

Birmingham City Council

City Council

10 January 2023



Subject: Executive Business Report

Report of: Cabinet

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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:

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1. On 10th September 2019, Full Council accepted the recommendations of the Coordinating O&S Committee review in respect of changes to the Full Council agenda.
- 1.2. Recommendation 3 of the review requested that the Executive provide an update to Full Council on its work via the provision of an Executive Business Report (EBR). EBRs will be provided to Full Council four times per municipal year and will include details of progress made in relation to Council strategic outcomes and priorities linked to two Cabinet Member portfolios.
- 1.3. In October 2022, the City Council approved the Corporate Plan 2022-2026. This new strategy, alongside a refreshed delivery plan and performance management framework, sets out a bold ambition and commitment to drive improvement across all our services, transform how we operate as an organisation, and tackle the complex challenges facing our city. Together, working with our communities, third sector partners, and national government, we will create a city that is truly Healthy, Green, Thriving and Bold.
- 1.4. Going forward into 2023, the City Council will continue to drive ambitious progress against our strategic objectives while also supporting our

communities, businesses and families through one of the most severe cost of living crises on record. Using the lessons learned from our Covid response, we are working with partners across the private, public and voluntary sectors to deliver a city-wide 'Help in Brum' campaign, linking our most vulnerable citizens in with signposting, advice and direct financial support. 100 Warm Welcome spaces are now open across the city, with further in development, and extended opening hours are now in operation across all our Neighbourhood Offices, generating an average of £1600 in additional benefits per service user through income maximisation advice.

- 1.5. For more information about what advice, guidance and support is available, please go to the 'Help In Brum' pages on the Birmingham City Council website here: <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/livingsupport>
- 1.6. Combined with high levels of inflation and existing financial pressures, the current cost of living crisis presents a profound challenge for the city. However, with a Golden Decade of opportunities on the horizon, including a robust development pipeline and the arrival of HS2, Birmingham still faces a bright future. The City Council stands poised to grasp these opportunities, working alongside local and regional partners to level up Birmingham, tackle the historic inequalities that continue to blight our city, and ensure that every citizen in Birmingham has an equal opportunity to succeed.
- 1.7. This report will be used to provide an update on two Cabinet Member portfolios:
 - Deputy Leader, including levelling up, strategic partnerships, employment and skills; pages 2 - 33
 - Digital, Culture, Heritage and Tourism; pages 33 - 57

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

3 Deputy Leader

3.1 Levelling up

- 3.1.1 In May 2022, the Deputy Leader portfolio was expanded to include responsibility for levelling up, including the delivery of 'Prosperity and Opportunity for All: Birmingham's Levelling Up Strategy'.
- 3.1.2 Launched in November 2021 with a parliamentary reception in Westminster, 'Prosperity and Opportunity for All' sets out an ambitious vision for levelling up, to 'increase growth and harness it to create a fairer, stronger city, where all citizens share in the benefits, including through a just transition to net zero, where our citizens live longer, healthier and happier lives with opportunities to

shape their own lives and communities, and we overcome long-standing inequalities such as child poverty.’

3.1.3 To achieve this vision, the strategy brings together existing and new programmes of activity that support the levelling up agenda. This includes a development pipeline to drive growth, jobs, and place transformation, a delivery programme for new affordable housing, and a commitment to inclusive growth and community wealth building.

3.1.4 The strategy also sets out five ‘Levelling Up Accelerators’:

1. Long-term, single pot funding and devolved powers for the city, to accelerate the pace and scale of levelling up and move the dial further to achieve key outcomes for the city.
2. An integrated local place delivery model demonstrator in East Birmingham.
3. An early intervention and prevention model, moving from dealing with crises to delivering co-designed support and early intervention services.
4. Green and digital infrastructure, including a comprehensive green, reliable, frequent and affordable transport network.
5. An at-scale housing retrofit programme across the cities of Birmingham, Coventry and Wolverhampton to tackle carbon emissions and create new green jobs (‘3 Cities’).

3.1.5 The Council has been working with national government and our local, regional and national partners to progress our levelling up programme, and will continue to do so.

Levelling Up Board

3.1.6 A new Strategic Levelling Up Programme Board has been established to provide a senior officer overview of the delivery of the city’s levelling up strategy. This is a director-led, cross-service Board which will seek to integrate, coordinate and add value to the work that is taking place across the Council.

3.1.7 Each Board meeting includes a ‘deep dive’ thorough examination of a specific levelling up priority, programme or project. Given its importance and timeliness in the current Trailblazer Devolution Deal (TDD) negotiations with the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) and national government, East Birmingham was chosen as the subject of the first deep dive at the Board’s inaugural meeting on 29th September 2022. The second meeting of the Board, held on 25th November, focused on Inclusive Growth activity across the Council and how best this might be integrated into a coherent programme. The Board’s feedback will be incorporated into the development of a new Inclusive Growth Strategy.

Trailblazer Devolution Deal (TDD)

- 3.1.8 In February 2022, the announcement of the Trailblazer Devolution Deal (TDD) for the West Midlands (the third devolution deal for the region) provided a mechanism by which the Council might seek additional devolved powers and funding to enable levelling up.
- 3.1.9 The TDD process is being coordinated by the WMCA, with the City Council playing a full role. We have put forward overarching principles to guide the TDD, including the concept of double devolution, with powers and funding being devolved to both the combined authority and local authorities as appropriate.
- 3.1.10 The TDD covers a range of areas including devolved powers and funding around transport, skills and employment support, housing and regeneration, business support and trade and investment, innovation and R&D, business support, retrofit, energy planning, climate adaptation, nature environment financing, industrial decarbonisation, culture, digital, crime and community safety, health and wellbeing, data, homelessness and social capital. Underpinning all these areas are proposals for funding simplification and devolution, addressing the proliferation of one off-competitive bidding processes for funding that do not bring certainty, hamper innovation, and undermine the joining up of services.
- 3.1.11 The coordination process has been complex and faced challenges due to recent changes in Cabinet Ministers, affecting the timetable. We now expect to see a completed deal in the first quarter of 2023. All proposals are subject to ongoing negotiation with national government, which are ongoing at the time of writing this report.

East Birmingham

- 3.1.12 The East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Strategy was published in February 2021. An East Birmingham Board oversees the programme of activity. East Birmingham is a cornerstone of the city's wider levelling up programme. Projects include the £2m Dolphin Centre at Ward End Park, new Meadway local centre, a vision for the Tyseley Environmental Enterprise District, development of a Net Zero Neighbourhood for Castle Vale, and a Youth Employment Pilot, funded under the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities' (DLUHC) Partnerships for People and Place scheme, which includes pathways coaches work with cohorts of around 30 young people in each school.
- 3.1.13 Further funds have also been sought. A £20m bid into the Round 1 Levelling Up Fund for Bordesley Park (the former Birmingham Wheels Site) has been successful, while a decision is imminent on a Round 2 bid for the proposed National Centre for Decarbonised Heat at Tyseley.

East Birmingham devolution

- 3.1.14 Following the February 2022 announcement of a Trailblazer Devolution Deal (TDD) for the West Midlands, Birmingham City Council wrote to the West Midlands Mayor to outline how progress in East Birmingham could be faster and at greater scale if additional funding and powers were devolved via the TDD.
- 3.1.15 Subsequently, Birmingham City Council joined with Solihull and the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) to develop joint working for the East Birmingham North Solihull (EBNS) growth corridor area. EBNS is a functional economic area of around 375,000 people, framed by the HS2 station at Curzon Street in the west with the HS2 Interchange station at the NEC and Birmingham Airport in the east. It is a vibrant and diverse place but also has the highest concentration of deprivation outside of London. It has very poor connectivity and some of the highest level of unemployment in the country. The area is a major opportunity for the UK and West Midlands, for housing, employment growth and innovation in low carbon energy.
- 3.1.16 A proposal has been drawn up to enable growth at pace and scale alongside an integrated approach to infrastructure investment, housing and local public services. Through a proposed 'levelling up zone' for EBNS, the local authorities would be able to retain business rate growth within the zone or specific sites, but with the flexibility to spend the income on local levelling up priorities. A tax incremental finance (TIF) mechanism would enable business rate growth to generate up to £850m over 30 years for much needed investment in infrastructure including transport and site preparation. Alongside would be local public service innovation and integration, focussing initially on a neighbourhood level, primary care services and getting people into employment. Support from government and Homes England is also being sought to deliver a strategic programme of housing sites.
- 3.1.17 When Liz Truss became Prime Minister in September 2022, the government announced a process for expressions of interest for new investment zones. The EBNS proposal was calibrated to respond to this and meet the rapid timetable set out by government. Expressions of interest were submitted on 14th October 2022. With the change of Prime Minister to Rishi Sunak, the Autumn Statement confirmed that Investment Zones were not being taken forward. The Autumn Statement put forward Innovation Zones which are now being assessed. The EBNS levelling up proposal continues to be advocated through the TDD.

Early Intervention and Prevention (EI&P)

- 3.1.18 The Early Intervention and Prevention (EI&P) programme focuses on how council services move from crisis management to prevention, ensuring that we identify and work with vulnerable citizens and families at an early stage rather

than waiting for a crisis presentation. Such an approach would both improve long-term outcomes for citizens and help to tackle the financial pressure placed upon Council services by increased demand for acute support. It is identified as a key accelerator for the Council's levelling up approach.

- 3.1.19 In March 2022, the proposed approach to EI&P was approved by Cabinet and since then the programme has focused on developing the detailed design of the future EI&P service. Proposals have been taken to Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee for discussion, in addition to online and in-person Member briefings.
- 3.1.20 Two pilots will test the EI&P approach. The first, in December 2022, was the introduction of a proactive homes and money advice service in Northfields. This initiative aims to identify and support citizens facing financial difficulty. The second is a place-based approach, using council assets more effectively to co-locate and deliver local services. This will launch in Shard End Library in February 2023 and will bring together a broad set of services to citizens in that locality. Staff and clients have co-designed the pilots to ensure a citizen-centric approach.
- 3.1.21 A business case for the future EI&P function, a Target Operating Model for the Homes and Money Advice service, and an Outline Business Case for the place-based approach will all be presented to Cabinet in early 2023.

3 Cities retrofit programme

- 3.1.22 The 3 Cities retrofit involves the cities of Birmingham, Coventry and Wolverhampton coming together to pool expertise and develop housing energy efficiency and retrofit solutions at pace and scale to meet the Council's and government's net zero goals. Rapid progress is further needed because energy inefficient homes are increasing fuel poverty and the cost of living crisis. Around 22% of Birmingham homes are in fuel poverty, which is worsening due to the cost of living crisis. The scale of the 3 Cities can help market shape solutions and secure wider benefits including the creation of jobs and development of the local supply chain to undertake the retrofit work.
- 3.1.23 The scale of investment needed is significant and the 3 Cities programme is developing funding and financing models alongside seeking private and public investment. Over the last year, the 3 Cities team have presented to potential partners and investors at MIPIM and UKREiiF, as well as having discussions with the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and DLUHC, who visited the city in May 2022.
- 3.1.24 On 17th November 2022, Birmingham City Council submitted a bid to the BEIS Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund for £24.8m for the retrofit of 2,076 social housing units, with a total project cost of £146m. Over 20 different types of homes are included, all with an Energy Performance Certificate rated D or

below, and in areas that suffer from high levels of fuel poverty. This approach will ensure that learning can be scaled up.

- 3.1.25 Alongside, the 300 homes retrofit pilot in East Birmingham is being taken forward, a bid has been submitted for funding to enhance tenant engagement on retrofit, and a path for the ECO4 government energy efficiency scheme is being developed.
- 3.1.26 The City Council worked with Low Carbon Homes to hold the Birmingham Retrofit Summit 6th-8th December 2022. The event, with an audience of over 200, sought to share lessons on retrofit with industry partners and how to take forward the retrofit programme.

Inclusive growth

- 3.1.27 An Inclusive Growth Plan is being developed as a key element of the levelling up strategy. It is an identified priority within the Corporate Plan, as well as featuring across other Council strategies and plans. Initial mapping has indicated varied activity aimed at reducing poverty and creating more equality and opportunity in Birmingham's economy. The plan will seek to build on this and draw it together to encourage closer coordination and securing greater value, for example between regeneration and employment, and between community wealth building, social procurement and use of local authority assets. The plan will be supported by economic analysis and a range of supporting activities including the creation of a city Employment Charter, further development of the Birmingham Institution Anchor Network, and enhancing the Council's social value function to draw in the potential of the private sector.

3.2 Strategic Partnerships

- 3.2.1 The Deputy Leader portfolio includes responsibility for the Council's strategic partnerships and collaborative working relationships with stakeholders, as part of the city's Civic Family.
- 3.2.2 In a world of ever-increasing complexity, no one single organisation can devise and deliver the effective solutions needed to improve outcomes. Addressing the five Grand Challenges identified in the Council's Corporate Plan 2022-2026 will require a multi-agency response including partners from across the public, private and voluntary sectors and the Council in its role as leader of place. Effective partnership working is therefore key - not just to the achievement of the Council's strategic priorities, but to delivering improved outcomes for citizens and communities. It will also be a necessary enabler of the successful delivery of the city's levelling up strategy.
- 3.2.3 A new Strategic Partnerships, External Affairs and Corporate Leadership (SPEACL) division has been established within the Strategy, Equalities and

Partnerships (SEP) directorate, to hold responsibility for the Council's strategic partnerships across local, regional, and national levels. This includes a dedicated Strategic Partnerships team to work with partners on strategic issues facing the city, such as the cost of living crisis, and act as a corporate repository of knowledge about partner organisations, stakeholders and key decision-makers.

- 3.2.4 The Council has a number of key strategic partners, including the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), Core Cities UK, our city's universities, and a range of think tanks and research organisations. This section provides a brief overview of key partnership activity that has taken place over the last six months.

