

Birmingham City Council

City Council

21 May 2024



Subject: Executive Arrangements

Report of: Cllr John Cotton, Leader of the Council

Report author: Graeme Betts, Chief Executive

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 Executive Summary

1.1 This report sets out for information the changes that the Leader has made to Cabinet portfolios.

2 Recommendation(s)

2.1 That the City Council note the changes to portfolios.

3 Background

3.1 In the Birmingham City Council Constitution, the Leader of the Council holds the responsibility for determining the membership of their Cabinet and the roles that Cabinet Members may undertake.

3.2 At the Council meeting on Tuesday 23 May 2023, Cllr John Cotton was formally appointed as the Leader of Birmingham City Council.

3.3 The Leader announced his Cabinet and their portfolios at the same Council meeting.

3.4 On Tuesday 5 December 2023, the Leader amended his Cabinet with an Interim Member for Health and Social Care to cover maternity leave in the new year.

3.5 The Leader has made some changes to the remit of portfolios, to take effect in the forthcoming municipal year. These are set out below (**Section 4**), and detailed further in the appendix (**Appendix A**).

4 Overview of new portfolios

4.1 The portfolios for each member will contain the following business areas.

4.2 The Leader

- Leadership of the Council and Cabinet, and strategic liaison with Corporate Leadership Team
- Best Value Commissioners
- Lord Mayor's Parlour
- Communications
- Policy and Partnerships
- Financial Strategy
- West Midlands Combined Authority
- Strategic Policies
- Strategic Partnerships and External Affairs
- Localisation including Shaping Birmingham's Future Together

4.3 The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills

- Deputising for the Leader
- Economic growth and jobs
- Employment & Skills
- Employment Opportunities
- Skills and Entrepreneurship in Schools
- Business Improvement Districts
- Major Sporting Events and Events Development
- Promotion of the city and inward investment
- Major Projects
- Levelling-Up & Devolution
- Chairing the Cost-of-Living Taskforce
- Council land use and property assets including appropriation
- Land Use Planning

4.4 The Cabinet Member for Finance

- Contract Management
- Commercialisation
- Finance

- Birmingham Business Charter for Social Responsibility
- Rent Service
- Revenues and Benefits Service
- Procurement
- Internal Trading Operations
- Commissioning
- Oversight of consultants (and interims)

4.5 The Cabinet Member for Digital, Culture, Heritage and Tourism

- Customer Services
- Oracle Recovery Board Chair
- Open data and information systems
- Digital Inclusion
- Oversight of Council's ICT Strategy, information governance, and GDPR
- To take a lead on information law and data protection matters
- Promoting the City's rich heritage
- Arts, culture and tourism
- Museums
- Commonwealth Games Legacy
- The Library of Birmingham and Community Libraries
- Major Sporting Events and Events Development

4.6 The Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities

- City of Sanctuary, Asylum and Refugees, Modern Slavery and Trafficking
- Emergency Planning
- Social Cohesion and Inclusion
- Equalities within the Community
- Tackling Inequality
- Safer Communities
- Bereavement Services and Registry Office
- Domestic Abuse
- Third Sector Partnership and Engagement
- External Challenge

- Chair of Contest Board
- Chair of Prevent Board

4.7 The Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness

- Council housing management services
- Housing Development
- Housing Options
- Tenant engagement in social housing
- Registered Social Landlords
- Private Rented Sector
- Strategic Leadership of the response to Exempt Accommodation

4.8 The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families

- Children's Services
- Lead Member for Children's Services
- Overseeing the Children's Trust
- Safeguarding Children & Young People
- Corporate Parenting
- Overseeing Early Years
- Education of Children & Young People
- Lead Member for SEND and Inclusion
- Youth Engagement and Youth Service

4.9 The Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

- Enforcement
- Pest Control
- Cleaner Neighbourhoods
- Waste Strategy and Services
- Recycling
- Parks and allotments
- Climate Change
- Green City
- Transport Strategies
- Highways

- Advice to Planning Committee (Highways)
- Air Quality
- Flood risk planning

4.10 The Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

- Adult Health & Social Care
- Public Health
- Integrated Care System
- Healthy Communities

