

CABINET MEETING
TUESDAY, 14 MAY 2024

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET COMMITTEE HELD ON
TUESDAY 14 MAY 2024 AT 1000 HOURS IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 3&4,
COUNCIL HOUSE, VICTORIA SQUARE, BIRMINGHAM, B1 1BB

PRESENT: - Councillor John Cotton, Leader in the Chair

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

ALSO PRESENT:-

Councillor Robert Alden, Leader of the Opposition (Conservative)
Councillor Roger Harmer, Leader (Liberal Democrat)
Councillor Ewan Mackey, Deputy Leader of the Opposition (Conservative)
John Biggs, Commissioner
Richard Brooks, Director, Strategy Equalities and Partnerships
Craig Cooper, Strategic Director of City Operations
Louise Collett, Director, Adult Social Care
Katy Fox, Director of People Services
Fiona Greenway, Interim Finance Director and Section 151 Officer
Sue Harrison, Strategic Director of Children & Families (DCS)
Myron Hrycyk, Commissioner (online)
Paul Langford, Strategic Director, City Housing
Philip Macpherson, Oracle Programme Lead
Philip Nell, Strategic Director of Place, Prosperity and Sustainability
Marie Rosenthal, Interim City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer
Mohammed Sajid, Assistant Director Financial Strategy
Tim Savill, Assistant Director Revenues, Benefits and Rents
Jane Smith, Enterprise Zone Programme Manager
Richard Tibbatts, Head of Category - Corporate
Dr Justin Varney, Director of Public Health
Gary Woodward, Development Planning Manager, City Centre Development Team
Errol Wilson, Committee Team Leader
Ilgun Yusuf, Head of Service, Birmingham Adult Education Service

NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

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

374. An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Liz Clements, Cabinet Member for Transport.
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DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

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

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

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

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

MINUTES

376. **RESOLVED:** -

The Minutes of the Minutes of the meeting held on the 23 April 2024 having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

EXEMPT INFORMATION – POSSIBLE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair advised that the reports at Agenda item 10, contained an exempt appendix within the meaning of Section 100I of the Local Government Act 1972.

377. **RESOLVED:**–

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

SECTION 151 OFFICER UPDATE ON THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE COUNCIL – MAY 2024

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

Councillor Harmer referred to the Commissioner's statement and stated that he was in support of the statement but that there was a caveat to that – that they were genuine efficiencies and not some disguised cuts or inappropriate centralisation i.e. cutting out all the local management and deciding things centrally which was one of the causes for the Council getting into problems – lack of local knowledge, things going wrong which was down to past cuts being dodged into cutting out the layers of local management. We needed to ensure that they were genuine efficiencies.

In terms of the delivery plan he stated that he was supportive of the expanded timetable in comparison to what happened last year and the comments in paragraph 3.24. The only clear slot for citizen engagement was as part of the Birmingham conversation between June and August, but there needed to be engagement with citizens later in the process when we were coming down to those hard choices. Of importance was staff engagement in the efficiencies process and that he was happy that this was mentioned in the report.

Councillor Alden commented that monitoring of the financial progress during the year was vital, but as part of that monitoring it was key that there was honest assessments as to where savings were. In the past savings were marked as on track but it was really putting off bad news until later in the year. Regarding the Commissioner's comments and the Interim Finance Director and Section 151 Officer's comments this was key as this was something we had raised for a number of years. If this was to happen in next year's budget the work needed to start now as it was too late when we got to February next year and then do efficiencies. It was hoped that working with other local authorities, sharing services etc. so that the frontline and residents could be protected.

The Interim Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care stated that it was rightly mentioned that lessons had been learnt from the rush we had to undertake to settle a budget in 2024/25 and was not the ideal way to do things. It demonstrated the challenges we faced when making those decisions in such short timeframe. We needed to be looking to the long term and it was right that we were starting with sustainable efficiency savings rather than service cuts and that work needed to start on transformational change. This Council would not get better unless it changes the way it worked. This was an important

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ingredient in what we now had to put together. In terms of efficiencies, it should be put in the way as improved productivity and the elimination of duplication of work wherever this existed. A lot could be done by reducing cost by improving productivity and reducing duplication and looking across the whole Council to ways we could do things better differently and more effectively with the resources we got. It was important that we got to the point where we have a balanced budget for 2025/26 and 2026/27 and reliable focus for the two following years so we had a four-year Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) with confidence in the short term and with forecast we could rely on over the remainder of that medium term period and now was a good opportunity to get that sorted out.