West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA)

- 3.2.5 As the regional government body for the West Midlands, the WMCA is one of the Council's most significant strategic partners. Set up in 2016, and including seven constituent member councils including Birmingham City Council, it has powers in a number of areas including transport, jobs and skills, and industrial strategy.
- 3.2.6 WMCA Portfolio Leads are drawn from constituent member local authorities and include the Leader as Portfolio Lead for Transport, and the Deputy Leader as Portfolio Lead for Levelling Up.
- 3.2.7 Work is underway by the Strategic Partnerships Team to ensure that the Council engages fully across the work of the Combined Authority and provide appropriate leadership as a constituent member. Going forward, the Team will take responsibility for coordinating briefings to senior leader attendees at WMCA Boards, including the Chief Executive, Leader and Cabinet Members, and aligning WMCA engagement across Cabinet and the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT).
- 3.2.8 This includes ensuring the Council's full engagement and input into the process around the Trailblazer Devolution Deal (TDD), the third devo deal for the West Midlands. Working with other local authorities and the WMCA, the Strategic Partnerships team has worked to shape the draft devolution proposals to ensure that they reflect our strategic priorities for Birmingham, including the levelling up approach set out in our levelling up strategy.

Core Cities UK

- 3.2.9 Core Cities UK is an alliance of the eleven largest cities in the UK outside of London. Its mission is to unlock the full potential of city regions to create a stronger, fairer economy and society, providing a collective voice for cities on shared strategic issues and challenges. The Council has identified Core Cities as a key partner, and is investing additional resource to supporting the Core

Cities work programme, including the Urban Futures Commission and the 3CI climate change investment commission.

- 3.2.10 Deborah Cadman, Chief Executive, will be taking over as Chair of the Core Cities Chief Executives Group in 2023.

Local Government Association (LGA)

- 3.2.11 We continue to engage with the work of the Local Government Association, including representation on several boards, such as City Regions, Executive Advisors, Improvement and Innovation and Environment, Economy, Housing, and Transport.

Bilateral partnerships with neighbouring authorities

- 3.2.12 In addition to our membership with the WMCA, we have taken steps to develop some key bi-lateral partnerships with neighbouring authorities to drive forward shared priorities. These include:

The East Birmingham-North Solihull Levelling Up Zone

- 3.2.13 This is a tripartite partnership to develop proposals for an innovative regeneration zone covering the whole of East Birmingham and North Solihull. We reached out to the West Midlands Mayor and to Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (Solihull MBC) to establish this partnership and have included it in discussions on the Trailblazer Devolution Deal, as well as planning for a longer-term engagement with government and other stakeholders to gain support for the model.

3 Cities

- 3.2.14 The 3 Cities partnership of Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry is now an established process for sharing evidence, challenges and innovative approaches to policy issues between the three West Midlands cities, including our response to the climate emergency. We have jointly developed an at-scale programme for the retrofit of social housing across the three partners (identified as a Levelling Up Accelerator) and are actively seeking investment partners.

Greater Birmingham and Solihull Chambers of Commerce (GBCC)

- 3.2.15 We continue to work closely with the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Chambers of Commerce (GBCC), including joint lobbying of national government on support to businesses during the current cost of living crisis, and contributions to their events with member businesses.

Think tanks

- 3.2.16 Finally, we have also expanded our work with think tanks and other centres of expertise who can help us to achieve our objectives, with a range of projects involving different services and partners such as Nesta, Reform, Demos, Collaborate, New Local, Localis, Onward, CLES, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Resolution Foundation.

3.3 Birmingham City Partnership Board (BCPB)

- 3.3.1 The Strategic Partnerships Team acts as Secretariat to the Birmingham City Partnership Board (BCPB), a city-wide, cross-sector strategic board formed in 2018 to tackle the major policy challenges and opportunities facing the city. The Board has no statutory decision-making or budget responsibilities, but acts as an informal body to ensure a collective response to the strategic issues affecting the city.
- 3.3.2 The Birmingham City Partnership Board is chaired by the Deputy Leader, in her capacity as lead for strategic partnerships. Membership is drawn from across Birmingham's public, private and voluntary sectors. Member organisations are selected on the basis that they can provide the strategic leadership, sponsorship and direction to enable the city to respond effectively to the risks, challenges and opportunities it faces. Chairs of statutory partnerships across the city are also included in Board membership.
- 3.3.3 An extensive programme has taken place over the past twelve months to refresh the Board, agreeing a new set of governance principles including a mission, purpose and strategic goals.
- 3.3.4 The mission of the Board has been agreed as follows:
We want to play our part in cementing Birmingham's position as a thriving golden city, as the beating heart of the UK both commercially and culturally; a place in which diversity is not a drawback and truly is a strength to be celebrated; where no one is excluded from the opportunities that the city can offer; a place where we can look back at our heritage with a sense of pride but also look forward with a sense of optimism, a golden decade of opportunity in a Bolder Brighter Birmingham.
- 3.3.5 The Board's purpose is:
...to provide strategic leadership, sponsorship and direction that enables Birmingham to respond ambitiously and effectively to the challenges, risks and opportunities facing the city, and ensure an inclusive and sustainable recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.
It ensures a unified and amplified single voice and advocacy for the city as it seeks to 'level up' and overcome long-standing inequalities so that citizens live longer, healthier and happier lives.

- 3.3.6 Six strategic goals have been agreed by the Board:
1. Improve employability and employment
 2. Increase living standards for all citizens
 3. Engage with and empower our communities
 4. Create a safer lived experience for our residents
 5. Improve health and happiness
 6. Lead the way to net zero
- 3.3.7 An updated Terms of Reference has been prepared and will be circulated for agreement by partners at the beginning of 2023, as well as being published on the BCC website.
- 3.3.8 Recently, the Board has focused on the city's collective response to the cost of living crisis, with meetings focused on the immediate, medium and long-term responses of partners. Two members of the City Partnership Board - the NHS Integrated Care Partnership, and the Birmingham Voluntary Services Council - sit on the Council's Strategic Board overseeing our cost of living response.
- 3.3.9 In September 2022, City Board Partners came together to agree a collective, cross-sector set of asks to national government to support the city through the crisis, which were sent to then-Prime Minister Liz Truss on 5th October 2022. These were recirculated to Jeremy Hunt MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer, on 16th November 2022 ahead of the November Autumn Statement.
- 3.3.10 A copy of these collective asks can be read online [here](#).

3.4 External Affairs

- 3.4.1 As part of the new Strategic Partnerships, External Affairs and Corporate Leadership (SPEACL) function, the External Affairs team works to build a network of advocates for both the Council and the city. It does this through raising awareness of the Council's policies and activities, shaping and influencing external policy agendas, and strengthening the Council's reputation through managing arising issues. In so doing, it enables the achievement of the Council's strategic objectives and the overall Corporate Plan.
- 3.4.2 The team works closely with Insight, Policy and Strategy, and Corporate Communications, allowing for the clear assessment of challenges and proposed policy solutions, identification of and engagement with relevant partners to deliver change, and the development and delivery of impactful communications to wider stakeholders.

- 3.4.3 This section provides an overview of key external affairs activity over the last twelve months.

External Affairs Strategy

- 3.4.4 The Council adopted its first External Affairs Strategy in September 2021, using the strategic priorities outlined in the draft Corporate Plan as a guiding framework for activity.
- 3.4.5 Since then, the External Affairs Strategy has been regularly refreshed on a six monthly basis, incorporating the five Levelling Up Accelerators included in the Council's levelling up strategy alongside policy and political priorities identified by directorates, CLT and Cabinet Members.

Climate Change Committee (CCC) visit to Birmingham

- 3.4.6 In February 2022, the External Affairs Team, working closely with the Route to Zero (R20) team and Corporate Communications, coordinated a visit of the Climate Change Committee (CCC) to Birmingham for a day of events focused on the climate emergency.
- 3.4.7 The CCC, chaired by Lord Deben (former Environment Secretary, John Selwyn Gummer) is an independent, statutory body established under the Climate Change Act 2008 with the purpose of advising the UK Government and devolved administrations on emissions targets and to report to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for and adapting to the impacts of climate change.
- 3.4.8 The day of events marked the beginning of a new 'national conversation' initiative that the CCC held to hear from and reflect on the views of the authorities, organisations and individuals involved in delivering Net Zero on the ground throughout the UK.
- 3.4.9 Led by Lord Deben and Chris Stark, Chief Executive, the CCC took part in a series of stakeholder and engagement events across the city, including:
- A visit to St Paul's School for Girls in Edgbaston, including a Q&A session with their sixth form and members of the student Climate Action Group
 - A site visit to Tyseley Energy Park, including a demonstration of new hydrogen bus technology
 - A roundtable session with businesses from across Birmingham and the West Midlands, including the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Chambers of Commerce (GBCC) and the Confederation of British Industry (CBI)
 - A roundtable discussion with the Birmingham Faith Leaders Network

- A stakeholder workshop and engagement session with members of the public and stakeholder groups across the city

3.4.10 As a follow-up to the visit, Birmingham City Council submitted a further package of briefings and asks to the CCC, to be incorporated into their findings. These were reflected in the final 2022 Progress Report to Parliament, which can be read [here](#).

All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Levelling Up Birmingham

3.4.11 Over 2022 the Strategic Partnerships and External Affairs functions have supported the launch and development of an All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Levelling Up Birmingham, as a vehicle for parliamentary engagement and advocacy on behalf of the city.

3.4.12 The APPG was formally constituted in May 2022 in Westminster, with the following purpose:

- To showcase and advocate for *Prosperity and Opportunity For All: Birmingham's Levelling Up Strategy*, putting the city at the forefront of this emerging policy agenda.
- To use the APPG as a vehicle to engage with key influential stakeholders including Government, investors, businesses, public sector partners etc. with a view to securing the resources, powers and system change required to deliver the strategy.
- To promote the city as a *global city*, articulating that whilst there are many challenges, we also have the solutions in Birmingham, with huge potential and untapped talent. We need Levelling Up to be the key to unlock what we call a 'golden decade of opportunity'.

3.4.13 Chaired by Preet Gill MP (Labour, Edgbaston) and Andrew Mitchell MP (Conservative, Sutton Coldfield), the APPG is being run on a cross-party basis, with the explicit aim of building a diverse coalition of advocates for the city and its levelling up agenda, lobbying on behalf of our citizens, communities, and businesses. The APPG uses the five Levelling Up Accelerators identified in 'Prosperity and Opportunity for All' as an overarching framework for its work programme.

3.4.14 The APPG was publicly launched in June 2022 ahead of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, at a joint event with the West Midlands Forum at the Library of Birmingham. Speakers included Preet Gill MP, Andrew Mitchell MP (Conservative, Sutton Coldfield), Andy Street (West Midlands Metro Mayor), and Liam Byrne MP (Labour, Hodge Hill).

3.4.15 In October 2022, the APPG held its inaugural business meeting in Birmingham to coincide with the Conservative Party Conference. The agenda centred

around the 3 Cities retrofit programme, making links to the current cost of living crisis and climate emergency.

- 3.4.16 A work programme is in development for 2023, with future events planned in both London and Birmingham.

Exempt accommodation

- 3.4.17 On 17th March 2022, national government announced that it intended to bring in new legislation to regulate the supported housing sector, alongside a £20million Supported Housing Improvement Programme. This was the culmination of a nationally coordinated programme of External Affairs activity spearheaded by the Council, and supported by colleagues from City Housing.
- 3.4.18 Previously, subject matter experts and policy officers has identified regulation of the exempt accommodation sector as a key strategic objective for the Council and partners across local government. A targeted campaign of external affairs activity was led by the External Affairs team to galvanise a broad coalition of local, regional and national stakeholders behind the agenda for change, including:
- Awareness raising interviews in the trade and national press
 - The public launch of a 'Charter of Rights' for residents in exempt accommodation
 - Proactive engagement with the Chair of the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Select Committee, Clive Betts MP
 - Coordination with other pilot areas across the country to produce learning from the supported accommodation pilot and joint asks to national government
- 3.4.19 The External Affairs team continues to work closely with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness and colleagues in City Housing to position the Council as a 'thought-leader' in the exempt accommodation issue, proactively lobbying national government on behalf of our most vulnerable citizens.
- 3.4.20 On 5th October 2022, the External Affairs team delivered the inaugural Birmingham City Council Exempt Accommodation Conference, which took place as part of a comprehensive programme of External Affairs events the Conservative Party Conference. The conference attracted over 200 delegates from across local government, exempt accommodation providers, national government, think tanks and the wider voluntary and community sector. Speakers included Jess Phillips MP (Labour, Yardley), Matt Downie (Chief Executive, Crisis), and Jonathan Walters (Deputy Chief Executive, Regulator of Social Housing).

Political party conferences

- 3.4.21 Over the 2022 party conference season, the External Affairs team led on the development and delivery of a comprehensive programme of activity to promote the Council's strategic priorities, including our levelling up approach and the 3 Cities retrofit programme.
- 3.4.22 The external affairs approach to conferences focused on four main areas of activity:
- BCC-led events, where the External Affairs team directly led on the design and delivery of events.
 - Partner events and fringe programme, with the External Affairs team reaching out to partners and think tanks to identify opportunities to field BCC speakers.
 - Ministerial stakeholder engagement, through a number of vehicles including the APPG for Levelling Up Birmingham, the offer of speaking opportunities and lobbying to Secretaries of State on Council priorities.
 - Communications and promotions, working closely with Corporate Communities and partner organisations to develop integrated communications and engagement strategies around events and produce promotional materials for delegates and stakeholders.
- 3.4.23 Between 2nd and 5th October 2022, the Conservative Party Conference took place in Birmingham. This represented a major opportunity for the Council to build on the reputational boost of the Commonwealth Games, promote our strategic objectives, and build on our relationship with national government, with additional significance due to the recent election of a new Prime Minister.
- 3.4.24 As the 'host city' for the Conference, Birmingham was in a uniquely prominent position to develop our own events as part of the conference fringe programme. During the three days of the Conference, we held the following events:
- First business meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Levelling Up Birmingham, focusing on the 3 Cities retrofit programme and links to the current cost of living crisis.
 - 'Birmingham's Golden Decade: From CWG to HS2', a panel discussion and Q&A event held at 103 Colmore Row. Speakers included the Leader of the Council, Andrew Mitchell MP, Casey Bailey (Birmingham Poet Laureate), and Erica Love (CEX, Culture Central).
 - The inaugural Birmingham City Council Exempt Accommodation Conference (as outlined above), attracting over 200 delegates from across the UK.
- 3.4.25 We also secured speaking opportunities for the Leader, Deputy Leader, CLT and Cabinet Members at a wide variety of partner events and panel

discussions, including events with Centre for Cities, Localis, Reform, the Institute for Government (IfG), Core Cities UK and the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR).

