle challenges?

**Answer:**

I am currently working with Cabinet Members to finalise the statement and a copy will be provided shortly.

Nevertheless, the steer I have given officers is we must remain focused on social justice, frontline services and the needs of residents and communities of the city.

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR EWAN MACKEY**

**“DBS Checks”**

**Question:**

Please provide a breakdown of the number of overdue DBS checks by service area that have accrued through failures in Oracle implementation

**Answer:**

There are no employees in posts that currently require a DBS Check who do not have a check in place. These checks do not expire. Birmingham City Council’s own policy is that the check must be updated annually. From April 2022, this update must be via the DBS Update Service.

The transition to Oracle has revealed that our Update records are incomplete. According to centrally held records, a total of 2849 employees have either not registered with the update service or have not re-subscribed as required after 12 months. Those cases are being actively pursued. Service area figures are as follows:

Adult Social Care	1164
Children and Families	753
City Operations	218
City Housing	185
Council Management	527
Place, Prosperity and Sustainability	2
Strategy, Equalities and Partnerships	0

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR RICHARD PARKIN**

**“DBS Checks 2”**

**Question:**

Of the backlog of approximately 3000 overdue DBS checks quoted at Audit Committee, how many when working through this backlog, have been found to have flagged up a issue that has required referral to the review panel, and how many of these have resulted in a finding of inability to work for the council?

**Answer:**

There are no employees in posts that currently require a DBS Check who do not have a check in place and these checks do not expire. Birmingham City Council’s own policy is that the check must be updated annually. From April 2022, this update must be via the DBS Update Service.

Of the 2849 centrally held records where gaps in data are being pursued, none so far have revealed an issue that required referral to the review panel and therefore none have been found ineligible to continue to work for the City Council.

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR MATT BENNETT**

**“Right to Work checks”**

**Question:**

How many right-to-work checks were not carried out due to the failure of implementation of the oracle system, and of these how many have subsequently been found to not have lawful right-to-work due to immigration status?

**Answer:**

No employees who have started work since April 2022 (the implementation of Oracle) with a right to work limited by their visa status have been found to be working other than in accordance with their visas.

For UK and Irish nationals, right to work checks have been recorded for all employees who have started work since April 2022.

We are about to conduct an audit of all records relating to UK and Irish nationals to ensure checks have been conducted, and data has been recorded, correctly.



CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR GARETH MOORE**

**“Cabinet papers”**

**Question:**

Given the public statements now made by the council and unions on Equal Pay, will you now publish the private cabinet reports on the waste dispute settlement, including those relating to the settlement with Unite and the subsequent settlement with GMB?

**Answer:**

These confidential reports remain private due to ongoing litigation.

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR BRUCE LINES**

**“Equal Pay liability and cabinet decisions”**

**Question:**

Were you aware of the £650m-£760m equal pay liability at the time of taking decisions with financial implications at Cabinet on 27 June 2023?

**Answer:**

Yes, and I had asked the Section 151 officer and Chief Executive to bring forward spending controls to address these matters, as per the announcement on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR KEN WOOD**

**“Equal Pay liability”**

**Question:**

On what date and time were you first told that the equal pay liability was potentially £760m

**Answer:**

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources was first notified of a potential liability on Thursday 8th June and requested officers undertake further work to clarify and confirm the position.

The Deputy Leader and I were first briefed, following this on Monday 15th June 2023.

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR SIMON MORRALL**

**“Equal Pay liability 2”**

**Question:**

Did you at any point instruct, advise, suggest or ask officers not to tell members of the opposition the scale of the equal pay liability before 28 June 2023 or were you aware of any cabinet colleagues doing so?

**Answer:**

No

# A12

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR JON HUNT

**“Alexander stadium advisory committees”**

**Question:**

**“As ward councillors we continue to have to deal with resident complaints or problems linked to events at the Alexander Stadium, frequently with no prior notice of events taking place or what arrangements are in place. Typical issues are raised by noise or parking arrangements. We note that the football clubs have standing safety advisory groups with councillor membership and that major events are usually supported by a safety advisory committee. We must all expect the new stadium to be increasingly busy.**

**Could the leader establish how the stadium manages this – with a standing group or adhoc groups, advising what is the membership of these groups and what role there will be for input from local councillors as the stadium gets busier?”**

**Answer:**

Sports Ground SAGs are chaired and facilitated by Michael Enderby (Head of Resilience) and their primary role is to consider safety plans. The SAG does also look at disruption and engagement, to encourage event organisers to have appropriate plans in place, even where not a safety matter. This process has been followed with regard to recent events at the Stadium.

Those present at the SAG are generally professional partners to review safety plans and include WM Police, WM Fire, WM Ambulance, Sports Ground Safety Authority, BCC Licensing, BCC Parks, BCC Highways and any relevant team associated with the delivery of the event.

As use of the Stadium increases it may be that a regular pattern of SAGs is put in place but at present each event is considered as it arises.

As the use gets busier the Stadium Manager will brief the ward members on future events scheduled and event organisers will be asked to discuss event plans so that any comments can be incorporated into the planning process.

# A13

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR  
BABER BAZ

**“Treatment of councillors”**

Question:

**“Following the leaking of a confidential report that the Small Heath Councillor Shabina Bano submitted against the shameful treatment she received from her fellow Labour Councillors and activists, has any action been taken against those named in the report?”**

Answer:

This issue is being considered by the standards committee.

# A14

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR IZZY KNOWLES

**“Queensbridge depot”**

**Question:**

**“The Queensbridge Depot on Queensbridge Road, Moseley has been derelict and unused for a long time. It is a site of significant local importance as part of the Cadbury family history and several community groups have shown an interest in restoring and converting it for community use.**

**What are the council doing to ensure the site is preserved and what are the long-term plans for its use?”**

**Answer:**

The site had been considered by the Children & Families Directorate to contribute to the education offer in the city. This exercise has just been concluded and officers from that directorate confirm they will not be proceeding. As a result officers in Place Prosperity & Sustainability Directorate will review options for the site, which is declared surplus to the City Council's requirements.

# A15

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MUMTAZ HUSSAIN

## “Derelict building in Aston”

Question:

“There is an old and historic building in Aston known as the Broadway school Aston campus which has been derelict for many years but could be used for good in the local area.

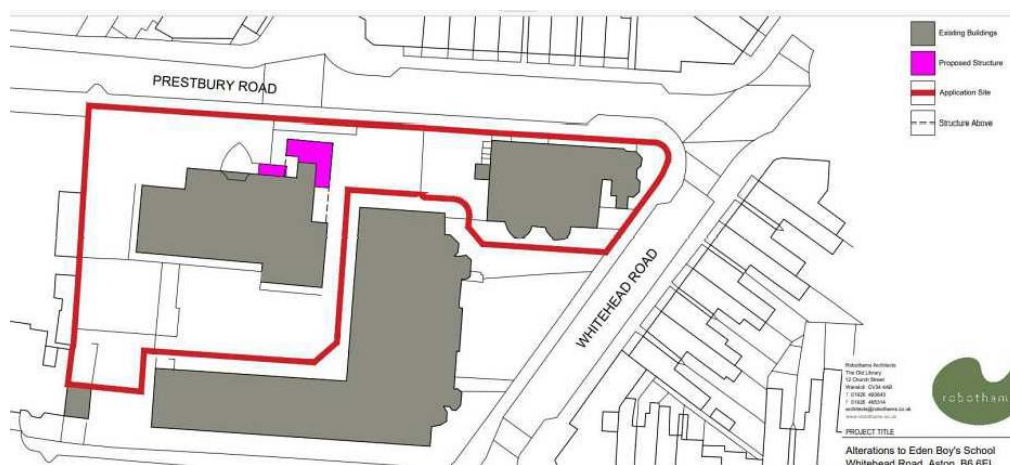
What are the council doing to ensure the site is preserved and what are the long-term plans for its use?”

Answer:

Officers assume the building being referred to is the former Broadway Annex on Whitehead/Ettington Road.

This building is on a 125 year lease to the Department for Education and has been used to house a studio school and as a decant facility for a couple of Free Schools.

Currently part of the building is being used for Titan AP Free School and officers are not aware of any plans around the block that is not currently occupied.



Officers are aware that extensive refurbishments were carried out to accommodate Titan and the unoccupied block (outside of the redline in the above plan) has been secured by the DfE but are unsure of the long-term plans for the unoccupied block.

Any interested parties will need to contact the Regional School Director's office directly via [rg.wm@education.gov.uk](mailto:rg.wm@education.gov.uk)



# A16

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR  
ROGER HARMER

**“Planning”**

**Question:**

**“If a planning application is withdrawn or amended, councillors are currently not advised.**

**Can members be emailed when changes are made to planning applications within their ward?”**

**Answer:**

The Local Planning Authority deals with approximately 9000 applications a year and they are managed through our back-office systems (NEC M3 and IDOX). It is common to receive numerous amendments and additional pieces of information on schemes. Unfortunately, there is no way of automatically triggering a notification that something has changed or added to the file. Given the scale of the schemes we are dealing with it would be prohibitive for officers to manually update all members each time a new document was added to a file.

We are however in the process of reviewing our back-office systems to make them far more engaging for citizens and members. As part of that work, we will look to how we can get automatic notifications embedded.

In relation to withdrawn applications, we do notify anyone who has commented on a scheme if that scheme is subsequently withdrawn by the applicants. Again, we don't have the ability to automatically generate notifications for this, but if members are interested in a particular scheme, they can lodge a comment on it to receive those notifications.

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR KEN WOOD**

**“Equal Pay liability”**

**Question:**

On what date and time were you first told that the equal pay liability was potentially £760m?

**Answer:**

15 June 2023.

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR SIMON MORRALL**

**“Equal Pay liability 2”**

**Question:**

Did you at any point instruct, advise, suggest or ask officers not to tell members of the opposition the scale of the equal pay liability before 28 June 2023 or were you aware of any cabinet colleagues doing so?

Answer:

No

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR  
ROBERT ALDEN**

**“Equal Pay support”**

**Question:**

On 22 April 2022 you tweeted that you were ‘proud to be a member of @GMBWestmidlands and support the equal pay fight in Birmingham. BCC should be leading the way.’ Given your support for the Unions claim and public admittance that you believed women in Birmingham were not being paid equally, what specific actions did you take and on what dates to push the council to implement and implement an equitable pay structure?

**Answer:**

I have and will always support the right for equal pay for women and the trade unions’ right to campaign for equal pay and against pay discrimination – in this case GMB.

Alongside cabinet colleagues work to resolve this issue has been ongoing, and since becoming Deputy Leader alongside the Leader and the Cabinet we have taken advice and decisive action with an aim to resolve this issue once and for all.

# B4

PLEASE NOTE WRITTEN QUESTION B4 HAS BEEN REDIRECTED TO  
QUESTION A16

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR ALEX YIP**

**“Children removed from school roll”**

**Question:**

How many children aged 4-15 have been removed from school rolls in each of the last 4 years, broken down by age?

**Answer:**

Annex A of [the Department for Education’s statutory guidance for local authorities, Children Missing Education \(September 2016\)](#), lists 15 grounds for deleting a pupil from a school’s admission register.

The majority of cases of children being removed from a school’s roll are because the pupil has been admitted to another school, either as part of the in-year admissions process or at a normal transition point such as moving from primary to secondary school at the end of Year 6, moving from infant to junior school and moving into a 14-19 provision. We would therefore expect to see larger numbers of pupils being deleted from schools’ registers at ages 10 and 11 when pupils finish primary school and to a lesser extent at ages 7 and 15.

Other grounds for deleting a pupil from a school roll that are set out in the DfE guidance include:

- pupils who have been permanently excluded;
- pupils who have ceased to attend and are no longer living within a reasonable distance of the school;
- pupils sentenced to custody for a period of four months or more who are not expected to return to the school;
- where the parent has provided written confirmation that a child is receiving education otherwise than at school <sup>1</sup>.

The information provided in the table below is taken from the figures reported to the DfE as part of the School Census.

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<sup>1</sup> Elective Home Education is defined as education otherwise than at school.

	<b>Academic Year when child removed from school register, as reported through School Census</b>			
<b>Age of child</b>	<b>2019-20 (School Census did not take place in May 2020 due to COVID restrictions)</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23 (based on available Census data undertaken in January 2023)</b>
4	634	590	664	443
5	1,106	1,365	1,334	592
6	1,175	1,426	1,351	594
7	2,599	2,806	2,652	651
8	994	1,399	1,200	563
9	941	1,298	1,125	570
10	1,715	2,095	2,007	396
11	14,465	14,778	15,719	404
12	639	773	860	405
13	782	900	1,139	435
14	800	925	1,184	484
15	1,940	2156	2,446	304
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,790</b>	<b>30,511</b>	<b>31,681</b>	<b>5,841</b>

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY**

**“Home to School Transport Safety Checks”**

**Question:**

Since April 2023, how many individuals have worked for any length of time within the Home to School Transport service without a cleared DBS check?

**Answer:**

No BCC Passenger Assistant or Transport provider Driver/Passenger Assistant employees are allowed on route without a cleared DBS check.

All office staff have a cleared BCC DBS check before starting, with the exception of one temporary employee who was able to start their role whilst awaiting the return. The employee had a clear DBS from their previous Local Authority and whilst awaiting the BCC DBS the Officer was restricted to desk duties only, with no site visits.



**CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023**

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR KEN WOOD**

**“Equal Pay liability”**

**Question:**

On what date and time were you first told that the equal pay liability was potentially £760m?

**Answer:**

19 June 2023

# C4

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR SIMON MORRALL**

**“Equal Pay liability 2”**

**Question:**

Did you at any point instruct, advise, suggest or ask officers not to tell members of the opposition the scale of the equal pay liability before 28 June 2023 or were you aware of any cabinet colleagues doing so?

**Answer:**

No

# C5

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES COUNCILLOR DEBORAH HARRIS**

**“Care leavers”**

**Question:**

**“According to the performance and delivery monitoring report presented to cabinet last week, on page 24 it is advised that the council is meeting a target of 62% of care leavers who are in Education, Employment and Training. Birmingham is achieving 61% currently.**

**What is the target for the rest of the population aged 18-25 and if it is different from the measure for care leavers, what is the rationale for that?”**

**Answer:**

There is no target for the rest of the population of 18-25 year olds in Education, Employment and Training (EET) either locally or nationally. As of 2017 -18 the Department for Education (DfE) removed the statutory requirement to report beyond year 13s. As a result there is no comparative data available other than for children on Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

# C6

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES COUNCILLOR MORRIAM JAN

**“Care leavers 2”**

Question:

**“According to the performance and delivery monitoring report presented to cabinet last week, on page 24 it is advised that the council is meeting a target of 62% of care leavers who are in Education, Employment and Training. Birmingham is achieving 61% currently.**

**What factors are taken into consideration when setting this target and is the council pleased with this result?”**

Answer:

Birmingham City Council and Birmingham Children’s Trust agree this target annually, taking into account not only previous performance but also that of statistical, regional and national comparators.

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR DIGITAL, CULTURE,  
HERITAGE AND TOURISM FROM COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY**

**“Northfield Library heating bill”**

**Question:**

What was the heating bill for Northfield Library in each month between January and June 2023 and the same period in 2022?

**Answer:**

Northfield Library was not heated between January and June 2022 as the boiler had broken down in October 2021.

The heating costs for January 2023 to May 2023 are below. The figure for June 2023 is not yet available.

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>GAS COST</b>
January 2023	£3,160.96
February 2023	£2,479.38
March 2023	£2,517.58
April 2023	£2,409.86
May 2023	£1,001.09

# D2

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR DIGITAL, CULTURE,  
HERITAGE AND TOURISM FROM COUNCILLOR KEN WOOD**

**“Equal Pay liability”**

**Question:**

On what date and time were you first told that the equal pay liability was potentially £760m?

**Answer:**

19 June 2023

# D3

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR DIGITAL, CULTURE,  
HERITAGE AND TOURISM FROM COUNCILLOR SIMON MORRALL**

**“Equal Pay liability”**

**Question:**

Did you at any point instruct, advise, suggest or ask officers not to tell members of the opposition the scale of the equal pay liability before 28 June 2023 or were you aware of any cabinet colleagues doing so?

Answer:

No

# D4

PLEASE NOTE WRITTEN QUESTION D4 HAS BEEN REDIRECTED TO  
QUESTION A14



# D5

PLEASE NOTE WRITTEN QUESTION D5 HAS BEEN REDIRECTED TO  
QUESTION A15

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM  
COUNCILLOR KEN WOOD**

**“Equal Pay liability”**

**Question:**

On what date and time were you first told that the equal pay liability was potentially £760m?

**Answer:**

21 June 2023.

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM  
COUNCILLOR SIMON MORRALL**

**“Equal Pay liability 2”**

**Question:**

Did you at any point instruct, advise, suggest or ask officers not to tell members of the opposition the scale of the equal pay liability before 28 June 2023 or were you aware of any cabinet colleagues doing so?

**Answer:**

No.

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM  
COUNCILLOR ROBERT ALDEN**

**“Equal Pay support”**

**Question:**

On 21 April 2022 you tweeted that you support GMB union’s fight for #Birminghampayjustice. Given you were on Cabinet both before and after the May 2022 elections what specific action beyond tweeting did you take, and on what dates to support this?

**Answer:**

I support women’s right to equal pay and their unions’ right to campaign for equal pay and against pay discrimination - in this case GMB. I rejoined Cabinet in May 2022; I was not a Cabinet member in April 2022.

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM  
COUNCILLOR PENNY WAGG

**“No Mow May”**

**Question:**

**“Following “No mow May” the grass was cut but no collected, and this has resulted in many of the road gullies being blocked with mown grass as the grass was particularly long after NMM.**

**What will be done to ensure they are cleared and that the risk of surface water flooding is prevented if the exercise is repeated?”**

Answer:

No Mow May was piloted in four wards across the city this year. The aim was to review all of the implications and refine the initiative in future years.

Catching up with grass cutting and dealing with the arisings is part of the review because it has caused extra pressure on other services such as street cleansing.

Officers are currently evaluating this year’s pilot and will prepare some options for next year.

**CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023**

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM  
COUNCILLOR ROGER HARMER**

**“Wilcotts Grove”**

**Question:**

**“Wilcotts Grove has had many missed collections this year and seems to be a hot spot for this. It was missed again on Thursday 29 June, and the crew came back to clear some and not others.**

**Sometimes recycling is collected but not residual waste.**

**Can the cabinet member explain why this is happening, and can he ensure that this is resolved?”**

**Answer:**

Over the last few weeks, we have been reviewing all the regular missed collections and have identified there was an issue between the recycling and residual maps not being reconciled, including the area around Wilcote (not Wilcotts) Grove. This has now been resolved.

In addition, the crews are being engaged regarding any issues they may be experiencing and to agree a resolution to ensure the collections are made in accordance with the schedule, with the reconciled maps implemented going forward. An Assistant Service Manager will be instructed to monitor and ensure compliance from the crew.

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM  
COUNCILLOR MORRIAM JAN

**“Overgrown grass verges”**

Question:

**“Around the new Perry Barr estate, by One Stop, there are problems with overgrown grass verges. Can the shrubs and grass be cut, and can maintenance be made regular?”**

Answer:

The area in question was part of the regeneration works and is currently not on any maintenance programme, but we are expecting to move it on to the regular programme this month. This will mean grass cutting will now be undertaken at the same time as the surrounding roads and the shrubs will be pruned this winter.

# E7

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM  
COUNCILLOR COLIN GREEN

**“Recycling performance”**

Question:

**“In 2022, BCC won the “Local Authority Success” award at the National Recycling Awards, whilst also placing as 330th out of 333 councils for recycling performance.**

**Can the award submission data be shared?”**

Answer:

The award submission is attached here as requested. It should be noted that the award was specifically with regard to the Mobile Household Recycling Centre initiative, as opposed to your question which has a statistical focus on our kerbside domestic recycling performance.



National\_Recycling\_A  
wards\_2022\_Nomina



CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE ALDEN**

**“Oracle engagement”**

**Question:**

What engagement took place - and on what dates - ahead of the rollout of Oracle with schools on the solution design for managing school transactions?

**Answer:**

The Schools Comms and Engagement Working Group was formed consisting of 3 schools and 9 academies and were engaged over a number of ‘voice of the customer’ workshops May-July 2020. BCC Schools Working Group (Schools HR, Payroll, Finance & Schools Finance) made a decision not to continue this engagement in either Autumn 2020 or Spring 2021 because Design had not concluded.

The Schools Comms and Engagement Working Group was re-instated in late April 2021 to enquire on progress and to agree engagement activity.

The Schools Comms and Engagement Working Group met on the below dates:

2021

11 January

18 January

26 October

9 November

23 November

2022

01 February

15 February

22 February

01 March

15 March

22 March

29 March

19 April

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR KERRY BREWER**

**“Bookkeeping systems”**

**Question:**

As of 1 July 2023, how many different accounting\bookkeeping systems is the council running (please list)?

**Answer:**

There are 2. Oracle since April 2022 and SAP (archive only) from 2021/22 backwards. The data retention period is seven years.

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR ADAM HIGGS**

**“Extra staff for closing accounts”**

**Question:**

**What is the additional cost of extra staff (including backfilling of current staff) brought in to meet the statutory timetable for publishing accounts?**

**Answer:**

Across all of Finance, Corporate, Business Partnering and Transactional Services, we're currently forecasting £1.276m for 38 fixed term employees.

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT ALDEN**

**“Debt and interest rates”**

**Question:**

**How much of the Council’s debt (split between general fund and HRA) is on variable interest rates?**

**Answer:**

The Council does not currently borrow at variable rates, which means that all borrowings have a fixed rate for the duration of that borrowing.

The only exception is Lender Option Borrower Options (LOBOs) where at a fixed point in time the lender can change the rate, but at the same time the council has the option to repay the loan.

As part of the Council’s Treasury Management Strategy, for internal management purposes, borrowings less than 12 months duration are treated as ‘variable’ because if that borrowing was required to be refinanced it could be at a different rate to the current borrowing. However any such borrowing would normally be at a contractually fixed rate.

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR DARIUS SANDHU**

**“Oracle Cloud compatibility”**

**Question:**

At any point before signing contracts did the Council receive any advice that Oracle Cloud would not work to meet the council’s needs?

**Answer:**

Oracle Cloud is a highly renowned software platform that has been successfully implemented across a large number of sectors and many local authorities. It was made clear from the start that the Council would need to adopt the processes the software is designed for.

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY**

**“Oracle Staff Training”**

**Question:**

**In each month since training began up until June 2023, how many staff had been trained on the use of oracle?**

**Answer:**

Prior to the rollout of Oracle in April 2022, all staff were offered training opportunities in the form of:

1. Oracle Guided Learning: a tool in Oracle Cloud
2. 1B Roadshows
3. Short 2-minute video tutorials
4. e Learning available on Learning Pool
5. Virtual instructor led training
6. Oracle Fusion Hub

Within Oracle there is also built in guidance to walk through some of the required activities and support staff to self-learning.

Post April 2023 localised training is taking place for People Services on recruitment and a wide and robust programme for Finance in the use of Oracle functionality.

There is no central register tracking how many staff have accessed one of the range of Oracle training opportunities provided.

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

## WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID BARRIE

### “User Acceptance Testing”

#### Question:

As well as the 'adopt not adapt' approach that should have been followed for Oracle implementation, the business case you signed off also contained clear learning about the importance of User Acceptance Testing prior to implementation. As the Cabinet Member responsible for this business case, what assurances did you seek that user acceptance testing had taken place prior to launch?

#### Answer:

A full programme of User Acceptance Testing took place prior to launch of the Oracle system. This included over 3,427 separate tests across areas including Finance, Procurement, HR and Payroll. Tests in all areas were reported as 'meeting exit criteria' i.e., meeting the standard required to proceed.

A further tranche of tests were completed during the first quarter of 2022, which again met exit criteria set out at the time.

A full review of the implementation of Oracle, including how the system was tested with users, will be addressed in the upcoming independent Management Review.



CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PEARS**

**“User Acceptance Testing 2”**

**Question:**

**What User Acceptance Testing took place prior to the 'go live' of Oracle? Please provide this broken down by each Oracle user area?**

**Answer:**

Two separate tranches of User Acceptance Tests took place prior to Oracle Go-Live. The second tranche of User Acceptance Tests completed during the first Quarter of 2022.

User Acceptance Testing exercised End-to-End processes for each Oracle Area.

Testing covered HR, Procurement, Finance, Payroll, Interfaces, and Reporting.

Area	UAT1	UAT2	Exit criteria achieved
<b>Finance</b> (AC, AR, CM, EXP, GL, IC, IB, Projects, PBCS)	830 Tests	77 Tests	Yes
<b>Procurement</b> (AP, CM, Grants, Purchasing, Requisitioning, Sourcing, SQM, Suppliers, CM, CIS)	701 Tests	73 Tests	Yes
<b>HR</b> (Helpdesk, ICP, Leavers, Movers, Absences, Recruitment, Time & Labour, Starters, Talent, Work Patterns, Security)	871 Tests	708 Tests	Yes
<b>Payroll</b> (BCC, BCT, Court Orders, Elections, External Processing, General, Members, Pensions, Adoption, Maternity, Paternity, Sicknes)	782 Tests	53 Tests	Yes
<b>Interfaces</b> (GL, Projects, AR, P2P) Inbound & Outbound	73 Tests	17 Tests	Yes
<b>Reporting</b>	N/A	98 Tests	Yes
<b>Data Migration</b>	170 Tests	N/A	Yes
<b>Browser Compatibility and Accessibility Tests</b>	Standard	Standard	Yes

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR ADRIAN DELANEY**

**“GreenSquareAccord”**

**Question:**

Broken down by year, including year to date, how much money has been paid by the council to GreenSquareAccord since April 2018?