The Cabinet Member for Digital, Culture, Heritage and Tourism commented that it was important that we regularly report on the financial position of the Council as it was key to the ability of the Council to deliver on the 2024/25 Budget setting. Going forward it was vitally important that we continue to engage with all our partners including our staff and Trade Unions not only to keep them fully informed but to gather their thoughts and ideas on savings and opportunities going forward.

The Director of People Services noted Councillor Harmers query concerning staffing engagement and the number of comments received and advised that hackathons have been booked with the colleague community in particular frontline colleagues and they had started taking place in Housing and had taken place at College Road concerning savings proposals. There were two hackathons taking place in the Council House today further shaping colleagues community with two sessions taking place over the next two weeks. We have 125 staff registered to take part in those conversations as well and we were hoping to use these groups of champions to collaborate feedback and co-create our work. This would then go to CLT with all of the work for June. We would then be able to bring forward the work to the operational forum and the listening strategy as part of the overall engagement strategy with staff.

The Leader commented that staff engagement was important and that the steps that had been taken to engage staff colleagues will be of benefit. He added that in relation to the comments being made we were broadly in agreement on where we needed to be. The point around wanting genuine efficiencies and genuine service transformation were well made by Councillors Harmer, Alden and others. The Leader noted Councillor Alden's comments concerning further engagement with residents and stated that there needed to be further engagement once we have the details of potential proposals table update which would be brought back to June's Cabinet meeting. He added that the point was well made around efficiencies needing to start now and that we would be looking at all ideas that came forward including those that came from the Opposition Members. The Leader noted Councillor Alden's comments concerning how Budget Scrutiny worked this year and stated that we have learnt a lot from the rather speedy process that was undertaken last year, and we wanted to ensure that Scrutiny colleagues had the full range of details to be able to contribute to that process.

378. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: -

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That Cabinet:-

- I. Noted the update on the budget for 2024/25 (paragraphs 3.1 to 3.13 to the report); and
 - II. Endorsed the timeline presented for setting the budget and Council Tax Requirement for 2025/26 (paragraphs 3.14 to 3.48 to the report).
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PUBLICATION OF THE 'OUR FUTURE CITY: CENTRAL BIRMINGHAM FRAMEWORK 2045

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

An extensive discussion took place, and the following is a summary of the principal points made:

- This looked aspirational, and the question was whether the Council could deliver on this plan.
- It was pleasing that the consultation was extensive as it went beyond Be Heard and went into different events touching on our businesses, developers our citizens and investors.
- It was important that this was kept on track so that everybody owned the plan, and it was not just a Birmingham City Council Plan for the Council to deliver on.
- One of the things that was exciting was that it would create 74k new jobs for our residents which was important.
- It was needed to ensure that our residents were equipped for those jobs that would be coming forward.
- The document was a missed opportunity as it did not portray how the city most people across Birmingham would want it to be in the future. It was sad that most of the comments had not been taken on board.
- That it was worth noting that the consultation event the pictures that were made that showed lots of greenery in the City Centre that it was made clear to people that it was just an artist impression and was not the planned outcome at the end.
- The impact this would have on Edgbaston one of the oldest and historic part of the city. Nothing was mentioned about Station Street in the City Centre which was at risk of being demolished.
- The document could have provided the framework that would have forced developers of that site to maintain the heritage of our city. If we were looking to increase the density we needed to provide those open spaces in the City Centre.
- The type of housing being proposed – where we were getting new residential units was an eager race to have the tallest tower block which was the wrong approach. For a few people living in the City Centre in a tower block was a wonderful thing but for most families that was not what they aspired to or what they wanted.
- In our response to the consultation we were proposing five storey Parisian mansion blocks which would provide for a high density.

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- We needed to take the goodwill and the consensus on the broad approach and work with our communities and deliver things that people wanted for the long term.
- The framework was bold and exciting and would take 20 years to secure those changes.
- From a housing regeneration perspective this would be underpinned by the priorities we already set out in our Housing Strategy 2023-28 which included a much-needed focus on an increased supply of affordable housing.
- Improving the quality of the existing housing stock and ensuring our citizens could access sustained suitable housing for their needs for the foreseeable future.
- The framework aligned perfectly with our commitment to provide a greener more liveable city for everyone by embracing sustainable development principles and prioritising inclusive growth.