Cost of living response

3.4.26 In August 2022, an External Affairs strategy was developed in response to the emerging cost of living crisis, setting out a proactive approach to ensure that we worked effectively with partners across the city to support our citizens, communities, and businesses. In setting out a suggested approach, we ensured that we learned the lessons from the Covid-19 response, strengthening and building on those relationship that had been built during the pandemic. This included a focus on the Council working with existing community, voluntary and charity networks rather than seeking to duplicate services.

3.4.27 Specific activities included:

- Development of and support around the declaration of a Cost of Living Emergency by the Leader of the Council on 6th September 2022.
- Support to the Birmingham City Partnership Board to produce a set of collective, cross-sector asks to national government for cost of living support on 5th October 2022 (as outlined above).
- Joint announcement with the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Chambers of Commerce (GBCC) around the launch of their 'Business Manifesto' on 6th November 2022, setting out the specific support required by businesses.
- Support to the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) Annual Summit, held at the Library of Birmingham on 18th November 2022, including an announcement that the Birmingham Anchor Institutions Network would renew its commitment to community wealth building activity for a further eight years.

Future work programme

3.4.28 A future work programme for the External Affairs team, as part of a wider business plan and work programme for the SPEACL function, is currently in development. This will continue to be informed by the strategic objectives highlighted in the Corporate Plan, directorate priorities and the developing national policy landscape (including priorities as communicated by national government).

3.5 Birmingham City Observatory

- 3.5.1 On 22nd November 2022, the Deputy Leader launched the Council's new open data platform, known as the "City Observatory". With approximately 70 people in attendance, the citywide audience was presented with a live demonstration of the online platform, and the initial set of interactive dashboards developed to demonstrate data and insights across key thematic areas. These themes included:
- City indicators which closely link to our partnership priorities as well as the council's strategic objectives.
 - Financial resilience in the 69 wards. This is against five dimensions: mosaic demographic segmentation, indices of multiple deprivation, fuel poverty, benefits and unemployment, and children in financially vulnerable households.
 - Ward Profiles including data from a wide range of sources.
 - Homes for Ukraine, which provides an insight into the aid delivered to Ukrainian refugees settling in Birmingham.
- 3.5.2 The event culminated in a panel discussion on how open data could be used to support the city's future development and how partners might best use this information.
- 3.5.3 Going forward, the City Observatory (as part of the Council's new Insight, Policy and Strategy Division) will play a key role in achieving the Council's corporate and strategic aims, providing the Council with the data, insight and analysis needed for evidence-based decision making.
- 3.5.4 On 19th December 2022, the City Observatory was updated with a new Census 2021 dashboard that provides a more detailed view of the city and its diversity across key issues including ethnicity, religion, language, the age profile of the population and how people travel to work.

Employment and Skills

3.6 14–19 Participation and Skills Team

- 3.6.1 The 14-19 Participation and Skills Team are responsible for delivering the Council's statutory duties for young people's participation through the Education Act 1996, Education and Skills Act 2008 (ESA 2008), and Children and Families Act 2014.
- 3.6.2 Local authorities have broad duties to encourage, enable, and assist young people to participate in education or training. Specifically, under the Education Act 1996, local authorities have a duty to secure sufficient suitable education and training provision for all young people in their area who are over compulsory school age, but under 19, or aged 19 to 25 and for whom an Education, Health, and Care (EHC) plan is maintained. To fulfil this, local

authorities need to have a strategic overview of the provision available in their area and to identify and resolve gaps in provision.

3.6.3 Local authorities also have a duty to make available to all young people aged 13-19 and to those between 20 and 25 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), support that will encourage, enable, or assist them to participate in education or training under Section 68 of the ESA 2008.

3.6.4 Tracking young people's participation is a key element of these duties. Local authorities are required to collect information about young people so that those who are not participating, or are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), can be identified and given support to re-engage. Robust tracking also provides the local authority with information that helps to ensure that suitable education and training provision is available in their area, and that resources can be targeted effectively

3.6.5 Finally, the ESA 2008 placed Raising Participation Age (RPA) related duties on local authorities regarding 16- and 17-year-olds:

- Local authorities must promote the effective participation in education and training of 16- and 17-year-olds in their area with a view to ensuring that those persons fulfil the duty to participate in education or training.
- A key element of this is identifying the young people in their area who are covered by the duty to participate and encouraging them to find a suitable education or training place.
- Local authorities must make arrangements i.e. maintain a tracking system to identify 16- and 17-year-olds who are not participating in education or training, putting in place robust arrangements to identify young people who are not engaged in education or training or who have left provision enables local authorities to offer support as soon as possible.

3.6.6 The cohort size of 16-18-year-olds in Birmingham is 31,253 young people. This is approximately 1,600 more young people than 2021, and cohort size will continue to increase in future years with a peak of approximately 35,000 young people in 2025.

3.6.7 The 14-19 Participation and Skills Team are currently in the business-critical period for the September Guarantee and Annual Participation Survey (APS). This is a period of annual reporting by the Department for Education (DfE) on participation, NEET, and Not Known young people aged 16-18 years (and up to 25 with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)).

September Guarantee position

3.6.8 The September Guarantee requires local authorities to find education and training places for all 16- and 17- year olds in their areas.

- 3.6.9 This year, September Guarantee monitoring recorded that 95.3% of young people in Years 12 and 13 in Birmingham had received an offer to participate in education or employment with training (as shown in the below table). This is an improvement of 2% on last year, despite the previously mentioned growth in cohort numbers.

	Yr12	Yr13	Total
Offers	14762	14561	29323
Cohort	14990	15776	30766
Percentage	98.48%	92.30%	95.31%

- 3.6.10 There are more offers recorded per person than in previous years on the NCCIS (National Client Caseload Information System) reporting system, also exceeding the national average from previous years.

Annual Participation Survey (APS) update

- 3.6.11 Annual Participation Survey (APS) processes for 2022 differ from previous years, with general further education colleges required to provide early information on enrolments. This information is being used to test the market, to see if it reduces the number of Not Known young people with an unknown participation status.
- 3.6.12 As a result, for the first time in over a decade, the percentage of young people whose participation status is 'not known' has reduced to 7.77% (as of 3rd November 2022). While lower than previous years at this stage, this figure remains too high and tackling this will be a key priority.
- 3.6.13 The Birmingham NEET figure is currently below the national average. In the previous years it finalised at between 2.5-3% of the overall cohort.
- 3.6.14 Earlier reporting has supported the early identification of those young people at risk of disengaging and Birmingham Careers Service (BCS) have put early intervention strategies in place to provide impartial advice and support to young people around the offers that they have received.
- 3.6.15 Birmingham is supporting the national development of a Risk of NEET Guidance Document, the first draft of which is due to be published for national roll out in January 2023. Our indicator tool has been cited as good practice in this area, with learning being shared.
- 3.6.16 Based on current figures, good progress is being made on the numbers of NEET young people in Years 12 and 13. The latest data indicates a figure of under 10%, compared to previous years' figures of over 20%. This success is due to lessons learned from previous years, and the establishment of good working relationships with key stakeholders across the city.

- 3.6.17 Final APS figures are due at the end of February 2023, at which point we will know the final participation figures for young people in Birmingham.
- 3.6.18 With continued investment into data tools, including MI Data Groups, close working with delivery providers, and active linking in to the SEND Accelerated Project Plan (APP), we are widening data collection to include Year 14 and transitions for young people on EHCPs.
- 3.6.19 Birmingham's 14-19 Acting Head of Service co-chairs a national core cities group to share good practice across Post-16 Teams.
- 3.6.20 The below figure shows the position as of November 2022 (all figures are subject to change and awaiting final confirmation from the DfE).

Summary of NCCIS Cohort Years 12 and 13 by Participation, NEET and Not Known Status

Date Run: 03/11/2022

	NEET		Participating		Not Known		Cohort
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	
Yr12	270	1.74%	14374	92.82%	842	5.44%	15486
Yr13	460	2.92%	13720	87.02%	1586	10.06%	15767
Total	730	2.34%	28094	89.89%	2428	7.77%	31253

Post-16 jobs and skills strategy development

- 3.6.21 The 14-19 Participation and Skills Team are working with existing post-16 delivery providers to meet the provision gaps in the city. Evidence shows that entry level provision in the south of the city is lacking, and that in general the variety of sectors covered by work-based providers is limited.
- 3.6.22 Over the last 8 years, 15 post-16 providers have withdrawn provision across the city. This is due for a number of factors depending on the provider, including inadequate Ofsted inspection findings, financial viability, and contract closure. In some cases, provision in specialist areas have been lost, further reducing the variety of opportunities open to young people.
- 3.6.23 In order to respond to an increasing cohort of young people on EHCPs, and to reduce youth unemployment going forward, the 14-19 Team are procuring a sufficiency survey to address the challenges the city faces, with key professionals contributing to the development of a new jobs and skills strategy, Building Down Opportunities.

Travel to Succeed programme

- 3.6.24 The 14-19 Team have devised a Travel to Succeed programme for young people to address the first recommendation in the Breaking Down Barriers

report, which identified the cost of public transport as a barrier to employment for many 16- to 18-year olds. The programme is supported by £1.2m funding from the Leader's Priority pot, and will support young people with transport needs across the city of Birmingham, helping to tackle transport barriers and increase their participation in activities and events.

3.6.25 As part of the programme, 12-month multi-travel passes will be issued to all young people in the below target groups:

- 16-18 NEET young people
- 19-25 NEET young people on an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) or in need of additional support as identified with their support worker
- Young people who are known to Birmingham Children's Trust (BCT)
- Young people who require Travel Confidence Training

3.6.26 The Travel to Succeed programme is due to go live in January 2023.

Response to the SEND Accelerated Project Plan

3.6.27 The 14-19 Team are leading a number of workstreams to increase opportunities within 14-29 employment pathways for SEND young people, in addition to supporting seven task and finish groups. These will build a variety of opportunities at key transition points for young people, including:

- Supported internship development
- Inclusive apprenticeship development
- Promotional campaigns to raise awareness and increase disability confident employers
- Production of a directory of Day Opportunities
- Working with voluntary and community sector organisations
- BCC Procurement and the Birmingham Charter for Social Responsibility (BC4SR)
- BCC Planning Policy – Local Employment and Skills

3.6.28 A safeguarding and tracking element is in development as part of an already robust tracking process for SEND young people over 19-years old. This will further strengthen our existing processes, supporting wider participation and entry into meaningful adult engagement activities.

3.7 Birmingham Careers Service

3.7.1 Birmingham Careers Service (BCS) delivers impartial careers information advice and guidance service for young people who are aged 16-19 and NEET.

The service also delivers a traded service for schools who wish to purchase a careers guidance service for their students, which assists them in their statutory responsibilities as an educational institution.

- 3.7.2 The delivery of these services ensures that the Council meets its statutory requirements around the need to 'encourage, enable and assist' NEET young people to re-engage in education, training, or employment. This delivery relates to the requirements set out within Education and Skills Act 2008, Children and Families Act 2014, DfE Raising Participation Age Statutory Guidance for local authorities (last updated 2016), and DfE SEND Code of Practice 0-25 (last updated April 2020).
- 3.7.3 The service is a major contributor to the Youth Promise Plus project, as covered below in the next section of this report. Delivery of all services is carried out by level 6 and level 7 professionally qualified careers advisers.
- 3.7.4 BCS continued to deliver services throughout Covid-19 on a face-to-face, in person basis, offering impartial careers information advice and guidance as well as developing a digital and online service including the website, webinars, Microsoft Teams sessions, and social media channels. These new digital and online services have continued post-pandemic.
- 3.7.5 Our public service delivery was reviewed post-pandemic, and continues to deliver via a drop-in & appointment service from the Library of Birmingham, The Factory, and Lighthouse Youth centres. Delivery on an appointment-only basis for young people is available at 14 other locations across the city, including youth centres, community libraries, and community venues.
- 3.7.6 We have seen increased demand for our impartial careers' guidance service from 16-19-year-old NEETs. Despite this, all referrals of young people are allocated an individual careers adviser within four days, with engagement commencing in line with a young person's individual needs.
- 3.7.7 BCS is the major contributing service to reducing 16-18-year-old NEET figures because of the statutory requirements it discharges on behalf of the Council around enabling assisting and supporting young people to enter employment, education, or training. Close collaboration and synergy with the 14-19 Team, Birmingham Youth Service, the Employment Team, BAES, and the Library service (both Library of Birmingham and community libraries) is crucial to this area of work.

Traded services delivery

- 3.7.8 There is an ever-increasing interest and demand for the Careers Information and Guidance (CIAG) traded service from schools, colleges and learning providers across Birmingham, recognising that the BCS brand stands for quality, independence, and impartiality. We currently trade with 33 mainstream or special schools, offering a careers guidance service in line with individual

institutional requirements. Development of the digital service will also increase both the volume of and geographical reach within the market.

- 3.7.9 The success of our traded services poses a challenge, in the form of meeting increased levels of demand with existing levels of resource. Work is taking place to look at potential future structures for support, alongside the WMCA and the Careers Enterprise Company. A reconfiguration of service delivery to meet new demand is expected to take place over the next 12 months.
- 3.7.10 EU funding, in the form of European Structural Funds (ESF) is due to finish in October 2023. This will have a detrimental impact on service delivery, and requires consideration. Work is taking place within the services to consider all funding and service delivery options and possibilities moving forward.

