

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

TUESDAY, 01 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 14:00 HOURS
IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL HOUSE, VICTORIA SQUARE,
BIRMINGHAM, B1 1BB

A G E N D A

1 NOTICE OF RECORDING

Lord Mayor to advise that this meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's meeting You Tube site (www.youtube.com/channel/UCT2kT7ZRPFCXq6_5dnVnYlw) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Members are reminded that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non pecuniary interests arising from any business to be discussed at this meeting. If a disclosable pecuniary interest is declared a Member must not speak or take part in that agenda item. Any declarations will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

3 MINUTES

To confirm and authorise the signing of the Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 30 September 2022 and the meeting of the Council held on 11 October 2022.

4 LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(1400-1420)

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

5 - 56

5 PETITIONS

(10 minutes allocated) (1420-1430)

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

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

6 QUESTION TIME

(70 minutes allocated) (1430-1540)

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

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

7 APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

(5 minutes allocated) (1540-1545)

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

8 ELECTION OF COUNCILLOR

(5 minutes allocated) (1545-1550)

To receive a report from the Returning Officer of the person elected Councillor of the City on 6 October 2022 and the making of the declaration of acceptance of office.

The Leader, Councillor Ian Ward to move the following recommendation:

"That the report be noted".

59 - 102

9 **EXECUTIVE BUSINESS REPORT**

(45 minutes allocated) (1550-1635)

This report provides an update on two Cabinet Member portfolios:

- Housing and Homelessness; pages 2 - 19
- Health and Social Care; pages 19 - 44

The Leader, Councillor Ian Ward to move the following recommendation:

"That the report be noted".

(break 1635 - 1705)

103 - 120

10 **LEAD MEMBER REPORT: WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY TRANSPORT DELIVERY COMMITTEE**

(20 minutes allocated) (1705-1725)

This report provides Full Council with an update in relation to the key activities of the West Midlands Combined Authority Transport Delivery Committee.

Councillor Mary Locke to move the following recommendation:
"That the report be noted"

121 - 126

11 **LEAD MEMBER REPORT: WEST MIDLANDS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

(20 minutes allocated) (1725-1745)

This report provides Full Council with an update in relation to the key activities of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel.

Councillor Alex Aitken to move the following recommendation:
"That the report be noted"

12 **MOTIONS FOR DEBATE FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

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

**EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
OF BIRMINGHAM CITY
COUNCIL
30 SEPTEMBER 2022**



**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF BIRMINGHAM CITY
COUNCIL HELD ON FRIDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 1800 HOURS IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT:- Lord Mayor (Councillor Maureen Cornish) in the Chair.

Councillors

Deirdre Alden	Colin Green	Basharat Mahmood
Robert Alden	Roger Harmer	Majid Mahmood
Raqib Aziz	Deborah Harries	Rashad Mahmood
David Barker	Kath Hartley	Lee Marsham
David Barrie	Adam Higgs	Karen McCarthy
Shabina Bano	Des Hughes	Shehla Moledina
David Barker	Jon Hunt	Simon Morrall
Baber Baz	Mahmood Hussain	Rick Payne
Jilly Bermingham	Mumtaz Hussain	Miranda Perks
Bushra Bi	Shabrina Hussain	Rob Pocock
Sir Albert Bore	Timothy Huxtable	Julien Pritchard
Marje Bridle	Mohammed Idrees	Hendrina Quinnen
Martin Brooks	Zafar Iqbal	Darius Sandhu
Zaker Choudhry	Brigid Jones	Shafique Shah
Debbie Clancy	Amar Khan	Saima Suleman
Liz Clements	Ayoub Khan	Jamie Tennant
John Cotton	Saqib Khan	Paul Tilsley
Jack Deakin	Izzy Knowles	Lisa Trickett
Adrian Delaney	Kirsten Kurt-Elli	Penny Wagg
Diane Donaldson	Chaman Lal	Ian Ward
Sam Forsyth	Mary Locke	Ken Wood
Rob Grant	Ewan Mackey	Waseem Zaffar

NOTICE OF RECORDING

- 28 The Lord Mayor advised that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcasting via the Council's internet site and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.
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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 29 The Lord Mayor reminded Members that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests arising from any business to be discussed at this meeting. If a disclosable pecuniary interest was declared a Member must not speak or take part in that agenda item. Any declarations would be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

There were no declarations of interest made.

SPECIAL BUSINESS – DEATH OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

- 30 The Lord Mayor addressed the meeting which had been convened so that the Council could pay tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The Lord Mayor paid her tribute to Queen Elizabeth II which was followed by one minute's silence.

The Lord Mayor moved the Motion which acknowledged the visits made by Queen Elizabeth II to various charities and organisations in Birmingham and which gave thanks to Her Majesty's exceptional 70 years' service. The Motion further offered the Council's deepest sympathies to King Charles and the rest of the Royal Family.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Ward spoke to second the Motion and pay tribute to Queen Elizabeth II.

The Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor Robert Alden spoke to second the Motion and pay tribute to Queen Elizabeth II.

The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, Councillor Jon Hunt spoke to second the Motion and pay tribute to Queen Elizabeth II.

The Leader of the Green Group, Councillor Julien Pritchard spoke to second the Motion and pay tribute to Queen Elizabeth II.

The following Councillors spoke to pay tribute to Queen Elizabeth II:

Rick Payne
Darius Sandhu
Paul Tilsley

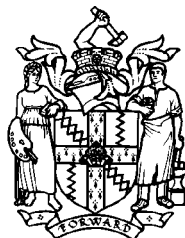
City Council – 24 May 2022

Deirdre Alden
Sir Albert Bore
Ewan Mackey
Jack Deakin
Ken Wood
Martin Brooks
Adam Higgs
Majid Mahmood
Zaker Choudhry
Mohammed Idrees
Shabina Bano
Kirsten Kurt-Elli
Waseem Zaffar
Ayoub Khan

RESOLVED:-

- 1.) That the City Council noted the tributes made by the Lord Mayor, the Leader of the Council, the Leader of the political groups and other Members in relation to the late Queen Elizabeth II.

The Council rose at 1955 hours



**MEETING OF BIRMINGHAM
CITY COUNCIL, TUESDAY,
11 OCTOBER 2022**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL HELD
ON TUESDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2022 AT 1345 HOURS IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT:- Lord Mayor (Councillor Maureen Cornish) in the Chair.

Councillors

Saima Ahmed	Rob Grant	Basharat Mahmood
Alex Aitken	Colin Green	Majid Mahmood
Deirdre Alden	Fred Grindrod	Rashad Mahmood
Robert Alden	Deborah Harries	Lee Marsham
Raqeeb Aziz	Kath Hartley	Karen McCarthy
Shabina Bano	Adam Higgs	Saddak Miah
David Barker	Des Hughes	Shehla Moledina
David Barrie	Jon Hunt	Gareth Moore
Baber Baz	Mumtaz Hussain	Simon Morrall
Matt Bennett	Mahmood Hussain	Yvonne Mosquito
Jilly	Shabrana Hussain	Richard Parkin
Bermingham	Timothy Huxtable	David Pears
Marcus	Mohammed Idrees	Rob Pocock
Bemasconi	Katherine Iroh	Julien Pritchard
Bushra Bi	Ziaul Islam	Hendrina Quinnen
Sir Albert	Morriam Jan	Lauren Rainbow
Bore	Kerry Jenkins	Shafique Shah
Nicky	Brigid Jones	Rinkal Shergill
Brennan	Jane Jones	Sybil Spence
Kerry Brewer	Amar Khan	Ron Storer
Marje Bridle	Ayoub Khan	Sharon Thompson
Martin Brooks	Mariam Khan	Paul Tilsley
Mick Brown	Saqib Khan	Penny Wagg
Debbie Clancy	Izzy Knowles	Ian Ward
Liz Clements	Narinder Kaur	Ken Wood
John Cotton	Kooner	Alex Yip
Phil Davis	Kirsten Kurt -Elli	Waseem Zaffar
Jack Deakin	Chaman Lal	
Jayne Francis	Bruce Lines	
Sam Forsyth	Mary Locke	
Rob Grant	Ewan Mackey	

NOTICE OF RECORDING

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

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

MINUTES

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and –

- 30 **RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12 July 2022 be taken as read and confirmed and signed.

LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**1 Death of former Councillor Peter Smallbone**

The Lord Mayor indicated her first announcement related to former Councillor Peter Smallbone who had passed away on 8 July 2022.

Peter served as a Councillor for Quinton Ward from 2008 to 2012, during which time he served on a number of Overview and Scrutiny Committees and had a particular interest in health.

Peter leaves behind his wife Laura, who was present in the Chamber, and two children.

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

- 31 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Council placed on record its sorrow at the death of former Councillor Peter Smallbone and its appreciation of his devoted service to the residents of Birmingham. The Council extended its deepest sympathy to members of Peter's family in their sad bereavement.

Members and officers stood for a minute's silence, following which a

number of tributes were made by Members.

2 Death of former Lord Mayor Councillor Mohammed Azim

The Lord Mayor indicated her second announcement related to former Lord Mayor Councillor Mohammed Azim who had passed away on 14 August 2022.

Former Lord Mayor Councillor Mohammed Azim had served as a Councillor for the Sparkbrook Ward from 2004 to 2006, and 2012 to 2018; and the Sparkbrook and Balsall Heath East Ward from 2018 onwards.

He was Lord Mayor of Birmingham from 2019 to 2021, unusually serving a two-year term of office as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic; and served as and Deputy Lord Mayor of Birmingham from 2021 to 2022.

During his time on the Council, Councillor Azim served on numerous Committees, Sub-Committees and outside bodies.

Mohammed leaves behind his wife, 2 sons and 2 daughters, including his youngest daughter, Councillor Bushra Bi, who was present in the Chamber.

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

32

RESOLVED:-

That the Council placed on record its sorrow at the death of former Lord Mayor Councillor Mohammed Azim and its appreciation of his devoted service to the residents of Birmingham. The Council extended its deepest sympathy to members of Mohammed's family in their sad bereavement.

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

3 Death of former Lady Mayoress Sheila Barrow

The Lord Mayor indicated her third announcement related to former Lady Mayoress Sheila Barrow.

Sheila was born in 1928 in Bourneville and died at age 93 after a short illness at her home in Edgbaston. She was Lady Mayoress alongside her husband, Honorary Alderman George Corbyn Barrow, from 1965 to 1966. She was widowed in 1998.

Before marrying in 1957, Sheila was a legal secretary working in Birmingham, and then in New York at the United Nations for the Indian delegation and in Washington DC with the British Embassy.

She was a long serving JP on the Birmingham bench, a juvenile justice and chair of the Juvenile Bench for several years, and on the Lord Chancellor's advisory for the appointment of magistrates.

Sheila leaves behind her son, George; and again, I know you will join me in extending to George and the rest of the family our deepest condolences.

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

33

RESOLVED:-

That this Council placed on record its sorrow at the death of former Lady Mayoress Sheila Barrow and its appreciation of her service to the residents of Birmingham. The Council extended its deepest sympathy to Sheila's family in their sad bereavement.

PETITIONS

Petitions Relating to City Council Functions Presented at the Meeting

The following petitions were presented:-

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

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

34

RESOLVED:-

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

Petitions Update

A Petitions Update had been made available electronically:-

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

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and -

35

RESOLVED:-

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

QUESTION TIME

36

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

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

APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

Councillors Baber Baz and Des Hughes addressed the Council and it was-

37

RESOLVED:-

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

Commonwealth Games, Culture and Physical Activity Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Deborah Harries (Lib Dem) to replace Councillor Morriam Jan (Lib Dem) on the Commonwealth Games, Culture and Physical Activity Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Mr Guy Hordern be appointed to SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education) as Deputy Chair.

INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL - MEMBERSHIP

A report from the City Solicitor was submitted:-

(See document No. 3, agenda item 8)

Councillor Ian Ward, Leader of the Council moved the Motion which was seconded from the floor.

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

It was therefore-

38

RESOLVED:-

1.) That City Council agreed to appoint the following persons to the Independent Remuneration Panel:

Appointee	Term of Office
Catherine McManus Citizens Representative	14 Sept 2022 – 13 Sept 2026
Rob Johnston Appointed (TUC) Representative	14 Sept 2022 – 13 Sept 2026

**LEAD MEMBER REPORT: WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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

(See document No. 4, agenda item 9)

Councillor Lauren Rainbow moved the Motion which was seconded by Councillor Karen McCarthy.

A debate ensued.

Councillors Lisa Trickett and Timothy Huxtable spoke during the debate.

It was-

39

RESOLVED:-

1.) That City Council noted the report.

YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2022-23

A report from the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families, Councillor Karen McCarthy was submitted:-

(See document No. 5, agenda item 10)

Councillor Karen McCarthy, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families moved the Motion which was seconded by the Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities, Councillor John Cotton.

A debate ensued.

Councillors Morriam Jan, Des Hughes and Kerry Jenkins spoke during the debate.

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

It was therefore-

40

RESOLVED:-

1.) That City Council approved the Birmingham Children's Trust's 2022 - 2023 Youth Justice Plan.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and

41

RESOLVED:-

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

The Council then adjourned at 1620 hours.

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

Lord Mayor in the Chair

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

A report from the City Solicitor was submitted:-

(See document No. 6, agenda item 11)

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Ward moved the Motion which was seconded from the floor.

A debate ensued.

Councillor Robert Alden spoke during the debate.

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

It was therefore-

42

RESOLVED:-

1.) That That City Council noted the report

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN 2022-2026 (EXECUTIVE BUSINESS REPORT)

A report of the Director of Strategy, Equality and Partnerships and the Director of Council Management was submitted:-

(See document No. 7, agenda item 12)

Councillor Ian Ward, Leader of the Council moved the Motion which was seconded by Councillor Brigid Jones.

A debate ensued.

Councillors Robert Alden, Alex Pritchard, Ken Wood, Majid Mahmood and Lee Marsham spoke during the debate.

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

It was therefore-

43

RESOLVED:-

- 1) That City Council approved the Corporate Plan 2022-2026
-

MOTIONS FOR DEBATE FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

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

A. Councillors Ewan Mackey and Richard Parkin had given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

(See document No. 8, agenda item 13)

Councillor Ewan Mackey moved the Motion which was seconded by Councillor Richard Parkin.

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure, Councillors Marje Bridle and Shabina Bano gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

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

Councillor Marje Bridle moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Shabina Bano.

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

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

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

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

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor Ewan Mackey to sum up.

The amendment to the Motion in the names of Councillors Marje Bridle and Shabina Bano having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

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

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

It was therefore-

RESOLVED:-

“That this Council notes that the Community Chest was a useful fund for communities across the City and further to calls for it to be restored to at least £50k per single member ward and £100k per two-member ward, the Cabinet will consider this request as part of a future budget, taking into account the outcome of the current neighbourhood co-ordinator pilot.

The Cabinet will also bring forward further proposals to progress the Localisation agenda as set out in the 'Working Together in Birmingham's Neighbourhoods' policy.

Council further notes that the potential threat posed to local government by a new period of public service cuts will make it increasingly difficult for local authorities across the country to fund community projects.

Council therefore resolves to write to the Government urging them not to repeat the ill-judged austerity policies that have had such disastrous consequences for public services and communities since 2010.

This Council also notes the lack of local funding and budgets for our parks.

The Council therefore also calls on the Cabinet, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer, to consider the introduction of a ward parks and open spaces budget.

This will be based on the amount of parks and open space in a ward, but should be no less than £10,000 per single member ward per year. And no less than £20,000 per two member ward per year.

With a proposed community chest and the existing highways budget this would create an annual ward budget of at least £75,000 per year per councillor. These

ward budgets should have the ability to be rolled into subsequent years.”

B. Councillors Jon Hunt and Mumtaz Hussain had given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

(See document No. 8, agenda item 13)

Councillor Jon Hunt moved the Motion which was seconded by Councillor Mumtaz Hussain.

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure, Councillors Ian Ward and Marcus Bernasconi gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No. 12, ‘Amendments – City Council’)

Councillor Ian Ward moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Marcus Bernasconi.

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

(See document No. 13, ‘Amendments – City Council’)

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

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

(See document No. 14, ‘Amendments – City Council’)

Councillor Simon Morrall moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Ewan Mackey.

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure, Councillors Izzy Knowles and Deborah Harries gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No. 15, ‘Amendments – City Council’)

Councillor Izzy Knowles moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Deborah Harries.

A debate ensued.

Councillors Robert Alden and Lee Marsham spoke during the debate.

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor Jon Hunt to sum up.

The amendment to the Motion in the names of Councillors Ian Ward and Marcus Bernasconi having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

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

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

Names were called and the Chamber doors were locked.

Here upon a poll being demanded the voting was as follows:-

For the Motion (16)

Matt Bennett	Richard Parkin	Kerry Brewer
Gareth Moore	David Barrie	Bruce Lines
Robert Alden	Ken Wood	Ron Storer
Deirdre Alden	Simon Morrall	Debbie Clancy
Ewan Mackey	Adam Higgs	
David Pears	Timothy Huxtable	

Against the Motion (61)

Shafique Shah	Paul Tilsley	Jilly Bermingham
Mary Locke	Deborah Harries	Marje Bridle
Des Hughes	Mumtaz Hussain	Lauren Rainbow
Alex Aitken	Ayoub Khan	Hendrina Quinnen
Sam Forsyth	Jon Hunt	Mahmood Hussain
Jack Deakin	Morriam Jan	Fred Grindrod
Kirsten Kurt-Elli	Lisa Trickett	Lee Marsham
Yvonne Mosquito	Kerry Jenkins	Shabina Bano
Jayne Francis	Ray Goodwin	Baber Baz
Karen McCarthy	Jane Jones	Izzy Knowles
Ian Ward	Basharat Mahmood	Penny Wagg
Majid Mahmood	Amir Khan	Julien Pritchard
Sharon Thompson	Saima Ahmed	Rob Grant
Liz Clements	Rashad Mahmood	Narinder Kaur Kooner
John Cotton	Shehla Moledina	Marcus Bernasconi
Ziaul Islam	Shabrana Hussain	Raqeeb Aziz
Chaman Lal	Diane Donaldson	Kath Hartley
Saqib Khan	Philip Davis	Martin Brooks
Saddak Miah	Sybil Spence	Sir Albert Bore
Colin Green	David Barker	Bushra Bi
		Rob Pocock

Abstentions (0)

Upon the completion of the voting process, the Lord Mayor declared that the amendment was lost.

The amendment to the Motion in the names of Councillors Izzy Knowles and Deborah Harries having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be lost.

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

It was therefore-

RESOLVED:-

“To support residents through the immediate and acute period of the cost-of-living crisis, Council calls on the government and the new Prime Minister to:

- Look again at its energy price cap policy, capping prices at October 2021 levels, and paying for the price cap through expanded windfall taxes rather than extra borrowing and repayment by the taxpayer.
- Declare a Cost-of-Living emergency and provide COVID style support to residents and businesses urgently.
- Take other urgent measures to ensure people in Birmingham have adequate income to cover their basic living costs.
- Ensure that councils have adequate resources to support those facing personal crisis due to being unable to pay their bills and afford basic supplies.
- Increase Local Housing Allowance rates in line with rising private market rents - making these more affordable and reducing the proportion of income spent on rent at a time when household budgets are increasingly squeezed.
- Introduce rent reforms and a potential temporary cap to protect private tenants from further rental increases at a time of crisis.
- Legislate a no winter evictions guarantee to protect private tenants from homelessness through the most challenging period of the cost-of-living crisis.
- Reform Right to Buy - safeguarding remaining social housing stock for our most vulnerable residents, but also increasing affordable housing targets and expanding pathways to homeownership so that the right to own your own home can still be a realistic goal for all residents.
- Prioritise the passing of the Renters’ Reform Bill that seeks to improve standards and regulations across the private rented sector to better protect tenants.

- Urgently roll out a national insulation and retrofit programme, which will include support for retrofitting and insulating social housing, private rental properties and owner-occupied homes, at scale, and for Birmingham to get its fair share.
- Give Birmingham City Council the funding it needs to retrofit its properties to a high energy efficiency standard.
- Raise benefits in line with the cost of inflation, and reinstate the £20 uplift to universal credit.