The Development Planning Manager noted Councillor Alden's comments concerning the density and made the following statements:-

- a. The wider area of this framework covered areas that were probably low density at the moment but there was opportunity to increase that density. All of the housing figures had been worked out with some assumptions around higher density including high rise in some locations.
- b. Given that the growth zones stretched right out to Duddeston and Highgate down to the Pershore Road and across to Ladywood there was some assumption that there were more mansion block styles developments and density and scale.
- c. Across this whole area there will never be the market for tower blocks everywhere as it did not factor in the range of housing types and needs met by different scales of development within those places.
- d. By including them in the framework allowed us to go back to some of those areas such as the Gun Quarter and parts of Highgate and parts of Duddeston and areas along the Dudley Road which were low density use at the moment which would allowed us to densified those with medium rise blocks and including more family housings at a slightly medium density within some of those areas too.
- e. When we look at those areas and that was where the comparison with other cities came in there was a lot that could be done in terms of increasing the population there and the infrastructure that needed to follow that.

The Leader commented that this was a useful discussion on what was an important document for the future of this city. Inevitably these things will continue to evolved as policy changes regionally and nationally. The key point was how we expanded this into neighbourhoods that desperately needed regeneration and opportunities was the striking thing that was seen in the plan. In terms of Station Street, colleagues would recalled that we have agreed a revised heritage policy at the last Council meeting which addressed a number of the points raised together with the strengthening of the heritage narrative in the document before us. We will continue to work collaboratively with everybody in what was a landmark part of the city and an important gateway to Birmingham as we take that forward. This had to be about partnership and the

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point that was made at the start we were looking to the private sector and our private sector partners to deliver the majority of the vision that was set out in the document. It was not about the issue of what the Council did directly but about how we worked with others to continue to transform the city.

379. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: -

That Cabinet:-

- (i) Supported the changes to the Framework following formal draft consultation and adopts the final CBF 2045 Document (attached in Appendix 1 to the report), as the Council's vision and land use ambitions for the area. The Framework will shape development within Central Birmingham and guide future investment; and
- (ii) Endorsed the CBF 2045 as a significant place-based strategy to unlock regeneration opportunities to secure and deliver growth aligned to the proposals.

ENTERPRISE ZONE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

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

Councillor Ewan Mackey referred to the Leaders opening statement concerning the report and commented that the section on page five of the report with a chart showing accountability did not mention Elected Members. He questioned that if everything in terms of responsibility came back to the Council how the Leader's opening statement fitted in. He suggested that there should at least be a dotted line from the Section 151 officer across to the Cabinet to show where accountability laid. It would be helpful if there was some structure showing where accountability laid.

The Deputy Leader commented that over the last months risk management have been key and looking at strengthening risk management and governance structures. Any plans moving forward in terms of this particular report there will be good governance structures that would be wrapped around this to ensure there was accountability for everybody involved whether it be Elected Members or officers and those that were taking decisions. We will ensure that something was circulated to Members that highlighted this point that was missing from the report and to give that level of clarity around the seriousness we were putting behind risk management and governance.

The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families stated that the Enterprise Zone was a big and exciting project and that the governance, and assurances were probably one of the least exciting parts of it but that it was essential. Big, exciting projects needed solid foundations, and this was a progress report on developing assurance and governance. It showed a level of thought and consideration to how those principles were embedded. She expressed thanks to everyone involved whether from the City Council or from the Partnership Board in taking this seriously.

The Enterprise Zone Programme Manager advised that from the programme perspectives when these reports came forward we always shared them with the Scrutiny Committee and also the Leader currently sat on the Enterprise Zone Partnership Board who ultimately as well as Cabinet made decisions for the programme. The comments that were made would be taken on board and would also be taken back.

380. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: -

That Cabinet:-

- a. Approved, the Enterprise Zone EZ Assurance Framework (Appendix A to the report), which sets out the detailed governance arrangements for the EZ;
- b. Delegated authority to the s151 Officer or delegate to review and approve further updates to the EZ Assurance Framework, including the Financial Principles, to take such actions as are necessary; and
- c. Authorised the Interim City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer (or their delegate) to negotiate, execute and seal and complete all necessary agreements and documentation to give effect to the above recommendations.