3.8 Youth unemployment

- 3.8.1 Employment levels in Birmingham are still recovering from the pandemic, especially among young people. Our best measure of unemployment is the unadjusted Jobs Centre Plus claimant count, which measures the number of people claiming benefit for the reason of being unemployed. After steadily falling in the first half of 2022, the all-age count in Birmingham increased in September 2022 by 665 to 61,665. While the claimant count also increased nationally and regionally in the same month, rates of unemployment in Birmingham remain higher than the national average.
- 3.8.2 The September 2022 all-age claimant count is a decrease of 22,225 (-27%) on the 'pandemic peak' of March 2021. It is, however, still 13,105 (+27%) higher than pre-pandemic levels in February 2020, showing that employment levels have not yet recovered from the impact of Covid-19.
- 3.8.3 This situation is reflected in the figures for youth (18-24) unemployment in the city, which increased by 210 in September 2022 to stand at 10,700. Young people aged 18-24 were worst hit by the pandemic, with the city seeing fastest rise in claimant numbers during the pandemic (76%).
- 3.8.4 The Council's 'Breaking Down Barriers' report, published in July 2021, was based on research with stakeholders and young people. The report sets out ten recommendations with clearly identified actions to improve the quality and visibility of the careers and employment support on offer across the city.
- 3.8.5 Like the Breaking Down Barriers report, other national reports such as Youth Employment UK's Youth Voice Census 2022 found that young people are in a mental health emergency. The research from across the youth employment sector has highlighted growing concern about rising economic inactivity and worklessness among young people due to ill mental and physical health.
- 3.8.6 For the adult population, the city still has a higher proportion of residents with no qualifications and a lower proportion of residents with qualifications at NVQ Level 3 equivalence, compared to the national average.

Youth Promise Plus (YPP)

- 3.8.7 Since 2016, the EU-funded Youth Promise Plus (YPP) project has been supporting young people who are NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training). This year the funding was extended to December 2023.
- 3.8.8 YPP has targeted delivery for young people who face challenging life circumstances such as children in care, care leavers, and young people referred by the youth offending service, the police, and social services, as well as young people engaged through careers and youth services' peripatetic and outreach work.
- 3.8.9 YPP funds person-centred support, which can range from life-stabilisation (e.g., linking with housing, health, and income support) to work-ready CV and interview preparation, as well as support for up to a month after the young person achieves an employment, education, or training outcome.
- 3.8.10 The YPP project funds the equivalent of around 120 full time staff provided by a combination of Birmingham and Solihull Council teams and a range of specialist partners and contractors, including:
- The Prince's Trust - who provide one to one support and an exciting range of programmes with major employers
 - University Hospital Birmingham Learning Hub - specialising in health care training and jobs links
 - Change Grow Live - intensive support for vulnerable young people such as care leavers
 - Better Pathways - providing professional mental health advice
- 3.8.11 The service supports young people to gain qualifications and progress to either employment, further education or training, such as college courses, traineeships or apprenticeships.
- 3.8.12 Prior to the pandemic, the Youth Promise Plus project was achieving over 90% success rate against 15 of its 17 key performance indicator (KPI) targets, having supported over 14,000 NEET young people. Just under 4,500 young people achieved a positive employment, education, or training outcome since delivery of the project fully commenced in March 2016.
- 3.8.13 The pandemic impacted on the engagement of young people and has also had the potentially positive impact of more young people staying on in education rather than seek employment. Currently YPP supports approximately 1,500 young people per year and maintains its high levels of support for the monitored equality measures. Of the 17,096 young people engaged to date on 30th September 2022:
- 53% of young people are from Black, Asian or other minoritised ethnic groups

- 39% are long-term unemployed
- 20% have a self-declared disability or learning difficulty
- 12% are 'lone parents'

- 3.8.14 The YPP project offers the most intensive support to young people referred from Birmingham Children's Trust (from children in care, care leavers, youth offending and supported families services), West Midlands Police, and specialist partners like the Red Thread charity.
- 3.8.15 A wrap-around mental health service is offered that provides low level mental health interventions addressing mental health barriers to employment e.g. managing anxiety, sleep, and self-esteem issues.
- 3.8.16 Participants' issues range from Generalised Anxiety Disorder (GAD) to phobias and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and they can be hesitant in sharing the struggles they face with their condition. One recent example concerns a young person estranged from their parents due to a complicated home life, with their younger siblings being taken into care. The situation left the young person hesitant to engage in the YPP service through fear of the service disclosing their circumstances.
- 3.8.17 The YPP service provides support over a relatively long period (most commonly between 13 and 52 weeks) so that each young person can learn coping strategies and find ways of overcoming their difficulties in a productive manner.
- 3.8.18 A number of YPP staff are co-located with Jobcentre Plus (JCP) Youth Work Coaches in a city-wide network of Youth Hubs. Youth Hubs offer more friendly locations than job centres and more time per appointment with the work coach compared to usual unemployment services, plus joined up support from YPP and other providers on-site. A central Hub is located at Library of Birmingham, with smaller hubs at the Lighthouse (Lozells) and Factory (Longbridge) Youth Centres. JCP also provide a Youth Hub based within Witton Lodge Community Centre and are planning to co-locate at the Dolphin Centre in East Birmingham.
- 3.8.19 Our collaborative working with Jobcentre Plus and the WMCA has led to delivery of a series of six successful Birmingham Jobs Fairs over the last 18 months. Each Job Fair has attracted around 1000 attendees, with approximately a quarter of attendees progressing into training or interviews at each event. In October 2022 we incorporated cost of living support providers as part of the fair. This was very successful and will be embedded into future jobs fairs in 2023/2024.
- 3.8.20 We have also delivered a series of smaller events held at Library of Birmingham, focussed on speedy recruitment, apprenticeships, and the employment sectors that young people are most interested in (creative, digital, administration). These events were created based on consultations with young

people. The Employment and Skills team are now planning an Apprenticeship Event for National Apprenticeship Week in February, with another large Birmingham Jobs Fair scheduled for May 2023.

Maximising social value through construction

- 3.8.21 Through procurement, social value and planning obligations negotiations, our Employment Access Team (EA Team) maximises the Council's employer links and ensures that jobs and skills opportunities generated through social value obligations are appropriately targeted. There is a particular focus on opportunities in the construction sector, ensuring that jobs and skills commitments from developers join up with local training provision.
- 3.8.22 Between April and August 2022, 779 jobs and opportunities generated through social value commitments were successfully gained by unemployed local people. This is twice as many in the same period for the previous year. Prior to the involvement of the EA team, construction teams would often be brought in by contractors from other areas, with local people missing out on opportunities.
- 3.8.23 Building on our strong relationship with the development industry, we are piloting a new social value approach to jobs and skills agreements to widen our 'ask' across careers and community-based youth interventions. This is being done with a view to creating an early intervention model of career pathways into the construction industry and ring-fencing targeted jobs for priority groups such as NEETs, care leavers, ex-offenders, homeless people, veterans, and people with special educational needs and disabilities.
- 3.8.24 We are also working with Procurement colleagues to provide the same driving force to the rest of the Council's supply chain. This will ensure that unemployed residents are linked in with new job opportunities, as well as working with contractors on their social value programme to link careers interventions with the SEND Improvement Plan. Recommendations in the Breaking Down Barriers report will also be used to provide clear pathways from education to employment for disadvantaged groups and those most at risk of becoming
- 3.8.25 Our latest initiative to support youth employment and skills is to support the construction sector to offer work experience placements. The team's built environment sector employer relationships generate over 250 work experience opportunities per year. In 2023/2024 we are working to increase this figure to 500 to better target opportunities to local areas and schools with the highest levels of need. We are aiming to standardise the post-16 work experience offer to increase the number of young people that can benefit from placements, working with the WMCA and South and City College to develop a web portal that matches the needs of young people with potential employers.
- 3.8.26 Looking ahead, we project that the HS2 building programme will generate 9,000 jobs to Birmingham and the wider region over the next three years.

Birmingham residents already gain 34% of all HS2 prime contractor roles in the West Midlands; however, we will be working to increase this success rate year on year.

- 3.8.27 Balfour Beatty Vinci are offering bespoke support for care leavers, including paid placements with an inbuilt support offer. We are also working in partnership with the Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP) to develop a vocational STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) programme to equip young people with the skills and qualifications they need to benefit from the opportunities arising from the HS2 programme.

Commonwealth Games jobs and skills legacy

- 3.8.28 Birmingham has delivered a superb Commonwealth Games and we are committed to achieving a lasting jobs and skills legacy, especially for the thousands of residents involved in the hospitality and event services industries and volunteers. We held a successful 2-day West Midlands Showcase event in August 2022 at Library of Birmingham aimed at supporting next steps for Games staff and volunteers. Following this, we will host ongoing recruitment events with Games sector employers e.g., hospitality, cleaning, catering, security through a local partnership approach. Legacy support will continue to be delivered throughout 2023/2024.
- 3.8.29 As part of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, a unique partnership was created between Birmingham City Council and our development partners JCP and West Midlands Combined Authority, plus a host of specialist training and community-based employability providers. As a result of work done in this partnership, 378 unemployed residents, students, and residents 'at risk' of losing their jobs were able to access employment opportunities arising from the Commonwealth Games construction phase, despite the challenging context of the Covid-19 pandemic. Approximately 25% of these opportunities were secured by young people aged 15 – 24 and over 50% went to residents under the age of 35. Our wider social value programme has brought further engagement with young people through schools, colleges, universities, and local community settings.
- 3.8.1 Targeting our activity in local job centres and community settings in unemployment hotspots close to developments has ensured that the benefits go to residents in local communities. 55% of the opportunities created on Alexander Stadium and Perry Barr Residential Scheme construction projects were taken up by residents living in the neighbouring areas of Erdington, Perry Barr, and Ladywood.

Kickstart delivery

- 3.8.2 This year we have successfully completed delivery of our Kickstart placement programme for unemployed 18 – 24-year-olds. The Kickstart Scheme was launched by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) in response to Covid-19, creating high quality six - month work placements for young people aged 16-24, fully funded by national government up to Minimum Wage levels. In February 2021, we backed delivery of a Kickstart programme offering 50 internal Kickstart placements within Birmingham City Council, topping up national government funding so that Council Kickstart placements could be paid a Real Living Wage.
- 3.8.3 Birmingham City Council invested in a wrap-around support package for Kickstarter participants, delivered by our own Birmingham Adult Education Service (BAES) and a new Kickstart Co-ordination team to support the recruitment and delivery process.
- 3.8.4 To support small employers to apply to have Kick-starters, the Council also partnered with the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership who provided business advice and support.
- 3.8.5 Of the 50 placements that the Council sought to offer, 47 were filled. Three placements were not successfully delivered due to late drop-out during the recruitment process, after the window for national Kickstart recruitment had closed. All 47 Council Kickstart placements were successfully completed. Of the young people supported who responded to our post-placement survey, 46% reported they had never been employed before.
- 3.8.6 The Council's 14 – 19 tracking team undertakes an annual Skills Sufficiency survey and works with colleges and Independent Training Providers to develop services to meet gaps in provision. Our experience of delivering the Kickstart programme will feed into the Council's developing Early Careers programme.

Apprenticeships

- 3.8.7 We continue to work with the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Economic Partnership (GBSLEP) to increase spend from the Council's Apprenticeship Levy Transfer Fund. As of September 2022, we have supported 21 local employers to deliver 65 apprenticeships across all levels, with the greatest number of apprenticeships at Level 3. Such activity supports the ongoing upskilling of Birmingham residents past Level 2.
- 3.8.8 Overall, Birmingham continues to lag behind other areas in take-up of apprenticeships. The latest figures show that only 3.7% of 16-17 year olds in Birmingham are in an apprenticeship, compared to a national average of 4.7% and 11% in top performing areas. Increasing our apprenticeship rates to the national average would generate an additional 315 apprenticeships for Birmingham; matching the top-performing rate would mean an extra 3,480

apprenticeships. Development of a successful, local partnership-based solution for apprenticeship matching therefore has the potential to achieve significant employment impacts for both young people and businesses.

- 3.8.9 In collaboration with The Ladder for Greater Birmingham and the Multicultural Apprenticeship Alliance, we are working to increase the take-up of apprenticeships in the city. This includes the development of a placement matching service at the Library of Birmingham Youth Hub, to be launched during National Apprenticeship Week in February 2023.

Looking ahead

- 3.8.10 In line with the Corporate Plan and Council strategic priorities, we are seeking to move to a model of early intervention in youth unemployment services, including increased partnership working with education providers. As referenced in earlier sections of this report, Birmingham City Council has been successful in bidding for Partnerships for People and Place (PfPP) funding from DLUHC to pilot new ways of working with schools in East Birmingham. Delivery of this project has now commenced, supporting up to 150 Year 11s with enhanced employer links, mentoring for self-esteem and entrepreneurial thinking. A Reverse Mentoring event in January 2023 will see young people and local employers exchanging expert opinions on what makes for successful recruitment and employment practices.
- 3.8.11 Increased place-based working is central to our levelling up plans. In 2022/2023 we will develop our own model for local integrated careers and employment support, linking up essential services and additional training provision so that they are easier for local people to access. We will be working alongside the WMCA and Solihull Council to drive this forward in East Birmingham and North Solihull, where together we are seeking additional powers from national Government via the Trailblazer Devolution Deal.
- 3.8.12 We are also working with the WMCA to develop a Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) Investment Plan for Birmingham that supports locally-led delivery and public sector leadership in accessible recruitment practices.

3.9 Birmingham Adult Education Services (BAES)

- 3.9.1 For the 2021/22 academic year, Birmingham Adult Education Services (BAES) delivered programmes for over 6000 adults from 78 community venues in areas with the highest level of deprivation. Our programmes range from co-designed community learning first steps or engagement courses such as Family Learning to nationally recognised foundation qualifications including:
- English/Maths Functional Skills
 - English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

- Digital Skills
- GCSEs
- Bespoke SEND programmes
- Vocational programmes across areas including health and social care, business and accountancy.

3.9.2 In addition, BAES offers Route to Work packages and Sector-Based Work Programmes in partnership with DWP and employers, supported by wrap-around services including academic support and careers advice. For learners leaving the service in the 2021/22 academic year, 29% secured employment and 41% continued with further education.

3.9.3 BAES is developing its employment and supported internship programme for job seekers on discreet SEND programmes in partnership with the BCC Objective 4 Progression Pathway Programme. It is also developing a strategic plan with DWP for a place-based approach to supporting the unemployed, those not economically active and increasing in-work progression, and upskilling.

3.9.4 The service received a highly commended MATRIX report for the quality and impact of its careers and advice service, especially in meeting the needs for those members of the community furthest from employment and 'good jobs'.

BAES Advisory Board

3.9.5 Cllr McCarthy (Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families) has assumed the Chair of BAES Advisory Board. The December 2022 meeting will formally receive and approve the BAES Self-Assessment Report; this will include detailed report on learner outcomes, quality of learner experience and progression data. The remit and membership of the Board will be reviewed in time for 2023/24 academic year.