**Answer:**

Period	Spend
Apr 18 - Mar 19	£6,621,982
Apr 19 - Mar 20	£5,731,039
Apr 20 - Mar 21	£5,249,547
Apr 21 - Mar 22	£4,586,647
Apr 22 - Mar 23	£8,571
April 23 - Jun 23	£2,161

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND  
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR KEN WOOD**

**“Equal Pay liability”**

**Question:**

On what date and time were you first told that the equal pay liability was potentially £760m?

**Answer:**

I was first notified of a potential liability on Thursday 8th June and requested officers undertake further work to clarify and confirm the position.

The Leader and Deputy Leader were briefed, following this, on Thursday 15th June.

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND  
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR SIMON MORRALL**

**“Equal Pay liability 2”**

**Question:**

Did you at any point instruct, advise, suggest or ask officers not to tell members of the opposition the scale of the equal pay liability before 28 June 2023 or were you aware of any cabinet colleagues doing so?

**Answer:**

No.

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CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR EWAN MACKEY**

**“Version 1”**

**Question:**

In answer to question F6 to June Council you helpfully pointed to the September 2021 planned procurement activities report and the 10 May 2022 Contracts awards report for where we could find the contract Provision of an Oracle Fusion Managed Service Provider (MSP) (contract ID 7012 on the register.) However, spend under this contract is now reported as double what was listed on these reports. Under what authority was the original contract value exceeded, given the thresholds for variance under procurement and contract rules?

**Answer:**

A PPAR was submitted in Sept 21 for a projected £1.5 million (and permissible variance of 20% to £1.8m+/-). The core provision was for Service & Maintenance of Oracle Cloud Fusion, post go-live and for a significant period of hyper-care to include amongst other fixed transition costs. The core commercial model was volume based and transactional i.e. a charge per service request (tiered accordingly) for low, medium and high transactional volume(s).

The subsequent, authorised Award Report (and contract value of £2.3m) reflected, and made provision for high/maximum transactional volume(s) only. Cabinet was not made aware that the final contract value exceeded the £1.5 million projected spend. This will be addressed in the upcoming independent management review.

# F13

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND  
RESOURCES COUNCILLOR PAUL TILSLEY

**“Council tax increases”**

Question:

**“Last week, the section 151 officer announced that council tax would not be increased in the budget review.**

**If the council were to wish to increase council tax, would they need to undertake a referendum on the basis that council tax has already been increased by 4.9% in this financial year?”**

Answer:

**Yes.**

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND  
RESOURCES COUNCILLOR ZAKER CHOUDHRY**

**“Equal pay”**

**Question:**

**“Last week, the equal pay liability was announced. How long has the council known that this is still an ongoing issue, and why weren't members advised earlier?”**

**Answer:**

Over the last decade, the Council has already paid out a total of £1.1bn in relation to the settlement of equal pay claims. The Council has proactively worked to mitigate the issue and minimise the Council's liability.

Up until May 2022, the Council was still addressing previous claims which had been issued.

In May 2022, new equal pay claims were issued against the Council. The Cabinet Advisory Group on Equal Pay was advised of the potential that claims might be issued against the Council by a Trade Union in January 2022. The receipt of these claims was shared with the Cabinet Advisory Group in June 2022. Further new claims were issued in April 2023.

The announcement on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023 provided an updated estimate of the Council's current equal pay liability, following a refreshed analysis carried out by officers.

At all stages, the Council has sought to be transparent with Members and share information where possible, while not jeopardising ongoing litigation. The extent of equal pay liability has been discussed on an ongoing basis for a number of years with both external auditors and the Council's Audit Committee, which is a cross-Party Committee.

# F15

**CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023**

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND  
RESOURCES COUNCILLOR MUMTAZ HUSSAIN**

**“Oracle”**

**Question:**

**“What’s the current level of delay to financial reporting in schools as a result of the ongoing issues with Oracle?”**

**Answer:**

Normally we would close all schools in May/June with confirmation of outturn to each school and presentation of outturn to Schools Forum in June before the school holidays. This year we expect to close cheque book schools by the end of the summer term, and to close non cheque book and EPA schools during September/October, with confirmation of outturn to each school and presentation of outturn to Schools Forum in October.

Formal communications to schools of a revised timetable will be sent out as soon as possible.



# F16

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

## WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR RON STORER

### “Public Works Loans Board”

#### Question:

Is the Council still able to access PWLB loans at the same rates as other councils, or have new rates been set based on recent announcements by the council regarding its financial position? If new rates have been set, please specify what these are and how they differ from average rates other council's are charged.

#### Answer:

Yes the Council is able to access PWLB at the same rates as before the recent announcements

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR KEN WOOD**

**“Equal Pay liability”**

**Question:**

On what date and time were you first told that the equal pay liability was potentially £760m?

**Answer:**

19<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR SIMON MORRALL**

**“Equal Pay liability 2”**

**Question:**

Did you at any point instruct, advise, suggest or ask officers not to tell members of the opposition the scale of the equal pay liability before 28 June 2023 or were you aware of any cabinet colleagues doing so?

Answer:

No.

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNCILLOR ADRIAN DELANEY**

**“Tenant Hotline”**

**Question:**

By week, since it was established, how many calls were made to the tenant hotline setup to deal with concerns in the wake of the RSH report?

**Answer:**

41 calls in total have been made to the dedicated tenant hotline since the Regulatory Notice was published. 32 of these were made in the first week whilst the following 9 calls came through on the second week. None of these queries escalated to the complaints stage.

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNCILLOR KEN WOOD**

**“Equal Pay liability”**

**Question:**

On what date and time were you first told that the equal pay liability was potentially £760m?

**Answer:**

26 June 2023

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNCILLOR SIMON MORRALL**

**“Equal Pay liability 2”**

**Question:**

Did you at any point instruct, advise, suggest or ask officers not to tell members of the opposition the scale of the equal pay liability before 28 June 2023 or were you aware of any cabinet colleagues doing so?

**Answer:**

No

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNCILLOR ADAM HIGGS**

**“Compliance Action Plan”**

**Question:**

Please provide an updated copy of the latest compliance action plan that is shared with the Compliance Board responsible for tracking progress against actions to address the RSH findings.

**Answer:**

Following a meeting with the Regulator of Social Housing on the 3 July 2023, amendments are required to the overarching action plan. Once amendments have been made, this will be shared with the Regulator for sign off at our first monitoring meeting which is scheduled for early September 2023. We will then be able to share the finalised action plan more publicly.

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY**

**“Dynamic Purchasing System for Private Sector Leased Properties”**

**Question:**

Please list all providers who have been added to the Council’s dynamic purchasing system for private sector leased properties used within the temporary accommodation portfolio.

**Answer:**

<b>Supplier</b>
Ace Lettings Uk Ltd
Expectations UK Ltd
KPJ Property Services
Kwik Let properties
PDS Property Management Limited
Peartree Housing Ltd
Secured Housing Ltd
Weir Housing Ltd
Ezzi Letting Solutions Ltd
Select Care Solutions Ltd
Claremont Living
Umbrella Housing Ltd
Finefair Ltd



# H6

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

## WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNCILLOR AYOUB KHAN

### “Unfit properties”

Question:

**“There was a briefing a while back where members were advised that in excess of 20,000 properties were unfit for habitation.**

**What is the timing to bring them back to a fit state of habitation and when will these details be published?”**

Answer:

It's important to clarify whether a home is fit for habitation or whether it meets the Decent Homes Standard. There are two ways to establish this through either stock condition surveys or reports of hazards from residents. Hazards are categorised by the Housing Health and Safety (England) Regulations 2005.

There are a number of reasons why a home may be unfit and these are dealt with through the repairs service or when we do a stock condition survey. Hazards are identified and resolved within a month in most cases. However, this can vary depending on the extent of the work required. In more complex cases, lawyers may commence legal proceedings, creating a disrepair case. These can take longer to resolve due to the legal process.

We currently have around 1,800 disrepair cases being managed which will take up to 6 months to resolve. We have seen significant increases in disrepair cases over the last two years as some solicitors have targeted our estates following national reports by the Housing Ombudsman and the Secretary of State.

To accurately assess meeting the current Decent Homes Standard then extensive stock data is required.

We have low levels of stock data which is outdated. We're now accelerating stock condition surveys and cleansing our data. This will take 5 years to provide an accurate position as we intend to survey 20% of our homes each year. We are using Ark consultancy to collate data from different sources to establish the level of decency we currently report and to support our teams to deliver this year's capital investment programme.

Our current level of decency is reported at 61% and this reflects the lack of investment in homes historically. Future investment requirements are being prepared for approval in the new HRA business plan. This will be considered by cabinet in October 2023. Subject to approval and further data cleansing, then the earliest opportunity to meet decency standards will be 2029/2030.

This may change and take longer depending on when the new decency standard is implemented by the government.

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE,  
COMMUNITY SAFETY, AND EQUALITIES FROM COUNCILLOR KEN WOOD**

**“Equal Pay liability”**

**Question:**

On what date and time were you first told that the equal pay liability was potentially £760m?

**Answer:**

19 June 2023

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE,  
COMMUNITY SAFETY, AND EQUALITIES FROM COUNCILLOR SIMON  
MORRALL**

**“Equal Pay liability 2”**

**Question:**

Did you at any point instruct, advise, suggest or ask officers not to tell members of the opposition the scale of the equal pay liability before 28 June 2023 or were you aware of any cabinet colleagues doing so?

Answer:

No

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT FROM  
COUNCILLOR KEN WOOD**

**“Equal Pay liability”**

**Question:**

On what date and time were you first told that the equal pay liability was potentially £760m?

**Answer:**

21 June 2023

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT FROM  
COUNCILLOR SIMON MORRALL**

**“Equal Pay liability 2”**

**Question:**

Did you at any point instruct, advise, suggest or ask officers not to tell members of the opposition the scale of the equal pay liability before 28 June 2023 or were you aware of any cabinet colleagues doing so?

**Answer:**

No

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT FROM  
COUNCILLOR ROBERT ALDEN**

**“Equal Pay support”**

**Question:**

On 19 April 2022 you tweeted that you ‘support @GMBBirmPubServ’s campaign for pay justice for BCC’s women,’ and that if re-elected you would ‘push for full and fair settlement of equal pay claims, implementation of consistent job evaluation & levelling up pay for women workers who faced pay discrimination.’ Given you were on Cabinet both before and after the May 2022 elections what specific action did you take, and on what dates to take these actions?

**Answer:**

I support women’s right to equal pay and their unions’ right to campaign for equal pay and against pay discrimination - in this case GMB. I joined Cabinet in May 2022; I was not a Cabinet member in April 2022.

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT FROM  
COUNCILLOR MORRIAM JAN

**“TFWM update”**

Question:

**“Can you provide us with an update on how TFWM are supporting Goodfillas Café on Walsall Road, Perry Barr, and when will a meeting be arranged with TFWM and the owner of Goodfillas who have suffered due to TFWM?”**

Answer:

Petition 2621 covering this matter was submitted to full council on 18 April 2023 by Councillor Jon Hunt to the Cabinet Member for Transport. A response has been agreed with TfWM as scheme promoter and approved for formal issue, attached here for reference.



Final Response Letter  
to Councillor Jon Hun



CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE FROM  
COUNCILLOR MATT BENNETT**

**“Build to Rent”**

**Question:**

How many build-to-rent planning approvals have been granted in each year for the last 10 years?

**Answer:**

The Planning Department have advised that there have been numerous applications for build to rent properties across the city in recent years. However, owing to the fact that these are classified, in planning terms, with the C3 (Dwellinghouse) use class category they do not monitor these separately to standard dwellings.

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF SHARD END WARD FORUM FROM  
COUNCILLOR KEN WOOD**

**“Equal Pay liability”**

**Question:**

On what date and time were you first told that the equal pay liability was potentially £760m?

**Answer:**

As the Leader of the Council I was regularly updated on equal pay issues and our potential liability. Alongside the members of the Labour Group, I was informed by the Leader that that the revised equal pay liability potential estimate was £650 million to £760 million on Wednesday 28 June.

# K3

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF SHARD END WARD FORUM FROM  
COUNCILLOR SIMON MORRALL

“Equal Pay liability 2”

**Question:**

Did you at any point instruct, advise, suggest or ask officers not to tell members of the opposition the scale of the equal pay liability before 28 June 2023 or were you aware of any cabinet colleagues doing so?

**Answer:**

No

**K3<sup>K4</sup>**

**CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2023**

**PLEASE NOTE WRITTEN QUESTION K4 HAS BEEN REDIRECTED TO  
QUESTION J4**



**MEETING OF BIRMINGHAM  
CITY COUNCIL,  
TUESDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER  
2023**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL HELD  
ON TUESDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 1400 HOURS IN THE  
COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

**PRESENT:-** Lord Mayor (Councillor Chaman Lal) in the Chair.

**Councillors**

Akhlaq Ahmed	Ray Goodwin	Basharat Mahmood
Saima Ahmed	Rob Grant	Majid Mahmood
Alex Aitken	Colin Green	Rashad Mahmood
Deirdre Alden	Fred Grindrod	Lee Marsham
Robert Alden Gurdial	Roger Harmer	Karen McCarthy
Singh Atwal	Deborah Harries	Saddak Miah
Raqeeb Aziz	Adam Higgs	Shehla Moledina
Shabina Bano	Des Hughes	Gareth Moore
David Barker	Jon Hunt	Yvonne Mosquito
David Barrie	Mumtaz Hussain	Rick Payne
Baber Baz	Mahmood Hussain	David Pears
Matt Bennett	Shabrana Hussain	Miranda Perks
Jilly Bermingham	Timothy Huxtable	Rob Pocock
Marcus Bemasconi	Mohammed Idrees	Julien Pritchard
Bushra Bi	Zafar Iqbal	Darius Sandhu
Sir Albert Bore	Katherine Iroh	Kath Scott
Nicky Brennan	Ziaul Islam	Shafique Shah
Kerry Brewer	Morriam Jan	Rinkal Shergill
Marje Bridle	Meirion Jenkins	Sybil Spence
Martin Brooks	Brigid Jones	Ron Storer
Mick Brown	Jane Jones	Saima Suleman
Zaker Choudhry	Amar Khan	Jamie Tennant
Debbie Clancy	Ayoub Khan	Sharon Thompson
Liz Clements	Saqib Khan	Paul Tilsley
Maureen Cornish	Izzy Knowles	Lisa Trickett
John Cotton	Narinder Kaur	Penny Wagg
Phil Davis	Kooner	Alex Yip
Jack Deakin	Kirsten Kurt-Elli	Waseem Zaffar
Adrian Delaney	Mary Locke	
Barbara Dring	Ewan Mackey	
Sam Forsyth		

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## **NOTICE OF RECORDING**

167 The Lord Mayor advised that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcasting via the Council's Public-I website and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

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**(During the meeting the live broadcast stopped working)**

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

168 The Lord Mayor reminded Members that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests relating to any items of business to be discussed at the meeting.

Councillor Lisa Trickett declared a pecuniary interest in relation to agenda Item 8, Executive Business Report, Environment and Transport update having designed the model for Net Zero Neighbourhoods and then being commissioned to develop a bid in Birmingham.

Councillor Lisa Trickett would leave the Chamber for this agenda item.

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## **MINUTES**

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and –

169 **RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the City Council meeting held on 13 July 2023 be submitted to the next ordinary meeting of Full Council.

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## **LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **1. Death of Former Councillor, Honorary Alderman Brenda Clarke.**

The Lord Mayor indicated his first announcement related to the death of former Councillor, Honorary Alderman Brenda Clarke who passed away on 9 July. Brenda served as a Councillor for Kingstanding Ward from 1987 to 2003; during which time she served on numerous Committees, Sub-Committees and outside bodies.

She became an Honorary Alderman on 20 May 2003.

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and:-

170

**RESOLVED:-**

That this Council placed on record its sorrow at the death of former Councillor, Honorary Alderman Brenda Clarke and its appreciation of her devoted service to the residents of Birmingham.

The Council extended its deepest sympathy to Brenda's family in their sad bereavement.

Members and officers stood for a minute's silence, following which a number of tributes were made by Members.

**2. Section 114 Notice**

The Lord Mayor referred to the publication of the report from the Section 151 Officer which had been issued under section 114 (3) of the Local Government Act 1988.

Following this, he invited the leader of the Council to make a statement, following which he invited each of the opposition group leaders to speak on the matter.

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**PETITIONS**

**Petitions Relating to City Council Functions Presented at the Meeting**

The following petitions were presented:-

(See document No. 1, 'Additional Meeting Documents')

In accordance with the proposals by the Members presenting the petitions, it was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and:-

171

**RESOLVED:-**

That the petitions were received and referred to the relevant Chief Officer(s).

---

**Petitions Update**

A Petitions Update had been made available electronically:-

(See document No. 2, 'Additional Meeting Documents')

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and

172

**RESOLVED:-**

That the Petitions Update be noted and those petitions for which a satisfactory response has been received, be discharged.

---

### **QUESTION TIME**

173 The Council proceeded to consider Oral Questions in accordance with Council Rules of Procedure (B4.4 F of the Constitution).

Details of the questions asked are available for public inspection via the webcast.

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### **APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNCIL**

174 No appointments were made at this meeting.

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### **EXECUTIVE BUSINESS REPORT (ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT)**

Councillor Lisa Trickett left the Chamber for this agenda item having declared a pecuniary interest.

A report of Cabinet was submitted:-

(See document No. 3, agenda item 8)

The Lord Mayor made the Council aware that at a meeting of the Council Business Management Committee, held on 29 August, a decision was taken to suspend standing orders for this item so as to enable the two Cabinet Members to speak for five and half minutes each when moving and seconding. The response time would also be split.

The Lord Mayor moved that standing orders be suspended for this item. This was seconded and agreed.

Councillor Liz Clements moved the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Majid Mahmood.

A debate ensued.

Councillors Deirdre Alden, Lee Marsham, Colin Green, Julien Pritchard and Timothy Huxtable spoke during the debate.

The Lord Mayor invited Councillors Liz Clements and Majid Mahmood to sum up.

It was therefore-

175 **RESOLVED:-**

1.) That City Council noted the report.



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### **ADJOURNMENT**

176 It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and -

#### **RESOLVED:-**

That the Council be adjourned until 1650 hours on this day.

The Council then adjourned at 1620 hours.

At 1650 hours the Council resumed at the point where the meeting had been adjourned.

---

### **YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN**

A report from Councillor Nicky Brennan, Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities was submitted:-

(See document No. 4, agenda item 9)

Councillor Nicky Brennan moved the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Karen McCarthy.

A debate ensued.

Councillors Morriam Jan, Sam Forsyth, Shabrana Hussain, Lisa Trickett and Ayoub Khan spoke during the debate.

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor Nicky Brennan to sum up.

It was therefore-

177 **RESOLVED:-**

- 1.) That City Council approved the Birmingham Children's Trust's 2023 – 2028 Youth Justice Plan.
- 

### **LEAD MEMBER REPORT – WMCA SCRUTINY**

A report of Chair of the West Midlands Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Cathy Bayton was submitted:-

(See document No. 5, agenda item 10)

Councillor Jamie Tennant moved the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Lisa Trickett.

A debate ensued.

Councillors Ewan Mackey, Roger Harmer, Julien Pritchard, Liz Clements and Timothy Huxtable spoke during the debate.

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor Jamie Tennant to sum up.

It was therefore-

178

**RESOLVED:-**

1.) That City Council noted the report.

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**MOTIONS FOR DEBATE FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

The Council proceeded to consider the Motions of which notice had been given in accordance with Council Rules of Procedure (B4.4 G of the Constitution).

**A. Councillors Roger Harmer and Morriam Jan had given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-**

(See document No. 6, agenda item 11)

Councillor Roger Harmer moved the Motion which was seconded by Councillor Morriam Jan.

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure, Councillors Martin Brooks and Sharon Thompson gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No. 7 agenda item 11, 'Amendments – City Council')

Councillor Martin Brooks moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Sharon Thompson.

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure, Councillors Robert Alden and Ewan Mackey gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No. 8 agenda item 11 'Amendments – City Council')

Councillor Robert Alden moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Ewan Mackey.

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure, Councillors Julien Pritchard and Rob Grant gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No. 9 agenda item 11 'Amendments – City Council')

Councillor Julien Pritchard moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Rob Grant.

A debate ensued.

Councillors Sir Albert Bore, Jon Hunt and Gareth Moore spoke during the debate.

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor Roger Harmer to sum up.

The amendment to the Motion in the names of Councillors Martin Brooks and Sharon Thompson having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

The amendment to the Motion in the names of Councillors Robert Alden and Ewan Mackey having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be lost.

The amendment to the Motion in the names of Councillors Julien Pritchard and Rob Grant having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be lost.

The Motion as amended having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

It was therefore

**RESOLVED:-**

“Council notes that construction, regeneration and development in Birmingham is happening at a fast pace across the city and surrounding neighbourhoods, as Birmingham is remodelled for the future.

Council notes that consultation with the people of Birmingham is vital, and that the people of Birmingham must be able to trust that their views have been acknowledged and incorporated where possible.

Pre-consultation is an important phase of planning. People that will be affected by redevelopment and regeneration should be consulted so that a body of evidence can be given to developers and planners before plans are drawn up.

The Council developed a Statement of Community Involvement which was adopted by Cabinet in 2020 and sets out how the Council will work to encourage more people to participate in decision-making in Planning. The statement sets out the Council’s minimum standards for consultation on new policies and planning applications.

The Council resolves to call on the Executive to work with relevant officers to assess the impact of the Statement of Community Involvement, taking into account how the statement delivers effective engagement with all stakeholders of Birmingham in accordance with the Consultation Principles outlined in the SCI.”

**B. Councillors Councillors Karen McCarthy and David Barker had given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-**

(See document No.10 agenda item 11) ‘Amendments – City Council’)

Councillor Karen McCarthy moved the Motion which was seconded by Councillor David Barker.

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure, Councillors Baber Baz and Zaker Choudhry gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No. 11 agenda item 11, ‘Amendments – City Council’)

Councillor Baber Baz moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Zaker Choudhry.

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor Karen McCarthy to sum up.

The amendment to the Motion in the names of Councillors Baber Baz and Zaker Choudhry having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be lost.

The Motion having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

It was therefore

**RESOLVED:-**

“This Council notes that:

- There is growing evidence that trauma, particularly in childhood, has long-term negative impacts on lives and social, health, and economic outcomes.
- It has a responsibility to provide the best support within its means for residents and that it is important that trauma is recognised and understood by staff, particularly those who fulfil a range of customer-facing roles. Such recognition and understanding of trauma would improve the quality of interactions and standard of service and provide opportunities for potential support to be offered.
- Experience of justice services, alcohol and drugs issues, mental health crisis, children’s social care and homelessness also disproportionately affect people who have faced significant trauma in their lives.
- These kinds of experiences have been found to result in increased risk of poor health and social outcomes, as well as difficulties accessing or maintaining access to services. This can mean that those most in need of help will often be the ones who face the greatest barriers to accessing it.

- Local and Regional Authorities across the country, such as the West Midlands Combined Authority, Plymouth City Council, Kent County Council, Argyll and Bute Council, Inverclyde Council, Southampton City Council, Islington Council, and Derby City Council, have adopted Trauma-Informed Practice approaches.

This Council believes in adopting a Psychologically-Informed and Trauma-Informed Practice. This is a strengths-based, non-pathologizing approach, which seeks to understand and respond to the impact of trauma on people's lives. The approach emphasises physical, psychological, and emotional safety for everyone and aims to empower individuals to re-establish control of their lives.

We call on the Executive to take the following steps to help the Council to become 'trauma informed':

- Use the learning and research on trauma to inform change in practice and thus be better able to reduce the negative effects of trauma on the lives of all with whom we come in contact.
- Look into providing Trauma Informed Practice training to officers and members.
- Assess options to broaden and embed Trauma Informed Practice within Council directorates.
- Continue to work with our partners and key stakeholders as a trauma informed network and implement a consistent approach across all bodies.
- Deliver services by responding to individuals' needs and creating nurturing and supportive environments where people feel valued, and efforts are made to resist inadvertent re-traumatisation.
- Adopting the trauma-informed principles of safety, trust, choice, collaboration, empowerment, and cultural sensitivity so that we can help people to overcome the effects of trauma and improve both access to services and long-term outcomes."

The meeting ended at 1915 hours.

**CITY COUNCIL**  
**12 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**WRITTEN QUESTIONS**  
**TO CABINET MEMBERS**

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR BRUCE LINES**

**“Fire and Rehire”**

**Question:**

**Given your comments at Cabinet in July on the process of Fire and Rehire, are you categorically ruling this out as part of the solution to the issue of Equal Pay?**

**Answer:**

Fire and rehire is not within the values of a Labour council. We value our staff and want to work with them to resolve the pay inequalities that exist in our organisation.

