

Members are reminded that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests relating to any items of business to be discussed at this meeting

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

CITY COUNCIL

TUESDAY, 05 DECEMBER 2017 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 Internet site (www.birminghamnewsroom.com) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

5 - 148

2 MINUTES

To confirm and authorise the signing of the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 7 November 2017.

Minutes to follow.

3 LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(1400-1410)

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

4 PETITIONS

(15 minutes allocated) (1410-1425)

To receive and deal with petitions in accordance with Standing Order 9.

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.

5 QUESTION TIME

(90 minutes allocated) (1425-1555)

To deal with oral questions in accordance with Standing Order 10(C)

- A. Questions from Members of the Public to any Cabinet Member, Assistant Leader, District Committee Chairman or Ward Forum Chairman (20 minutes)
- B. Questions from any Councillor to a Committee Chairman, Lead Member of a Joint Board or Ward Forum Chairman (20 minutes)
- C. Questions from Councillors other than Cabinet Members and Assistant Leaders to a Cabinet Member or Assistant Leader (25 minutes)
- D. Questions from Councillors other than Cabinet Member and Assistant Leaders to the Leader or Deputy Leader (25 minutes)

6 **APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNCIL**

(5 minutes allocated) (1555-1600)

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

7 **EXEMPTION FROM STANDING ORDERS**

Councillor Diane Donaldson to move an exemption from Standing Orders.

149 - 156

8 **CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE & EDUCATION: IMPROVEMENT & CHALLENGES**

(30 minutes allocated) (1600-1630)

To consider a report of the Improvement Quartet: Leader, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Schools, Chief Executive and Corporate Director Children and Young People.

Councillor Carl Rice to move the following Motion:

"The Council welcomes and notes progress in children's social care and in education, and notes progress on the voluntary trust arrangement for children's services."

(break 1630-1700)

9 **REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

(60 minutes allocated) (may be reduced to 30 minutes) (1700-1730)

157 - 194

PARTNERSHIP WORKING: BCC AND PARISH/TOWN COUNCILS

To consider a report of the Corporate Resources and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee together with a commentary from the Executive.

Councillor Mohammed Aiklaq to move the following Motion:-

That the recommendations R01 to R05 be approved, and that the Executive be requested to pursue their implementation.

10 **MOTIONS FOR DEBATE FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

(90 minutes allocated) (1730-1900)

To consider the attached Motions of which notice has been given in accordance with Standing Order 4(A).

11 **COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022**

(45 minutes allocated for Public and Private report) (1900-1945)

Report of the Leader.

Report to follow.

12 **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

Lord Mayor to Move:-

"That, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, which includes the following exempt information, the public be now excluded from the meeting:-

Agenda Item etc.

Relevant Paragraph of
Exempt Information Under
Revised Schedule 12A of
the Local Government Act
1972

P R I V A T E A G E N D A

13 **COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022**

Item Description



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL HELD
ON TUESDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2017 AT 1400 HOURS IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT:- Lord Mayor (Councillor Anne Underwood) in the Chair

Councillors

Uzma Ahmed	Neil Eustace	Keith Linnecor
Mohammed Aikhlaq	Mohammed Fazal	Mary Locke
Deirdre Alden	Mick Finnegan	Ewan Mackey
John Alden	Des Flood	Majid Mahmood
Robert Alden	Carole Griffiths	Karen McCarthy
Sue Anderson	Peter Griffiths	James McKay
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Paulette Hamilton	Yvonne Mosquito
Mohammed Azim	Andrew Hardie	Brett O'Reilly
Susan Barnett	Roger Harmer	John O'Shea
David Barrie	Kath Hartley	David Pears
Bob Beauchamp	Barry Henley	Eva Phillips
Matt Bennett	Penny Holbrook	Robert Pocock
Kate Booth	Des Hughes	Chauhdry Rashid
Sir Albert Bore	Mahmood Hussain	Habib Rehman
Barry Bowles	Shabrana Hussain	Carl Rice
Randal Brew	Timothy Huxtable	Fergus Robinson
Marje Bridle	Mohammed Idrees	Gary Sambrook
Mick Brown	Ziaul Islam	Rob Sealey
Alex Buchanan	Morriam Jan	Shafique Shah
Andy Cartwright	Kerry Jenkins	Mike Sharpe
Tristan Chatfield	Meirion Jenkins	Sybil Spence
Zaker Choudhry	Simon Jevon	Claire Spencer
Debbie Clancy	Julie Johnson	Stewart Stacey
Liz Clements	Brigid Jones	Ron Storer
Lynda Clinton	Carol Jones	Martin Straker Welds
Lyn Collin	Nagina Kauser	Paul Tilsley
Maureen Cornish	Tony Kennedy	Karen Trench
John Cotton	Changeese Khan	Lisa Trickett
Ian Cruise	Mariam Khan	Ian Ward
Basharat Dad	Narinder Kaur Kooner	Mike Ward
Phil Davis	Chaman Lal	Fiona Williams
Diane Donaldson	Mike Leddy	Ken Wood
Peter Douglas Osborn	Bruce Lines	Alex Yip
Barbara Dring	John Lines	Waseem Zaffar

NOTICE OF RECORDING

- 18904 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.

The Lord Mayor reminded Members that they did not enjoy Parliamentary Privilege in relation to debates in the Chamber and Members should be careful in what they say during all debates that afternoon

MINUTES

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and –

- 18905 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the City Council held on 12 September 2017, having been printed and a copy sent to each Member of the Council, be taken as read and confirmed and signed.

LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Death of former Councillor Jane Elizabeth Slowey

The Lord Mayor referred to the recent death of former Councillor Jane Elizabeth Slowey, who served as a Councillor for Brandwood Ward from 1988 to 1992 and for Longbridge Ward from 1994 to 1998.

After a number of tributes had been paid by Members, it was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and:-

- 18906 **RESOLVED:-**

That this Council places on record its sorrow at the death of former Councillor Jane Elizabeth Slowey and its appreciation of her devoted service to the residents of Birmingham; it extends its deepest sympathy to members of Jane's family in their sad bereavement.

B. Death of former Councillor Philip William Lawrence

The Lord Mayor referred to the recent death of former Councillor Philip William Lawrence, known as Phil, who served as a Councillor for Quinton Ward from 1990 to 1994.

After a number of tributes had been paid by Members, it was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and:-

18907 **RESOLVED:-**

That this Council places on record its sorrow at the death of former Councillor Philip William Lawrence and its appreciation of his devoted service to the residents of Birmingham; it extends its deepest sympathy to members of Philip's family in their sad bereavement.

PETITIONS

Petitions Relating to City Council Functions Presented before the Meeting

The following petition was presented:-

(See document No 1)

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

18908 **RESOLVED:-**

That the petition be received and referred to the relevant Chief Officer.

Petitions Relating to City Council Functions Presented at the Meeting

The following petitions were presented:-

(See document No 2)

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

18909 **RESOLVED:-**

That the petitions be received and referred to the relevant Chief Officers.

Petitions Update

The following Petitions Update was submitted:-

(See document No 3)

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and -

18910 **RESOLVED:-**

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

EXEMPTION FROM STANDING ORDERS

It was moved by Councillor Diane Donaldson, seconded and

18911 **RESOLVED:-**

That, pursuant to CBM Committee discussions, Standing Orders be waived to vary the order of business to allow items 6 (Appointment of the Leader of the Council), 7 (Leader's Announcement of Cabinet Members) and 8 (Constitutional Changes) to be considered before item 9 (Question Time).

APPOINTMENT OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Lord Mayor called upon Councillor Stewart Stacey to move an appropriate Motion which was seconded by Councillor Brigid Jones.

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

Here upon a poll being demanded the voting, with names listed in seat number order, was as follows:-

(See document No 4)

The total results referred to in the interleaved read:-

Yes – 64 (For the Motion);

No – 27 (Against the Motion);

Abstain – 4 (Abstentions).

It was therefore –

18912 **RESOLVED:-**

That Councillor Ian Ward be appointed as the Leader of the City Council, pursuant to Appendix 1 of the City Council's Constitution, until the Annual Meeting 2018 (or for up to the end of his term of office as a Member whichever is the shorter).

LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF CABINET MEMBERS

18913 At the invitation of the Lord Mayor, Councillor Ian Ward, Leader of the Council, confirmed the Cabinet Members as follows:

Deputy Leader	Councillor Brigid Jones
Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Schools	Councillor Carl Rice

Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling and Environment	Councillor Lisa Trickett
Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care	Councillor Paulette Hamilton
Cabinet Member for Housing and Homes	Councillor Peter Griffiths
Cabinet Member for Jobs and Skills	Councillor Brett O'Reilly
Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Equalities	Councillor Tristan Chatfield
Cabinet Member for Transport and Roads	Councillor Stewart Stacey
Cabinet Member for Commercialism, Commissioning and Contract Management	Councillor Majid Mahmood

The Leader indicated that Councillor Carl Rice's appointment to the Cabinet had created the need to appoint a Deputy Lord Mayor (see below) and the Labour Group were proposing Councillor Shafique Shah.

NB the above Cabinet Member titles are the ones agreed later in the meeting and used here for clarity.

APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY LORD MAYOR

The Lord Mayor indicated that the Council now needed to appoint another Deputy Lord Mayor for the remainder of the Municipal Year and that in accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Labour Group had nominated Councillor Shafique Shah.

The Lord Mayor moved the appropriate Motion which was seconded and it was-

18914

RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Shafique Shah be appointed Deputy Lord Mayor of this City for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2018.

The Lord Mayor asked Councillor Shafique Shah to join her on the rostrum who signed the declaration accepting office.

The Lord Mayor thanked Councillor Carl Rice who had loyally and ably supported her as Lord Mayor's Deputy.

EXTENSION OF TIME

It was moved by Councillor Maureen Cornish and seconded:-

"That the time allocated for agenda item 8 Constitutional Changes be extended to 20 minutes."

The Motion was put to the vote and, by a show of hands, was declared to be carried.

It was accordingly –

18915 **RESOLVED:-**

That the time allocated for agenda item 8 Constitutional Changes be extended to 20 minutes.

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

The following report of the Leader was submitted:-

(See document No 5)

The Leader moved the motion which was seconded.

In accordance with Council Standing Orders, Councillors Robert Alden and Randal Brew gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No 6)

Councillor Robert Alden moved the amendment, which was seconded by Councillor Randal Brew.

A debate ensued.

The Leader replied to the debate.

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

Here upon a poll being demanded the voting, with names listed in seat number order, was as follows:-

(See document No 7)

NB The documents have been amended to show that it had been Councillor Carl Rice and not Councillor John Clancy, who had not been present, who had voted against the amendment.

The total results referred to in the interleave read:-

Yes – 34 (For the amendment);

No – 62 (Against the amendment);

Abstain – 0 (Abstentions).

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 -

18916 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Council agrees and adopts the revised Cabinet Portfolios and Authorises the City Solicitor to implement the changes to the Constitution set out in the Appendix with immediate effect.

QUESTION TIME

18917 The Council proceeded to consider Oral Questions in accordance with Standing Order 9

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

At the conclusion of questions from members of the public it was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and

18918 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Council be adjourned until 1538 hours on this day to allow members of the public to leave.

The Council then adjourned at 1535 hours.

At 1538 hours the Council resumed at the point where the meeting had been adjourned.

Question time continued.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

Following nominations it was -

18919

RESOLVED:-

That the following persons be appointed until the Annual Meeting of the City Council in 2018 as set below:-

<u>Body</u>	<u>Representative</u>
<u>Council Business Management Committee</u>	Councillor Brigid Jones to replace Councillor John Clancy for the remainder of the 2017/2018 Municipal Year. Councillor Ian Ward to replace Councillor John Clancy as Chair for the remainder of the 2017/2018 Municipal Year.
<u>Local Government Association</u>	Councillor Brigid Jones to replace Councillor John Clancy for the remainder of the 2017/2018 Municipal Year.
<u>WMCA Board</u>	Councillor Brigid Jones to replace Councillor John Clancy for the remainder of the 2017/2018 Municipal Year.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and

18920

RESOLVED:-

That the Council be adjourned until 1710 hours on this day.

The Council then adjourned at 1640 hours.

At 1710 hours the Council resumed at the point where the meeting had been adjourned.

MOTIONS FOR DEBATE FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

The Council proceeded to consider the Motions of which notice had been given in accordance with Standing Order 4(1).

A. Councillors Lisa Trickett and Ian Ward have given notice of the following Motion:-

(See document No 8)

Councillor Lisa Trickett moved the Motion, which was seconded by Councillor Ian Ward.

In accordance with Council Standing Orders, Councillors Roger Harmer and Zaker Choudhry gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No 9)

Councillor Roger Harmer moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Zaker Choudhry.

In accordance with Council Standing Orders, Councillors Merion Jenkins and Gary Sambrook gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No 10)

Councillor Merion Jenkins moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Gary Sambrook.

A debate ensued.

Councillor Lisa Trickett replied to the debate.

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

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

Following a discussion relating to the need for Members to declare interests and following advice from the Assistant City Solicitor it was agreed that Members should declare interests if they were a member of a union or worked in a school or local government. It was noted that Members who had declared an interest at the last meeting need not do so again and those members are set out below:-

Councillor	Union	Interest
Carl Rice	Unite	Non-Pecuniary
Ian Ward	Unite	Pecuniary-in a number of trade unions
Mohammed Idrees	Unite	Non-Pecuniary
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Unite	Non-Pecuniary
Chaman Lal	Unite	Non-Pecuniary

City Council – 7 November 2017

Rob Pocock	Unite	Non-Pecuniary
Lisa Trickett	GBM	Possible Pecuniary-partner is a Director of firm taking trade union legal action
Brigid Jones	Unite	Non-Pecuniary
Mary Locke	Unison	Pecuniary-Election campaign funding
Tony Kennedy	Unite	Non-Pecuniary
Andy Cartwright	Unite	Non-Pecuniary
Waseem Zaffar	Unite	Non-Pecuniary
Claire Spencer	Unite	Non-Pecuniary
Kath Hartley	Unite	Non-Pecuniary
John O'Shea	Unite	Pecuniary-2012 election campaign
Barbara Dring	GMB	Non-Pecuniary
Mike Leddy	Unite	Pecuniary-Part funded election campaign
Diane Donaldson	Unite/Unison	Non-Pecuniary
Majid Mahmood	Unite	Non-Pecuniary
Stewart Stacey	Unite	Non-Pecuniary
Karen McCarthy	Unison	Pecuniary-2012 election campaign
Mick Brown	Unite	Non-Pecuniary
Tristan Chatfield	Unite	Pecuniary-2012 election campaign
Carole Griffiths	GMB	Non-Pecuniary
Peter Griffiths	GMB	Non-Pecuniary
Marje Bridle	Unison	Non-Pecuniary
Ziaul Islam	Unison	Non-Pecuniary
Mick Finnegan	Unison	Non-Pecuniary
Liz Clements	Unison	Non-Pecuniary

The following Members made declarations as follows:-

Councillor	Interest
Penny Holbrook	Member of Unite
James McKay	Member of ATL and employee at a non-Birmingham school
Mary Locke	Member of Unison works in the NHS
Kate Booth	Member of NUT and has a teachers pension
Des Hughes	Member of Unite
Kerry Jenkins	Employed by Unite
Sue Anderson	Has a teachers pension
Mahmood Hussain	Member of Unite
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Member of Unite
Narinder Kaur Kooner	Member of Unite
Andy Cartwright	Receives Teachers salary Member of UCU
Lynda Clinton	Member of Unison
Kieth Linnecor	Member of GMB
Shafique Shah	Member on Unite

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

Here upon a poll being demanded the voting, with names listed in seat number order, was as follows:-

(See document No 11)

NB The documents have been amended to show that it had been Councillor Carl Rice and not Councillor John Clancy, who had not been present, who had voted against the amendment.

The total results referred to in the interleave read:-

Yes – 69 (For the Motion);

No – 0 (Against the Motion);

Abstain – 5 (Abstentions).

It was therefore -

18921

RESOLVED:-

Birmingham City Council notes that:

- For most workers in local government and schools, pay and other terms and conditions are determined by the National Joint Council (NJC) for local government services
- On average, across the country, NJC basic pay has fallen by 21% in real terms since 2010
- NJC workers had a three-year pay freeze from 2010-2012 and have received only 1% pay increase annually since then
- NJC pay is the lowest in the public sector
- Differentials in pay grades are being squeezed and distorted by bottom-loaded NJC pay settlements needed to reflect the increased Statutory National Living Wage
- The likelihood of rising inflation following the vote to leave the European Union will worsen the current public sector pay inequality.

The council therefore supports the NJC pay claim for 2018, submitted by UNISON, GMB and Unite on behalf of council and school workers and, noting the drastic ongoing cuts to local government funding, calls on the Government to provide all additional resources to ensure local authorities can fund a decent pay rise for NJC employees. NJC pay cannot be allowed to fall further behind other parts of the public sector

The council also welcomes the joint review of the NJC pay spine to remedy the turbulence caused by bottom-loaded pay settlements.

The council resolves to:

- Write to the LGA asking it to make urgent representations to Government to fund the NJC claim and the pay spine review
 - Write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor supporting the NJC pay claim and seeking the additional resources needed to fund a decent pay rise and the pay spine review
 - Write to local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim and the pay spine review.
-

EXTENSION OF TIME

Councillor Mike Ward proposed the following Motion which was seconded:-

‘That the time for consideration of agenda item 11 Motions for Debate from individual Members be extended by 30 minutes.’

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-

18922

RESOLVED:-

That the time for consideration of agenda item 11 Motions for Debate from individual Members be extended by 30 minutes.

B. Councillors Ewan Mackey and Matt Bennett have given notice of the following Motion:-

(See document No 12)

Councillor Ewan Mackey moved the Motion, which was seconded by Councillor Matt Bennett.

In accordance with Council Standing Orders, Councillors Barry Henley and Tristan Chatfield gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No 13)

Councillor Barry Henley moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Tristan Chatfield.

A debate ensued.

Councillor Ewan Mackey replied to the debate.

The amendment 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 –

18923

RESOLVED:-

This Council expresses alarm at the rise in anti-Semitism in recent years across the UK including incidents when criticism of Israel has been expressed using anti-Semitic tropes. Criticism of Israel can be legitimate, but not if it employs the tropes and imagery of anti-Semitism.

This Council therefore:

- Welcomes the UK Government's announcement on December 11th 2016 that it will sign up to the internationally recognised International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) guidelines;
- Commits to cross-party support within the Council for combating anti-Semitism in all its manifestations, especially within relation to those effected in our communities in Birmingham; and
- As is already planned, adopts the below definition of anti-Semitism as set out by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, adding the definition to the council's Equality Objectives.

“Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

The guidelines highlight manifestations of anti-Semitism which may serve as illustrations.

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.

- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic anti-Semitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

However the Council defends free-speech and criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as anti-Semitic.

As stated by the House of Commons Home Affairs Select Committee:

- it is not anti-Semitic to criticise the Government of Israel without additional evidence to suggest anti-Semitic intent.
- it is not anti-Semitic to hold the Israeli Government to the same standards as other liberal democracies, or to take a particular interest in the Israeli Government's policies or actions, without additional evidence to suggest anti-Semitic intent.

The Council also condemns all forms of racism and other discrimination and we commit to fighting against them.

C. Councillors Neil Eustace and Paul Tilsley have given notice of the following Motion:-

(See document No 14)

Councillor Neil Eustace moved the Motion, which was seconded by Councillor Paul Tilsley.

In accordance with Council Standing Orders, Councillors Robert Alden and Deirdre Alden gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No 15)

Councillor Robert Alden moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Deirdre Alden.

A debate ensued.

Councillor Neil Eustace replied to the debate.

The amendment 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 –

18924

RESOLVED:-

Council regrets that the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) has again failed to come up with cohesive constituency boundaries for the city.

Council notes the refusal of the BCE to use the new ward boundaries that come into force next year. This would have helped avoid such anomalies as:

- Much of historic Yardley being placed outside Yardley constituency;
- The new Perry Barr ward being linked to the rest of the Erdington constituency solely by a portion of the new Aston ward, creating a “rabbit-eared” constituency;
- Oscott ward being linked to Walsall town centre and parts of northern Walsall;
- Handsworth Wood being placed in West Bromwich.
- No ward from Birmingham should be placed in a constituency outside of Birmingham on their own. This creates what is known as an “orphan ward”. The Commission should amend proposals to ensure any constituencies including wards from Birmingham have at least 2 wards from Birmingham in them.

Using the new ward boundaries would ensure that the proposed constituency boundaries are more closely aligned to future projections of population.

Council agrees to lobby the government and the BCE for a more sensible approach, noting that BCE has attempted a wholesale revision of its earlier proposals for the city and noting that it would have been possible for the BCE to have used the new ward boundaries for the latest round of proposals, as the new ward boundaries were approved by Parliament on 23 November 2016.

The meeting ended at 1855 hours.

APPENDIX

Questions and replies in accordance with Standing Order 9(A).

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

A1 Arrangements to finance Commonwealth Games

Question:

Could the Leader update Council on arrangements to finance the Commonwealth Games?

Answer:

In the Cabinet report of the 15 August 2017, it recommended that the financing of the cost of the Games would be from revenue sources separate from the Council's main budget and from a range of capital options. In addition it recommended that the council work in partnership with regional public and private organisations to seek contributions in addition to Birmingham City Council resources to meet the expected 25% of the total cost, with Government meeting the other 75%.

To date, positive discussions on funding contributions have been progressed with West Midlands Combined Authority, two of the three regional Local Enterprise Partnerships and the Midlands Engine. Further discussions are also taking place with the Higher Education sector and the private sector.

The Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport within Government and Commonwealth Games England, have been fully appraised of progress and are aware that further work and time is required to meet the city's expected financial contribution. We will therefore continue to work to secure further financial commitments, whilst in parallel, subject to being awarded the Games, use the expertise and acquired learning on offer within Commonwealth Games Federation, to ensure the Games are as cost effective and economical as possible.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE INTERIM LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT ALDEN

A2 Changes

Question:

Did you make any attempt to change the written answers submitted by the Former Leader to Full Council on 12 September 2012 before the meeting and before you were appointed Acting Leader of the Council at that meeting?

Answer:

No.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE INTERIM LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN ALDEN

A3 STILL LOOKING FOR ANSWERS

Question:

What is the full response to all inaccurate or incomplete answers to written questions to Full Council on 12 September 2012?

Answer:

I presume you mean 12th September 2017 and not 2012.

At the Full Council on 12th September 2017, all members were invited to contact the City Solicitor if they had concerns regarding any of the answers.