3.9.6 BAES is exploring securing higher 'programme weighting' for Adult Education Budget from WMCA to meet increasing costs.

3.9.7 We have responded to the DfE consultation on Funding and Accountability. Any changes as a result of the consultation will come into effect from September 2023.

Cost of living crisis

3.9.8 BAES has delivered a range of activities to support our learners and wider communities in response to the current Cost of Living crisis. This section outlines some of the specific activities that have taken place, in collaboration with other teams across the Council and our local, regional and national partners.

- 3.9.9 In collaboration with Warmer Homes, we are developing a course focusing understanding energy bills and energy usage, as well as wider financial literacy and sustainability. In addition to the main course, learners will have access to a 1-1 session with Warmer Homes, in which they will learn about government support grants and how to get useful items to reduce energy costs, such as electric blankets and lightbulbs. The course will be offered in all of our centres, and we will advertise them also as part of our 'Warm Place to Be' campaign.
- 3.9.10 BAES will also deliver awareness-raising workshops on loan sharks, the impact of debt and understanding interest rates.
- 3.9.11 Most BAES centres have learner spaces for self-study (when not in 'contact time' in classes) to allow students to keep warm. In response to the cost of living crisis, BAES has further become involved in organised warm spaces initiatives in Bartley Green Surgery, Weoley Castle Library, and Harborne Baptist Church. Kings Norton Library will be available as a designated warm space shortly. Creative and healthy living activities are open to all the community in those areas.
- 3.9.12 A Warm Welcome space has been established at the Library of Birmingham, with staff resourcing and signposting to BAES programmes.
- 3.9.13 We are providing Cost of Living workshops at Ley Hill survey, Handsworth Library, Four Oaks, and Rookery Children's Centre. We are also in the process of setting up workshops alongside Family Action in the Aston area to support their warm space settings.
- 3.9.14 BAES has a training kitchen already in use to support independent living for learners on discreet SEND programmes. We are expanding our 'healthy eating on a budget' to other learners.
- 3.9.15 Finally, for enrolled learners (subject to eligibility and individual assessment) support for travel, books, digital devices, or childcare is available. We encourage all our learners that are struggling with the cost of living crisis to contact BAES for signposting to sources of support.

Multiply update

- 3.9.16 Launched in 2021, the national government Multiply programme is intended to increase the levels of functional numeracy in the adult population across the UK. It is being delivered through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for three years, with West Midlands funding distributed through the WMCA.
- 3.9.17 BAES has now received the Multiply specifications and business case documents from the WMCA. A 'Financial Literacy' proposal for full Cabinet approval to bid and receive Multiply Funding for approximately £1.5m will be submitted in January 2023.

Digital inclusion

- 3.9.18 BAES continues to work in partnership with colleagues in Digital and Customer Services, as well as local stakeholders, to deliver the Digital Inclusion Strategy. The Strategy includes the provision of devices, connectivity and skills training through a place-based approach.

Key performance and destination data

- 3.9.19 The remainder of this section provides an overview of key performance and destination data for the BAES service for both 2021/22 and 2022/23 where available).
- 3.9.20 Overall, positive learner destinations for 2021/22 stand at 70%. This includes all learners that move on to any type of employment, further study, or voluntary work.
- 3.9.21 The proportion of learners moving into employment has increased from 26.2% in 2020/21 to 28.7% overall in 2021/22. Over the last three years from 2020/21, the three year trend shows 16.1% more learners have moved into employment following participation in a BAES course.
- 3.9.22 The below table shows recruitment demographics for the 2022/23 academic year (to date). 78% of enrolments to date are female, and we continue to attract a large proportion of learners with an identified disability or from a Black, Asian or minoritised background.

	Enrolments	
	No.	%
Enrolments – female	11668	78%
Enrolments – male	3263	22%
Enrolments – with identified learning difficulty, disability or health concern	2776	19%
Enrolments – from Black, Asian or other minoritised ethnic background	9952	67%

- 3.9.23 For 2022/23, 50% of our enrolments are from the most deprived areas according to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). The IMD, compiled by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) uses a range of indicators to measure relative levels of deprivation in geographic areas. This is an increase on previous years and demonstrates that we are getting better at targeting the most disadvantaged to engage in learning activities.

	Enrolments	
	No.	%
IMD quintile 1	7530	50%
IMD quintile 2	2893	19%

- 3.9.24 53% of enrolees in the 2022/23 academic year are unemployed, looking for work and available to start work. This is an increase of 8% from the previous year 2021/22.

	Enrolments	
	No.	%
In paid employment	3070	21%
Unemployed, looking for work and available to start work	7963	53%
Unemployed, not looking for work and/or not available to start work	1581	11%
Data not collected	2237	15%

- 3.9.25 Overall attendance for the 2022/23 academic year as at 9th November 2022 is 89.5%.

Area	Attendance %
English	86.1%
Maths	91%
SEND	89.1%
English as a Second Language (ESOL)	89.6%
Languages	88.5%
IT and business	91.1%
Pre-employment	94.6%
Health and social care	86.1%
Community learning	93.5%

Average attendance across all areas	89.5%
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- 3.9.26 As at 9th November 2022, overall learner retention for the 2022/23 academic year was 96.5%.
- 3.9.27 It is too early to provide pass and achievement data for 2022/23. Learners must be on courses for a certain period (in most cases be on programme for six weeks) before they count as formally on the 'enrolment roll' as a funded learner for the academic year.
- 3.9.28 Attendance at the start of term takes a few weeks to settle into a normal pattern, as learners transfer between courses due to changes in personal circumstances and learners who have not joined courses are removed from registers.

4 Cabinet Member for Digital, Culture, Heritage and Tourism

4.1 Library Services

- 4.1.1 Libraries are playing a central role in key Council led events and initiatives such as the Commonwealth Games Legacy programme, New Ways of Working and the cost of living crisis response.

Attendance and performance data

- 4.1.2 Key performance indicators for Community Libraries, Library of Birmingham (LoB), Library Services at Home and Mobile Library services include the following data sets (reported monthly):

Library of Birmingham

Key Performance Indicator	Latest National Value	Latest Good+ Value	B'ham baseline	Target	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22
Membership and visitors																	
Number of visitors to libraries for all purposes																	
High is better											65,828	69,110	74,860	73,881	90,035	166,984	93,182
Active users of the library who have borrowed a book in the past twelve months																	
High is better											142,850	140,982	141,981	142,922	143,790	142,408	143,441
Book loans and E-issues																	
High is better											21,427	21,413	20,514	19,826	22,771	25,961	25,772
BREC (Business and Reception)																	
Employment and business services (number of direct assists to customers to improve their employability)																	
High is better											1,881	1,474	1,370	1,450	1,853	1,607	2,077
Cultural and family attendance																	
Children and cultural events																	
High is better											1,610	1,219	1,499	1,977	1,829	1,370	1,227
Social media and online																	
Social media hits (Facebook visits, Twitter impressions and Webpage visits)																	
High is better											375,132	290,201	286,232	270,165	298,545	328,967	309,216

Community Libraries

Key Performance Indicator	Latest National Value	Latest Good+ Value	B'ham baseline	Target	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22
Membership and visitors																	
Number of visitors to libraries for all purposes																	
High is better											73,350	77,050	85,063	86,050	107,521	101,058	89,896
Active users of the library who have borrowed a book in the past twelve months																	
High is better																	
Book loans and E-issues																	
High is better											71,719	72,058	72,442	65,906	82,723	89,975	74,042
BREC (Business and Reception)																	
Employment and business services (number of direct assists to customers to improve their employability)																	
High is better																	
Cultural and family attendance																	
Children and cultural events																	
High is better											9,889	10,474	11,197	11,928	12,201	13,977	9,021
Social media and online																	
Social media hits (Facebook visits, Twitter impressions and Webpage visits)																	
High is better											66,635	129,511	110,535	101,730	124,537	92,516	50,765

- 4.1.3 In general, we have seen a steady increase in visitor numbers post-Covid as people return to our public spaces. This was boosted in August due to the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games and accompanying programmes of legacy and community activity.
- 4.1.4 Seasonal events such as the Summer Reading Challenge and school holiday periods are reflected in a big uplift in library attendance, especially as family events and activities are provided.
- 4.1.5 The numbers of physical books issued tend to track with general attendance data, while the accessing of e-books online remains steady throughout the year. Other influences on book issuing figures include the release of new titles from popular authors, and larger trends within the publishing industry.
- 4.1.6 Social media engagement is quite variable across the reporting period and is likely to be linked to third party content output that library accounts follow and retweet.

Library of Birmingham (LoB)

- 4.1.7 Visitor numbers at our largest library continue to increase and now exceed the pre-Covid figures for 2018 & 2019. The period for April to September 2022 saw 580,567 visitors to the Library of Birmingham, compared to 502,333 for the same period in 2018.
- 4.1.8 Visits to LoB increased by 4000 per day during the Commonwealth Games, boosting visitor numbers for 2022 overall. In 2022 we saw a daily average of 7,800 visitors compared to the 2018/19 daily average of 3,500, with over 100,000 visitors attending during the Commonwealth Games period.

Digital inclusion

- 4.1.9 All libraries continue to provide quality information and digital support, enabling individuals and communities to develop learning skills to find answers and to inform life choices. The citywide library offer helps children and adults to engage and feel safe online.

- 4.1.10 Community Libraries worked with the Council's Digital Inclusion Team, Vodafone, and the Good Things Foundation to help citizens in Birmingham get online over Summer 2022. Eligible citizens were able to pick up a refurbished laptop or a sim card from South Yardley, Small Heath, Ward End, Kings Norton, Frankley and Handsworth Libraries. Volunteers from Barclays, Experian and Virgin Media 02 were also on hand to answer questions around how to stay safe online, how to set up an email address or how to video call loved ones. The scheme has had a good take-up and libraries are pleased to play a part in a digital success story.

Youth hub

- 4.1.11 The Library of Birmingham supports the wider jobs and skills agenda by operating as a multi-agency hub, working alongside our Careers and Youth Services, as well as local employers. The hub offers advice for business start-ups, alongside youth services and job fairs (in partnership with DWP the and WMCA).

Libraries Warm Welcome

- 4.1.12 Libraries are currently supporting the Council-wide response to the cost-of-living crisis, linking in with public health, housing and the Early Intervention and Prevention programme team. We want to make our community libraries a 'Warm Welcome' for all members of the community enabling them to be safe and warm.
- 4.1.13 It is hoped that libraries will be able to provide facilities at each site and work with local businesses to provide refreshments. The aim is to partner with local charities to dispense blankets and other donated items.
- 4.1.14 The Library of Birmingham is offering a safe warm space for young people and families over the winter, operating from the Youth Hub and Library Meeting room.
- 4.1.15 Library Services at Home are providing Winter Warm Packs to all vulnerable customers. We are also identifying a couple of temporary stops close to foodbanks to ensure information is easily accessible for those who may need it.
- 4.1.16 As part of the wider Early Intervention and Prevention programme, a new library pilot is being developed that will explore current use and access to the library estate and related services to support health, employment and signposting to advice and information.

Archives and collections

- 4.1.17 In 2022, the Archives Team delivered their most successful Birmingham Heritage Week yet, hosting several free workshops for the public.
- 4.1.18 The team launched online access to the Aris's Gazette, a digitisation project in collaboration with the British Library and Birmingham City University, funded by a private donor.

- 4.1.19 They also successfully launched the volunteer programme as part of the City of Empire to City of Diversity project, engaging volunteers from the University of Birmingham to work on the Dyche Collection of photographs, which documents the Windrush generation of migrants to Birmingham. This follows support of a successful exhibition in the Library Gallery from March to June 2022.

Everything to Everybody (E2E) Project 2022

- 4.1.20 In Summer 2022, in collaboration with the University of Birmingham, the Council embarked on a £1.7m plan to revive the city's almost-forgotten Birmingham Shakespeare Memorial Library, housed in LoB. This is the first great Shakespeare library in the world - which, from the very beginning, has belonged to all the people of the city.
- 4.1.21 The 'Everything to Everybody' Project aims to:
- Unlock the first, oldest and largest Shakespeare collection in any public library in the world
 - Revive and extend its founding principle that culture should be actively owned by everybody
 - Inspire Birmingham people and communities to explore, interrogate and improve the collection now
- 4.1.22 Highlights of the E2E project include:
- Family days in the Library of Birmingham.
 - Seven First Folio tours to venues across the region including Gap Arts, Sense Touchbase Pears and Selly Manor Museum. Over 1,200 people attended these events.
 - Co-curated exhibitions in the Shakespeare Memorial Room in LoB with community partners including the Birmingham Centre for Arts Therapies, Stan's Café, Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and DESIBlitz.
 - The exhibition 'Your Shakespeare, Your Culture', part of the B2022 cultural programme, on display in LoB's gallery from 22nd July to 5th November 2022.
 - The ideas of George Dawson around culture for all and the civic gospel featured in the Commonwealth Games opening ceremony.
 - A number for workshops about the collection for community groups.
- 4.1.23 In addition, the project ran a volunteer programme with over 40 volunteers working on events, cataloguing, and digitisation, hosted a week-long summer school for young people aged 18-25 to learn about archives and heritage projects, and also hosted six postgraduate and three undergraduate university students on placement. A book based on highlights from the Shakespeare Memorial Library titled 'Forgotten Treasures' was published in July 2022 by History West Midlands.
- 4.1.24 In 2023, E2E will deliver the rest of the First Folio tour to eight venues across the region including Winson Green Prison and Handsworth Gurdwara and there will be another series of co-curated exhibitions in the Shakespeare

Memorial Room. The volunteer programme will continue, and the summer school will hopefully be repeated twice. We will also run a series of workshops with existing and new community partners to explore the legacy of the project and potential next steps as the project is due to end in December 2023.