Council calls on the Leader to write to the Prime Minister to lobby the government for the above measures to tackle the cost of living crisis.

Council supports and re-affirms the declaration of a cost-of-living emergency declared by the Leader whilst at cabinet on 6th September.

Council believes the Cost-of-Living Crisis and that tackling the Cost of Living Emergency goes hand-in-hand with tackling the Climate Emergency because renewable energy is cleaner and cheaper.

Council also believes that the cheapest energy is energy residents don't have to use.

Council resolves to work with other stakeholders in the city to coordinate the response to the emergency, ensuring that those in need have rapid access to reliable support.

Council welcomes the "Warm Banks" proposals and resolves that these should be developed with the voluntary and faith sectors to ensure a comprehensive network of locations across the City to provide support for those facing energy poverty. Council calls on the executive to ensure that the council's community hubs, e.g. libraries and community centres, participate in the "Warm Banks" initiative.

Council also calls on the cabinet to investigate any further financial support it can give to voluntary and faith sector organisations to help them run Warm Banks. And speed up development of an energy efficiency retrofit programme that covers all BMHT properties so it is ready to roll it out as soon as funding is available, and to re-double efforts to prioritise and secure funding to make this happen.

Council asks the Cabinet, in consultation with the Section 151 officer, to investigate changing its council tax reduction scheme to reduce the amount residents eligible for the scheme will pay.

Council further calls on the Government to introduce a windfall tax on oil and gas producers and to reverse the energy price cap rise that came into effect on 1 October 2022.

Council further notes the recent announcement of plans to retrofit 300 homes as part of the 3 cities retrofit programme and will continue to step up initiatives to enhance insulation in homes and generate electricity from solar power.

Council notes that local government will be on the frontline of efforts to support and protect vulnerable citizens in the coming months and resources

are now being swiftly mobilised in Birmingham.

Since declaring a cost of living emergency on 6 Sept 2022, council has identified £5m from reserves to:

- Improve the availability of advice to residents, with a focus on increasing benefit take up
- Increase energy efficiency, with a focus on reducing costs
- Increase the supply of food through foodbanks across the city
- Ensure the provision of a network of warm spaces across the city, starting with libraries. We will endeavour to work with and supplement the work of the voluntary and faith sectors to ensure a comprehensive network of locations across the city to provide support for those facing energy poverty.
- Support staff.”

The meeting ended at 1923 hours.

APPENDIX

Questions and replies in accordance with Council Rules of Procedure B4.4 F
of the Constitution

CITY COUNCIL – 11 OCTOBER 2022



CITY COUNCIL
11 OCTOBER 2022

WRITTEN
QUESTIONS TO

CABINET MEMBERS

A1

CITY COUNCIL – 11 OCTOBER 2022

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

“Eurovision”

Question:

How much did the council spend on the bid to host Eurovision?

Answer: £1,707.40

B

**PLEASE NOTE NO WRITTEN QUESTIONS WERE SUBMITTED FOR THE
DEPUTY LEADER**

C1

CITY COUNCIL – 11 OCTOBER 2022

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR MORRIAM JAN**‘Special Educational Needs Support’****Question:**

Could the Cabinet Member provide details of the number of pupils in local authority schools currently assigned special educational needs support and the Wards this covers? Are these support needs being met?

Answer:

The table below shows the number of pupils with SEN Support attending Birmingham local authority schools (including academies) and the wards those schools are in.

Ward	SEN Support pupils in Birmingham Schools
Acocks Green	773
Allens Cross	276
Alum Rock	912
Aston	912
Balsall Heath West	192
Bartley Green	927
Billesley	607
Birchfield	135
Bordesley & Highgate	416
Bordesley Green	382
Bournbrook & Selly Park	260
Bournville & Cotteridge	639
Brandwood & King's Heath	992
Bromford & Hodge Hill	546
Castle Vale	466
Druids Heath & Monyhull	341
Edgbaston	174
Erdington	557
Frankley Great Park	621
Garretts Green	567

Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	434
Gravelly Hill	236
Hall Green North	447
Hall Green South	58
Handsworth	448
Handsworth Wood	484
Harborne	294
Heartlands	625
Highter's Heath	170
Holyhead	480
King's Norton North	373
King's Norton South	313
Kingstanding	512
Ladywood	519
Longbridge & West Heath	476
Lozells	652
Moseley	547
Nechells	736
Newtown	341
North Edgbaston	585
Northfield	224
Oscott	717
Perry Barr	289
Perry Common	172
Pype Hayes	247
Quinton	361
Rubery & Rednal	451
Shard End	370
Sheldon	327
Small Heath	1019
Soho & Jewellery Quarter	456
South Yardley	369
Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	966
Sparkhill	629
Stirchley	116
Stockland Green	514
Sutton Four Oaks	228
Sutton Mere Green	136
Sutton Reddicap	464
Sutton Roughley	36
Sutton Trinity	322
Sutton Vesey	314

Sutton Walmley & Minworth	205
Sutton Wylde Green	232
Tyseley & Hay Mills	233
Ward End	594
Weoley & Selly Oak	629
Yardley West & Stechford	210
Total	30,255

SEN Support Plans are the responsibility of education settings to assess, plan and resource the support to meet the identified need of the individual pupil.

This support is funded from element 2 funding of the DSG (notional funding). In the event where the support offered does not meet need appropriately, as agreed in the SEN Support Plans, education settings can request an EHC Needs Assessment for further funding through the High Needs Block.

C2

CITY COUNCIL – 11 OCTOBER 2022

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR JULIEN PRITCHARD

“Secondary School Catchment for B14 5UX”

Question:

**What secondary schools are considered in catchment for postcode B14 5UX?
And how long does it take to travel to these by public and active transport?
And what is being done to increase secondary school provision for children in this area?**

Answer:

Secondary schools in Birmingham do not generally have fixed catchment areas. Places are offered in accordance with each school’s admission arrangements which must comply with the School Admissions Code and which are [published on the council’s website at this link](#).

Where places are offered based on a distance criterion, distances are measured in metres as a straight line from a fixed point at the school to the individual pupil’s home address.

The distance the last child offered a place under the distance criterion lives from that school will vary each year. This is known as a school’s ‘cut-off distance’. Schools’ cut-off distances for the previous three years are published on the council’s website to support families with the application process.

When considering schools to list as preferences, families should contact the School Admissions team (0121 303 188 or admissions@birmingham.gov.uk) to obtain distance measurements from their home address to the schools they are interested in.

To answer this question, distances have been measured from one address with a B14 5UX postcode. It is important to note that distances to schools from other addresses within that postcode will be different.

For September 2022 entry, a pupil applying on time from one address in B14 5UX would have been offered a place at the Birmingham* secondary schools listed below under the distance criterion of the schools’ admission arrangements.

School	Distance from an address in B14 5UX	Estimated travel times (using TfWM Journey Planner)
Ark Kings Academy	2,270m	Cycle: 8 minutes Bus/Walk: 14 minutes (NXWM 49) Walk: 33 minutes
Kings Heath Boys' School	2,328m	Cycle: 10 minutes Bus/Walk: 20 minutes (NXWM 50) Walk: 38 minutes
St Thomas Aquinas Catholic School	3,118m	Cycle: 9 minutes Bus/Walk: 29 minutes (NXWM 18) Walk: 36 minutes
Selly Park Technology College for Girls	3,504m	Cycle: 13 minutes Bus/Walk: 33 minutes (NXWM 49 and 45) Walk: 56 minutes

**B14 5UX is near Birmingham's borders with Worcestershire and Solihull so a family applying from an address there may have met the admission criteria and been offered a place at a secondary school in another local authority. Information on other local authorities' schools' admission arrangements would be held by those local authorities.*

A pupil applying from B14 5UX may also have met other local Birmingham secondary schools' admission criteria (eg performance in a grammar school's entrance test or meeting the faith requirements for a faith school). For the purposes of this answer only Birmingham schools who would have offered a place based on distance were included. It has also been assumed that the child applying from an address in B14 5UX does not have a sibling attending a Birmingham secondary school, is not a Looked After Child or Previously Looked After Child and does not have an Education, Health and Care Plan.

School sufficiency is regularly monitored and work is undertaken to create additional capacity when increased need is identified, through bulge classes or school expansion programmes.

Over the past six years, 323 additional Year 7 places have been created within three miles of B14 5UX. This has been done through the expansion of five Birmingham schools and the opening of a new school, Christ Church CE Secondary Academy in September 2021, in light of forecast demand. This equates to over 1500 additional secondary places across Y7 to 11.

Officers will continue to monitor demand for secondary school places in the area and across the city.

D

**PLEASE NOTE NO WRITTEN QUESTIONS WERE SUBMITTED FOR THE
CABINET MEMBER FOR DIGITAL, CULTURE, HERITAGE AND
TOURISM**

E1

CITY COUNCIL – 11 OCTOBER 2022

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM
COUNCILLOR DEBORAH HARRIES**

‘Birmingham’s Missing Parks’

Question:

Why aren’t all parks, recreation grounds, open spaces etc listed on the Birmingham City Council website, to help Birmingham residents and visitors find them? I tested two in my ward/constituency – Manor Road Recreation Ground and Acocks Green Recreation Ground – both with children’s play areas, active Friends of Parks groups and members of the Birmingham Open Spaces Forum (BOSF), and neither appear.

Answer:

You are correct, we have verified the information and will be updating the website as appropriate.

E2

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

'Fly Tipping'

Question:

What proportion of fly tipping cases are investigated within seven days of them being reported? If the Cabinet Member cannot answer the question, could he specify how the department ensures timely investigation reported of fly tipping reports?

Answer:

All reported fly tipped rubbish is inspected within 10 days. The majority is removed without further action.

E3

CITY COUNCIL – 11 OCTOBER 2022

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

'Fly Tipping'

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member comment on how much of the additional £1m announced to tackle fly tipping before Budget Council has been spent including details of what this money has been spent on and how much is remaining?

Answer:

All of the initiatives to reduce Flytipping have been resourced until April 23. This includes additional crews to remove Flytipping and additional CCTV cameras. I am unable to provide a detailed breakdown of actual spend at the moment.

E4

CITY COUNCIL – 11 OCTOBER 2022

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

‘Alleyway Clean Up’

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member comment on how much of the additional £1m announced to clean up alleyways before Budget Council has been spent including details of what this money has been spent on and how much is remaining?

Answer:

The funding, £803,000, for the alleyway clearance has been fully allocated to resource team to complete the clearance of city council owned alleyways. I am unable to give a breakdown of the budget allocation but 327 Alleyways have been completed so far with 124 still to clear.

E5

CITY COUNCIL – 11 OCTOBER 2022

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

'Missed Waste Collections'

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member explain why my Ward of Yardley West and Stechford and also Yardley East have endured missed waste collections from the Redfern Depot recently? Both of these Wards are scheduled for collection on a Tuesday, however both have had roads missed, with almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of my Ward having no collection on 27th September and having to wait till Saturday morning for their waste to be removed some 4 days later which is infuriating my residents. Which other Wards have collections on Tuesdays from Redfern Depot and did they have similar issues?

Answer:

It is unfortunate that you have experienced some missed collections in previous weeks. Redfern has recently experienced a number of staffing issues. The depot has secured additional resources from the agency and we have also diverted drivers from other services and other depots to support. This has resulted in an improved service this week.

Other Wards which are collected on a Tuesday and have experience similar problems include, Heartlands, Yardley, Glebe Farm and Tile Cross, Alum Rock and Bromford and Hodge Hill.

CITY COUNCIL – 11 OCTOBER 2022

F1

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

“Childcare vouchers”

Question:

What was the reason for the delay in making childcare voucher payments to staff in August and September?

Answer:

There was a slight delay for September’s vouchers due to invoices raised incorrectly set with a payment of within 28 days rather than immediate. When identified, a BACS payment was arranged and sent on Monday 26th with clearance by Wednesday 28th September. Funds were released to employee Sodexo accounts on the 28th with availability of funds on the correct date, albeit a few hours later than normal.

There was no delay in payment for August’s childcare vouchers, funds cleared on Friday 26th August without issue.

F2

CITY COUNCIL – 11 OCTOBER 2022

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR RICK PAYNE**

“Childcare vouchers transaction costs”

Question:

What additional transaction costs were incurred as a result of having to make BACs payments to Sodexo after failing to pay on time in usual way for staff childcare vouchers?

Answer:

There are no additional transaction costs occurred as a result of having to make a late BACs payment to Sodexo. The only time we would incur charges is if a childcare provider invoices staff with a late payment fee, we would reimburse staff in this instance. We have no record of this happening in at least the past two and a half years.

F3

CITY COUNCIL – 11 OCTOBER 2022

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

“Payment of suppliers”

Question:

What is the average number of days for payment of suppliers in each month since April 2022?

Answer:

The focus has been on accelerating payments, officers do data extracts in order to manage the payments.

Key performance reports are currently being developed and as soon as this data is available it will be shared with you.

Officers apologise for the inconvenience caused for any delays in payments, there is a dedicated team in place to work solely on aged invoices.

F4

CITY COUNCIL – 11 OCTOBER 2022

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

“Payment of suppliers within 30 days”

Question:

In each month since April 2021, what percentage of invoices have been paid within 30 days?

Answer:

Since April 2021 to March 2022 the percentage of invoices paid within 30 days is as follows :-

Apr 21 – 71.42%
May 21 – 95.14%
Jun 21 – 96.34%
Jul 21 – 96.88%
Aug 21 – 94.44%
Sep 21 – 92.47%
Oct 21 – 97.68%
Nov 21 – 96.17%
Dec 21 - 95.91%
Jan 22 – 86.79%
Feb 22 – 92.95%
Mar 22 – 45.67%

The dip in performance in March 2022 is due to a pause in processing which is standard practice when shifting data from one system to another as it needs to be at a moment in time.

The focus has been on getting payments out to suppliers in the first instance, reports are in development and will be shared with you as soon as available. Data extracts are being used to manage the payments performance. A dedicated team is in place to clear the backlog of aged invoices.

Officers apologise for the inconvenience caused, and an action plan in place to clear this backlog.

F5**CITY COUNCIL – 11 OCTOBER 2022****WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR KERRY BREWER****“Transaction costs”****Question:**

What additional transaction costs, including staff time, have been incurred since April 2022 as a result of having to manually process invoices due to problems with Oracle?

Answer:

Since April 2022 Transaction Services have recruited six additional agency staff to help manually process invoices. The total cost of these, assuming they are in post until December 2022 is forecasted to be £84,000.

G

**PLEASE NOTE NO WRITTEN QUESTIONS WERE SUBMITTED FOR THE
CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE**

H1

CITY COUNCIL – 11 OCTOBER 2022

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNCILLOR DEBORAH HARRIES

'Housing Policy'

Question:

Why does the housing department continue with the rigid and illogical policy of tenants not being able to 'bid down' for properties, which would give tenants greater opportunity of successfully bidding for a larger property to get themselves into a less over-crowded living situation?

'We would be condoning overcrowding' is a pretty poor response when a family of five, deemed to be overcrowded in a two-bedroom tower block flat, with grandmother sleeping on a mattress in the living room, can only bid for a four-bedroom property, of which there are only around 30 across the whole city, and not for a three-bedroom property, of which there are around 300.

I'd be grateful if serious consideration can be given to dropping this policy.

Answer:

In May 2022 a new procedure was introduced to enable certain applicants (subject to the criteria set out below) to bid on properties that have one bedroom less than they are eligible for. This was to ensure that applicants with a need for larger properties, which rarely become available, could bid on properties with a bedroom less, and to ensure that all such applicants are treated fairly and consistently when such a decision is made.

The procedure applies to applicants who are significantly overcrowded at the point of application and remain so at the point of an offer of accommodation being made. Such applicants will be permitted to bid for Birmingham City Council properties with one fewer bedroom than their assessed bedroom need so long as the offer of accommodation does not result in statutory overcrowding.

The procedure applies to all applicants who meet the following criteria:

Applicants who have been

- Assessed to need 3 bedrooms or more.
- Assessed as been significantly overcrowded - Awarded Band 1 or 2 for overcrowding purposes.
- Awarded the need for an extra bedroom on medical grounds.
- The properties applicants bid on must have more bedrooms than the applicant currently has access to.
- The properties the applicant bids on should ideally have 2 reception rooms (parlour type) where 1 can be used as a bedroom, however other property types will be considered.
- Applicants must not become statutory overcrowded when made an offer of accommodation.

This procedure is applied automatically as part of the application assessment stage for all eligible applicants who registered after the implementation date.

For all applicants who registered prior to the implementation this is applied at the applicants' request.

This is also included in the new Allocations Policy which is due to be implemented late 2022 which states the following:

2.2.4 Applicants who are significantly overcrowded at the point of application and remain so at the point of an offer of accommodation being made, may be permitted to bid for Birmingham City Council properties with one fewer bedrooms than their assessed bedroom need if the offer does not result in statutory overcrowding.

Information on the procedure, and to make applicants aware of this, will be available on the Birmingham Choice website.

H2

CITY COUNCIL – 11 OCTOBER 2022

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNCILLOR JULIEN PRITCHARD

“Housing Repair Phone Calls/Appointments”

Question:

What is the target of how quickly housing repair phone calls from tenants are answered? And how many calls have met this target in the past year? And what is the target on number of appointments cancelled by housing contractors? And what is the performance of the housing contractors against this? And what is the average wait for repair calls to be answered?

Answer:

The council measures calls answered against calls presented. The target for calls answered is 90%. In the current calendar year from January to September 2022, 91% of calls were answered, therefore 1% better than target.

The council measures the number of appointments which were attended by the contractor against the original appointment made with the customer.

Our target for appointments kept is between 94.9% (Minimum Standard) and 98.1% (Maximum Standard). The performance of the housing contractors against this target for the year April 2022 to September 2022 is:

North: 98.8% of appointments were successfully kept, therefore 1.2% missed.

East: 97.7% of appointments were successfully kept, therefore 2.3% missed.

South: 98.3% of appointments were successfully kept, therefore 1.7% missed.

West: 97.3% of appointments were successfully kept, therefore 2.7% missed.

The average wait for repair calls to be answered is 2 minutes 58 seconds.

H3

CITY COUNCIL – 11 OCTOBER 2022

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNCILLOR ROB GRANT

“CCTV Removal – Campion House and Saffron House”

Question:

Can it be explained why the CCTV system at Campion House and Saffron House tower blocks in Kings Norton South, has been removed? Both blocks are for the over 50's, many of whom are vulnerable.

It would appear this is for GDPR reasons. However, these cameras were only in use within the confines of the grounds of the two tower blocks and their community centre.

It seems inconceivable that this line of protection for residents has been removed considering the use of household and business CCTV, in car cameras and mobile phones is widespread and impossible to apply GDPR regulations in every situation.

Since the removal of the cameras, residents are feeling vulnerable as there is an increase in anti-social behaviour, damage to cars and recently a resident has been mugged. The police could not help because there wasn't any CCTV evidence.

If the removal of CCTV on council property is a BCC policy, then many citizens of Birmingham are not being cared for and left vulnerable

Answer:

Under the Surveillance Camera Commissioner 'Code of Practice' local authorities and the Police are deemed as a 'Relevant Authority'. Under this 'Code of Practice' we have to comply with a stricter set of rules than the general public and businesses. This ensures our compliance with the Data Protection Act, GDPR, Protection of Freedoms Act, Protection from Harassment Act etc...

To ensure compliance, in 2018/19 an audit was carried out of all our Housing Management CCTV cameras. None of our cameras were found to be compliant, this was either due to them deemed not fit for purpose, no legitimate justified need, or they simply did not work. The cameras were subsequently decommissioned, and tenants advised of their removal.

Additional to the non-compliance, the concierge service was decommissioned early 2015 following consultation during November 2013 to February 2014. A redesigned service was introduced throughout 2015 that provides 24/7 door entry control and a mobile patrol service. At the time it was agreed that the CCTV equipment relating to

the concierge service would remain in situ. It was accepted that this equipment would not be maintained or replaced when it ceased to be operationally effective. This was subsequently removed to comply with legislation.