No comments or queries have been received.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE INTERIM LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR KEN WOOD

A4 Deferred report

Question:

The response to written question A16 at Full Council on 12 September 2017 claimed that the reason that the Cabinet report on waste collection on 24 August was deferred was due to the need to ‘properly reflect on the advice given’ at a meeting with counsel two hours before Cabinet. Why was this reason not given at Cabinet (where it was stated there were mistakes in the report due to its ‘rushed’ state)

Answer:

The reason given at Cabinet was accurate as the report did need some correction and checking. The need to reflect further on advice was an additional reason.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE INTERIM LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID BARRIE

A5 Acas Feedback

Question:

In response to written question A23, the former Leader claimed that the feedback he gave you and other Cabinet Members was simply a copy of the agreed Acas statement. Did he give you any more feedback than this and if so what?

Answer:

Feedback from the former Leader following his meeting with Unite on the 16th August took place at more than one meeting and over a number of occasions.

At no point did I agree to the position as stated in the reply the former Leader gave in response to question A23 at the September Council meeting.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE INTERIM LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR BOB
BEAUCHAMP**

A6 External Advise 1

Question:

Did the Council procure David Lock QC to provide legal advice in relation to the industrial dispute and/or equal pay claims?

Answer:

No.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE INTERIM LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY

A7 External Advise 2

Question:

Has the Council made any payments to David Lock QC?

Answer:

No.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE INTERIM LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR LYN COLLIN

A8 External Advise 2

Question:

Has any invoice from David Lock QC been given to the Council for payment?

Answer:

Yes

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE INTERIM LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR
MAUREEN CORNISH**

A9 External Advise 3

Question:

Has the Council procured David Lock QC for any legal advice on any matter?

Answer:

As far as I am aware, David Lock QC has only provided advice to the former Leader in relation to the current waste dispute.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE INTERIM LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DES FLOOD

A10 External Advise 3

Question:

Has the former Leader handed any invoices to the Council for payment to any provider (excluding expenses allowable under the Member Allowance scheme)?

Answer:

No.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE INTERIM LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR
MARGARET WADDINGTON**

A11 Bond

Question:

What figure were the Council given by the PWLB at that time the ‘Brummie Bond’ deal was secured and on what time and date was this quote given?

Answer:

The PWLB updates its lending rates to local authorities every morning and again every afternoon. The three loans from Phoenix Life were priced on the morning of 11 April when the PWLB’s morning interest rates were in force (as supplied by PWLB on Interest Rate Circular 141/17). The interest rates on the Phoenix loans and the comparable PWLB Certainty new loan rates in Circular 141/17 are as follows:

tranche	maturity	rate	PWLB	saving
£15m	18 years bullet repayment	2.292%	2.460%	0.168%
£15m	20 years bullet repayment	2.347%	2.520%	0.173%
£15m	24 years bullet repayment	2.443%	2.580%	0.137%
<u>£45m</u>	ave	2.36%		0.16%

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE INTERIM LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR RANDAL
BREW**

A12 Another) last chance saloon

Question:

Were you given a deadline by the Improvement Panel to turn things around?

Answer:

No.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE INTERIM LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ANDREW
HARDIE**

A13 Blame game

Question:

**Did the Council's Communication department sign off the former Leader's
resignation statement?**

Answer:

The corporate communications department did not formally sign-off, or have any requirement to sign-off, the Leader's statement as it was issued by him personally and not on behalf of the council.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE INTERIM LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR PETER DOUGLAS OSBORN

A14 Claims

Question:

How many equal pay claims have been brought against the Council by Simpson Millar Solicitors LLP?

Answer:

This is sensitive and confidential information under the Council's constitution and, in addition, would likely breach the Data Protection Act 1998 if disclosed, and so it is not possible to provide the information requested.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE INTERIM LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ALEX YIP

A15 Handover

Question:

Did you have any handover meeting with the former Leader after taking up your new post?

Answer:

No.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO INTERIM LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE ALDEN

A16 Nothing to see here

Question:

The last two meetings of the Standards Committee (8 August and 10 Oct) have not gone ahead, and in fact the Committee has not met more than once a year since 2012, despite their being at least two high profile issues concerning the actions of former Cabinet Members that have raised questions about the code of conduct. When do you anticipate Standards Committee will meet to review allegations against the former Cabinet Member for Equality, Openness and Transparency and against the former Leader so that the public can have confidence these issues are not being swept under the carpet?

Answer:

The City Solicitor has advised that there does need to be a review of the terms of reference of the Standards Committee and also a review as to when and how often the Committee should meet, together with a review of the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors. The City Solicitor will contact the Standards Committee with further details.

In terms of current code of conduct matters that are the subject of an investigation or subject to a decision or recommendation of the Chair of the Standard Committee or the Monitoring Officer, due to the confidential nature of these matters an update will be provided to Standards Committee at the next scheduled meeting of the Committee.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE INTERIM LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR GARY SAMBROOK

A17 Fair notice

Question:

How long before their press release of 6 October did the Commonwealth Games Federation inform the Council that their bid for the 2022 games was not fully compliant, and how long before did they inform the Council that they would be extending the deadline for bid submissions?

Answer:

The Council were not given notice of the press release or the extension to the deadline for bid submissions. However as part of the submission, Birmingham and the Commonwealth Games Delivery Unit (CGDU) within the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) had collectively sought further clarification on a number of guarantees required by the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF).

Following the press release we have had and continue to have productive discussions and negotiations with the CGF regarding these clarifications in order to meet the extended deadline of 30 November

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE INTERIM LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MEIRION JENKINS

A18 Thompsons

Question:

According to the Open Data for Invoices over £500, on 11 September 2017 the Council paid a sum of £6,766.00 to Thompsons Solicitors, the firm representing Unite in the current waste management dispute, what was this payment for?

Answer:

The payment was in settlement of Thompsons Solicitors' costs in a personal injury matter, unrelated to waste management.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE INTERIM LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ROB SEALEY

A19 Assumed Savings

Question:

The last Budget monitoring report highlighted an ‘assumed’ £4m in ‘mitigations’ for the Future Operating Model overspend from budget planning work that hadn’t yet been carried out. What is the latest position with regard to these ‘assumed’ savings?

Answer:

The latest position is set out in the Month 6 revenue monitoring report, to be considered at the Cabinet meeting on 14 November 2017. Mitigations of £3.3m have been identified to date in 2017/18.

The position for future financial years is being considered as a part of wider budget planning work which is currently in progress.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE INTERIM LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR SIMON JEVON

A20 Council Tax arrears

Question:

Which (if any) Councillors have been taken to Court in the last 2 years for non-payment of council tax?

Answer:

During the financial years 2016/17 and 2017/18 there have been no Councillors taken to court for the non-payment of Council Tax.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE INTERIM LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR GARETH MOORE

A21 Council Tax Vote

Question:

Which (if any) Councillors were in arrears of two months of more for their council tax as of either 28 February 2017 and/or 1 March 2016?

Answer:

No Councillors were in Council Tax arrears of two months or more on 1 March 2016 or 28 February 2017.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE INTERIM LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR TIM HUXTABLE

A22 LIT

Question:

Can you provide a detailed breakdown of the money generated, committed and spent from the Longbridge Infrastructure Tariff?

Answer:

To date £4,529,842 has been received from the Longbridge Infrastructure Tariff (LIT), which includes £502,000 generated from development in Bromsgrove District Council's area. Further payments have been secured but are not yet due amounting to £587,500 of which £50,000 has been secured in the area covered by Bromsgrove District Council.

The table below sets out the total spent and committed as of the 31st of October 2017 for projects funded by the LIT. It is important to note that in this context committed means that formal approval has been made by the Council to make the payment. There are further elements of some of the projects below that are currently in the process of being developed that are yet to be formally approved.

Capital Spend and Commitments			
Project	Spend as of 31/10/2017	Committed as of 31/10/2017	Total
Deliver SRTS Bristol Rd Sth Pedestrian X	135,512.24		135,512.24
Cycling Network	122,435.40		122,435.40
Longbridge Railway Station		563,000.00	563,000.00
Sustainable Transport and Co-Ordination	2,877.02		2,877.02
Longbridge Public Realm Improvements	814,933.54		814,933.54
Longbridge Public Art	12,000.00	100,000.00	112,000.00
Cofton Park Play Ground	103,707.29		103,707.29
Longbridge Infrastructure Tariff	330.87		330.87
S106 Longbridge Station	37,193.85		37,193.85
Longbridge Station - Legal	1,072.00		1,072.00
Longbridge Station - PT&F Fees	8,545.92		8,545.92
B'ham Great Park-Cycle Phase1 Add Works	22,440.17		22,440.17
S106 Longbridge Railway-Design	28,963.77		28,963.77
Cofton Park Pavillion	374,496.21	3,148.40	377,644.61
Lickey Hills Primary & Nursery School		505,034.48	505,034.48

City Council – 7 November 2017

	1,664,508.28	608,182.88	2,272,691.16
--	---------------------	-------------------	---------------------

Revenue Spend and Commitments			
Project	Spend as of 31/10/2017	Committed as of 31/10/2017	Total
Longbridge Public Art	71,943.41		71,943.41
Planning & Regeneration Graduate Hub	43,762.26		43,762.26
Public Health project	81,068.25		81,068.25
	196,773.92	0	196,773.92

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE INTERIM LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR FERGUS ROBINSON

A23 Trust Receipts

Question:

How much money has been generated from capital receipts from Trusts where the Council is Trustee since 2012 and what has this been spent on?

Answer:

In terms of actual capital receipts within Trust income for charities where the Council is Sole Corporate Trustee, I have been informed by officers that since 2012 there has only been one such receipt. This relates to the disposal of the former groundsman's cottage at Hunters Hill School being part of the Cropwood Trust and delivering a capital receipt of £275k to the Trust in 2017. The decision to dispose of this asset was made by the Trusts and Charities Committee on 20th July 2016 and ratified by Full Council as Trustee on 7th February 2017.

The proceeds of sale were posted to a ring fenced corporate account for the Cropwood Estate charitable trust and any income derived from this receipt must, in accordance with charity law, be used in accordance with the charity's objects and purposes which are the furtherance of any general charitable purpose for the benefit of the inhabitants of the City of Birmingham which may include all or any of the following:

- 1) The provision and support of educational facilities;
- 2) The Provision and support of facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions of life for our citizens;
- 3) The relief of the aged, impotent and poor; and,
- 4) The relief of sickness.

The £275k proceeds were invested in the COIF Investment Fund with the Trusts and Charities Committee appointed Fund Manager CCLA on behalf of the Cropwood Estate charitable trust.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE INTERIM LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR EWAN
MACKEY**

A24 Professional Interests

Question:

At the 13 June Council meeting it was resolved to instruct the City Solicitor to investigate if a register of professional interests of all officers with delegated decision making powers can be published annually online. Has this work now been completed and if so what was the outcome?

Answer:

This work has not yet been resolved. An update will be provided to Council Business Management Committee in November.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE INTERIM LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR BRUCE LINES

A25 CIL 1

Question:

Since 2012 what Community Infrastructure Levy payments have been received in total from projects in each Ward in the City?

Answer:

Since the Council began charging the Community Infrastructure Levy in January 2016 the payments have been received for the following Wards. Wards not mentioned have not yet had any chargeable developments implemented. All figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000:

Aston - £600,000
Bournville - £40,000
Harborne - £397,000
Ladywood - £230,000
Selly Oak - £45,000
Sutton Four Oaks - £56,000
Sutton Vesey - £9,000
Weoley - £177,000

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE INTERIM LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN LINES

A26 CIL 2

Question:

Since 2012 what is the total of Community Infrastructure Levy payments spent in each Ward in the City?

Answer:

To date no Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payments have been spent in any Ward of the City. A report will be taken to Cabinet to set out the process for agreeing the spending of CIL payments in accordance with the priorities in the infrastructure delivery plan.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE INTERIM LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PEARS

A27 CIL Sutton Coldfield Town Council

Question:

What percentage of Community Infrastructure Levy funds raised within Sutton Coldfield have been passed onto Sutton Coldfield Town Council since its inception?

Answer:

To date no payments of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds have been made to Sutton Coldfield Town Council. This is because the value of the funds payable to the Town Council that have been raised to date are minimal. For the period from the inception of the Town Council to now payment for CIL chargeable development in Sutton Coldfield totalling circa £65,000 has been received by the City Council. 15% of this will be paid to the Town Council which amounts to just under £10,000. A process is currently being put in place to facilitate making payments to the Town Council.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO INTERIM LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MATT BENNETT

A28 Hijabgate

Question:

In March this year Cllr Waseem Zafaar resigned from his cabinet position in the wake of what came to be known as ‘hijabgate’, which attracted attention from the national press, as well as from the government’s Community Cohesion Tsar, Dame Louise Casey, who personally wrote on the matter to your predecessor.

At the time of his resignation it was stated that an investigation would take place and, given the interest outlined above, it seemed safe to assume that this would happen quickly and in as open and transparent a manner as possible. Three months later, when asked for an update in the June Council meeting Cllr Clancy stated that the ‘investigation was in the final stages. Another five months have elapsed since that answer, which I can only assume was ‘factually incorrect’.

Can the current leader please given an open, transparent and accurate update on this investigation?

Answer:

I am advised that there is an ongoing code of conduct issue, which has been the subject of an independent investigation. The outcome of the investigation will be subject to a decision or recommendation of the Independent Chair of the Standards Committee or the Monitoring Officer, in accordance with the Councillor Code of Conduct. The matter remains confidential until such a decision or recommendation is made.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE INTERIM LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR RON STORER

A29 Barrister Costs

Question:

Please supply a breakdown of expenditure on barristers for the last three full financial years and the current year to date specifying:

- **Directorate/dept charged**
- **Nature of work/type of law (e.g. Employment, commercial, education etc)**
- **Nature of work (e.g. advice, representation in court, tribunal, mediation etc)**

Answer:

Waiting for response from Kate

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

A30 4,000 homes in Perry Barr area

Question:

The recent Cabinet report on housing referred to the potential building of more than 4,000 homes in the Perry Barr area. Could the Cabinet Member state which wards, on present boundaries, it is envisaged those homes will be built in, stating the number of homes proposed per ward?

Answer:

Ward	Number of New Homes
Perry Barr	2,361
Lozells and East Handsworth	527
Aston	637
Walsall MBC	1,256
Total	4,781

The sites identified for development were taken from the Strategic Housing Land Availability Study 2016, or from other known opportunities where they are considered consistent with the Birmingham Development Plan.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ALEX YIP

B1 Budget transparency

Question:

In a leaked email to the Labour Group, announcing her candidacy for the Deputy Leader position, the Cabinet Member for Clean Streets referred to the process of a range of options being presented to Members for balancing the budget. She referred to the anticipated need to reject many of these as the Party would not be able to ‘sell (them) on the doorstep.’ Will you be publishing all of these rejected options so that Non-Executive Members and the public alike can have an informed opinion on what is in the best interests of the City rather than the best interests of the Labour Party?

Answer:

No.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR RANDAL
BREW**

B2 Hitting the Ground running

Question:

**Please list all meetings you have had about the Council Budget since being
elected Deputy Leader of the Labour Group**

Answer:

Twelve hours of meetings solely on the budget, but the severity of cuts from the Conservative government is such that budget matters have come up at pretty much every other meeting I've had.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES
AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL EUSTACE**

C1 Entry Places - Senior schools and number of young people on waiting list

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member provide the number of entry places for every senior school, in all types, (for 11 year olds and over) and the number of young people on the waiting list for secondary schools - in the Yardley Constituency?

Answer:

In the Yardley Constituency there are seven schools that provide secondary education with a combined number of 6868 pupil places across all year groups.

The waiting list information provided is for October 2017 and confirms that there is a combined number of 3816 pupil names on the waiting lists across all the schools and all year groups.

It is important to understand that this number will include repeat names as parents have the opportunity to add their child's name to as many school waiting lists as they choose. It is even more important to note that the overwhelming majority of these children are already in school.

Birmingham City council does not lead on the co-ordination of in-year admissions and parents are thus required to make applications directly to individual schools.

As such all in-year waiting lists are held and managed by individual schools and can be subject to change in order and number of those on the list on a daily basis. Subsequently schools are not required to and do not make regular returns on the position of their in-year waiting lists to the Council.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR ZAKER CHOUDHRY

C2 Increase School Places for year 7 - Yardley Senior Schools

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member inform Council if there are any plans to increase places available for year 7 in 2017/18 at all of Yardley constituency's senior schools?

Answer:

Because all but one secondary school is an academy in this area, Tory-Lib Dem policy means we have no direct control as a Council over their expansions and place offerings.

I have been provided with information for the seven schools that provide year seven places in the Yardley constituency.

Two schools have provided additional pupil places for September 2017.

Perry Beeches V increased the number of places available by 25 for September and King Edward VI Sheldon Heath Academy has admitted over its planned number by 10 places as a result of upheld appeals.

There are currently no plans in place to increase the number of places available in any of the other five schools in the constituency for the current year 7 intake.

DfE Number	School	Phase	Year of Entry	Planned increases
4013	Ark Boulton	Secondary(S)	2017	None planned
4019	Perry Beeches V - The All Through Family School	All Through	2017	Already increased by 25 for 2017 Y7
4022	Cockshut Hill School	S	2017	None planned
4246	Yardleys School	S	2017	None planned
4804	Archbishop Ilsley Catholic	S	2017	None planned
5411	Ninestiles School	S	2017	None planned
6906	KE VI Sheldon Heath Academy	S	2017	10 admitted above planned due to upheld appeals

In addition to the above there is a Free school planned in the Selly Oak constituency which will provide 1150 places across Y7 – Y13 when full to capacity. The proposed opening date is September 2020

Establishment	Sponsor	Proposed Opening Date	Full Planned Capacity	Lower Age	Upper Age	Faith	Gender	District/Ward
Christ Church Secondary Free School	Church of England Diocese	01/09/2020	1150	11	19	Christianity	Mixed	Selly Oak/Billesley

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES
AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR CAROL JONES**

C3 Young people on waiting list for place

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member provide the number of young people by year on the waiting list for a secondary school place at every school in the Yardley constituency as at October 2017?

Answer:

I have been provided with information for each of the seven schools that provide places for secondary age pupils in the Yardley constituency.

The waiting list information provided is for October 2017 and confirms that there is a combined number of 3816 pupil names on the waiting lists across all the schools and all year groups.

It is important to understand that this number will include repeat names as parents have the opportunity to add their child's name to as many school waiting lists as they choose.

It is even more important to note that the overwhelming majority of these children are already in school.

Birmingham City Council does not lead on the co-ordination of in-year admissions and parents are thus required to make applications directly to individual schools. Because all but one secondary school in Yardley is Academy, we have no powers to increase provision to meet demand.

As such all in-year waiting lists are held and managed by individual schools and can be subject to change in order and number of those on the list on a daily basis.

Subsequently schools are not required to and do not make regular returns on the position of their in-year waiting lists to the Council.

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

C4 Commonwealth Games 2022

Question:

As a member of Cabinet do you fully support Birmingham's bid for the Commonwealth Games 2022 and recognise the potential advantages it could bring for your portfolio?

Answer:

Yes.

This is a once in a generation opportunity for Birmingham that will hugely raise the profile of our city.

But this is about more than profile. The Games will create jobs, enhance prospects through volunteering opportunities and increase housing in the city.

The Games will promote physical activity in Birmingham and will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people from across the city, helping to address the problems of inactivity and obesity.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES
AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN ALDEN**

C5 Cabinet time

Question:

How many hours a week on average do you spend on your work as a Cabinet Member?

Answer:

As many as are required in order to fulfil my Cabinet Member responsibilities and this inevitably extends to evenings and weekends.

Last week, for example, this totalled 40 hours plus ward and Party-related work.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,
RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR MIKE WARD**

D1 Flytipping over last three years

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member set out, by month, numbers of reports and recorded incidents of flytipping over the last three years?

Answer:

The table below shows the service enquiries recorded in the Council's waste management and regulatory teams' databases that reference involvement of, or that were categorised at the initial reporting stage, as relating to waste/rubbish. The second set of data is the incidents reportable quarterly under DEFRA's Waste Data Flow 'fly-tipping' arrangements [Data for last quarter are being finalised and are therefore shown here as estimates].

The total number of enquiries does not equate to the number of reportable incidents. This is due to a number of reasons which includes, but that is not limited to: duplicate enquiries/incidents being reported more than once, by different reporters or on multiple dates or to different council teams; enquiries for which linked records are created in the electronic database for the purpose of assisting with job management; and enquiries where waste/rubbish may not subsequently be identified as the route cause or primary element of a multi-issue referral.

Month / Year	Number of completed enquiries into the Council referencing waste/rubbish and recorded on waste management or regulatory teams database	Number of Incidents of fly- tipping. [Reportable under DEFRA's Waste Data Flow arrangements]
11/2014	1,340	865
12/2014	1,560	1064
01/2015	2,011	1159
02/2015	1,935	1016
03/2015	2,336	1002
04/2015	2,153	1075
05/2015	1,724	1059
06/2015	2,138	1192
07/2015	2,179	1201
08/2015	1,872	916
09/2015	1,862	834
10/2015	1,727	919
11/2015	1,667	973
12/2015	1,565	867

City Council – 7 November 2017

01/2016	1,971	1086
02/2016	1,747	1028
03/2016	1,883	1197
04/2016	1,867	1152
05/2016	1,727	1151
06/2016	1,998	1209
07/2016	2,043	1365
08/2016	1,880	1352
09/2016	1,721	1342
10/2016	1,533	1279
11/2016	1,392	1229
12/2016	1,295	1146
01/2017	1,466	1158
02/2017	1,369	1039
03/2017	1,881	1377
04/2017	1,552	1269
05/2017	1,469	1202
06/2017	1,624	1224
07/2017	1,678	1526 est.
08/2017	1,482	1565 est.
09/2017	1,024	1045 est
10/2017	985	

The figures for July, August and September are estimated due to the industrial action. Further analysis is needed to differentiate between legitimate residential waste presented and not collected, and actual fly tipping.

*Please Note: As investigations occur the figures previously provided may change as more cases are updated and become concluded.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,
RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ROGER HARMER**

D2 Food Waste Recycling

Question:

The Council has been criticised by Friends of the Earth, among others, for appearing to rule out the introduction of food waste recycling in the 25 year waste strategy. Could the Cabinet Member set out the reasons for not wishing to introduce food waste recycling even as a local trial?

Answer:

I haven't ruled a local trial out.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,
RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ZAKER CHOUDHRY**

D3 Missed Collections October 2017 compared to October 2016

Question:

Please state the number of missed collections reported in October 2017 compared with October 2016.

Answer:

Missed collections are received from residents either for an individual property or a whole road report.

The number of individual property missed collections reported by residents is:

- October 2016 = 2386 Missed Collections
- October 2017 = 6088 Missed Collections

The number of whole roads missed collections reported by residents is:

- October 2016 = 2951 Missed Collections of which 538 are likely to be duplicate* reports of the same missed road.
- October 2017 = 13 303 Missed Collections of which 3 882 are likely to be duplicate* reports of the same missed road.