Business and learning libraries

- 4.1.25 Supporting pre and start-up businesses has been key in supporting the local economy. The team have achieved this over the last twelve months through the delivery of business and Intellectual Property 1:1 advice and guidance, workshops including: 'Don't Dream, Achieve', networking events, a comprehensive range of free business databases, and SME books for loan and local delivery through monthly advice sessions in key Community Libraries.
- 4.1.26 Our partnership work with the British Library's BIPC Network and delivering the 'Enterprise for Success' business support programme, has ensured the team have delivered effective business support for pre and start-up businesses.
- 4.1.27 Our top three business support areas are technology, E-Commerce, and Beauty. 51% are start-ups formed by women, and 33% are from black and minority ethnic groups.
- 4.1.28 Moving forward, the next twelve months will see the team expanding business delivery at a local level in community libraries, the Prison Library and the Mobile Library. New workshops will focus on specific target groups e.g., young entrepreneurs. Our Digital Literacy offer will cover the introduction of Code Club plus a book based Digital Literacy Collection. The Library Shop will continue to support and develop links with local Birmingham business whilst the Tourist Information Service will work with the West Midlands Tourist Board and Visit Birmingham to promote Birmingham businesses and the local economy. Our business and Intellectual Property advice sessions will continue to be delivered, both in person and remotely, and the team will continue to proactively develop and deliver partnership work with Barclays, NatWest, PATLIB UK, Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, GBSLEP and the Government's Intellectual Property Office.

Bookstart

- 4.1.29 The UK Bookstart Programme has been reconfigured to become a targeted programme, focusing on children living in deprivation.
- 4.1.30 Bookstart Birmingham is working with the Council's Early Year service, health visitors, libraries, and local partners to gift out these packs over 2022-23. We are currently working with targeted nurseries, Children's Centres, local libraries, the Prison Service, and children in accommodation.
- 4.1.31 The Baby Pack is still universal – one for each child – and this is currently under review from Bookstart.
- 4.1.32 From October-December 2022, the Council have been involved in the Festive Book offer, partnering up with local/independent food banks. The Storytime Award started in September 2022 and all libraries are contributing to this by

holding story times using the allocated resources, and sending in votes for the most engaging story read out of the resource pack. Time to Read, the Programme for Reception aged children, requires an annual update of school intake figures, and this was completed in August 2022.

Summer Reading Challenge (SRC)

- 4.1.33 The Summer Reading Challenge (SRC) is run throughout the school summer holidays and assists with encouraging children aged 4-11 years to read for pleasure. Consequently, this supports children's literacy level and avoids educational dip due to the long summer break.
- 4.1.34 This year's theme was Gadgeteers and focussed on science and fun activities. All 36 community libraries plus the Library of Birmingham and Mobile Library took part in the scheme. This is the first summer following the pandemic that libraries have been able to engage with children and families without any restriction on numbers. The table below highlights the increase in participation and book borrowing over the holiday period, in addition to Summer Reading Challenge figures.

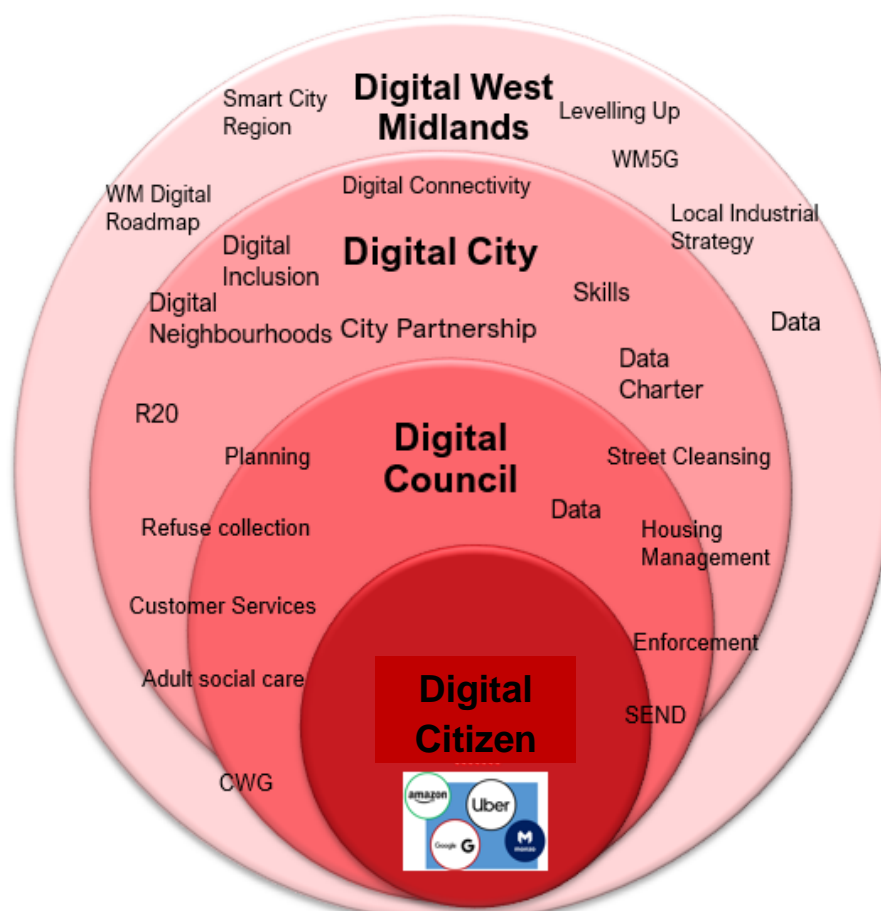
	2021	2022	% increase
How many children took part in the SRC	2,957	4,325	46%
How many children completed the SRC	2,048	3,229	57%
How many children became new library members	285	478	67%
Children's physical book issues between 9th July - 17th September	98,579	135,098	37%
Volunteers who helped run the SRC	8	33	312%
How many children attended SRC events (both digital and in-person)	3,318	6,730	102%

4.2 IT and digital

- 4.2.1 The Council's Digital Strategy, Digital City Programme and Roadmap, and Digital Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan were approved by Cabinet in March 2022, April 2022, and September 2021 respectively. These documents collectively set out our digital ambition for the city, supporting the Digital Birmingham brand which is widely known and respected across the UK.
- 4.2.2 The below diagram shows the linkages and interrelationship of our digital ambition and how we are working to shape and influence the wider regional digital ecosystem.
- 4.2.3 Our digital ambition for the city includes our ambition to be the best Digital Council – applying the culture, processes, business models and technologies of the internet era and redesigning services and processes with citizen needs

at the forefront. We will maximise the value of data, technologies infrastructure, people and innovation to prioritise limited resources on achieving the best possible outcomes for the Council and the city. Key to this will be integrating our digital ambition and principles across all strands of Council services, transformation, policies and practices.

- 4.2.4 This section of the Executive Business report highlights the major activities that are being delivered and developed to support the city to achieve its digital ambition, support the levelling up agenda and ensure we are responding to the city's Grand Challenges by creating innovative and transformation opportunities for the Council, businesses and citizens.



Transforming Council services – Digital Strategy

- 4.2.5 In May 2022, the Council launched a bold and ambitious Digital Strategy, developed from conversations with our citizens. Through this strategy, we want to make Birmingham City Council a place that uses the best of data, digital and technology so that we can respond even better to the changing needs and expectations of our citizens and businesses. The strategy splits the work into 5 themes, all of which are being delivered through strong and mature work programmes.

Theme	Work programme
Creating online services that are easy to use	Customer Service programme: developing several initiatives to improve online services for residents.
Giving our Council Teams the right tools to do their jobs	New Ways of Working Programme: helping our staff do their best work from anywhere. This includes the Field Worker and Automation projects.
Building the best technology to support council services	Technology Roadmap: putting the foundation platforms in place to enable digital transformation at pace. Cyber Programme: keeping the council's data and information assets safe.
Improving our data and evidence-based decision making	Data programme: putting the skills and culture in place to make sure our data provides insight and wisdom.
Building the Council's digital and data skills	Capability and Culture plan: developing a skills programme to develop leadership in the digital age, technical skills and all-round user confidence.

4.2.6 The Council is undertaking innovative work on this strategy and has a number of successes to date, with more to come as the delivery continues into the remaining two years of the strategy. Key achievements so far include:

- Obtaining central government funding for exemplar digital projects that will be re-used across the country. These are:
 - Field worker project – a user-centred project that has designed and built reusable digital capabilities for our staff so they can get their work done on digital devices on-site without having to return to the office
 - Children's placement portal project – a user-centred project to deliver a solution for commissioning staff to find the best and most cost-effective placements for children in care. This has been co-designed with all 14 councils in the West Midlands.

- Improvements have been made on a number of online services for residents meaning residents needs are better met whilst at the same time delivering efficiencies for the Council. The improvements include:
 - Bereavement services – end to end content review and 28 improvement opportunities identified
 - Waste management – improved data collection and launch of KIT
 - Housing - end to end review of the tenant journey and a discovery with the aim of putting housing repairs online
 - Highways - dropped kerbs and skip licensing
 - Benefits online and landlord portal
- We have delivered strong improvements to our technology infrastructure, including our cyber maturity and have a clear roadmap for our technology to ensure we can deliver change at pace to support the Council's ambitions.
- We have delivered a range of automation solutions to enable more efficient performance of council services e.g. the Revenues Team
- We are gaining increasing recognition within local government as a leader in this arena:
 - Our Chief Information Officer (CIO) was asked to take part in a panel on a national digital training programme from DLUHC
 - Our Director and CIO are regularly invited to speak at national and regional events
 - We have hosted regional networking events on digital for DLUHC and the Local Government Digital Network.
 - The IT&D Head of Culture and Capability is the chair of the Local Government Digital Network

Digital City Programme and Roadmap

4.2.7

The aim of the Digital City Programme and Roadmap is to bring together a range of capabilities including digital connectivity, data, and technology to accelerate inclusive economic growth opportunities for the city and improve the way people and businesses in Birmingham live, learn, work, grow and enjoy themselves at every stage of life. It sets out five strategic outcomes:

- A future-proofed digital infrastructure that accelerates entrepreneurship and innovation
- Improve digital inclusion and connectivity for citizens and businesses

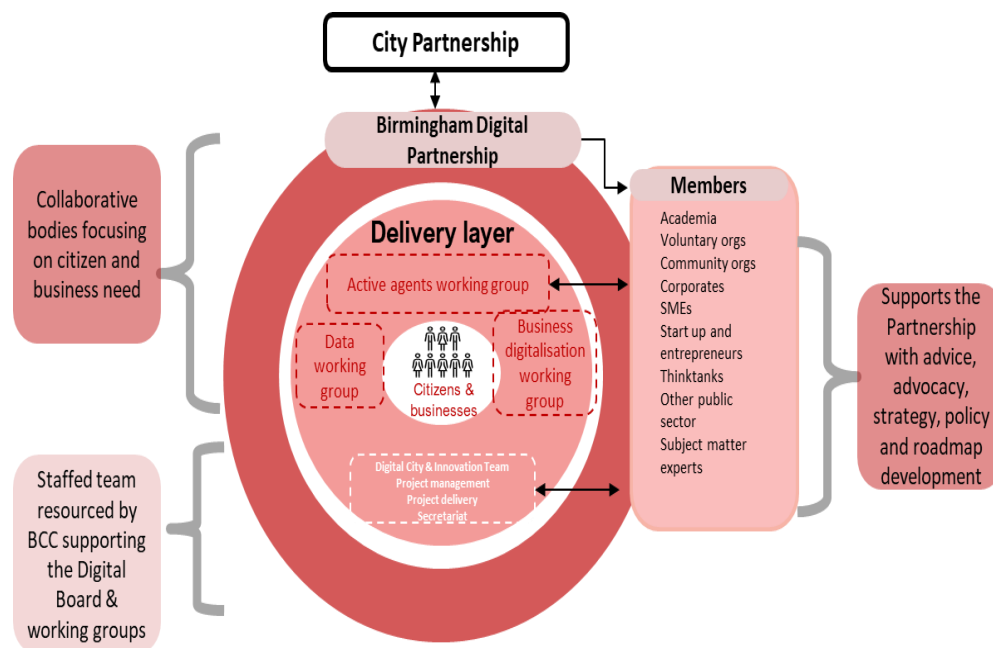
- Increase digital investment in the City for increase inclusive economic opportunities
- Maximise the use of city data – improved city collaboration and partnership working
- Establish Birmingham as a leading international digital city

4.2.8 Following engagement and consultation with stakeholders from across the public, private, academic and voluntary and community sectors, a number of strategic priorities were identified which collectively could deliver approximately £1 billion of economic uplift for the city providing benefits for businesses and citizens. These five strategic priorities are:

- Establish governance & leadership to support the digital aspects of the grand challenge
- Create a city digital infrastructure that attracts investment, increased economic output and innovation
- Create an ecosystem for data sharing between public, private and academic sectors
- Enable community led innovation to enhance community capacity and capability
- Use digital technologies for carbon reduction

4.2.9 Approximately 36 projects and activities have been established and 26 are in delivery. These projects and activities have been developed through stakeholder engagement and consultation, aimed at delivering the key priorities using an innovation framework. Many of these projects are developing the enabling environment for businesses and citizens to adopt and innovate - for example, rollout of 5G small cells, the Data Charter and full fibre deployment. The new products and services created by businesses will then lead to transformation opportunities, as well as accelerate inclusive growth capabilities. To add further capacity and capability for the Digital City Programme, a digital city and innovation team is being recruited.

4.2.10 The Birmingham Digital Partnership (BDP) has recently been established and is in its early stages of forming and establishing the priorities and activities of the Digital City Programme that will best address the city's grand challenges. The partnership is made up of representatives from the public, private and academic sectors. It is intended that the BDP will have a reporting line to the Birmingham City Partnership Board to ensure alignment with the Grand Challenges. There are a number of supporting functions that will contribute to the development and delivery of the priorities of the Digital City Programme. An illustration of the governance approach for the partnership and support functions is shown below.