The Surveillance Commissioner at that time stated *'From my perspective if, following a review, it is determined that the surveillance camera no longer fulfils its purpose then the local authority should be considering removing that camera.'*

The decommissioning of Housing CCTV was agreed at cabinet and elected members were informed in November 2019.

Should there be a justified reason to install CCTV then Housing have a robust procedure in place for the local team to follow, this includes consultation, completion of a Data Protection Impact Assessment and final sign off by the Council Head of Information Management. This procedure has been in place since the decommissioning project in 2019.

I have asked for the local housing officers to engage with the residents and explore improving security, for example, improving lighting and clearing foliage.



**PLEASE NOTE NO WRITTEN QUESTIONS WERE SUBMITTED FOR THE
CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND
EQUALITIES**

J1

CITY COUNCIL – 11 OCTOBER 2022

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT FROM
COUNCILLOR DEBORAH HARRIES****'Penalty Charge Notices'****Question:**

Can you please tell me how many parking fines or Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) have been issued – month by month, during the last year 2021/22 – in Yardley East Ward, and more specifically on Church Road, Yardley, which is a hotspot for illegal and dangerous parking on pavements, double yellow lines and white zig zags, and of much concern to local residents.

Answer:

Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) record the location in terms of the road name but not the ward and therefore information cannot be provided for the Yardley East Ward but can be provided for Church Road Yardley, which is shown below:-

The number of patrols are also shown as not every visit results in a PCN being issued:-

1 April 2021 – 30 September 2022

	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept
no. patrols	16	15	10	1	2	7	7	5	9	1	10	3	13	9	5	7	11	38
no. pcns	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	3	0	2	0	2	4

J2

CITY COUNCIL – 11 OCTOBER 2022

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT FROM
COUNCILLOR JON HUNT**

'A34 Perry Barr Road Changes'

Question:

The Cabinet Member will remember supporting the A34 Perry Barr Road changes on the grounds they will deliver improvements to bus access and cycling routes. Could she investigate why there appears to be neither dedicated bus lanes or cycle lanes or bus gates at the A34 southbound One Stop traffic lights, perhaps investigating how the proposed SPRINT bus services, which have required significant investment from TfWM, will maintain their pace through this junction without priority?

Answer:

A dedicated bus lane is available southbound on the approach to the Aldridge Road/One Stop junction. The point where the bus lane terminates has been determined by the need for traffic to merge into the lane to turn left into Aldridge Road. The arrangement is consistent with the design used to model bus journeys that showed improvements in journey times through the area.

Additionally, the Perry Barr highway scheme has focussed on improving the cycle facilities from the existing A34 blue route to Perry Barr centre and providing a connection to the future Aldridge Road cycle route. The new layout is more cycle friendly for cyclists travelling southbound on the A34.

J3

CITY COUNCIL – 11 OCTOBER 2022

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT FROM
COUNCILLOR IZZY KNOWLES**

'Fixed Penalty Notices'

Question:

How many FPNs have been issued in the last 12 months (broken down monthly) for parking on the grass verge in Yardley Wood Road and Swanshurst Lane, Moseley?

Please provide:

- 1. Gross revenue obtained by Birmingham City Council from car parking charges at Cannon Hill Park including Queens Ride car park from July 2018 until now.**
- 2. Total amount spent on re-payments of loans / investment that were incurred in order to install the car park charging equipment.**
- 3. Total amount spent on infrastructure at the park -such as lighting, re-surfacing and CCTV and itemise the expenditure.**
- 4. Total amount spent on other areas of the park or the MAC and itemise the expenditure.**
- 5. Number of fixed penalties issued for illegal parking on restricted areas of Russell Road and Moorcroft Road**

Answer:

The number of patrols are also shown as not every visit results in a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) being issued:-

Yardley Wood Road – Parked on Grass Verge

1 October 2021 – 30 September 2022

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept
no. patrols	5	0	33	56	19	2	3	4	4	6	24	23
no. pcns	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

Swanshurst Lane Moseley – Parked on Grass Verge

1 October 2021 – 30 September 2022

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept
no. patrols	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	28
no. pcns	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	9

1. Gross revenue obtained by Birmingham City Council from car parking charges at Cannon Hill Park including Queens Ride car park from July 2018 until now

- 2017/18 £144,424
- 2018/19 £395,131
- 2019/20 £379,182
- 2020/21 £213,661
- 2021/22 £338,000

2. Total amount spent on re-payments of loans / investment that were incurred in order to install the car park charging equipment

- 2018/19 £56,404
- 2019/20 £56,404
- 2020/21 £56,404

3. Total amount spent on infrastructure at the park -such as lighting, re-surfacing and CCTV and itemise the expenditure.

	Capital spend (yr 1)	Revenue spend (yr 2)	Revenue spend (yr 3)	Revenue spend (yr 4)	Revenue spend (yr 5)
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Car Park improvements	£335,000.00				N/A
Lighting	£27,000.00	£3,990.00			N/A
P&D machines (incl. installation)	£68,490.00				N/A
Signage	£24,532.80				N/A
CCTV		£76,552.58	£2,547.19	£2,661.36	N/A
Lining	£14,150.00	£1,313.31			N/A
Electricity sub-station & meter	£2,073.00				N/A
	£471,245.80	£81,855.89	£2,547.19	£2,661.36	N/A

4. Total amount spent on other areas of the park or the MAC and itemise the expenditure.

2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000

Repairs	22	29	15	23	67
Grounds Maintenance	655	629	704	660	681
Electricity	8	9	11	11	11
Gas	5	4	3	2	1
Water (overpayments in 2019/20 and 2020/21 reimbursed in 2021/22)	0	13	109	154	(241)
Cleaning Materials	12	10	0	2	29
Security	13	13	19	18	40
	715	707	861	870	588

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Parks, Pools, Safety Works (Capital)	0	0	0	21	133

5. Number of fixed penalties issued for illegal parking on restricted areas of Russell Road and Moorcroft Road

Penalty Charge Notices issued for illegal parking on Russell Road and Moorcroft Road:-

1 October 2021 – 30 September 2022

Russell Road - illegal parking

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept
no. patrols	20	23	27	13	5	4	6	3	8	17	19	5
no. pcns	0	1	3	1	0	1	0	1	2	2	20	0

Moorcroft Road - illegal parking

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept
no. patrols	13	23	18	10	7	2	3	2	4	16	38	0
no. pcns	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	12	67	174	0

Birmingham City Council By-Election – 6th October 2022

I have to inform you that at the above election the following person was elected Councillor of the City for the under-mentioned Ward and that they have made and subscribed the declaration required by law accepting office

Ward	Name	Description	Term of Office Expires
Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	Saima Ahmed	Labour Party	May 2026

Robert Connelly

Returning Officer

Executive Business Report

Birmingham City Council

City Council

1 November 2022



Subject: Executive Business Report
Report of: Cabinet
Report author(s): Julie Griffin (Managing Director – City Housing),
 Graeme Betts (Director, Adult Social Care), Justin
 Varney (Director, Public Health)

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. This summer, Birmingham delivered the most successful Commonwealth Games on record. The 22nd Commonwealth Games, the largest sporting event to be held in England for ten years, launched our city onto the world stage in fantastic style, with over 1.5million ticketed spectators and a record-breaking number of television viewers. Birmingham is poised to enter its Golden Decade, with historic levels of development and investment, culminating in the arrival of HS2. Our Levelling Up strategy, 'Opportunity and Prosperity For All', provides a blueprint for accelerating progress across a range of areas, from transport and health, to green spaces and employment.

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- 1.4. However, despite the incredible opportunities of the next decade, we also recognise the very real challenges facing the city and the Council. As we enter the winter months, an unprecedented Cost of Living crisis means that many families across the city will be struggling to feed their children, heat their homes and afford the essentials. The anticipated rise in demand for support, alongside the very real financial pressures on the Council, means that we will need to rise to the challenge like never before.
- 1.5. 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.
- 1.6. This report will be used to provide an update on two Cabinet Member portfolios:
 - Housing and Homelessness; pages 2 - 19
 - Adult Social Care; pages 19 - 44

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the report be noted.

3. Housing and Homelessness

3.1. Context

- 3.1.1. Since the last update to City Council, officers within City Housing (CH), City Operations (CO) and Place, Prosperity and Sustainability (PPS) directorates have continued to work with partners to respond to the housing needs of Birmingham's citizens.
- 3.1.2. This update sets out the key challenges facing the portfolio, the priorities driving our business planning, and the progress that we have made against our strategic priorities.
- 3.1.3. The City Housing directorate are currently working through a full Housing Transformation programme. This programme utilises the support of strategic partners to increase internal capacity to deliver against an ambitious programme of improvement activity. All activities and strategic priorities are aligned to this piece of work. The Directorate has also recently commissioned a new Target Operating Model, which aims to evaluate existing structures,

processes, and work practices in order to develop an effective model that supports the directorate to future-proof services for some of the local and national challenges ahead. The model is due to be published in November 2022 and a mobilisation plan will follow.

Pressures

- 3.1.4. City Housing continues to face several pressures, with housing regulation change being amongst the most significant. There has been a raft of legislative change after the Grenfell tragedy, which has recently been summarised through the Social Housing Regulation Bill. The Bill will fundamentally change the way social housing is regulated, increasing opportunities for tenants to seek redress in the form of financial penalty when landlords are not performing at a high level. It includes an increased focus on tenant engagement, management of complaints, and building safety - particularly across high-rise blocks. Since Birmingham has one of the largest high-rise portfolios in the country, we are expecting additional scrutiny from the Regulator of Social Housing surrounding high-rise management. The timescale for implementation of the Bill has not yet been published, but the directorate is assessing service delivery against draft regulations in anticipation.
- 3.1.5. Both the pandemic and the current Cost of Living crisis are having a significant impact on homelessness services. Housing Solutions and Support services are encountering presentations of homelessness at a significant rate. For example, during one week in August 2022, 154 homeless cases resulted from 249 presentations.
- 3.1.6. The sheer volume of households requiring assistance means that temporary accommodation placements continue to rise. As of 29th September 2022, there were a total of 4,350 households in temporary accommodation, with 723 of those in bed and breakfast settings. 436 of the households in bed and breakfast have been there for over six weeks, which is over government guidelines. Whilst the mobilisation of Oscott Gardens focuses on identifying moves for households in bed and breakfast accommodation, the level of demand far outweighs the temporary provision available. A robust Bed & Breakfast Elimination Plan has been put in place to address this.
- 3.1.7. Despite City Housing seeing a 33% reduction in the volume of repair complaints between January to August 2022, the service is still facing significant pressures. A recent analysis shows that City Housing complete approximately 250,000 repairs per year across the stock portfolio, and complaints make up just over 2% of the number of repairs completed. However, the data also tells us that there are an average of 4.1 repairs on each property per year, higher than the average across the country of 3 repairs per year, per property. A review of the way in which the Housing

Revenues Account (HRA) is managed is underway as part of the Housing Transformation Programme. A report will be presented to Cabinet in February 2023, setting out an alternative financial model.

- 3.1.8. For some years, the lack of affordable housing supply has presented a significant pressure to City Housing. This pressure continues. Between 2011/2012 – 2021/2022, a total of 29,308 net new dwellings were completed against a target of 25,550 dwellings. The overall housing target to date has, therefore, been exceeded by 3,758 dwellings. However, a total of 4,647 affordable dwellings have been completed between 2011/12 – 2021/22 against a requirement of 9,690 for this period. This means that only 53% of the affordable housing target has been met with an under-delivery of 5,053 dwellings.
- 3.1.9. There are still many low-income households who cannot afford to live in the properties erected in their city. This is an issue that the proposed Housing Strategy 2022-2027 addresses, with the development of an Affordable Housing Delivery Group focused specifically on accelerating the supply of affordable housing.
- 3.1.10. City Housing also face significant challenges in terms of its internal capacity. As one of the largest landlords in Europe, benchmarking exercises with other authorities have demonstrated that the Directorate is lacking sufficient leadership capacity to be able to deliver on the wide variety of 'business as usual' activities and projects that are in flight through the Housing Transformation programme. New leadership structures are being explored as part of the Target Operating Model mentioned above. This will support the Directorate to manage the challenges ahead and future-proof services through a permanent and well-resourced leadership structure.

3.2. **Strategic Enabling**

- 3.2.1. A strategic enabling function has been mobilised to provide a sense of strategic direction and alignment to the operational services within the directorate. This aims to support operational teams to deliver high quality services to citizens. Financial support for this new service area was signed off in February 2022 and recruitment to the area has been ongoing since this time. All roles have now been filled and the service has begun to move forward on work packages.
- 3.2.2. The Housing Strategy 2022-2027 is under development and is due to be presented to Cabinet in December 2022. The strategy is jointly sponsored by City Housing and Place, Prosperity and Sustainability directorates, with a view to giving equal focus to existing housing stock and affordable housing supply. Stakeholders have been engaged on the strategic priorities identified

and there has been a public consultation via Be Heard, which closed on the 31st October 2022. Members have been consulted on the strategic priorities identified at specific sessions during September and October 2022.

- 3.2.3. Given the rise in poverty across the city following the Covid-19 pandemic and the Cost of Living crisis, the Strategic Enabling function are working to refresh the current Financial Inclusion Strategy and associated partnership. The Partnership will be focused on working closely with those voicing lived experience of poverty. Work with the Poverty Truth Commission will enable us to design resources, engage communities and develop solutions for those facing financial hardship across the city. This is particularly important for those facing homelessness or reliant on benefits and living in social housing. The Directorate will continue to focus on protecting these vulnerable groups.
- 3.2.4. A series of three cost-of-living roundtable sessions were delivered with partners between July and September 2022 to develop a toolkit to better equip frontline officers in supporting and signposting residents. This set of resources, due to be released in November 2022, brings together details of interventions, advice, and support from across the city into a single interactive 'toolkit'. Contributions have been made from a wide range of partners, including Housing Associations, covering areas including energy, debt advice, digital inclusion, food, employment, and wellbeing. The primary aim is to help aid discussions and signpost tenants and citizens to sources of support. The toolkit will be circulated to Members upon completion.
- 3.2.5. The Council has signed up to the Money Adviser Network (MAN), a technology focused pilot simplifying how creditors refer customers in financial difficulty to free, regulated debt advice. This service will help ease pressure on other face to face debt advice provision, ensuring it remains available for those who need it most, as well as those that would benefit from an appointment without delay. The service is flexible and allows customers to engage in several ways, including an immediate call back within 30 seconds. Officers from Housing Management, Housing Solutions, NAIS, Rents, Revenues and Benefits have received training on the service this month. Residents are able to self-refer to the Money Advisor Network using the following link: <https://adviser.moneyhelper.org.uk/en>
- 3.2.6. 'Warm Spaces' or 'Warm Hubs' are being set up all over the UK, providing safe places for people to keep warm this winter. *Warm Welcome* is our approach to warm spaces in Birmingham and aims to ensure that our communities have access to safe, welcoming, warm spaces where the focus is not upon poverty or an inability to afford heat. We do this by offering hospitality and connection; connecting people to each other, services, wellbeing activity, opportunity, and warmth. Leading the Warm Spaces priority workstream, officers are working closely with key community partners

to mobilise this initiative; whilst also exploring the potential of City Housing assets being made available for our tenants and wider public.

- 3.2.7. All the work outlined above feeds directly into the current corporate programme to address the Cost of Living crisis in the city.

3.3. **Housing Solutions & Support**

- 3.3.1. The service remains under significant and growing pressure. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and current Cost of Living crisis, coupled with the projection that there will be a shortfall of at least 14,400 affordable housing units in Birmingham 2031 (based on current demand) means that bold action is required to ensure that everyone in Birmingham has a safe and stable place to call home.

- 3.3.2. The picture may be even more negative. Recent service forecasts indicate that if demand continues to rise along current lines, the projected 2031 affordable housing shortfall may reach as high as 50,000.

- 3.3.3. Whilst the private rented sector provides an alternative to social housing, only 15% falls within affordable rates. The combination of these different factors has meant that there has been a 26% increase in homeless presentations, with over 500 people per week currently requiring advice and assistance from the service.

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping

- 3.3.4. The main factors leading to homelessness in Birmingham are broadly similar to the rest of the country. The most common cause is the end of section 21 private sector tenancies, followed by relationship breakdown and domestic abuse.

- 3.3.5. Currently, the service receives an average of 225 homelessness applications per week, 43 households access temporary accommodation, and 505 Housing Register applications are made.

- 3.3.6. The Housing Solutions & Support redesign has increased capacity across the service and recruitment to both new and existing posts was finalised in June 2022. However, the redesign did not anticipate the Cost of Living crisis, nor the significant spike in demand for our services post-pandemic. This has reduced the impact of the new model.

- 3.3.7. The pressures the services faces can be seen in the statistics on Temporary Accommodation. The number of households living in Temporary Accommodation has hit a record high of 4227 households, with 659 of those households in bed and breakfast. Recognising that this is an exceedingly high number, we have implemented a collaborative Bed & Breakfast Elimination Plan to reduce the number of households living in this type of

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accommodation. Additionally, the service is mobilising a Temporary Accommodation Strategy in order to future-proof the provision going forward, and to take a strategic approach to manage the demand.

- 3.3.8. In September, Cabinet approved plans to procure a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) for Temporary Accommodation through the private rented sector and private registered providers of social housing. The DPS, which has an estimated valued of up to £9.516 million over two years, will help the Council to provide temporary accommodation to people and families experiencing homelessness. This has been proposed in addition to gaining contracts for 1230 units of Temporary Accommodation. The DPS will help the Council find a wide range of suppliers who can meet our needs, crucially minimising our need to resort to bed and breakfast accommodation or hotels.
- 3.3.9. Birmingham City Council are still awaiting an announcement from Government following the approval of a bid for a £3.8 million grant. This bid was made to support the creation of 200 five-year leases of privately owned accommodation to end homelessness duties for families who would otherwise be in temporary accommodation. The grant would help the Council to end the use of B&B accommodation for families experiencing homelessness. The announcement was delayed from August following the Conservative Party leadership elections. If agreed, the Council will use this opportunity to establish a 'Social Lettings Agency', or other vehicle within Birmingham, which could potentially take on additional properties beyond those funded by the DLUHC grant.
- 3.3.10. In relation to rough sleeping, the service continues to perform at a high level; the service utilised the relaxed legislative guidelines in the pandemic to bring the numbers of rough sleepers down to 31 at last count. The service is also actively engaged in a Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)/Centre for Homelessness impact pilot, testing a definition of success that rough sleeping should be 'rare, brief and non-recurring'. With a rate of 2.7/100,000 sleeping rough, Birmingham is ranked as one of the best performing Local Authorities in the country. A clear pathway has been identified for single homeless households: SIFA Fireside is working alongside Housing Solutions and Support staff as the strategic partner supporting this and have seen 2212 single homeless people in the last year, with 69% of approaches successfully prevented and relieved.
- 3.3.11. Provision for single homeless people has also been strengthened by the well-established Prevention Hubs incorporating Housing Solutions and Support. These include City Council officers working alongside voluntary sector colleagues, including St Basil's for young people, Spring Housing for Offenders, SIFA Fireside for adults and Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid for Domestic Abuse.