We look forward to the incoming Labour Government outlawing the draconian practice of fire and rehire.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR MATT BENNETT**

**“Interims and Agency”**

**Question:**

**By week, since 1 January 2023, how much has been spent on a) interims and b) agency staff, broken down by Directorate?**

**Answer:**

We are invoiced by most suppliers monthly and therefore are not able to break this down to accurately show the weekly spend. We therefore provide the costs, broken down by monthly spend.

**Table A Interims (paid on a day rate)**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July
Adults Social Care	£42,933	£46,076	£80,056	£57,222	£38,076.94	£135,631.44	£86,696.66
Commonwealth Games 2022	£3,362	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Council Management	£1,381,206	£1,375,576	£1,606,751	£1,065,361	£1,802,292.33	£2,533,764.12	£1,605,857.94
Children and Families	£1,182,608	£1,173,321	£1,347,864	£933,285	£1,430,085.54	£1,894,706.67	£1,328,190.67
Places, Prosperity and Sustainability	£189,754	£160,172	£184,519	£119,366	£27,868.60	£67,164.59	£182,625.29
City Housing	£15,386	£0	£0	£0	£46,767.45	£123,864.07	£162,571.04
City Operations	£4,703	£285	£0	£0	£0	£3,461.50	£23,373.70
Strategy, Equalities & Partnerships	£37,024	£35,933	£48,249	£33,663	£42,892.51	£63,055.04	£128,817.84

**Table B Agency Staff (paid on an hourly rate)**

Directorate	Agency Expenditure by month						
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July
Adults Social Care	£1,022,028	£996,505	£1,174,272	£776,151	£1,096,378.64	£1,467,430.51	£1,112,316.76
Commonwealth Games 2022	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Council Management	£397,908	£396,090	£450,939	£383,276	£956,759.80	£1,360,585.72	£933,510.65
Children and Families	£138,938	£130,753	£134,337	£95,611	£150,005.39	£239,713.13	£110,019.08
Places, Prosperity and Sustainability	£117,977	£125,306	£147,909	£102,232	£12,423.23	£32,669.01	£85,478.24
City Housing	£241,240	£222,117	£267,589	£195,242	£389,982.38	£393,283.59	£355,607.28
City Operations	£1,562,297	£1,353,715	£1,658,000	£1,582,314	£1,887,857	£1,764,330.15	£1,821,726.31
Strategy, Equalities & Partnerships	£27,170	£20,813	£67,140	£13,239	£31,568.26	£48,831.22	£27,632.50



CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR ADRIAN DELANEY**

**“JNC staff numbers”**

**Question:**

**As of the 1 September in each year since 2016, how many JNC staff did the council employ (on either a permanent or interim basis)?**

**Answer:**

We are able to report accurate recordings taking us back to 2021/2022; this information is drawn from our local JNC master tracker. We also store this information on a fiscal basis (Apr – Mar) rather than from September. For clarity, the figures against interims are based on the individual being Inside IR35, covering a JNC position and being appointed within the fiscal year; this is not reflective of individuals that may have been appointed prior to that fiscal year and were on continuous assignment.

We have provided the figures as the request states:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Permanent Appts</b>	<b>Interim Appts</b>
<b>2021/2022</b>	13	9
<b>2022/2023</b>	24	15
<b>2023/2024 (current)</b>	4	0

We do not have an accurate picture for permanent employees for the years 2016 to 2021. We also do not have sufficient information on the interim appointments made in the preceding years as this information was only partially recorded on the previous HR system (SAP)

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR RICK PAYNE**

**“Council Assets”**

**Question:**

**Excluding council housing under right to buy, please provide a list of all council assets sold since 2012, including the value sold for.**

**Answer:**

Excluding houses sold under the Right to Buy legislation, the Council has sold land and property assets generating £429,442,608 in capital receipts between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

The year on year breakdown is summarised as follows:-

General & Commercial Portfolio Disposals : 2011/12 - Q1 2023/24	
Financial Year	Total Receipts
2011/12	£19,080,477
2012/13	£23,834,765
2013/14	£19,118,442
2014/15	£36,479,156
2015/16	£36,296,603
2016/17	£42,372,187
2017/18	£27,079,878
2018/19	£29,207,838
2019/20	£32,344,091
2020/21	£38,634,244
2021/22	£76,706,820
2022/23	£42,503,157
2023/24 up to Qtr ended 30/06/23.	£5,784,950
<b>Total</b>	<b>£429,442,608</b>

This covers assets sold from the Council’s operational portfolio, the commercial portfolio and all miscellaneous sales of other parcels of land and property from the Housing Revenue account (excluding house sales under Right to Buy).

A full summary of all land and property assets sold during this period and the corresponding capital receipts generated is included in the attached summary documents covering each financial year from 2011/12 through to Quarter 1 in the current financial year.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR ALEX YIP

**“Weightmans”**

**Question:**

**Given that DBS compliance continues to be an issue in the city, and given both Cllr R Alden and myself have previously voiced concerns and been dismissed by the Administration, will the Council now release the full unredacted Weightmans report so that the public can see what needs fixing with regard to safeguarding vulnerable people in this city and the Administration can be held to account for progress in implementing the recommendations in the report?**

**Answer:**

Due to the Weightmans report containing personal sensitive data of individuals it is therefore unable to be made publicly available under the GDPR. However, you have been furnished with a copy of the redacted report.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR RON STORER**

**“Crisis hires”**

**Question:**

**How many people have the council hired, either directly or through consultants to look at the finances, equal pay, and Oracle messes since 1 January 2023? Please break this down by equivalent salary range <£50k, £50-79k, £80-£99k, >£100k**

**Answer:**

Service	FTE	Headcount	< £50K	£50K to £79K	£80-£99k	> £100K
<b>Oracle</b> – all consultants for People Services, Digital & Technology Services, & Finance (excluding PWC Third Party contract)	77.8	79	48	5	1	25
<b>Equal Pay</b> Legal team	0	0				
<b>Job Evaluation</b>	6	6	4	2		
<b>Total</b>	83.8	85	52	7	1	25

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR ADAM HIGGS**

**“Equal Pay liability ”**

**Question:**

**Bearing in mind the judge led enquiry will look into evidence for this, prior to becoming Leader, had you been briefed at any point that the figures for equal pay could possibly have a maximum liability level either higher or lower than the £760m figure given in the press. If so what were these figures and on what dates?**

**Answer:**

I am pleased that Cllr Higgs welcomes my decision to commission a judge-led inquiry into these issues.

Since entering our posts in May, myself and Deputy Leader Sharon Thompson have worked tirelessly to unearth the issues facing Birmingham City Council.

In my previous Cabinet role, a presentation was shared on 3 February 2023, that highlighted a potential estimated range of liability.

On coming into office as Leader, officers were rapidly asked to carry out detailed and fresh analysis.

Once we knew the precise scale of the liability, we made it public as soon as possible as part of our commitment to openness and transparency.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR ROBER ALDEN**

**“MARS scheme ”**

**Question:**

**The Unions have stated that the Council started negotiating the MARS scheme, which is a measure to balance the books through resignations, last October. Is this correct and at what point were you, as the cabinet member responsible for HR, first told these negotiations were happening and for what purpose were you told it was happening?**

**Answer:**

The discussions with Trades Unions in relation to MARS have been happening since at least August 2022. The scheme was originally part of a wider programme of work described as Workforce Transitions.

As the People Services Bold Plan has developed, the elements of the wider programme have been subsumed into business as usual activity or other plans, leaving just the mutually agreed resignation scheme.

The first Corporate Consultative Committee (the forum for the Leader and trades unions) in which MARS was discussed was September 2022. MARS was discussed again at the CCC in March 2023.

The purpose of the scheme was clear and related to realising workforce savings and encouraging cultural change in the organisation by supporting colleagues to leave. The scheme has been discussed numerous times at CLT.

# A10

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR DAVID BARRIE**

**“Task and Finish”**

**Question:**

**You have publicly stated that you sought and received personal assurances that task and finish had ended within the waste collection service. On what date did you seek those assurances and what was the response given and by whom?**

**Answer:**

As the Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities, I frequently sought and received assurances at EMT and Leader briefings that task and finish had ended within the waste collection service.

Upon becoming Leader, I have worked with senior officers to gain further assurances that these practices have stopped.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR EWAN MACKEY**

**“Equal Pay briefings”**

**Question:**

**Please list all dates since 2017 on which Cabinet Members have been briefed on the potential equal pay liability faced by the Council, including the range of figures provided as to the potential size of this liability at each stage a briefing was provided and the names of the Cabinet Members this information was shared with.**

**Answer:**

Cabinet Members have been briefed regularly on the issue of Equal Pay and the Council’s potential liabilities.

Since entering our posts in May, myself and Deputy Leader Sharon Thompson have worked tirelessly to unearth the issues facing Birmingham City Council.

On coming into office as Leader, officers were rapidly asked to carry out detailed and fresh analysis.

Once we knew the precise scale of the liability, we made it public as soon as possible as part of our commitment to openness and transparency.



CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY**

**“Staff Grievances”**

**Question:**

**In each month since April 2018, by Department, how many grievances were raised by staff and what was the average time taken to resolve these?**

**Answer:**

People Services introduced a new case management system since November 22 and does not have information on grievance cases from April 2018. Often grievances are managed locally, and People Services will only record information if employees or managers refer the matter to the central team. Currently People Services have 28 recorded grievances.

From November 2022 (start of new case management system) to 06/09/23 we can confirm:

1. 36 grievances were open and then closed/resolved.
2. The grievances were from the following Directorates:

Directorate	Grievance numbers
Adults	5
Children and Families	2
City Operations	11
Council Management	9
Commonwealth Games	4
Housing	5

Based on reviewing the 36 cases the average time to resolve or address grievances was 2.5 months. 11 cases were resolved in 1 month or less, 25 cases have taken over 2 months.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR DAVID PEARS**

**“Perry Barr development”**

**Question:**

**How many properties in the Perry Barr development (athletes village) have now been completed, including fittings, out of how many in total planned?**

**Answer:**

Planning consent for Phase 1 is for 1,414 homes.

The FBC agreed by Cabinet in July 2021 confirmed that 968 would be built as Phase 1a.

Of these 430 are fully fitted out and 270 are in progress due to be completed early 2024. 268 later living scheme are intended to be sold to an investor ahead of full fit out by the Investor.

# A14

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE ALDEN

**“Perry Barr development”**

**Question:**

**Please provide details of the kitchens used for the Perry Barr Development (Athletes Village) including:**

- a) how many have now been fitted**
- b) how many are in storage**
- c) the total cost of the storage for kitchens for the development**
- d) how long they have been in storage**

**Answer:**

- a) 430 completed, with 270 underway.**
- b) None are in external storage. We are taking advantage of the dry car parks within the plot.**
- c) No additional cost.**
- d) NA**

# A15

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR KEN WOOD

“Perry Barr development communal facilities”

**Question:**

**For the Perry Barr development (athletes village) how many properties were built with communal facilities that have now been, or are set to be, converted for single family dwellings?**

**Answer:**

No properties were built with communal facilities. All apartments are completely self-contained.

# A16

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR TIMOTHY HUXTABLE**

**“Employee Numbers”**

**Question:**

**How many staff has the council employed, split between directly and indirectly, on 1 April each year since 2010?**

**Answer:**

Headcount and FTE data is held in our HR system and is provided below for each year since 2010 (data excludes casual, sessional, school staff).

Date	Headcount	FTE
2010	9159	6968.882
2011	10561	8181.58
2012	11331	8979.86
2013	11102	8741.744
2014	15128	12556.49
2015	14657	12194.99
2016	13943	11673.47
2017	12910	10894.04
2018	10376	8849.62
2019	10230	8775.35
2020	10019	8710.03
2021	9968	8670.39
2022	10107	8816.12
2023	9945	8600.14

Agency, Interim and Consultant (contingent) staff is not held in the same format as they are not contracted employees. Contingency staff come through a procurement route and not an employment route, so information was not previously held centrally as local managers would have determined need.

Since January 2023 People Services have worked to develop an improved method of recruiting contingent workforce, and through our relationship with suppliers it has enabled us to begin to collect information in one place. This is still a work in progress as we continue to validate data of those contracted prior to January 2023. We are therefore only able to provide the headcount for our contingent staff as of 1st April 2023 which at that time was 1377. We were aware that this number did not accurately reflect the council position and have since worked to collate further data and validate this information.

# A17

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR DARIUS SANDHU

“Lee Rowley Letter”

Question:

Please provide a copy of the letter of 6 April 2023 sent by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Local Government requesting an external governance review and the Council’s response to this letter.

Answer:



1738tr L Rowley  
MP.pdf



Ian Ward Letter .pdf

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR GARETH MOORE**

**“Job Evaluation Staff”**

**Question:**

**What proportion of staff working on Equal Pay and Job Evaluation (either permanently or on secondment) are**

- a) Union Reps for one of the three recognised trade unions involved in the equal pay dispute, and**
- b) members of one of the three recognised trade unions involved in the equal pay dispute?**

**Answer:**

- a. None
- b. The Council does not keep a record of whether or not its employees are members of a trade union. This is because the practice of listing trade union members, activists and health and safety representatives by an employer for the purposes of making recruitment or management decisions regarding those employees is prohibited by the Employment Relations Act 1999 (Blacklists) Regulations 2010



CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR MEIRION JENKINS**

**“Job Evaluation Progress”**

**Question:**

**Since the partnership agreement with the Unions in December 2020 what progress has been made on the job evaluation scheme, including a) amount spent, and b) total number of job roles evaluated (out of how many) c) original target completion date?**

**Answer:**

- a. Budget tracking is not available at the present time, however, it will be available in the coming weeks.
- b. No roles have been evaluated under the programme as the evaluation phase has not commenced.
- c. The original estimate of the duration of the programme was 24 months from the commencement of the evaluation phase.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR MAUREEN CORNISH**

**“RAAC”**

**Question:**

**How many council buildings have been checked for RAAC and how many have been identified as having RAAC?**

**Answer:**

As part of our ongoing condition survey program for the operational portfolio, excluding residential and school buildings, Acivico has conducted a comprehensive assessment. This assessment involved a desktop survey aimed at identifying any buildings that might have been constructed using RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete) components. Buildings flagged as potential candidates in the desktop study underwent subsequent physical examinations. Up to the present moment, none of the buildings within the operational portfolio have been identified as having been constructed with RAAC elements.

To provide some historical context, discussions regarding RAAC were initiated with Safety Services back in 2000. Subsequently, an assessment of the operational portfolio, excluding residential and school buildings, was incorporated into the corporate compliance program. This compliance program spans from April 2000 to March 2024. Buildings within the operational portfolio were reviewed as part of the routine condition survey inspection regime associated with this program.

In cases where our surveyors had suspicions regarding the potential presence of RAAC, based on observations, the age of the building, or its construction style, we took the extra step of ordering additional drone surveys. Even after the drone surveys, if concerns still remained about a building potentially containing RAAC, we conducted intrusive sampling. In total, we sampled six buildings, and the materials tested in these cases were not confirmed to be of RAAC construction.

I can confidently confirm that none of the six surveyed premises were found to have RAAC present.

Please note that this response specifically excludes schools from our assessment.

# A21

**CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR  
ROGER HARMER**

**“Planning applications”**

**Question:**

**“A key tenet of councillor casework is planning applications. The council currently operates a system whereby councillors are not notified of changes made to any applications within the ward.**

**Furthermore, they cannot sign up or ask for updates. This is not efficient.**

**What system or working modifications can be made so that councillors can be kept up to date on key planning applications that are happening within the ward?”**

**Answer:**

If any changes are made to planning applications that are significant in nature they will be reconsulted on in accordance with our Statement of Community Involvement. In these cases, interested parties will be re-notified.

Unfortunately, the current planning back-office system does not have the capability to allow interested parties to be updated when minor changes are made to planning applications. We are currently working on a new back-office system that has enhanced engagement features, which includes enhanced notification and alert abilities.

# A22

**CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR  
DEBORAH HARRIES**

**“Cabinet reports”**

**Question:**

**“In July’s cabinet, the Independent Transport Training programme was passed, with glowing comments from the cabinet. The report included positive citations from 2 parents, but one of those parents got in touch with us afterwards saying that she had been mis-represented.**

**When residents are quoted in cabinet reports, what checks are made to ensure that they agree with the ways that their views are represented in a report?”**

**Answer:**

If residents are named or quoted in documents for any cabinet reports, this should be checked and agreed beforehand.

The Cabinet Member Children, Young People and Families confirmed at September’s cabinet meeting that all testimonials included in the Independent Travel Training cabinet report had been provided by parents who had been made aware that they would be included in the report.

One parent was referred to as an active member of Birmingham Parent Carer Forum in the report in error. The Cabinet Member and I wrote to the parent in question last month to apologise for this.

The minutes from July’s cabinet meeting will be updated to clarify this point.

# A23

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR  
JON HUNT

**“Perry Barr masterplan”**

**Question:**

**“Given that private conversations that have evidently taken place over the future of the Perry Barr greyhound site, will the Leader reconsider the creation of an accountable board for the Perry Barr masterplan, with community and elected member representation?”**

**Answer:**

The emerging proposals for the Greyhound Stadium site are being developed by a third party. Any pre-application discussions are commercially confidential and would not in any case be discussed within any governance structure.

There is already a well-established Perry Barr 2040 Steering Group represented by key officers, other external public sector partners including Homes England, West Midlands Combined Authority. The PB2040 governance arrangements include a community forum made up of a multitude of local representatives and community interest groups. At present, this serves the purpose of engaging with the local community and key stakeholders for specific projects within the programme, such as the feasibility studies in relation to the repurposing of the Perry Barr bus Depot.

Alongside the Community Forum, there has been ongoing engagement with ward members via informal communications about the PB2040 programme (such as face to face; site visits etc) and formal briefings (updates at Ward Forums). Additionally, a Perry Barr Youth Panel is being established working jointly with BCC Youth Service.

# A24

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR  
PAUL TILSLEY

**“Our Future City”**

**Question:**

**“Can the Leader please provide data that relates to the consultation process for “Our Future City.”**

**Can this data be broken down by demographic group/ resident ward and consultation event date and can it make clear the number of people who attended excluding any council staff?”**

**Answer:**

Birmingham City Council consulted on the ‘Our Future City: Draft Central Birmingham Framework 2040’ (draft framework), between 25th May to 17th August 2023. The consultation sought views on the vision and proposals within the draft framework. The council undertook a first round of consultation on the ‘Our Future City Plan: Shaping Our City Together’ document between 26th January to 26th March 2021. This previous consultation informed the draft framework which has now been consulted on.

Prior to the formal consultation period, the council undertook a stakeholder mapping exercise to identify the communities, stakeholders and partners who would be most impacted upon by the proposals. This also helped identify any ‘seldom heard group’ across Birmingham allowing for a targeted approach towards engagement. The objectives of the consultation were to:

- Test the proposals within the draft framework;
- Build excitement around proposals;
- Spark debate and engagement with the entire community;
- Build market and business confidence;
- Show the city has opportunities and aspirations;
- Develop relationships with stakeholders and foster ongoing engagement and
- Build trust with the community.

## **Consultation Events**

Officers organised and attended approximately twenty-one consultation drop-in events in numerous locations across the framework boundary. Over the twenty-one events, officers engaged with approximately 806 people. A list of the events is included below

Table of in-person events:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Type of event</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Number of people engaged</b>
Tuesday 30 May	10am to 12.30pm	Drop-in session	Sparkbrook Health and Community Centre	10
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	12pm to 4pm	'Meet the expert' event	Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum	56
Wednesday 7 June	10am to 3pm	Drop-in session	The Custard Factory Reception	30
Thursday 8 June	1pm to 5pm	Drop-in session	Handsworth Library	70
Friday 9 June	9.30am to 11.30am	Community morning	Nechells Pod Place of Welcome	23
Friday 9 June	2pm to 5pm	Colmore BID Community Games	Colmore BID Community Games Cathedral Grounds, Colmore Row, B3 22B	20
Saturday 10 June	11am to 3pm	NSPCC Charity day	Centenary Square	75
Saturday 10 June	11am to 4pm	Balsall Heath Mini Festival	The Old Print Works, Moseley	25
Tuesday 13 June	10:00am to 3:00pm	'Meet the expert' event	The Old Print Works, Moseley	30
Thursday 15 June	11am to 3pm	Drop-in session	Stanhope Community Centre	21
Wednesday 21 June	10am to 3pm	Drop-in session	The Custard Factory Reception	25
Wednesday 21 June	3:30pm to 7pm	Drop-in session	Ladywood Health and Community Centre	13
Thursday 22 June	1pm to 3pm	Windrush Celebration	Nechells Pod	15
Saturday 24 June	11am to 3pm	Drop-in session	Morrisons Supermarket, St Andrews Shopping Park	35
Wednesday 28 June	3pm to 6:30pm	Drop-in session	Aldi Store, Newtown Shopping Centre	142
Thursday 29 June	10am to 2pm	Drop-in session	Nechells Wellbeing Centre	14
Tuesday 4 July	11am to 4pm	Drop-in session	Library of Birmingham	51
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	4pm to 7pm	'Meet the expert' event	Small heath Wellbeing Centre	6

Saturday 8 July	1pm to 3pm	Edgbaston Market	Edgbaston Artisan Market, Greenfield Crescent	50
Monday 10 July	2pm to 6pm	Drop-in session	Birmingham Springhill Superstore	92
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	4pm to 6pm	'Meet the expert' event	Small Heath Wellbeing Centre	3
				806

## Online Engagement

Council officers hosted two online events over Microsoft Teams held between 6pm and 7pm on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023. Both events included a thirty-minute presentation where officers provided a brief overview of the contents of the draft framework as well as information on how participants could have their say. There was also an opportunity for questions and answers. Both events were attended by approximately 17 individuals each. A statutory online Planning Event was held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July which was attended by 20 people from 13 different agencies. Statutory consultees are organisations and bodies, defined by statute, who must be consulted on relevant planning applications. For example, the Environment Agency.

## Videos

Three videos were produced to support the consultation. The details of each video are set out below:

- A two-minute video was produced to promote the draft framework and generate excitement and discussion. The video was available on the council's webpage and promoted on social media. It has been viewed approximately 2,600 times.
- A thirty-minute video was produced which provided an overview of the vision and proposals within the draft framework and how people can get involved in the consultation. It has been viewed approximately 930 times.
- The council also commissioned Beatfreaks to produce a video of ten young people explaining what their vision for Birmingham. It has been viewed approximately 340 times.



### **Formal Consultation Representations:**

- Approximately 330 formal representations received.
- Approximately 80 emails and letters received and 250 questionnaires completed on BeHeard.

The council's online consultation portal BeHeard was used to host the online questionnaire and social media was used to promote the consultation and raise awareness. The Beheard Questionnaire included questions to inform equalities data. However, these questions were optional, and the data is still being reviewed and will be included in the Consultation Report to inform the Cabinet Report process to publish the Final Our Future City 'Central Birmingham Framework' in early 2024.

# A25

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR MORRIAM JAN

**“Planning consultation process – Ladywood Regeneration”**

**Question:**

**“Can the Leader please provide data that relates to the consultation process for the Ladywood regeneration project.**

**Can this data be broken down by demographic group/ resident ward and consultation event date and can it make clear the number of staff who were present at each event, separate to the public attendances?”**

**Answer:**

The consultation process for the Ladywood project has not started. It is planned to start in early 2024.

The Council has developed a set of FAQs, which we hope will answer some of the local communities questions at this early stage.

In order to capture wider feedback, we will be working with the local community to develop and agree a Resident and Community Charter – enabling the local community to help shape the plans, set out what they can expect from us and how we will communicate with the community going forwards.

The council are planning a number of engagement meetings over the next few months before formal consultation begins in the new year.

**(Details of the engagement sessions will available tomorrow – letter via post to residents and website)**

**B**

**PLEASE NOTE NO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED  
FOR THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR KERRY BREWER**

**“Transport Providers”**

**Question:**

**Please list all providers currently used for Home to School Transport, along with the date each one last received a compliance visit.**

**Answer:**

<b>Provider</b>	<b>Date of last compliance visit</b>
AFJ Travel Ltd	24/08/2023
Birmingham City Council Adult Services Transport	07/09/2023
Elite Radio Cars Ltd	19/05/2023
Green Destinations Ltd	01/09/2023
Healthcare and Transport Services Ltd (HATS Group)	25/08/2023
Lawrences Garages (Lozells) Ltd	27/06/2023
National Express Accessible Transport (NEAT)	13/07/2023
Roundabout Cars Birmingham Ltd	02/06/2023
Select Private Hire Ltd	26/05/2023
Shencare Community Transport	04/09/2023
T.O.A. Taxis (Radio System) Ltd	15/05/2023
Taxie Limited (eCars Private Hire)	06/07/2023
Take Me Services (TC Cars) Ltd	31/08/2023
Touchwood Private Hire Ltd	13/07/2023

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR RON STORER**

**“Home to School Transport Costs”**

**Question:**

**What has been the total cost of Home to School Transport in each year since 2015?**

**Answer:**

Data for 2015 and 2016 is not currently available.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Cost of home to school transport (£m)</b>
2017-2018	20.5
2018-2019	21.8
2019-2020	25.4
2020-2021	26.6
2021-2022	30.1
2022-2023	Outturn not yet published

**CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY**

**“Home to School Transport Taxi Costs”**

**Question:**

**How much of the total spend on Home to School Transport in each year since 2015 has been paid to taxi firms transporting individual children or young people to/from school?**

**Answer:**

**This breakdown is not available.**

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR ADRIAN DELANEY**

**“Home to School Transport Taxi Numbers”**

**Question:**

**How many individuals were transported to school in taxis in each year since 2015?**

**Answer:**

This information is not available for the whole period requested. As at the end of the 2022/23 academic year, 1,704 pupils were receiving taxi\* transport to school. At the start of the 2023/24 academic year (as at 6 September 2023) 1,313 were receiving taxi transport to school.