4.11 The Cabinet Member for Transformation, Governance and HR

- Improvement and Recovery Plan oversight and delivery
- Structure and Governance of the Council
- Member/Officer Protocol
- External Scrutiny and Local Government Ombudsman
- Strategic risk management, internal audit and holding senior officers to account on the management of risks
- Whistleblowing and Corporate Complaints
- Legal Services
- Human Resources (Including Member Development Programmes)
- Early Intervention and Prevention
- Business Change
- Efficiency, value for money and improvement for the Council – performance
- Council wide Efficiency and Improvement

5 Options considered and Recommended Proposal

5.1 The Council is receiving this report to note the decisions of the Leader of Council in relation to his Cabinet and their portfolios. The Leader of the Council considered the options for revising Cabinet Member portfolios, prior to confirming the portfolios set out in the report.

6 Legal Implications

6.1 Under the provisions of s9C of the Local Government Act 2000, the Cabinet of a Council operating executive arrangements may consist of two or more councillors up to a maximum of 10 appointed by the executive Leader.

6.2 Under the provisions of Part B Roles, Functions and Rules of Procedure, section 1.5: Up to nine Cabinet Members may be appointed by the Leader of the Council and one should be designated as Deputy Leader.

7 Financial Implications

7.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

8 Public Sector Equality Duty

8.1 There are no equality impact implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

9 Background Papers

9.1 None.

10 Appendices

10.1 **Appendix A** – Portfolios with detail

Appendix A

Birmingham City Council Cabinet Member Portfolios

Leader	Detail
Leadership of the Council and Cabinet, and strategic liaison with Corporate Leadership Team	Ultimate political responsibility of the Council. Strategic liaison with the Corporate Leadership Team.
Best Value Commissioners	Lead on engagement with the government appointed Best Value Commissioners.
Lord Mayor's Parlour	Appropriate support to the Lord Mayor and the other holders of civic office
Communications	Internal and external stakeholder engagement and formal consultation on Council performance and use of resources
Policy and Partnerships	Positioning Birmingham as a leader in public policy development at city, regional, national, European and international levels. Representing the Council's policy agenda as appropriate through proactive engagement with Government, national policy networks and relations with the media.
Financial Strategy	The Council's strategic approach to the use of financial resources and budget, including alignment between other local authority bodies (e.g. West Midlands Combined Authority), partners (e.g. Health), the BCC General Fund, Housing Revenue Account, capital spending and the use of reserves.
West Midlands Combined Authority	Representing the City Council on the West Midlands Combined Authority Board.
Strategic Policies	Development and implementation of the Council Business Plan and Medium-Term Financial Strategy/Budget
Strategic Partnerships and External Affairs	Promotion of collaborative working relationships with stakeholders and partners as part of the city's 'Civic Family'.
Localisation including Shaping Birmingham's Future Together	Neighbourhood Management – Development of the Council's neighbourhood engagement model and work with wider Council and partners to ensure integration at the local level. Shaping Birmingham's Future Together.

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills	Detail
Deputising for the Leader	The Deputy Leader will act as Council Leader where the Leader is not available.
Economic growth and jobs	Strategic approach to economic growth and regeneration programmes and strategic planning policy.
Employment & Skills	Skills, expansion for key growth sectors enterprise and innovation along with Lifelong Learning (post-14 skills and adult education). Provision of all-age guidance, skills development, training and work experience to meet the economic needs of the city now and in the future.
Employment Opportunities	Enabling all residents to access employment through the development and delivery of local employment plans.
Skills and Entrepreneurship in Schools	From the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families
Business Improvement Districts	Partnerships with the Business Improvement Districts, including city centre management opportunities.
Major Sporting Events and Events Development	Advised by the Cabinet Member for Digital, Culture, Heritage & Tourism
Promotion of the city and inward investment	Working in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Digital, Culture, Heritage and Tourism for the promotion of the city. Promotion of Birmingham regionally, nationally and internationally. This includes work with partners such as West Midlands Growth Company, the universities, and cultural organisations of citywide, regional, or national significance. Marketing strategies to encourage investment in Birmingham.
Major Projects	Responsibility for major physical regeneration and infrastructure projects in the city and engagement with key economic growth partners, partnerships, and investors.
Levelling-Up & Devolution	This will include making appropriate arrangements for the Council's response and review to changes in the WMCA constitution, consultation and devolution deals.
Chairing the Cost-of-Living Taskforce	Chair of the Council's Cost-of-Living Taskforce.
Council land use and property assets including appropriation	Oversight of the Council's land use and property strategy and asset management plan including framework for reuse, disposal and requisition of land and property in the Council's priorities –