*Duplicate reports have are classified as being where a report was reported in the same week, on the same road/street, for the same rubbish type.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,
RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL TILSLEY**

D4 Refund Green Waste Collections

Question:

Will the Cabinet Member give further consideration to the issue of refund to residents who were deprived of Green Waste collections that were paid for in advance, prior to start of financial year, which is a contractual obligation to each and every resident who paid for the service?

Answer:

Consideration is currently being given on how to best deal with those garden waste customers who have been disrupted during the industrial action. Once this information is available Councillors will be briefed and those customers who have been affected by the dispute will be advised of any decision as to how the Council intends to treat disrupted Green waste collections.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN
STREETS, RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR
DAVID BARRIE**

D5 Emissions Standards

Question:

What emissions standards does the council request of any vehicles it hires, as of 12 September 2017?

Answer:

As outlined in the Green Policy paper that went to Cabinet last month, the minimum emissions standards that the Council requests of hire vehicles is Euro 6 for diesel engines and Euro 4 for petrol engines.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,
RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR BOB BEAUCHAMP**

D6 Emissions Standards 2

Question:

What emissions rating are each of the refuse collection vehicles the council has purchased since 2012?

Answer:

61 euro 5 vehicles were purchased in 2013 as at the time the Euro 6 were not available. With the clean air zone coming in, in 2019, Waste Management are currently looking at retro fits of other equipment to make these engines compliant.

In 2014 and 2015 a total of 71 euro 6 engine vehicles were purchased.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,
RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR MATT BENNETT**

D7 Overtime

Question:

How much has been paid in overtime to council waste collection staff since 20 September 2017?

Answer:

The overtime that has been paid to waste collection staff is estimated at £17,000 (this relates to the whole of September as it is not easily possible to provide the exact information requested from the financial systems without significant additional work – there are no details currently available for October). This overtime expenditure represents 1.2% of the total pay costs during the month.

It should be noted that overtime working in the collection service has reduced significantly as new working arrangements have been implemented – the total overtime paid in 2015/16 was £968,000 (or 5.5% of pay costs) and was £808,000 in 2016/17 (or 4.2% of pay costs).

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,
RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR MAUREEN CORNISH**

D8 Acting on advice

Question:

Between taking control of the Council following the elections in May 2012 and the decision to accept the grant for the roll out of the Wheelie Bins, what steps were taken to implement the Future Operating Model for Fleet and Waste Management agreed at Cabinet on 26 March 2012, including the accompanying recommendations from legal services?

Answer:

I was not in post in 2012 and the officers responsible for Waste Management have since left the organisation.

In the meantime, the roll out of wheeled bins was effected from 2013 date.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,
RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR PETER DOUGLAS
OSBORN**

D9 Acting on advice 2

Question:

When agreeing the roll out of wheelie bins, and any further changes to Fleet and Waste Management since that point, was consideration given to the legal advice provided as part of the FOM agreed at the Cabinet meeting of 26 March 2012?

Answer:

I was not in post in 2012 and the officers responsible for Waste Management have since left the organisation. The legal advice in the private report is confidential.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,
RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR RANDAL BREW**

D10 Landfill Tax

Question:

What is the difference in the amount of landfill tax liability accrued between 30th June 2017 and now compared with the same period last year?

Answer:

	2016	
	Active Landfill	Hazardous Landfill (Flyash)
July	5,991.56	675.38
August	5,584.80	707.44
September	4,985.00	608.08
October up to 22nd	35.43	437.44
Total	16,596.79	2,428.34
# Estimated Active Landfill		
	2017	
	Active Landfill	Hazardous Landfill (Flyash)
July	6,688.17	587.52
August	10,374.98	608.92
September	4,790.93	589.36
October up to 22nd	7,861.98	463.58
Total	29,716.06	2,249.38

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,
RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY**

D11 Green waste refunds

Question:

How many refunds have been issued so far for missed green bin collections under the Council's three consecutive missed collections policy?

Answer:

Prior to the industrial action (1 July 2017) for the 2017 year we have provided 6 refunds for missed garden collection services. No refunds have been provided since the start of industrial action, and these requests are currently being investigated and reviewed.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,
RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE ALDEN**

D12 Missed Collections

Question:

**How many missed collections have been reported since the resumption of
'normal' collections on 9 October?**

Answer:

Missed collections are received from residents either for an individual property or a whole road report.

The number of individual property missed collections reported by residents between 9 and 31 October is:

- 4 484 Missed Collections

The number of 'whole road' missed collections reported by residents between 9 and 31 October is:

- 9 686 Missed Collection reports of which 2 957 are likely to be duplicate* reports of the same missed road from multiple residents.

*Duplicate reports have are classified as being where a report was reported in the same week, on the same road/street, for the same rubbish type.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,
RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR LYN COLLIN**

D13 Trade Waste performance

Question:

For each month since April 2017, how many trade waste collections have been missed?

Answer:

Missed collections are as follows:

April – 165

May – 244

June – 433

July – 966

August – 730

September – 734

October – 406

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,
RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DES FLOOD**

D14 Trade Waste credits

Question:

What is the total value of credits provided or due for missed trade waste collections for each month since April 2017?

Answer:

The breakdown of authorised credits for missed trade waste collections is as follows:

April - £257

May – £222

June - £227

July - £562

August - £3,280

September - £1,386

October - £3,957

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,
RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT ALDEN**

D15 Waste from schools

Question:

Since 30 June 2017 how many waste collections have been missed or delayed from schools, nurseries or other education settings (including PVI)?

Answer:

Unfortunately missed collection notifications are not categorised by property usage. However by running a report which filters those missed collections reported to the Trade Waste Section where the address contains either the key words 'School', 'Nursery' and or 'Academy', we have determined that the service has received 530 missed collection reports between the 30 June and 1 November 2017.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,
RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ANDREW HARDIE**

D16 DEFRA

Question:

Did the Council respond to the letter sent this summer from Therese Coffey MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at DEFRA, which was sent to the 34 worse performing authorities for recycling, asking them to set out what they were planning to do to improve their recycling rates? If so please provide a copy of that response.

Answer:

A draft response has been produced and we are now in a position to formally respond, as the Waste Strategy was approved by Cabinet on 3 October 2017. It is in this Strategy that we have set out our recycling ambitions and plans, including the commitment to increase recycling and reduce domestic waste.

This Waste Strategy, underpinned with the Waste Prevention Strategy, will assist in improving Birmingham's performance.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,
RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ALEX YIP**

D17 Commonwealth Games 2022

Question:

As a Member of Cabinet do you fully support Birmingham's bid for the Commonwealth Games 2022 and recognise the potential advantages it could bring for your portfolio?

Answer:

Yes.

This is a once in a generation opportunity for Birmingham that will hugely raise the profile of our city.

But this is about more than profile. The Games will create jobs, enhance prospects through volunteering opportunities and increase housing in the city.

The Games will promote physical activity in Birmingham and will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people from across the city, helping to address the problems of inactivity and obesity.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,
RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN ALDEN**

D18 Cabinet Time

Question:

How many hours a week on average do you spend on your work as a Cabinet Member?

Answer:

As many as are required in order to fulfil my Cabinet Member responsibilities and this inevitably extends to evenings and weekends.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,
RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR GARY SAMBROOK**

D19 Bulky waste

Question:

How much income has been generated from the bulky waste charge for each year since its introduction?

Answer:

Charging for all bulky waste collections started in April 2014. The cost of the service has remained unchanged at £23 for those booked online and £25 for those bookings taken via the contact centre.

The amount of income generated each calendar year between 1 April 2014 and 1 November 2017, by year, is as follows:

Calendar Year	Requests	Total Income
2014 (from April)	9903	£ 238,327
2015	16066	£ 383,984
2016	19690	£ 467,588
2017 (until November)	15371	£ 364,649

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,
RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR TIM HUXTABLE**

D20 Chewing Gum 1

Question:

How much has the Council spend each year since 2015 on cleaning chewing gum (or other items that require jet washing or similar) off streets in the City Centre?

Answer:

This information is not held as any deep cleansing work (such as chewing gum removal or other items which require jet washing) is carried out as part of normal operations.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,
RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR SIMON JEVON**

D21 Chewing Gum 2

Question:

How much has the Council spend each year since 2015 on cleaning chewing gum (or other items that require jet washing or similar) off streets in the rest of the city, excluding the City Centre, broken down by suburban high street?

Answer:

This information is not held as any deep cleansing work (such as chewing gum removal or other items which require jet washing) is carried out as part of normal operations.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,
RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR BRUCE LINES**

D22

Question:

What is the latest total cost of the bin strike?

Answer:

To fully understand the financial impact of the industrial dispute all the associated costs need to be identified and attributed. These include the cost of the continuation of temporary agency workers to cover the 5th day work; the costs of the 'catch-up' contingency plans, including external contractors and the temporary deployment of some internal staff; and additional landfill tax as a consequence of more diversion to landfill and less income from paper recycling.

This amounts to an estimated total of £6.6m.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,
RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN LINES**

D23 Strike Meetings

Question:

Please can you list all meetings you have attended regarding the bin strike since the last Council meeting, including all attendees?

Answer:

Since 13 September I have had daily meetings with the Interim Leader and officers from the senior leadership team. Additionally, I have had meetings with Union officials and ACAS and, as these have not always been diarised, it is not possible to provide a complete list. Moreover, the meetings with ACAS were without prejudice and therefore it would be inappropriate to disclose the attendees.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,
RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR EWAN MACKEY**

D24 Strike Resolution

Question:

When do you expect a resolution to the waste collection industrial dispute?

Answer:

It is hoped that the Council might be in a position to provide an update shortly, however it is not possible to currently say anymore at this present time.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR ALEX YIP

E1 Commonwealth Games 2022

Question:

As a Member of Cabinet do you fully support Birmingham's bid for the Commonwealth Games 2022 and recognise the potential advantages it could bring for your portfolio?

Answer:

Yes.

This is a once in a generation opportunity for Birmingham that will hugely raise the profile of our city.

But this is about more than profile. The Games will create jobs, enhance prospects through volunteering opportunities and increase housing in the city.

The Games will promote physical activity in Birmingham and will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people from across the city, helping to address the problems of inactivity and obesity.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN ALDEN

E2 Cabinet time

Question:

How many hours a week on average do you spend on your work as a Cabinet Member?

Answer:

As many as are required in order to fulfil my Cabinet Member responsibilities and this inevitably extends to evenings and weekends

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMES
FROM COUNCILLOR SUE ANDERSON**

F2 Timescale extension of selective licensing - rogue landlords

Question:

What is the timescale for the extension of selective licensing, which is to be introduced, in the words of a recent Cabinet report, to tackle "rogue landlords"?

Answer:

The Council has started a programme of consultation in target wards, in accordance with Government guidance, where there are high concentrations of private rented sector (PRS) properties where we believe there is evidence of poor management by landlords giving rise to ASB, high turn-over of tenancies, failure to carry out repairs. We started consultation in Stockland Green on 11 September and will start Soho Ward on 6 November 2017. I will be reviewing the outcome of the consultation early in the new calendar year to determine the next phase and whether the Council has a strong case for city-wide licensing for all PRS properties, which will need Secretary of State approval.

The Council has submitted a bid to Government for Controlling Migration Funding which, if successful, will provide additional resources to accelerate the selective licensing consultation in the priority wards or enable other targeted action against irresponsible or criminal landlords in other areas of the city.

Meanwhile, I understand that the Government is considering extending existing mandatory HMO licensing for any property with five or more persons (of more than one household who are sharing facilities) in April 2018 which, if this happens, will increase the scope of control over standards in HMOs across the city, which we welcome.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMES
FROM COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE ALDEN**

F3 Tower Block Fire Safety 1

Question:

What was the date of the last two fire safety visits at each of the Council's tower blocks?

Answer:

The spreadsheets below outline the most recent fire risk safety inspections to date. These blocks will previously have been inspected 12 months prior to this date.

Section 1: Building information		
Address	Postcode	Date Assessment undertaken
Adelaide Tower, 90 Packington Avenue, Shard End, Birmingham	B34 7RB	13/02/2017
Albany House, 15 Shopton Road, Birmingham, West Midlands	B34 6NT	18/05/2017
Alnwick House, 55 Jarvis Road, Stockland Green, Birmingham	B23 5RP	18/05/2017
Arundel House, 45 Jarvis Road, Stockland Green, Birmingham	B23 5RR	18/05/2017
Ascot Court, Abdon Avenue, Weoley Castle, Birmingham	B29 4PY	01/11/2016
Ashfield House, 34 Brompton Pool Road, Hall Green, Birmingham	B28 0SN	04/11/2016
Ashford Tower, 27 Salop Street, Sparkbrook, Birmingham	B12 0TR	08/05/2017
Auckland House, 43 Welsh House Farm Road, Quinton, Birmingham	B32 2NE	07/11/2016
Avery House, Skipton Road, Ladywood, Birmingham	B16 8JW	08/06/2017
Bakeman House, The Tivoli, Coventry Road, Yardley, Birmingham	B26 1AA	08/06/2017
Baldwin House, 14 Milton Street, Newtown, Birmingham	B19 2RT	28/04/2017
Banbury House, 65 Shirestone Road, Stechford, Birmingham	B33 0BZ	23/03/2017
Barberry House, 15 Shannon Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham	B38 9BX	29/11/2016
Barn House, 34 Cottsmeadow Drive, Birmingham, West Midlands	B8 2PW	26/05/2017
Barratts House, 1 Kimpton Close, Kings Heath, Birmingham	B14 5TD	03/11/2016
Barrow House, Meyrick Walk, Ladywood, Birmingham	B16 9AH	08/04/2017
Barry Jackson Tower, Estone Walk, Aston, Birmingham	B6 5DP	Void Pending Demolition
Beech Hill House, 14 Field Lane, Bartley Green, Birmingham	B32 3JP	08/11/2016
Bellfield House, 2 Thomham Way, Kings Norton, Birmingham	B14 5RT	11/11/2016
Berkeley House, Jarvis Road, Birmingham	B23 5RU	24/05/2017

City Council – 7 November 2017

Address	Postcode	Date Assessment undertaken
Boundary House, 19 Hollies Croft, Birmingham, West Midlands	B5 7QL	01/03/2017
Bowater House, 47 Aldgate Grove, Newtown, Birmingham	B19 3XG	26/04/2017
Bradbeer House, 68 Francis Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham	B16 8JE	09/06/2017
Bradfield House, 37 Greenvale Avenue, Sheldon, Birmingham	B26 3XA	12/06/2017
Bramber House, 12 Stokesay Grove, Northfield, Birmingham	B31 4ER	08/11/2016
Brandwood House, 15 Grove Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham	B14 6SW	21/06/2017
Bransford Tower, 157 Vaughton Street, Sparkbrook, Birmingham	B12 0ST	13/06/2017
Brecon Tower, 5 Guild Close, Ladywood, Birmingham	B16 8DS	21/06/2017
Bridgemoor House, 2 Folkestone Croft, Bromford, Birmingham	B36 8RA	08/02/2017
Bridport House, 1 Hillwood Road, Northfield, Birmingham	B31 1DN	25/04/2017
Brinklow Tower, 91 Highgate Street, Highgate, Birmingham	B12 0XT	21/06/2017
49 Over Pool Road, Ward End, Birmingham	B8 2BX	17/06/2017
Brookpiece House, 1 Millston Close, Kings Norton, Birmingham	B14 5TB	02/11/2016
Browning Tower, 116 Overbury Road, Northfield, Birmingham	B31 2HE	09/11/2016
Brunswick House, 5 Shopton Road, Shard End, Birmingham	B34 6NS	19/05/2017
Burdock House, 35 Shannon Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham	B38 9BY	11/11/2016
Cadbury House, Great Hampton Row, Birmingham	B19 3BB	27/04/2017
California House, 2 Millmead Road, Bartley Green, Birmingham	B32 3AU	30/01/2017
Cambridge Tower, 17 Brindley Drive, City Centre, Birmingham	B1 2NH	21/06/2017
Campion House, 260 Redditch Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham	B38 8QA	02/03/2017
Camrose Tower, 1 Rocky Lane, Nechells, Birmingham	B7 5JA	21/06/2017
Canterbury Tower, 1 St Marks Street, City Centre, Birmingham	B1 2UJ	13/06/2017

City Council – 7 November 2017

Address	Postcode	Date Assessment undertaken
Cantlow House, 3 Ketley Croft, Sparkbrook, Birmingham	B12 0XG	21/06/2017
Carisbrooke House, 59 Culmington Road, Northfield, Birmingham	B31 4JL	14/11/2016
Century Tower, 1 Dollery Drive, Edgbaston, Birmingham	B5 7TE	10/11/2016
Chadwick House, 15 Over Pool Road, Birmingham, West Midlands	B8 2BZ	17/05/2017
Chamberlain House, Skipton Road, Ladywood, Birmingham	B16 8JL	05/06/2017
Charlbury Tower, 33 Charlbury Tower, Southacre Ave, Birmingham	B5 7DQ	24/05/2017
Claverdon House, 161 Hollybank Road, Billesley, Birmingham	B13 0QY	13/11/2016
Cocksmoor House, 31 Grove Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham	B14 6SP	21/02/2017
Collings House, 6 Huntley Road, Ladywood, Birmingham	B16 8JR	06/06/2017
Coney Green House, 200 Central Avenue, Northfield, Birmingham	B31 4JS	21/06/2017
Coniston House, 32 Bantock Way, Harborne, Birmingham	B17 0JG	16/11/2016
Coppice House, 63 Pemberley Road, Acocks Green, Birmingham	B27 7TA	02/03/2017
Copsehill Court, Mount View, Falcon Lodge, Birmingham	B75 7DR	12/06/2017
Courtway House, 33 Bushwood Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham	B29 5AT	09/03/2017
Crabtree House, 53 Giles Close, Stechford, Birmingham	B33 8EA	16/05/2017
Cranleigh House, 54 Baldmoor Lake Road, Stockland Green, Birmingham	B23 5PY	16/05/2017
Crescent Tower, 19 Brindley Drive, City Centre, Birmingham	B1 2NJ	21/06/2017
Danesmoor House, 569 Hob Moor Road, Yardley, Birmingham	B25 8XB	03/04/2017
Derwent House, 22 Bantock Way, Harborne, Birmingham	B17 0JE	16/11/2016
Dixon House, 10 Huntley Road, Ladywood, Birmingham	B16 8JP	08/06/2017
Dovey Tower, 175 Duddeston Manor Road, Nechells, Birmingham	B7 4LE	11/04/2017
Dowry House, 389 Rubery Lane South, Rubery, Rednal, Birmingham	B45 9SH	23/11/2016

City Council – 7 November 2017

Address	Postcode	Date Assessment undertaken
Drews House, 1 Netheravon Close, Birmingham	B14 5PQ	28/11/2016
Dunedin House, 23 Welsh House Farm Road, Quinton, Birmingham	B32 2NB	09/11/2016
Durham Tower, 48 Acom Grove, Ladywood, Birmingham, West Midlands	B1 2PW	21/06/2017
Epsom Court, Abdon Avenue, Weoley Castle, Birmingham	B29 4PQ	01/11/2016
Essington House, 112 Sladefield Road, Birmingham	B8 2SU	06/02/2017
Fairbourne Tower, 2 Portfield Grove, Erdington, Birmingham	B23 5UD	08/06/2017
Fallows House, 20 Ruddington Way, Newtown, Birmingham	B19 2QE	04/04/2017
Frogmoor House, 571 Hob Moor Road, Yardley, Birmingham	B25 8XD	04/04/2017
Galton Tower, 32 Civic Close, West Midlands, Birmingham, West Midlands	B1 2NW	21/06/2017
Geach Tower, 65 Uxbridge Street, Newtown, Birmingham	B19 3UP	10/05/2017
Giles Close House, 120 Giles Close, Stechford, Birmingham	B33 8ED	15/05/2017
Glendale Tower, 20 Beechmount Drive, Erdington, Birmingham	B23 5UE	19/09/2016
Gosmoor House, 127 Yew Tree Lane, Sheldon, Birmingham	B26 1BA	04/04/2017
Gower House, Lockington Croft, Halesowen, West Midlands	B62 9BS	21/06/2017
Greenfield House, 39 Greenvale Avenue, Sheldon, Birmingham	B26 3XN	12/06/2017
Greenford House, 74 Faulkners Farm Drive, Birmingham	B23 7XF	01/03/2017
Gresham Tower, 26 Shawbury Grove, Sparkbrook, Birmingham	B12 0TX	23/05/2017
Harrison House, 7 Britford Close, Kings Heath, Birmingham	B14 5LQ	23/02/2017
Heather House, 55 Shannon Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham	B38 9DA	21/11/2016
Heath House, 1 Baverstock Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham	B14 5NN	25/11/2016
Heron Court, Emscote Drive, Wylde Green, Birmingham	B73 5NF	05/01/2017
High Tower, 27-29 Duddeston Manor Road, Birmingham	B7 4QA	12/04/2017

City Council – 7 November 2017

Address	Postcode	Date Assessment undertaken
Highgate House, 106 Southacre Avenue, City Centre, Birmingham	B5 7DL	24/05/2017
Hillcroft House, 862 Alcester Road South, Birmingham	B14 5NH	21/11/2016
Hillside House, 173 Cock Hill Lane, Rubery, Rednal, Birmingham	B45 9SQ	23/11/2016
Hobbis House, 603 Redditch Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham	B38 8LS	23/01/2017
Hodgson Tower, Guildford Drive, Newtown, Birmingham	B19 2LY	09/05/2017
Holbrook Tower, Bromford Drive, Bromford, Birmingham	B36 8TS	Void Pending Demolition
Holland House, 73 Great Hampton Row, Newtown, Birmingham	B19 3JA	27/04/2017
Hollow Meadow House, 247 Bromford Drive, Bromford, Birmingham	B36 8RD	31/03/2017
Hollypiece House, 53 Pemberley Road, Acocks Green, Birmingham	B27 7TB	21/02/2017
Home Tower, 5/7 Duddeston Manor Road, Nechells, Birmingham	B7 4QF	25/04/2017
Homemeadow House, 43 Pemberley Road, Acocks Green, Birmingham	B27 7TD	21/02/2017
Humber Tower, 22 Francis Street, Birmingham, West Midlands	B7 4JU	12/04/2017
Huntingdon House, 44 Faulkners Farm Drive, Birmingham	B23 7XF	01/03/2017
Inkerman House, 105 Newtown Shopping Centre, Newtown, Birmingham	B19 2SG	07/06/2017
James House, 7 Newtown Drive, Newtown, Birmingham	B19 2UZ	03/05/2017
Jordan House, 37 Blossom Grove, Bromford, Birmingham	B36 8PH	29/03/2017
Kempsey House, 2 Kitwell Lane, Bartley Green, Birmingham	B32 4AH	29/11/2016
Kendal Tower, 4 Malins Road, Harborne, Birmingham	B17 0JY	02/12/2016
Kenilworth House, 121 Hollybank Road, Billesley, Birmingham	B13 0RA	14/11/2016
Kenrick House, 32 Beaufort Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham	B16 8HZ	08/06/2017
Kentmere Tower, 10 Beechmount Drive, Erdington, Birmingham	B23 5UF	08/06/2017
Kineton House, 101 Hollybank Road, Billesley, Birmingham	B13 0RB	13/02/2017