\*For the purpose of this answer, taxi transport has been defined as transport by car, MPV (6 seater), MPV (8 seater), or Wheelchair Accessible Black Cab.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR RICK PAYNE**

**“Home to School Transport Appeals”**

**Question:**

**Please provide the total number of stage one and two appeals for home to school transport in each year since 2015, broken down the those won and lost.**

Answer:

Data not available for the whole period requested.

Stage 1 (03/02/23 – 04/09/23)

Number of appeals	Appeals agreed and any assistance awarded	Appeals declined
289	164 (of which 128 had shared transport awarded)	125

Stage 2 (03/04/23 - 04/09/23)

Number of appeals	Appeals agreed and any assistance awarded	Appeals declined
61	45 (of which 36 had shared transport awarded)	16



CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR ADAM HIGGS**

**“Home to School Transport Tribunals”**

**Question:**

**In each year since 2015, please detail the number of tribunals for home to school transport, including the total number, total number upheld and the total cost to the council of defending these tribunals?**

**Answer:**

There have not been any tribunals regarding home to school transport since at least 2019. Data is not available prior to that.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR ALEX YIP**

**“Home to School Transport Judicial Reviews”**

**Question:**

**Please list all Judicial Reviews against the council with regard to Home to School Transport, detailing the court reference, outcome, and total cost to the council of defending the legal action.**

**Answer:**

There have not been any Judicial Reviews regarding home to school transport since at least 2019.

**CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR ROGER HARMER**

**“Birmingham Parent Carer Forum”**

**Question:**

**“Does the council fund Birmingham Parent Carer Forum or its activities in any way, such as paying for a worker or providing a venue?”**

**Answer:**

Birmingham City Council, Birmingham Children’s Trust and the Integrated Care Board (NHS) each provide Birmingham Parent Carer Forum with £7,472.12 per year via Birmingham Voluntary Services Council to fund a Participation Coordinator. A standard hosting agreement is in place.

# C10

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR JON HUNT

**“Birmingham Parent Carer Forum (BPCF)”**

**Question:**

**“How were the current members of BPCF management committee elected and when will the BPCF AGM be held?”**

**Answer:**

Birmingham Parent Carer Forum is an independent group of parents and carers of children with SEND. The national organisation representing Parent Carer Forums, Contact (<https://contact.org.uk/>), states that the aim of Parent Carer Forums is to make sure the services in their area meet the needs of disabled children and their families.

Parent Carer Forums do this by gathering the views of local families and then working in partnership with local authorities, education settings, health providers and other providers to highlight where local services, processes and commissioners are working well, or challenge when changes or improvements need to be made.

As it is an independent body, we are not able to answer this question on the Forum’s behalf.

# C11

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR IZZY KNOWLES

**“Birmingham Parent Carer Forum (BPCF)”**

**Question:**

**“What steps are BPCF taking to ensure they capture the views of as many SEND parents in the city as possible, including those that are seldom heard?”**

**Answer:**

Birmingham Parent Carer Forum is an independent group of parents and carers of children with SEND. The national organisation representing Parent Carer Forums, Contact (<https://contact.org.uk/>), states that the aim of Parent Carer Forums is to make sure the services in their area meet the needs of disabled children and their families. Parent Carer Forums do this by gathering the views of local families and then working in partnership with local authorities, education settings, health providers and other providers to highlight where local services, processes and commissioners are working well, or challenge when changes or improvements need to be made. As it is an independent body, we are not able to answer this question on the Forum's behalf.

# C12

**CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR ZAKER CHOUDHURY**

**“Birmingham Parent Carer Forum (BPCF) members”**

**Question:**

**How many active members does BPCF have?”**

**Answer:**

Birmingham Parent Carer Forum is an independent group of parents and carers of children with SEND. The national organisation representing Parent Carer Forums, Contact (<https://contact.org.uk/>), states that the aim of Parent Carer Forums is to make sure the services in their area meet the needs of disabled children and their families.

Parent Carer Forums do this by gathering the views of local families and then working in partnership with local authorities, education settings, health providers and other providers to highlight where local services, processes and commissioners are working well, or challenge when changes or improvements need to be made. As it is an independent body, we are not able to answer this question on the Forum’s behalf.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR MUMTAZ HUSSAIN

**“Representation of SEND parents”**

**Question:**

**“It has been made clear that not all send parents of the city wish to be represented by BPCF so, what steps are the SLT taking to ensure all parents are equally represented?”**

**Answer:**

The council is committed to working with parents and carers of children with SEND. One of the established ways for this to be done is via the independent Parent Carer Forum. We understand that some parents may not choose to join the Parent Carer Forum so we organise and attend events that are open to all parents across the city.

Our SEND services are establishing processes to enable all parents and carers to provide feedback. These will be operating early in the new year.

**CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR DEBORAH HARRIES**

**“The SEND improvement board”**

**Question:**

**“How can parents of SEND children participate in or contribute to the SEND improvement board?”**

**Answer:**

The SEND Improvement Board is chaired by the SEND Commissioner and oversees SEND improvement, including delivery of the Accelerated Progress Plan (APP).

Membership of the Board is determined by the SEND Commissioner. The Chair of Birmingham Parent Carer Forum is a member of the Board to ensure that parents of children and young people with SEND are represented.

All Board members must commit to ensure services consider the voice of child and/or parents/carers when making decisions. The first item on the agenda of every SEND Improvement Board meeting is a ‘voice of the child’ item where parents contribute a narrative of their family’s experience of services.

Feedback from parents and carers fundamentally underpins the work of the SEND Improvement Board. A piece of work was recently commissioned on co-production by the Board.



# C15

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR AYOUB KHAN

**“Social media”**

**Question:**

**“What is the departmental policy with regards to responding to comments and questions posed by parents on social media?”**

**Answer:**

The council’s social media channels feature a variety of information from our services and partners, keeping citizens informed with what is happening across the city.

The corporate accounts are monitored Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm and the team always try to help where they can.

Information about the council’s social media accounts, an overview of the policy and house rules can be found on the council’s website

([https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20179/news\\_and\\_publications/537/social\\_media](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20179/news_and_publications/537/social_media)).

This applies to all council directorates, including Children and Families.

# C16

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR MORRIAM JAN

**“Travel Assist”**

**Question:**

**“Who was responsible for overseeing the costs for Travel Assist. Why did the provider get away with charging a highly expensive charge and how will this be rectified?”**

**Answer:**

The procurement of home to school transport contracts is managed by a contracts team within the Children and Young People’s Travel Service and overseen by the council’s Procurement Team.

Tender opportunities follow robust procurement rules and procedures and contracts are awarded on merit based on a cost/quality matrix.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR DIGITAL, CULTURE, HERITAGE, AND TOURISM FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT ALDEN**

**“Mobile Library”**

**Question:**

**For the last 5 years what were the library attendance figures for the mobile library by month?**

**Answer:**

The Mobile Library services measure active engagement rather than just footfall. Three tables have been provided with this answer:

- Table A shows book issues per month from April 2018 to date (6 September 2023).
- Table B shows annual figures for attendance at school and other group sessions.
- Table C shows the current Mobile Library stops. Locations and frequency are reviewed regularly. On average, the Mobile Library makes 900 individual stops each year.

**Table A** (Mobile Library book issues per month)

	<b>Issues</b>	<b>Borrowers</b>
Aug-23	1449	170
Jul-23	979	163
Jun-23	2072	268
May-23	2163	290
Apr-23	1601	215
Mar-23	2304	289
Feb-23	2351	286
Jan-23	1874	277
Dec-22	1279	239
Nov-22	2714	255
Oct-22	1820	261
Sep-22	1792	254
Aug-22	1242	185
Jul-22	1288	221
Jun-22	1897	360

May-22	1949	292
Apr-22	1733	243
Mar-22	1557	227
Feb-22	1392	175
Jan-22	719	111
Dec-21	1074	158
Nov-21	1341	164
Oct-21	900	151
Sep-21	1280	163
Aug-21	947	144
Jul-21	1026	90
Jun-21	636	69
May-21	470	62
Apr-21	559	59
Mar-21	467	64
Feb-21	0	0
Jan-21	0	0
Dec-20	603	71
Nov-20	1066	103
Oct-20	848	94
Sep-20	777	85
Aug-20	191	44
Jul-20	0	0
Jun-20	0	0
May-20	0	0
Apr-20	0	0
Mar-20	1280	214
Feb-20	1967	350
Jan-20	2260	371
Dec-19	1929	297
Nov-19	2458	404
Oct-19	2324	341
Sep-19	2212	377
Aug-19	2060	263
Jul-19	2148	284
Jun-19	2154	331
May-19	2157	364
Apr-19	1993	308
Mar-19	2214	394
Feb-19	2314	398
Jan-19	2539	397
Dec-18	2257	349
Nov-18	2263	321
Oct-18	2827	434

Sep-18	2303	378
Aug-18	2488	314
Jul-18	2232	279
Jun-18	2828	477
May-18	2583	422
Apr-18	2281	429

**Table B** (Mobile Library attendance at school and other group sessions)

	Group sessions attendees
Apr 2018 – Mar 2019	4468
Apr 2019 – Mar 2020	3020
Apr 2020 – Mar 2021	214 (Covid impact)
Apr 2021 – Mar 2022	382 (Covid impact)
Apr 2022 – Mar 2023	3502
Apr 2023 to Date	1903

**Table C** (current mobile library stops)

Days	Times	Area	Location
Monday (fortnightly) 7 August 21 August 4 September	1:30pm to 2:20pm	Edgbaston	George Dixon Primary School/City Road
	2:45pm to 3:15pm	Edgbaston	Clark Street
	3:30pm to 4:00pm	Edgbaston	George Dixon Road
Tuesday (weekly)	10:00am to 11:00am	Banners Gate	Coppice View Road
	11:20am to 12:10pm	Erdington	Gunter Road
	1:45pm to 2:30pm	Bordesley Green	Pretoria Road
	2:45pm to 4:00pm	Saltley	St Saviours Road
Wednesday (weekly)	10am to 11:20am	West Heath	The Fordrough
	11:40am to 12:10pm	Stirchley	Dads Lane
	2:45pm to 4:00pm	Nechells	Vauxhall Road
Thursday (weekly)	9.50am to 10:30am	Sheldon	The Lea

Thursday (weekly)	9.50am to 10:30am	Sheldon	The Lea
	11:00am to 12:00pm	Highgate	Calthorpe Academy/Darwin Street
	1:45pm to 2:30pm	Edgbaston	Gillott Road
	2:45pm to 4:00pm	Winson Green	Cuthbert Road
Friday (weekly)	9:20am to 10:20am	Aston	Sycamore Road
	10:50am to 11:50am	Falcon Lodge	Churchill Road (lay-by, opposite shops)
	2:00pm to 2:45pm	Erdington	Inland Road (Happy Days Nursery)
	3:00pm to 4:00pm	Lozells	Gerrard Street
Saturday (monthly) 5 August 2 September 30 September	9.50am to 10:20am	Winson Green	Great Western Close
	10:45am to 11:45am	Handsworth Wood	Beechglade
	1:45pm to 2:30pm	Moseley	Forest Road
	2:50pm to 3:20pm	Balsall Heath	Balsall Heath Road
Saturday (monthly) 19 August 16 September 14 October	10am to 10:30am	Hodge Hill	Reynoldstown Road
	10:45am to 11:30am	Hodge Hill	Collingbourne Avenue
	11:40am to 12:10pm	Hodge Hill	Teesdale Avenue
	1:50pm to 2:30pm	Hodge Hill	Hodge Hill Road
	2:40pm to 3:15pm	Hodge Hill	Eastbourne Avenue

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR DIGITAL, CULTURE, HERITAGE, AND TOURISM FROM COUNCILLOR DARIUS SANDHU**

**“Council Website”**

**Question:**

**How much has been spent on changes to, and development of, the council's website in the last 10 years?**

**Answer:**

£65,803 has been spent on third party development and change to the Council's main website over the last 10 years. Much of the development and change is done in house by the Council's web team and in house development team, which has varied between 10 and 12 people over the course of that time. The team undertake all form development, business as usual change and are supported by a network of content editors from across the Council.

# E1

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM  
COUNCILLOR ROBER ALDEN**

**“WRCO team meetings”**

**Question:**

**Please list all dates since 2017 on which the WRCOs have met together as a distinct team to discuss and implement new strategies to support behavioural change.**

**Answer:**

A list of dates when WRCOs – or other roles – meet is not held.  
WRCOs liaise with local depot management and waste prevention colleagues as and when necessary.



CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM  
COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY**

**“WRCO impact”**

**Question:**

**Please list all changes made to waste collection as a result of WRCOs meeting together as a distinct team to discuss and implement strategies to support behavioural change.**

**Answer:**

The WRCOs do not meet as a distinct team. Individual recommendations and suggestions are put forward to the Waste Management team for consideration and implementation.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM  
COUNCILLOR DARIUS SANDHU**

**“WRCO effectiveness”**

**Question:**

**Please list dates on which formal monitoring of the effectiveness of the WRCO role has taken place and provide a copy of these reviews, including performance against recycling improvement targets.**

**Answer:**

Recycling targets are monitored on a monthly basis on a city wide level, however data is not broken down to the level of each round that would enable an evaluation of the direct impact of the individual WRCO role.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM  
COUNCILLOR RON STORER**

**“Weed Killer”**

**Question:**

**How much glyphosate-based weedkiller has the council, or its contractors, used in each month since April 2020?**

**Answer:**

The following figures have been taken from the contractor’s information supplied to the contracts that are sprayed with Glyphosate- based weedkiller. The contractor information is based on a yearly figure that is used across the City contracts during the spray programme which commences weather permitting March – October.

March - October 2020 2,850 Litres used.

March - October 2021 2,850 Litres used.

March - October 2022 2,850 Litres used.

March - August 2023 2,150 Litres currently used.

We are currently reviewing the spraying contract with our contractor to reduce the usage of Glyphosate-based weedkiller.

This is as per our previously-stated pledge to phase its use out completely once suitable alternatives are available for invasive species like Japanese Knotweed.

Trials of alternatives are being carried out elsewhere, but until proven alternatives are available, we have to adopt a practical and balanced approach because the threat such a species poses is significant to our communities.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM  
COUNCILLOR ADAM HIGGS**

**“Waste services overtime”**

**Question:**

**In each month since April 2018, how much was paid in overtime to waste collection and street cleaning crews?**

**Answer:**

Given the information requested is going back to 2018 this requires data from both SAP Voyager and Oracle. This means there are significant difficulties in identifying a unique identifier so for now the data cannot be supplied. Colleagues in finance will continue to work to provide this information.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM  
COUNCILLOR ADRIAN DELANEY**

**“HRC Operating Costs”**

**Question:**

**What is the net operating cost of each HRC site in each of the last 5 years?**

**Answer:**

The five HRC Sites are managed as part of the current integrated Waste Disposal Contract with Veolia. The costs that BCC pay are not recorded as site specific, so we would not be able to show this on a site basis. There is a site-specific management fee managing the sites on behalf of BCC. However, this information is commercially sensitive, and as such cannot be shared in a public environment.

# E7

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM  
COUNCILLOR GARETH MOORE**

**“Task and Finish”**

**Question:**

**The Birmingham Mail have reported that concerns were raised with the Council in April 2022 that task and finish arrangements were continuing within the waste collection service. When the Birmingham Mail made enquiries of the council at the time they were told that the crews were “not working on a task and finish basis.” What action did the council take, and what did you personally do, to get assurances that the statement given to the press at the time was correct and that task and finish was not happening?**

**Answer:**

I was not Cabinet Member for this service in April 2022 when a new way of working was discussed and implemented within the Waste Collection Service.

Managers are instructed by the Strategic Director of City Operations to ensure staff are working their full contracted hours. Working arrangements across the Waste Service are also monitored by HR officers and internal audit to ensure compliance.

We are awaiting the outcome of a recently-commissioned report from internal audit.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM  
COUNCILLOR ALEX YIP**

**“Task and Finish performance”**

**Question:**

**Aside from the Equal Pay risk of task and finish, residents will be concerned at how this was actually operated, given the perception of high numbers of missed collections, and rubbish left on the streets. As part of these working arrangements, what management action was taken to ensure that tasks had actually ‘finished’ before crews were allowed to leave early, and before they were allowed to work overtime to complete unfinished work?**

**Answer:**

Driver Team Leaders were reporting any uncompleted work and random audits were undertaken by depot management to validate these submissions. The weekly performance of the crews and their reported uncollected work was then checked against resident enquiries to see if there were any discrepancy between the two.

Managers are instructed by the Strategic Director of City Operations to ensure staff are working their full contracted hours. Working arrangements across the Waste Service are also monitored by HR officers and internal audit to ensure compliance.

We are awaiting the outcome of a recently-commissioned report from internal audit.

I also note you reference there is a perception of a high number of missed collections. On that point, I refer you to my Executive Business Report that is being presented at today’s meeting – which shows encouraging progress on a number of related metrics.

# E9

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM  
COUNCILLOR EWAN MACKEY**

**“Green Lid Bins”**

**Question:**

**How many 'green lid' bins have been ordered by the council, on what date and at what cost?**

**Answer:**

840 bins were ordered on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at a cost of £19.30 per unit.



# E10

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM  
COUNCILLOR JON HUNT

**“Perry Park”**

**Question:**

**“Could the Cabinet Member report which areas of Perry Park (by acreage and location) have been transferred from the parks department to the sports department since 2018, setting out the process for approving these changes?”**

**Answer:**

The area immediately north of the High Performance Centre / GMAC on which the warm up track has been created will fall within the permanent secure fenceline around the stadium complex. This includes the throws circles and javelin run up strip – but not the majority of the throws field itself. This is an area of approx. 5.1 acres.

The use of the site went through a Full Business Case, Planning Application and associated consultation prior to the development of the stadium and surrounds for The Commonwealth Games.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM  
COUNCILLOR MUMTAZ HUSSAIN**

**“Aston fly tipping cameras”**

**Question:**

**“Following the placement of Yew Tree Road cameras can I ask the cabinet member why I wasn’t advised by him about the camera installation. I did ask about this in the week prior by email after being tipped off by a local resident.**

**In your email dated 12 August you stated that “an officer from the waste enforcement unit contacted you the day before the media opportunity to inform you about the installation of the camera”**

**I was not contacted in advance, or after the event. Can you please investigate this and explain what happened?”**

**Answer:**

All local councillors were informed about the upcoming installation of AI-enabled CCTV cameras on Yew Tree Road. Records confirm that an email was sent to apprise them of this development (see attached). It is noted that the email was sent without much lead in time, this was however due to a delay in provision of equipment from the provider leading to a lack of certainty around installation dates.



**Notification of  
Deployment of CCTV**

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM  
COUNCILLOR PAUL TILSLEY

**“Volleyball in Perry Park”**

**Question:**

**“At their recent AGM, Volleyball England reported that “three beach volleyball courts at Moseley would officially open next month and that discussions were progressing on a second facility at the city’s Alexander Stadium.”**

**Given that the Perry Park proposal conflicts with previous planning permissions, and the 3B’s neighbourhood plan, did the parks department give any support to these proposals?”**

**Answer:**

The pre-application engagement and consultation over proposals to enhance Perry Park, which include beach volleyball provision, has recently completed.

The public responses are now being considered ahead of a “you said, we did” exercise ahead of the formal planning application, which will be subject to a further period of statutory consultation. No final decisions have yet been taken.

The Parks Service are fully involved in the process and the Cabinet Member is supportive (resources permitting) for general volleyball provision in parks in response to local demand.

# E13

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM  
COUNCILLOR BABER BAZ

**“MHRC leaflets”**

**Question:**

**“Does the council still deliver leaflets to notify residents of Mobile Household Recycling Centre visits?”**

**Answer:**

No. Template leaflets are produced for local councillors to deliver if they so wish.

They were only ever provided in a limited number of areas on a pilot basis.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM  
COUNCILLOR AYOUB KHAN

**“Aston fly-tipping problem”**

**Question:**

**“Can cameras be installed as a matter of urgency around Deykin Avenue, Electric Avenue and Brantley Road to catch and prosecute fly-tippers?”**

**Answer:**

I can clarify that, as of this date, no previous requests for CCTV installation in the locations you mentioned have been received. However, every request is taken seriously and the Waste Enforcement Team will be incorporating these locations into their evaluation matrix for potential future deployments.

The decisions regarding CCTV installations are primarily based on:

1. Feasibility of Installation – This entails the availability of suitable street furniture, such as lamp columns, which can support the installation of CCTV equipment.
2. Comparative Data on Flytipping Incidents – Locations are evaluated and potentially prioritised based on the volume of recorded flytipping or other relevant incidents. This ensures resources are directed to areas where they are most needed.

It's important to note that any CCTV installation entails a financial commitment for both the equipment and its installation. The waste enforcement budget for such expenditure was already under review prior to the s.114 announcement, so you will appreciate this may influence the timing and scope of potential deployments.

While the team cannot provide a definitive timeline or guarantee regarding CCTV installations at this juncture, please be assured that your input is valued and will play a role in the decision-making process. The aim is to address concerns effectively and efficiently, always keeping in mind the best interests of our community and regulatory guidelines.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM  
COUNCILLOR MORRIAM JAN

**“Oscott Road cameras”**

Question:

**“We would like to be advised to when Oscott Road, Perry Barr will be getting temp cameras to record fly-tipping and ASB on this street, Cllr Mahmood as you are aware, you supported us with a site visit and agreed this street is bad, potentially the worst you have seen.”**

Answer:

Requests for CCTV on Oscott Road were received by the Waste Enforcement Team in March and April of this year, which have been duly documented in their records.

As part of the surveillance review process, Oscott Road was considered for the recent surveillance phase initiated in June 2023. While the suitability of lamp columns on Oscott Road for camera installation is acknowledged and the concerns over flytipping in the area are recognised, the location did not meet the immediate criteria for camera deployment during this phase. This decision was based on comparative data, where other locations recorded a higher frequency of flytipping incidents.

It is essential to emphasise that any consideration for CCTV installation is always balanced with the need to ensure that such surveillance is both necessary and proportionate, especially in light of Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which underscores the right to privacy and family life. Given the current data, while Oscott Road demonstrates a need, it did not surpass other locations in urgency based on the evaluation metrics.

However, the potential of Oscott Road for future CCTV deployments is recognised and have been retained it on Waste Enforcement’s list for consideration should additional resources become available. Please be aware that the installation of CCTV not only requires technical feasibility but also a financial outlay for equipment and installation. At this time, expenditure on this front is under review.

While a definitive timeline or guarantee regarding future CCTV deployments cannot be provided due to the current budgetary constraints, your concern is valued and you are assured that it remains a priority to address the issues at Oscott Road with the utmost respect for all relevant regulations and rights.

However, I must emphasise the importance of residents reporting instances of illegal tipping as they occur. The approach to camera deployments, as well as other resource allocations, is data-driven.

Consequently, if these incidents are under-reported, it could impact the team's ability to allocate the appropriate resources to address the problem.

# E16

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM  
COUNCILLOR IZZY KNOWLES

**“Malcolm House”**

**Question:**

**“In June I asked a written question about Malcolm House, and you responded with a number of points.**

**It is noted that the land around Malcolm House has been deemed by a court to be HMPE (Highways maintained at public expense).**

**I would suggest no reports of fly tipping have been received because the land in question is a car park adjacent to a building, with a separate entrance. It is not obvious to the public that it forms part of the highway.**

**You responded that that this area is part of scheduled street cleansing activities in the Ward: “A Beatsweeper in the area daily, ward crew weekly and a sweeper vehicle fortnightly”.**

**I can confirm that the area in question is not being cleaned as you would suggest, neither is any action being taken about its use for the parking of untaxed and unroadworthy cars by a nearby car repair business.**

**Please can you explain why this land is not being regularly patrolled and litter picked, and confirm the council's long-term intention for this land?”**

**Answer:**

The site in question was visited on 6 September and inspected. We acknowledge the cleanliness of the site is not to the standard we would expect. We have therefore arranged for a deep clean of the area on 13 September and the responsible Assistant Service Manager will monitor the cleanliness of the site to ensure standards are maintained after this clear up.



# F1

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

## WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE ALDEN

### “PPS Away Day”

#### Question:

What was the total cost of the PPS away day in July, broken down by venue hire, food and refreshments, payments to guest speakers (inc Stephen Knight) and any other costs, and was this event approved by the Spending Control Board?