- 3.3.12. Birmingham City Council have recently been awarded approximately £5.4 million over 3 years under the Rough Sleeper Initiative to continue the work to prevent and relieve instances of people sleeping rough in Birmingham. Much of this work is undertaken through commissioned partners. In addition, £368,000 revenue over two years has been granted to support an additional 48 citizens who have been rough sleeping to move into homes of their own.
- 3.3.13. Birmingham is also benefiting from £2.5 million of Housing First funding for the West Midlands for two years, with an additional £495,000 for Birmingham in Year 3. This funding will enhance the already successful Housing First programme in Birmingham, which has enabled over 175 people who have slept rough to move into homes of their own.
- 3.3.14. The service has had to be proactive in order to manage the challenges. Oscott Gardens has been mobilised as a new homeless centre, supporting 300 families to move out of Bed & Breakfast. The Property Acquisitions programme has also led to the purchase of a further 240 family homes to provide an alternative to temporary accommodation.
- 3.3.15. Birmingham City Council have been recognised for the success of our Eviction Prevention Panel and have been announced as finalists in the Homelessness Project of the Year Category in the UK Housing Awards. The Panel continues to meet regularly with officers from Housing Options, Rents, Revenues and Benefits to prevent evictions even at the last stage where tenants fall into arrears. Between April and August 2022, 308 cases have been to Panel and 35 evicted, which means 88.6% have been prevented year to date. By bringing together collective expertise, we have been able to maintain tenancies and reduce potential homelessness.
- 3.3.16. We urge all tenants who have concerns or find themselves struggling financially to pay their bills, to contact the council directly, particularly during these difficult times.
- 3.3.17. The Service continues to work with tenants, delivering advice and support across a range of areas including:
- Debt Advice and support (including Government Financial Support)
 - Universal Credit (UC) help and advice, working closely with Job Centres
 - Homeless prevention fund payments
 - Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP)
 - 'Think Family' support

3.4. **Exempt Accommodation**

- 3.4.1. In response to the growing issue of exempt accommodation, Birmingham City Council ran a Supported Housing Needs Assessment, which concluded in January 2022. The findings of the pilot, alongside the final recommendations, will be used to inform a future Supported Housing Strategy. This is hoped to be signed off later in 2022. Funding for the continuation of the Exempt Pilot team was approved by the Council's Invest to Deliver Board in December 2021. This ensures that the Council can continue to support the work taking place across the city.
- 3.4.2. The Levelling Up Select Committee, following the pilot scheme, agreed to undertake a national review into exempt accommodation and issued a call for evidence. A comprehensive programme of external affairs activity was delivered by the Council in relation to the inquiry, including a written submission from the Council in February 2022. Responses have been shared between the Council and Local Government Association (LGA). In addition, officers have provided in-person evidence to the Select Committee and the Committee have also visited Birmingham to see first-hand the issues related to Exempt Accommodation and talk to residents affected by and or living in supported Exempt Accommodation.
- 3.4.3. Birmingham City Council has been awarded £3.19m from DLUHC as part of the Government's Supported Housing Improvement Programme, to carry on its work reforming the city's supported exempt housing sector until 2025. The award was given in recognition of the successful work the Council has done to date in trying to drive up standards across the sector. This involved work such as launching the Quality Standards and Charter of Rights last year with Birmingham Voluntary Sector Council. The City Council will continue to work with other authorities across the region to develop and disseminate best practice.
- 3.4.4. On 5th October 2022, the Cabinet Member for Housing & Homelessness brought together a range of experts of exempt accommodation, including politicians, providers, academics, police, charities, and residents for the first Birmingham Exempt Accommodation Conference. Over 240 people attended the event in the Council House, designed to shine a light on the issues facing the city and to share what work is being undertaken to resolve them.
- 3.4.5. In October 2022, the Cabinet Member for Housing & Homelessness also hosted a visit for the new Parliamentary under Secretary of State for Housing and Rough Sleeping, Andrew Stephenson MP. This visit showcased Birmingham's work to tackle poor quality supported exempt housing, including a visit to Trident Reach's Washington Court homeless hostel as an example of good, supported housing for people experiencing homelessness. The visit also showcased the Council's new build Birmingham Municipal

Housing Trust (BMHT) scheme in Castle Vale, to demonstrate the delivery of good quality, new build social housing.

- 3.4.6. The London Assembly Housing Committee have now approached the City Council for an insight into the work being undertaken in Birmingham, to better understand the extent of non-commissioned exempt accommodation in London.

3.5. **Capital Investment and Repairs**

- 3.5.1. The Capital Investment and Repairs service are responsible for maintaining the 60,000 units of social housing stock owned by Birmingham City Council. This includes just over 200 high-rise blocks and 17,000 low-rise blocks. The service works with two contractors, Fortem and Equans to deliver on-demand repairs and a scheduled programme of maintenance activity across the city.
- 3.5.2. Over recent months, the service has focused on the demobilisation of Wates, who were previously the third contractor delivering repairs and maintenance within the city. The Wates contract was terminated on 31st March 2022 due to underperformance, and the de-mobilisation period involved a robust quality assurance process to make sure that service requests that had been assigned to Wates were completed to a high standard. The transition from Wates to Equans, resulted in a higher volume of complaints across the period. However, Equans are performing at a high level and have taken on any jobs left over by Wates to make sure that tenants have not been disadvantaged by previous poor performance.
- 3.5.3. To manage issues around long-term investment, a full review is being undertaken into the way the HRA is managed and spent. This will include a 12 month business plan to bolster investment over the course of 2023/2024, as well as a long-term financial model that will ensure investment into our stock is in keeping with both legislative standards and in response to tenant experience/complaints. This will be supported by a comprehensive Asset Management Strategy, which will set out our approach in full.
- 3.5.4. A new interim Head of Service has been appointed to make sure there is adequate leadership capacity across contract management, repairs, and maintenance and capital investment.
- 3.5.5. Despite these challenges, there have been many successes in the service. Staff have proactively engaged with Government since the Grenfell disaster and prioritised fire safety. This has included a significant investment in sprinklers through the Sprinkler System Programme, the total cost of which is estimated to be £31.1m. Despite the success of the fire safety and sprinkler installations in 10,213 high rise flats, there are 300 tenants refusing access

to their properties, meaning that installation is disrupted. The service is continuing to work with residents to promote the benefits of sprinklers.

3.5.6. Shelforce, the City Council business unit specialising in providing PVCu windows and doors to local authority building projects were finalists in the “Innovation in Building Diversity and Inclusion” category at the Municipal Journal Awards in 2022. This category looked at those organisations that have made equality, diversity, and inclusion a strategic imperative, and have shown pioneering ways to deliver successful initiatives with proven progress and results. The nomination occurred following Shelforce’s achievements in 2021, where they won a number of prestigious awards from Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, British Chamber of Commerce and Asian Business Chamber Awards. Shelforce’s award-winning success has put them on a path for continued growth and investment in people underpinned by their approach to diversity and inclusion.

3.5.7. Equans and Birmingham City Council have recently been announced as finalists in the Contractor of the Year category in the UK Housing Awards. Winners will be announced on Friday 25th November.

3.6. **Whole House Retrofit**

3.6.1. The Council is actively working to secure funding to enable people to make their homes more energy efficient, prevent heat and energy loss in the home and reduce fuel bills. The Council, alongside other Local Authorities from across the Midlands, have applied for over £82m of funding from the Government’s Home Upgrade Grant and Local Authority Delivery (LAD 3) Phase Three.

3.6.2. In Birmingham, we are developing our LAD 3 programme to target fuel poor private and public sector properties. A total fund package of £8.1m has been allocated for this task. Following the Council’s approval of a statement of intent to enable private households to have energy efficiency improvements taken through the energy company obligation (ECO 3), to date over 700 household have benefitted. Officers are now working with energy company providers to deliver ECO 4 interventions and target this work to compliment other grant schemes.

3.6.3. The City Housing Directorate are working to improve the energy efficiency of its housing stock and to directly help its tenants reduce their energy bills. Following Cabinet approval in July 2022, a 300-home whole house pilot will take place in East Birmingham. If the pilot is successful, the retrofitting strategies could be expanded across the rest of the council’s 60,000 properties. The directorate is also developing a bid approach to the Social

Housing Decarbonisation Fund, which is scheduled to be released in September 2022 to support the pilot funding.

3.7. **Housing Management**

Voids

3.7.1. City Housing are focusing heavily on void management across the city. Given the pressure Housing Solutions and Support are facing, it is imperative voids are managed as efficiently as possible. As of August 2022, the directorate are operating at 33 days void turnaround time, which is higher than the 28 day target. However, a 2020/21 benchmarking exercise demonstrated that Birmingham performed better than two of the other top five largest retained stock authorities, with respect to managing voids.

3.7.2. The service has identified that the reason for not meeting the 28-day target is mainly due to the repair times in the South area (managed by Fortem) and the remaining Wates legacy voids. Officers are working with Fortem to improve performance and it is anticipated that performance will improve by Autumn 2022. Excluding Fortem's performance, and the associated impact on void turnaround time on the South district, the rest of the City (North, Central, East) achieved the void turnaround target of 28 days. This is in-line with the service's plan to achieve the 28 day target overall by Q4 of 2022/23.

Tenant Engagement

3.7.3. We are currently renewing our approach to Tenant Engagement. A new Tenant Engagement Strategy is due to be submitted for sign-off in November 2022 and focuses on moving to a more collaborative approach. Tpas, a leader in the field of tenant engagement, have been procured to support the strategy and the holistic, overarching approach to tenant engagement. This will include reviewing the existing engagement structures and ensuring there is engagement with a broader proportion of tenants that represent the citizens that live in the city.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

3.7.4. Anti-social behaviour (ASB) continues to present significant issues across both council-managed estates and within local communities. To ensure we are adopting the best approach, City Housing are working with community safety colleagues to review the current Anti-Social Behaviour Policy, ensure a preventative approach is adopted across tenure, and guarantee that the council's response to ASB, regardless of tenure, is consistent and joined up. This will enable us to capitalise on relationships with Think Family, Children's Services, Adult Social Care, Community Safety, and other statutory services to identify solutions wherever possible.

- 3.7.5. There has been a significant increase in fly-tipping and rubbish dumping on Housing Management estates since 2020. In 2019/20, 1752 tonnes of waste were collected from fly tipping or rubbish dumping. This increased by 24% to 2156 tonnes in 2020/21 and further increased to 2179 tonnes in 2021/22. Officers in Housing Management are working with a number of stakeholders, including Waste Management, Waste Enforcement, and Environmental Health to review how Housing Management addresses the increase in volume of fly tipping and rubbish dumping.
- 3.7.6. The review will include:
- How we work with customers to engage, educate, and encourage reporting of illegal fly-tipping and promote examples of enforcement against perpetrators.
 - Considerations of the roles of both Waste Management and Housing Management in reducing fly tipping and rubbish dumping e.g. encouraging recycling, provision of more bins, more frequent rubbish removal and review of processes.
 - Consideration of the role of Neighbourhood Visiting Officers in investigating high problem areas, such as high-rise communal areas, and provide evidence to colleagues in Environmental Health to enforce legal penalties on offenders.

Sheltered Housing and High-Rise Living

- 3.7.7. As part of the City Housing transformation programme, the Directorate is undertaking a full review of the sheltered housing provision. This includes a review of the policy and procedures around how sheltered housing is managed and the physical properties we have available for this purpose. The overarching objective is to ensure the provision meets the needs of older people living in Birmingham.
- 3.7.8. City Housing are preparing for the implementation of the Social Housing Regulation Bill, understanding that post-Grenfell there is a significant focus on increasing regulation in high-rise blocks. Birmingham currently hold responsibility for 211 high-rise blocks, one of the largest numbers of high-rise populations in the UK. The directorate expect close regulation from government given the size of the portfolio and are looking to develop a high-rise strategy to support our approach:
- Review our current security offer across the high-rise sites, including our CCTV provision and bench marking with similar authorities.

- Review and develop our localised housing management offer exploring best practice and how we interact with customers, using data insight to inform prioritisation and a help shape the required offer.
- Review existing arrangements for the management of the communal areas and develop a robust strategy working in partnership with key stakeholders, focusing on the safer, clean, and green agenda.
- Explore and scope out the current service charge arrangements around communications, proactive management of anti-social behaviour and tenancy queries.

3.8. **Private Rented Sector**

3.8.1. On 1st March 2022 the Council adopted its Private Rented Sector Strategy 2022-2027. We have now begun working towards delivering our seven key priorities for the private rented sector (below). These priorities ensure that the work of the team directly improves standards in the private rented sector and enables tenants to have safe and stable accommodation. They include:

- Increase the supply of safe and secure accommodation by bringing empty homes back into use.
- Identify and implement local initiatives to address local issues.
- Tackle disrepair and criminality.
- Prevent illegal evictions and harassment.
- Improve the energy efficiency of Birmingham homes, tackle fuel poverty, and reduce carbon emissions.
- Operate a high-quality mandatory Houses of Multiple Occupation licensing scheme.
- Seek to influence Government and national regulatory agencies to enhance relevant legislation and regulation.

Selective and Additional Licensing

3.8.2. Following submission of a Selective Licensing Application, Birmingham City Council have now been granted permission by DLUHC to introduce a Selective Licensing Scheme for all private rented properties in 25 wards in the city. This is being done under the Housing Act 2004. The proposed selective and additional licensing have been designed to support the priorities of the new Private Rented Sector Strategy.

3.8.3. The Selective Licensing Scheme, which will be delivered through a team of 126 staff, will target wards where both the private rented sector owns above 20% of properties and there are high levels of deprivation and/or crime. The

scheme will be the largest in the UK covering between 40,000- 50,000 properties. It will last for five years and come into force on 5 June 2023.

- 3.8.4. The Council undertook extensive consultation before progressing the scheme. This included meeting with Elected Members, focus groups and a flyer drop at all 125,000 properties in the 25 wards. Over 800 responses were received from landlords, residents (including tenants), and business/organisations. This identified significant support from residents and businesses/organisations.
- 3.8.5. Feedback from the consultation for the selective licensing scheme indicated that residents in wards not included within the proposed designation supported inclusion of their wards. Whilst that was not possible, the Council has powers to designate part, or all, of the city, as subject to additional licensing if appropriate.
- 3.8.6. Additional licencing provides for appropriate regulation of smaller, non-mandatory HMOs, and the proposed scheme aims to reduce anti-social behaviour and waste incidents linked to these types of accommodation. A 10-week consultation period closed on 13th September 2022. If implemented, the scheme will cover approximately 8,000 smaller HMOs across the city. An initial review of survey responses received so far indicates that respondents are largely supportive of the proposal, with 86% agreeing with the principals of the scheme and 81% saying it would have a positive impact on them.
- 3.8.7. The results of the consultation will be presented to Cabinet and, subject to approval, the scheme would be launched alongside selective licensing in June 2023.
- 3.8.8. A review of the Council's HMO Mandatory Licensing Scheme was undertaken in 2021. The review identified that additional officer resources and new processes were necessary to ensure that applications are determined within a reasonable timescale and compliance checks and enforcement activity against illegally operating HMOs is effective.
- 3.8.9. The costs associated with the administration of licence applications should be met through the licence fee and following a review of the fee structure, an increased fee was agreed by the Licensing and Public Protection Committee on 9th March 2022. The new work processes, along with the revised fee structure, were implemented on 1st April 2022.

Empty Properties

- 3.8.10. One priority of our approach to the Private Rented Sector is increasing the number of empty properties brought back into use. With over 20,000 households on the Council's housing register, increasing the supply of private sector housing can only help the housing situation of our

citizens. Empty properties can also have a knock-on effect on local communities as they can attract vermin, anti-social behaviour, and fly tipping.

- 3.8.11. In 2021/22, 267 empty properties were brought back into use and so far, this year (April to end August 2022) 94 properties have been brought back into use.
- 3.8.12. Recognising the role of the private rented sector in assisting the Council to meet its homelessness duties, owners will be referred to the Council's Accommodation Finding Team or social housing providers where appropriate. The team will continue to explore other options for joint working between the Council and property owners.

Evictions

- 3.8.13. Many private landlords are helping to support the Council's aim to ensure that all residents have the appropriate housing to meet their needs. These landlords continue to make a valuable contribution to the provision of residential accommodation in the City.
- 3.8.14. However, there are instances, whether through ignorance or deliberate action, whereupon some landlords will fail to follow the correct repossession procedure when asking their tenants to leave. The Council has strong legal powers to respond to illegal evictions and harassment by landlords and will use these where appropriate. In addition to the legal powers available to it, the Council works with landlords to address issues before resorting to eviction.
- 3.8.15. Experience tells us that many landlords may pursue eviction of their tenant due to a breakdown in communication with both parties at loggerhead. With the Council acting as a mediator to resolve issues, 8 households were prevented from becoming homeless in Q1 2022/23 as a result of intervention by the service.

3.9. Birmingham Municipal Housing Trust (BMHT)

- 3.9.1. Work continues to deliver our 10 year Housing Delivery Plan 2019-2029, including approximately 3,000 new homes for rent and sale through Birmingham Municipal Housing Trust (BMHT) and Forward Homes.
- 3.9.2. The current programme consists of approximately 51 sites across the city at various stages of development and five housing schemes, delivering 233 units started on site in 2021/22. These are located at Monmouth Road (Bartley Green ward), Farnborough Road (Castle Vale), Abbeyfields 4 (Erdington), Birchfield 2 (Birchfield) and Hollybank Road (Billesley).

- 3.9.3. Completion handovers in 2021/22 were, however, adversely affected by external events, resulting in reduced completions and expenditure. For example, the handover of 71 homes slipped into 2022/23. Measures are in place to recover slippage from 2021/22, and 57 new homes have already been handed over between April and June 2022, and the programme is currently on target to complete 225 homes by March 2023.
- 3.9.4. New starts of 36 units have been achieved and planning applications have been submitted for 88 new homes between April and June 2022. The Council and BMHT won the Insider Regional Property Awards for Housebuilder of the Year in June 2022 and have been announced as finalists in the Housebuilder of the Year category in the UK Housing Awards in November.
- 3.9.5. Whilst good progress is being made on the BMHT programme, the current inflationary market poses challenges to achieving successful competitive procurement. In the current market, contractors are reluctant to agree to bear the normal risks associated with design and build contracts based on a detailed specification from BMHT. To address this, we are reviewing both the method of procurement and type of contract to be awarded.
- 3.9.6. The aim to increase the pace of new development to meet need is also hampered by the ongoing issue of a limited land supply. Within the city, we struggle to balance competing land uses, such as the need for new affordable housing with enhancing green space, as well as challenges from Sports England and other external bodies. This competition limits the availability of land for affordable housing.
- 3.9.7. BMHT is proactively responding to the climate emergency and the aim for the Council to be a net zero city. The BMHT build specification has been further updated anticipating the changes to building regulations in 2025. This takes our homes beyond the minimal requirement for increased thermal efficiency, further helping to reduce fuel poverty and ensuring our new homes are future proofed, to include better thermal insulation, air source heat pumps, and electric vehicle charge points.
- 3.9.8. The phasing out of gas heating systems are an essential requirement for the specification. £500k of funding has been secured from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to test new energy saving renewable technologies on a scheme 36 new homes at Gressell Lane, Tile Cross. This project is now on site and will be completed in 2023. A planning application is also being prepared for BMHT's first Passivhaus scheme, The Passivhaus Approach.
- 3.9.9. We have progressed our commitment to support Community Led Housing (CLH) through joint work with Pioneer Housing to deliver a development of 124 new homes at Farnborough Road, 24 of which we are building on

behalf of Pioneer. We continue to work closely with Housing 21 and their co-housing for older people development programme, with 5 pipeline sites coming forward for disposal. Further sites for CLH and self-build are progressing with planning colleagues, West Midlands Community Homes, and Witton Lodge Community Association. Multiple sites have been identified for self-build, community-led housing, and co-housing developments. A marketing plan is to be agreed with Property Services and Planning. It is anticipated to make the sites available for SCB register in the 22/23 financial year.

- 3.9.10. The work of the land and property team underpins much of the delivery programme for BMHT, Forward Homes, and the partnership programme. The team has enabled the successful rehousing of 63 households to support the redevelopment of the Druids Heath, Kings Norton, and Beach Road in Sparkbrook. The team also supported the rehousing of 60 households to support the land assembly for the Perry Barr Residential Scheme.
- 3.9.11. The team are also planning for the Druids Heath returners scheme, which aims to achieve the move back for those who wish to return to the newly built estate. This number is currently at 64 households. The Land and Property BMHT delivery team will also be involved in the training of tenants and monitoring of the success of the pilot Gressell Lane project in Tile Cross, where new energy saving technologies will be used for the first time.