- 4.2.11 The Birmingham Digital Partnership includes representatives from Jacobs, Bruntwood, WM5G, CityRedi, Birmingham Tech, KPMG and Microsoft, alongside a Smart City expert, the Cabinet Member for Digital, Culture, Heritage and Tourism, and the Council’s Director for Digital and Customer Services.
- 4.2.12 Several projects are ongoing that will enable significant economic and social benefits to our businesses and citizens and will create an enabling environment to deliver inclusive economic growth. Some of these are outlined below.
- 4.2.13 A digitally connected city project aims to deploy full fibre to areas of Birmingham that are underserved and are unlikely to receive investment for the commercial suppliers in the next few years. It will create the enabling infrastructure to accelerate economic growth and support improvements in business productivity and innovation opportunities as well as provide the infrastructure to 5G and the Internet of Things (IoT) deployments.
- 4.2.14 Working in collaboration with the Strategy, Equalities and Partnerships directorate, we are producing a city-wide data charter which will underpin the development of the City Observatory. The charter will set out how data will be shared among city partners in an ethical, transparent and reusable way. The aim is to publish the data charter in Summer 2023. The charter aims to provide confidence and engender trust from city stakeholders and citizens and will accelerate the release and access to data from multiple organisations, enabling greater and meaningful insights and creating opportunities for businesses to innovate and develop new applications and solutions.
- 4.2.15 The high streets data modelling project aims to use footfall and spend data to gain better insights in the high street day and night-time economy. It will be able to differentiate between visitors and residents and where and what they

are spending their monies on in Birmingham. The analysis will enable the Council to target its resources more effectively in supporting the recovery of the high street. The project team is securing funding to procure the data to progress the opportunity.

- 4.2.16 Digital twinning is an innovative approach to model and de-risk investments and ensure that we can maximise the impacts of any investment. For example, the council is working with universities and private sector organisations to create a virtual representation of Tyseley Energy Park and use multiple sources of data to understand the impacts and outcomes of energy generating and saving ideas. The digital twin will provide insights on the most optimal approaches before any physical build is considered. A bid has been submitted to the West Midlands Accelerator fund to secure funding for this proposition. Digital twins can be used in many areas, such as social care, educations, planning and construction etc. We will be taking a case led approach, working to city partners to consider other opportunities.
- 4.2.17 A 'City As A Platform' proposal is in development that provides a unique opportunity to bring together existing city and partner assets in order to gain greater insights on how services can be transformed, as well as aggregating data sources from the city's ecosystem. The project is establishing how the Council can capture data from city sensors and other IoT devices onto its own data platforms in order to firstly enable Council business areas to gain insights on how their service areas could be transformed. Secondly, it can enable City businesses to use the data to develop new applications and services.

Digital inclusion

- 4.2.18 Digital inclusion was an issue before the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the pandemic and lockdown highlighted those that were digitally excluded and facing widening inequalities in accessing services and information. In response, the Council published a Digital Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan and established a City Council Digital Inclusion function to create opportunities and lift vulnerable people out of digital poverty. Details of the outcomes achieved by the Digital Inclusion Team include providing devices, boosting connectivity and delivering skills training as part of place-based approach. Detailed work has been carried out in 16 areas of Birmingham with elevated risk of digital exclusion according to DERI index and IUC (CDRC's analysis of Internet User Classifications) including:
- Connectivity
 - A 24-month deal with a major internet service provider (ISP) has been provisionally agreed financed by the Children's Trust, essential for establishing the UK's first carers social tariff.
 - The Birmingham Device Bank has been launched, enabling community organisations to receive free recycled computer

devices from the City Council. Along with the circa 650 devices that have already been delivered to communities, approximately 2,000 devices are being prepared for distribution.

- National Databank awareness has led to many community organisations including housing associations, religious institutions and youth centres apply to access the databank, enabling them to provide data to their communities. A pilot is being developed with BT and the Good Things Foundation to create home WiFi/broadband as the databank for identified citizens.

- Skills

- A detailed map showing key skills provision centres in Birmingham has been developed.
- A rolling programme by Barclays Wings is being delivered to train front-line staff to be digital champions across 189 GP surgeries in Birmingham and Solihull.
- Promotion of the DCMS commissioned Cyber Explorers programme to schools and education partnerships across the city is now taking place in 34 schools, with 789 learners across the city.
- We are working with community groups and third sector to coordinate delivery of training to citizens across the city from care-leavers to those being supported by Adult Social Care.
- Birmingham Adult Education Service (BAES) delivered 185 Digital Skills courses to 1155 learners in 2021-2022 academic year. This work continues in 2022-2023. BAES is piloting Essential Digital Skills from libraries. The aim is to role this training out to all libraries that have a dedicated room or space to run training from.

- Devices

- During the Summer of Skills, the Digital Inclusion Team distributed 75 laptops from the device bank. They have been identifying and making charities and community groups aware of the device bank. Now that the device bank is officially live, charities and community groups can apply for laptops or desktops. Our next steps are to continue to inform organisations of this scheme.
- The team are also recruiting organisations to become digital partners of the Birmingham device bank to support the delivery of this programme. As a digital partner, they can support by donating devices, providing funding and supporting services.
- There are a further 600 laptops and 97 desktop PCs ready to go to the Digital Inclusion Team for distribution and 1300 laptops and 490 desktops in assessment for the next phase of the work.

Open data

- 4.2.19 The Digital and Customer Services directorate has been leading on improving the maturity of how the Council uses data and information to improve council services in latter months working closely with the Strategy, Equalities and Partnerships directorate. The Data Programme is a use case led approach to use data in order to gain insights of issues and challenges raised by council officers. The current use case includes homelessness, the joint strategic needs assessment and the cost of living. Considerable work was undertaken by the Data Programme to identify vulnerable citizens during the pandemic to ensure that the Council was able to make data informed decisions on how best to support them.
- 4.2.20 The City Observatory has also been launched by the Strategy, Equalities and Partnerships Directorate, supported by Digital and Customer Services.
- 4.2.21 As part of the Digital City Programme, the Council is working with city stakeholders to develop a Data Charter. This Charter will underpin the principles, transparency and ethical way in which open data will be used by city partners, businesses and entrepreneurs. It aims to provide citizens, public, private and community organisations with the trust, confidence and re-assurance that their data will be used ethically and to support the well-being of the City.

Information governance

- 4.2.22 The risk of cyber-attack and loss of data is a strategic risk. We have developed a strategy and improvement programme to increase our cyber security and information governance maturity.
- 4.2.23 The actions on the cyber security programme are targeted to decrease the likelihood of an attack; deliver staff training and software to detect attacks, and increase our ability to recover quickly if we are attacked through offline backups and business continuity planning.
- 4.2.24 We have made great progress resulting in the risk being downgraded. However, the programme remains critical to the resilience of the Council.
- 4.2.25 The Council has also put in place a number of key activities to support good information governance practice.

4.3 Culture

Culture sector recovery

- 4.3.1 Significant challenges continue for the city's cultural organisations in the form of the cost of living crisis, just as the cultural sector was starting to recover

from the impact of Covid-19. The rising cost of services and utilities (particularly for those running buildings), combined with the cost of living increase means that organisation costs are rising at the same time as income is increasingly challenging.

4.3.2 Whilst the Arts Council England's recent National Portfolio Organisation funding investment in Birmingham for 2023-26 is welcomed, most of our funded organisations have been awarded standstill grants with no inflation over the next three years.

4.3.3 Officers have been working with city partners to identify other streams of external funding that could help support the wider cultural sector over the next couple of years e.g. proposed cultural investment in communities and places. In addition, the council recently supported an event with Culture Central and New Philanthropy Capital to encourage philanthropic giving for arts & culture in Birmingham.

Commonwealth Games 2022 (CWG) Cultural Programme

4.3.4 The City Council's Culture Team assisted the Organising Committee (OC) cultural programme team, advising on delivery and facilitating projects on the ground.

4.3.5 Officers have since been working with Culture Central (Birmingham arts sectors' network consortium) on their commission from the OC to review the legacy of the cultural programme. This work will contribute towards the OC's full evaluation report of the overall cultural programme, due to be published in January 2023.

4.3.6 In the meantime, the City Council Culture Team is currently investing £100,000 project funding in 2022-23 across those Birmingham based arts organisations applying to continue the legacy of their Creative City projects. It is a competitive process so not all who apply will be eligible and/or successful. However, officers are currently building the plan and case for £4m Legacy funding to develop cultural engagement in communities during 2023-25.

Developing Birmingham's Cultural Strategy 2023-33

4.3.7 Over the summer of 2022, the Council embarked on a series of consultations with a wide range of communities and stakeholders across the city entitled The Big Creative Conversation. The purpose and outcome were to deliver a Statement of Intent for culture in Birmingham, as the precursor to undertaking more in-depth work with stakeholders and communities to develop a new Cultural Strategy for the city 2023-33.

4.3.8 The consultations took place between June and August 2022 and the Statement of Intent for culture was subsequently supported by Cabinet

colleagues in September 2022. Recruitment of additional staff to help coordinate the project is underway.

- 4.3.9 In the meantime, officers were pleased to learn that University of Birmingham has approved a proposition called Culture Forward to increase its resource for supporting culture in the city which will be an integral part of supporting the Cultural Compact for the city.

Festivals and cultural events

- 4.3.10 Commissioned by the Council, Birmingham International Dance Festival (BIDF) 2022 took place in June 2022.
- 4.3.11 Following the Council motion in January 2022 for an annual cultural festival, officers commissioned a report to review the scope and feasibility of an annual cultural festival from 2023. It was agreed that a second commission to a local consortium of partners led by The Hippodrome Theatre to review and develop proposals for the scope, cost, and governance of an annual Birmingham Festival from 2023 – initially celebrating the ‘One Year On’ legacy from the Commonwealth Games.
- 4.3.12 Amal ‘The Walk’ was a large-scale puppet representation of a nine-year-old refugee girl walking across North Africa and Europe looking for her mother. This event to highlight the plight of migrants and refugees started in Turkey and made its way across North Africa and Europe coming to several UK cities including Birmingham (Erdington Town Centre) in October 2021. This was so successful that the producers made a return visit to the city centre in June 2022.

4.4 Museums and heritage

- 4.4.1 Officers continue regular dialogue with the heritage sector through quarterly Heritage Strategy Group meetings.
- 4.4.2 A new Conservation and Heritage Panel was appointed in June 2022, and the revised Birmingham Heritage Strategy (incorporating the new Heritage Strategic Planning Document) will shortly be circulated to heritage stakeholders. The final draft of the Strategy will go to Cabinet in early 2023 before going out to public consultation.
- 4.4.3 Alongside this work, officers have been commissioning and facilitating a range of organisations to deliver heritage projects, including:
- Birmingham Heritage Week was successfully held in September 2022. 198 events took place with 32 new organisations joining in and over 100,000 views online.
 - Black History Month launched in September 2022, including promotion of a wide range of events right across the city during October 2022.

- ‘The World Reimagined’ (national education project in cities highlighting true history of trafficking slaves across the Atlantic) including the Birmingham Globes art trail was delivered from August to October 2022 culminating with display of all ten Globes in the Bullring.
- Commissioning of Legacy West Midlands to deliver ‘Jamaica 60’ anniversary independence project.

4.4.4 The Council is recruiting a new Museums & Heritage officer to help monitor the museums contract, coordinate Birmingham’s Heritage Group and lead on Public Art matters.

4.4.5 To enable infrastructure repairs and improvements to Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, the Council was granted £4.99m in March 2022. The Full Business Case was approved by Cabinet in December 2022 with physical works to progress at BMAG to start in the new year.

4.4.6 Work has progressed with Birmingham Museums Trust and The Science and Industry Museum Group on the vision and feasibility for a new Science & Industry Museum for the city. The Stage 1 report, including potential site options, the range of capital costs and business model options was delivered in September 2022.

4.5 Tourism

4.5.1 Cabinet approved Birmingham’s Visitor Destination Plan in June 2022.

4.5.2 A major cultural events feasibility study was delivered in September 2022, followed by a study reviewing the feasibility of a City Attractions Pass. Two other tourism projects (Support for Accessible Tourism and Support for Sustainable Tourism) are due to report in early 2023.

4.5.3 The Tourism Officer continues to work with West Midlands Growth Company (WMGC) on travel trade engagement, attending trade events to educate tour operators and online travel agents about Birmingham’s tourism, heritage, and cultural offer.

4.5.4 The UKinbound convention took place in September 2022. It was the first opportunity for the Council to engage with the travel trade following the Games and provided a litmus test as to how perceptions of Birmingham have started to change. This will take time, but the benefits of the Commonwealth Games are significant.

4.5.5 The Council was represented the city at World Travel Market at Excel London in November, making new contacts and following up leads from UKinbound. In addition, Birmingham and our regional partners will be showcasing Birmingham at the British Travel and Tourism Show at the NEC in March 2023.

4.5.6 Officers have also re-engaged with coach operators, identifying, and distributing the information and resources required for the travel trade to

include Birmingham on their itinerary. An internal quarterly internal Coach Tourism meeting has been convened to ensure that coach tourism remains at the heart of future plans and strategies. The Council is in the process of joining the Coach Tourism Association.

Commonwealth Games Business and Tourism Programme (BATP)

- 4.5.7 We assisted the WMGC in ensuring that Birmingham visitor economy businesses had the opportunity to benefit from Commonwealth Games Business and Tourism Programme (BATP) support, including travel trade training, World Host training, new photographic and video assets, and hosting familiarisation trips with Commonwealth markets. We have also been involved in the updating of map assets for the priority city centre totems and printed materials which were completed in July 2022. The working group will continue to meet to action a rolling programme of totem updates across the rest of the city.
- 4.5.8 Birmingham Airport and WMGC were encouraged to jointly fund the installation of Welcome to Birmingham & the West Midlands wall graphics at the airport arrivals to achieve a sense of place. This was completed in July 2022 prior to the arrival of Commonwealth Games athletes and spectators.
- 4.5.9 Some elements of the BATP continue including targeted marketing campaigns to Commonwealth Games spectators and travel trade engagement. These are due to end in March 2023. The analysis of visitor and perception surveys are complete, and the report will be published shortly.

4.6 Commonwealth Games Legacy

- 4.6.1 In December 2021, BCC produced the 'Delivering a Bold Legacy for Birmingham' plan – the city's ambition and strategic framework for the legacy that we wanted to see from hosting the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. This plan aligned with the cross-partner Games Legacy Plan, the Games Legacy Pillars and the current Council plan objectives.
- 4.6.2 The BCC Legacy Plan focuses on how hosting a major event like the Games can contribute towards driving forwards the Council's broader agenda across the city and make a difference to the lives of our residents as well as supporting organisational development and transformation.

A Thriving City (Bolder, Prosperous Birmingham)

- 4.6.3 The ambition in this area was to boost investment in Birmingham, creating thousands of jobs and becoming a world leader in hosting international events.

- 4.6.4 The capital investment into the delivery of the Alexander Stadium and the broader regeneration of Perry Barr provided us with the opportunity to create new jobs and upskilling opportunities for Birmingham residents.