City Council – 7 November 2017

Address	Postcode	Date Assessment undertaken
Kingsbridge House, 54 Faulkners Farm Drive, Stockland Green, Birmingham	B23 7XG	07/03/2017
Kingspiece House, 27 Blossom Grove, Bromford, Birmingham	B36 8PJ	30/03/2017
Kingswood House, Kimpton Close, Druids Heath, Birmingham	B14 5TF	03/11/2016
Lavender House, 75 Shannon Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham	B38 9DB	06/12/2016
Ledbury House, 51 Shirestone Road, Stechford, Birmingham	B33 0BY	27/03/2017
Leominster House, 230 Tile Cross Road, Stechford, Birmingham	B33 0LY	27/03/2017
Lincoln Tower, 139 Gilby Road, Ladywood, Birmingham	B16 8RH	21/06/2017
Little Hill House, 20 Hayes Grove, Erdington, Birmingham	B24 0HS	11/01/2017
Lloyd House, 1 Newtown Drive, Newtown, Birmingham	B19 2UY	03/05/2017
Loweswater House, 41 Icknield Street, Kings Norton, Birmingham	B38 0BA	09/12/2016
Ludlow House, 81 Hollybank Road, Billesley, Birmingham	B13 0RD	15/11/2016
Lynton House, 64 Faulkners Farm Drive, Stockland Green	B23 7XQ	08/03/2017
Manderville House, 12 Walnut Way, Northfield, Birmingham	B31 4ET	30/11/2016
Manton House, 9 Newbury Road, Newtown, Birmingham	B19 2RJ	08/02/2017
Martineau Tower, 25 Uxbridge Street, Newtown, Birmingham	B19 3UJ	11/05/2017
Medway Tower, 52 Cromwell Street, Nechells, Birmingham	B7 5BJ	10/04/2017
Metchley House, 12 Bantock Way, Harborne, Birmingham	B17 0JD	13/02/2017
Middlefield House, 1 Britford Close, Kings Heath, Birmingham	B14 5LG	07/12/2016
Mill House, 19 Cottsmeadow Drive, Washwood Heath, Birmingham	B8 2PP	22/05/2017
Moat House, 31 Munslow Grove, Northfield, Birmingham	B31 4DE	02/02/2017
Monmouth House, 79 Shirestone Road, Stechford, Birmingham	B33 0DA	20/03/2017
Moor House, 612 Druids Lane, Kings Heath, Birmingham	B14 5QF	05/11/2016

City Council – 7 November 2017

Address	Postcode	Date Assessment undertaken
Muntz House, 7 Skipton Road, Ladywood, Birmingham	B16 8JN	05/06/2017
Needwood House, 9 Woodcock Lane, Acocks Green, Birmingham	B27 6DD	16/02/2017
Netley House, 10 Selcroft Avenue, Quinton, Birmingham	B32 2BT	08/03/2017
Normanton Tower, 35 Portfield Grove, Erdington, Birmingham	B23 5UB	08/06/2017
Norton Tower, 43 Civic Close, City Centre, Birmingham, West Midlands	B1 2NN	21/06/2017
Oast House, 40 Gumbleberrys Close, Ward End, Birmingham	B8 2PR	22/05/2017
Parker House, 10 Britford Close, Kings Heath, Birmingham	B14 5LJ	16/01/2017
Park Court, 119 Boldmere Road, Boldmere, Birmingham	B73 5UW	30/11/2016
Pennycroft House, 30 Rattle Croft, Stechford, Birmingham	B33 8EE	16/05/2017
Perry Green House, 30 Elcock Drive, Perry Barr, Birmingham	B42 2LJ	10/02/2017
Pitmeadow House, 24 Pound Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham	B14 5SE	16/11/2016
Pleck House, 2 Winterbourne Croft, Kings Norton, Birmingham	B14 5PU	21/11/2016
Pritchett Tower, Arthur Street, Small Heath, Birmingham	B10 0NZ	25/05/2017
Quarry House, 153 Cock Hill Lane, Rubery, Rednal, Birmingham	B45 9SG	23/11/2016
Queens Tower, 17/19 Duddeston Manor Road, Nechells, Birmingham	B7 4QE	24/04/2017
Radcliffe Tower, 52 Shawbury Grove, Sparkbrook, Birmingham	B12 0TU	23/05/2017
Rayleigh House, 23 Woodcock Lane, Acocks Green, Birmingham	B27 6DB	15/02/2017
Rea Tower, 44 Mosborough Crescent, Newtown, Birmingham	B19 3AU	10/05/2017
Redditch House, 93 Shirestone Road, Stechford, Birmingham	B33 0DB	14/02/2017
Redway Court, Mount View, Falcon Lodge, Birmingham	B75 7DS	06/06/2017
Redworth House, 25 Deelands Road, Rubery, Rednal, Birmingham	B45 9RT	28/11/2016
Repton House, 52 Baldmoor Lake Road, Stockland Green, Birmingham	B23 5PZ	06/06/2017

City Council – 7 November 2017

Address	Postcode	Date Assessment undertaken
Reynolds House, 1 Newbury Road, Newtown, Birmingham	B19 2RH	21/06/2017
Risborough House, 16 Shifnal Walk, Northfield, Birmingham	B31 4EH	01/12/2016
Rushmore House, 61 Cock Hill Lane, Rubery, Rednal, Birmingham	B45 9RU	06/12/2016
Ryland House, 53 Great Hampton Row, Newtown, Birmingham	B19 3JA	25/04/2017
Sadler House, 6 Newtown Drive, Newtown, Birmingham	B19 2XA	03/05/2017
Saffron House, 250 Redditch Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham	B38 8QB	21/06/2017
Salisbury Tower, 55 Middleway View, Winson Green, Birmingham	B18 7DA	08/03/2017
Sandhurst House, 21 Icknield Street, Kings Norton, Birmingham	B38 0AZ	08/12/2016
Sandown Tower, 70 Willetts Road, Northfield, Birmingham	B31 4BG	16/12/2016
Saxelby House, Kimpton Close, Birmingham	B14 5TE	02/11/2016
Scholfield Tower, 45 Uxbridge Street, Newtown, Birmingham	B19 3UN	11/05/2017
Severn Tower, 74 Cromwell Street, Nechells, Birmingham	B7 5BH	06/04/2017
Shakespeare House, 160 Fairfax Road, Northfield, Birmingham	B31 3SD	14/12/2016
Shelley Tower, 124 Overbury Road, Northfield, Birmingham	B31 2HB	09/01/2017
Sorrel House, 1073 Tyburn Road, Erdington, Birmingham	B24 0TQ	09/01/2017
Southam House, 141 Hollybank Road, Billesley, Birmingham	B13 0QZ	10/01/2017
South Tower, 6/8 Little Hall Road, Nechells, Birmingham, West Midlands	B7 4QL	13/04/2017
Speedwell House, 115 Hillmeads Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham	B38 9NN	15/12/2016
Stafford House, 250 Tile Cross Road, Stechford, Birmingham	B33 0LZ	27/03/2017
Standleys Tower, 2 Rogerfield Road, Erdington, Birmingham	B23 5US	21/06/2017
Stokesay House, 15 Jarvis Road, Stockland Green, Birmingham	B23 5RX	22/05/2017
Stoneleigh House, 11 Selcroft Avenue, Quinton, Birmingham	B32 2DA	07/03/2017

City Council – 7 November 2017

Address	Postcode	Date Assessment undertaken
Studley Tower, 2 Canford Close, Sparkbrook, Birmingham	B12 0YY	25/05/2017
St Albans House, 16 Selcroft Avenue, Quinton, Birmingham	B32 2BU	08/03/2017
St Dennis House, Manor Close Melville Road, Ladywood, Birmingham	B16 9NE	21/11/2016
St Helier House, Manor Close Melville Road, Ladywood, Birmingham	B16 9NG	01/12/2016
St Lawrence House, Manor Close Melville Road, Ladywood, Birmingham	B16 9NQ	05/12/2016
St Michael House, Manor Close Melville Road, Ladywood, Birmingham	B16 9NF	15/12/2016
Summercourt House, 35 Bushwood Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham	B29 5AU	10/03/2017
Tenby Tower, 68 Willets Road, Northfield, Birmingham	B31 4BE	13/12/2016
Tennyson House, 140 Fairfax Road, Northfield, Birmingham	B31 3SE	08/03/2017
Teviot Tower, 34 Mosborough Crescent, Newtown, Birmingham	B19 3BX	09/05/2017
Thames Tower, 31 Cromwell Street, Nechells, Birmingham	B7 5BH	10/04/2017
Thirlmere House, 2 Roman Way, Edgbaston, Birmingham	B15 2SH	07/11/2016
Thistle House, 259 Bromford Drive, Bromford, Birmingham	B36 8RB	07/02/2017
Thornton House, 2 Ruddington Way, Newtown, Birmingham	B19 2QB	04/05/2017
Tintern House, 4 Selcroft Avenue, Quinton, Birmingham	B32 2BS	07/03/2017
Topfield House, 212 Druids Lane, Kings Heath, Birmingham	B14 5QU	08/12/2016
Trent Tower, 165 Duddleston Manor Road, Birmingham, West Midlands	B7 4JS	11/04/2017
Truro Tower, 2 Ledbury Close, Ladywood, Birmingham	B16 8RS	14/06/2017
Victor Tower, 1 Bloomsbury Street, Nechells, Birmingham	B7 5BX	05/04/2017
Waltham House, 1 Icknield Street, Kings Norton, Birmingham	B38 0AY	12/12/2016
Ward End House, 496 Washwood Heath Road, Birmingham	B8 2HE	06/02/2017
Wareham House, 32 Brompton Pool Road, Yardley Wood, Birmingham	B28 0SL	04/11/2017

City Council – 7 November 2017

Address	Postcode	Date Assessment undertaken
Warstone Tower, 160 Bromford Drive, Bromford, Birmingham	B36 8TU	28/04/2017
Wellington House, 33 Welsh House Farm Road, Quinton, Birmingham	B32 2ND	15/12/2016
Wellington Tower, 72 Willetts Road, Northfield, Birmingham	B31 4BQ	15/12/2016
Wells Tower, 52 Rodney Close, Ladywood, Birmingham	B16 8RU	21/06/2017
Wendover House, 2 Shifnal Walk, Northfield, Birmingham	B31 4EG	12/12/2016
Weston House, 40 Ruddington Way, Newtown, Birmingham	B19 2QJ	05/05/2017
Wheeldon House, Longley Crescent, South Yardley, Birmingham	B26 1DP	27/02/2017
Whitbourne House, 39 Clover Lea Square, Washwood Heath, Birmingham	B8 2DF	17/05/2017
Wickets Tower, 2 Wyatt Close, Birmingham, West Midlands	B5 7TJ	10/11/2016
Willow House, 140 Vauxhall Road, Nechells, Birmingham	B7 4HU	15/02/2017
Wilmcote Tower, 140 Upper Highgate Street, Highgate, Birmingham	B12 0XY	08/05/2017
Windermere House, 10 Vincent Drive, Edgbaston, Birmingham	B15 2SU	07/11/2016
Windsor House, 35 Jarvis Road, Stockland Green, Birmingham	B23 5RT	24/05/2017
Winslow House, 37 Bushwood Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham	B29 5AX	09/03/2017
Woodstock House, 181 Hollybank Road, Billesley, Birmingham	B13 0QX	15/12/2016
Wordsworth House, 120 Fairfax Road, Northfield, Birmingham	B31 3SF	14/12/2016
Wyrley House, 2 Scafell Drive, Stockland Green, Birmingham	B23 7AR	23/01/2017

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMES
FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT ALDEN**

F4 House build costs

Question:

For each type of dwelling (1 bed, 2 bed, 3 bed houses/bungalows/flats etc.) what is the average build cost for BMHT?

Answer:

The construction cost of new BMHT homes is commercially sensitive information which it would be inappropriate to disclose in the public forum of the Council Chamber. I would be happy to provide a private briefing to Councillor Alden.

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

F5 Eviction Orders

Question:

What is the approximate average cost to the Council of obtaining an Eviction order against a Council tenant along with the additional cost of obtaining a warrant where one is needed?

Answer:

We are making the assumption that an 'Eviction order' as stated above is what we refer to in the City as a possession order. We have to obtain a possession order of the property (the City's entitlement to apply for a warrant) before we can apply for a warrant for eviction.

The fees set by the County Courts for obtaining a possession order is as detailed below:

- Manual application fee is £355 (for non-secure tenants)
- Online application fee is £325 (completed for secure tenants).

Once a possession order is granted we can then apply for a warrant, court fees below:

- Warrant application fee is £121

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMES
FROM COUNCILLOR ALEX YIP**

F6 Commonwealth Games 2022

Question:

As a Member of Cabinet do you fully support Birmingham's bid for the Commonwealth Games 2022 and recognise the potential advantages it could bring for your portfolio?

Answer:

Yes.

This is a once in a generation opportunity for Birmingham that will hugely raise the profile of our city.

But this is about more than profile. The Games will create jobs, enhance prospects through volunteering opportunities and increase housing in the city.

The Games will promote physical activity in Birmingham and will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people from across the city, helping to address the problems of inactivity and obesity.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMES
FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN ALDEN**

F7 Cabinet time

Question:

How many hours a week on average do you spend on your work as a Cabinet Member?

Answer:

As many as are required in order to fulfil my Cabinet Member responsibilities and this inevitably extends to evenings and weekends.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMES
FROM COUNCILLOR PETER DOUGLAS OSBORNE**

F8 Sub-letting

Question:

How many Councillors have been given permission to sublet a room in their Council-owned property?

Answer:

Secure tenants have a right to take in a lodger without the landlord's consent. A lodger is someone who has a bedroom and shares other facilities with the tenant, such as the kitchen and bathroom.

Secure tenants also have the right to sublet **part** of their home but they must obtain our written permission first. This generally occurs where the tenant lives separately in the same property as someone who has 'exclusive rights' over part of the property, such as a self-contained bedroom, bathroom and kitchen. This is a rare scenario for our council properties, and therefore we receive very few permission requests.

There are some grey areas in the legal difference between a lodger and a sub-tenant. When council tenants rent out a spare room in most cases they will be taking in a lodger, which they will have a right to do without our permission.

These rules apply to all council tenants and we do not differentiate between Councillors and members of the public.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMES
FROM COUNCILLOR RON STORER**

F9 Barry Jackson Tower

Question:

Further to the Cabinet report of 15 August, when was the planning application for the renovation of Barry Jackson tower submitted (or when will it be submitted)?

Answer:

A pre-application for change of use of the Tower was submitted on 19 October 2017. The architects, on behalf of BCC and the contractor, are liaising with Planning colleagues in relation to the proposed change of use of the block.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMES
FROM COUNCILLOR FERGUS ROBINSON**

F10 Barry Jackson Tower 2

Question:

Which residents, resident groups and other community stakeholders have already been consulted with regard to the renovation of Barry Jackson tower?

Answer:

So far there have been two meetings arranged for local residents to give information on the new use of the tower as a Supported Living Centre. These were held at the local school on a weekday evening and a Saturday respectively. Letters advising of the meetings were delivered to all properties within a 100 metre radius of Barry Jackson Tower. Attendees included local residents, as well as some religious leaders and members of local residents' groups.

I have also met with a delegation of resident representatives, supported by local ward members.

Local community stakeholders will be contacted and invited to meet with council representatives separately if they would like to. Future updates will be given via an email bulletin and attendance at local resident groups' meetings etc, if desired.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMES
FROM COUNCILLOR ROB SEALEY**

F11 Barry Jackson Tower 3

Question:

With regard to the renovation of Barry Jackson Tower, has consultation to date been made available in multilingual formats (and will consultation in the future be)?

Answer:

To date information in relation to Barry Jackson Tower has not been provided in multilingual formats. This is as per City Council policy following national changes in legislative requirements, due to the potential number of languages spoken.

Generally, most households are able to read and understand correspondence including through assistance by family members or friends, and there is low demand experienced in respect of requests for translation assistance.

If, however, any residents require support with understanding current or future consultation, then this can of course be arranged and will be made available.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR JOBS AND SKILLS
FROM COUNCILLOR ALEX YIP**

G1 Commonwealth Games 2022

Question:

As a Member of Cabinet do you fully support Birmingham's bid for the Commonwealth Games 2022 and recognise the potential advantages it could bring for your portfolio?

Answer:

Yes.

This is a once in a generation opportunity for Birmingham that will hugely raise the profile of our city.

But this is about more than profile. The Games will create jobs, enhance prospects through volunteering opportunities and increase housing in the city, and I am fully aware of the potential for development in terms of jobs and skills in Birmingham and the wider region.

The Games will promote physical activity in Birmingham and will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people from across the city, helping to address the problems of inactivity and obesity.

The opportunity to train over 10,000 volunteers, many of whom will receive an accredited qualification, is a once in a generation opportunity, and one which will go some way towards closing both the skills and employment gap in Birmingham.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR JOBS AND SKILLS
FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN ALDEN**

G2 Cabinet time

Question:

How many hours a week on average do you spend on your work as a Cabinet Member?

Answer:

As many as are required in order to fulfil my Cabinet Member responsibilities and this inevitably extends to evenings and weekends.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPARENCY,
OPENNESS AND EQUALITY FROM COUNCILLOR EWAN MACKEY**

H1 Written Questions vs FOI

Question:

In response to written question E16 at September's full Council meeting, information was provided that, according to one prominent local journalist had been refused to him the week earlier under Freedom of Information because it was 'not in the public interest' to release it. Why are the standards for public interest transparency different for FOI and written questions?

Answer:

The position is that the request submitted by the local journalist under the FOIA was not refused. The Council recognises that the FOIA gives a right of access to information that public authorities hold, but it also contains several possible exemptions from that right, which are listed in the Act.

Some of these exemptions require the public authority to consider the balance of public interest in deciding whether to withhold the information; these are known as 'qualified' exemptions. Others do not; these are known as 'absolute' exemptions.

Where qualified exemptions are considered applicable, the law states public authorities can have a "reasonable" extension of time to consider the public interest test. This is normally no more than an extra 20 working days, which is 40 working days in total to deal with the request.

In line with the requirements of the Act, the journalist was advised on 6th September, during the compliance period (20 working days) for the FOI request, the public authority wishes to withhold information under a qualified exemption and claim extra time for the public interest test.

Under the FOIA, carrying out the public interest test, means that a public authority must decide whether the public interest is better served by maintaining the exemption (and hence withholding the information) or by disclosing the information.

In the meantime, a written question was submitted to Council on 12th September. Due to an unfortunate breakdown in communication, the fact that a similar question was being considered by the FOI team was overlooked. The written response should ideally have taken account of that and a response similar to that provided to the journalist should have been submitted to Council, especially as the ongoing checks were being made regarding the public interest aspect of the question posed.

However, as the full response was provided at Council, the public interest test is now no longer necessary as the information sought by the journalist was publically released at September's Full Council meeting. Going forward, we will investigate how to improve our processes to avoid this reoccurring.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPARENCY,
OPENNESS AND EQUALITY FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN ALDEN**

H2 Cabinet time

Question:

How many hours a week on average do you spend on your work as a Cabinet Member?

Answer:

As many as are required in order to fulfil my Cabinet Member responsibilities and this inevitably extends to evenings and weekends.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPARENCY,
OPENNESS AND EQUALITY FROM COUNCILLOR ALEX YIP**

I13 Commonwealth Games 2022

Question:

As a member of Cabinet do you fully support Birmingham's bid for the Commonwealth Games 2022 and recognise the potential advantages it could bring for your portfolio?

Answer:

Yes.

This is a once in a generation opportunity for Birmingham that will hugely raise the profile of our city.

But this is about more than profile. The Games will create jobs, enhance prospects through volunteering opportunities and increase housing in the city.

The Games will promote physical activity in Birmingham and will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people from across the city, helping to address the problems of inactivity and obesity.

I also believe the games have the potential to have a positive impact on community cohesion in our city.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND
ROADS FROM COUNCILLOR TIM HUXTABLE**

I1 Walk this way

Question:

**What is the latest situation with the previously proposed pedestrian walkway
between New Street and Moor Street stations?**

Answer:

Proposals to enhance the pedestrian walkway between New Street and Moor Street stations are currently being taken forward as part of the Moor Street Queensway study, which considers the wider impacts of HS2 on public transport, pedestrian, cycle and general access in this locality. It also considers how the A34 and A38 cycle routes will be linked in this area.

This study will incorporate work previously undertaken for the 'One Station' project and develop a set of proposals for implementation ahead of the opening of HS2 in 2026.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND
ROADS FROM COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE ALDEN**

I2 Wellington Road

Question:

When were right turns (out of town) from the A38 Bristol Road into Wellington Road, Edgbaston B15 originally banned, and what was the reason for this?

Answer:

The banned turn off the A38 Bristol Road into Wellington Road became effective on 3rd October 1971. The Council does not retain scheme records dating back to this period, so I am unable to confirm the reason for it.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND
ROADS FROM COUNCILLOR ALEX YIP**

I3 Commonwealth Games 2022

Question:

As a Member of Cabinet do you fully support Birmingham's bid for the Commonwealth Games 2022 and recognise the potential advantages it could bring for your portfolio?

Answer:

The decision taken by Cabinet on 15 August 2017 agreed to submit a formal bid to the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) to host the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

The report outlined the potential advantages and benefits from hosting the Games. These included:

The acceleration of regeneration and rejuvenation of the city i.e.

- Delivering the Games Village will bring forward the building of over 900 new homes up to the Games rising to 3000 units post Games.
- It will regenerate the whole of the Perry Barr area, not just through new homes, but from considerable environmental improvements, an improved and refurbished Alexander Stadium and a legacy of improved community facilities post Games.

The acceleration and delivery of the proposed transport infrastructure improvements including improvements to local railway stations near Games venues, including:

- A new Sprint (Bus Rapid Transit) service on A34 to Walsall and A45 to the Airport and Solihull.
- Birmingham Cycle Revolution infrastructure on A34 and A38.
- Metro Link to Five Ways and Edgbaston.

It will create an estimated 22,632 jobs over 5 years with an economic benefit GVA of £526m (PwC August 2017).

There is an estimated £92m visitor spend and 1.5 billion TV audience during the Games, generating a tourism legacy of an estimated 20% increase in overseas visitors post Games.

There will be a step change in improvements to public transport and active travel, moving people from the car to more environmentally sustainable modes of transport.