FINANCIAL OUTTURN FOR THE 2022/23 FINANCIAL YEAR – GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET, HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT AND THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME

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

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness stated that the pressure in the Housing Directorate still existed but that she was confident that progress was being made. She added that the Leader had referenced the demand for temporary accommodation homelessness service which was not being matched by an increase in the supply of provision to meet those needs. This had led to the necessary use of high-cost spot contract arrangements – the use of emergency late at night rape accommodation or the use of B&B across the city something we wanted to avoid but we had no choice to instigate those measures. There continued to be a mismatch between supply and demand and was the root of the general fund pressure in City Housing in recent years.

Whilst much had been done to improve the planning processes and the contractual arrangements and the pre-emptive work in temporary accommodation provisions since March 2023 because of the situation at the moment these pressures would continue.

Councillor Harmer commented that the report showed the financial car crash that was going on and the result for this year was a significant part of the explanation and the fact that this was not being properly picked up at the time and instead we were getting comments about the start of the golden decade

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was a testament to how bad things could get when you believe your own rhetoric and ignored the warning sign that was strong at the time. It was fair to say that there were external pressures, but the point was they were not by and large sudden shocks out of the blue. They were long term pressures that we knew about, and we needed to accept that they were know about largely and we failed to take account of them and put in place proper mitigations that could reduce the impact and the savagery of the cuts we were now facing.

Councillor Robert Alden stated that it was important to stressed that thus was the outturn report for 2022/23 which was over a year late when we should be getting the report for 2023/24. Regarding the external pressures it was worth considering inflation for a moment. Inflation had gone up which was an issue that affected everyone, but it was the City Council that had decided to put an inflation provision of 0% in the budget which was financial mismanagement to decide that in Birmingham inflation would be 0%. He referred to the reserves on page 519 of the agenda pack and stated that over 24% of the Councils reserves were used in that year alone and that more reserves had to be used since. A whole litter of warning signs could be picked up. There was a deficit of £28m on the Business Rates collection which would have a serious impact on the Council.

The Council needed to start looking at the decisions it was taking instead of focussing on fixing them as that was what was in the Council's control. It was worth highlighting that the report was clear that this outturn report did not include any liability for equal pay and the Council was likely to never know whether there was significant fraud carried out in this period. Residents would never have the assurance to know whether or not the Council had lost money it should not have lost.

The Leader stated that the points have been well made. He emphasised that from the point of view of this Leader there was no doubt that there were issues that had gone wrong internally within the city that we needed to address and were working to put right. On the issue around the potential equal pay liabilities they were not contained within this report as they would be funded through the capitalisation direction. It was understood that arrangements were being made to finalised the provision for 2022/23 which will appear on the balance sheet with the external auditors.

381. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: -

That Cabinet:-

(i) Cabinet noted:-

(a) the City Council's provisional revenue outturn position for 2022/23 of an overspend of £66.2m before the corporate use of reserves, as detailed in Section 4 and Appendices 1A to 1H to the report;

(b) the outturn position on the Collection Fund (for Council Tax and Business Rates income), as set out in Appendix 4 to the report, and its impact on the Council's General Fund;

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- (c) the Council's reserves forecast of £802.4m as at 31 March 2023, as set out in Section 6;
- (d) the HRA outturn position of a £5.6m underspend for the 2022/23 financial year, as set out in Section 7 and the transfer of the balance to the ring fenced HRA reserve;
- (e) the capital programme outturn position for the 2022/23 financial year of £330.8m below the annual budget of £737.8m (as set out in Section 8 to the report);
- (f) the resource allocations within Specific Policy Contingency, the Apprenticeship Levy, SEND Improvement, Delivery Plan, as set out in Section 6 to the report, these have already been agreed by the Section 151 Officer under delegated authority. These are the allocations that have happened since the last report;
- (g) the Treasury Management Annual Report as set out in Section 9 to the report, which demonstrates that the Council remained within its prudential limits set under the Local Government Act 2003 and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Prudential Code for Capital Finance.