#### Answer:

Purchase Order Number	Organisation	Description	Value
BCC20210029308P	ICC Birmingham	Awayday - Room Hire	£14,000.00
BCC20210029308P	ICC Birmingham	Awayday - Catering	£7,988.40
BCC20210030337P	Think Avellana	Speaker (Dr Hazel Harrison)	£2,669.61
			£24,658.01

The Away Day took place on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023. The Finance Governance Board was not in place at the time that costs for the Away Day were approved and payments made.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND  
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID BARRIE

“Future City Plan Launch event”

**Question:**

**How much did the Council pay for the hire of Highbury Hall for the launch event of the Future City Plan?**

**Answer:**

The hire of Highbury Hall cost £3,150.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR KERRY BREWER**

**“Plaza Cars”**

**Question:**

**In each year since the start of 2018/19 how much has the council paid to Plaza Cars Birmingham?**

**Answer:**

<b>Period</b>	<b>Spend (£)</b>
Apr 2018 – Mar 2019	£ 223,643
Apr 2019 – Mar 2020	£ 679,455
Apr 2020 - Mar 2021	£ 160,679
Apr 2021 – Mar 2022	£ 176,962
Apr 2022 – Mar 2023	£ 104,806
Apr 2023 – Sep 2023	NIL

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES  
FROM COUNCILLOR MATT BENNETT**

**“Legal and Governance Away Day”**

**Question:**

**What was the total cost of the 'Be Bold, Be Curious, Be Together' away day for legal and governance services on 17 July 2023, broken down by cost type (e.g. venue hire)**

**Answer:**

Venue £3000

Equipment £250

Tea & Coffee £1,239

Total £4,489

Note that the event was held at a Council owned building, and the above costs were recharged by a Council department.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES  
FROM COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY**

**“commissioned work”**

**Question:**

**Since 2012, including year to date, please list all work commissioned from the following companies, including the total cost of that work, the purpose of the work and the outcomes achieved:**

- a) Method Consulting**
- b) 1900 Creative Ltd**
- c) Places in Common Ltd**
- d) Climate KIC**

**Answer:**

Due to the tight timescales for this request, we have unfortunately been unable to collate this information in time for the deadline. This information will be provided directly by email as soon as possible.

# F6

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

## WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR ADAM HIGGS

### “Invoices paid in time””

#### Question:

What percentage of bills were paid within 30 days for each month since April 2022, including the percentage paid within 30 days for:

- a) SMEs
- b) Care Homes
- c) Home Care Providers
- d) VCS organisations

#### Answer:

SMEs – The Council’s Oracle system does not categorise Accounts Payable information by ‘Size of Business’ and therefore this level of detail cannot be readily derived from Accounts Payable reporting.

Care Homes and Home Support - These payments feed through into Oracle from the Carefirst system and as such this level of detail cannot be derived Accounts Payable reporting. In addition, following a similar FOI request back in July it was confirmed that this level of detail is not captured within the Carefirst system.

VCS - The Council’s Oracle system does not categorise Accounts Payable information by ‘Type of Vendor’ and therefore this level of detail cannot be readily derived from Accounts Payable reporting.

# F7

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES  
FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT ALDEN

“Equal Pay Liability”

**Question:**

**As of 1 January 2023, what did the Council believe the possible range of Equal Pay liability was?**

**Answer:**

Please refer to question A11.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES  
FROM COUNCILLOR TIMOTHY HUXTABLE**

**“Equal Pay Liability budget provision”**

**Question:**

**The Budget in February 2023 included provision for £270m for equal pay settlements. What was the council basing this figure on?**

**Answer:**

Based on estimated expenditure under settlement schemes that had already been agreed and the estimated cost of settling current equal pay claims where no settlement scheme has been agreed.

Since entering their posts in May, Leader John Cotton and Deputy Leader Sharon Thompson have worked tirelessly to unearth the issues facing Birmingham City Council.

Officers were then rapidly asked to carry out detailed and fresh analysis.

Once we knew the precise scale of the liability, we made it public as soon as possible as part of our commitment to openness and transparency.



CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES  
FROM COUNCILLOR ADRIAN DELANEY**

**“KPMG Bank reconciliation work”**

**Question:**

**The contract register shows 3 separate contracts with KPMG, totalling £480k, for support with bank reconciliation backlog. One of these expires in January 2024, one in February 2024, and one in April 2024. What is the purpose of the 3 separate contracts, and given the combined total exceeds the OJEU thresholds, what procurement route was followed?**

**Answer:**

The 3 contracts were directly awarded through the PCR15 compliant route of Crown Commercial Services management consultancy framework (MCF3) and represented an urgent requirement to meet our year end audit timescales, awarded to KPMG due to the strong team they were able to provide with prior knowledge and experience of our process and technology issues.

These 3 pieces of work were to support the delivery of manual off system Bank Reconciliations required to meet our timescales for the 22/23-year end accounts production and audit. This was due to the automated functionality in to produce these reconciliations in Oracle failing. This required the development of manual processes and support of KPMG SME to expedite this work. Due to issues with the Oracle system, no bank reconciliations had been performed for the financial year 22/23, and this is an essential control required to produce accurate and meaningful accounting information, and essential to avoid qualification of our accounts by external auditors. The 3 contracts are described below;

1. The initial contracted work was to review processes and to prove them through to the completion of reconciliations up to P9 22/23. The work of this contract is completed.
2. The initial contract identified further issues with the Oracle solution, resulting in high levels of unreconciled items outstanding at the end of P9 that required detailed resolution and narrative, due to backlogs in allocating cash. The second contract was signed to extend the work from the first contract to support the development of processes to resolve these issues, and to provide support to complete outstanding actions and issues identified from the first contract. Included in this contract was work to support the completion of the reconciliations through to year end. The work of this contract is completed.
3. The work of the second contract identified further issues with the technology, resulting in errors requiring manual correction, explanation and resolution to meet our needs in delivering a fully auditable bank reconciliation for year-end audit purposes. This work has been co-dependent on ongoing data cleansing, reporting, accruals and posting challenges due to ongoing technology issues with Oracle. This third contract secured additional support to complete this work, which includes the final completion and preparation of bank reconciliations for year-end audit.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES  
FROM COUNCILLOR GARETH MOORE**

**“Spending Control Board”**

**Question:**

**Please list all spending requests that have been rejected by the Spending Control Board since it was introduced, including the amount requested and the purpose of the proposed spend.**

**Answer:**

The Spend Control Board met for the first time on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September.

The following requests were rejected:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Decision</b>
Wellbeing Programme	£26,261	Reject

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES  
FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PEARS**

**“GAUGE”**

**Question:**

**Since May 2018, how much has the Council spent on the Gauge Job Evaluation system?**

**Answer:**

The cost of the contract with Pilat, the providers of the Gauge system, is £2,495 per annum, totalling £12,475 in the period April 18 – March 23.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES  
FROM COUNCILLOR BRUCE LINES**

**“CT and NDR liability orders”**

**Question:**

**In each year since 2018, including the year to date, how many liability orders have been issued for non-payment of a) council tax and b) business rates that were subsequently found to have been incorrectly issued?**

**Answer:**

The total number of Liability orders obtained during the requested years together with the total number of Liability orders which were subsequently deleted/removed at a later date. Unfortunately the RBIS Council tax and Business Rates billing system has no capacity to record a reason code against the deletion so we are unable to identify the numbers deleted due to specific issues but can confirm the total number of Liability orders which were deleted or quashed. This is not an exhaustive list but these could be for the following reasons:-

1. Late notification to the authority of a change of address
2. Customer payments made to the wrong account
3. Retrospective awarding of benefits
4. Incorrect liable party
5. Incorrect allocation of payments
6. Retrospective awarding of discounts or exemption

Number of Liability Orders						
Tax Year	Council Tax			Business Rates		
	Obtained	Deleted	%	Obtained	Deleted	%
2018/19	71751	7291	10	4354	1218	28
2019/20	73430	7219	10	4294	949	22
2020/21	9288	2205	24	1315	717	55
2021/22	75152	4984	7	7646	1718	22
2022/23	22371	1496	7	1437	273	19
2023/24	52310	939	2	3049	61	2

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES  
FROM COUNCILLOR DARUIS SANDHU**

**“Audio-Visual Equipment Spend”**

**Question:**

**Please provide a breakdown by year of all spend on audio-visual equipment purchased since 2018, for example that used in committee rooms.**

**Answer:**

Year	Cost	
Row Labels	Sum of Total Cost	
2018	£	99,695.00
2019	£	72,000.00
2020	£	78,280.94
2021	£	2,057.91
2022	£	361,358.00
2023	£	155,789.71
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>769,181.56</b>

Exec Summary: The figures include:

1. 2018 - Ongoing Civico Solution, and AV infrastructure set up to support
2. 2019 - Ongoing Support for Civico
3. 2020 - CH Refurbishment and interim solution for remote events
4. 2021 - Covid, and Teams use
5. 2022 - New high tech webcasting solution introduced
6. 2023 - Coroners Court Hybrid Solution

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR JON HUNT**

**“Oracle”**

**Question:**

**“Please provide an update on the extra costs of the Oracle implementation process and a forecast of the total extra spend?”**

**Answer:**

Currently spend to-date on the Oracle programme is in-line with the costs reported to Cabinet in June 2023 (the table below is taken from the Oracle Implementation Cabinet Report, June 2023), which covered the Safe and Compliant and Solution Design work. As per the June 2023 Cabinet Report, the cost to deliver the Optimisation phase will be confirmed once the Solution Design work has been completed and the final delivery plan agreed. The funding required to deliver the Optimisation phase will be requested via a separate, future Cabinet Report, expected at the end of 2023.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND  
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR PENNY WAGG**

**“Oracle”**

**Question:**

**“When will Oracle be implemented and the project complete?”**

**Answer:**

In line with the above response, the timescale to deliver the Optimisation phase (and therefore to complete the project) will be confirmed as part of the final delivery plan, which will also be outlined in the future Cabinet Report, expected at the end of 2023.



**G**

**PLEASE NOTE: NO WRITTEN QUESTIONS WERE SUBMITTED TO THE  
CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE**

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNCILLOR KEN WOOD**

**“Charges for damage”**

**Question:**

**In each year since 2012, how many charges, at what total value, were made to council tenants for damage to council properties?**

**Answer:**

Individual transaction analysis is time consuming and due to the extensive transactions and current demands on the finance team will take some time to collate.

Since 2012 the total value of charges made to council tenants for damage to council properties equates to £4.762m.

The table below shows the breakdown between charges made on damage to tenanted properties (£1.294m) and charges made on damage to void properties (£3.467m)

Date Range	Account Type	Debit Raised	Adjustment	Total Due	Payment	Paid (%)
April 2012 to August 2023	REPAIRS	£267,131.67	£1,027,261.13	£1,294,392.80	£480,991.03	37.16
	REPAIRS TO VOIDS	£3,470,693.42	-£2,977.53	£3,467,715.89	£540,312.00	15.58
<b>OVERALL TOTALS</b>		<b>£3,737,825.09</b>	<b>£1,024,283.60</b>	<b>£4,762,108.69</b>	<b>£1,021,303.03</b>	<b>21.45</b>

These figures are broken down by *each year* from April 2012 until August 2023 in the table below.

Annual Periods	Account Type	Debit Raised	Adjustment	Total Due	Payment	Paid (%)
01/04/2012 to 31/03/2013	REPAIRS	£146,726.24	£0.00	£146,726.24	£35,493.31	24.19%
	REPAIRS TO VOIDS	£472,168.61	£0.00	£472,168.61	£33,253.44	7.04%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£618,894.85</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£618,894.85</b>	<b>£68,746.75</b>	<b>11.11%</b>
01/04/2013 to 31/03/2014	REPAIRS	£24,673.22	£100,351.37	£125,024.59	£31,816.62	25.45%
	REPAIRS TO VOIDS	£420,906.56	£0.00	£420,906.56	£59,407.49	14.11%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£445,579.78</b>	<b>£100,351.37</b>	<b>£545,931.15</b>	<b>£91,224.11</b>	<b>16.71%</b>
01/04/2014 to 31/03/2015	REPAIRS	£15,420.50	£64,080.76	£79,501.26	£37,341.82	46.97%
	REPAIRS TO VOIDS	£476,303.74	£298.47	£476,602.21	£87,114.67	18.28%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£491,724.24</b>	<b>£64,379.23</b>	<b>£556,103.47</b>	<b>£124,456.49</b>	<b>22.38%</b>
01/04/2015 to 31/03/2016	REPAIRS	£14,335.40	£114,109.27	£128,444.67	£35,250.93	27.44%
	REPAIRS TO VOIDS	£349,391.33	£0.00	£349,391.33	£52,632.33	15.06%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£363,726.73</b>	<b>£114,109.27</b>	<b>£477,836.00</b>	<b>£87,883.26</b>	<b>18.39%</b>
01/04/2016 to 31/03/2017	REPAIRS	£5,706.00	£83,018.76	£88,724.76	£46,162.64	52.03%
	REPAIRS TO VOIDS	£246,403.94	£0.00	£246,403.94	£59,485.63	24.14%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£252,109.94</b>	<b>£83,018.76</b>	<b>£335,128.70</b>	<b>£105,648.27</b>	<b>31.52%</b>
01/04/2017 to 31/03/2018	REPAIRS	£16,627.31	£162,199.71	£178,827.02	£39,781.09	22.25%
	REPAIRS TO VOIDS	£384,464.00	£0.00	£384,464.00	£73,360.62	19.08%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£401,091.31</b>	<b>£162,199.71</b>	<b>£563,291.02</b>	<b>£113,141.71</b>	<b>20.09%</b>
01/04/2018 to 31/03/2019	REPAIRS	£10,308.00	£130,266.32	£140,574.32	£40,514.21	28.82%
	REPAIRS TO VOIDS	£234,600.80	£0.00	£234,600.80	£33,792.73	14.40%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£244,908.80</b>	<b>£130,266.32</b>	<b>£375,175.12</b>	<b>£74,306.94</b>	<b>19.81%</b>
01/04/2019 to 31/03/2020	REPAIRS	£7,964.00	£68,080.20	£76,044.20	£65,151.72	85.68%
	REPAIRS TO VOIDS	£251,474.06	-£450.00	£251,024.06	£30,266.46	12.06%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£259,438.06</b>	<b>£67,630.20</b>	<b>£327,068.26</b>	<b>£95,418.18</b>	<b>29.17%</b>
01/04/2020 to 31/03/2021	REPAIRS	£9,120.00	£79,920.38	£89,040.38	£52,660.51	59.14%
	REPAIRS TO VOIDS	£176,722.74	-£1,708.00	£175,014.74	£36,234.11	20.70%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£185,842.74</b>	<b>£78,212.38</b>	<b>£264,055.12</b>	<b>£88,894.62</b>	<b>33.67%</b>
01/04/2021 to 31/03/2022	REPAIRS	£7,156.00	£83,846.41	£91,002.41	£46,854.68	51.49%
	REPAIRS TO VOIDS	£315,988.13	-£433.00	£315,555.13	£49,389.37	15.65%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£323,144.13</b>	<b>£83,413.41</b>	<b>£406,557.54</b>	<b>£96,244.05</b>	<b>23.67%</b>
01/04/2022 to 31/03/2023	REPAIRS	£6,647.00	£117,408.84	£124,055.84	£36,646.36	29.54%
	REPAIRS TO VOIDS	£110,801.11	-£685.00	£110,116.11	£20,008.30	18.17%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£117,448.11</b>	<b>£116,723.84</b>	<b>£234,171.95</b>	<b>£56,654.66</b>	<b>24.19%</b>
01/04/2023 to 31/08/2023	REPAIRS	£2,448.00	£23,979.11	£26,427.11	£13,317.14	50.39%
	REPAIRS TO VOIDS	£31,468.40	£0.00	£31,468.40	£5,366.85	17.05%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£33,916.40</b>	<b>£23,979.11</b>	<b>£57,895.51</b>	<b>£18,683.99</b>	<b>32.27%</b>

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT ALDEN**

**“Birmingham Housing Week”**

**Question:**

**Please provide a copy of the approval report/form submitted to the Spending Control Board for 'Birmingham Housing Week' including a breakdown of costs involved.**

**Answer:**

Birmingham Housing Week has been funded entirely through sponsorship and it is being led by Lovell – a huge social value initiative. The budget for the event is £80,000. Sponsorship is still being sought for some parts of the week, but any shortfall will be covered by Lovells.

The Council has not needed to provide funding but has acted as a strategic partner to drive forward the important messages and highlight the challenges that the housing sector faces as a whole. Therefore, there is no spending control board report required.

The event is paramount to bringing both the private and public sector together to tackle the key issues that face housing in Birmingham. The aim of the event is to create a report that informs our strategy and the sector on what the future of housing in Birmingham holds moving forwards.

Housing week event will now take place in February 2024.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNCILLOR JON HUNT**

**“Exempt properties”**

**Question:**

**“Given that the Bob Blackman MP’s private members bill covering exempt accommodation has become law, what is the likely timescale to when the council can use this legislation to improve the situation in Birmingham. What is the planned timetable for this and likely outcomes?”**

**Answer:**

The Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023 is currently in its consultation stage. The below duties in consultation to be delegated to Local Authorities in England are as follows:

- Each local authority will be required to carry out a review of supported exempt accommodation and publish a supported housing strategy for the provision of supported exempt accommodation, which sets out the current and future needs of the city. (The Council have a Supported Housing Strategy and a Housing Needs Assessment agreed at Cabinet in January 2023).
- National Supported Housing Standards - property standards and standards in respect of care, support and supervision.
- Supported Housing Licensing Regulations – a person having control of, or managing, supported exempt accommodation must obtain and comply with a licence granted by the local housing authority for the district.
- Homelessness – an intentionally homelessness decision cannot be made for a person leaving supported housing where National Standards are not met.
- Planning regulations – deferred for 3 years.

It is anticipated that The Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023 will enable Local Authorities to have better control of the standards of provision within the city as well as enable alignment of provision to the needs of the City. The current timeline for the implementation of the Act is late 2024 to early 2025 following consultation and government’s development of the detailed regulations to deliver the Act.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNCILLOR ROGER HARMER**

**“Ladywood regeneration consultation”**

**Question:**

**“How many enquiries have been received by the ladywoodregeneration@birmingham.gov.uk inbox? Please include the percentage of enquiries responded to and the average length of time for responses to be sent.”**

**Answer:**

The ‘LadywoodRegeneration’ email address was set up in July this year to provide the local community an opportunity to contact the council about the scheme. Since then, the Council has received 201 enquires. The Council has answered 92.54% of those to date and of the emails answered a response has been sent within an average of 6 working days.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNCILLOR PENNY WAGG**

**“Reliance Social Housing CIC”**

**Question:**

**“Reliance Social Housing CIC, a key provider of exempt social housing, has been put under review by the Regulator of Social Housing. Given their significance in the exempt accommodation market in Birmingham, what is the cabinet member doing to respond to this?”**

**Answer:**

The Council have a Supported Exempt Accommodation (SEA) partnership team funded by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities whose key priority is to drive up standards of provision. This partnership of multi-disciplinary officers from Community Safety, Housing, Benefits, Planning and Adult Social Care respond to concerns within the sector and have established relationships with key providers within the city as well as Reliance Social Housing CIC.

Unfortunately, Reliance Social Housing CIC as well as other large providers within Birmingham, have regulatory judgements. The Council are in conversation with the Regulator to ensure that the regulatory review of Reliance Social Housing CIC and other registered providers also consider the outcomes of the SEA multi-disciplinary team reviews undertaken.

The Council also strongly recommends that housing providers sign up to the SEA Quality Standards Accreditation scheme as the recommended standard of provision for the city. In keeping with the Overview and Scrutiny recommendations for SEA, a Preferred Provider List exists for those wishing to source non-commissioned accommodation. This list includes providers who have received a Quality Standard award and will be updated on the Council website on a regular basis.

## CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

### WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNCILLOR BABER BAZ

#### “Selective licensing update”

#### Question:

“Can you please provide ward by ward data as to what the uptake has been within the 25 Wards chosen to have Selective Licensing?”

#### Answer:

Please find below the number of Selective Licence applications received by ward, up until the 5 September 2023.

Ward	Number of Applications Received
Acocks Green	486
Alum Rock	238
Aston	327
Balsall Heath West	130
Birchfield	147
Bordesley & Highgate	1583
Bordesley Green	142
Bournbrook & Selly Park	266
Edgbaston	701
Gravelly Hill	250
Handsworth	151
Heartlands	122
Holyhead	218
Ladywood	4403
Lozells	56
North Edgbaston	835
Small Heath	178
Soho & Jewellery Quarter	2222
South Yardley	244
Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	285
Sparkhill	243
Stockland Green	636
Tyseley & Hay Mills	226
Ward End	111
Yardley West & Stechford	135



CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE,  
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND EQUALITIES FROM COUNCILLOR ROGER HARMER

**“Community Safety Partnership”**

**Question:**

**“Are there any plans to review the community safety partnership structure? If so, how is this progressing?”**

**Answer:**

The Governance and structure of the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership Board was reviewed in September 2022 and a new governance structure was agreed by the Board in December 2022. The Board are now in the process of implementing the structure including a review of membership and of the new Thematic Boards and the 6 Local Community Safety Partnerships (formerly known as Local Partnership Delivery Groups).

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT FROM  
COUNCILLOR MATT BENNETT**

**“UHB and UOB Parking Schemes**

**Question:**

**Please provide a breakdown of the total budget and spend for the planned parking schemes in Edgbaston, Harborne and Selly Oak as part of the s106 contributions from UHB and UOB to mitigate the impact of parking from these institutions on local residents. Please include the total s106 contributions due, the total paid, other funding sources allocated, the total spend so far, what this has been spent on, the budget remaining and progress with each of the proposed schemes and target completion dates.**

**Answer:**

In order to respond fully, additional time is needed to provide a detailed response to this question, which includes reviewing and checking the information available within the Council's financial systems. This process requires going back to 2017 when the project started and has challenges associated with the current system issues.

A detailed written response will be provided once this work has been concluded.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

## WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE ALDEN

### “UHB and UOB Parking Schemes consultation

#### Question:

**Please list all consultations, ward member meetings and any other public information events that have taken place since 2017 with regard to planned parking schemes in Edgbaston, Harborne and Selly Oak to mitigate the impact of parking from the hospital and university. In each case please detail the cost of the event, who was invited, and total attendance.**

#### Answer:

Stakeholder engagement was undertaken using a number of activities including BeHeard the Council’s online consultation platform, leaflet distribution to households and businesses, public drop-in events and a static display. Officers have also attended ward forums upon request.

In advance of the public consultation, officers were invited to attend the Harborne Ward Forum on 19/1/19 to discuss the proposals.

As part of the design process for the ‘Hospital and University Parking Management Measures’ the design team carried out public and stakeholder consultation. The consultation ran for a period of 4 weeks from 29 April to 26 May 2019 to enable residents to comment on the proposals.

Stakeholders also included organisations that represent the emergency services, motoring organisations (taxi & freight), public transport providers, those representing cycling and pedestrians and disability groups.

6,500 letters were distributed to local residents and businesses explaining the background to the proposals and directing consultees to the relevant BeHeard website page. This included information on locations of exhibitions and drop-in sessions that were held in publicly accessible venues in the proximity of the schemes. These events were open to all residents from any of the areas or other persons who maybe interested. The public drop-in events were held at the following locations where officers were on hand to discuss the schemes with attendees:

- Water Mill Primary School Tuesday 7 May 2pm to 6pm;
- Harborne Fitness Centre Wednesday 8 May 11am to 3pm;
- Christ Church Selly Oak Tuesday 14 May 6pm to 8:30pm;
- TouchBase Pears Wednesday 15 May 11am to 3pm;
- Martineau Gardens Friday 17 May 2pm to 6pm; and

- Edgbaston Community Centre Tuesday 21 May 2pm to 4pm.

Additionally, Harborne Library hosted a static display of hard copy drawings from 30/04/19 to 12/05/19.

A letter and overview plan were distributed to the local councillors and MPs again directing them to BeHeard for the detailed information.

The cost of the consultation was £4,855. This does not include any staff time which is not identified specifically against the consultation stage but is charged against the whole scheme. The number of attendees were not recorded at events; however, a total of 1,146 representation were received in response to the consultation.

The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 sets out the process for Highway Authorities, in this case the Council, to introduce, change or remove Traffic Regulation Orders such as those to control parking through a permit scheme.

As such, a further statutory TRO process was required that consisted of a further letter to residents effected with a copy of the formal notice on the agreed proposals and how to comment or make other representations. In addition to the letters, a notice went into the press and notices were displayed on streets effected with the same information to enable other road users to have the opportunity to comment or make other representations. Anybody making a representation at this stage is required to do so in writing setting out the reasons for their objections, emails were accepted as valid responses. The statutory consultation took place between 5 August 2021 until 13 September 2021.

The cost for advertising the TRO was £2,000.

A total of 152 responses were received to the TRO advertisement across the eight areas.

On the 31/1/22 officers were invited to attend Harborne Ward Forum held on-line to discuss the proposed parking scheme and respond to any specific queries

On the 28/3/23 an officer attended Harborne ward forum to update residents on the proposed parking scheme.