In addition to the built legacy of the village, stadium and improvements to sports training venues, there will be a programme of physical activity interventions, based on well tested methods through work completed with Sport England and the Council's Wellbeing Service. This will focus on youth, diversity and deprived communities to close the gap on health inequalities, create a sense of belonging, community pride and cohesion. This will be linked to a cultural programme which will include an urban streets

festival and the city's cultural gems, bringing sport and culture together in our squares, parks, streets and live sites across the region.

Linked to this, there will be a requirement for 12,500 volunteers for the Games, 3000 of which will be targeted at local communities, to encourage citizens to make a contribution, that will be recorded and accredited and help develop transferable life skills into the work place and making the most of opportunities through the apprenticeship levy.

It will provide an unrivalled opportunity for the education sector to inspire pupils by delivering exciting and engaging learning programmes across the curriculum. In addition it will provide recruitment opportunities for the higher education sector to attract overseas students, staff and research contracts.

In summary, the Games will provide an unrivalled opportunity for Birmingham and the wider Midlands region to:

- deliver sustainable, inclusive economic growth, including through tourism;
- enhance the lives of its citizens through community cohesion, health and education initiatives, and environmental enhancements
- drive international recruitment of students and staff into higher education, bringing skills and knowledge and adding to the city's cultural diversity
- Improving community cohesion, and citizenship
- create a legacy of closer public sector partnership working for mutual benefit

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND
ROADS FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN ALDEN**

I4 Cabinet time

Question:

How many hours a week on average do you spend on your work as a Cabinet Member?

Answer:

A lot.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VALUE FOR MONEY
AND EFFICIENCY FROM COUNCILLOR ALEX YIP**

J1 Commonwealth Games 2022

Question:

As a member of Cabinet, do you fully support Birmingham's bid for the Commonwealth Games 2022 and recognise the potential advantages it could bring for your portfolio?

Answer:

Yes.

This is a once in a generation opportunity for Birmingham that will hugely raise the profile of our city.

But this is about more than profile. The Games will create jobs, enhance prospects through volunteering opportunities and increase housing in the city.

The Games will promote physical activity in Birmingham and will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people from across the city, helping to address the problems of inactivity and obesity.

There is also a huge opportunity to illicit social value in some of our contract opportunities associated with the Commonwealth Games which will inevitably lead to more people receiving the Real Living Wage, and a potential increase in Commercial opportunities for the City Council jointly with our partners.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VALUE FOR MONEY
AND EFFICIENCY FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN ALDEN**

J2 Cabinet time

Question:

How many hours a week on average do you spend on your work as a Cabinet Member?

Answer:

As many as are required in order to fulfil my Cabinet Member responsibilities and this inevitably extends to evenings and weekends.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VALUE FOR MONEY
AND EFFICIENCY FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT ALDEN**

J3 Lessons Learnt

Question:

Can lessons learnt from procurement processes this year be brought to either Cabinet or Council in December?

Answer:

It is the role of Overview and Scrutiny to hold the Executive to account and it therefore remains my intention to include this in my annual update report to the Corporate Resources and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee in March when the lessons learned from the full year will be known.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VALUE FOR MONEY
AND EFFICIENCY FROM COUNCILLOR RANDAL BREW**

J4 Hydrogen Bus Shortfall

Question:

Where is the £2.44m shortfall identified in the Cabinet report of 24 October on Hydrogen Buses coming from?

Answer:

There is no shortfall. The cost of the project is as follows:

Hydrogen buses	£11.000m
TFL	£ 1.340m
ITM Power	£ 1.000m
BCC	£ 0.100m
Total	£13.440m

As set out in the Cabinet report the project will be funded by (rounded figures):

OLEV	£ 3.814m
FCHJU	£ 4.141m
GBSLEP	£ 2.156m
Bus Operator minimum contribution	£ 3.289m
Future Council Programme	£ 0.040m
Total	£13.440m

The Hydrogen bus element of £11m will be funded as follows:

OLEV	£ 1.4740m
FCHJU	£ 4.0808m
GBSLEP	£ 2.1562m
Bus Operator minimum contribution	£ 3.2890m

The TFL, ITM Power and BCC element of £2.44m will be funded as follows:

OLEV	£ 2.340m
FCHJU	£ 0.060m
Future Council Programme	£ 0.040m

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF PLANNING COMMITTEE FROM
COUNCILLOR JON HUNT**

K1 Efficiency of Planning Department

Question:

Could the Chair of Planning set out what measures the government could undertake to improve the efficiency of the planning department?

Answer:

This really needs to be set in the context of performance over the past few years, and the department has a good record of high performance over that period, comparing favourably with all other Local Planning Authorities and in particular the core cities and neighbouring authorities.

Two of the main barriers to maintaining these high levels are the regular changes in legislation and, of course, available resources.

It would be helpful, therefore, if the Government could resist the regular changes to legislation, the majority of which shift control away from Local Authorities and give developers greater scope. This has generally not resulted in less work, often requiring greater administration, process change and scrutiny, but has also resulted in lower fee income.

It would also be helpful if the Government could expedite the promised fee increase, originally expected in early summer, which would go some way to resourcing sufficient staff to maintain the high levels of efficiency and performance that we have been able to maintain in recent years.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF PLANNING COMMITTEE FROM
COUNCILLOR SUE ANDERSON**

K2 Training in neighbourhood planning

Question:

Earlier in the year the Chair of Planning was asked if Planning Committee members had undertaken training in neighbourhood planning. Has any training of that kind taken place?

Answer:

Planning Committee Members are required to undertake an annual training session for the work that falls within their direct remit. I can confirm that this has taken place, with a passing reference to Neighbourhood Planning.

There are, however, officers within the department who have offered more specific training to Members whose areas are, or may be, directly affected by local Neighbourhood Plans.

This has been undertaken with the Sutton Town Council, and with the Beeches Booths and Barr Neighbourhood Forum, and can be made available for any other Members, whether or not they sit on Planning Committee.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE ACOCKS GREEN WARD FORUM
FROM COUNCILLOR PETER DOUGLAS OSBORN**

L Commonwealth Games 2022

Question:

As Chair of a Ward Forum, do you fully support Birmingham's bid for the Commonwealth Games 2022 and recognise the potential advantages it could bring for your area?

Answer:

Yes.

This is a once in a generation opportunity for Birmingham that will hugely raise the profile of our city.

But this is about more than profile. The Games will create jobs, enhance prospects through volunteering opportunities and increase housing in the city.

The Games will promote physical activity in Birmingham and will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people from across the city, helping to address the problems of inactivity and obesity.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE ASTON WARD FORUM FROM
COUNCILLOR PETER DOUGLAS OSBORN**

M1 Commonwealth Games 2022

Question:

As Chair of a Ward Forum, do you fully support Birmingham's bid for the Commonwealth Games 2022 and recognise the potential advantages it could bring for your area?

Answer:

Yes.

This is a once in a generation opportunity for Birmingham that will hugely raise the profile of our city.

But this is about more than profile. The Games will create jobs, enhance prospects through volunteering opportunities and increase housing in the city.

The Games will promote physical activity in Birmingham and will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people from across the city, helping to address the problems of inactivity and obesity.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE ASTON WARD FORUM FROM
COUNCILLOR RON STORER**

M2 Ward Forum

Question:

Can the Chair inform me of the dates of the last three Ward Forums and whether the future of the Barry Jackson tower was raised at any of them.

Answer:

Aston Ward Forum meetings were held on 12th January 2017 and 12th April 2017. Barry Jackson Tower was not raised at either meeting. It was discussed at the meeting on 2nd November 2017.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE BILLESLEY WARD FORUM FROM
COUNCILLOR PETER DOUGLAS OSBORN**

N Commonwealth Games 2022

Question:

As Chair of a Ward Forum, do you fully support Birmingham's bid for the Commonwealth Games 2022 and recognise the potential advantages it could bring for your area?

Answer:

Yes.

This is a once in a generation opportunity for Birmingham that will hugely raise the profile of our city.

But this is about more than profile. The Games will create jobs, enhance prospects through volunteering opportunities and increase housing in the city.

The Games will promote physical activity in Birmingham and will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people from across the city, helping to address the problems of inactivity and obesity.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE BORDESLEY GREEN WARD
FORUM FROM COUNCILLOR PETER DOUGLAS OSBORNE**

O Commonwealth Games 2022

Question:

As Chair of a Ward Forum, do you fully support Birmingham's bid for the Commonwealth Games 2022 and recognise the potential advantages it could bring for your area?

Answer:

Yes.

This is a once in a generation opportunity for Birmingham that will hugely raise the profile of our city.

But this is about more than profile. The Games will create jobs, enhance prospects through volunteering opportunities and increase housing in the city.

The Games will promote physical activity in Birmingham and will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people from across the city, helping to address the problems of inactivity and obesity.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE BRANDWOOD WARD FORUM
FROM COUNCILLOR PETER DOUGLAS OSBORN**

P Commonwealth Games 2022

Question:

As Chair of a Ward Forum, do you fully support Birmingham's bid for the Commonwealth Games 2022 and recognise the potential advantages it could bring for your area?

Answer:

Yes.

This is a once in a generation opportunity for Birmingham that will hugely raise the profile of our city.

But this is about more than profile. The Games will create jobs, enhance prospects through volunteering opportunities and increase housing in the city.

The Games will promote physical activity in Birmingham and will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people from across the city, helping to address the problems of inactivity and obesity.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE HALL GREEN WARD FORUM
FROM COUNCILLOR PETER DOUGLAS OSBORN**

Q Commonwealth Games 2022

Question:

As Chair of a Ward Forum, do you fully support Birmingham's bid for the Commonwealth Games 2022 and recognise the potential advantages it could bring for your area?

Answer:

Yes.

This is a once in a generation opportunity for Birmingham that will hugely raise the profile of our city.

But this is about more than profile. The Games will create jobs, enhance prospects through volunteering opportunities and increase housing in the city.

The Games will promote physical activity in Birmingham and will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people from across the city, helping to address the problems of inactivity and obesity.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE HANDSWORTH WOOD WARD
FORUM FROM COUNCILLOR PETER DOUGLAS OSBORN**

R Commonwealth Games 2022

Question:

As Chair of a Ward Forum, do you fully support Birmingham's bid for the Commonwealth Games 2022 and recognise the potential advantages it could bring for your area?

Answer:

Yes.

This is a once in a generation opportunity for Birmingham that will hugely raise the profile of our city.

But this is about more than profile. The Games will create jobs, enhance prospects through volunteering opportunities and increase housing in the city.

The Games will promote physical activity in Birmingham and will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people from across the city, helping to address the problems of inactivity and obesity

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE HARBORNE WARD FORUM FROM
COUNCILLOR PETER DOUGLAS OSBORN**

S Commonwealth Games 2022

Question:

As Chair of a Ward Forum, do you fully support Birmingham's bid for the Commonwealth Games 2022 and recognise the potential advantages it could bring for your area?

Answer:

Yes.

This is a once in a generation opportunity for Birmingham that will hugely raise the profile of our city.

But this is about more than profile. The Games will create jobs, enhance prospects through volunteering opportunities and increase housing in the city.

The Games will promote physical activity in Birmingham and will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people from across the city, helping to address the problems of inactivity and obesity.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE HODGE HILL WARD FORUM
FROM COUNCILLOR PETER DOUGLAS OSBORN**

T Commonwealth Games 2022

Question:

As Chair of a Ward Forum, do you fully support Birmingham's bid for the Commonwealth Games 2022 and recognise the potential advantages it could bring for your area?

Answer:

Yes.

This is a once in a generation opportunity for Birmingham that will hugely raise the profile of our city.

But this is about more than profile. The Games will create jobs, enhance prospects through volunteering opportunities and increase housing in the city.

The Games will promote physical activity in Birmingham and will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people from across the city, helping to address the problems of inactivity and obesity.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE KINGS NORTON WARD FORUM
FROM COUNCILLOR PETER DOUGLAS OSBORN**

U Commonwealth Games 2022

Question:

As Chair of a Ward Forum, do you fully support Birmingham's bid for the Commonwealth Games 2022 and recognise the potential advantages it could bring for your area?

Answer:

Yes.

This is a once in a generation opportunity for Birmingham that will hugely raise the profile of our city.

But this is about more than profile. The Games will create jobs, enhance prospects through volunteering opportunities and increase housing in the city.

The Games will promote physical activity in Birmingham and will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people from across the city, helping to address the problems of inactivity and obesity.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE LADYWOOD WARD FORUM
FROM COUNCILLOR PETER DOUGLAS OSBORN**

V Commonwealth Games 2022

Question:

As Chair of a Ward Forum, do you fully support Birmingham's bid for the Commonwealth Games 2022 and recognise the potential advantages it could bring for your area?

Answer:

Yes.

This is a once in a generation opportunity for Birmingham that will hugely raise the profile of our city.

But this is about more than profile. The Games will create jobs, enhance prospects through volunteering opportunities and increase housing in the city.

The Games will promote physical activity in Birmingham and will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people from across the city, helping to address the problems of inactivity and obesity.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE LONGBRIDGE WARD FORUM
FROM COUNCILLOR PETER DOUGLAS OSBORN**

W Commonwealth Games 2022

Question:

As Chair of a Ward Forum, do you fully support Birmingham's bid for the Commonwealth Games 2022 and recognise the potential advantages it could bring for your area?

Answer:

Yes.

This is a once in a generation opportunity for Birmingham that will hugely raise the profile of our city.

But this is about more than profile. The Games will create jobs, enhance prospects through volunteering opportunities and increase housing in the city.

The Games will promote physical activity in Birmingham and will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people from across the city, helping to address the problems of inactivity and obesity.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE LOZELLS AND EAST
HANDSWORTH WARD FORUM FROM COUNCILLOR PETER DOUGLAS
OSBORN**

X Commonwealth Games 2022

Question:

As Chair of a Ward Forum, do you fully support Birmingham's bid for the Commonwealth Games 2022 and recognise the potential advantages it could bring for your area?

Answer:

Yes.

This is a once in a generation opportunity for Birmingham that will hugely raise the profile of our city.

But this is about more than profile. The Games will create jobs, enhance prospects through volunteering opportunities and increase housing in the city.

The Games will promote physical activity in Birmingham and will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people from across the city, helping to address the problems of inactivity and obesity.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE MOSELEY AND KINGS HEATH
WARD FORUM FROM COUNCILLOR PETER DOUGLAS OSBORN**

Y Commonwealth Games 2022

Question:

As Chair of a Ward Forum, do you fully support Birmingham's bid for the Commonwealth Games 2022 and recognise the potential advantages it could bring for your area?

Answer:

Yes.

This is a once in a generation opportunity for Birmingham that will hugely raise the profile of our city.

But this is about more than profile. The Games will create jobs, enhance prospects through volunteering opportunities and increase housing in the city.

The Games will promote physical activity in Birmingham and will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people from across the city, helping to address the problems of inactivity and obesity.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE NECHELLS WARD FORUM FROM
COUNCILLOR PETER DOUGLAS OSBORN**

Z Commonwealth Games 2022

Question:

As Chair of a Ward Forum, do you fully support Birmingham's bid for the Commonwealth Games 2022 and recognise the potential advantages it could bring for your area?

Answer:

Yes.

This is a once in a generation opportunity for Birmingham that will hugely raise the profile of our city.

But this is about more than profile. The Games will create jobs, enhance prospects through volunteering opportunities and increase housing in the city.

The Games will promote physical activity in Birmingham and will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people from across the city, helping to address the problems of inactivity and obesity.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE QUINTON WARD FORUM FROM
COUNCILLOR PETER DOUGLAS OSBORN**

AA Commonwealth Games 2022

Question:

As Chair of a Ward Forum, do you fully support Birmingham's bid for the Commonwealth Games 2022 and recognise the potential advantages it could bring for your area?

Answer:

Yes.

This is a once in a generation opportunity for Birmingham that will hugely raise the profile of our city.

But this is about more than profile. The Games will create jobs, enhance prospects through volunteering opportunities and increase housing in the city.

The Games will promote physical activity in Birmingham and will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people from across the city, helping to address the problems of inactivity and obesity.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE SELLY OAK WARD FORUM FROM
COUNCILLOR PETER DOUGLAS OSBORN**

BB Commonwealth Games 2022

Question:

As Chair of a Ward Forum, do you fully support Birmingham's bid for the Commonwealth Games 2022 and recognise the potential advantages it could bring for your area?

Answer:

Yes.

This is a once in a generation opportunity for Birmingham that will hugely raise the profile of our city.

But this is about more than profile. The Games will create jobs, enhance prospects through volunteering opportunities and increase housing in the city.

The Games will promote physical activity in Birmingham and will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people from across the city, helping to address the problems of inactivity and obesity.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE NECHELLS WARD FORUM FROM
COUNCILLOR PETER DOUGLAS OSBORN**

CC Commonwealth Games 2022

Question:

As Chair of a Ward Forum, do you fully support Birmingham's bid for the Commonwealth Games 2022 and recognise the potential advantages it could bring for your area?

Answer:

Yes.

This is a once in a generation opportunity for Birmingham that will hugely raise the profile of our city.

But this is about more than profile. The Games will create jobs, enhance prospects through volunteering opportunities and increase housing in the city.

The Games will promote physical activity in Birmingham and will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people from across the city, helping to address the problems of inactivity and obesity.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE SOHO WARD FORUM FROM
COUNCILLOR PETER DOUGLAS OSBORN**

DD Commonwealth Games 2022

Question:

As Chair of a Ward Forum, do you fully support Birmingham's bid for the Commonwealth Games 2022 and recognise the potential advantages it could bring for your area?

Answer:

Yes.

This is a once in a generation opportunity for Birmingham that will hugely raise the profile of our city.

But this is about more than profile. The Games will create jobs, enhance prospects through volunteering opportunities and increase housing in the city.

The Games will promote physical activity in Birmingham and will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people from across the city, helping to address the problems of inactivity and obesity.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE SOUTH YARDLEY WARD FORUM
FROM COUNCILLOR PETER DOUGLAS OSBORN**

EE Commonwealth Games 2022

Question:

As Chair of a Ward Forum, do you fully support Birmingham's bid for the Commonwealth Games 2022 and recognise the potential advantages it could bring for your area?

Answer:

Yes.

This is a once in a generation opportunity for Birmingham that will hugely raise the profile of our city.

But this is about more than profile. The Games will create jobs, enhance prospects through volunteering opportunities and increase housing in the city.

The Games will promote physical activity in Birmingham and will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people from across the city, helping to address the problems of inactivity and obesity.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE NECHELLS WARD FORUM FROM
COUNCILLOR PETER DOUGLAS OSBORN**

FF Commonwealth Games 2022

Question:

As Chair of a Ward Forum, do you fully support Birmingham's bid for the Commonwealth Games 2022 and recognise the potential advantages it could bring for your area?

Answer:

Yes.

This is a once in a generation opportunity for Birmingham that will hugely raise the profile of our city.

But this is about more than profile. The Games will create jobs, enhance prospects through volunteering opportunities and increase housing in the city.

The Games will promote physical activity in Birmingham and will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people from across the city, helping to address the problems of inactivity and obesity.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE SPRINGFIELD WARD FORUM
FROM COUNCILLOR PETER DOUGLAS OSBORN**

GG Commonwealth Games 2022

Question:

As Chair of a Ward Forum, do you fully support Birmingham's bid for the Commonwealth Games 2022 and recognise the potential advantages it could bring for your area?

Answer:

Yes.

This is a once in a generation opportunity for Birmingham that will hugely raise the profile of our city.

But this is about more than profile. The Games will create jobs, enhance prospects through volunteering opportunities and increase housing in the city.

The Games will promote physical activity in Birmingham and will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people from across the city, helping to address the problems of inactivity and obesity.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE STOCKLAND GREEN WARD
FORUM FROM COUNCILLOR PETER DOUGLAS OSBORN**

HH Commonwealth Games 2022

Question:

As Chair of a Ward Forum, do you fully support Birmingham's bid for the Commonwealth Games 2022 and recognise the potential advantages it could bring for your area?

Answer:

Yes.

This is a once in a generation opportunity for Birmingham that will hugely raise the profile of our city.

But this is about more than profile. The Games will create jobs, enhance prospects through volunteering opportunities and increase housing in the city.

The Games will promote physical activity in Birmingham and will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people from across the city, helping to address the problems of inactivity and obesity.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE NECHELLS WARD FORUM FROM
COUNCILLOR PETER DOUGLAS OSBORN**

II Commonwealth Games 2022

Question:

As Chair of a Ward Forum, do you fully support Birmingham's bid for the Commonwealth Games 2022 and recognise the potential advantages it could bring for your area?

Answer:

Yes.

This is a once in a generation opportunity for Birmingham that will hugely raise the profile of our city.

But this is about more than profile. The Games will create jobs, enhance prospects through volunteering opportunities and increase housing in the city.

The Games will promote physical activity in Birmingham and will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people from across the city, helping to address the problems of inactivity and obesity.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE WASHWOOD HEATH WARD
FORUM FROM COUNCILLOR PETER DOUGLAS OSBORN**

JJ Commonwealth Games 2022

Question:

As Chair of a Ward Forum, do you fully support Birmingham's bid for the Commonwealth Games 2022 and recognise the potential advantages it could bring for your area?

Answer:

Yes.

This is a once in a generation opportunity for Birmingham that will hugely raise the profile of our city.

But this is about more than profile. The Games will create jobs, enhance prospects through volunteering opportunities and increase housing in the city.

The Games will promote physical activity in Birmingham and will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people from across the city, helping to address the problems of inactivity and obesity.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE WEOLEY WARD FORUM FROM
COUNCILLOR PETER DOUGLAS OSBORN**

KK Commonwealth Games 2022

Question:

As Chair of a Ward Forum, do you fully support Birmingham's bid for the Commonwealth Games 2022 and recognise the potential advantages it could bring for your area?

Answer:

Yes.

This is a once in a generation opportunity for Birmingham that will hugely raise the profile of our city.

But this is about more than profile. The Games will create jobs, enhance prospects through volunteering opportunities and increase housing in the city.

The Games will promote physical activity in Birmingham and will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of people from across the city, helping to address the problems of inactivity and obesity.

REPORT OF THE IMPROVEMENT QUARTET: LEADER, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND CORPORATE DIRECTOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE AND EDUCATION: IMPROVEMENT AND CHALLENGES

The motion:

The Council welcomes and notes progress in children's social care and in education, and notes progress on the voluntary trust arrangement for children's services.

1. Introduction

At the meeting of the Council on 1 December 2015 it was agreed that there would be a six-monthly report to Council on progress in children's social care and in education. This is the fourth of these reports. Council is asked to note that the improvement journeys in both children's social care and education continue with a clear evidence trail.

2. Leadership of Children and Young People's Services

In April 2017, a Director of Children's Services – Colin Diamond – was appointed to continue the improvement journeys for children's social care and education. In August 2017 a new Chief Executive of the Children's Trust – Andy Couldrick – took up post.