(ii) Cabinet Approved:-

- (a) the use of corporate reserves to fund the forecast £66.2m General Fund revenue budget overspend, as set out in Section 6 to the report;
- (b) the slippage of £330.8m in the 2022/23 capital programme into future years to complete the programmed projects;
- (c) the other uses and releases of and contributions to Grant and Earmarked Reserves and Balances set out in Section 6 and detailed in Appendix 3 to the report, noting that since the 2022/23 financial year the reserves policy has changed, as part of the 2024/25 budget that was approved by City Council in March 2024;
- (d) the financing of capital expenditure for 2022/23 as set out in Section 8 to the report; and
- (e) the Section 151 Officer has the authority to make necessary changes and any further movements will be highlighted to Audit Committee and shown in the final accounts for the 2022/23 financial year and if deemed appropriate, reported back to Cabinet and the Finance and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

ORACLE REIMPLEMENTATION

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

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The Cabinet Member for Digital, Culture, Heritage and Tourism stated that the situation with Oracle has had an impact across the whole Council and the challenges surrounding the original implementation was well documented. The report before us sets out a way forward sponsorship programme management and governance had been refreshed. Strong focussed have been placed on addressing lessons from the previous implementation. The implementation of the ERP was a complex endeavour in any organisations. However, thousands of organisations have implemented Oracle successfully. The paper articulates an approach timetable and governance that sought to ensured that best practice and previous lessons learnt were incorporated and successful reimplementation took place. We were doing everything we could as a combined leadership of officers and politicians to help ensure we were successful for the Council and the citizens of Birmingham.

The detailed Commissioners comments were clear about direction and focus to deliver the business change required for success. Oracle reimplementation would be an integral part of the delivery of the Council's Improvement Recovery Plan (IRP) and its wider business transformation. We were under no illusion of the tasks and challenge ahead, but we will continue to monitor and support as part of the governance process to ensure the successful reimplementation.

Councillor Ewan Mackey stated that back in 2020 questions were being asked about fraud but there was little response and now we were hearing there was no way of finding out if fraud had taken place in Oracle. It was no joy to see us here and hopefully we were now turning a corner and Oracle was moving in the right direction. He expressed congratulations as we now have a risk assessment and looked like a good document.

Councillor Harmer stated that it was important to reflect on the huge impact that the disaster of the original Oracle implementation has had on the city and will continue. The implementation was in April 2022, and we were now being told that we should be up and running by April 2026. The entire four-year term of the current Council would have been under some degree of the lack of a proper IT system on the Council's finance. He referred to the Commissioner's comments and stated that it indicated that there were some elements of risks that may not happen to the full extent. He question what was being done if this was the case to ensured it was. He referred to the Leader's opening statements in the previous agenda item that we were not covering schools and stated that there was this inbuilt philosophy that things that were bigger have economy of scales and were therefore cheaper to run.

Councillor Harmer stated that what this was, was having another demonstration of one single system across the whole organisation, but it was less efficient cost more and ended up with a higher risk of disasters. He stated that he was glad that our maintained schools were not going to be part of the reimplementation and were now going to have their own system and that we should reflect on the fact that it was acknowledged that that was a more efficient system.

Councillor Robert Alden referred to paragraph 13.6 of the report and commented that there was no one from the opposition Groups on the Oracle Member Oversight Board and that this was unlike IT rollout in the city apart

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from Oracle as this was set up by a previous Leader in 2018. Looking back at the previous rollout in the city they always had cross-party representation on them. The point being when we get to the lessons learnt stage it was important for all groups to be aware of the details of those lessons to try and avoid them going forward. He requested that this be looked at again and that consideration be given to whether what was currently a private Cabinet, and the Oracle Member Oversight Board was extended to include representations from the two main Opposition Groups.

The Interim Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care commented that the reimplementation of Oracle was an important step forward in the recovery plan for the city. He referred to paragraph 1.5 of the report and stated that in order to be able to do the work that we needed to do on the 2024/25 and the 2025/26 budgets this was going to be essential. More importantly the delivery of the outcomes of the Council's IRP required this information. It was an important step forward and a necessary step for us to deliver the IRP and that was mission critical to the Council's recovery plan over the next couple of years. He further referred to paragraph 1.12 of the report and stated that what we have in summary was a step that took us towards getting the basics right which was one of the big lessons we needed to take forward. He added that the Commissioners had rightly stated the basis essentials, getting the basics right was mission critical to where the Council now goes.

The Cabinet Member for Environment commented that learning from past challenges we were prepared to ensure a successful reimplementation with a phased approach for focussing on design and stakeholders involvement and mitigating risks and prioritising effective governance. Acknowledging the Commissioners input we were committed to ensuring adequate resources for success. It was imperative that we embraced these recommendations to make Oracle ERP a reliable asset for our operation going forward.