In addition to the above, £2,085 has also been spent on public information relating to the 'go live' of the first scheme in Selly Park. Again, this does not include any staff costs.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT FROM  
COUNCILLOR ROGER HARMER

**“Car Clubs”**

**Question:**

**“What data is there on the usage of car clubs in the city, how is this data documented and what data can be shared?”**

**Answer:**

CoWheels provides Car Club vehicles for hire in Birmingham, which can be parked in specific Council provided parking bays. It is understood that CoWheels currently provide eight vehicles for this purpose as shown in the bookable list here: [Birmingham | Co Wheels \(co-wheels.org.uk\)](https://www.co-wheels.org.uk/Birmingham)

The Council receives updates from CoWheels on usage and the utilisation rate of these vehicles varies significantly by location (with the detail of this being commercially sensitive), however, typically Car Club vehicles can be utilised (ie on hire) between 0-60% of the time, with operators providing vehicles according to their commercial judgement of where the demand is located.

The Council does not currently collect data regarding any other Car Club operators; however, the Council is intending to work with Transport for West Midlands on further research into the Car Club market and potential for expansion in Birmingham.

**CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT FROM  
COUNCILLOR PENNY WAGG**

**“Traffic enforcement cameras”**

**Question:**

**“How many fines have been issued so far as part of the trial – by site/  
month?”**

**Answer:**

Powers were granted to the Council in July 2023 to enable the enforcement of moving traffic contraventions by the local authority. As such, the necessary governance approvals can now be sought to develop and mobilise the trial.

Once the trial is live it will be possible to report on the number of fines issued.

**CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT FROM  
COUNCILLOR ZAKER CHOUDHRY**

**“Traffic enforcement cameras”**

**Question:**

**“What data has been collected as part of this trial to date which has not resulted in a penalty?”**

**Answer:**

Powers were granted to the Council in July 2023 to enable the enforcement of moving traffic contraventions by the local authority. As such, the necessary governance approvals can now be sought to develop and mobilise the trial.

Once the trial is live, appropriate data will be collected.

CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT FROM  
COUNCILLOR COLIN GREEN

**“Traffic enforcement cameras”**

**Question:**

**“Can we use “Brum Breathes” funding to implement these cameras in wards, and if so, from when?”**

**Answer:**

Powers were granted to the Council in July 2023 to enable the enforcement of moving traffic contraventions by the local authority.

A trial of the relevant technology is currently in development, which will inform the strategy for further roll-out. Until this trial is operational, and an evaluation has been undertaken, it would not be prudent from a risk management perspective for the Council to commit to further camera enforcement sites at the current time.

It should be noted that there are strict criteria set out in the legislation for enforcement of moving traffic contraventions. There would need to be a proven case for camera enforcement in any given location, irrespective of funding source.

The criteria for the evaluation of applications to the Brum Breathes Fund are available on the Brum Breathes website and officers are happy to provide advice individually to members should this be required.

[www.brumbreathes.co.uk/BrumBreathesFund](http://www.brumbreathes.co.uk/BrumBreathesFund)



## CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

### WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR AYOUB KHAN

#### “Bus lane fines”

Question:

“How many fines have been issued per month for each bus lane in Birmingham? Please give details that identify the bus lane and the number of fines per month issued from each camera since January 2022?”

Answer:

	2022												2023						
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Moor Street Queensway (towards The Priory Queensway)	4	1	33	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	33	28	31	39	16	47	54	52
Moor Street Queensway (south west bound slip road)	23	16	45	26	20	25	18	17	34	46	36	37	29	15	24	22	27	22	18
The Priory Queensway (north bound towards Old Square)	74	64	105	25	0	0	0	1	90	111	161	123	82	90	105	63	123	132	163
The Priory Queensway (south bound towards Masshouse Lane)	113	152	153	108	106	90	61	57	62	113	157	146	92	94	83	81	102	120	127
St Martin's Queensway (towards Moor Street Queensway)	659	647	671	657	670	607	860	726	703	765	743	758	517	538	599	450	621	611	776
The Priory Queensway (south bound towards Old Square)	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
St Martin's Queensway (towards New Street station)	21	21	19	26	10	26	26	28	13	30	20	27	14	6	28	16	17	13	14
The Priory Queensway (north bound towards Colmore Circus)	56	110	129	112	74	87	70	99	101	105	95	81	64	63	108	93	108	89	98
Longmore St Northbound	14	28	18	9	19	47	41	36	48	37	4	0	0	0	4	43	27	0	0
Horton Square Southbound	0	0	0	2	40	50	25	22	64	59	54	15	0	0	0	30	67	26	40
Sheepcote Street southbound at the canal bridge	2751	3205	3435	990	3356	3580	4123	3720	2981	3052	2768	2706	2022	1736	2341	2362	2272	2106	2843
Moor Street Queensway southbound towards Digbeth	4818	6761	6814	6613	4997	4831	4999	3916	2259	0	0	0	0	0	2948	3705	3257	2795	1545
Pershore Rd Northbound between Pebble Mill Rd and Priory Rd	109	149	177	159	155	91	96	118	185	185	143	83	0	97	16	0	0	59	153
Pershore Rd Northbound near Speedwell Rd	40	22	28	39	28	50	28	38	36	50	72	19	38	25	30	41	77	52	52
Bordesley Green East inbound towards Hospital entrance	488	171	279	73	42	293	237	190	302	309	347	309	172	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bordesley Green East outbound at Eastfield Road	207	209	259	232	291	256	204	180	72	194	242	203	181	148	208	139	315	284	232
Bordesley Green East inbound at Little Bromwich Road	43	55	40	26	17	46	24	39	36	20	34	29	30	32	42	36	33	44	0
Bordesley Green East outbound from Station Road	237	299	320	260	287	296	265	204	265	267	296	197	199	25	198	220	250	274	234
Corporation Street towards Lancaster Circus (inbound)	56	92	134	96	84	77	49	12	98	116	196	152	83	58	98	55	59	57	59
Lichfield Road at Rocky Lane (inbound)	33	46	67	48	60	42	48	55	69	92	81	46	20	39	6	61	68	70	52
Lichfield Road at Grosvenor Road (outbound)	108	186	161	83	105	89	63	12	28	148	109	65	76	62	101	86	115	94	60
Lichfield Road towards Salford Circus (outbound)	97	159	175	131	180	113	92	81	56	108	99	53	77	62	71	96	88	88	63
Tyburn Road towards Kingsbury Road (inbound)	53	38	38	63	62	50	58	64	55	59	75	35	48	53	46	47	67	73	46
Tyburn Road towards Bagot Arms (outbound)	52	62	30	0	77	57	0	0	48	53	75	43	27	23	44	52	61	88	48

**CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR BABER BAZ**

**“Parking enforcement tickets”**

**Question:**

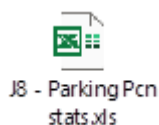
**“How many parking enforcement tickets have been issued by ward/ month since January 2022?”**

**Answer:**

260,507 Parking Penalty Charge Notices have been issued January 2022 to July 2023 and the monthly totals are shown below. The data is not held by ward, however, the attached spreadsheet shows the number of Penalty Charge Notices issued for each location listed in alphabetical order.

It should also be noted that some locations have less parking restrictions than others eg some only have corner restrictions.

	2022												2023						
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Parking Pcns	10,546	10,533	10,506	11,538	11,873	12,209	14,538	14,160	14,008	16,011	16,769	15,251	13,964	13,947	14,382	15,718	16,659	14,865	13,030



CITY COUNCIL – 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT FROM  
COUNCILLOR JON HUNT

**“Glyphosate usage”**

**Question:**

**“In response to public campaigns relating to the use of glyphosate, what steps are being taken to ensure that weedkiller use is limited, in particular that it is not being sprayed on grass verges?”**

**Answer:**

With regard to our Highways operations, the use of herbicides in controlling weeds is limited to treatment of weeds within the hard surfaces of the highway network only. Specifically, this is the spot treatment of weeds growing in or on the surfaced highway network and not treatment of the network regardless of weeds.

We are currently using Glyphosate as this is the most effective and economical solution available and approved for controlling weeds on hard surfaces. It is also the specified herbicide in the Interim Services Contract (ISC).

Nonetheless, we have been working to try and significantly reduce the amount of glyphosate used whilst assessing alternative products without success to date in order to maintain an effective service to residents.



**EXTRAORDINARY MEETING  
OF BIRMINGHAM CITY  
COUNCIL  
25 SEPTEMBER 2023**



**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF BIRMINGHAM CITY  
COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 1800 HOURS IN  
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

**PRESENT:-** Lord Mayor (Councillor Chaman Lal) in the Chair.

**Councillors**

Deirdre Alden	Ray Goodwin	Bruce Lines
Robert Alden	Rob Grant	Mary Locke
Alex Aitken	Fred Grindrod	Ewan Mackey
Raqib Aziz	Colin Green	Basharat Mahmood
David Barrie	Roger Harmer	Majid Mahmood
Shabina Bano	Deborah Harries	Rashad Mahmood
Baber Baz	Kath Hartley	Lee Marsham
Matt Bennett	Adam Higgs	Karen McCarthy
Jilly Bermingham	Jon Hunt	Saddak Miah
Marcus Bernasconi	Mahmood Hussain	Shehla Moledina
Bushra Bi	Mumtaz Hussain	Yvonne Mosquito
Sir Albert Bore	Shabrina Hussain	Rick Payne
Nicky Brennan	Timothy Huxtable	Miranda Perks
Kerry Brewer	Mohammed Idrees	Rob Pocock
Marje Bridle	Zafar Iqbal	Julien Pritchard
Martin Brooks	Katherine Iroh	Darius Sandhu
Mick Brown	Ziaul Islam	Kath Scott
Zaker Choudhry	Morriam Jan	Shafique Shah
Debbie Clancy	Kerry Jenkins	Rinkal Shergill
Liz Clements	Meirion Jenkins	Sybil Spence
Maureen Cornish	Brigid Jones	Jamie Tennant
John Cotton	Jane Jones	Sharon Thompson
Philip Davis	Amir Khan	Paul Tilsley
Jack Deakin	Ayoub Khan	Lisa Trickett
Barbara Dring	Mariam Khan	Penny Wagg
Sam Forsyth	Saqib Khan	Ken Wood
Jayne Francis	Izzy Knowles	Alex Yip
	Kirsten Kurt-Elli	Waseem Zaffar

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**NOTICE OF RECORDING**

- 179 The Lord Mayor advised that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcasting via the Council's internet site and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.
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**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 180 The Lord Mayor reminded Members that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests arising from any business to be discussed at this meeting. If a disclosable pecuniary interest was declared a Member must not speak or take part in that agenda item. Any declarations would be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

The Lord Mayor advised that he had declared his interest on the declaration of interest register.

Councillor Paul Tilsley declared his non-pecuniary interest as an executive director and Council representative on the Airport Board.

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**RESPONSE TO SECTION 114 NOTICE – FINANCIAL RECOVERY PLAN**

The Lord Mayor addressed the Council and advised that the purpose of this meeting was for Members to consider the response for the Section 114 Notice published on the 5 September 2023. He added that this meeting had been held in accordance with the Section 114 Sub-section 3 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 which stated that the Section 114 Notice must be considered by a meeting of the Council within 21 days of the report being issued. It was a further requirement that the Council must decide whether it agreed or disagreed with the views contained within the report and what action, if any, it proposed to take as a consequence of it.

The Lord Mayor moved the Motion that the Standing Orders be suspended to allow the Section 151 Officer and the Chief Executive to directly address the Council. Council agreed the Motion.

The Section 151 Officer was then invited to present the report and the Chief Executive was then invited to give a response.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor John Cotton gave his response to the Section 114 Notice – Financial Recovery Plan, which included the following comments:

## **City Council – 25 September 2023 – Extraordinary Meeting**

The Leader of the Council was committed to working alongside Members, officers, and Commissioners to overcome the current challenges.

When Councillor Cotton became Leader at the end of May, the scale of the financial challenges facing the Council were becoming clearer - the growing costs of stabilising and fixing Oracle and the speculation over the possible extent of additional Equal Pay liabilities, where some widely varying and unquantified figures had been circulating.

The Leader had taken immediate steps, together with the Chief Executive, to ensure that a full and urgent review of the Council's financial position was undertaken.

Given the gravity of these matters, the Leader had made it clear that there must be accountability. The Leader was pleased that the Secretary of State had recognised the importance of such independent oversight, with his announcement of a local enquiry. This matched the Leader's commitment to transparency.

The Leader was concerned that there was a lack of senior capacity at the Council to deal with these issues, and this was the reason he had asked Michael Gove and the Local Government Association to help rebuild that capacity and support the Council to get the budget back on track.

The Leader welcomed last week's intervention announcement and would now work with DLUHC, the Local Government Association and the Commissioners to get the council back on a sound financial footing.

The collective task now was to transform the Council and to deliver services for the city.

Even though his work as a Commissioner would not formally start until after the consultation period, the Leader had already reached out to Max Caller to assure him that our approach to the vital work ahead will be constructive, collaborative, and decisive.

It was clear that we must work collaboratively and in partnership with Max Caller and his fellow Commissioners.

The external auditor had requested that a decision on Job Evaluation be made no later than Friday 29 September and so the Leader had sought clarity on the status of the Commissioners and the involvement of them in this decision given its implications for the Council.

When it became clear that the Council was still formally in a consultation period ahead of the appointment of Commissioners, the Leader took the decision to schedule the Council Business Management Committee meeting for Thursday 28 September.

## **City Council – 25 September 2023 – Extraordinary Meeting**

The Leader was extremely disappointed that this plan to make a decision before the auditor's deadline prompted an additional Section 114 Notice and 5 Notice, which meant that only a further Extraordinary Meeting of the Council could now take a decision on this matter.

This was a frustrating delay because the Council must act decisively to close off the long-standing equal pay liability once and for all.

The Council had to do the right thing and ensure people were paid equally and fairly. The Council needed to ensure that staff were paid properly and fairly for the work they did. Gender pay injustice needed to end once and for all.

There was no quick fix or overnight solution, and the road ahead would be extremely challenging, but the Leader was determined to make the tough decisions needed to transform the Council, restore financial sustainability, and deliver the services that the people of Birmingham deserved.

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The Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor Robert Alden gave his response to the Section 114 Notice – Financial Recovery Plan including the following comments:

This was a sad day for the city. It was tragic to be discussing this section 114 report. Since this report was published, another Section 114 report and a Section 5 report had now been published.

We had seen a shameful amount of inaction from the Labour Administration across the summer and there was a known issue of equal pay but a refusal to take any decision to remove that liability. We should also be clear why we met here tonight that this was a Council issue. The City of Birmingham had a bright future ahead.

The City of Birmingham was full of amazing people and the city would rise like a phoenix from the ashes, just like New York rose from the bankruptcy they faced in the 1970's.

It was important to understand why we were here.

Quoting from section 1.1 of the report, Councillor Robert Alden stated that we would all like to see more resources from the Government.

We had written cross-party, requesting additional money and that had secured an increase in the Council's budget. The report could not be clearer as to the causes for this Section 114 Notice and that was a failure from the Labour administration to resolve equal pay.

We heard the instruction from the officers' concerns and the speed of effectiveness of the administration's actions to balance the budget.

Accounts had not been signed off for three years. The Chief Executive highlighted the urgent position the Council was in and the need to act now. She had also highlighted that the Council had not yet asked for



## **City Council – 25 September 2023 – Extraordinary Meeting**

financial help and that was the reason the government had not yet announced what the financial help to the city would be.

The Birmingham Mail had talked about the bin strike deal being an issue. Looking back at the 2017 public report, we could see that Councillor John Cotton was consulted as the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Chair back in 2017.

Turning to the Corporate Risk Register, a public document (on the 27 March 2018), the current level of risk of equal pay to the Council was raised to significant. The recent industrial action in waste management had increased the profile of equal pay.

In December 2018 an equal pay strategy update was taken through Cabinet. It was called in by the Conservative Group because we thought there was a substantial lack of clarity, material inaccuracy and insufficient information. It was the view of the Group at that time, that the decision gave rise to significant legal, financial and propriety issues and it was not in accordance with Council procedures.

Labour Members voted against that call in when it went to Scrutiny and the only people who voted against it were the five Labour Members on that Committee, but the warning was raised by the opposition.

The 2018/2019 statutory accounts from Grant Thornton stated that key risks had emerged as follows: equal pay remained a significant financial risk. The recommendations stated that the Council was recommended to keep under close review the potential impacts of one-off budget risks such as the Commonwealth Games, equal pay and Amey. We were told very clearly by the auditors that the Cabinet should be keeping a close eye on it.

The Birmingham Independent Improvement Panel report of 2019 stated in paragraph 3.11 that the financial risks included demographic pressures, capital project overruns, major contract disputes, potential change to the business rates regime, Commonwealth Games and equal pay.

The Corporate Risk Register of the 16 December 2019, risk No. 1 on page 23 Management of Equal Pay Claims - inherent risk to the Council severe; residual risk material under prioritisation. Risk No. 8 – spoke of the need to dismiss and re-engage to end any ongoing payment for equal pay liability – this was marked as Red rating. Risk No. 6 - monitoring working practises and waste management – identify and address any further equal pay risks.

The Equal Pay Update report to Full City Council in December 2020, the public report paragraph 7.3.1 under financial implications stated that a further estimate of the liability of £153m in respect of unsettled equal pay claims brought under the Equalities Act was identified at the 31 March 2019. Cabinet was told there was a residual risk all the way back from 2019 in a Cabinet update report in 2020. The Job Evaluation Grading Report in April 2022 stated in the Executive Summary

## **City Council – 25 September 2023 – Extraordinary Meeting**

paragraph 1.2: *in 2018 BCC and the recognised trade unions agreed to review the seven-grade pay structure, viewed as being an accessible structure.*

We were told since 2018 that the Cabinet had been in discussions with unions about the pay structure in this city. Paragraph 1.3 of that report stated that it was expected that implementing a robust pay structure would mitigate future equal pay risk. We were also told in a Cabinet report in 2022 that a new scheme to mitigate against equal pay risks needed to be introduced. Paragraph 3.17.4 of that report stated: *creates further risk of uncertainty in relation to potential equal pay claims due to incomplete processes and old evaluations with further financial liability.*

This administration failed to complete a job evaluation scheme leaving the city at further risk of equal pay claims.

The BBC website, August 2022 stated that Birmingham City Council workers balloted over equal pay delays. Staff were balloted in this organisation, yet the Cabinet claimed they did not know there was an equal pay risk. The BBC website further stated: *The Council said it had been liaising with union members since November and had agreed a new evaluation approach and that the union stated that there could be a wave of fresh claims after significant new information emerged about how the Council evaluated roles.*

An employment tribunal revealed key roles may have been evaluated incorrectly in terms of parity.

The July meeting of 2023 – Permanent Pay Equality Short form report paragraph 2.8.2: *- it must be carried out in the shortest possible timescale, given the size of potential liability.* Paragraph 2.9 stated: *that new terms and conditions are implemented with all speed.*

The reality was this Labour administration knew all about equal pay risk. The opposition has warned them for years and years. Officers have warned them, unions warned them, the press has covered it, auditors have highlighted it. The improvement panel, when they were last here, warned you about it. And yet this Labour administration took no action. And since they announced this figure in July, still no action has been taken.

The opposition would work across this Council and with Commissioners to do all we can to push the Council to finally act, to work to protect the residents as best we can from the negative impacts of this administration and to limit the damage of Labour's equal pay crisis.

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The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, Councillor Roger Harmer gave his response to the Section 114 Notice – Financial Recovery Plan including the following comments:

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That these past few months had been the most tumultuous, the most staggering and the most bizarre he had experienced since he joined the Council in 1995.

That he had seen some challenges through his time but this year we had crisis after crisis after crisis and the impact on our residents would be devastating. All of us on crossbenches had been frustrated by the lack of accountability by Birmingham Labour but specifically with the Cabinet.

There were some Labour backbenchers who had the grace to be embarrassed privately at least, but the leadership have wasted no time in blaming everyone else which was ironic as they wasted so much time failing to fix the problem that caused these crisis.

Last week's Section 114 and Section 5 Notices were unequivocal, but we were still not tackling the issues with the urgency it requires. Councillor Harmer welcomed the fact that there would be an enquiry and we would hopefully get to the bottom of what has gone wrong and who was to be blamed.

It was hoped the Labour leadership of this Council would finally treat this as a watershed moment. We literally cannot afford to get into any similar disasters in the future. Change was needed and it begins with some introspection.

The Kerslake report in 2014 stated that the Council lacked a clear vision and that it failed to tackle deep rooted problems such as the low level of skills and had a culture of sweeping problems under the carpet.

The equal pay issue bore evidence of this. Nine years on, little had changed and the appointment of Max Caller, Lead Commissioner was welcomed and that he had written to Max Caller suggesting five clear lines of inquiry.

Firstly, the equal pay problem was most urgent. We needed to stop the bleed by completing a comprehensive job evaluation exercise. While this was being done we endured a rise of equal pay claims of up to £300 per minute. In this context we have already spent nearly three months - £50m – trying and failing to agree a methodology for this exercise. This was utterly disgraceful. It looked ridiculous to the public that we wasted that time and then it would take another 18 months to complete the exercise. After all, it was not the first time that local authorities were evaluating the roles of their employees. We must do everything possible to minimise the time this takes. We also needed to get urgent answers as to how this happened in the first place.

It had been mentioned that in the context of the budget this year and this needed to be highlighted that by the time the budget was set, it had been highlighted that we were facing claims of between £300m - £800m. Councillor Harmer questioned why action had not been taken then; why a 0% risk was placed on those equal pay claims in the budget; and, if that was the genuine

## **City Council – 25 September 2023 – Extraordinary Meeting**

view then, why the Leader had spent his time and effort over the summer getting into the root of the problem.

If the challenge had at least been faced up to at the time of the budget setting some months ago, we could have cut the spend of the total bill and started dealing with it earlier. Perhaps we could even have kept control of the process ourselves.

Secondly, the Oracle situation. Who blundered and who knew when the blunder was being made as it needed careful examination in addition to the technical work which was needed to ensure that our finances were in order and that the Council were both receiving and paying out what it should.

Councillor Harmer questioned why the Cabinet report in 2019 setting out how Oracle needed to be implemented was not adhered to and that this highlighted a major concern about governance in this Council. We were asking for it months earlier in the year and we were given assurances that all would be fine. Then the bombshell was dropped that it was costing us up to £100m (over five times the original figure).

The third line of enquiry was the governance of this city. We would soon have the report of the CFGS on our structure and our processes with a final report by the end of October. How that would fit in the work of the Commissioners was a key issue. Whilst recent events showed that once again the Kerslake review accurately identified the problems that a lot of the city faced, the solution that was posed to rectify those problems were fundamentally flawed and have clearly failed.

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The Leader of the Green Group, Councillor Julien Pritchard gave his response to the Section 114 Notice – Financial Recovery Plan including the following comments:

This was a real crisis for this Council and this city. We were happy to admit that cuts and austerity from government and less funding was available was indeed a factor. Although aside considering the Labour Leader nationally had not promised a reinstatement of any of that funding. Councillor Pritchard was not entirely convinced there would be a white knight coming over the horizon any time soon.

As well as the issue of funding nationally, and the massive reductions, it was also true that it was mismanagement locally as well. That had caused these issues. No matter how good your funding was, you were not going to have £760m ready and waiting in case you had an equal pay liability.

The only way to sort this out was to ensure it did not happen like that in the first place. One could be dealt an awful hand, but you could play it well. There were Councils across the country of various political views that have played the awful hand that has been dealt to them well and

## **City Council – 25 September 2023 – Extraordinary Meeting**

better than Birmingham. This Labour Administration have played its awful hand terribly.

Although we had massive cuts from the Government, but also that there was local problems and local mismanagement of the crisis, residents were now facing a double whammy of Tories austerity and cuts to local government and Labour mismanagement on this issue to make it even worse.

Birmingham residents and ordinary Council workers did not cause this crisis, but they were the ones who potentially would have to pay for it. It was not fair, and it was not just. Part of the escalation of this crisis in his view, was the centralization of decision making and information.

As well as devolution geographically, within the Council one other solution could be a Council model that made decisions differently.

One that involved more Councilors in decision making and supplying that information about what was going on in this Council. Using the talents across the Chamber instead of concentrating power in a select small number of Councillors.

Maybe in the long term a solution as to how we ran the Council would be using a committee system and a lot would be said for that as opposed to the current model. What we faced in the short term was probably less democracy not more and he for one was worried about the Commissioners coming in.

Unlike the Leader, he found it hard to see the positive in that announcement. Previous government interventions in Birmingham such as the Kerlake review failed to solve the Council's problems. The question was how we could be sure that this would be any different. It was not clear how government appointed commissioners would be held to account and would be any different as they were only accountable to the Conservative Minister.

It was important that the solution to this crisis was not massive cuts to valuable local services that the residents relied on, and we did not see a fire sale of our public assets in this city.

Communities could not have the heart ripped out of them by more cuts. His concern with the financial recovery plan as it was now, was that we did not have the details in there about where those cuts would fall and how services will be adjusted. We needed to protect the services that were most important to our residents whatever emergency and future budgets that were produced.