Area Regeneration

- 3.9.12. The Druids Heath regeneration team are working with the community, with the support of Pioneer Community Consultants to create a vision for the estate and a masterplan for Druids Heath.
- 3.9.13. An outline planning application will be submitted at the end of this year. Funding of £70,500 has been secured from DLUHC to use interactive technologies to support the consultation programme.
- 3.9.14. A £20m bid for Levelling Up funds to support infrastructure works was submitted in August 2022. There is a returners policy in place with a Local Lettings Plan within the Option to Return policy.
- 3.9.15. In the interim, three small sites are being developed at pace to provide circa 50 new family homes for those that have previously been moved from the tower blocks to return at the earliest opportunity.
- 3.9.16. A commitment is in place to commence a regeneration project within the Ladywood area. A competitive dialogue process to identify a preferred bidder to enter a partnership with the Council to develop proposals for the area is ongoing. It is projected to finish by the end of 2022.

- 3.9.17. Following the development of 292 tenure blind properties, with a mix of 147 affordable housing for rent and 145 for sale properties on the Primrose estate in Kings Norton, the installation of a new park and retail offer, approval was secured in March this year to develop a further 82 homes as a second phase.

4. Adult Social Care

4.1. Context

- 4.1.1. The context within which Adult Social Care is operating has never been more pressurised. The rising cost of living, combined with the most fundamental reforms to social care in our lifetime, means the sector is facing one of the most challenging periods in decades. The fact that this is taking place against a background of national political instability and sharply increasing demand for services means the health and care sector is anticipating an exceptionally tough winter and to be operating in 'crisis mode' for much of this time.

- 4.1.2. This section of the Executive Business Report outlines the impact of the Cost of Living crisis, Covid-19 recovery, and reform on the adult social care sector in Birmingham, as well as how the Directorate is responding to these major pressures and changes. It highlights the key role of the newly formed Integrated Care System (ICS) in enabling health and care partners across Birmingham and Solihull to respond collectively to the unprecedented demands. Workforce shortages have been a key risk for the Directorate in responding to both these national pressures and in meeting its statutory requirements. The impact of steps taken to offer additional financial incentives to recruit and retain the professional workforce are outlined below; as well as the commissioning activities being undertaken to better support the unpaid workforce of carers who are an essential part of the care economy.

4.2. Cost of Living Crisis

- 4.2.1. People needing or working in care and support have already been significantly affected by the twin impacts of austerity and the pandemic, and are now being further hit by the Cost of Living crisis. The rising cost of fuel, food and other essentials places many citizens supported by Adult Social Care at significant risk of both immediate hardship and reduced opportunity and wellbeing. The spiralling cost of inflation is impacting social care through multiple routes, some of which are outlined in this section.

- 4.2.2. For citizens, rapid increases in the cost-of-living are impacting their ability to sustain healthy behaviours and lifestyles. Maintaining a warm home and a balanced diet is becoming increasingly financially difficult, particularly for people with disabilities or older adults who spend most of their time in their homes. Many service users and their carers live in low-income households who spend a larger share of their income on energy and food. Citizens who are afraid to heat their home risk deterioration in their health which ultimately adds further pressures on social care. Anxieties about inflation and the rising costs of living also has a serious impact on mental health and citizens' ability to cope on a day-to-day basis.
- 4.2.3. In 2021, an estimated 37,000 people in Birmingham worked in adult social care. Over a third of the workforce are on zero-hour contracts, with rising inflation affecting both wellbeing and morale - which has a significant impact on workforce retention. The rising cost of fuel makes community-based jobs providing care to individuals in their own homes less attractive than other roles due to the increasing travel costs for employees. This puts further pressure on the ability of care services to meet the exceptionally high demands being experienced across the system.
- 4.2.4. For public services and care market providers, the cost of service delivery is also rising. We expect social care pay pressures to be significant this year, putting extra stress on what is already an extremely tight and competitive labour market. Wage offers in competing occupations, such as retail, are already more attractive than care work. There is a serious risk that care providers will not have scope to fully absorb higher costs themselves, particularly at current fee rates. This heightens service continuity concerns and increases the risk of providers handing back care packages to Council as they are unable to deliver support. Care providers have previously increased fees for self-funded users in response to cost pressures; however, the 'fair cost of care' and Adult Social Care funding reforms mean that this approach may not be sustainable. As businesses are under increasing pressures, there are greater risks to the level of activity, performance, and quality of care.
- 4.2.5. In order to mitigate these pressures, the Directorate is actively contributing to the development of the corporate strategic response to the Cost of Living crisis, as well as working closely with NHS colleagues and partners to develop and deliver a joint approach as part of the winter planning process.

4.3. **Covid Recovery and Rising Demand**

- 4.3.1. The Covid-19 pandemic required an unprecedented response from Adult Social Care, in the midst of a national and international health crisis. The coronavirus pandemic has had a profound impact on people receiving social care. Service users experienced higher death rates and increased restrictions compared to the general population, due to the numbers of individuals who were identified as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) and were required to shield. In order to protect service users, many community services stopped and some activities, such as Day Care, are still operating at reduced capacity due to ongoing Covid-19 considerations.
- 4.3.2. The increased adverse impact of Covid-19 on some of our most vulnerable citizens, combined with delays in health care treatment across the population, is driving the current peak levels of demands on health and social care providers. At a time of year when services are usually more stable and better able to meet needs, the system finds itself constantly operating in a crisis response mode which is usually only seen during the depths of winter. High levels of vacancies, exhausted staff and unprecedented numbers of people on waiting lists or presenting for support continue to drive high levels of demand. It is likely the situation will deteriorate further this winter and so the Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care System (BSOL ICS), including Adult Social Care, is preparing as best it can for an extremely difficult period ahead.

4.4. **Adult Social Care Reform**

- 4.4.1. The Government has set out a range of significant changes to the adult social care system in England. These touch on all aspects of social care – from the way that care is funded and paid for by individuals, to how the care system develops its workforce and works alongside the NHS, and pilots for radically different models of care.
- 4.4.2. The implementation of these reforms is expected to start over the next two years. They are taking place against a backdrop of extremely challenging circumstances in relation to increased needs, more people waiting and reducing staff. The Directorate has considerable staff time and resources invested in preparing for this programme of major reform, but the ongoing political uncertainty still leads to questions as to whether they will continue. If the planned reforms do take place, there are fundamental questions about the extent to which the changes will be funded and the increasing pressure this might place upon the Council and its workforce.

Charging Reform

- 4.4.3. In September 2021, the Government published 'Build Back Better: Our Plan for Health and Social Care', which set out its plan for Adult Social Care reform in England. This included a lifetime cap on the amount anyone in England will need to spend on their care of £86k, alongside a more generous means-test for Council financial support. Further clarity and guidance will be provided by the Department of Health and Social Care in the near future. The Council is currently focused on working with providers to scope the fair cost of care modelling and draft market sustainability plans.

Fair Cost of Care

- 4.4.4. In December 2021, National Government announced the Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund, part of the wider suite of social care reforms, which include plans for older people to get the best possible care without fear of catastrophic social care costs. The primary purpose of the fund is to help Local Authorities prepare their care markets for the wider social care reforms and support Local Authorities to move towards paying a 'fair cost of care'.
- 4.4.5. Birmingham has been allocated £3.78m in 2022/23, and the government is set to announce further increased amounts in 2023/24 and 2024/25. The Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) have stated that they expect councils to move towards paying a fair cost of care over a number of years, and that the funding is to be used to genuinely increase care fees. The scope of the grant funding is limited and includes older adult (65yrs+) residential and nursing care and home care and extra care for 18yrs+ adults. Not in scope of the funding but potentially affected and impacted is young adult care homes and supported living provision.
- 4.4.6. In order to receive this funding, the Council was completed the following actions by 14th October 2022:
- Carry out cost of care exercises with 18yrs+ home care providers and 65yrs+ care homes and determine a 'fair cost of care' (defined by the DHSC as the median of costs submitted by care providers).
 - Develop and submit a cost of care report.
 - Develop and submit a draft Market Sustainability Plan – assessing sufficiency of supply, diversity and quality of provision, its ability to attract and maintain a high-quality workforce and to determine the key

impacts of the social care reforms on the market and identify the biggest risks to provision in the next 3 years.

- Develop and submit a spend report determining how the grant funding will be spent.

- 4.4.7. External support was engaged to conduct the analysis and develop the reports, which were submitted in line with the Government deadlines.
- 4.4.8. The cost of care exercise was completed on 3rd August 2022. 62 care home returns, 43 home care returns, and 10 extra care returns were analysed.
- 4.4.9. Initial analysis - both regionally and nationally - suggests that the proposed level of government funding will not be sufficient to bridge the gap between current care fees and a 'fair cost of care'. The fair cost of care is a local authority decision, which does not need to be based on the open book exercise, but the methodology of setting it will need to be justified.
- 4.4.10. The timescale of meeting the cost of care can be flexed, and a final decision will need to be made in line with funding decisions from government (if the timing of announcements allows this).
- 4.4.11. The Market Sustainability Plan analysis has been completed and submitted. Two care provider groups have been set up to engage with provider representatives, share findings and gain input into final report and the Council's plans. The Directorate is also required to finalise its Market Sustainability plan by February 2023.

Care Quality Commission Assurance

- 4.4.12. As part of the suite of national reforms, the Government has launched proposals to include a new duty for the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to assess councils' delivery of their adult social care duties under the Care Act (2014). Under the Act, local authorities have duties to make sure that people who live in their areas:
- Receive services that prevent their care needs from becoming more serious or delay the impact of their needs.
 - Can get the information and advice they need to make good decisions about care and support.
 - Have a range of high quality, appropriate services to choose from.

- 4.4.13. The intention is also to include powers for the Secretary of State to intervene where, following assessment under the new CQC duty, it is considered that a council is failing to meet their duties. These high-level proposals were formalised earlier this year in the Health and Care Act 2022. As part of the CQC assurance process it is expected that councils will receive a judgement on their performance.
- 4.4.14. As part of the development of their approach, CQC has consulted nationally on how they intend to assess Adult Social Care provision as well as a separate duty and process to also assess the newly established Integrated Care Systems.
- 4.4.15. BCC has played a full and active role in this consultation process, though as yet there is no published final position on the approach. At present it appears the assessment process will be a combination of regular submissions of data to CQC as well as traditional assessments, including: reviews of evidence gathered from Directorate performance data; citizen feedback on their experiences of our services and how effectively we work with them to co-produce these; feedback from staff and leaders (including relevant Cabinet Members); feedback from partners; and direct observation and reviews of our processes and outcomes.
- 4.4.16. The emerging scope from CQC suggests that their assessment of Adult Social Care Services will focus on four areas:
- Working with people - assessing needs (including unpaid carers), supporting people to live healthier lives, prevention, wellbeing, information and advice.
 - Providing support - markets (including commissioning), workforce equality, integration and partnership working.
 - Ensuring safety - safeguarding, safe systems and continuity of care.
 - Leadership and workforce - capable and compassionate leaders, learning, improvement, innovation.
- 4.4.17. To prepare for this large-scale assessment of services, the Directorate has established a project group to articulate our journey of improvement to date, assess how well the Council is currently performing against each of these areas, and develop plans to improve performance against each of these key lines of enquiry. A small but dedicated team of staff is being recruited to

support the Directorate to prepare for inspection and to evidence the strong work to date in developing the city's Adult Social Care services.

4.5. **Birmingham & Solihull Integrated Care System (BSOL ICS)**

- 4.5.1. Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care System is one of 42 Integrated Care Systems across the country that launched on 1st July 2022. The vision of BSOL ICS is to make Birmingham and Solihull the healthiest place to live and work, driving equity in life chances and health outcomes for everyone. It is recognised as the biggest opportunity in a generation for the most radical overhaul in the way health and social care services in Birmingham and Solihull are designed and delivered.
- 4.5.2. The Council is a key stakeholder in the ICS and is working alongside local partners from the NHS, voluntary, community and faith sectors to achieve better outcomes for citizens across the area. All ICS partner organisations will work in collaboration, building on what has been achieved through integrated working so far. Integrated working has long been an ambition for the health and care system, with the Covid-19 pandemic accelerating how partners work together to meet the needs of the local population.
- 4.5.3. The four objectives of the ICS are to:
- Improve the health of our population.
 - Tackle unequal outcomes and access.
 - Enhance productivity and value.
 - Support the broader social and economic development of Birmingham and Solihull.
- 4.5.4. A number of priorities for action have been identified to make progress against the objectives. These priorities include workforce investment, the ongoing Covid-19 response, reducing long waits, improving the responsiveness of urgent and emergency care, building community care capacity, making primary care more accessible, enhancing mental health services for people with a learning disability and/or autism, and tackling health inequalities.

- 4.5.5. The governance arrangements for BSol ICS comprises an Integrated Care Partnership (ICP), Integrated Care Board (ICB), and a Place Committee. These elements are outlined below.

Integrated Care Board

- 4.5.6. The Integrated Care Board (NHS Birmingham and Solihull) is the statutory NHS body that leads the health element of the ICS. As such it is accountable for the use and allocation of NHS resources. Dame Yve Buckland is Chair of NHS Birmingham, and a core Executive Team has been appointed for the ICB which will provide leadership for the organisation, working with leaders in partner organisations to create the conditions for further integration.
- 4.5.7. The ICB takes on all of the functions of the former Birmingham and Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) , which has now ceased to exist. BSOL ICB also now has a responsibility for the parts of West Birmingham that were previously aligned to Sandwell and West Birmingham CCG, ensuring that there are now co-terminus ICB and LA boundaries.

Integrated Care Partnership

- 4.5.8. The Integrated Care Partnership is a statutory committee jointly formed between the NHS Integrated Care Board and the two local authorities that fall within the Integrated Care System (ICS) area. The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care is the lead representative for the Council on this partnership. The ICP is responsible for producing an integrated care strategy on how to meet the health and wellbeing needs of the population in the ICS area. Birmingham's Director of Public Health is leading on the preparation of this strategy.
- 4.5.9. As part of the Birmingham and Solihull ICS Transition Plan, there has been extensive local engagement with key stakeholders and partners about the role, function and representation of the ICP.
- 4.5.10. As a result of this engagement, it has been agreed that the core functions of the ICP will be to:
- Agree the strategic intent for the health and social care system including the development of the Integrated Care Strategy, while encouraging places and localities to set their own strategy and decision making within this framework.

- Work together to unblock obstacles to success that emerge in local place alliances and to hear the voices of citizens and frontline staff to inform strategic thinking and planning.
- Act in the best interest of people, patients, and the system as a whole rather than representing individual interests of any one constituent partner.
- Encourage innovation and signpost ways to develop and spread that innovation.
- Harness the capability and innovation of the whole system.
- Support and encourage decision making at locality and place level and create the environment across the ICS for collaboration locally and, where appropriate, at system level.
- Actively role model and promote the values and leadership standards of the ICS.

Birmingham Place Committee

- 4.5.11. Place-based working and the principle of subsidiarity - taking decisions as locally as possible - is one of the core principles of the ICS. The Place Committee is a sub-committee of the ICB with responsibility for driving collaboration and integrated delivery at the Birmingham Place level. The Place Committee has been established to drive forward partners' shared ambitions for neighbourhood working, earlier intervention and prevention, and for joined-up commissioning strategies to help us achieve better outcomes for citizens.
- 4.5.12. The first meeting of the Place Committee took place on 29th July 2022; with a focus on agreeing the scope and purpose of the Committee. This has put in place the essential foundations to unlock exciting collaboration opportunities between the local authority, NHS providers and commissioners and the voluntary and community sector. At the next meeting (delayed due to the period of mourning that accompanied the death of the Queen), the Committee plan to focus on the 'Fairer Futures Fund' and setting out a process for determining which functions should be delegated to the Place (i.e. Birmingham) level.

4.6. **Workforce Recruitment and Retention**

- 4.6.1. The Directorate currently has starting salaries for social work staff that are well below the current market position, which is affecting the recruitment and retention of these staff and in turn the services provided to our most vulnerable citizens. Work has been underway for some time within the Adult Social Care directorate to seek to address these issues for our registered Social Work and Occupational Therapy staff who carry out statutory and regulated services for our most vulnerable citizens.
- 4.6.2. As part of this work, the data collected showed that BCC starting salaries for social care staff are significantly lower than other Local Authority employers across the majority of social work roles, considering additional allowances paid by other LAs. The evidence also showed that some of our neighbouring LAs are paying ongoing retention payments upon appointment. This continues to make BCC unattractive to social workers and has led to workforce retention issues, whereby our Social Work staff opt to move to other neighbouring authorities.
- 4.6.3. A business case was produced which recommended monetary incentives be implemented in the form of a 'Golden Hello' payment and a Recruitment & Retention payment to staff in qualified Social Work and Occupational Therapy roles.
- 4.6.4. In the course of developing this business case, the following evidence was considered:
- comparative salary levels of our local competitors/other Local Authorities
 - review of staff turnover and vacancy levels
 - feedback from exit interviews
 - information on caseloads and backlogs of work.
- 4.6.5. Officers worked closely with corporate colleagues and with Legal Services to consider all possible options to resolve our workforce retention issues, so that ensuring we provide the best service possible to our citizens.
- 4.6.6. The Adult Social Care business case was presented to the Employment Governance Steering Board who considered this carefully, taking full account of all of the evidence presented and considering any legal and business risks.

All options were considered and approval was provided to pay the following allowance with effect from 1st June 2022:

- Golden Hello payment - £1k (upon appointment)
- Recruitment & Retention Payment - £5k (paid in monthly instalments over a 12 month period, pro-rotta for part time staff)

4.6.7. HR and Adult Social Care have engaged a recruitment specialist to support the process of recruiting staff to Adult Social Care, including social media, video chats with staff and targeted advertisement of roles, with a simplified application process that commenced in June 2022.

4.6.8. By October 2022 over 200 individuals had applied to join the Adult Social Care directorate, and more than 100 of those have progressed to the next steps of recruitment. So far 55 staff have been hired, subject to the necessary checks, and further interviews are planned which highlights the success of this innovative and essential recruitment drive for the Directorate.

4.7. **Support for Carers**

4.7.1. The Birmingham Carers Hub (The Hub) service provided by Forward Carers is jointly commissioned by Birmingham City Council Adult Social Care and Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Board, and funded by the Adult Social Care budget and the Better Care Fund. The service follows a pathway approach, linking to young carers and mental health carers services and their commissioners, building on the collaborative approach as an Integrated Care System. In addition, the service works in partnership with other organisations bringing additionality and added value throughout the service delivered.

4.7.2. The Hub delivers a range of services to enable carers to continue in their role, feel supported and manage and prevent the likelihood of crisis with early interventions which include statutory assessments as required by the Care Act, wellbeing assessments and payments, an emergency service, a health liaison project, Partners in Care cards (issued in hospitals so that the carer is recognised and actively involved in the person they care for plans and discharge process), group sessions and one to one support. There are over 17,500 carers registered with the service. The Hub takes a place-based approach, with locations across the city to deliver support on a locality basis and work with Neighbourhood Network Services.

- 4.7.3. The current contract for the Hub ends on 31st March 2023 and a recommissioning process has commenced. Additional funding has been secured to develop a wellbeing break/sitting service for carers to provide much needed breaks to support their mental and physical wellbeing and to expand the health liaison project to support the carer when the person cared for returns home following discharge from hospital.
- 4.7.4. Co-production will commence on the refresh and review of Birmingham Carers Strategy with the consultation opened at a launch event for the new contract in May 2023. The strategy will seek Cabinet approval and be launched in 2024, allowing time for full consultation and co-production with carers, providers, partners and key stakeholders.

5. Public Health

5.1. Cost of Living Crisis

- 5.1.1. We anticipate that the consequences of the Cost of Living crisis will be equivalent to that of the Covid pandemic, and requires a similar level of response.
- 5.1.2. Effective strategic information sharing between city partners will be essential to aid the Birmingham cross-agency response. To facilitate this, the Director of Public Health (DPH) has convened a Cost of Living City Partnership Group, connecting into the Cost of Living Strategic Response Group, with membership from statutory, voluntary and faith sectors, academia, and regional public health organisations.