The Acting Chief Executive referred to the Commissioners comments and stated that they expected full commitment from the officers leadership team to support the programme designed principles approach scope and plan for mobilisation to implementation. That point was well made, and it was fully accepted that this had to be the case. He assured Cabinet that officers were fully committed to delivering the programme. We now have Fiona Greenway as the SRO for the programme, and we have in depth briefings at Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) from officers and will continue to ensure they were regular feature of meetings at CLT to ensure that commitment continued for the future.

The Oracle Programme Lead stated that in relation to the risks assessment this was around customisation specifically and that it was expected to see that risk go down following the prototype in that design phase. The Oracle Programme Lead noted Councillor Mackey's concerns about the risk register not being made public and advised that we wanted to get to a position where we were sharing the risk register on a regular basis. There was a three-stage model where the risks were escalated up. There were some specific risks in the risk register relating to fraud that we would not necessarily want in the public domain, and this was why we suggested that this be placed in the exempt

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annex to the report. He undertook to look at this again to make it publicly available.

382. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: -

That Cabinet:-

- (a) Authorised the re-implementation of the Oracle system as a 'vanilla' solution, removing customisations and relying on the tried and tested industry standard functionality in successful use by other Councils (Section 5 and Appendix B to the report);
- (b) Endorsed a two stage 'Prototype' based approach, where the first design and prototype stage is delivered by March 2025, demonstrating that key issues have been fixed, before the Council commits to the remaining phase of reimplementation by March 2026 (Section 5 and Appendix B to the report);
- (c) Approved the costs for phase 1 – the design and prototype stage – of £12.72m for the re-implementation of Oracle Fusion (Section 6 and Appendix C to the report);
- (d) Approved ongoing running costs for the Oracle solution of £1.68m in 2024/25 in respect of licences and support. These are 'business as usual' costs rather than re-implementation but have not been included in DTS budgets. This will be funded from the Oracle budget line in 2024/25 (Section 6 and Appendix C to the report);
- (e) Delegated authority to approve the additional, compliant procurement arrangements required to secure resources and partners to support the Oracle Fusion reimplementation programme (Section 18 to the report);
- (f) Re-confirmed expenditure on the new Income Management System of £674,000 one off implementation costs and £99,000 running costs. These amounts were originally included within Oracle funding approved in the June 2023 cabinet paper, and the expenditure will now be incurred in 2024/25. This will be funded from the Oracle budget agreed for 2024/25 (Section 7 and Appendix C to the report);
- (g) Confirmed that, for the reasons set out in the report, the Oracle re-implementation will not provide a system solution for schools Finance and HR. Cabinet delegated to the Strategic Director of Children & Families, in consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member for Children, Young People and Families, powers to work through options for future solutions with schools with a view to all schools migrating to a new solution in time for the school year commencing September 2025 (Section 8 to the report);
- (h) Endorsed the mitigations to the existing Oracle environment whilst re-implementation is taking place (Section 9 to the report);

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- (i) Noted the application of lessons learned from the original implementation (Section 10 to the report);
- (j) Noted the Governance and structure proposed to manage the ongoing programme (Section 11 and Appendix D to the report); and
- (k) Endorsed the Business Change arrangements recommended to support the re-implementation (Section 12 to the report).

BUSINESS RATE DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF AND PARTLY OCCUPIED RELIEF (SECTION 44a) POLICY REVISIONS

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

The Assistant Director Revenues, Benefits and Rents noted Councillor Mackey's enquiry as to the reason this report was coming to Cabinet now when the Government Guidance on this came out last year and advised that the legislation came in and received Royal Assent in November. We received the guidance from the Government in December and working to the Council's timescale we put forward the report as soon as we could. It was effective from the 1 April 2024, and we only had two applications since the 1 April 2024. Everyone have been rolled forward and were on hold and assuming the policy was approved today we would consider those applications as well.

383. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: -

That Cabinet:-

1. Approved the awarding of discretionary relief for the financial year in which the application is received unless the liability commences after the start of the financial year;
2. Approved the relief to be granted from the start date of the liability (option two in this report); and discretionary rate relief may be considered for the immediate previous financial year only, providing the application is received by 1st September of the following financial year. There will be no further backdating of relief given; and
3. Approved the National Non-Domestic Rate (NNDR) Discretionary policy (Appendix 1 to the report) and the revised s44a policy (Appendix 2 to the report). The amended Section 44a (Partly Occupied Properties) does not present any major change in policy but has clearer definitions of the eligibility criteria.