Alexander Stadium

- 4.6.5 The redevelopment of Alexander Stadium created 370 employment opportunities, upskilling 340 people with 34% of staff working on the project living within 10 miles of the Stadium. In total 16,323 work placement hours were delivered across the build.
- 4.6.6 The Stadium build also supported local business (and therefore the retention of existing local employment) with 40% of local spend being within 10 miles of the point of delivery. 82% of spend was with Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) (defined as businesses with less than 250 employees).

Perry Barr Regeneration

- 4.6.7 The Perry Barr regeneration has already exceeded targets. As of November 2022, 587 jobs have been created, 1,354 upskilling opportunities provided, and 41,515 work placement hours delivered across the build.
- 4.6.8 £265.5m has been spent with local businesses, and £790,600 with social enterprises. As the project moves into the second phase of delivery, these figures will continue to increase.
- 4.6.9 Birmingham also benefitted from the delivery of the BATP. Funded by the UK Government and WMCA, the programme focussed on creating opportunities to connect with Commonwealth nations, territories and key global markets. As part of the BATP, UK House was hosted at the Exchange in Birmingham, putting our city front and centre as an example of what the UK can offer to key national and international delegates. Running over eight days and across more than 90 sessions, panels and events, UK House focussed on key sectors such as education, data-driven healthcare, sports economy, creative and digital technologies, food and drink, future mobility, tourism and legacy.
- 4.6.10 Alongside this, BCC's inward investment team delivered seven Breakfast Briefing sessions complementing the UK House agenda. This provided a platform for the Host City to celebrate and champion our successes and ambitions amongst new stakeholders, counterbalancing the regional and national focus of UK House. Going forwards we are exploring the opportunities that may arise from a potential extension to the BATP programme, working alongside colleagues at the WMCA to identify how we continue to drive strong investment outcomes for Birmingham and the wider region.
- 4.6.11 Throughout the delivery of the Games, BCC's Major Events team have been focussing on the next events coming to Birmingham. 2023 brings the World

Blind Games and the World Gymnastic Trampolining Championships to the city; and the successful bid to host the 2026 European Athletics Championships means that planning is now underway to bring this world-class event to the UK for the first time, to be held at Alexander Stadium. Birmingham's newly launched Visitor Destination Plan will help us showcase Birmingham to national and international visitors, supporting our tourism and cultural economy, jobs and business working in these sectors.

An Aspiring City (A Bold, Inclusive Birmingham)

- 4.6.12 The ambition in this Legacy area was to engage every child and young person in the Games, including 400+ schools across the city
- 4.6.13 It was hugely important to us that as a young city we put opportunities for young people at the forefront of engagement and legacy from the Games. We therefore invested £500,000 from the £6m Community Grant into the delivery of activity through a Birmingham-specific extension of the Bring The Power programme delivered by the Organising Committee, and through work delivered via BCC's Youth Service.

Bring The Power

- 4.6.14 Headline outputs from the Bring The Power programme for Birmingham schools were as follows:
- 187 workshops were delivered in Birmingham schools:
 - 92 Bring the Power workshops (KS1-3) engaging over 5,000 pupils
 - 65 School Sport workshop days (primary schools)
 - 10 Drama workshop days (primary schools)
 - 10 Female Empowerment workshops (secondary schools)
 - 10 Non-verbal theatre workshops delivered specifically for pupils with SEND
 - 81 primary schools received a Perry Assembly, engaging 19,815 pupils
 - 33 primary schools and over 500 pupils participated in the Bring The Power Celebration Day held at KEHS on 4th July. The day allowed pupils to participate in sports and art activities, and focused specifically on pupils who wouldn't ordinarily participate in activities.
 - 28 secondary schools were involved in the Common Ground project, each receiving £1,000 grant to deliver their project.
 - 11 secondary schools attended the Common Ground Youth Summit held at University of Birmingham (UOB) on 13th July 2022.
 - Nine School Festival Days were delivered in Birmingham, with over 800 pupils engaging in these.

- 86 School Batonbearers were nominated from secondary schools across the city.
- 750 pupils participated and 35 schools attended the commonwealth-themed UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools event at the Birmingham REP on 8th July.
- Over 300 downloads of the Bring The Power educational resources from Birmingham – KS1, KS2 and KS3 resources focused on Journey to the Games, Finding Common Ground and We Can Change our World.

BCC's Youth Service

- 4.6.15 Four youth centres across Birmingham (Lighthouse, The Factory, Clifton Road and Concord) were designated official games hubs as a focal point for young people in their community. Each hub ran a six-week programme with events focussing on awareness and understanding of the Games and Commonwealth, music and food workshops focussing on commonwealth countries and sports sessions focusing on commonwealth sports. A total of 17,122 young people were engaged across the four hubs. Highlights included an intercity basketball skills competition, a Commonwealth album and a project focussing on youth violence reduction in Burberry Park through engagement, physical activity, mentoring, commonwealth sport and guest coaches – supporting parents and young people to re-engage in their local green space.
- 4.6.16 Birmingham's Youth City Board met with the Youth Programmes team regularly from October 2021. The Board comprised of 35 young people from 12 schools aged 14-18. In addition to shaping and advising on the development and delivery of the Bring The Power programme itself, they also supported the QBR Launch, Young Volunteers process and Batonbearer nomination panel. The Board also made two development trips to Liverpool and London to meet and share learning with other youth voice organisations in these two cities. It is hoped that this tri-city link can be maintained as an ongoing legacy from the Games, and work is underway to secure external funding to support this.
- 4.6.17 Members of the Youth City Board were also involved in the design and delivery of the Commonwealth Games Youth Grant, which provided micro-funding for young people across the city to support them with their mental and physical health. A total of 153 grants were awarded across Birmingham, supporting over 1,000 young people, alongside "Bring In On Brum" family activity bags.
- 4.6.18 The Youth Service Oscars were held on 13th July 2022, recognising young people for their specific contributions to the Bring The Power programme.
- 4.6.19 The Birmingham Children's Trust also worked hard to ensure that children and families known to the Trust were able to engage with and enjoy the Games. In addition to the 5,000 tickets secured for young people and their carers, the

Trust have also launched the Bfriends Charity and worked with local partners over the summer to provide activities for young people and their families, with the flagship Donate1Create1 Hub at Action Indoor Sport in Erdington. BCT is now seeking to extend its network of community providers to access additional funding via the Trust and other bodies to continue to grow the Hub approach.

A Healthy City (A Bolder, Healthier Birmingham)

- 4.6.20 The ambition of this strand was to build programmes and community projects to kickstart an accessible fitness and wellbeing boom
- 4.6.21 The Games and other future major sporting events provide a great opportunity for Birmingham to promote and support sport, physical activity and wellbeing for our residents. £1m from the £6m Community Fund was allocated to deliver projects that would support Birmingham residents to connect. Programmes were designed to minimise the barriers when accessing physical activity, as well as providing greater opportunities for underrepresented groups and communities living in areas of higher deprivation to access physical activity and sports.
- 4.6.22 Highlights from this strand of the Legacy programme include:
- Eight free to access Community Games were delivered across Birmingham reaching over 8,000 people. 77% of survey respondents expressed an interest in joining a sports group following attending the Community Games
 - 70 Active Streets were delivered across Birmingham taking place in areas where there are hard to reach vulnerable communities including those with local people in emergency accommodations and those with disabilities.
 - 48% of grants from the Celebrating Communities city-wide small grants fund supported physical activity through sports days, free to access delivery sessions and sporting celebrations in wards across the city.
 - Sports Birmingham established anchor clubs in local communities, with the aim tackling inequalities by increased engagement and outreach to new and other members of the community, resulted in increased inclusivity, access, and greater community connectivity. A total of 12 anchor clubs will be become an established hub to access sports across Birmingham, with the ability to support communities and other local groups. This programme will continue into the new financial year and link into the wider development work around the sport and physical activity strategy.
 - The City of Nature Alliance has been established to support the delivery of Birmingham's City of Nature Strategy. The Alliance will work firstly in 5 of the city's most deprived wards where green space is not well utilised

as identified by the city's Fair Parks Standard, working to improve the rating of each park within these wards, with a view to the model being rolled out across the city.

- Public Health colleagues delivered a number Games-related projects including Community Health profiles, Commonwealth Food Events and a Food Summit and Food Justice Pledge.

4.6.23 Looking ahead, work is underway to deliver a new Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Birmingham, and to secure additional funding to support grass-roots sports development in the city.

A Welcoming City (A Bolder, Inclusive Birmingham)

4.6.24 The ambition of this Legacy strand was to use the Games to bring communities together, and create a shared sense of pride in Birmingham.

4.6.25 The £6m Community Fund was developed with the aim of encouraging Birmingham communities to come together to celebrate the Games their way, especially for those communities outside the city centre, or not located closely to a Games venue. In addition to the funds mentioned earlier, we also delivered £2m Celebrating Communities fund, £2m Creative City fund and a £500,000 Stronger Communities programme.

4.6.26 The Celebrating Communities fund placed local people at the heart of decision making with a participatory approach to funding awards. All 69 wards across the city received funding to deliver community projects, resulting in a total of 316 grants awarded to deliver 263 projects (some of which were multi-ward) across Birmingham, the majority of which took place over the Summer of 2022.

4.6.27 Communities delivered activity across three themes – Get Active, Ready Steady Fun (getting areas games-ready and hosting celebrations) and Celebrating Culture. A wide variety of activity was delivered in local communities ranging from sport taster sessions and community celebrations to community clean ups, horticulture, and arts and culture projects.

4.6.28 Creative City grants flooded the city with community art as part of Festival 2022. 106 projects were delivered across 56 of the city's wards in 393 individual locations, with 76% of projects delivered in areas of highest deprivation. All Creative City projects will have engaged with a variety of communities as work has been shared, but of those that specified engagement with a particular group for their project:

- 21 (20%) of the Creative City Projects engaged d/Deaf, disability or neurodivergent communities in creative co-creation
- 51 (48%) of the Creative City Projects engaged Asian, Black and minority ethnic communities in creative co-creation
- 10 (9%) of the Creative City Projects engaged LGBTQI+ communities in creative co-creation

- 24 (22%) of the Creative City Projects engaged young leaders and participants aged 16-30 in creative co-creation

4.6.29 Stronger Communities projects have focussed on building strong relationships between diverse communities from across different social and ethnic backgrounds, sharing the stories and experiences of all Birmingham's communities, and supporting under-represented groups and communities to actively participate in civic life. To date the programme has:

- Commissioned 20 organisations to deliver community-led heritage trails across the city
- Trained 35 young community journalists to record the stories of local communities in Birmingham
- Enabled 29 organisations to support over 550 women from marginalised, migrant and refugee communities for whom English is not a first language to integrate into their local communities
- Supported work to re-establish the Peace Garden as a place of remembrance for all communities across the city
- Supported young people from under-represented groups to access leadership and development training.

4.6.30 The £6m Community Fund and focus on the development of a community centred legacy approach has resulted in the council receiving a nomination at the International Sport and Peace Awards for Institution of the Year. Going forward, the Council is looking at ways to support future community activity, wrapping this around key moments for the city as they are developed, eg the new signature Festival.

A Green Growth City (A Bolder, Greener Birmingham)

4.6.31 The ambition in this Legacy area was to launch an era of green growth through high quality sports facilities, thousands of new sustainable homes and green transport links to become a carbon neutral city by 2030.

Alexander Stadium

4.6.32 After the Commonwealth Games, Alexander Stadium and associated facilities will become a centre of sporting excellence at a local, regional and world class level. It will be accessible to all who wish to visit it, with enhanced community facilities set to benefit the city and its residents for generations to come.

4.6.33 We have most recently announced a partnership with UK Athletics to host a new Performance and Innovation Centre from Summer 2023 at the Stadium. This state-of-the-art facility will enable world-leading capability to understand track and field performance through enhanced technology and analytics, which are not currently available to athletes in the UK – so this will be unique to the city.

- 4.6.34 Birmingham City University are also relocating their sports faculty to the Stadium, complementing the role that the Stadium can play in research, development and education, training the next generation of athletes and sport scientists and positioning Birmingham as the home of UK Athletics.
- 4.6.35 As outlined in the Business Case to Cabinet on October 11th 2022, access to high-quality facilities for sport and recreation is an important aspect of the future vision, enabling the Stadium to play a central role in the life of the local community. Plans are underway to extend and enhance the gym and leisure facilities around the stadium site, and to improve the park that surrounds the stadium with a visitor centre, café, cycling and walking routes and play and physical activity equipment.

Perry Barr Masterplan

- 4.6.36 The decision to host the Commonwealth Games unlocked over £700m of public sector investment in transport, new homes, and facilities in Perry Barr before the Games had taken place. To date, nearly 1,000 new homes have been delivered with consent secured for circa 2000 more, the railway station has been redeveloped to improve access and capacity and a new bus interchange has been created. Significant improvements have been made to highways infrastructure and the pedestrian environment, and a segregated cycle pathway installed. A new secondary school and sixth form has been delivered, alongside two new parks.
- 4.6.37 The Perry Barr Masterplan 2040 sets out how we will continue to deliver a positive legacy for local communities in Perry Barr; delivering significant sustainable growth over the next 2 decades including new homes, a revitalised urban centre, and a greener, healthier environment that will create long-term benefits for the people that live, work and visit the area.

Council Legacy

- 4.6.38 Our ambition in this area was to deliver our promise to become a leading local authority with bold ambitions.
- 4.6.39 We knew that delivering an enormous multi directorate, multi-organisation and multi-partner project like the Commonwealth Games would provide us with the opportunity to strengthen our capabilities and contribute to our journey to become a 'best in class' local authority, helping us to deliver transformational change for our people and places.
- 4.6.40 We are establishing a Portfolio for all 80+ programmes related to Games legacy and will be evaluating our successes and the benefits to Birmingham from hosting the Games. We will be regularly reporting on achievements, but also sharing the lessons learnt to support the Council wide transformation programme.

5 Legal Implications

5.1 There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report.

6 Financial Implications

6.1 There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report.

7 Public Sector Equality Duty

7.1 There are no immediate equality implications arising from this report.

8 Other Implications

8.1 None.

9 Background Papers

9.1 None.

10 Appendices

10.1 None.