	<p>including assets of heritage and community value.</p> <p>Including oversight of Council owned land and property facilities, amenities and services including markets.</p>
Land Use Planning	<p>Local Development Plan, Neighbourhood Plans, Development Briefs and Supplementary Guidance; including advice to Planning Committee.</p>

Cabinet Member for Finance	Detail
Contract Management	Strategic approach to and compliance with contract management policy to ensure best value.
Commercialisation	To take the strategic lead in the consideration of all commercial opportunities available to the Council.
Finance	Overall financial direction within the Financial Strategy developed by the Leader, including Best Value and appropriate financial, accounting and audit controls and procedures.
Birmingham Business Charter for Social Responsibility	Application of the Birmingham Business Charter for Social Responsibility that requires contractors to offer, inter alia, local employment and training opportunities, and to adopt Birmingham's Living Wage policy.
Rent Service	The Rent Service's primary function is to maximise the collection of rent from Local Authority tenants and the recovery of current/former tenants and Housing Benefit Overpayments for Local Authority tenants.
Revenues and Benefits Service	To ensure effective management of the Revenues and Benefits service.
Procurement	Oversight of procurement management.
Internal Trading Operations	Effectiveness and holding to account the management of all internal trading operations.
Commissioning	Strategic approach to, and compliance with, the commissioning approach. Ensuring that council commissioning supports its wider social objectives such as employment provision, training, encouraging social enterprise and delivering social cohesion, internally and externally in line with the Council's objectives.
Oversight of consultants (and interims)	Oversight of the use of consultants and interims with particular focus on their duration, renewal and cost.

Cabinet Member for Digital, Culture, Heritage and Tourism	Detail
Customer Services	To take a strategic lead in the provision of the City Council's customer services functions
Oracle Recovery Board Chair	Chairing the Oracle Member Board
Open data and information systems	To provide strategic leadership for open data promoting transparency, building trust and data sharing in everything we do
Digital Inclusion	To provide strategic leadership to our digital inclusion strategy to deliver a fully inclusive digital city, where everyone has the confidence, skills and capacity to access the services and information they need to thrive and live their lives to their full potential in an increasing digital world.
Oversight of Council's ICT Strategy, information governance, and GDPR	To provide strategic leadership for information governance, data protection and cyber security protecting our citizens information To provide strategic leadership for our Digital Birmingham ambition acting as the Councils Ambassador for Digital & innovation so that we make the best use of data, digital and technology so that we can ensure that our services respond even better to the changing needs and expectations of our citizens and businesses.
To take a lead on information law and data protection matters	
Promoting the City's rich heritage	Promoting our cultural heritage with the public, community and academic partners, ensuring that Birmingham's cultural and civic history is accessible by our children and young people. Maximising our historic architecture and ensuring the stories of Birmingham's history are told.
Arts, culture and tourism	Sustaining and promoting art, culture and tourism, including management of grants and associated economic opportunities. Delivery of the Birmingham Visitor Destination Plan.
Museums	Oversight of the provision and activity of the Birmingham Museums Trust.
Commonwealth Games Legacy	Providing strategic leadership to maximise the benefits of hosting the Commonwealth Games through delivery of a Legacy Plan.
The Library of Birmingham and Community Libraries	Oversight of the regional and city-wide role of the Library of Birmingham and the community library service; including the vital part libraries play in communities, learning and skills.
Major Sporting Events and Events Development	Advice to the Deputy Leader Lead for Cultural/Heritage Events

Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities	Detail
City of Sanctuary, Asylum and Refugees, Modern Slavery and Trafficking	
Emergency Planning	Arrangements for the Council's response to emergencies.
Social Cohesion and Inclusion	<p>Approaches to ensure that all Birmingham citizens have opportunity across the social and economic life of the city, within a safe city - including in education, employment, housing, health and social care, civil society and political participation – whether these are delivered by the City Council itself, partner agencies, or by private or third sector organisations.</p> <p>Holding to account other relevant Cabinet Members and officers for the delivery of those functions that impact on social cohesion and inclusion.</p>
Equalities within the Community	<p>Development and promotion of shared values and mutual respect across the diverse communities of Birmingham.</p> <p>Ensuring that community and cultural events promote social cohesion and inclusion.</p>
Tackling Inequality	<p>Strategic approaches to reduce inequalities including around health, education and employment outcomes; 'access to services'; and participation in civic life.</p> <p>Neighbourhood advice and information services.</p> <p>Holding to account other relevant Cabinet Members and officers for the delivery of those functions that impact on inequalities and inclusion.</p>
Safer Communities	<p>Strategic citywide leadership to community safety in Birmingham, including anti-social behaviour, fear of crime and public spaces and ensuring effective support for victims of crime.</p> <p>Effective relationships and clear shared priorities with the Police and Crime Commissioner and West Midlands Police.</p> <p>Leadership on youth offending issues.</p> <p>CCTV and liaison with Police.</p> <p>Strategic leadership in relation to Prevent.</p>
Bereavement Services and Registry Office	Strategic leadership for the development of Cemeteries, Crematoria and Mortuary and Coroners Court Services; and Register Office services.

Domestic Abuse	All Council activity relating to domestic abuse, its impact on families and children and implementing a city-wide domestic abuse strategy with partners including advice to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness on the provision of accommodation and taking advice from the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care on the health implications of domestic violence.
Third Sector Partnership and Engagement	Working with, and coordination of, third sector and partner agencies around equalities, cohesion and inclusivity.
External Challenge	Ensuring that partner agencies, private or third sector organisations are challenged on their contribution to improving social cohesion and inequalities.
Chair of Contest Board	
Chair of Prevent Board	

Cabinet Member for Housing & Homelessness	Detail
Council housing management services	Oversight and direction of estate management services and best use of housing stock (across all housing providers). Repairs and maintenance programmes.
Housing Development	To review the supply of housing and tenure based on an analysis of housing need.
Housing Options	Housing Options – assessing housing need, options for vulnerable adults, children and young people and offenders. Temporary accommodation provision. A coherent strategy to address homelessness, including short-term engagement, education and enforcement with rough sleeping.
Tenant engagement in social housing	Tenant engagement in the management and development of social housing and Housing Liaison Boards.
Registered Social Landlords	Liaison with the Birmingham Social Housing Partnership on neighbourhood management initiatives and the housing growth agenda.
Private Rented Sector	Licensing and regulation. Private Tenancy Unit activities.
Strategic Leadership of the response to Exempt Accommodation	Strategic Leadership of the response to Exempt Accommodation.

Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care	Detail
Adult Health & Social Care	<p>Development of the Health and Wellbeing Board and relationships with the NHS and private providers.</p> <p>Strategic leadership of social care services and safeguarding for adults.</p> <p>Development of an integrated health and social care economy in Birmingham and neighbouring local authorities around the relevant Sustainability and Transformation Plan.</p>
Public Health	<p>Leadership on public health services, working with the Health and Wellbeing Board to reduce health inequalities.</p>
Integrated Care System	<p>Providing place leadership for Birmingham within the statutory partnership to meet health and care needs across Birmingham and Solihull.</p>
Healthy Communities	<p>Championing healthy living through sport and leisure services and influencing resident choices through proactive behaviour change initiatives.</p>

Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport	Detail
Enforcement	In relation to licensing policy and enforcement
Pest Control	Provision of the Pest Control Service.
Cleaner Neighbourhoods	Street cleansing, litter prevention, fly tipping, graffiti, placarding, scrap yards and motor salvage operators.
Waste Strategy and Services	Development of a financially and environmentally sustainable waste strategy for the city and ensuring delivery. Collection and sustainable disposal of waste from residential and other properties within the city and street cleansing.
Recycling	Development of a robust re-use and recycle strategy for the city and ensuring delivery.
Parks and allotments	Provision and usage of facilities including grounds maintenance.
Climate Change	Engaging in proactive citywide and national policy development to tackle the causes and consequences of climate change.
Green City	Working with partners to develop a strategy for sustainability, liveability, and environmental improvement for the city.
Transport Strategies	Sustainable transportation policy and strategy, programmes, projects and initiatives to improve connectivity and road safety for the city across all modes of travel.
Highways	Strategic highways matters. Maintenance of roads and streets, traffic management and car parks and enforcing rights of way.
Advice to Planning Committee (Highways)	Providing advice, where appropriate, including the effect of proposed developments in relation to roads and transport and working in cooperation with the West Midlands Combined Authority and Mayor in relation to the key route network.
Air Quality	Leading the development and delivery of an Air Quality Strategy for Birmingham, to comply with national and pan-national regulations together with key partners.
Flood risk planning	

Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families	Detail
Children's Services	Leadership, strategy and effectiveness of children's services – responding to the needs of all children and young people, especially the most disadvantaged and vulnerable, and their families and carers.
Lead Member for Children's Services	Political accountability for all the local authority children's services, including education and children's social care. This post is required by law to hold direct local accountability for the effectiveness, availability and value for money of the local authority's children's services (particularly education and children's social care).
Overseeing the Children's Trust	Oversight of the 'client side' role of the Children's Trust to ensure the delivery of agreed outcomes, KPIs and finances within the legal and contractual framework agreed.
Safeguarding Children & Young People	With statutory partners, the safety and wellbeing of all children.
Corporate Parenting	Political leadership on improving the lives of looked after children. Ensuring all Council members, officers and services understand and actively promote the Council's responsibilities to looked after children.
Overseeing Early Years	Ensuring a sufficiency of places and a citywide Early Years Health and Wellbeing offer.
Education of Children & Young People	Education of Children and Young People - Political leadership on strategic and statutory duties, including school improvement, school places and travel to and from school. Oversight of Dedicated School's Grant.
Lead Member for SEND and Inclusion	Lead Member for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and Inclusion – Lead Member on the SEND agenda across children's agencies and holding officers and partners to account for the delivery of the Birmingham SEND Strategy.
Youth Engagement and Youth Service	Youth Engagement and Youth Service.

Cabinet Member for Transformation, Governance and HR	Detail
Improvement and Recovery Plan oversight and delivery	Oversight of the Council's improvement journey.
Structure and Governance of the Council	Overall organisational design of the Council, including the Council's corporate governance arrangements.
Member/Officer Protocol	Oversight of the Member/Officer Protocol.
External Scrutiny and Local Government Ombudsman	To take appropriate action in response to external scrutiny of the Council through inspectorate, peer or Government improvement and/or local government ombudsman reports.
Strategic risk management, internal audit and holding senior officers to account on the management of risks	Strategic risk management, internal audit and holding senior officers to account on the management of risks.
Whistleblowing and Corporate Complaints	To take a corporate lead in relation to Whistleblowing and complaints.
Legal Services	Oversight of the Council's legal services function including political engagement with the Council's Monitoring Officer.
Human Resources (Including Member Development Programmes)	<p>An effective organisational development function for shaping the future workforce of the Council.</p> <p>Development of effective change/transformational programmes deployed corporately.</p> <p>Member development programmes.</p> <p>Processes and procedures to support good staff performance development and equality objectives.</p> <p>Staffing structures at JNC level and personnel procedures that comply with good practice and natural justice (in consultation with the Leader).</p> <p>[The Council Business Management Committee deals with issues around the employment of staff and their terms and conditions of employment].</p>
Early Intervention and Prevention	To take a strategic lead in the development and implementation of the City Council's Early Intervention and Prevention services.
Business Change	All major business change programmes
Efficiency, value for money and improvement for the Council – performance	<p>To take a strategic lead in relation to efficiency and improvement across all Council services and to foster lean governance in all areas of Council work.</p> <p>Oversight of good governance in relation to Council representation on outside bodies; Trading Services; Council-owned companies;</p>

	and strong 'client' governance for externalised services (when Executive decisions needed).
Council wide Efficiency and Improvement	Take a strategic lead in relation to efficiency and improvement across all Council services and to foster lean governance in all areas of Council work