5.2. Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy Development

- 5.2.1. Since the previous Executive Board report in November 2021, the Public Health division has continued to support the business of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the refresh of the Board's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- 5.2.2. A draft Strategy was produced in 2021, consulted widely and amended to reflect feedback. As a result, the Joint Birmingham City Health and Wellbeing Strategy: Creating a Bolder, Healthier City (2022-2030), ratified by the Board in March 2022, is an inclusive, collaborative approach to tackling health inequalities and achieving our collective ambitions.

5.2.3. The Birmingham Health and Wellbeing Board has five sub-forums, chaired by cabinet members, driving action at pace across the city to deliver the outcomes set out in our Strategy. These are:

- Creating an Active City
- Creating a Healthy Food City
- Creating a Mentally Healthy City
- Creating a City Without Inequality
- Health Protection Forum

5.3. **Covid-19**

5.3.1. The Public Health division is now transitioning its dedicated Covid-19 public health specialist capacity into the 'business as usual' health protection specialist response. Additional capacity has been maintained within the Public Health division Health Protection team until the end of the financial year, funded from the Covid Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) reserves, to give support for winter pressures of flu outbreaks and an expected further wave of Covid-19.

5.3.2. There has been intensive career support and learning and development for the Covid staff in addition to the normal support for priority movers.

5.3.3. The regular councillor and MP briefing on Covid-19 data has been stood down and officers are working to create a monthly Health Protection update for Members and MPs building on the learning from this briefing.

5.3.4. The Covid Comms and Engagement function has supported the NHS Covid Vaccine programme, including: hyper-local vaccine campaign and vaccine delivery programmes; the vacc-immune community engagement programme; updated vaccine toolkit and community immunology training, and a smoking cessation campaign. This work will be completed by the end of September 2022 and residual resources transferred to the NHS.

5.3.5. The Covid Champions have been migrated into the new Bolder Healthier Champion programme, which was re-launched in September 2022.

5.4. **Commonwealth Games**

- 5.4.1. The Public Health division maintained an on-call response function for the duration of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games (CWG), building on six months of work with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and the CWG Medical Officer team to agree health protection protocols. The team managed a series of incidents and outbreaks during the CWG period successfully including complex TB cases, care home outbreaks and a regional lead poisoning incident. These were all managed well and efficiently.
- 5.4.2. A range of public health projects linked to the CWG were delivered, which are outlined below.
- 5.4.3. A Cook the Commonwealth campaign was delivered, promoting over 200 recipes on the WHISK platform, reflecting heritage and culture from different Commonwealth countries. This was amplified through ten community cooking demonstrations at events across the city. The WHISK app had over 20K visits in the initial week of launch and there were several recipes donated by local restaurants and chefs which has also promoted local business.
- 5.4.4. Seven Commonwealth Country Community Health Profiles were published ahead of the Games to increase understanding of communities of Commonwealth heritage in Birmingham. A series of live webinars have been delivered in September and October 2022 and all presentations have been uploaded to the Community Health Profile landing page. Each profile will have a community engagement partner attached to it, disseminating the report within the community and starting to address some of the main health inequalities identified within the profile.
- 5.4.5. A suite of Sport and Health posters, identifying the evidence base for health impact of different Commonwealth sports, were published and launched at a breakfast event hosted by Public Health during the Games. The posters were drawn from a rapid evidence review which is now being written up for publication and the posters have been disseminated locally and nationally to sport and leisure organisations.
- 5.4.6. Public Health co-hosted the Commonwealth Food Futures summit held on 28th – 29th July 2022 as part of the UK House Business Hub event around the CWG. The event was attended by over 150 delegates from around the world including representatives from India, South Africa, Namibia and Malawi as well as several significant national and international policy leads. The Council re-launched the Global Cities Pledge on Food Justice at a reception as part

of the event and over 30 organisations and partners signed the pledge, including the Mayor of Johannesburg.

5.4.7. Due to delivery partner issues, the programme of work on Health Literacy training was not ready in time for the CWG volunteer programmes and so is being reworked to align into the Bolder Healthier Champion training.

5.4.8. Public Health has been developing the Project 2022 Intergenerational Cohort Study and engaging potential funders. This is likely to launch in 2023 as part of Birmingham's Year Of The Child.

5.5. **Public Consultations**

5.5.1. The public consultation on the new Birmingham Food System Strategy closed in mid-September and the results are currently being analysed. More detail is given in the next section of this report, as part of a general update on the wider determinants of health.

5.5.2. The consultation on the Triple Zero Strategy, the Council's plan to tackle drug and alcohol addiction across Birmingham, closed in August 2022. The results are currently being analysed and will be presented before the end of the year to the Health and Wellbeing Board, along with the proposed final version of the Triple Zero Strategy, that has been redrafted as a result of the consultation feedback. This will be supported by the Birmingham drug and alcohol needs assessment, completed earlier this year.

5.5.3. The outputs of the consultation on the Birmingham Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy 2022-2030 were presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board in September 2022. At that meeting the final Strategy was ratified.

5.6. **Wider Determinants of Public Health**

Food Team

5.6.1. The Creating a Healthy Food City Forum, a sub-forum of the Health and wellbeing Board, continues to develop the Food Strategy for the city.

5.6.2. The draft Birmingham Food System Strategy: Creating a Bolder, Healthier and More Sustainable Food City was published in June 2022 and is the outcome of three years of collaboration with partners and citizens. It sets out

our ambitious eight-year approach to creating a thriving food system (2022-2030). The vision is to create a bold, fair, sustainable and prosperous food system and economy, where food choices are nutritious, affordable and desirable so all citizens can achieve their potential for a happy, healthy life.

- 5.6.3. Public consultation on the draft strategy ran between June and September 2022, with targeted engagement events (including three school events), a community event with over 70 attendees and engagement at each of the ten community Cook the Commonwealth activities.
- 5.6.4. Work on the culturally relevant Healthy Eating guides is on track for publication in January 2023.
- 5.6.5. The Public Health team was scheduled to present at the national Sustainable Food Places conference in September 2022, on the work in the city on food and our work to tackle food poverty. That event has been postponed and will now take place in Spring 2023.
- 5.6.6. In October 2022, the Birmingham Food System Strategy was recognised internationally by Hellbars Sustainability Research Institute and Gourmand Awards, as Winners in the Local Free Food Publications for 2022 and the only UK city in this award level and category to be recognised. The Birmingham Food System Strategy will be platformed at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization Headquarters and at the World Food Forum in Rome later in October and will be showcased internationally as a winning approach to food system strategic direction.
- 5.6.7. Birmingham has also submitted three projects for the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Awards. Birmingham holds one of two European secretariat seats for MUFPP and leads on food justice and food cultural diversity for the Pact network.

5.7. **Inequalities Team**

Birmingham and Lewisham African Caribbean Health Inequalities Review (BLACHIR)

- 5.7.1. The BLACHIR (Birmingham and Lewisham African Caribbean Health Inequalities Review) report was published in June 2022 and there is now significant work going into the implementation phase.

- 5.7.2. The implementation board was launched on 19th October 2022 with the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care as Vice-Chair and we are in the process of appointing an independent Chair.
- 5.7.3. A Parliamentary event co-hosted between MPs for Birmingham and Lewisham took place on 20th October 2022 as part of the continued work to highlight the review and its recommendations.
- 5.7.4. Engagement partners have been commissioned through an open tender process to support community engagement during the implementation phase for African Caribbean communities and for young men and women from the community. The ICS has established a specific working group to focus on the opportunities for action relating specifically to NHS provision and there is a registrar lead, working to the Director of Public Health on moving this forward.
- 5.7.5. The NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSEI) National Director of Inequalities has committed to using BLACHIR to challenge every NHS regional inequalities board to respond to the report and its findings over this year. A fixed-term dedicated team has been appointed to drive implementation with the senior officer starting in December 2022.

Poverty Truth Commission

- 5.7.6. The Poverty Truth Commission was launched on 19th May 2022. Ten community commissioners and eight civic commissioners have been recruited and have been meeting regularly. The commissioners have agreed three priority areas of focus: housing, food, and health. The community commissioners have also contributed to the food poverty work of the food team and the developing housing strategy.

Creating A City Without Inequality Forum

- 5.7.7. The Creating A City Without Inequality Forum has a revised Terms of Reference and a new forward plan, aligning the forum's work to the key inequality areas identified within the Creating a Bolder Healthier City Strategy 2022-2030. Building on the Council's approach to mitigating the impacts of the cost of living emergency on Birmingham citizens, over Autumn 2022 the forum will be focusing on health inequalities linked to poverty, bringing the relevant evidence and exploring opportunities for collaboration with the Council and the wider partnership, with a particular focus on prevention and early intervention.

- 5.7.8. Outcomes from the discussions are being fed to the Cost of Living Taskforce as well as the Birmingham Health and Wellbeing Board and the Birmingham Financial Inclusion Partnership.

Additional Equalities Activity

- 5.7.9. The team are working on a response to the national 10-year Women's Health Strategy which was recently published and a fixed term post to develop work on gender inequality has been appointed to.
- 5.7.10. The team are commissioning a comprehensive, sex worker health needs analysis as part of the inclusion health work programme.

5.8. Communities Team

Community Leadership Training

- 5.8.1. The Birmingham Voluntary Services Council (BVSC) has been commissioned to deliver community leadership training, working with the Bolder Healthier Champions team to find 150 people to join training courses to deepen their understanding of community organising, develop core community organising leadership skills (such as 1-2-1 relational meetings, storytelling, power analysis, campaign strategy, action-planning and negotiation skills), and gain the skills to lead change in their community.
- 5.8.2. Each attendee will receive an accreditation as a community leader.

Faith Toolkits

- 5.8.3. The content of the faith toolkits for the six dominant faiths in Birmingham is now agreed and published. A contracting process is underway to find partners to facilitate the next phase of engagement with faith organisations, and engagement partners have been confirmed for Muslim, Christian, Sikh and Hindu communities.

Community Health Profiles

- 5.8.4. In the November 2021 Executive Board Report, it was noted that in addition to Covid-19 specific community engagement, the Public Health Division Communities Team had developed a framework for profiling the health and wellbeing of Birmingham's communities. The team initially explored four specific areas: faith, ethnicity, LGBTQ+ and disability.

- 5.8.5. In the past year, fourteen community profiles have been completed and published. These include: communities with ethnic origins in Commonwealth countries with links to Birmingham, Muslim and Sikh communities; the deaf and hearing loss community; the sight loss community; and lesbian and trans communities.
- 5.8.6. Feedback has been extremely positive about these resources. Community engagement partners are being commissioned to disseminate the report amongst communities and allocate funding to tackle the main health inequalities identified within the profiles, through community co-produced solutions.
- 5.8.7. The profiles are currently being publicised via a series of webinars and this detailed analysis and narrative of Birmingham's diverse communities will be used to inform need and service delivery in the post-Covid recovery phase.

Arts and Health

- 5.8.8. A programme of work on the links between health and the arts continues to evolve, with the creation of a joint post with Birmingham Museums Trust.
- 5.8.9. The Jamaican Arts and Health project has delivered workshops and events within the topics of musculoskeletal disease, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, mental health and pregnancy. These events have been tied to the Jamaican 60th Year of Independence programme and final evaluation reports will be completed by the end of October 2022.
- 5.8.10. An 'Arts and Dying Well' project has been advertised for arts organisations to deliver workshops to remove taboos and stereotypes and improve conversations around ageing and dying well. This fulfils one of the requirements for Birmingham to become a Compassionate City and is being supported by the Older People's Team.
- 5.8.11. Arts and Health projects held in 2021/22 were celebrated and showcased at the Local Government Association Culture Commission. <https://www.local.gov.uk/case-studies/impact-community-centered-arts-culture-and-health-commissioning-birmingham>

5.9. People Team

- 5.9.1. As part of the national Covid-19 Mental Health Recovery Action Plan 2021-2022, Birmingham City Council successfully bid for and received a grant of

£813,673 from the Better Mental Health Fund (BMHF) to ensure that the mental health impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic were swiftly addressed.

- 5.9.2. Fourteen different interventions were commissioned across a range of local organisations, with consideration of evidence given to address mental health and wellbeing needs across the life-course informing the commissioning process.
- 5.9.3. Interventions included a combination of universal programmes (such as the Birmingham Mind Being Well Programme and Mental Health helpline) and targeted interventions for specific populations. Targeted interventions include:
- ethnicity – including The Delicate Mind: The Mindful Muslims Programme
 - support for children and young people - including Birmingham Education Partnership's teacher and pastoral staff training to achieve a whole school approach to mental health support
 - support for the LGBTQ+ community - through funding increased counselling hours and provision of mental health awareness training to increase cultural competency
- 5.9.4. These interventions have led to an increase in mental health awareness, skills to provide support and understanding of and ability to use coping strategies improving resilience. An external evaluation is planned to further understand impact and to build local evidence to inform future commissions and to form part of the programme legacy. Three of the Birmingham projects were included in the national OHID video BMHF impact video.
- 5.9.5. The People Team also applied to the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) on behalf of BCC to become a signatory to the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health Commitment consensus statement. The application has been successful and received extremely positive feedback, indicating that Birmingham's application was considered exemplar for future applications. The Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health is underpinned by an understanding that taking a prevention-focused approach to improving the public's mental health has been shown to make a valuable contribution to achieving a fairer and more equitable society. The next step for the People Team is to determine how the Prevention Concordat's guiding principles and commitments will now be effectively incorporated into ongoing and upcoming projects and workstreams.

- 5.9.6. The Suicide Prevention Partnership continues to oversee the suicide prevention plan. We are currently exploring a pilot of the Orange Button Scheme. The scheme gives those trained in the appropriate suicide prevention awareness training a signifier of an orange button badge to show they are trained and are comfortable having conversations around suicide. It has been successfully implemented in several other LAs.
- 5.9.7. We continue to support development of real time surveillance for attempted and completed suicide in collaboration with Solihull. This approach has been successful in adapting and targeting suicide prevention interventions in other areas.
- 5.9.8. The People Team is in the process of appointing a joint Community Engagement Officer with a community partner to support Central and Eastern European Communities around mental health and wellbeing. This group has poorer mental health than their peers and access fewer services overall and later in the progress of their illness than others despite increased availability of interpreters. This post will facilitate engagement to assist in the design of acceptable and effective approaches to aid access to services when they are needed.
- 5.9.9. Those working in the construction industry have elevated risks and are overrepresented in poor mental health and suicide statistics. The Kier Group has expressed an interest in prototyping a series of workshops to see if this approach assists their workers with managing mental health and wellbeing. A structured evaluation and case study will capture the project outcomes and learning. Work is currently underway to appoint the providers of the workshops.

5.10. **Populations Sub-Division**

Children and Families Team

- 5.10.1. Following the establishment of the Infant Mortality Taskforce, work continues on to tackle high rates of infant mortality in the city. Work is taking place on developing cultural compassion practice in the Birmingham maternity workforce, led by the Midwifery EDI. A report on the economic cost of genetic conditions has been completed by the University of East Anglia and is being taken forward through NHSEI as part of a funded programme to support culturally competent genetic services for underserved groups in Birmingham through the Local Maternity Network. The community researcher element of the work is continuing to evolve in partnership with the University of

Birmingham and community sector partners, and a UKRI funding bid has been submitted.

- 5.10.2. Work continues on the option appraisal for the recommissioning of the Healthy Child Programme and a paper will come to Cabinet later in the year. There are clear signs that the quality improvement activity with the provider partnership is delivering results and there has been significant quarterly improvement in key performance indicators.
- 5.10.3. The team have been collaborating with the ICS on a programme of work in West Birmingham schools, focusing on reducing childhood asthma admissions. The approach involves working with schools to develop an asthma policy and register alongside training for teachers, children and families. This sits alongside a wider programme of work with Faith Action, working with faith settings to deliver a health literacy programme in the ten wards of the city with the highest levels of childhood asthma and low levels of English in households.

Adults Team

- 5.10.4. The NHS Health Check (NHS HC) programme is a mandated programme for people between the ages of 40 to 74 to prevent or detect early chronic diseases. Currently, all 168 of Birmingham's GP practices are commissioned to deliver Health Checks to eligible patients every 5 years. Current contracts with GPs for NHS Health Checks services expire in May 2023.
- 5.10.5. In July 2022, Cabinet approved the planned procurement request that recommended a dynamic purchasing system (DPS) be used to issue new contracts for May 2023 - April 2027. The proposal is to set up the system to enable continuation of the current service model for 4 years with payment by results. Consultation with various local public health services has identified several possible modes for NHS HC delivery that could improve quality and access in Birmingham. The Adults team will be engaging with GP practices through meetings and online surveys to gather feedback on recommissioning services to include some of these modes.
- 5.10.6. A business case for developing a GP/Pharmacy automated activity and payments portal, which will increase the efficiency of contract management, was submitted to the IT Governance Board on 1st September 2022. It will now be taken forward by the Business Analyst Team to assess the functional requirements.
- 5.10.7. The majority of Smoking Cessation services are delivered by 113 primary care practices and 119 pharmacies, and are supplemented by a digital App

(Quit with Bella App). The contracts for all these services will expire in May 2023. Cabinet approval has been obtained for the planned procurement of new services to use a dynamic purchasing system (DPS), and contracts will be issued for the period May 2023 - April 2027. As above, the Adults team will be engaging with GP practices and pharmacies, through meetings and an online survey, to gain their feedback on a proposed new model for service delivery. The team has also continued to support local Maternity Service BUMP- nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) vouchers, a BSOL ICS inpatient tobacco programme and the local Lung Health Steering Group.

- 5.10.8. The Council received ring-fenced non-recurrent funding for Adult Weight Management (AWM) services through a OHID grant which finished in June 2022. Through this funding 11 contracts were commissioned. Two providers (Beezee Bodies and Momenta Health) had their contracts extended to March 2023 funded by public health grant funds that were carried forward from the 2021/2022 financial year to 2022/2023 and supplemented by 2022/2023 FY funds.
- 5.10.9. Beezee Bodies provides AWM services for those with physical and learning difficulties, visual impairment, hearing impairment and Momenta Health caters for clients aged 55+. Both had achieved delivery and were demonstrating outcomes. Other providers who had yet to deliver their agreed volume of clients had their contracts extended without additional funding to enable them to meet their delivery targets within the financial year.
- 5.10.10. The generic weight management app Shape Up 4 Life has also been continued, as it has demonstrated a successful reach to all the diverse communities which constitute Birmingham with positive results. A full evaluation of the outcomes of all AWM services is ongoing in order to inform any future commissioning.
- 5.10.11. Currently, Birmingham's Sexual Health Service is delivered by University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (UHB) under a joint contract with Solihull, which commenced on 1st March 2015 and expires on 31st March 2023. Consequently, work has progressed to extend the contract, gain stakeholders' approval (through a consultation process) of a Sexual Health Strategy for 2023-2030, and commence implementation of a procurement plan for a new service. The proposal to extend the contract was taken to Cabinet on 11th October 2022 alongside the findings from the consultation on the strategy.
- 5.10.12. Fast Track Cities (FTC+) is a global network of cities and municipalities that are committed to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 3.3, ending the

epidemics of HIV and tuberculosis (TB) – and the World Health Organisation (WHO) goal of eliminating Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C by 2030. Birmingham formally signed the partnership declaration at an event on 5th October 2022. Birmingham's FTC+ is being informed by the findings of an engagement and needs assessment completed in April 2022. Working with stakeholders in the steering group, work has continued to finalise an action plan for the initiative and explore data monitoring methods.

Older Adults Team

- 5.10.13. The Older Adults team has supported the NHS consultation on the Birmingham and Solihull Dementia Strategy and continued to progress the engagement work to shape a Healthy Ageing Strategy. The team has faced some significant health-related absence which has limited capacity.

5.11. Knowledge, Evidence and Governance (KEG) Sub-Division

Knowledge

- 5.11.1. The Knowledge team has completed the 2022 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, which will be published on the new City Observatory Platform (launching November 2022). Three life course segments will be published, starting with Children and Young People, which will be the first step towards a digitized joint strategic needs assessment.