3. Children's Social Care

3.1 Background

Long term difficulties and underperformance in children's social care led to significant investment and savings plans for the service, a clear and consistent operational model, the establishment of clear lines of accountability through the "Quartet", and changes to partnership approaches.

Cabinet agreed in January 2017 to set up a Children's Trust to develop and sustain good practice with a single focus on improving outcomes for Birmingham's most disadvantaged children and families against a backdrop of financial pressures. The Trust is seen as a vehicle to be able to attract and retain social workers, offer a career progression pathway, and ensure good working conditions where staff are well managed and supported.

The service now has a clear and consistent structure, a stable management group and reduced staff turnover. It responded well to the Ofsted full inspection in September 2016 without service disruption, and there is growing confidence in and evidence of purposeful direct work with children and families.

3.2 Ofsted inspection 2016

Ofsted conducted a full inspection of Birmingham children's social care in September/October 2016. Ofsted judged that the Council remained 'inadequate' overall but with three areas rated as 'requires improvement' (looked after children, care leavers, and adoption). Ofsted could see improvement but there was often delay (some historic) in cases getting through the front door. In response to the inspection there has been continued development, with partners, of the front door to make referral easier and to be more responsive, and a drive to improve our work with partners for children at risk of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and who go missing from home or care.

3.3 Ofsted monitoring visits 2017

Ofsted carried out a monitoring visit in May focusing on our front door and on CSE and missing children. They found:

- Birmingham children's services have made steady progress;
- although substantial further progress is required before services are consistently good, in a number of key areas children in Birmingham are receiving better and timelier services and this represents notable progress;
- from a low base, focused efforts by the Council and its partners have improved the quality of services for young people at risk of sexual exploitation or who go missing; and
- good morale amongst the staff they met with.

The second monitoring visit in September focused on the service for children with disabilities and on child in need cases in safeguarding teams. The visit found:

- visible improvement since the full inspection a year ago;
- a more stable workforce, manageable caseloads, more evidence of direct work with families;
- children regularly visited and seen and social workers building relationships with them;
- management oversight was evident at the start and sign off of assessments but not always sufficiently challenging or reflective;
- in most cases seen there was evidence of appropriate multiagency work and relationships, but not consistently evident and effective; and
- social workers were positive about training and tools available to them.

In summary, there has been good progress: social workers have a child focus, they are reviewing and moving plans on, seeing children regularly, and there were no unallocated cases. Ofsted saw confident and engaged social workers.

3.4 Children's Trust

In January 2017 the Council's Cabinet formally agreed the establishment of a Trust as a wholly owned company. Since then:

- there has been engagement with staff, trade unions and partners, and work on clarifying Trust scope and funding requirements;

- Andrew Christie has been appointed Trust Chair in accordance with the all-party appointments procedures of the Council;
- the Trust Chief Executive has been recruited and started on 14 August 2017;
- six non-executive directors have been appointed, one of whom is a Council-appointee; and
- governance, accountability and assurance arrangements have been prepared. Subject to testing and refinement during the shadow period, these will form the basis of a Service Delivery Contract between the Council and the Trust.

Partners have indicated support for the Trust as an opportunity for better integration and collaborative working. Recognising that the Trust would be part of a wider system of agencies and partners which share the aim of securing better outcomes for children and young people, there is a commitment to building stronger relationships and behaviours around a shared vision, values, and leadership of the system. This will include the work to establish a Children and Young People Partnership to enable a more effective system-wide approach to issues that require combined and coordinated responses from all partners.

3.5 Workforce

Throughout this process there has been recognition of the importance of staff and managers delivering the service not being destabilised or distracted. The service has remained calm and stable during Children's Trust discussions and it has responded well to Ofsted scrutiny. Staff remain enthusiastic and committed.

Recruitment and retention remains a key issue including improving the quality and capacity of the workforce. Agency staff numbers have fallen by about 40 to 20% in the last 6 months, but it is still proving difficult to recruit and retain experienced social workers because of the limitations of the Council's current pay scheme. It is intended that the Children's Trust will enable greater focus and flexibility in workforce matters.

4. Education

4.1 Background

In September 2014, the Secretary of State appointed Sir Mike Tomlinson as Education Commissioner in response to the issues that emerged following publication of the Trojan Horse letter and 21 Ofsted inspections of academies and schools. From September 2014 until July 2016, the Education Quartet met fortnightly and Sir Mike was able to report to the Secretary of State and the Council's Chief Executive that there had been rapid progress alongside the capacity to improve further. The Education Commissioner's tenure was ended by the Secretary of State in July 2016.

At the heart of the recovery journey has been the establishment of effective partnerships following the isolation and fractured working relationships that were a feature of the Trojan Horse years. The Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP), a headteacher-led organisation, now works with the Council to deliver its school improvement duties via a 3 year contract. The Council now knows all schools in the city much better and the quality of targeted intervention in vulnerable schools has improved strongly.

Schools are no longer isolated and vulnerable to pressures from non-violent extremism. Headteachers are well supported by officers to ensure that pressures to alter the curriculum

or introduce socially conservative practices are dealt with effectively. The Birmingham Curriculum Statement is clear that all pupils in the city must receive the full curriculum offer. The Council meets monthly with BEP, DfE/Regional Schools Commissioner, and Ofsted to ensure a joined up approach to working with maintained schools, academies/free schools, and independent schools.

Communications with schools have improved significantly: the weekly Schools Noticeboard is published every Thursday during term time. It is the principal single point of contact every week and typically contains over 40 pages of information with a weekly message from the Director. Red Noticeboards are sent to schools when we need to share information urgently such as following terrorist attacks in London and Manchester. Termly Headteacher meetings have improved with greater numbers of schools attending and positive evaluations. Schools are clear about the role of Birmingham City Council via the Core Offer for education.

4.2 Current Ofsted position

A key element of the BEP contract is to support schools in raising standards and securing positive judgements following an inspection.

LA Maintained

Phase	Total Schools	Outstanding		Good		Requires Improvement		Inadequate		Good/Outstanding		Special Measures	
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Nursery	27	14	52%	13	48%	0	0%	0	0%	27	100%	0	0%
Primary	189	38	20%	125	66%	19	10%	7	4%	163	86%	7	4%
Secondary	26	7	27%	12	46%	3	12%	4	15%	19	73%	4	15%
All Through	2	1	50%	0	0%	0	0%	1	50%	1	50%	1	50%
Special	24	12	50%	8	33%	3	13%	1	4%	20	83%	1	4%
PRU / Alternate Provision	1	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%	0	0%
Total	269	72	27%	159	59%	25	9%	13	5%	231	86%	13	5%

All Academies (including Free schools)

Phase	Total Schools	Outstanding		Good		Requires Improvement		Inadequate		Good/Outstanding		Special Measures	
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Nursery	0	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Primary	109	18	17%	58	53%	27	25%	6	6%	76	70%	6	6%
Secondary	52	20	38%	22	42%	6	12%	4	8%	42	81%	2	4%
All Through	2	1	50%	0	0%	0	0%	1	50%	1	50%	1	50%
Special	3	1	33%	1	33%	0	0%	1	33%	2	67%	1	33%
PRU / Alternate Provision	4	0	0%	3	75%	0	0%	1	25%	3	75%	1	25%
Total	170	40	24%	84	49%	33	19%	13	8%	124	73%	11	6%

The above table includes all open schools within Birmingham which have had an Ofsted inspection up to 8 November 2017. Where an establishment has not been inspected since becoming an academy, the inspection of the previous establishment is used.

4.3 Academic performance 2016/17

For primary assessment in 2017, Birmingham's progress and attainment still trails England. The key measures across the Early Years Foundation Stage and KS1 have improved, however, and the gaps with national performance have decreased between 2016 and 2017. At KS2, both progress and attainment have improved with a reduction in the gap between Birmingham and England.

For secondary at KS4, Birmingham pupils are, on average, making the same progress as pupils nationally with a similar starting point.

A full report on academic performance is being produced which will provide further detail behind these headline figures.

4.4 Safeguarding in education

Safeguarding in education is now co-ordinated by a dedicated Assistant Director. There are senior education professionals embedded in the children's social care front door, leading to better management of referrals from schools.

Our Schools CSE strategy for 2017/18 has involved training all Designated Safeguarding Leads in schools in the use of the new CSE screening tool. In March 2018 we will host a CSE awareness day which is open to all schools in the city.

Capacity has also been increased to strengthen support for children educated at home (EHE – elective home education). We now know much more about this group, their motives for EHE and keeping them visible via safe and well checks. We have now set up a virtual school for EHE to build in wider curriculum opportunities as well as resources. We are working in conjunction with Bournville College to provide a 14-16 offer for EHE students. Our collaborative work with the EHE community, the Special Educational Needs Assessment and Review Service (SENAR) and children with SEN will benefit the educational offer children are receiving.

All children out of school now receive some form of education, normally one-to-one or small group tuition, whilst their long-term placement is secured. The innovation this year of establishing the Birmingham Online School complements this process.

In July over 700 pupils and students from 23 schools gathered and performed at the Birmingham REP to celebrate their work on the UNICEF Rights Respecting Agenda. It showcased the breadth of the work and talent of Birmingham's young people earning the praise of UNICEF and the DfE with schools being invited to perform at UNICEF's national event.

4.5 Inclusion

During the Summer Term there was a full public consultation on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Inclusion strategy receiving over 700 responses. There was strong agreement with the Vision, Mission and Priorities alongside concerns about the deliverability of the outcomes and our ability to work effectively in partnership with Health and social care. In response, the strategy was amended and has now been finalised and submitted for Cabinet approval in December 2017. The Inclusion Commission has now been dissolved and replaced with a new smaller steering group chaired by the Corporate Director for CYP.

4.6 Schools Transport

September 2017 saw a much more efficient start to the new academic year. Complaints decreased significantly and relationships with key stakeholders, including schools, have improved notably.

But considerable challenges remain. The number of children eligible for transport continues to rise and is now over 4,200 young people, with more than 600 guides needed to support

and safeguard the children. The service is due to undergo a new transport procurement process.

The service is working with Headteachers to identify potential improvements, building on those made to communications and in the handling of enquiries.

4.7 Fair Access and In-Year Admissions

The new Fair Access Protocol for January 2018 has been designed with schools to ensure that outside the normal admissions round we place all vulnerable and challenging children as soon as possible and ensure an equitable distribution of children across all schools irrespective of status or circumstances.

The Protocol's transparent and collaborative approach will minimise children's time out of education and ensure that schools are held to account for complying with decisions under the Protocol to admit children without delay.

4.8 Early Years Health and Wellbeing Offer

Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (BCHT) has been awarded the contract to deliver the new Early Years Health and Wellbeing offer commencing in January 2018. This brings into a single system services currently delivered by health visitors, children's centres and various parenting support services.

Considerable work has been undertaken to support the creation of an integrated workforce, via TUPE, drawing together around 1,000 staff members from 76 services.

4.9 14-19 Agenda

Regular meetings with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) discuss matters of strategic importance to the city, including the quality of FE provision and gaps in delivery. Further conversations on devolution and the skills/economic agenda are planned with both the ESFA and Ofsted.

The Post-16 Forum has mental health, modern foreign languages and the tracking of young people high on its agenda.

Our "not in education, employment or training (NEET)" figures have improved but young people whose circumstances are not known remain a challenge.

Working with BEP and the Careers and Enterprise Company, the Council is delivering a Careers Project in secondary schools. The intention is to have made contact with all eligible schools by the end of the academic year. Options for a version for primary schools are currently being explored.

4.10 School places

Birth rates are on the downward trend for the next three years but net migration continues to grow. We are monitoring pressure points across KS1 to KS4. Demand for secondary places is growing and will continue until 2023. Four secondary Free Schools have been

approved by the DfE and they are due to open from 2018-2020 and will go some way to meet the need for secondary places.

5. Summary

- 5.1 There are still significant challenges ahead for children's social care. For example:
- professional curiosity, purposeful visits, good analysis and clear plans need to become the norm everywhere;
 - management oversight needs to be evident on the record and consistently offering reflection, insight and direction;
 - we must help partners understand that the child in need process is as important as the child protection process; and
 - we need to have clear routes to challenge partners and escalate concerns (eg. when a child is not receiving education or where mental health services are needed).
- 5.2 But the improvements cited in the Ofsted inspection report and monitoring visits demonstrate that the Council is on track to moving out of inadequate. Over the last two years solid foundations have been secured and improvements are being realised. This administration is not complacent and it is recognised that improvement like this takes time and tenacity. The voluntary Children's Trust arrangements, with Andrew Christie as the Chair and a full Board in support, will provide confidence in this improvement continuing. Our focus in coming months will be on ensuring that good practice is fully embedded and the improvements made are further developed and consolidated.
- 5.3 Building on the above education improvements the long-term challenges include securing social cohesion in this diverse city and harnessing the voices of children and young people when planning for the Birmingham of the future. The direction of travel on education attainment and progression into secure adulthood, as illustrated by the figures above, must inform radical planning horizons for the future.
- 5.4 More widely we must provide every child in Birmingham with an environment in which they can grow and develop, safe and happy, with the best possible start in life. That will need all agencies including the newly created Children's Trust, schools, the police, the health and voluntary sector and other stakeholders to work collaboratively to ensure all children have the opportunity to realise their potential.



Partnership Working: BCC and Parish/Town Councils



A report from Overview & Scrutiny





Contents

Preface	2
Summary of Recommendations	2
1 Introduction	4
1.1 Purpose	4
1.2 Birmingham's Parish and Town Councils	4
2 What We Learned	7
2.1 Working Together	7
2.2 Starting Out	8
2.3 Summary	9
3 Next Steps	10
3.1 Our Recommendations	10
3.2 A Statement of Policy	11
3.3 A Framework for the Relationship – the Charter Approach	13
3.4 “Local Devo Deals”	16
3.5 In the Meantime...	17
3.6 And for the Future...	18
3.7 Progress against Implementation and Motion	19
Appendix 1: Contributors	20
Appendix 2: Timeline – RSCTC	20
Appendix 3: Summary of Charters/ Frameworks	21

Further information regarding this report can be obtained from:

Lead Review Officer: Name: Iram Choudry
 tel: 0121464 8263
 e-mail: iram.choudry@birmingham.gov.uk

Reports that have been submitted to Council can be downloaded from www.birmingham.gov.uk/scrutiny.



Preface

By Cllr Mohammed Aikhlaq Chair, Corporate Resources and Governance O&S Committee



An inquiry group made up of members from the Corporate Resources and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee began this work in the summer to look at the lessons the City Council could learn from working with the two parish/town councils which already exist within Birmingham.

We were keen to explore how the relationships with the existing local councils have developed and how these need to be improved. The evidence we received was instructive. Firstly, I was impressed with the passion and commitment shown by the parish/town councils in working to improve their local areas for residents. However, what became apparent during our work was that a lack of a more formalised structure and an effective working relationship with Birmingham City Council meant that they were encountering delays on a regular basis in getting projects off the ground and in getting problems resolved. New Frankley in Birmingham Parish Council and Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council have been in existence for 17 years and 20 months respectively; it is more than time that these issues were addressed.

The key here is to ensure we have an effective partnership with our local councils, one that facilitates all partners working to make services more joined up and responsive at the local level. Parish and town councils are the tier of government closest to local people, and they have a democratic mandate. Furthermore, blockages and delays in improving local areas or implementing projects will feed cynicism not just about the ability of parish/town councils to achieve their goals, but also on the City Council and its willingness to engage at a local level.

The recommendations set out the formal processes needed to make this happen: a cross-party policy; a charter setting out the day to day working relationship with parish/town councils; and a set of local "devo deals" individually agreed to match the differing needs and ambitions. Underpinning this should be senior and political ownership of the relationship. And given the time elapsed, the councils should work together on short term actions to unlock stalled projects to yield some "quick wins" ahead of the formal process.

But I stress again that this is really about relationships and close working with local communities. The processes should support and facilitate successful partnership working between the City Council, parish/town councils and local residents. It is also clear that the City Council has some work to do before it considers setting up any further parish/town councils. If we are serious about encouraging new models of governance, we have to ensure the infrastructure is in place to support and assist from day one.

I would like to thank my fellow councillors on the review group who helped to make this report possible and to the members and officers who took the time to meet with us in both New Frankley in Birmingham Parish Council and Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council. The Committee will monitor the progress and implementation of these recommendations and will also be involved in the development of the council's future policy for developing models of neighbourhood and community governance.



Summary of Recommendations

	Recommendation	Responsibility	Completion Date
R01	<p>That a council policy on parish/town councils and other local governance structures (including the points set out in paragraph 3.2.5) is developed and adopted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The policy should be substantially developed well ahead of the May elections seeking early cross-party agreement on the broad policy principles b) Formal adoption of the policy by the City Council should take place after the May elections c) A Cross Party Community Governance Working Group should be established to shape and take forward this policy. <p>A lead Cabinet Member and senior officer should be identified.</p>	Leader with the Assistant Leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) February 2018 b) July 2018 c) February 2018
R02	<p>That a charter or framework agreement is agreed, working with the parish/town councils, building on the heads of terms already submitted by both NFIBPC and RSCTC (having regard to the principles set out in paragraph 3.3.11).</p> <p>A lead Cabinet Member and senior officer should be identified.</p>	Leader with the Assistant Leaders	February 2018
R03	<p>That the lead Cabinet Member, Assistant Leaders and senior officers engage further with NFIBPC and RSCTC to assist in developing the specific policy framework around "devo deals". This should be guided by the four levels in 3.3.9 and should be considered as part of the overall policy. As part of this process, some early potential deals should be identified.</p>	Leader with the Assistant Leaders	July 2018
R04	<p>That a Cabinet lead and named officer are nominated to work with RSCTC and NFIBPC to put in place some "quick wins" for the parish/town councils; perhaps via a trial in one service area.</p>	Leader with the Assistant Leaders	February 2018
R05	<p>Progress towards achievement of these recommendations should be reported to the Corporate Resources and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee no later than March 2018. Subsequent progress reports will be scheduled by the Committee thereafter, until all recommendations are implemented.</p>	Leader of the Council	March 2018



1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

- 1.1.1 This inquiry set out to explore the relationship between the Birmingham City Council (BCC) and the two parish/town councils within its borders. There were two general lines of enquiry:
- How is the relationship between the BCC and the parish/town councils working currently? What needs to be done next to enhance constructive and effective relationships?
 - What have we learned from the experiences of setting up Birmingham's parish councils that will assist both BCC and communities in the development of any future parish councils or other localised or devolved governance models?

Our Approach

- 1.1.2 Committee members were aware of ambitions to explore new ideas on local governance and community leadership, including possible expansion of the number and coverage of parish/town councils in the city. Specifically, the Assistant Leaders' Policy Review of local leadership and community governance included consideration of "the development of new governance models such as town and parish councils and the agreement of devolution to those bodies".¹
- 1.1.3 Members therefore agreed to support this work by taking a step back and looking to learn the lessons from our current and past experiences with parish/town councils. The many positive reasons to encourage the growth of parish councils in the city were recognised, including getting better citizen engagement through a democratic process and/or access to alternative funding streams to supplement services; they are also seen as the closest tier of government to local people.
- 1.1.4 However, if the city is to encourage more such governance models in the city, then members, officers and communities need to understand what is working and what is not with the parish/town councils already in existence.

1.2 Birmingham's Parish and Town Councils

- 1.2.1 There are two parish and town councils in Birmingham: New Frankley in Birmingham Parish Council and Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council.

¹ Establishment of Cabinet Committee Local Leadership report to Cabinet, June 2016



New Frankley in Birmingham Parish Council (NFIBPC)

- 1.2.2 New Frankley in Birmingham Parish Council (NFIBPC) was established in May 2000 and consists of 12 members. The Council is elected every four years, with the next election scheduled for 2018. NFIBPC is in the south-west of the city, within the Longbridge constituency and ward. It covers around 5,500 electors and over 3,500 households; and has a budget of £86,500 per year, with a precept of £34.73 for a Band D property. The last election for the Parish Council was 2012 and was an uncontested election.
- 1.2.3 The Council meets 12 times a year. The Council has appointed 4 standing Committees. These Committees are appointed annually: Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee (7 Members); Staffing Committee (3 Members); Appeals Committee (3 Members) and Audit Committee (4 Members).
- 1.2.4 The budget supports a range of different activities across the parish including the funding of a library play scheme, multi-use games area, events at the local children's centre to support local families and the Frankley Carnival.
- 1.2.5 The Parish Council employs two part time members of staff. It also has an office within a converted shop in the local shopping centre (rented from Birmingham Property Services), to enable local residents to drop in and report matters in person and to obtain information regarding the Parish Council. The office is open between 0900 hours and 1300 hours Monday to Friday, and one evening a month to enable the local City Councillors to hold surgeries. A bi-monthly newsletter is produced and delivered to over 3,500 households.
- 1.2.6 Under their section 137 expenditure powers (which enables parish and town councils to spend a limited amount of money for purposes for which they have no other specific statutory power), they set up the Environmental Warden project, a separate 'Community Champions' enterprise funded by the Parish Council. The project received a grant to pay for a truck and the work of clearing litter and fly-tipped waste is carried out by volunteers. The Community Champions project has an agreement with the City Council that allows it to deposit household waste for free at the Lifford Lane HRC site. A small grants scheme distributes funds to community organisations within the parish boundary.

Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council (RSCTC)

- 1.2.7 Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council (RSCTC), covering the Sutton Coldfield constituency, was set up following a postal consultative ballot held in the summer of 2015. The Sutton Coldfield Interim Parish Council was formally created on 1st March 2016; elections were held on the 5th May 2016 and 24 Councillors were elected to represent four wards and 75,431 electors. The political make-up is 19 Conservative members, 3 Independents for Sutton Party members and 2 Labour members. Turnout for the election was 34.3%.
- 1.2.8 The Town Council's precept is £1,832,982, which equates to a council tax charge of approximately £49.96 on a Band D property for the financial year 2017-18.



Partnership Working: BCC and Parish/Town Councils

- 1.2.9 RSCTC has a Finance and General Purposes Committee; Planning and Highways Committee; and Amenities, Leisure and Community Services Committee. The full council meets monthly.
- 1.2.10 The Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council Community Fund is open to local community groups, charities and voluntary organisations to bid for grants to improve the local area. £100,000 is available in the current financial year, £25,000 for allocation to groups in each of the four wards.
- 1.2.11 RSCTC has published a strategy, setting out its priorities as well as direction of travel for the formative years of the Town Council and a comprehensive framework to guide future activities.²

By comparison ...