FULL BUSINESS CASE– ROOFING REPAIR AND CLADDING REPLACEMENT WORKS AT COPPICE PRIMARY AND LANGLEY SPECIAL SCHOOLS

The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families

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

384. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: -

That Cabinet:-

- I. Approved the project costs for the roof repair and cladding replacement works at Coppice Primary and Langley Special Schools at a total project cost not to exceed £3,197,981;
- II. Approved the Full Business Case appended to this report;
- III. Noted that a Pre-Construction Services Agreement (PCSA) has been entered into with Interclass Holdings Ltd for the initial design stage to be completed for the estimated value of up to £141,299 and approved under Chief Officer delegated authority to enable the works to meet the deadline for the completion of the works. This figure includes £25,452 Acivico fees and £4,116 EDI fees; and
- IV. Delegated authority to the Director of Children and Families in consultation with the Chief Operating Officer, the Interim Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and the Interim City Solicitor & Monitoring Officer (or their delegates) to award a contract for the Works after completion of the PCSA stage in order to expedite the approval to meet project deadlines subject to the value being within the approved budget.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

The Interim Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care introduced the item and drew the attention of Cabinet to the information contained in the report highlighting the key points.

The Director of Public Health then advised that the report sets out some significant reflections on the Census and the projections going forward. He further stated that we have invited colleagues to contribute to the report which showed how we have worked in its creation with partners to help share its findings. The plan was to run a series of workshops and webinars and we were starting to do that first with the Children and Families Directorate and then working through the directorates of the Council with their senior leadership teams and operational managers to help them understand the implications and how this could be applied in evidence-based practice.

He continued similarly we were working with partners around doing this for our voluntary and community sector. We have started scoping the options to turn it into an educational resource for schools as there was a real opportunity to help schools to use this product to help inform the next generation as it gave us a sense of where the city was going, how it had changed and how it will change further as we go forward over the next decade.

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The Interim Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care and the Director of Public Health noted Members comments and made the following statements:-

1. The report was a retrospective one looking at the trends 2011-2021. We were looking at what had happened to get us to this point. It was possible to do projections from that, but that was a sophisticated and complex exercise.
2. The issue about the impact across the city varying locally was an important point as the evidence before us was sufficient in its local detail in order for us to strengthen our locality planning.
3. We have not done enough in the city, and we cannot treat 1.1m people as a single homogenous unit.
4. We needed to start better developing our services at the local level to meet the very different localities and their different trajectories as we move forward.
5. One of the big transformation that we needed to do in this city was to localised our forward planning which was an important step.
6. The shift in bus use was noted in the report but it was important to note that the Census took place at just at the end of the pandemic.
7. We knew that there was a significant drop in bus use and other public transport use.
8. Whilst not dismissing the point it was needed to update that information to ensured that what we have not seen here was just a blip.
9. In terms of life expectancy, this was an issue across the country and the passing of increased life expectancy we have seen decades on decades that it was faltering in this country, and we could not runaway from the implications of years of austerity in having had an effect which was now being seen in the life expectancy.
10. Some projection work have been done and there was some technical scientific annex to explain how this was done. It was not an exact science, but it gave us some sense for the future moving forward.
11. Where we have been able to drill down the data to a local area this was done. The Public Health Director undertook to pick up the invitation to attend Ward Forums and bring this out in amore public space.
12. In terms of the short journeys we had to keep in mind that the Census came in the pandemic and that will have had an impact. However, that trend was reflected in some of the other methods of transport and modality shift.
13. The key point about this was about short journeys – these were the journeys where people go to get a botte of milk they forgot or the newspaper – these were perfectly walkable journeys. We needed to look at how we designed our city.
14. The local plan would be important for us moving forward, but also how we were working with citizens to help them to understand that getting out and being active was not a chore and should be part of our lives and we should become a walkable and cycling city which was an ambition held by Cabinet for some time.
15. When we looked at what was driving the fall in life expectancy and why we were different we were dropping faster than the rest of the country. Some of that was Covid-19 and there was an analysis that broke down when we were hit harder by Covid-19 because of our underlined based position of health in the city.