The following Councillors also spoke during the debate:

Majid Mahmood  
Deirdre Alden  
Miranda Perks

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Paul Tilsley  
Sam Forsyth  
Gareth Moore  
Waseem Zaffar  
Izzy Knowles  
Alex Yip  
Lisa Trickett  
Jon Hunt  
Marj Bridle  
Matt Bennett  
Mariam Jan  
Sir Albert Bore  
Ewan Mackey  
Lee Marsham  
Ayoub Khan  
David Barker  
Adam Higgs  
Liz Clements  
David Pears  
Sharon Thompson  
Richard Parkin  
Marcus Bernasconi  
Robert Pocock

The vote on recommendation 1 was named vote.

Here upon a poll being demanded the voting was as follows:-

**For Recommendation 1 (90)**

Mary Locke	Ray Goodwin	Alex Aitken
Sam Forsyth	Miranda Perks	Matt Bennett
Jack Deakin	Jamie Tennant	Kirsten Kurt-Elli
Brigid Jones	Jayne Francis	Karen McCarthy
Sharon Thompson	John Cotton	Nicky Brennan
Majid Mahmood	Mariam Khan	Liz Clements
Ziaul Islam	Shafique Shah	Rinkal Shergill
Saqib Khan	Saddak Miah	Zafar Iqbal
Paul Tilsley	Colin Green	Mumtaz Hussain
Deborah Harries	Gareth Moore	Rick Payne
Deirdre Alden	Robert Alden	Ewan Mackey
David Pears	Alex Yip	Richard Parkin
Meirion Jenkins	David Barrie	Ken Wood
Ayoub Khan	Roger Harmer	Morriam Jan
Yvonne Mosquito	Lisa Trickett	Kerry Jenkins
Brigid Jones	Basharat Mahmood	Amar Khan
Rashad Mahmood	Shehla Moledina	Shabrana Hussain
Saima Ahmed	Mohammed Idrees	Diane Donaldson
Phil Davis	Katherine Iroh	Waseem Zaffar
Sybil Spence	Lauren Rainbow	David Barker
Marje Bridle	Jilly Berminhgham	Mahmood Hussain

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Barbara Dring	Fred Grindrod	Shabina Bano
Lee Marsham	Mick Brown	Baber Baz
Jon Hunt	Izzy Knowles	Penny Wagg
Zaker Choudhry	Adam Higgs	Ron Storer
Debbie Clancy	Darius Sandhu	Timothy Huxtable
Kerry Brewer	Bruce Lines	Julien Pritchard
Rob Grant	Raqib Aziz	Marcus Bernasconi
Kath Hartley	Martin Brooks	Sir Albert Bore
Bushra Bi	Kath Scott	Rob Pocock

**Against Recommendation 1 (0)**

**Abstentions (0)**

Upon the completion of the voting process, the Lord Mayor declared that the Recommendation 1 was carried.

It was therefore-

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**RESOLVED:-**

- 1.) The vote on recommendation 1 was carried.
- 2.) By a show of hands, the votes on recommendations 2 and 3 was carried
- 3.) Full Council:
  - (i) Agreed to accept the Section 114 notice issued on 5 September 2023 and the views set out within it, as described in section A and Appendix 1.
  - (ii) Agreed to continue Spending Control measures under the direction of the Section 151 Officer until such date as the Council has passed an approved balanced Budget for 2024/25, as described in section B and Appendix 2.
  - (iii) Endorsed the following activity now underway as part of our Financial Recovery Plan and described in section C:
    - a. Measures to reduce spending and mitigate budget pressures for 2023/24, leading to a revised Emergency Budget for 2023/24.
    - b. Organisational Redesign work to reshape our services around citizens and within our available resources, to inform the 2024/25 Budget and deliver a balanced MTFP.

## **City Council – 25 September 2023 – Extraordinary Meeting**

- c. A Capital Strategy and Assets Review to identify options to raise funds and minimise borrowing costs.
  - d. A review of council-controlled companies and traded services to identify options to raise funds, reduce costs and reduce risk.
  - e. An Income Review to maximise sustainable income from all sources, including Business Rates, Council Tax, Grants and other income.
  - f. Measures to achieve pay equity and stop the growth of our equal pay liability, including work to reduce the value of the potential liability and fund the actual liability.
  - g. Formal dialogue with DLUHC to explore options for Exceptional Financial Support, including potential capitalisation of revenue liabilities.
- (iv) Agreed to receive a further report and revised Emergency Budget for 2023/24 at an Extraordinary Council Meeting in late October; to note equalities considerations; to involve Overview & Scrutiny Committees; and to undertake public consultation and engagement as described below in section D.

The meeting ended at 2149 hours.



# Birmingham City Council

## City Council

7 November 2023



**Subject:** Lead Member Report: West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

**Report of:** Cllr Sam Foster

**Report author:** Sarah Fradgley, Overview and Scrutiny Manager  
[wmpcp@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:wmpcp@birmingham.gov.uk)  
0121 303 1727

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential:

Not Relevant

### 1 Executive Summary

1.1 This report provides a summary of the key activities of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel (“the Panel) in 2023 in its scrutiny of the Police and Crime Commissioner (“the Commissioner).

### 2 Recommendation(s)

2.1 That the report be noted.

### 3 Background

3.1 The Panel is a joint scrutiny body of the West Midland authorities with a dual role to ‘support and challenge’ the work of the Commissioner. Appendix A outlines the Panel’s statutory functions.

3.2 The Panel consists of 12 councillors representing the seven West Midland districts and three independent members. Councillor membership reflects the political balance of the region. Member appointments are updated annually.

3.3 The Panel’s work programme consists of statutory tasks and wider exploratory work. Examining key strategic policing, crime and community safety topics of public

interest enables members to scrutinise the Commissioner on behalf of West Midlands communities.

- 3.4 Appendix 1 provides further information on key activities and developments during 2023.

## **4 Options considered and Recommended Proposal**

- 4.1 There are no options to be considered.

## **5 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 A Police and Crime Panel must be maintained to carry out scrutiny functions and responsibilities as set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. The Panel membership must represent all the districts and reflect the political composition of the region.

## **6 Financial Implications**

- 6.1 There are no financial implications as a result of this report. The Panel continues to operate within the limits of the Home Office Grant.

## **7 Public Sector Equality Duty**

- 7.1 This Police and Crime Panel is a joint committee of West Midlands Local Authorities. Therefore, it has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:

7.1.1 Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.

7.1.2 Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

7.1.3 Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

- 7.2 The Panel considers these duties during work programme development, the scoping of work, evidence gathering and making recommendations. Including how policy issues impact on different groups within the community, particularly those that share a relevant protected characteristic; whether impact on particular groups is fair and proportionate; whether there is equality of access to services and fair representation of all groups within the West Midlands; and whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people are being realised.

## **8 Other Implications**

- 8.1 **How are the recommended decisions consistent with the City Council's priorities, plans and strategies?**

8.2 There are no recommended decisions within this report.

8.3 The Panel contributes towards the city's priorities and outcomes: A Safe Birmingham and in particular supporting its focus on making the city safer and safeguarding vulnerable citizens.

## **9 Background Papers**

9.1 [West Midlands Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025](#)

## **10 Appendices**

10.1 Appendix A – West Midlands Police and Crime Panel Key Activities 2023

## **Appendix A**

### **West Midlands Police and Crime Panel Key Activities 2023**

#### **1 Role of the Police and Crime Panel (“the Panel”)**

- 1.1 The Panel is a joint scrutiny body of the West Midland authorities with a dual role to ‘support and challenge’ the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner (“the Commissioner”).
- 1.2 The Panel acts as a critical friend to the Commissioner on behalf of West Midlands residents and must perform the following statutory functions:
  - Review and comment on the Commissioner’s draft Police and Crime Plan.
  - Review the Commissioner's Annual Reports.
  - Scrutinise decisions and actions by the Commissioner in discharging his/her functions.
  - Review (with the power to veto) the Commissioner's proposed Council Tax precept.
  - Hold confirmation hearings before the Commissioner makes certain senior appointments (Chief Constable, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer), with the power to veto the Chief Constable appointment.
  - Handle non-criminal complaints about the conduct of the Commissioner and Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, referring serious complaints to the Independent Office for Police Conduct.
  - Appoint an acting Commissioner if required.
  - Suspend the Commissioner if charged.

#### **2 Panel Membership**

- 2.1 The Panel consists of 12 councillors representing the seven West Midland districts and three independent members. Councillor membership reflects the political balance of the region, and appointments are made annually.
- 2.2 Birmingham is represented on the Panel by Cllr Sam Foster, Cllr Shabina Bano Scott and Cllr Gareth Moore. Cllr Ray Goodwin, Cllr Raqeeb Aziz and Cllr David Barrie are named substitutes.
- 2.3 The Panel elected Councillor Jasbir Jaspal (City of Wolverhampton) as Chair and Kristina Murphy (Independent Co-opted Member) as Vice Chair for the 2023/2024 Municipal Year.

### 3 Panel's Work Programme

- 3.1 The Panel's work programme consists of its statutory tasks (referred to in paragraph 1.2) and wider exploratory work. This specifically supports the Panel to scrutinise the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan and the discharge of his/her functions.
- 3.2 The Commissioner attends every Panel meeting to respond to questions and provides updates on recent activities. The Panel may also invite the Chief Constable to attend to answer any questions which appear to the Panel to be necessary to carry out its functions. The Panel could also invite other persons (residents, stakeholders, councillors, officers from other parts of the public sector) to discuss issues of local concern and/or answer questions.
- 3.3 Meetings papers, meeting dates, published reports, together with more information about the Panel can be found on the [Panel's website: www.westmidlandspcp.org.uk](http://www.westmidlandspcp.org.uk). All Panel meetings are live streamed.

### 4 Key Activity in 2023

- 4.1 Following the annual appointment process of councillor panel members, **induction training** was held for all members and named substitute members. The session examined the role and responsibilities of the Commissioner and the Panel, how the Panel might develop an effective work programme, and the scrutiny of performance information published by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 4.2 In July 2023, the Panel conducted a **Confirmation Hearing** for the new Chief Finance Officer for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. The Panel has a key role in the appointment process of senior positions and must hold a public hearing to question the preferred candidate to assess their suitability. The Panel recommended the Commissioner appoint his preferred candidate.
- 4.3 In September 2023, in response to increasing concerns about road safety across the region, the Panel chose to examine the delivery of **Police and Crime Plan objectives to improve road safety**. Questions from panel members sought assurance from the Commissioner on the outcomes of his partnership work with Local Authorities, and how he was holding the Chief Constable to account on action undertaken by West Midlands Police. The Panel called for better communication with local communities and councillors about the range of initiatives. The Panel also pledged its support to the Commissioner's campaign seeking to retain speeding fix penalty fines locally to be invested in new road safety projects.
- 4.4 The Panel also welcomed a **public question** at the meeting about the scrutiny of the Police and Crime Plan objective to maintain **PCSOs numbers** and efforts to maintain the wellbeing of PSCO where capacity was stretched.

- 4.5 Anyone who lives, works or studies in the West Midlands can ask a question relating to the Panel's role in scrutinising the Commissioner, questions should be submitted in writing to the Panel Officer. More details can be found on the [West Midlands Police and Crime Panel getting involved webpage](#).
- 4.6 Panel members have continued to undertake **training** to support them in their role and improving core knowledge on policing functions, In September 2023, a group of members visited Lloyd House Police Head Quarters where the Chief Constable outlined the **new police operational model** and responded to questions. Members also received briefings on performance monitoring and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner work on **tackling Drug Harm**. This was followed by a tour of the **WMP Force Contact Centre**.

## 5 Forward Plan

- 5.1 The Commissioner will be presenting his **Annual Report 2022/23** to the Panel on 13 November 2023 and the Panel will examine the progress made towards the Police and Crime Plan objectives.
- 5.2 The Panel continues its focus on Public Confidence in Policing by examining the Commissioner's **Fairness and Belonging Strategy**, a joint initiative with West Midlands Police for diversity and inclusion seeking to build police legitimacy with fair, proportionate, transparent and accountable services, improved engagement with communities, and recruitment and progression of a more representative force.
- 5.3 Panel members will examine the **Commissioner's budget proposals** between November 2023 and January 2024, before reviewing the proposed **2024 Policing Precept** in February.

### Panel Lead Officer:

Kevin O'Keefe – Chief Executive, Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

### Panel Contact Officers:

Sarah Fradgley – Overview and Scrutiny Manager, Birmingham City Council  
wmpcp@birmingham.gov.uk Tel: 0121 303 1727

# Birmingham City Council

## City Council

7 November 2023



**Subject:** Lead Member Report: West Midlands Combined Authority Transport Delivery Committee

**Report of:** Cllr Mary Locke, Lead Member

**Report Author:** Richard Mayes, Bus Network and Performance Manager & Stephen Holloway, Partnership Coordinator (Transport for West Midlands)

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Transport Delivery Committee (TDC) was one of the thematic Boards/Committees under the formal WMCA Board until the end of the 2022-23 municipal year, and this report covers that period of time.
- 1.2 TDC provided political oversight and engagement on strategic transport priorities of the WMCA and its transport delivery arm, Transport for West Midlands (TfWM). This included monitoring and challenging the delivery of TfWM capital programmes. The committee also had oversight of the operational activities of the WM Transport Authority and received regular updates and reports across the various portfolios. Members actively participated in liaison with partners, including bus, rail and Metro operators, and with passengers' and interest groups.
- 1.3 Councillor Mary Locke (Labour, Birmingham) was the BCC Lead Member for 2022-2023 municipal year. Councillor Richard Worrall (Labour, Walsall) became Chair of the WMCA TDC for the 2022-2023 municipal year, with Councillor Timothy Huxtable (Conservative, Birmingham) continuing as TDC Vice-chair and Councillor Mary Locke (Labour, Birmingham) joining as TDC Vice-chair.
- 1.4 All seven constituent authorities were represented on a population and political basis. Birmingham City Council was represented by the following councillors whose role has centred on ensuring that Birmingham achieves our deserved share of transport investment and network improvements as the West Midlands'

largest and most strategic District and the centre of the region's travel-to-work area.

1.5 The BCC representatives in 2022-23 were:

- Councillor Mary Locke (Labour) BCC Lead Member
- Councillor Shabrana Hussain (Labour)
- Councillor Narinder Kaur Kooner OBE (Labour)
- Councillor Saddock Miah (Labour)
- Councillor Timothy Huxtable (Conservative)
- Councillor Robert Alden (Conservative)
- Councillor Zaker Choudhry (Liberal Democrat)

1.6 At its meeting on 9 June 2023, the WMCA Board agreed revised transport governance arrangements for the forthcoming year. These new arrangements included the amalgamation of the former TDC and Transport Scrutiny Sub Committee into the new Transport Delivery Overview & Scrutiny Committee (TDOSC).

## **2 Recommendation(s)**

2.1 That the report be noted.

## **3 Background**

3.1 I am pleased to provide this Annual Report as Birmingham's Lead Member on the WMCA Transport Delivery Committee for 2022/2023 at the end of another very challenging year for the public and for everybody involved in the delivery of public transport services.

3.2 I would like to thank the TDC members for their work through 2022-2023 municipal year and I extend my thanks to those that have left committee. I would like to give special thanks to Cllr Richard Worrall, Chair of the TDC, who stood down from the role, coinciding with the change in structure.

3.3 I thank those members who are continuing to serve as part of the revised Transport Delivery Overview & Scrutiny Committee (TDOSC), and I welcome those new members to this committee and Member Engagement Groups as they join me in carrying out our responsibilities to ensure that Birmingham, has its fair share of the Transport budget, capital schemes and operational attention, and that projects and activities that impact upon our city are delivered.

3.4 The year has been challenging once again, with patronage still not returning to pre-pandemic levels, changes in travel patterns and funding and our region has been impacted by industrial action on train and bus services. I would like to thank all those who have worked tirelessly within Birmingham City Council, TfWM and their transport user groups, and our transport partners, to maintain the transport network through the challenges.



3.5 We had tremendous success with the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, and I have been impressed by colleagues, partners and other stakeholders coming together to help deliver our network, but also to deliver funded public transport and clear transport networks for the event. This work helped deliver over 650,000 shuttle bus journeys and 28,000 cycle hires during the Games, support over 255,000 people travelling through Birmingham New Street station on one day, and more than 25,000 people using the new Perry Barr station facility. This success has been seen on the world stage and we must all be so proud of what we have achieved together in supporting this fantastic opportunity to showcase Birmingham and the West Midlands.

3.6 As Lead Member for Birmingham, I have:

- Been the voice of the passenger, putting passengers first, because services are vital for work, school and leisure.
- Followed up Members' and Birmingham residents' casework, with the focus being around bus services and bus infrastructure.
- Along with the other Birmingham TDC Members, tracked and championed projects and initiatives as they relate to Birmingham.
- Arranged for the distribution of updates to BCC Members.
- Joined with the BCC Leader and Cabinet Member in our work to promote the city's needs as the region's strategic focus, for instance at the PPF Member Engagement Group.

3.7 First of all, I will detail what the TDC has done since my report of November 2022, and I will then provide some key highlights.

#### **4 The Committee's Business 2022-2023**

4.1 The WMCA TDC held 6 meetings in 2022/23, The committee had 6 Lead Member Engagement Groups (LMEG) for 2022/23:

- Putting Passenger First – Councillor Mary Locke, Birmingham, Labour
- Air Quality, Congestion and Environmental Impact – Councillor Linda Bigham, Coventry, Labour
- Finance and Performance – Councillor Pervez Akhtar, Coventry, Labour
- Rail and Metro – Councillor Timothy Huxtable, Birmingham, Conservative
- Safe and Sustainable Travel – Councillor Robert Grinsell, Solihull, Conservative
- Sprint – Councillor Richard Worrall, Walsall, Labour

4.2 These groups enabled TDC Members to focus more closely on key TfWM areas of work than is the case in full committee meetings. Agendas and reports considered by the WMCA Transport Delivery Committee can be found at:

<https://governance.wmca.org.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=134>

4.3 The committee considered the standing items of financial monitoring and capital programme delivery monitoring for TfWM projects, the role of TDC being to review the financial delivery and rigour of TfWM and to track and champion the delivery of transport projects.

4.4 Items considered by the committee during 2022/2023 included:

- Transport Services Recovery (July, October, November)
- Rail Programme Update (October, January)
- New Rail Stations Study (March)
- Bus Service Improvement Plan (October)
- Enhanced Partnership Scheme (March)
- January 2023 Bus Service Changes (October, January)
- Metro Monitoring Delivery (October)
- Walking & Cycling Monitoring (October)
- Railway Station Ticket Office proposals (October, November)
- Threats to bus services posed by funding cuts (October, November)
- Network Resilience (November)
- Ring & Ride/West Midlands On Demand Co-mingling (November)
- West Midlands Cycle Hire (November)
- TfWM Drone Team (November)
- Park & Ride (November)
- £2 Fare Cap (January)
- Safer Travel Partnership (February)
- Transport Funding (February, March)

4.5 Minutes of the committee are submitted to the WMCA Board. The TDC Chair attended the WMCA Board meetings to present TDC meeting minutes and to comment on outcomes and on Transport items on the WMCA agenda.

## **5 Key Highlights in 2022/23**

5.1 The committee provided input, influence and challenge to the delivery of a range of transport projects and programmes during the financial year. Key highlights included updates on transport services recovery, changes to bus service funding, Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) development, Sprint, Rail and Metro Capital Projects and development of an Enhanced Partnership.

- 5.2 Updates regarding bus recovery funding and service provision included the revision of the Value for Money criteria to £4.10 within the wider Bus Access Standards to allow TfWM to support a higher number of bus services, and the network review in January 2023 to maintain 90% of mileage operated prior to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 5.3 The committee was given regular overviews of the performance across the network relating to Bus, Metro and Rail. As the year progressed it was recognised that the network was seeing an increase in passenger numbers across the public transport network, and with a different profile to the pre-COVID patterns. There have been updates regarding the performance of service operated in terms of punctuality across the Rail and Bus network in relation to the previously discussed driver issues and ongoing industrial action.
- 5.4 2022 saw Transport for West Midlands deliver an award winning, world-class transport programme for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. Preparations saw the opening of the refurbished Perry Barr Rail Station, Phase 1 opening of University Station with widened platforms and the completion of Phase 1 of Sprint. During the games, we transported over 1.5m spectators, 40,000 workforce, all while keeping the residents of the West Midlands at the heart of what we do, by ensuring we minimised disruption to their daily lives through an enhanced Travel Demand Management and Traffic Management programme. Details of the post-Commonwealth Games press release are included in Appendix 1.
- 5.5 **Monitoring Capital Schemes**
- The Committee has monitored and sought to influence progress on large capital projects in Birmingham. Updates on these schemes are provided in Appendix 2:
1. Tracking large Rail projects with tight deadlines has been undertaken by both the full TDC and the Rail and Metro LMEG. Please see the update on University and Perry Barr Stations, and the Camp Hill lines, (together with updates regarding Great British Railways and Industrial Action) at 1 in Appendix 2.
  2. The committee and the Sprint LMEG have considered and input on the progress and delivery of the A34 and A45 Sprint schemes, including shelters and the Enhanced Partnership (See 2. In Appendix 2).
  3. The progress of the works on the Metro Extension to Edgbaston and Eastside has continued to be followed and examined at TDC meetings and by the Rail and Metro LMEG. Update at 3, Appendix 2.
  4. TDC Members and the Putting Passengers First LMEG have been briefed on the updated development of Cross-City bus routes. Find out more at 4, Appendix 2.
- 5.6 The Committee and/or Lead Members, have led on, and participated in, activities involving the public and interest groups, such as:

- Bus Passenger Champions
- West Midlands Pensioners' Convention
- Bus Users UK and WM

## **6 Considerations for 2023/24**

6.1 Network Stability and Passenger Information provision remain at the forefront of delivery of the bus network, with work ongoing regarding network performance.

6.2 The West Midlands Bus Passenger's Charter has been launched, in connection with the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) and sets out what passengers can expect from bus operators and local transport authorities in the area. The link to this can be found here:

<https://www.tfwm.org.uk/media/gwxctqy1/bus-passenger-charter-v06-digital.pdf>

6.3 On 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023, a "Bonfire of Bus Tickets" took place, which saw individual operator return and day ticketing being phased out, in favour of the multi-operator nBus ticket, valid on most operators in the West Midlands. This provides a benefit to passengers who use more than one operator or have a choice of operators, without the premium associated with the previous multi-operator ticket. More information is available here:

<https://www.tfwm.org.uk/campaigns/any-bus-any-day-any-time/changes-to-bus-tickets-from-monday-3-july-2023/>

6.4 The Station Retail Reform Consultation, which involved the proposals regarding ticket offices, is currently ongoing and expected to report back shortly. Reference to this can be found in Appendix 2, 17-20.

6.5 Work is ongoing around the establishment of a new target operating model for Ring and Ride, as part of a wider service transformation. This includes the procurement process regarding an operator for the service, with a greater emphasis around providing the social value that we know underpins the service, and a much closer partnership approach between TfWM, the technology provider and the operator. It is anticipated that new contract requirements, based around this, will be implemented by the start of 2025.

## **7 Further Information**

7.1 The West Midlands Combined Authority Annual Plan sets out what the WMCA will deliver during the financial year, and the links it makes to the range of regional policy, strategy and delivery plans that articulate the action the WMCA deliver and support to make further progress towards the vision of a healthier, happier, better connected and more prosperous West Midlands.

7.2 The Annual Plan for 2023-2024 can be found here:

<https://governance.wmca.org.uk/documents/s11709/WMCA%202023-24%20Annual%20Business%20Plan%20230623.pdf>

7.3 Agendas and reports considered by the Transport Delivery Committee and all WMCA committees can be found here:

<https://governance.wmca.org.uk/mgListCommittees.aspx?bcr=1>

7.4 Please visit the following to report problems and views:

<https://www.tfwm.org.uk/get-help/>

It will signpost you to public transport operators for all modes. Please scroll down all the boxes for directions for enquiries about stations and stops, ticketing, concessionary passes, safer travel issues etc. Please share the information with your constituents, and please let me know if I can be of help as I will be happy to follow up any issues.

## **8 Options considered and Recommended Proposal**

8.1 There are no options to be considered.

## **9 Legal Implications**

9.1 There are no legal implications as a result of this report.

## **10 Financial Implications**

10.1 There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

## **11 Background Papers**

11.1 There are no background papers for this report.

## **12 Appendices**

12.1 Appendix 1 – Commonwealth Games Press Release – 10<sup>th</sup> August 2022

12.2 Appendix 2 – Progress on Large Capital Projects in Birmingham  
(updated by the relevant project teams)

## Appendix 1 - Commonwealth Games Press Release – 10<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Source: <https://www.wmca.org.uk/news/west-midlands-public-transport-hits-record-numbers-throughout-commonwealth-games/> (Published: Wednesday 10 Aug 2022)

### **West Midlands' public transport hits record numbers throughout Commonwealth Games**

Spectators, residents, and visitors to the West Midlands helped the region's public transport network reach record numbers during the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

Local train, tram, cycle, and bus travel all saw record breaking numbers across the eleven days as hundreds of thousands of sports fans made their way around the region.