- 1.2.12 At the NALC Conference in October 2017, it was reported that there are 10,000 local councils in England. Over 16 million people live in communities served by local councils, around 25% of the population. There are 100,000 councillors who serve these councils, making a difference in their communities. £3 billion is invested in these communities every year.³
- 1.2.13 The Local Government Chronicle (LGC) undertook a survey of parishes in 2017, supported by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). This drew 634 responses, of which 63% were from parish clerks and deputies and 37% from elected members.
- 1.2.14 The results showed that almost 40% of respondent local councils had a precept of less than £20,000 per year, but that there was a wide variety of levels of precept among parish and town councils; 2.5% of respondents said their total precept was greater than £1m.
- 1.2.15 The report noted that whilst the size of the precept is roughly in line with the size of the population or number of services delivered, it does not always match up neatly as some very small councils deliver many extra services.
- 1.2.16 More than a third of those responding to the survey worked for a council serving a population of fewer than 1,000, while a similar proportion worked for a council with a population of between 1,000 and 5,000. The population served by the remaining third of respondents varied widely, with just over 1% having populations of between 25,000 and 30,000, and 3% serving more than 30,000 people.
- 1.2.17 With regards to levels of engagement, 18% of respondents said the last election to take place for their council was uncontested (one respondent said no seat on their council had been contested since 1987) and several said that seats on their councils were frequently vacant because too few candidates put themselves forward. However, a third of respondents said that turnout for their last town or parish council election was between 30% and 39.9%. Where elections were contested the mean turnout was 33%.⁴

² http://www.suttoncoldfieldtowncouncil.gov.uk/_UserFiles/Files/SCTC_StrategicPlan2017%20FINAL.compressed.pdf

³ Notes taken by Committee members at NALC conference

⁴ Where Next for Localism? LGC Special Report, July 2017; <http://www.nalc.gov.uk/library/publications/2497-lgc-nalc-2017/file>



2 What We Learned

2.1 Working Together

2.1.1 Members explored the working relationship both NFIBPC and RSCTC currently have with the City Council and found a mixed picture.

2.1.2 There are areas where the parish/town councils and the City Council work well; examples included:

- By building a good relationship with the staff at Lifford Lane Household Recycling Centre, NFIBPC has installed a number of litter bins across the area; these are emptied by a team of volunteers.
- RSCTC received invaluable support from City Council finance officers in the early days, particularly around treasury management and the sharing of the Council Tax database in good time;
- The Landscape Practice Group worked with RSCTC to improve play areas;
- The Events Team assisted RSCTC in putting on events over the summer (e.g. the CBSO at Sutton Park);
- Environmental Services were very supportive in particular during the Great British Clean Up.

2.1.3 We also heard that parish/town councillors and officers could contact senior officers in the City Council to get issues resolved. However, each of the examples above were negotiated individually, and depended on good relationships between individuals.

2.1.4 Both RSCTC and NFIBPC noted the **lack of a single point of contact** within the City Council to help them “unblock” activity they have to take in conjunction with the City Council. Both organisations shared a frustration in not having contact details for relevant officers in the directorates and have compiled their own list of different telephone numbers to contact various departments across the council, which they have to keep updating. Or they have to use the generic Contact Centre number to log problems.

2.1.5 Where requests have been made, or problems occur, and the right route into the City Council is found, the parish/town councils have said they would like to see a more creative, **problem-solving approach** to the matters raised. Examples of this include:

- Requests to invest in highway infrastructure (such as the installation and maintenance of mobile driver feedback signs, new street furniture and signage, or wifi boxes to boost internet access), even where RSCTC are able and willing to pay for these, are met with refusal or long delays. They were disappointed to get a response that stated that once the signs had been in



Partnership Working: BCC and Parish/Town Councils

place for six months they would revert to City Council control and could be used anywhere in the city.

- Offers to clear overgrown areas of land by volunteers in Frankley willing to do the work, are met with refusal as the volunteers are not permitted to use power tools because of liability issues (and the council does not have the resources to clear it). Similarly, RSCTC is struggling to put in place a ranger job across the town council area as the job holder would need various permissions to cut grass, remove vegetation and clean street signs for example.

- 2.1.6 Both NFIBPC and RSCTC aim to provide services additional to those provided by the City Council. In Frankley's case, the "additionality" of their services is clear and they have had no issue with **"double taxation"**.⁵ However this was raised as an issue in Sutton Coldfield in terms of a lack of information on the baseline level for some services. For example, if RSCTC wanted to pay for additional cleaning in car parks, they would need to understand what the City Council provides as standard but that information has not been shared. Such information is also necessary to avoid accusations of "double taxation".
- 2.1.7 Having said that, there is one very good example of how this can work, which is the work on Sutton Coldfield library. The City Council initially proposed that the library should close, mostly on the basis of disproportionate costs. With the Town Council, officers were able to have dialogue – formal and informal – to work towards a solution; opportunities that would not have been there without the Town Council. The ultimate solution was possible as the base costs from the City Council were clear (i.e. what was Sutton Coldfield's "fair share") and the Town Council was able to supplement whilst clearly avoiding double taxation.
- 2.1.8 Discussing budget matters also raised the issue of **residents' understanding** of what parish/town councils can do and how they can spend precept money. A number of residents believe the funds could be used to improve existing services provided by Birmingham. It is clear that many residents do not understand what the parish/town councils are for, and some think that it can replicate the powers of the principal authority.

2.2 Starting Out

- 2.2.1 The inquiry also looked at some of the lessons to be learned from the recent experience of setting up RSCTC. Officers noted that the speed of setting up the new parish council (see Appendix 2) did mean that a number of decisions had to be left out of the formal Re-organisation Order, for further consideration after the parish council was set up. However progress has not been made with this,

⁵ "In this context double taxation is where residents in certain local council areas are paying twice over for particular public services. It can happen because many local services are "concurrent functions" that is, they can be managed and delivered either by local parish and town councils or by principal local authorities (district, borough, unitary or county councils)". *Managing Double Taxation A guide for local (parish and town) councils and principal local authorities*, National Association of Local Councils (NALC), January 2011; <http://www.nalc.gov.uk/library/our-work/create-a-council-resources/1363-managing-double-taxation/file>



resulting in a current lack of clarity on the powers sought by the parish council and its aspirations for transfer of assets from the City Council.

- 2.2.2 This also meant that when the Parish Council started, there was a largely clean sheet: no constitution in place, and the governance documents are having to be worked up one by one. The standing orders, financial regulations and code of conduct mirror those of the City Council. However, parish councils are subject to, and have powers derived from, a wide range of legislation and so there are a number of procedures to be adopted, which RSCTC is working through now.
- 2.2.3 In addition, many of the town councillors elected were new to local government and politics, so were not accustomed to some of the ways of working, but all shared a common goal in wanting to improve the local area. Having three City Councillors around the table acting as 'twin-hatted' Councillors has been valuable in RSCTC, but there still needs to be a better understanding of both roles.

2.3 Summary

- 2.3.1 Members heard that both parish/town councils were doing lots of good work, sometimes supported by City Council colleagues but without the backing of a day-to-day working relationship. Both the parish/town council felt the lack of a formal structure through which to raise ideas, concerns and opportunities with the City Council. In the absence of senior and political ownership of the relationship, they were sometimes "passed from pillar to post". RSCTC told us "the present working relationship between us has developed in an ad-hoc way and, from the Town Council's perspective, is ineffective". The inability to make progress "does not reflect well on either authority".
- 2.3.2 These issues do need addressing: NFIBPC have been able to mobilise their local community in a way the City Council could not; and RSCTC was set up following grassroots demand for local governance. The momentum started by the Community Governance Review has stalled following the loss of key officers and increased pressure on time and budgets.
- 2.3.3 Both parish/town councils see their role as to be the voice of the resident, with close links to community and neighbourhood groups. Continual frustration with efforts to improve the area or implement projects is likely to be feeding a cynicism both about the ability of the parish/town councils to achieve anything and about local groups' ability to achieve anything with the City Council. This is exacerbated when residents do their own research on what other parish/town councils are doing and ask why the same cannot be done within their own parish/town council.
- 2.3.4 Finally, it was noticeable that a number of the issues raised echoed those raised by City Councillors and officers in other parts of the City with regards to devolution and local influence on local facilities and services within the City Council. Any learning from our work with parish/town councils will also be applicable to wider localisation work at ward level and any moves to devolve services in the future.



3 Next Steps

3.1 Our Recommendations

- 3.1.1 The majority of the issues raised by the town and parish councils focused on operational issues: not having appropriate contacts within the council, difficulty in navigating City Council processes, and not understanding why certain things were permitted and others not.
- 3.1.2 However, the many positive examples showed that these matters are far from insurmountable. Indeed the problem may well come down to a lack of clarity amongst officers as to how to work with parish councils. There were good examples of joint working, and evidence of a personal commitment to make things work, but no framework to advise or guide officers in responding to requests and applications from the town and parish councils. It has been left to individuals in departments to respond, rather than there being a clear organisational steer. This lack of organisational steer in turn stems from a lack of clear political steer on what the City Council's relationship with our parish/town councils should be.
- 3.1.3 Our recommendations therefore focus on building the governance apparatus needed to facilitate successful relationships and co-working between the City Council and parish/town councils. Our suggested approach comes in three parts:
- A statement of policy from the City Council that will not only provide the bedrock for the relationships with parish/town councils, giving clarity on the parameters of that relationship and facilitate working together with a clear political mandate, but also set the direction for future policy ambitions for parish/town councils or other local governance structures in Birmingham;
 - A framework or charter that would set out the day to day working relationship with each parish/town council. As each parish/town council is different, this would be individually negotiated though there will be many common themes;
 - A set of local "devo deals" negotiated with each parish/town council, again individually agreed to match the differing needs and ambitions. These will be about service delegation, asset transfer and devolution – changes in how services are delivered in those localities.
- 3.1.4 It is important to note that each of these can be developed concurrently – and given the time that has elapsed since both Birmingham's parish/town councils came into existence, some pace is required. Also critical to success is to recognise that processes and structures are the means to an end – co-operative, supportive relationships delivering real benefit to communities – not the end in themselves.



3.1.5 Our thinking is informed by the many models adopted elsewhere, and summarised in the 2013 LGA document *Modelling devolution: Working together to deliver local services*. The five broad models are:

1. **The charter approach:** An agreed local charter or more formal contract which lays down the principles of how principal and local councils should work together.
2. **Community asset transfer:** Where the principal council transfers assets to a local council.
3. **Clustering:** Co-operative working across local councils to take on services.
4. **Service delegation:** Top-down or bottom-up initiatives to transfer service delivery to the local council with the service funded locally from the parish precept, volunteers or some other local resource.
5. **Joint service provision:** The local council enhancing or 'topping up' an existing service provided by the principal council, through funding or provision of volunteers, or principal councils supporting local councils to improve their capability to provide services.⁶

3.1.6 It should be noted that these are not mutually exclusive, and a "pick and mix" approach could be taken by different parish/town councils.

3.2 A Statement of Policy

3.2.1 Our first recommendation is therefore that a policy statement is developed with cross-party city councillors and parish/town councillors. This should then be agreed by the full City Council.

3.2.2 In the interests of both developing and maintaining **a co-operative relationship, based on mutual respect and a mutual understanding** of needs and ambitions of all parties, there should be representatives of parish/town councils involved in the development of the policy.

3.2.3 It should also be developed with **cross-party support**; we would therefore suggest adopting a cross-party working group approach (similar to the Community Governance group set up to consider the proposal for a Sutton Coldfield Parish Council).

3.2.4 To fully ensure **political ownership** of the policy, we therefore suggest that the final detail and full scale implementation of the policy is not formally agreed by the City Council until after the May 2018 "all-out" elections. Nonetheless, given the fact that RSCTC has been in existence for 18 months now, the policy should be prepared ahead of May 2018, with the intention that the broad principles are agreed on a cross-party basis as soon as possible. The recommendation is therefore in two parts – firstly to get this work on shared agreement on the broad overarching principles underway quickly, and secondly to get formal City Council approval of full scale implementation and delivery after the May elections.

⁶ LGA: Modelling devolution: Working together to deliver local services, January 2013



Partnership Working: BCC and Parish/Town Councils

3.2.5 A key element of the policy should be a clear statement of what is permissible in law, and negotiable between local councils and the City Council, and what is not. Questions to be answered by the policy include:

- What is the City Council's policy on new governance models including parish/town councils (or other devolved structures): will the City Council pro-actively encourage areas of the city to come forward with proposals for local governance structures, or wait to be approached? If the former, should the idea be promoted everywhere, or should the focus be on areas where there is known interest? There is a spectrum of options here that need to be fully explored and understood, particularly in terms of available resources and support;
- Underpinning this is an understanding of what parish/town councils would add to the civic and democratic life of the city – is it about access to more funding streams, alternative models of service delivery, or improved engagement with citizens for instance? Depending on the answer, the models of governance chosen would vary.
- What is the City Council's "offer" to parish/town councils and other devolved structures: which areas/services is the City Council prepared to negotiate on with regards to local governance (this might include environmental matters or parks) and where are the red lines (which might include social care, for example). What sort of working relationship can parish/town councils and other devolved structures expect to receive?
- How this will fit into the City Council's wider Localisation Policy.

3.2.6 Finally, the City Council may want to consider taking wider soundings on this: the Welsh Government has set up an independent review into its community and town councils, exploring potential roles and models, and as part of this is asking for public views.⁷

	Recommendation	Responsibility	Completion Date
R01	<p>That a council policy on parish/town councils and other local governance structures (including the points set out in paragraph 3.2.5) is developed and adopted:</p> <p>a) The policy should be substantially developed well ahead of the May elections seeking early cross-party agreement on the broad policy principles</p> <p>b) Formal adoption of the policy by the City Council should take place after the May elections</p> <p>c) A Cross Party Community Governance Working Group should be established to shape and take forward this policy.</p> <p>A lead Cabinet Member and senior officer should be identified.</p>	Leader with the Assistant Leaders	<p>d) February 2018</p> <p>e) July 2018</p> <p>f) February 2018</p>

⁷ <http://gov.wales/topics/localgovernment/communitytowncouncils/review-of-community-town-council-sector/?lang=en>



3.3 A Framework for the Relationship – the Charter Approach

- 3.3.1 In tandem with the development of the policy, a framework or charter approach should be developed with the existing parish/town councils; designed with a view to future uptake by other Town, Parish or Community Councils that may be formed across Birmingham in the coming years.
- 3.3.2 This is necessary, because whilst the policy would be the bedrock of a new relationship between the City Council and parish/town councils, and would set out a direction with regards to future local governance arrangements, from a practical point of view, the details of the working relationship and how that would work still need hammering out.
- 3.3.3 Both RSCTC and NFIBPC identified the need for a formal structure around the relationship with the City Council. They told members that it is clear that there is not a history of working with parish/town councils in Birmingham (as there is in many authorities across the country) and therefore a framework agreement is needed to set out some ground rules on how the two will work positively together. This should clearly set up the responsibilities and powers of each, so that this is widely understood. It should be flexible and adaptable, underpinned by working protocols setting out pathways for resolving issues and gaining approvals for new projects (assuming the project is within the parameters of the agreement). There needs to be a clear time-frame as to when frameworks will be put in place from the principal authority when any future parish/town councils are set up, with the option to review on an annual (or other time frame) basis.
- 3.3.4 It is for both sides to set out their needs, ambitions and constraints; and how they will deliver their mandates from residents. Both NFIBPC and RSCTC have made the first step towards this by putting forward proposals as to what might be included in any agreement or charter.
- 3.3.5 A partnership protocol is suggested, with a skeleton structure to encompass shared goals, established procedures for working in partnership and maintaining high ethical standards, agreed parameters for communication and consultation, arrangements for providing additional services whilst avoiding double taxation, and establishing key contacts. Key asks include that “the City Council gives the necessary political and senior management commitment to prepare and underpin the Protocol with effective local service delivery mechanisms that should include:
- A nominated senior Member /officer to “own” the relationship;
 - A single point of contact type arrangement focussed on facilitating and removing blockages to delivery;
 - Allocation of appropriate resources to manage the interface between City and Town Council services in order to ensure actions are co-ordinated and things happen on the ground in the most effective way.”⁸

⁸ Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council – Devolution Proposal to Birmingham City Council, Sent to the Chair of Corporate Resources and Governance O&S Committee, October 2017



Partnership Working: BCC and Parish/Town Councils

3.3.6 RSCTC also suggest the setting up of a Joint Forum, comprising a small number of senior political / officer representatives from both authorities. This would discuss strategic matters of mutual interest and oversee the monitoring and review of the new working arrangements. Whilst not a formal decision-making body it should have the ability to ensure progress is made on agreed actions. This approach echoes that of other principal/parish/town council arrangements elsewhere in the country (see Appendix 3).

3.3.7 Both these submissions can be the start of a new working relationship between the City Council and parish/town councils and we will forward both on to the Cabinet Member and officers responsible for taking forward this work.

3.3.8 It is critical that these agreements are meaningful agreements, not just documents to be signed, and are developed co-operatively. As the LGA guide states:

For the charter approach to be meaningful the process by which it is developed is important. This will in itself help improve and strengthen relationships through clear dialogue and discussion.⁹

3.3.9 To set in some context, Appendix 3 sets out a summary of just some of the charters already in existence across the country. One example where this approach seems to be working well is in Milton Keynes, which was the showcase presentation at the 2017 NALC Annual Conference. The relationship established between Milton Keynes (which is a designated Cooperative Council) and its Town and Parish Councils is set out in a practical four-tier framework, where localities can select their preferred level of working:

- **Level 1:** Influence local service delivery, for example request changes to existing contract service delivery within existing resources, help set input or output standards, help monitor and chase up service standards such as street cleansing, graffiti, highways maintenance, flytipping;
- **Level 2:** Joint delivery / service enhancement, funding work that exceeds base service level (using external community funds or community council precept), purchase extra contract volume with main contractor, run resident parking schemes etc; this can be done through a separate contract or by extending an existing one;
- **Level 3:** Take on delivery of a delegated service, through agency or management agreements, where the City Council would sort out basic standards and conditions for delivery of specific services with existing level resources but then controlled locally, such as street scene, issue Fixed Penalty Notices locally, adapted managing of verge cutting;
- **Level 4:** Transfer service and / or asset whereby a neighbourhood or community group, community or parish / town council would take on full responsibility for delivery of non-statutory or statutory services on behalf of the City Council; such as parks, allotments, public

⁹ LGA: Modelling devolution: Working together to deliver local services, January 2013



open space, markets, social care services, youth services, social housing, and municipal premises.

3.3.10 Learning from, perhaps by visiting, some of these other local authority areas as to how these agreements work in practice would be very useful, and is perhaps an area where Scrutiny can further assist.

3.3.11 Reflecting on the evidence from our officers, parish/town councils and the examples from elsewhere, the committee proposes some key principles that should underpin any future agreement:

- *Adaptable and flexible*: capable of reflecting the needs and aspirations of different communities, given the difference in size, maturity and ambition of our current parish/town councils. There should also be flexibility to respond to changes in the availability of resources;
- *Sustainable, realistic and deliverable*: as we have seen, the pressure to save money can lead to problems with capacity and loss of corporate knowledge within the City Council. Any agreements should acknowledge tensions around resourcing and liabilities, as well as ensuring opportunities can be exploited, and be properly resourced.
- *Relationships built on trust and an understanding of each other's position*: the charter/agreement document is the start, for it to be successful, trust and mutual respect are critical. There must also be a mutual understanding of the City Council's constraints and obligations; and of the parish/town councils' ambitions and capabilities. As the LGA document states:

"The charter approach is only a starting point setting out a commitment to work together and a statement of the principles by which all partners will approach their work together. The document itself should be able to adapt, evolve and be a living entity given at its heart is an ongoing relationship between the people in the organisations, rather than something that is signed and sits on a shelf merely to collect dust.¹⁰

- *"Evolution not revolution"¹¹*: the agreements may take some time to put in place, and should perhaps initially focus on one area or directorate, learning as each element develops.
- *Simplicity¹¹*: the processes agreed should be clear and not overly bureaucratic. The agreement should also be based on good, clear data – particularly to assist in avoiding accusations of double taxation.
- *Political and senior officer ownership*: a political and senior officer lead should be identified to drive this work forward.

¹⁰ Ibid. page 8

¹¹ Ibid. page 39



Partnership Working: BCC and Parish/Town Councils

- *Integration with wider Localisation Policy:* the agreement should sit alongside and be consistent with the emerging citywide Localisation Policy being developed by the Assistant Leaders.

3.3.12 The Framework is the overarching “offer” document. Each parish / town council then negotiates its own specific agreement drawing down on the generic framework. Again, it is critical that the development of these agreements is not seen as ends in themselves, but a guide for a supportive and mutually respectful relationship.

	Recommendation	Responsibility	Completion Date
R02	<p>That a charter or framework agreement is agreed, working with the parish/town councils, building on the heads of terms already submitted by both NFIBPC and RSCTC (having regard to the principles set out in paragraph 3.3.11).</p> <p>A lead Cabinet Member and senior officer should be identified.</p>	Leader with the Assistant Leaders	February 2018

3.4 “Local Devo Deals”

3.4.1 The third piece of the jigsaw is to address the opportunities for developing alternative models of delivery and supporting the ambitions of some parish/town councils, including community asset transfer, service delegation and joint service provision.

3.4.2 RSCTC told us “as the level of local government which is closest to the people it represents, the Town Council is ideally placed to work with [the City Council] in developing an alternative, more joined up model of local service delivery”. Looking at what other parish councils do, there is considerable scope here. The survey conducted by the LGC asked about parish councils’ current provision:

“94% of this year’s respondents said they were delivering public realm services, 47% delivered some form of housing and planning, 43% undertook property management and 28% community safety. However, a significant minority were involved in delivering economic growth and regeneration (14%) and 10% delivered health, wellbeing and social care. These latter two groups of services “are huge growth areas”.”¹²

¹² Where Next for Localism? LGC Special Report, July 2017; <http://www.nalc.gov.uk/library/publications/2497-lgc-nalc-2017/file>



- 3.4.3 Our proposal is that, just as government is and has agreed “devo deals” with combined authority areas, the City Council and the current and potential future parish/town councils enter into constructive dialogue to negotiate local “devo-deals”. These would sit within the framework of the policy developed under Recommendation 01, but would be individually negotiated. Some early potential deals should be identified and work started on these, to pilot the process.
- 3.4.4 These deals would of course be for the relevant city council departments, Cabinet Members and parish/town councils to negotiate. However, to demonstrate intent and to provide clarity, a process needs to be designed and agreed. And, as with the above, these should have cross-party support, political and senior officer ownership. For these deals, there should also be clear public support for the changes proposed. It should also be noted that, in the future, these “devo-deals” need not be exclusive to parish/town councils – hence the need for a clearly agreed process.
- 3.4.5 NALC has published a toolkit, Devo+¹³, which should be used to support this process.