Evidence

- 5.11.2. The Evidence team is continuing to work on the deep dive report programme. In train currently are reports into learning disabilities, dual diagnosis, and mobility impairment. These will be published over Q3 and Q4 through the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Governance

- 5.11.3. The Governance team has developed a dashboard of indicators to track impact of the Creating a Bolder Healthier City Strategy. Following discussion and ratification at Birmingham's Health and Wellbeing Board, the dashboard will be published on the City Observatory Platform. This will allow citizens and Board members to see progress against the key indicators and benchmarks against regional and national comparators.

- 5.11.4. The Governance team have worked with Solihull on the production of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment. This assessment will go out to consultation in October for finalisation and publication in January 2023.

5.12. **Population Health Management (PHM)**

- 5.12.1. The PHM team continues to work with the wider KEG team and NHS informatics teams to develop the approach to PHM. The team is working on two projects to link data in order to understand the risk factors associated with infant mortality and with diabetes. The team has also undertaken an evaluation of Health Checks to inform the recommissioning of the service.

5.13. **Health Protection and Environmental Public Health Sub-Division**

- 5.13.1. The Birmingham and Solihull Tobacco Control Alliance has had its first meeting and is developing a joint delivery plan.
- 5.13.2. Work continues towards the recommissioning of the drug and alcohol misuse treatment services and working to mobilise additional funding from DHSC. The Council has agreed a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with Staffordshire County Council to implement the additional funding from OHID for residential treatment and support. This is part of a West Midlands regional collaboration to maximise the benefit through joint commissioning and reporting, whilst retaining the pro-rata access allocated for Birmingham.
- 5.13.3. The Health Protection team has continued to provide specialist support and advice in relation to outbreaks of infectious disease and non-infectious public health hazards. This has included responding to complex TB cases as part of the multi-disciplinary team and collaborating with teams across the West Midlands around a lead poisoning incident.
- 5.13.4. The Place team is evolving, and additional capacity is being created to help accelerate the work on physical activity. The work on culturally competent approaches to promote physical activity in ethnic communities has been commissioned and will shortly be published in four South Asian languages. As referenced above, the team successfully launched a series of Sport and Health posters during the Commonwealth Games.
- 5.13.5. The Future Parks Accelerator programme has culminated in a 25-year Plan for a City of Nature, which was agreed by Cabinet in February 2022. This

involves using £500,000 of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding to support improvements to the 33 green spaces in six wards across the north-south central spine of Birmingham.

- 5.13.6. BCC has also leveraged additional funding from the National Trust and the Heritage Lottery Fund to run two programmes – The Urban Nature Development Grant and the Urban Forest Accelerator Programme. The first grant provides funding for a Programme Manager across both programmes of work, a community facilitator and green champion co-ordinator to support delivery of the first phase of the City of Nature Plan. This includes improving the quality of existing green spaces in Bordesley and Highgate, as well as developing a masterplan for increase the amount of green space and green infrastructure in the ward.

Birmingham City Council

City Council

1 November 2022



Subject: Lead Member Report: West Midlands Combined Authority Transport Delivery Committee

Report of: Cllr Mary Locke, Lead Member

Report Author: Richard Mayes, Bus Network and Performance Manager (Transport for West Midlands)

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? ☐ Yes ☒ No

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Transport Delivery Committee (TDC) is one of the thematic Boards/Committees under the formal WMCA Board.
- 1.2 TDC provides political oversight and engagement on strategic transport priorities of the WMCA and its transport delivery arm, Transport for West Midlands (TfWM). This includes monitoring and challenging the delivery of TfWM capital programmes. The committee also has oversight of the operational activities of the WM Transport Authority and receives regular updates and reports across the various portfolios. Members actively participate in liaison with partners, including bus, rail and Metro operators, and with passengers' and interest groups.
- 1.3 Councillor Kath Hartley (Labour, Birmingham) was the BCC Lead Member and Chair of the WMCA TDC for the 2021-2022 municipal year. Councillor Hartley stood down from these roles at the end of the 2021 municipal year. Councillor Mary Locke (Labour, Birmingham) became the BCC Lead Member role for 2022-2023 municipal year. TDC Vice-chairs for 2021-2022 were Councillor Richard Worrall (Labour, Walsall) and Councillor Timothy Huxtable (Conservative, Birmingham). Councillor Richard Worrall (Labour, Walsall) became Chair of the WMCA TDC for the 2022-2023 municipal year, with Councillor Timothy Huxtable (Conservative, Birmingham) continuing as TDC Vice-chair and Councillor Mary Locke (Labour, Birmingham) joining as TDC Vice-chair.
- 1.4 All seven constituent authorities are represented on a population and political basis. Birmingham City Council was represented by the following councillors whose role has centred on ensuring that Birmingham achieves our deserved

share of transport investment and network improvements as the West Midlands' largest and most strategic District and the centre of the region's travel-to-work area.

1.5 The BCC representatives in 2021-22 were:

- Councillor Kath Hartley (Labour) BCC Lead Member
- Councillor Chaman Lal (Labour)
- Councillor Mohammed Fazal (Labour)
- Councillor Mohammed Idrees (Labour)
- Councillor Timothy Huxtable (Conservative)
- Councillor Robert Alden (Conservative)
- Councillor Ziaul Islam MBE (Labour)
- Councillor Morriam Jan (Liberal Democrat)

Councillor Mary Locke (Labour), Councillor Zaker Choudhry (Liberal Democratic), Councillor Shabrana Hussain (Labour), Councillor Narinder Kaur Kooner (Labour) and Councillor Saddock Miah (Labour) joined the committee for the 2022-2023 municipal year, replacing Councillor Chaman Lal, Councillor Mohammed Fazal, Councillor Mohammed Idrees, Councillor Ziaul Islam MBE and Councillor Morriam Jan.

2 Recommendation(s)

2.1 That the report be noted.

3 Background

3.1 I am pleased to provide this Annual Report as Birmingham's new Lead Member on the WMCA Transport Delivery Committee at the end of another very difficult and challenging year for the public and for everybody involved in the delivery of public transport services.

3.2 I would, firstly, like to thank Councillor Kath Hartley (Labour) for her commitment and dedication to public transport in Birmingham and the West Midlands for over 18 years, most recently as Chair of the WMCA TDC and as Lead Member. She has been an excellent advisor and advocate for Public Transport, and a much-valued colleague and mentor. I believe that transport in Birmingham is ultimately in a better position as a result of her tireless devotion.

3.3 I would also like to thank the TDC members for their work through 2021-2022 municipal year and I extend my thanks to those that have left committee. I would also like to pay tribute to the late Councillor Mohammed Fazal who sadly passed away in March 2022, for his commitment to the TDC during his time on the

committee, and to the late Councillor Mohammed Azim, who sadly passed away in August 2022 and was involved with previous TfWM committees.

- 3.4 I thank those members who are continuing to serve on the TDC, and I welcome those new members to TDC as they join me in carrying out our responsibilities to ensure that Birmingham, as the region's largest and most strategic city, has its fair share of the Transport budget, capital schemes and operational attention, and that projects and activities that impact upon our city are delivered.
- 3.5 We have had a very challenging year as we have seen the changes to the Public Transport network as we emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic. Patronage has not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels, and there have been numerous challenges in delivering the networks. I would like to thank all those who have worked tirelessly within Birmingham City Council, TfWM transport user groups and our transport partners to maintain and rebuild the transport network through the challenges.
- 3.6 I have been impressed by colleagues, partners and other stakeholders coming together to help deliver our network, but also to deliver funded public transport and clear transport networks for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. This work helped deliver over 650,000 shuttle bus journeys and 28,000 cycle hires during the Games, support over 255,000 people travelling through Birmingham New Street station on one day, and more than 25,000 people using the new Perry Barr station facility. This success has been seen on the world stage and we must all be so proud of what we have achieved together in supporting this fantastic opportunity to showcase Birmingham and the West Midlands.
- 3.7 As Lead Member for Birmingham, I have:
- Been the voice of the passenger, putting passengers first, because services are vital for work, school and leisure.
 - Followed up Members' and Birmingham residents' casework, overwhelmingly around bus services and infrastructure and Covid safety issues.
 - Along with the other Birmingham TDC Members, tracked and championed projects and initiatives as they relate to Birmingham.
 - Arranged for the distribution of updates to BCC Members.
 - Joined with the BCC Leader and Cabinet Member in our work to promote the city's needs as the region's strategic focus, for instance at the PPF Member Engagement Group.
- 3.8 First of all, I will detail what the TDC has been doing since Councillor Hartley's report of September 2021, and I will then provide some key highlights.

4 The Committee's Business 2021-2022

4.1 The WMCA TDC held 6 meetings in 2021/22, the meetings were held on-line via Microsoft Teams because of the Covid-19 pandemic until July 2021, when we started hybrid meetings, with numbers of attendees initially limited because of room restrictions at WMCA, Summer Lane.

4.2 The committee had 6 Lead Member Engagement Groups (LMEG) for 2021/22:

- Putting Passenger First – Councillor Kath Hartley, Birmingham, Labour
- Air Quality, Congestion and Environmental Impact – Councillor Chaman Lal, Birmingham, Labour
- Finance and Performance – Councillor Pervez Akhtar, Coventry, Labour
- Rail and Metro – Councillor Richard Worrall, Walsall, Labour
- Safe and Sustainable Travel – Councillor Robert Grinsell, Solihull, Conservative
- Sprint – Councillor Timothy Huxtable, Birmingham, Conservative

The groups enable TDC Members to focus more closely on key TfWM areas of work than is the case in full committee meetings. The LMRG's initially met via Teams and then moved to hybrid and in-person meetings from Autumn 2021.

Agendas and reports considered by the WMCA Transport Delivery Committee can be found at:

<https://governance.wmca.org.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=134>

4.3 The committee considered the standing items of financial monitoring and capital programme delivery monitoring for TfWM projects, the role of TDC being to review the financial delivery and rigour of TfWM and to track and champion the delivery of transport projects. This has been especially important in the Covid-19 emergency with its impacts on normal business and critical capital projects, over and above the pre-existing risk factors.

4.4 Items considered by the committee during 2021/22 included:

- Covid Recovery (July, Sept, Nov, Jan)
- Rail Business including new station projects (July)
- Bus Business including infrastructure (July, Sept)
- WM Cycling Charter Updates (July, Sept)
- Active Travel Fund Schemes update (July)
- West Midlands Railway – Direct Award (National Rail Contract) (July, Jan)
- Williams-Shapps Plan for Rail (July, Jan)
- Sprint schemes – current A34 and A45 and upcoming A456 Hagley Rd (July)
- West Midlands Bus Service Improvement Plan (Sept)

- Metro Operations Monitoring (Sept, Nov)
- Swift Delivery Monitoring (Sept, Nov)
- National Express Travel Shop closures (Sept)
- Metro Zonal Ticketing (Nov)
- Zero Emission Bus Regional Area scheme (ZEBRA) (Nov, Jan)
- New Rail stations (Jan)
- Metro Operations Monitoring (Sept)
- Birmingham Cross-city bus project (Jan)
- West Midlands Bus Alliance (Jan)
- West Midlands Bus Partnership Services (Jan)
- Bus Driver Shortages (Jan)
- Tendered Bus Services (Jan)
- Bus Stop Infrastructure (Jan)
- ENV (Green-roofed) shelters (Jan)
- Park & Ride report (Jan)
- Demand Responsive Transport Coventry area trial (Jan)
- Safer Travel and Emergency Planning (Jan)
- Implementation of Bus Byelaws (Jan)
- AQPS and Enhanced Partnership (Jan)
- Ring and Ride (Jan)
- Commonwealth Games 2022 Transport Plan (Jan)
- Coventry Electric Bus City (Jan)
- Rail Freight Update (Jan)
- Reimagining Transport in the West Midlands – LTP engagement (Mar)
- University and Perry Barr Transport Interchanges (Mar)
- Bus Funding Update (Mar)
- TfWM Directorate Plan (Mar)

4.5 The Covid pandemic prevented planned and new site visits, network tours, attendance at the UK Bus Summit etc, from taking place.

- 4.6 Minutes of the committee are submitted to the WMCA Board. The TDC Chair attends the WMCA Board meetings to present TDC meeting minutes and to comment on outcomes and on Transport items on the WMCA agenda.

5 Key Highlights in 2021/22

- 5.1 The committee provided input, influence and challenge to the delivery of a range of transport projects and programmes during the financial year. Key highlights included updates on Covid-19 recovery, changes to bus service funding, the Commonwealth Games Transport Plan, Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) development, Sprint, Rail and Metro Capital Projects and development of an Enhanced Partnership
- 5.2 The committee was given regular overviews of the performance across the network relating to Bus, Metro and Rail. As the year progressed it was recognised that the network was seeing an increase in passenger numbers across the public transport network. There have been updates regarding the performance of service operated in terms of punctuality across the Rail and Bus network in relation to the previously discussed driver issues.
- 5.3 Updates regarding bus recovery funding have also been provided, including information relating to a formal confirmation of a further six months funding for Bus until October 2022, which also included additional funding for the West Midlands for support to the region during the Commonwealth Games.
- 5.4 The committee received regular updates on the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Transport Plan (GTP). The GTP has been produced by Transport for West Midlands, in close collaboration with Birmingham City Council and the Birmingham 2022 Organising Committee. There has also been continued close working with Local Authorities and key transport partners including Department for Transport, West Midlands Police and other host Local Authority venue partners The Commonwealth Games Transport Plan can be found here: <https://www.tfwm.org.uk/media/30vhr1zh/games-transport-plan-january-2022.pdf>
- 5.5 Monitoring Capital Schemes
- The Committee has monitored and sought to influence progress on large capital projects in Birmingham. Updates on these schemes are provided in Appendix 1:
1. Tracking large Rail projects with tight deadlines has been undertaken by both the full TDC and the Rail and Metro LMEG. Please see the update on University and Perry Barr Stations, and the Camp Hill lines, (together with updates regarding Great British Railways and Industrial Action) at 1 in Appendix 1.
 2. The committee and the Sprint LMEG have considered and input on the progress and delivery of the A34 and A45 Sprint schemes, including shelters and the Enhanced Partnership (See 2. In Appendix 1).

3. The progress of the works on the Metro Extension to Edgbaston and Eastside has continued to be followed and examined at TDC meetings and by the Rail and Metro LMEG. Update at 3, Appendix 1.
4. TDC Members and the Putting Passengers First LMEG have been briefed on the updated development of Cross-City bus routes. Find out more at 4, Appendix 1.

5.6 The Committee and/or Lead Members, have led on, and participated in, activities involving the public and interest groups, such as:

- Bus Passenger Champions
- West Midlands Pensioners' Convention
- Bus Users UK and WM

6 Considerations for 2022/23

- 6.1 West Midlands bus fares are to be frozen at current levels until 2025 under a new plan agreed with operators to assist new and existing passengers with the cost of living. This means that people will be able to hop on and off the region's buses all day for the same price they would have paid in 2013 – currently £4.20 for a multi-operator day ticket.
- 6.2 From 1 January 2023, there will be a number of changes to bus services across the West Midlands. Many services will not be affected and will continue to operate as they do now. Some may see changes to timetables, routes and route numbers. A number of bus services will no longer be operating. These changes follow a number of bus routes being taken off by commercial bus operators. This is partly due to Government funding during the Covid-19 pandemic coming to an end, but also due to fewer people travelling than pre-Covid and the increased costs of running the bus services.

7 Further Information

- 7.1 The West Midlands Combined Authority Annual Plan sets out what the WMCA will deliver during the financial year, and the links it makes to the range of regional policy, strategy and delivery plans that articulate the action the WMCA deliver and support to make further progress towards the vision of a healthier, happier, better connected and more prosperous West Midlands.
- 7.2 The Transport Budget and Annual Plan is in Appendix A of the reports below:
 2021-2022 <https://governance.wmca.org.uk/documents/s5244/Report.pdf>
 2022-2023 <https://governance.wmca.org.uk/documents/s6530/Report.pdf>
- 7.3 Agendas and reports considered by the Transport Delivery Committee and all WMCA committees can be found here:
<https://governance.wmca.org.uk/mgListCommittees.aspx?bcr=1>

7.4 Please visit the following to report problems and views:

<https://www.tfwm.org.uk/get-help/>

It will signpost you to public transport operators for all modes. Please scroll down all the boxes for directions for enquiries about stations and stops, ticketing, concessionary passes, safer travel issues etc. Please share the information with your constituents, and please let me know if I can be of help as I will be happy to follow up any issues.

8 Options considered and Recommended Proposal

8.1 There are no options to be considered.

9 Legal Implications

9.1 There are no legal implications as a result of this report.

10 Financial Implications

10.1 There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

11 Background Papers

11.1 [West Midlands Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025](#)

12 Appendices

12.1 Appendix 1 – Progress on Large Capital Projects in Birmingham.

Appendix 1- Progress on Large Capital Projects in Birmingham

1. West Midlands Rail Programme update - Birmingham Projects

Safety performance across the Programme remains strong with a good rate of close call reporting across our projects.

Our collaborative approach to delivery was recognised in the National Rail Innovation Awards where we were winners of the 'Cross Industry Partnership' award.

University Station



- i. In July 2022 we successfully entered into service new, wider platforms with full length canopies, and new public realm to accommodate queuing. This was critical to enabling the safe use of University Station during the Games and, as with Perry Barr, we were delighted to play a part in the successful delivery of such a major international event.
- ii. The opening of this scope followed the decision in January 2022 to adopt a two-stage strategy for the delivery of University Station, in order to ensure that the station would be in a fit state for the Commonwealth Games. This also means that passengers are already enjoying substantial benefits from the platforms and canopies.
- iii. The delivery of Stage 1 was achieved despite wider economic and industry conditions which have posed significant challenges to delivery of capital projects, due to the availability of materials and other resources and which has had an impact on the wider project

- iv. Following the completion of the Stage 1 opening we reviewed the position on Stage 2 to ensure that we had a robust Stage 2 programme which could be delivered in the context of these wider challenges.
- v. We have now adopted a baseline position of Stage 2 opening in Spring 2023. Adopting a range for opening is in line with best practice recommended by the National Audit Office and others.
- vi. Whilst this is later than the August 2022 date set out in the FBC, we are confident that this will not detract from the long-term legacy of the station which will serve the West Midlands for decades to come, and the benefits that are already being delivered.

Perry Barr Station and Bus Interchange



- i. Perry Barr Station opened on time and on budget in May 2022.
- ii. The bus interchange opened shortly thereafter, in July 2022, in time for the Commonwealth Games. Perry Barr Transport Interchange as a whole played a key role in supporting the very successful transport strategy for the Games and we were pleased to see the successful performance on the new infrastructure.
- iii. Work is continuing on activities to support the final handover of the station, including legal agreements with Birmingham City Council and a number of technical issues raised by Network Rail.
- iv. As part of the close out of this project we are working to capture lessons learned that can be applied to future projects. This includes recognising successes

such as the collaboration with Network Rail which delivered platform improvements alongside the original scope.

Camp Hill Line Connectivity

- i. We continue to target completion of the Camp Hill stations by the end of 2023.
- ii. Work is underway to set up sites and undertake early enabling works, with significant devegetation works planned to start in late October.
- iii. One of the key milestones in delivery is a nine-day rail blockade in February 2023. This is important to enable the delivery of substantial civil engineering activity. We are currently working closely with Network Rail to ensure that this can successfully be achieved.
- iv. To support delivery, we have also completed a peer review with Network Rail's Centre of Excellence which has engaged with partners across the programme. We believe we are one of the first non-Network Rail schemes to be reviewed in this way. We anticipate that this will help to identify both areas of improvement, and to highlight good practice that we will seek to repeat.