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16. A lot of this was about cardiovascular disease which were diseases that were preventable as they were driven by inactivity, smoking and diet.
17. In terms of the aging profile of the city – long-term modelling – one thing that should be highlighted was that we saw an unexpected bulge in 50–59-year-olds. Some of this was the natural progression of children aging up, but we were not expecting to see a 14% rise in 50–59-year-olds.
18. This was economic migration i.e. people moving to the city for work in their 50s which was important for us to understand as that was the group that would move into their 60s over the next decade and potentially become a burden to Adult Social Care if there was no improvement in their health and wellbeing.
19. Regarding community engagement we have worked through this, and it was noted in the report that the ethnographic research and in the annex where there is the full report and dotted through the report were the reflections of people that lived in the city.
20. It was important that we kept that at the heart of our planning and our response to this report and think about how the changes that we were going to go through over the next decade felt for the people that lived there.
21. The illustrations in the report were done by students from Birmingham City University.

385. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: -

That Cabinet formally received the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2023-24 and endorsed its conclusions.

EQUIPPING BIRMINGHAM ADULTS WITH ESSENTIAL SKILLS – PROPOSAL TO RECEIVE AND SPEND FUNDING WITH DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO INCREASE DELIVERY BY BIRMINGHAM ADULT EDUCATION SERVICE

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

Councillor Harmer enquired where the delivery of the teach and learning will take place and whether there was opportunity to use library buildings for some of the delivery where we did not have existing local provision. The Deputy Leader responded that the aim was always to make it as easy as possible for local residents to access.

The Head of Service, Birmingham Adult Education Service stated that we valued the importance of outreach work and were already working out of libraries, Faith Group settings, community settings and schools settings and the need to work in local communities. Part of the opportunities that this funding offered us was to be flexible about how we offer the programme so that there was an opportunity to co-design and work at the pace of both community providers particularly around English class and ESOL and tutor skills. Essentially there were two types of residents who had needs – people who were going to self-referred the other were people who needed encourage, first steps support and this was going to be a part of that.

Councillor Harmer requested that information concerning where the local delivery in the Wards were be sent out on a tailored basis so Members could promote that through their networks. The Head of Service, Birmingham Adult Education Service undertook to make this information available to Members.

386. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: -

That Cabinet:-

- Approved acceptance of the additional funding of £939,650 from WMCA for the purposes of increasing AEB funding for 2024/25; and
- Authorised the Director of Adult Social Care, in consultation with the Deputy Leader, to receive and spend the funding awarded in accordance with para 2.9 above with delegated authority.

KEY DECISION PLANNED PROCUREMENT ACTIVITIES (JUNE 2024 – AUGUST 2024)

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

Councillor Alden referred to the Commissioners comments concerning the IT items and the needed to ensure there were cost reductions to the Council of having longer contracts and that he was in agreement with the comment as this ought to be standard. He further referred to the work being proposed to the Cricket Blocks and stated that this was welcomed as the work was long overdue.

The Cabinet Member for Environment commented that he appreciated the Commissioners comments regarding the weed spraying services for Birmingham Parks and Nurseries. He added that whilst he understood the need for discretionary spending it was necessary to recognised the critical role these services played in maintaining the cleanliness and attractiveness of our public spaces. Additionally we were obliged by law to address invasive species like Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed.

387. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: -

That Cabinet approved the planned procurement activities and approved Chief Officer delegations, set out in the Constitution for the subsequent decisions around procurement strategy for the following:-

- Weed Spraying Services for Birmingham Parks and Nurseries
- Tower Block Fire Safety Improvement Works
- Fire Door Installations
- IT Service Management Solution
- Security Tooling Renewals
- Bikeability Cycle Training

NON-KEY DECISION PLANNED PROCUREMENT ACTIVITIES (JUNE 2024 – AUGUST 2024)

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

The Director of People Services noted Councillor Alden's queries concerning the RoleMapper Phase 2 and advised that RoleMapper only started to be used in about October of 2023 but that it was actually the repository for all of the job information on an on-going and enduring basis. It was there as part of the Job Evaluation and Equal Pay Programme, but it will also be the enduring system used by the Council to hold all its job information as part of the on-going evaluation processes.

388. RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: -

That Cabinet approved the planned procurement activities and approved Chief Officer delegations, set out in the Constitution for the subsequent decisions around procurement strategy for the following:-

- RoleMapper Phase 2

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

389. No item of urgent business was raised.

As this was the last Cabinet meeting for this Municipal Year the Leader expressed thanks to everyone for their contributions over the course of this year.

The meeting ended at 1201 hours.

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CHAIRPERSON