Transport for West Midlands (TfWM), working with transport operators and local authorities, developed, delivered and coordinated transport services for spectators throughout the Games, including running some 600 shuttle buses to and from venues across the region.



*Photo: Shuttle buses line up on Smallbrook Queensway*

Records included:

- More than 650,000 spectator journeys on shuttle buses.
- Birmingham New Street recording its busiest day since opening, with over 255,000 passengers travelling through the station on Saturday August 6.

- The West Midlands Metro patronage doubling its pre-covid numbers.
- West Midlands Cycle Hire doubling the number of bike and e-bike rentals with 28,000 hires during the Commonwealth Games.
- 64,910 parking spaces being booked through the park and ride service across the region throughout the Games, serving approximately 179,800 spectators.

Thousands also made use of regular local bus, rail and tram services which was included with their spectator tickets and staff and volunteer accreditation.

These records were broken because all event ticket holders had public transport included in their ticket price as part of the Commonwealth Games Transport Plan. This was agreed by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Board in June 2021 and helped to make Birmingham 2022 a greener Games.

The focus on public transport and shuttle buses meant that private car use and traffic congestion was kept to an absolute minimum throughout.

Andy Street, Mayor of the West Midlands and chair of the WMCA, said: “As we reflect on the phenomenal success of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, it’s only right that we take a moment to appreciate all the work that has been done to manage the record numbers of people visiting our region.

“It has been a remarkable team effort to get fans to and from sporting events right across the West Midlands so I’d like to say a huge thank you and well done to everyone involved in keeping the system moving.

“Thousands of volunteers have offered visitors a warm welcome to the West Midlands – pointing guests in the right direction as they navigated festivities – so congratulations to all of them on all they’ve done over the last couple of weeks.

“Beyond the volunteers, I’m extremely grateful to all the staff on our buses, trains, trams and car parks who have in their own unique way played a vital role in ensuring people made it to events across the region safely and on time.”

Cllr Ian Ward, WMCA portfolio holder for transport and leader of Birmingham City Council, said: “The transport system has played a crucial part in what has been a fantastic Commonwealth Games for Birmingham and the West Midlands – a once in a lifetime event enjoyed by all.

“It is testament to the planning and delivery of our services that both public transport and our road network was by and large kept moving throughout the eleven days of action.

“It shows what can be achieved through affordable public transport and I hope that many of those who took the opportunity to try our buses, trains, trams and cycle hire will keep on using them, or use their cars a little less, and leave a real green legacy from these Games.”



## Appendix 2 - Progress on Large Capital Projects in Birmingham

### 1. Rail Update

*(provided by West Midlands Rail Executive Team)*

#### University Station



1. Following the completion of the Stage 1 opening (for the Commonwealth Games), the position on Stage 2 has now been reviewed and monitored closely to ensure that a robust Stage 2 programme is in place. A baseline position for Stage 2 opening in Autumn 2023 has been adopted which is in line with best practice recommended by the National Audit Office and others.
2. Workshops has been held with key stakeholders and discussions are ongoing to agree a programme for completion. In terms of physical works, progress continues with the installation of wayfinding tactiles inside the pavilion buildings.
3. The Project was able to demonstrate compliance to the Independent Assessor on 6<sup>th</sup> September which received positive feedback, however, there are some elements of work to be completed to demonstrate full compliance.
4. Whilst station opening differs from what is set out in the FBC, we are confident that this will not detract from the long-term legacy of the station which will serve the West Midlands for decades to come, and the benefits that are already being delivered.

## Perry Barr Station and Bus Interchange



5. Perry Barr Station opened on time and on budget in May 2022 and work continues to support the final handover of the station. This includes closing out the few remaining snagging items and settling the final account.

## Camp Hill Line Connectivity



6. Construction on the Camp Hill Line continues to progress at pace with the current completion date for Dec 24 still being maintained.
7. A refresh of the Economic Case by Jacobs was carried out to bring it up to date in line with the updated DfT WebTAG guidance which takes into account post COVID

demand analysis. This has demonstrated that the scheme still offers very high value for money.

8. The project team is in continued negotiations with NR for increased possessions & access over weekend & evenings to try & improve on the programme.

### **December 2022 and May 2023 Timetable Changes**

9. Significant timetable changes were implemented on the West Coast Main Line in December 2022, creating a regular 30-minute pattern service on the Birmingham to Coventry line. This included creating a half-hourly Birmingham International to Rugeley Trent Valley service which serves Lea Hall, Stechford and Adderley Park stations. The timetable structure has been designed to support the provision of a half-hourly Avanti West Coast fast service between Birmingham New St, Birmingham International, Coventry and London, supplemented by an hourly slower service that calls additionally at Rugby, Milton Keynes and Watford Junction. The full service of three trains per hour currently only operates at peak times, but WMRE is pressing for this to be introduced all day as soon as possible.
10. In May 2023 a new timetable was introduced on the Snow Hill lines which moved the timetable onto a regular 30-minute pattern removing some of the 40-minute gaps that previously existed at stations like Acocks Green and Hall Green. Small Heath and Tyseley stations also saw their service improve from two to three trains per hour. Performance on the Snow Hill lines has seen a big improvement following the introduction of the new timetable.
11. WMRE played a key role in developing both the December 2022 and May 2023 timetables, bringing together all the train operators and Network Rail in order to create a coherent overall service for passengers. WMRE will continue to work with all operators in the development of future timetables, recognising that the challenging industry financial position may mean that delivery of service improvements may be difficult to achieve in the short-term.

### **Great British Railways**

12. Despite the Secretary of State's commitment to GBR at the Bradshaw Address in February, the government has been unable to commit to GBR legislation in the next King's Speech, due in autumn 2023, and instead there have been warnings that the session is "likely to be congested" and that, on GBR specifically, "much can be achieved without legislation". The government's stated position remains that it is committed to the formation of GBR and that it will bring forth the required legislation "when parliamentary time allows".

13. The Great British Railways Transition Team (GBRTT)'s planning assumption on the legislation has recently updated to an assumption that there will be no legislation in the next parliamentary session. It is therefore likely to be the case that there will be at least one "interim state" that the new GBR organisation will need to go through before it reaches its final form. The exact shape of this interim state is currently being worked through; timelines associated with this are also not known at present.
14. Despite the wider uncertainty, we continue to make progress on a partnership agreement between West Midlands Rail Executive and GBRTT. The beginning of August saw our Partnership Oversight Group (POG) established in shadow form. This will be the most senior joint forum between GBRTT and WMRE; it will enable joint oversight of the partnership as it develops to:
  - A. Deliver the Trailblazer Deeper Devolution Deal commitments;
  - B. Focus on early deliverables, that is tangible outcomes that the partnership can deliver in its early phases; and
  - C. Cover all required areas to make sure that WMRE's influence is enhanced and that increased local accountability is delivered for the West Midlands over its rail services

### **Industrial Action**

15. Industrial action continues to feature across the UK rail network. The RMT (who primarily represent train guards) and ASLEF (who primarily represent train drivers) remain in dispute with the train operating companies over pay, terms and conditions and fears of redundancies.
16. As outlined, industrial action in recent months has impacted operational performance and slowed the roll out of planned improvements. These events have had a significant impact on rail services in the region with no services operating. This has been part of a co-ordinated national approach and impacted 14 train operators, including West Midlands Trains. Progress in resolving the dispute is unclear and may be further complicated by the industry-wide station retail reform proposals (which proposes changes to ways of working in/around ticket offices – see below), which is likely to be of particular interest the RMT and its members.

### **Station Retail Reform Consultation**

17. In July individual train operators and their industry body the Rail Delivery Group announced a series of individual company consultations on proposals to close the majority of rail station ticket offices in England.
18. The consultation period ran until on 1 September, having been extended by five weeks from the original deadline of 26 July. Approximately 718,000 responses were received

by independent passenger watchdogs Passenger Focus and London TravelWatch, which is a record for a rail industry consultation (and potentially for any public policy consultation).

19. Transport Focus and London TravelWatch have been given an extension to the time available to them to analyse the consultation responses. Their conclusions are now expected by 31 October. They will publish the response to each train operator's proposals online, with an overview of the number of responses received, and the main issues raised in the consultation.
20. If either watchdog objects, the train operator in question can refer its proposal to the Secretary of State for a final decision. It is unclear from the guidance how long the Secretary of State will need to make any determination. WMRE are actively engaging with the DfT in an attempt to improve our visibility of the Department's Work Force Reform policy team.

## HS2

21. On 4 October 2023 the Prime Minister announced the cancellation of HS2 north of the West Midlands with immediate effect. A separate briefing note has been provided, but the key points are:
  - HS2 Phase1 will be completed in full from:
    - both Euston (Central London) and Old Oak Common (Elizabeth Line connections)to
    - the West Midlands stations at Interchange (NEC/Airport/Arden Cross) and Curzon St as well as to the junction with the West Coast Main Line at Handsacre (north of Lichfield)
  - Euston HS2 Station has been reported to be still subject to securing private finance and a new development company, separate from HS2 Ltd, will manage now the delivery of Euston and aims to deliver 10,000 new homes surrounding the station
  - The other proposed sections of HS2 will be scrapped with immediate effect
    - HS2 Phase 2a (Handsacre to Crewe)
    - HS2 Phase 2b (Crewe to Manchester)
    - HS2 East (West Midlands to East Midlands Parkway and Midland Main Line)
  - In addition, all current safeguarding currently in place for these HS2 sections (primarily Phase 2a) will be removed and land purchased by HS2 Ltd will be resold

This will make it extremely difficult to ever extend HS2 in future should it be required

- Work on already announced on alternatives to previous scrapped sections of HS2 is also expected to be abandoned
  - Crewe to Wigan (HS2 West Coast Main Line connection towards Cumbria/Scotland)
  - East Midlands to Leeds/York (HS2 East Coast Main Line connection towards North East England)
- The remaining Phase 1 section of HS2 will have significantly reduced capacity because:
  - the number of HS2 platforms at Euston will be further reduced from 10 to 6 (with the remaining Euston site used to provide “1000s of new homes”)
  - the Handsacre Junction connection to the West Coast Main Line is only designed to cater for a small number of HS2 services from London to the Stafford/Stoke, the North West and Scotland
  - Handsacre is also located immediately to the south east of an existing capacity constrained junction at Colwich where the 4 WCML tracks diverge into two track sections toward Stafford and Stoke
  - plans for most HS2 services to the North West and Scotland (including from Birmingham Curzon Station) were dependent on the capacity provided by the HS2 sections to Crewe and Manchester

22. The principal outcomes of these changes for HS2 services are:

- Curzon and Interchange stations should get three trains per hour (up to 400m in length) to both Old Oak Common and London Euston
- A limited number of HS2 services (possibly up to 6 per hour - TBC) will operate from London to Manchester and other destinations in North West and Scotland
- These trains are likely to be restricted to 200m (with less capacity than the current Pendolino trains) unless platforms at existing stations can be extended
- There is unlikely to be any possibility of (or benefits from) HS2 services to the north from either of our two West Midlands stations as trains passing through Interchange will have no capacity, whilst there will be limited journey time savings (or capacity) for HS2 trains from Curzon station via Handsacre
- Stafford, Stoke-on-Trent and Macclesfield are also highly unlikely to get their dedicated HS2 service as the limited Handsacre Junction capacity is

likely to be prioritised for long distance services to Manchester, Liverpool and Scotland

23. As a result of the above there is likely to be:
- a. significant unused platform capacity at Interchange and Birmingham Curzon stations
  - b. no or very limited use for the “delta junction” chord connecting Birmingham Curzon to the HS2 line to Handsacre
  - c. a reduction in HS2 fleet size based at Washwood Heath maintenance site which could result in further descoping of these elements of HS2
24. The impacts of HS2 no longer releasing capacity on the West Coast Main line between the West Midlands and Crewe/Manchester (whilst also causing now causing additional congestion at Handsacre) have not been defined but are likely to include:
- no additional WCML freight services north of Birmingham
  - no additional local trains between
    - Birmingham – Wolverhampton
    - Birmingham – Walsall – Cannock – Stafford
  - no additional fast or semi-fast London trains at Lichfield, Tamworth or Nuneaton (including the proposed new Trent Valley line service via Coventry)
  - no/limited improvements to existing services between the West Midlands and Manchester/Liverpool/Scotland
  - more difficult to deliver new stations on WCML routes (e.g. Meecebrook)

### **Midlands Rail Hub (MRH)**

25. Although a formal “Decision to Develop” the Full Business Case of Midlands Rail Hub “West and Central” is still awaited, the Prime Minister has announced that MRH will be completed in full with £1.75bn allocated as part of the new “Network North” proposals.
26. Details are still to emerge but, with HS2 East now scrapped, it is expected that the Birmingham to East Midlands part of MRH will revert to delivering service enhancements to Tamworth, Derby and Nottingham as well as to Nuneaton and Leicester.
27. To support the MRH project, WMRE/TfWM has undertaken studies in partnership with Birmingham City Council, Network Rail, DfT and Midlands Connect looking at the case for closing Bordesley station and potential mitigations for users. Closing

Bordesley station, which has one train per week apart from on football days at St Andrews, is an essential enabler to deliver the new Bordesley chord lines.

28. A public consultation exercise on the MRH project is likely to follow the recent funding announcement, and this will include reference to the need to close Bordesley station.

### **West Midlands Rail Investment Strategy**

29. The final version of the West Midlands Rail Investment Strategy has been published on the WMRE website alongside a summary report on the consultation. The publication was accompanied by a press release and emails to stakeholders. Reaction to the RIS has been positive and it now provides the basis for working with the rail industry over delivering on our strategic priorities.
30. However, our strategy (along with those of Network Rail and Midlands Connect) was predicated in large part on the assumption that the recently scrapped sections of HS2 would have been built.
31. Unless there is any further HS2 policy change, the RIS and similar rail strategies will need to be completely revised. In the meantime, WMRE is liaising with Network Rail, DfT and Midlands Connect to identify any urgent changes required to previous proposals which need to be addressed in the short term.

## **2. Sprint Update**

*(provided by TfWM Delivery Team)*

### **About Sprint**

Sprint is a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) scheme which will help reduce traffic congestion and give people an alternative to driving. It will make it easier to get the bus and reduce journey times. Sprint will also help us tackle climate change. We want our region to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2041. Sprint is part of our #WM2041 climate action plan.

### **General Update**

The priority corridor links Walsall to Solihull and Birmingham Airport via Birmingham City Centre, along the A34 and A45. It will be delivered in two phases, with Phase 1 construction work being completed prior to the Commonwealth Games.

Phase 2 was included as part of the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS), with the Full Business Case being approved by WMCA Board in March 2022. Work on detailed design for Phase 2 continues with construction expected to commence in late 2023 subject to design approval from local authorities. Phase 2 has been split into 5 packages of work:

Package E – A34 (Birmingham and Sandwell)



Package F – A45/B425 Solihull

Package G – A34 Walsall

Package H – A45 Birmingham

Package J – Birmingham City Centre

Local engagement has been undertaken for each of these packages.

The A456 Hagley Road works are being led by the Midland Metro Alliance.

## **Shelters**

All Phase 1 Sprint shelters have now been installed and are in use. 67 shelters have been delivered as part of this phase, and these include CCTV, enhanced real time information, and upgraded seating. Early user testing has shown a 98% satisfaction rate with the upgraded shelters.

A further 31 shelters are being delivered as part of Phase 2.

## **A34 Birmingham City Centre to Walsall**

The main Phase 1 A34 construction works have been completed, this includes 4km of new bus lanes, signal upgrades, and traffic signal upgrades. These are already delivering journey time benefits for all bus services on the A34, with bus journey times reduced by up to 15% in peak times and variability reducing by 31%.

## **A45 Sprint to Solihull**

The main Phase 1 A45 construction works have now been completed, this includes 7km of new bus lanes, signal upgrades, and traffic signal upgrades. There are already journey time benefits for all bus services on the A45, particularly the X1 and X2 which have had journey times reduced by up to 22% in peak times and variability reducing by 35%.

## **Operator and Enhanced Partnership**

Bus services operating on the Sprint corridors are primarily commercial services usually operating without subsidy (excluding current COVID-19 specific challenges). An Enhanced Partnership Scheme has been 'made' that covers the corridor and requires enhanced standards of bus vehicle provision with more exacting requirements as years go by. It is expected that National Express West Midlands will be operating cross city services on the Walsall to Solihull route when the impact of Metro works in the Birmingham City Centre area is reduced.

### **3. Metro Works in Birmingham (provided by TfWM Metro Team)**

## **Westside**

In September 2023 we undertook some snagging works along Broad Street during full time closure, where there was no vehicle access, including public transport during this period. The pedestrian crossings were repaired with a brushed coat aggregate finish. Other works included, the installation of the OLE tails, EMC testing and cable testing. In collaboration with Birmingham City Council we were able to complete the installation of the ANPR cameras.

The red route TRO was successfully sealed on the 14 September 2023. The works on side streets along Broad Street are under a temporary traffic order and we are looking to go out to consultation in October 2023 to make the measures become permanent. We are in discussions with BCC about their plans to retain the bus diversion routes for some services and currently reviewing the designs and costs associated to this.

## **Eastside**

### **Section 1**

Lower Bull Street opened to buses at the end of July 2023. All construction works are now complete, including the installation of the rails. Handover walks have now been completed with BCC and minor snagging works to take place.

Traffic regulation discussions continue with BCC and MMA, looking to advertise and go to consultation with the TRO later this year. King's Parade demolition works have now been completed, backfilling of the site is now completed. Hoarding around the site remains in place.

### **Sections 2-4**

We are continuing with our internal governance to carry out design review due to very high pressure on budgets, so any decisions will need to be balance the advantage they bring against cost implications. Dates for when the works will commence are still to be confirmed.

Utility works are continuing around the Clayton Hotel area, but we have encountered delays due human remains in this area. Other utility diversion works within the area are progressing and are likely to be completed by the end of the year 2023.

Meriden Street carriageway tie in works will be open in early October 2023 which will be a welcome relief for local businesses and residents in this area.

### **Section 5**

All of the urban realm works on the north side is complete and the planters have been filled with soil. Footpath works have also now complete. the northern carriageway is now open to traffic and all the side roads on the north side will be opened up to traffic.

We are currently completing the installation of track drainage across Digbeth High Street on the south side, this will then be followed by the track installation. Urban realm works continue on the south and central reservation of the High Street. Works on Digbeth High Street are due to be completed by the end of 2023.

## **Operations**

Throughout 2022/23 there have been a number of improvements to timetable with a 10-minute daytime headway introduced between Wolverhampton and Edgbaston Village just before Christmas 2022. Patronage numbers have improved further over the year. The 3 new stops opened as part of the Edgbaston Extension are now accounting for 9% of passenger journeys on the network. Throughout the year a new fleet of CAF trams with only 2 vehicles still to arrive. The introduction of this fleet has allowed us to continue the repair of the existing fleet, with works carried out at Dudley's Very Light Rail centre. A further tranche of vehicle repair works are planned to commence in November.

On the 17 September 2023 the Wolverhampton Extension opened with services now operating to 2 additional stops at Pipers Row and Wolverhampton station. A further timetable change is planned once works at Wolverhampton St. Georges are completed allowing both termini to be used. It is currently planned that following the re-opening of St. Georges there will be a 7/8minute headway on the section of route between The Royal and Edgbaston with a 15-minute service from each termini.

#### **4. Birmingham's Cross-City Bus Programme (provided by TfWM Network Transformation Team)**

This is an overview and update on the Birmingham Cross City Bus Priority Interventions currently being development and implemented by TfWM in partnership with Birmingham City Council and local Bus Operators.

### **Background**

Buses are an affordable, accessible transport choice, with the ability to reduce congestion and improve air quality and bring economic benefits to the places they serve.

In the West Midlands, the Government, through the Bus Service Improvement Plan (CRSTS/A better deal for Bus Users), has provided over £90 million to fund prioritised bus priority measures that have been identified as necessary. The overall package will

benefit almost 90 million passenger journeys per year, providing approximately 25 km of new bus lanes, more bus only roads and enhancements to multiple junctions and many bus stops.

## **Cross City**

Transport for West Midlands along with our transport colleagues within Sandwell, Dudley and Birmingham City Councils are working together on a number of proposed schemes that aim to open new and direct bus links in and around Birmingham City Centre. These interventions are designed to complement and further improve public transport connectivity with the Sprint (Bus Rapid Transit in the West Midlands), Metro and Rail networks.

## **Programme**

### **Phase 1**

- City Centre (Margaret Street, Newhall Street) – Works Ongoing
- Balsall Heath (Alcester Rd) – Q1 2023 – Works Completed

These projects have completed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) Consultation and have been constructed, or are in construction.

### **Phase 2**

Anticipated Construction 2023/4

- Birmingham City Centre (Summer Hill) – Works scheduled commence early 2024

Potential early works on Washwood Heath Rd – To assist with HS2 works mitigation – early 2024.

## **Future Phases**

### **Package 1 – City Centre**

Future works are being planned for the City Centre [various stages of development, construction timing dependent on other schemes]

### **Package 2 – Longbridge to Hamstead via Pershore Rd**

Developing and testing proposals, Outline Business Case in development - construction anticipated 2026.

### **Package 3 – Dudley to Druids Heath**

Public Consultation for A435 improvements completed, design updates ongoing – construction anticipated 2025/6.

Public Consultation for A461/A4123 Burnt Tree Island (Dudley / Sandwell MBC) completed, design ongoing including integration with active travel schemes – construction anticipated 2024/2025.

Public Consultation for remaining package 3 elements (Dudley Rd, Cape Hill, Oldbury) expected Q4 2023/A1 2024. – construction anticipated 2025/6

### **Package 4 – Longbridge to Castle Vale via Bristol Rd**

Public Consultation expected Q1 2024 – construction anticipated 2026

### **Package 5 – Harborne to Chelmsley Wood via Washwood Heath Rd**

Public Consultation expected Q2 2024 – construction anticipated 2026

### **Package 6 – West Bromwich to Chelmsley Wood via the Meadway**

Public Consultation expected Q1 2024 – construction anticipated 2026



# Birmingham City Council

## City Council

7 November 2023



**Subject:** Motions for Debate from Individual Members  
**Report of:** Janie Berry, City Solicitor (Monitoring Officer)  
**Report author:** Ben Patel-Sadler, Senior Committee Manager  
[Ben.Patel-Sadler@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:Ben.Patel-Sadler@birmingham.gov.uk)

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential: N/A

### 1 Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 To consider the following Motions of which notice has been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules (section B4.4 G of the Constitution).

### 2 Notices of Motion

#### A. Councillors Darius Sandhu and Richard Parkin have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

“This Council believes that the City’s heritage and cultural assets are fundamental to our ambitions to attract investment and visitors and essential to the physical and mental well-being of our residents.

Moreover, the Council notes that many of these cultural assets were gifted to the people of Birmingham to be enjoyed in perpetuity, not to be used to balance the books for any one single Administration. Once they are gone, they are gone.

Libraries, public open spaces, playing fields, parks, theatres, orchestras, museums, and galleries, serve as the vibrant core of the communities they are located in.

Council therefore commits to looking at all possible ways to:

- Protect all cultural and heritage assets, including all libraries, parks, playing fields, public open spaces and museum sites, from any capital disposals.
- Work with community campaigns such as the ‘Save Birmingham – protect our community places’ campaign by Cooperatives West Midlands, by supporting community asset transfers and other community-led governance models where these can be shown to be the best and most sustainable solution to protecting the long-term future of these assets.
- Work closely with Arts and Culture organisations, the community sector, external funding organisations and other partners to promote that the city is open for business despite the Council’s own challenges and that its arts and culture offering remains rich and vibrant, with world-class performances and exhibitions with something for everyone.”

.”

**B. Councillors Ayoub Khan and Izzy Knowles have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-**

“This council recognises that the horrors and repercussions of the conflict in Palestine and Israel have had a profound affect across all communities, but notably the Muslim and Jewish communities here in Birmingham.

West Midlands Police, and organisations like the CST and Tell Mama have reported a rise in both Islamophobic and antisemitic hate incidents.

This council acknowledges that it has a duty of care to the people of Birmingham, and must lead the way in promoting peace, tolerance and respect.

This Council notes:

1. There is a humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza. It is likely that this will impact Gazans throughout 2023 and beyond.
2. It is unlikely that many Palestinians will be able to return home for a substantial time.
3. With Birmingham having a proud status as a City of Sanctuary for people fleeing war torn countries and persecution. It is important that we in Birmingham, together with other communities in the UK, prepare to accommodate any refugees from this conflict that seek re-location.



4. Building on the success of the Homes for the Ukraine Scheme, a similar package must be offered to refugees choosing to flee the conflict.

This Council therefore:

5. Will write to the Government seeking the provision of a support package for refugees fleeing the conflict in line with the Homes for Ukraine scheme.
6. Will support the active engagement of the voluntary sector in delivering aid and support to refugees from the conflict.
7. Will proactively engage with any Government schemes to house refugees from the conflict to ensure that all refugees are given a warm welcome in Birmingham.
8. Calls on everyone in Birmingham to show tolerance and respect at this time of significant stress to many communities; especially those of the Muslim and Jewish faiths.”