Great British Railways

- i. Birmingham has been listed as one of six towns and cities shortlisted for to be the headquarters of Great British Railways (GBR). The other finalists are Newcastle, Derby, Crewe, Doncaster, and York. In late summer GBR held a non-binding public vote was held in parallel to the ministerial visits. The result of this vote will be used to measure the level of public support for each location and will be considered as part of final decision making. According to GBR, an announcement on the winning bidder will be made 'later in 2022'.
- ii. West Midlands Rail Executive (WMRE) are working with the GBR Transition Team (GBRTT) on plans for a future partnership between the two organisations. This would take as its starting point the existing powers over local rail held by WMRE. Talks are progressing, albeit slowly due to GBRTT needing to seek a renewed mandate following the changes in ministers at DfT.

- iii. The launch date for the partnership is linked to the wider GBR programme. On 19 October the Transport Secretary announced that the legislation needed to establish GBR would occur during the 23/24 parliamentary session, meaning that GBR is unlikely to be fully mobilised until 2025.

Industrial action and rail service delivery

- i. It has been an eventful summer for rail service delivery across the region, with industrial action, extreme weather, major engineering works, and the Commonwealth Games all having an impact on the customer experience.
- ii. The Games were largely a success for the railways. Planning was coordinated by the West Midlands Grand Railway Collaboration (the rail equivalent of the Bus Alliance). The rebuilt Perry Barr station coped well with the spectator and workforce demand, whilst the expanded platforms at University proved invaluable. Staff were deployed in strength and customers welcomed the Games themed giveaways. The timetable was delivered for the most part, with a cable theft at Tyseley on 3 August the single most disruptive incident.
- iii. However, the underlying fragility of some operators' traincrew resources was exposed during the Games, with negative consequences for rail users. Avanti West Coast suffered many cancellations throughout the Games, after seeing a reduction in volunteers for Rest Day Work and overtime (something that has persisted into autumn).
- iv. WMT were one of three West Midlands train companies affected by strike action by the ASLEF union on Saturday 30 July (day 3 of the Games), the others being Chiltern Railways and CrossCountry Trains. Due to the several events taking place at the NEC that day, WMT managed to operate a shuttle service between Birmingham New Street and Birmingham International to help manage demand. This was crewed by driver managers. No other WMT, CrossCountry Trains or Chiltern Railways services were able to operate. TfWM implemented a contingency operation to mitigate the impact of the industrial action on games spectators.
- v. The 30 July was one of many days of strike action held to date by the RMT, ASLEF and TSSA unions. All three unions are in dispute with Network Rail and the train companies over pay, terms and conditions and fear of compulsory redundancies. At this time, it is unclear as to how these national disputes will be resolved.
- vi. July and August experienced some of the hottest weather on record. The extreme temperatures resulted in tracks buckling, overhead power wires sagging, and signals failing. In anticipation of disruption the rail industry had amended timetables and discouraged travel.

2. Sprint Update

About Sprint

Sprint is a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) scheme which will help reduce traffic congestion and give people an alternative to driving. It will make it easier to get the bus and reduce journey times. Sprint will also help us tackle climate change. We want our region to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2041. Sprint is part of our #WM2041 climate action plan.

General Update

The priority corridor links Walsall to Solihull and Birmingham Airport via Birmingham City Centre, along the A34 and A45. It will be delivered in two phases. Phase 1 construction work was completed prior to the Commonwealth Games

Phase 2 was included as part of the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS), with the Full Business Case being approved by WMCA Board in March 2022. Work on detailed design for Phase 2 continues with construction expected to commence in Summer 2023 subject to design approval from local authorities. Phase 2 has been split into 5 packages of work

Package E – A34 (Birmingham and Sandwell)

Package F – A45/B425 Solihull

Package G – A34 Walsall

Package H – A45 Birmingham

Package J – Birmingham City Centre

Local engagement will be undertaken for each of these packages before Spring 2023.

The A456 Hagley Road works are being led by the Midland Metro Alliance.

Shelters

All Phase 1 Sprint shelters have now been installed and are in use. Overall, 67 shelters have been delivered, these include CCTV, enhanced real time information, and upgraded seating. Early user testing has shown a 98% satisfaction rate with the upgraded shelters.

A further 31 shelters will be delivered as part of Phase 2.

A34 Birmingham City Centre to Walsall

The main Phase 1 A34 construction works have now complete, this includes 4km of new bus lanes, signal upgrades, and traffic signal upgrades. These are already delivering journey time benefits for all bus services on the A34, with bus journey times reduced by up to 15% in peak times and variability reducing by 31%.

A45 Sprint to Solihull

The main Phase 1 A45 construction works have now complete, this includes 7km of new bus lanes, signal upgrades, and traffic signal upgrades. There are already journey time benefits for all bus services on the A45, particularly the X1 and X2 which have had journey times reduced by up to 22% in peak times and variability reducing by 35%.

Operator and Enhanced Partnership

Bus services operating on the Sprint corridors are primarily commercial services usually operating without subsidy (excluding current COVID-19 specific challenges). An Enhanced Partnership Scheme has been 'made' that covers the corridor and requires enhanced standards of bus vehicle provision with more exacting requirements as years go by. It is expected that National Express West Midlands will be operating cross city services on the Walsall to Solihull route when the impact of Metro works in Digbeth is reduced.

3. Metro Works in Birmingham

Westside

The Edgbaston extension was opened in July, just before the CWG. It has been a great success from a passenger point of view, with around 8% of all journeys starting from one of the 3 new stops. We anticipate that once the operational service can be stabilised after tram repairs and strikes are behind us, that this will provide a huge benefit for those living, working or going out in this sector of the City. Operationally there have been some issues with private hire cars and taxis stopping on Broad Street and blocking trams as they pick up or drop off. This may take a little time to settle down, but some short-term strengthening of enforcement measures may be necessary.

We do have some residual works to complete. The crossing on Black Sabbath bridge had to be replaced. This is now complete, taking advantage of the recent closure of Broad Street. The works on side streets along Broad Street are under a temporary traffic order which is now out to consultation to become permanent, and we are in discussions with BCC about their plans to retain the bus diversion routes for some services. Midland Metro Alliance have provided designs and costs, but the work may well be carried out by others. We also await decisions on Paradise Circus, but imagine that as the Alliance will no longer be working in this area, that that too will be carried out by others.

Eastside

After the CWG pause, works have continued strongly on the two sections under construction: Section 1 on Lower Bull Street, and Section 5 on Digbeth High Street.

On **Section 1** as we were not able to deliver the tracks in advance of the Games, we have switched our phasing to allow for the demolition of King's Parade block. Hoarding is now in place and works started. They will be fully complete in March 2023. This will enable other Section 2 works to proceed.

Whilst the hoarding is in place, taxis have moved from Dale End to Lower Bull St. The sooner they can return to Dale End the sooner we can get track installed and buses moving up Lower Bull St.

On **Section 5** almost all the high-quality urban realm on the north side is complete and the planters are starting to be filled with soil. On October 28th the new northern carriageway will be open to traffic and all the side roads on the north side will be opened up to traffic. This will be a welcome relief for local businesses and residents.

We have completed the track installation across Digbeth High Street, ready to start works on the south side, and means that once the current STW diversion works near Allison St are complete (planned for 18th November) the new carriageway along Digbeth High St will be open in both directions.

For **Sections 2-4** we have started a 10-week design review and finalisation period with BCC officers. This process will not be easy as there are conflicting design wishes and of course very high pressure on budgets, so any decisions will need to be balance the advantage they bring against cost implications.

In addition, we have the agreed with HS2 the access date for the Alliance to start construction 'under' the Curzon St viaduct. This will be January 2026, meaning that the full route will not open until 2027. We are investigating the interest and technical feasibility of opening a short section just to the Clayton Hotel in 2024.

Operations

Tram operations have been maintained at a reduced level due to the repairs needed to the tram fleet. During the Games, despite the reduced fleet we actually carried greater numbers of passengers than before Covid – with one Saturday recording 200% of pre-Covid levels.

We had hoped to increase tram frequency in October as we had sufficient new trams and repaired trams to do so. Unfortunately, the strikes mean this was not possible.

In the first strike days we have managed to put out a sustainable 15-minute service from Wolverhampton to Bull Street, with an additional queue busting tram. Unfortunately, we do not have enough staff to increase this yet – either with greater frequency or extending to the full route. If, and when, we are able to do so with staff returning to work, we will do so. We have offered to go to ACAS to resolve the dispute

In October the first 2 trams needing repairs will go to Dudley VLR centre for repair by the manufacturer. This will hopefully lead to the last stage of tram repairs.

4. Birmingham's Cross-City Bus Programme

This is an overview and update on the Birmingham Cross City Bus Priority Interventions currently being development and implemented by TfWM in partnership with Birmingham City Council and local Bus Operators.

Background

Buses are an affordable, accessible transport choice, with the ability to reduce congestion and improve air quality and bring economic benefits to the places they serve.

In the West Midlands, the Government, via the Better Deal for Bus Users, has provided over £20 million to fund the first tranche of prioritised bus priority measures that have been identified as necessary.

The overall package will benefit almost 90 million passenger journeys per year, providing 5 km of new bus only roads, 8 junction upgrades, 5 km of new bus lanes and 16 enhanced waiting facilities

The elements of the wider programme not included in phases 1 & 2 detailed in this note will be included in the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) submission to DfT in October.

Cross City

Transport for West Midlands along with our transport colleagues within Sandwell, Dudley and Birmingham City Councils are working together on a number of proposed schemes that aim to open new and direct bus links in and around Birmingham City Centre. These interventions are designed to complement and further improve public transport connectivity with the Sprint (Bus Rapid Transit in the West Midlands), Metro and Rail networks.

Programme

Phase 1

Anticipated construction 2021/2022 – Q2 2023

- City Centre (Margaret Street, Snow Hill, Newhall Street)
- Balsall Heath (Alcester Rd) – Q1 2023

Public consultation and briefings to Cabinet Members, Ward Councillors and BID organisations have been undertaken. This has allowed progression of the above schemes to achieve Full Business Case Approval through Birmingham City Council's Governance process.

These projects are now awaiting Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) Consultation. It is important to note that Birmingham City Council resource for undertaking TRO Consultation is currently limited due to priority works centred around projects such as

Metro/Commonwealth Games. Further work is being undertaken to identify where TfWM can support and assist.

Phase 2

Anticipated Construction 2023/4

- Kings Heath (Alcester Road South)
- Birmingham City (Dudley Road, Summer Hill, Suffolk Street)
- Burnt Tree Island
- Cape Hill

The proposals are currently within the feasibility stages that includes traffic studies and surveys.

The survey results will provide us with a basis to draft the best design to consult on. Once the survey data is back, the ambition is to progress the draft designs public consultation in October 2021.

Business Cases are now being produced for further routes identified in the BSIP.

Birmingham City Council

City Council

1 November 2022



Subject: Lead Member Report: West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

Report of: Cllr Alex Aitken

Report author: Amelia Murray, Overview and Scrutiny Manager
amelia.murray@birmingham.gov.uk

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential:

Not Relevant

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of the key activities of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel ("the Panel") in 2022 in its scrutiny of the Police and Crime Commissioner ("the Commissioner").

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

3 Background

- 3.1 The Panel is a joint scrutiny body of the West Midland authorities with a dual role to 'support and challenge' the work of the Commissioner. Appendix A outlines the Panel's statutory functions.
- 3.2 The Panel consists of 12 councillors representing the seven West Midland districts and two independent members. Councillor membership reflects the political balance of the region. Member appointments are updated annually.
- 3.3 The Panel's work programme consists of statutory tasks and wider exploratory work. Examining key strategic policing, crime and community safety topics of public interest enables members to scrutinise the Commissioner on behalf of West Midlands communities.

- 3.4 Appendix 1 provides further information on key activities and developments during 2022.

4 Options considered and Recommended Proposal

- 4.1 There are no options to be considered.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications as a result of this report.

6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

7 Public Sector Equality Duty

- 7.1 The Panel considers the Public Sector Equality Duty when undertaking its work programme.

8 Other Implications

8.1 How are the recommended decisions consistent with the City Council's priorities, plans and strategies?

There are no recommended decisions within this report.

The Panel contributes towards the city's priorities and outcomes: A Safe Birmingham and in particular supporting its focus on making the city safer and safeguarding vulnerable citizens.

9 Background Papers

- 9.1 [West Midlands Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025](#)

10 Appendices

- 10.1 Appendix A – West Midlands Police and Crime Panel Key Activities 2022.

Appendix A

West Midlands Police and Crime Panel Key Activities 2022

1. Role of the Police and Crime Panel (“the Panel”)

- 1.1 The Panel is a joint scrutiny body of the West Midland authorities with a dual role to ‘support and challenge’ the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner (“the Commissioner”).
- 1.2 The Panel acts as a critical friend to the Commissioner on behalf of West Midlands residents and must perform the following statutory functions:
 - Review and comment on the Commissioner’s draft Police and Crime Plan.
 - Review the Commissioner's Annual Reports.
 - Scrutinise decisions and actions by the Commissioner in discharging his/her functions.
 - Review (with the power to veto) the Commissioner's proposed Council Tax precept.
 - Hold confirmation hearings before the Commissioner makes certain senior appointments (Chief Constable, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer), with the power to veto the Chief Constable appointment.
 - Handle non-criminal complaints about the conduct of the Commissioner and Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, referring serious complaints to the Independent Office for Police Conduct.
 - Appoint an acting Commissioner if required.
 - Suspend the Commissioner if charged.

2. Panel Membership

- 2.1 The Panel consists of 12 councillors representing the seven West Midland districts and two independent members. Councillor membership reflects the political balance of the region, and appointments are made annually.
- 2.2 Birmingham is represented on the Panel by Cllr Alex Aitken, Cllr Kath Scott and Cllr Gareth Moore. Cllr Akhlaq Ahmed, Cllr Raqeeb Aziz and Cllr David Barrie are named substitutes.
- 2.3 The Panel re-elected Councillor Suky Samra (Walsall) as Chair and Kristina Murphy (Independent Member) as Vice Chair for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year.

3. Panel's Work Programme

- 3.1 The Panel's work programme consists of its statutory tasks (refer to point 1.2) and wider exploratory work. This specifically supports the Panel to scrutinise the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan and the discharge of his/her functions.
- 3.2 The Commissioner attends every Panel meeting to respond to questions and provides updates on recent activities. The Panel may also invite the Chief Constable to attend to answer any questions which appear to the Panel to be necessary to carry out its functions. The Panel could also invite other persons (residents, stakeholders, councillors, officers from other parts of the public sector) to discuss issues of local concern and/or answer questions.
- 3.3 Meetings papers, meeting dates, published reports, together with more information about the Panel can be found on the Panel's website. All meetings are live streamed.

4 Key Activity January 2022- October 2022

- 4.1 The Panel held a confirmation hearing for the Commissioner's proposed appointment as Chief Constable in July 2022, and unanimously confirmed the decision. Craig Guildford, currently Chief Constable for Nottinghamshire Police, will be commencing his role as Chief Constable for West Midlands Police on Monday 5th December 2022. The Panel will be formally acknowledging the service of Sir David Thompson, current Chief Constable on his retirement in early December 2022.
- 4.2 Further to the confirmation hearing itself, the Panel also provided challenge and support to the Commissioner in relation to the recruitment process for the new Chief Constable. The recruitment plan was presented to the Panel in advance of the advertisement. An observer from the Panel was invited to attend the recruitment selection process.
- 4.3 In January 2022, the Panel reviewed and approved the Commissioner's proposed Policing Precept for West Midlands.
- 4.4 The Commissioner has attended all Panel meetings and provided updates on the progress of his Police and Crime Plan 2021-25. In particular, he has provided information on his plan to rebuild community policing and progress to date.
- 4.5 The Panel published its Tackling Confidence in Policing Inquiry in December 2021. The Panel is currently tracking its recommendations.

5. Forward Plan

- 5.1 The Commissioner will be presenting his Annual Report to the Panel in November 2022.

- 5.2 The proposed Policing Precept will be reviewed between November 2022 and January 2023 for a decision at the Panel meeting in January. In the event of a veto, a provisional meeting has been arranged for February 2023.
- 5.3 A new Memorandum of Understanding is being developed to support the relationship between the Panel and the Commissioner. This is recommended as good practice and has been adopted from other areas.

Panel Lead Officer:

Kevin O’Keefe – Chief Executive, Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Panel Contact Officers:

Amelia Murray – Overview and Scrutiny Manager, Birmingham City Council

Sarah Fradgley – Scrutiny Officer, Birmingham City Council

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Birmingham City Council

City Council

1 November 2022



Subject: Motions for Debate from Individual Members
Report of: Janie Berry, City Solicitor (Monitoring Officer)
Report author: Ben Patel- Sadler, Interim Senior Committee Manager
 07395 883 886
Ben.Patel-Sadler@birmingham.gov.uk

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential :

1 Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 To consider the following Motions of which notice has been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules (section B4 G of the Constitution).

2 Notices of Motion

A. Councillors Sharon Thompson and Raqeeb Aziz have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

“This Council notes that:

- Some landlords and registered providers are taking advantage of loopholes in planning law to run poor quality Supported Exempt Accommodation, profiting from housing benefit payments, failing vulnerable tenants and blighting our communities.
- Work is continuing across the city to improve the standard of exempt accommodation thanks to the continuing pilot scheme, our Charter of Rights, Quality Standards Framework and by following the recommendations outlined in O&S Exempt Accommodation Inquiry Report.

This Council resolves to:

- Support the campaign led by the homelessness charity Crisis to ‘Regulate the Rogues’, which calls on the Government to urgently introduce new laws in England to strengthen the regulation of Supported Exempt Accommodation.
- Continue to lobby the Government for greater powers to control provision and growth based on the city’s needs assessment.
- Launch an independent public inquiry into the growth of Exempt Accommodation in the city, helping to strengthen the case for nationwide legislative reform.

In addition, the Council calls on the Standards Committee to update the Council Code of Conduct so that:

- Any elected member, or their spouse or partner, save for their primary residence, shall declare the use of all other properties they own and/or have an interest in. If the usage is commercially sensitive, or has potential safeguarding implications, the details shall be provided to the Monitoring Officer and held on a confidential basis as part of the Register of Interest.”

B. Councillors Simon Morrall and Debbie Clancy have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

“This Council believes that every child, regardless of race or background, should be given the opportunity and encouragement to thrive in educational attainment.

Council notes and supports the findings of the cross-party Education Select Committee report in November 2021 “The Forgotten: how White working-class pupils have been let down, and how to change it” which found that White Working Class pupils, eligible for free school meals, in particular working class boys, persistently underperform compared with peers in other ethnic groups in the UK.

Council notes that, in Birmingham there are some ethnic groups who also experience similar outcomes to white working-class pupils, such as Black-Caribbean.

Council believes that the educational attainment gap for these groups remains too large and that national and local strategies should focus on understanding and acting against the barriers to attainment for all groups, ensuring that no-one is forgotten or ignored.

Council acknowledges the Government's response to the Select Committee report and its recommendations, and welcomes actions already taken but calls for further action to address all the 5 proposed solutions from the report, including:

1. Funding needs to be tailor-made at a local level to level up opportunity.
2. Support parental engagement and tackle multi-generational disadvantage.
3. Ensure the value of vocational training, apprenticeships and entrepreneurship options while boosting access to higher education.
4. Attract good teachers to challenging and disadvantaged areas.
5. Find better and less divisive ways to talk about racial disparities.

Council believes that local action is imperative, regardless of any national changes and that the findings of the select committee report should be incorporated into work already happening in Birmingham to address issues with educational attainment.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. Call on the Government to adopt the solutions proposed by the cross-party Education Select Committee report and continue to review its findings.
2. Call on the City Council Executive to ensure that the report's findings and solutions are incorporated into existing and developing strategies including 'Everyone's Battle, Everyone's Business' and it's emerging Inclusion Strategy.
3. Call on Overview and Scrutiny to incorporate the findings into their work programmes to track outcomes and monitor actions taken to address issues.
4. Work with employers to ensure opportunity is spread equally, by creating career pathways for the most disadvantaged and deprived areas of the city.
5. Adopt more modern communication and social media strategies to target the many young and disenfranchised pupils, in particular NEETS, who do not normally engage with standard and legacy forms of Council communication.
6. Promote vocational training, apprenticeships and entrepreneurship in schools."