	Recommendation	Responsibility	Completion Date
R03	That the lead Cabinet Member, Assistant Leaders and senior officers engage further with NFIBPC and RSCTC to assist in developing the specific policy framework around “devo deals”. This should be guided by the four levels in 3.3.9 and should be considered as part of the overall policy. As part of this process, some early potential deals should be identified.	Leader with the Assistant Leaders	July 2018

3.5 In the Meantime...

- 3.5.1 Whilst it is right that the City Council works out a sustainable policy approach over a period of time, the immediate issues faced by the parish/town councils remain. We must recognise the time that has elapsed since RSCTC first held its elections, (not to mention NFIBPC) and put in place some interim arrangements to facilitate improved day to day working.
- 3.5.2 In recognition of this, RSCTC suggested, in its heads of terms, that:
- “the City and Town councils to agree as a matter of urgency a series of short term actions to unlock projects which are presently stalled as a pre-cursor to the new arrangements coming into place.”
- 3.5.3 There should be a nominated Cabinet Member lead and officer (or team) tasked with working with parish/town councils to put in place some of these “quick wins” to benefit local communities.

¹³ <http://www.nalc.gov.uk/library/our-work/devolution-1/2328-devo-plus-toolkit-december-2016/file>



Partnership Working: BCC and Parish/Town Councils

Perhaps one way of approaching this is to identify one area or Directorate where new approaches can be trialled.

	Recommendation	Responsibility	Completion Date
R04	That a Cabinet lead and named officer are nominated to work with RSCTC and NFIBPC to put in place some "quick wins" for the parish/town councils; perhaps via a trial in one service area.	Leader with the Assistant Leaders	February 2018

3.6 And for the Future...

3.6.1 As stated at the start, there is some ambition to extend local governance models to other areas of the city – or at least open up the option to those who may want it. The clear policy and framework will of course assist with this but in the course of the evidence gathering, the following points were raised which should be considered in any future local governance approaches:

- If considering a new parish council, it was noted that the use of the postal ballot consultation is not a requirement and may not be necessary every time; however it can increase interest and give a clear mandate to change (as in the case of Sutton Coldfield). However, little attention was given to what would happen if the result was close. If this tool is used again, the minimum expectation of support should be clearly set out ahead of the vote.
- The size of any new local organisation should be thought through, including the size of the precept set by the shadow parish council. There are advantages to larger parish councils in having greater spending power but these also create much greater expectations and have a less local focus. Alternative options might be to not have a single larger council, but smaller neighbourhood parishes which then form a federation.
- The capacity and expertise of the City Council to deliver on any policy or agreements is critical. The work involved in the Sutton Coldfield Re-organisation Order was possibly underestimated, but nonetheless pushed through by knowledgeable officers. Consideration should be given therefore both to the capacity of those charged with delivering the policy/agreements and the how the right level of expertise is obtained.
- Consideration should also be given to potential candidates. NFIBPC did not have contested elections at the last election. However, the parish councillors there do not represent political parties, which can be an advantage in engaging the community in their work. Right from the start, information and education on the role and powers of the newly created body should be available and party and community groups encouraged to share with potential candidates, so there is a better understanding of what can be done, the time commitment and the extent of the parish/town council's powers.



- Similarly with residents, it is the responsibility of all councils to ensure there is an understanding of what the council is for. Work on this should start well before any parish council is set up. There should also be close working with city councillors, as there will be confusion about which councillor does what and so there is a need to agree a joined up approach. Similarly when a shadow parish council is set up ahead of the establishment of a new parish council, the role and powers of this should be widely understood.
- One of the challenges facing NFIBPC is involving more young people in its work. How young people will be involved in any new local governance should form part of the consideration.
- Where there are no existing structures in place, the City Council should consider a “starter pack” for new parish councils, including help on budget, IT, contacts, setting up an office etc.

3.6.2 Finally, consideration could be given to a Consultative Conference on Town, Community and Parish Councils in the coming year with potentially interested neighbourhoods and communities, assisted by NALC, to highlight the opportunities presented by this level of local government within the wider context of the City Council’s emerging Localisation Policy.

3.7 Progress against Implementation and Motion

3.7.1 The Corporate Resources and Governance O&S Committee will retain a key interest in the on-going development of this policy and associated work. Members will work with Cabinet Members and officers to identify opportunities for scrutiny work to support the on-going process.

3.7.2 To keep the Committee informed of progress in implementing the recommendations within this report, the Executive is recommended to report back on progress periodically.

	Recommendation	Responsibility	Completion Date
R05	Progress towards achievement of these recommendations should be reported to the Corporate Resources and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee no later than March 2018. Subsequent progress reports will be scheduled by the Committee thereafter, until all recommendations are implemented.	Leader of the Council	March 2018

Motion

That the recommendations R01 to R05 be approved, and that the Executive be requested to pursue their implementation.



Appendix 1: Contributors

Cllr Ian Bruckshaw, Chairman of the Parish Council

Roger Griffiths, Parish Clerk

Cllr Simon Ward, Leader of Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council

Olive O'Sullivan, Town clerk

Andrew Tucker, Advisor to RSCTC

Appendix 2: Timeline – RSCTC

Action	Dates
Full Council considers the recommendation of the Community Governance Review	15 September 2015
Publication and consultation on the decision of Full Council and the recommendations of the Community Governance Review	19 September 2015 to 31 October 2015
Steering Group established to take forward implementation of the parish council	September/October 2015 to May 2016
CBM considers draft reorganisation order including the precept, electoral arrangements and transitional arrangements. Publication of reorganisation order following decision of Council Business Management Committee	17 November 2015
Approval of reorganisation order by Council Business Management Committee	15 December 2015
Reorganisation order comes into effect creating the interim Sutton Coldfield Parish Council	1 March 2016
Interim Parish Council in place until elections to the new parish council	1 March to May 2016
Elections to Sutton Coldfield Parish Council	5 May 2016
First meeting of the newly elected Sutton Coldfield Parish Council (to take place within 14 days of the declaration of the results).	17 May 2016
<i>Source: Community Governance Review - Taking Forward the Proposal for a Sutton Coldfield Parish Council Report to City Council, 15 September 2015</i>	



Appendix 3: Summary of Charters / Frameworks

Introduction

A number of existing Parish and Town councils have developed charters/frameworks to support the day to day running of business with their respective principal authorities. Charters can provide clear structures and guidelines for partnership working; though more detailed arrangements and agreements may also have to be produced to sit alongside these documents.

Below is a summary of some of the frameworks used by councils (Unitary, County & Districts) across the country. This is in no way a definitive list but provides an overview of the different types of agreements that have been negotiated between principal authorities and local councils.¹⁴

The format and structure of the charters vary across the country with some listing what they see as “principles” for engagement whilst others are more specific about the roles and responsibilities of both parties.

Some of the common features of the frameworks include sections on:

- Communication and Community Engagement;
- Annual Reporting;
- Code of Conduct and Standards;
- Practical support/day to day running.

All the frameworks are reviewed on either an annual basis or longer term to ensure they remain relevant and fit for purpose.

1. Milton Keynes Council

Statement of Intent “To continue to foster our partnership that delivers outstanding services to the people of Milton Keynes”.

Milton Keynes Borough Council has been fully parished since 2001 and is made up of 45 parishes, both rural and urban, e.g CMK Town Council is the parish council for residents of central Milton Keynes and has a population of approximately 3000. A charter has been in place since 2004 following extensive consultation with the local Councils via a working group made up of members from both the principal authority and the parish councils and it is reviewed every 4 years.

Milton Keynes also has a “Parishes Forum” made up of representatives from both the principal and local councils which meets four times a year in public to discuss matters of interest.

¹⁴ The term Local council refers to Town/Parish Councils



Partnership Working: BCC and Parish/Town Councils

Milton Keynes Council is currently engaged in a piece of work looking at the relationship between the two tiers of government and is consulting with local councils on enhancing working relationships based on 5 key areas:

- Influencing and monitoring Service Delivery
- Joint Delivery / Service Enhancement
- Delegation of Service Delivery
- Transferring services
- In scope / out of scope

This main objectives of the new framework will be:

- Maintain community access to services that might otherwise be at risk
- Increase satisfaction with services
- Provide greater local influences over services
- Where possible maintain and/ or enhance services
- Enhance the role of local councils in their communities
- Generate greater community pride in local areas
- Promote engagement of local communities in local government
- Achieve 'value for money'

This could be an area of work this committee may want to explore in further detail.

2. Cardiff City Council

There are 6 community councils within Cardiff and the City Council has produced a draft charter in consultation with its community councils. It lists responsibilities from the perspective of both the principal authority and the community councils. For example:

- The Council will provide community council clerks with access to the Council's Member Enquiry telephone line, initially on a 6 month trial basis, to be extended by mutual agreement.
- The Community Council will utilise the agreed contact systems and respond in the most appropriate and timely method.

As a side note, the Welsh government has recently announced a review into town and community councils with an aim to explore the role of community councils in greater detail. The review will:

- explore the potential role of local government below Local Authority councils, drawing on best practice;
- define the most appropriate model(s)/structure(s) to deliver this role;



- consider how these models and structures should be applied across Wales. This will include consideration of any situations in which they would not be necessary or appropriate.

The review is expected to take up to 12 months and it will consult widely with both communities and local councils across Wales.

3. Newcastle City Council

Newcastle has 6 parish councils and it has produced a detailed framework in consultation with the parishes covering most aspects of the day to day running of business between the 2 tiers of government.

In terms of structures, the charter states quite clearly that Ward Committees are the key link between the principal and parish councils and representatives attend these meetings to raise concerns. Parish council representatives will have the right to request to address the City Council or its committees on any matters of local concern.

For “delegating responsibilities” the charter states:

- If a parish council (or group of parish councils) wishes to discharge functions on behalf of the City Council, the City Council will consider this where it provides best value (taking account of cost, quality, local preferences and practicability). Where it is not good value or practicable the City Council will, in consultation with the parish council, explore alternative solutions to encourage more local-level input into service delivery.

For practical support, the Parish Councils have the opportunity to use council services for an agreed fee. This includes services such as

- Legal matters • Committee and procedural arrangements • Arboricultural services • Property management, acquisition and disposal • Catering services • Servicing equipment • Printing and purchasing • Human resources • Information technology and telecommunications, including systems development and PC support • Advice leaflets on consumer matters • Administration of members’ allowance where these are taxable • Procurement

The Parish Council also has access to the Council’s procurement process.

4. Sheffield City Council

Sheffield consists of three Parish councils with Bradfield considered one of the larger civil parishes as it serves a population of just under 15,000. There appears to be no formal charter between the City Council and its Parishes but Bradfield has listed a series of different policies it has adopted including a framework for the parish council working with local community groups, a local winter management policy, data protection policy along with a Health and safety policy.

5. Shropshire Council

There are more than 150 parish councils across Shropshire, and their charter lists the individual responsibilities of both the Principal Authority and the Parish/Town council along with a set of shared responsibilities. These are set out below.



Partnership Working: BCC and Parish/Town Councils

Practical Support

Shropshire Council will, where practical and affordable, offer parish and town councils access to their corporate services (for example HR Functions, ICT, Finance etc). Initial enquiries should be free; thereafter such support for some services may need to incur a charge, or may be offered through an agreed service contract.

Liaison

Shropshire Council will host two liaison meetings with ALC Executive members, relevant Portfolio holders and senior Shropshire Council officers every year.

Delegation or Devolution of Services

Local Councils will work with Shropshire Council and consider any delegated responsibility in detail, taking into consideration the cost, quality, local preferences and practicability at all times.

Where a request for delegation or devolution is made local councils will produce a costed business case in support of the request and should demonstrate they can achieve Quality Status Standards.

6. Cornwall "Common issues-Shared Solutions"

This Framework varies from the others included as it not only sets out how Cornwall Council will work with town/parish councils but also includes community groups as part of its framework. The Council worked in partnership with these bodies to develop a "menu of involvement" which includes 6 different levels of involvement and allows the organisations to choose how they engage with the council from areas such as service monitoring and influencing contracts through to taking on and delivering local services and assets.

It also specifically states that the council will support organisations in taking on responsibilities outlined within the charter.

The six levels included are:

Option 1. Influencing and monitoring local service delivery

Community group and local councils may want to influence and request changes to existing contracts or input into new contracts but any financial effect should be cost neutral unless agreed by the Principal authority.

Option 2. Joint delivery / service enhancement

Town and Parish Councils and Community Groups may choose to enhance an existing service provided by Cornwall Council by funding work that exceeds the base level provided. They may also deliver additional services not provided by Cornwall Council. This could be through a separate contract or by extending an existing one. E.g. one of the parish councils purchases additional parking enforcement from the principal authority.



Option 3. Agency Agreements, Management Agreements, Licenses and Sponsorship

Agency Agreements

Cornwall Council currently offers agency agreements to Town and Parish Councils for three services. The agreement sets out basic standards and conditions (e.g. Health and Safety) and includes a lump sum based on the minimum level of service Cornwall Council would undertake. The Town and Parish Council may then choose to enhance this service locally. The service areas include grass cutting e.g. the council offer is based on four cuts per year but many local councils choose to pay an additional cost for 15 cuts per year, and the Council has over 40 agency agreements for grass cutting in place.

Option 4. Delegation of service delivery

A Town and Parish council or local community group may wish to take on full responsibility for the delivery of a local service on behalf of Cornwall Council. Many of these services are non-statutory services. E.g. Beach Tidy ups are usually carried out by local residents and volunteers using equipment supplied by Cornwall Council.

Option 5. Transfer of a service

If Cornwall Council proposes to reduce or no longer provide a service, Town and Parish councils and local Community Groups will be consulted and offered the opportunity to take on delivery of them. In exploring the available options the transfer of any related assets may be part of the discussions e.g. a number of the Tourism Information Centres are now being managed locally.

Option 6. Services not generally available

Some services are not considered for transfer, as in many cases, statute will prevent the transfer of the service. Despite this, town and parish councils may be able to influence and monitor the delivery of these services as outlined previously, e.g. refuse collection, street lighting, event licences.

7. Leeds City Council

There are 32 Town and Parish Councils within Leeds and the Charter was first put together in 2006 and is reviewed annually by the Council. It sets out clear guidelines on what support Local Councils can expect from the City Council.

The key sections within the charter are:

- Shared Goals: i.e. commitment to improve local democracy;
- Practical Support: Councils can expect a response to emails within 10 days. Democratic Services will provide a nominated parish and town liaison officer who will coordinate city wide liaison with other Council departments on any parish queries; Leeds revenue services will send out council tax bills and collect council tax;
- Working in Partnership: The city council will include parish and town councils within the consultation arrangements for all relevant key decisions. Community Committees (ward committees) will establish arrangements to engage with their local councils and local councils



Partnership Working: BCC and Parish/Town Councils

will be consulted on the drafting of the committees annual plan. Council departments will establish service standards and contact details within key service areas;

- **Maintaining High Ethical Standards:** Both the City and local councils have adopted codes of conduct and the standards and conduct committee will also consider any complaints made against Councillors;
- **Allocating Responsibilities:** The first step towards devolution of a service currently provided by Leeds City Council to a local council is for the Clerk of that local council to write to the Chief Executive of the City Council with a copy to the Chief Officer Democratic & Central Services. The Chief Executive will then ensure that the local council is able to have discussions with a service manager of appropriate seniority to consider the feasibility of devolution of a service;
- **Managing the relationship:** The local councils will monitor the effectiveness of the Charter. The local council will decide whether or not, on balance, the Charter has been upheld by Leeds City Council and will, as they consider appropriate, submit views for consideration by the Parish and Town Council Forum as part of the annual review.

8. North Somerset Council

North Somerset has 39 parishes, four town councils based in Clevedon, Nailsea, Portishead and Weston-Super-Mare and a further 35 parish councils representing the many rural villages and small towns that make up the rest of the region. A total of 61 district or ward councillors represent the area making decisions, developing and reviewing council policy and scrutinising decisions taken.

North Somerset Council set up a "Charter Working Group" to draw up a detailed framework document and it consulted with all local councils as well as members of the public whilst drawing up the document.

It begins with a statement of intent:

The aim of our new Town and Parish Charter is:

"To create a framework for North Somerset Council and town and parish councils to work in partnership to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area."

One example of successful service delivery was the transfer of Weston-Super-Mare Museum from North Somerset Council to the town council.

The Charter does not cover every single area of work between the two levels of governance but it sets out a minimum standard of co-operation between the principal authority and the local councils.

In terms of key areas of focus, the charter includes sections on the following:

- Communication;
- Development Management and planning applications;
- Resources ;



- Procurement;
- Equality and Diversity.

The charter also sets out the specific responsibilities for Parish Liaison Officers who provide support to every town and parish across the district. The role of the Parish Liaison Officer is to:

- Foster co-operation between North Somerset Council and their respective local council;
- Act as a lead officer, representing North Somerset Council at their respective local council meeting;
- Be a focus for issues raised by the local council that relate to North Somerset Council – i.e. to be a point of contact.

The framework also includes the responsibilities of the area officer role, an officer that would work with a cluster of local councils to be the single point of contact for a number of different areas including:

- Highways, highway verges, footpaths, footways and cycle ways
- Street lighting
- Car parks
- Public open spaces
- Refuse, street cleansing and public conveniences
- Fly-tipping
- Abandoned vehicles
- Street furniture
- Drainage on the highway and public open spaces

9. North Yorkshire County Council:

There are 731 parishes in North Yorkshire. Not all parishes have a parish council as some have grouped councils and others only have parish meetings.¹⁵

The Council consulted with all local councils and residents on the content of the charter.

This charter is very much written from the point of view of what the principal authority can do to support parishes and contains a series of practical solutions to the day to day running of a parish council e.g.

“We will attend twice-yearly parish liaison meetings in those districts where there is a joint commitment with the district council to implement such arrangements. An Executive Member and senior officer will normally attend”

¹⁵ The Local Government Act 1972 requires a parish meeting to take place in all parishes. A parish meeting is a distinct legal entity from a parish council. It must hold two meetings per year, one of which must take place between 1 March and 1 June.5-Parish and Town Councils recent issues-Sandford



Partnership Working: BCC and Parish/Town Councils

"We ask you to wherever possible use our website at www.northyorks.gov.uk to find information about our services and news updates including road, footpath closures, temporary traffic lights and diversions. The website contains a number of online forms which can be used to request a service or obtain more information. If you cannot find the information you need or wish to speak to someone you can telephone 01609 xxxxxx"

The charter is divided up into a number of sections:

- Partnership working
- Consultation
- Local Governance
- Information and complaints
- Delegating responsibility for service provision
- Practical Support

"Our Economic Partnership Unit can act as a point of contact for grant funding opportunities for community-based projects. Our Emergency Planning Unit can provide you with advice and guidance to develop a Community Resilience Scheme. This will enable you to increase your local community's resilience in the first few hours of an incident such as flooding, before the emergency services reach you."

10. County Durham County Council

There are 104 local councils in County Durham. There are 13 town councils and 91 parish councils. In addition there are 22 parish meetings where no formal local council exists.

The Charter lists main expectations on the part of both the County Council and the Parish and Town councils. Clear document listing the responsibilities of both bodies e.g.: prefacing each heading with "Durham will....., The town council will".

The Charter is reviewed annually by Durham County Council and the County Durham Association of Local Councils.

In terms of structure, the Charter clearly lists the responsibilities of both the Principal Authority and Town council under 10 key headings some of which are listed below:

Local Governance:

Durham County Council and the County Durham Association of Local Councils will

"Convene an annual Charter Review Meeting, each December to consider the effectiveness of the Charter and any areas for improvement. The meeting to be attended, for the County Council by the Head of Partnerships and Community Engagement, the Principal Local Councils Officer and the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships and Community Engagement (or their representatives) and for the



Local councils by the Chair and Executive Officer of CDALC (or their representatives) and one representative from the Town and Parish Councils Coordination Group. The meeting will produce a report of proposed outcomes and actions going forward to be agreed by the Council Cabinet and the CDALC Executive. The report may include recommendations for amendments to the Charter or for its fundamental review if this is felt to be appropriate...”

Practical Support:

Will, on request and where practical, and where resources permit, offer Local Councils access to their support services, to enable them to take advantage of facilities, at a mutually agreed price.

Work to develop a handbook, setting out a short guide to the Charter, key contact details for relevant service groupings and details of advice and support available to local councils through Durham County Council.

Standards and Ethics:

The County Council and local councils have adopted codes of conduct for councillors, based on the national model code of conduct. The local councils will work with Durham County Council's Standards Committee to promote and maintain high standards of conduct. Details of Standards Committee arrangements are set out in the County Council's Constitution and in the Appendices to the Charter.

Service Devolution:

Where arrangements are made to devolve an aspect of service delivery, management or monitoring to a local council or group of local councils, this will be subject to a separate formal agreement between Durham County Council and the local council(s) involved.

11. Lancashire Parish and Town Council Charter

Lancashire consists of three tiers of local government: County Council, District Council and Town/Parish councils and is made up of 206 parish and town councils covering both rural and urban areas.

Their charter focuses largely on the relationship between the County and Town/parish council but Districts played a role in the development of the charter.

The charter was created through consultation with the Principal Authority, District councils and Local councils and residents via community workshops and a working group made up of representatives from the local councils and officers from the County council.

This charter sets out how Lancashire County Council can work with local parish and town councils to provide high-quality services for the people of Lancashire. It aims to improve our working relationship by focusing on:

- improving communication (including consultation activity);
- the ways in which parish and town councils can influence county council services; and



Partnership Working: BCC and Parish/Town Councils

- the support in place to help parish and town councils.

The charter is made up of 9 sections with clear responsibilities laid out for the County and Parish councils e.g.:

Communication and information:

Lancashire County Council will:

- provide access to services and named officers through a centrally managed Customer Service Centre or email;
- provide a district partnership officer in each of the districts to help parish and town councils with more complex issues that cannot be dealt with through the Customer Service Centre;
- continue to hold a Parish and Town Council Conference each year.

Parish and Town councils will:

- use the Customer Service Centre to contact the county council about day-to-day issues;

Consultation:

Lancashire County Council will:

- Make its Directorates aware of the need to consult parish and town councils on issues that affect their communities.
- give parish and town councils at least six weeks to respond to any formal consultations which affect them, unless this is impractical or specified differently by law;

Parish and town councils will:

- do all they can to give the county council their views in a practical way that represents the views of as many people as possible

12. North East Lincolnshire Borough Council:

There are 52 Parish councils within North East Lincolnshire and their charter is reviewed every three years.

The Council has constituted a "Town and Parish Council Liaison Committee" where representatives from the parish councils meet on a monthly basis with officers from the principal authority to discuss issues concerning the parishes.

Some examples from the charter are listed below.

Community Strategies and Local Support

Town/Parish and Village councils will be invited to develop and manage ward plans that impact on their area and will be expected to use their role within the community to shape the plan, raise awareness of it and seek ownership of the plan and encourage communities to be involved in delivering the agreed priorities / actions outlined within the plan.



Practical support

North East Lincolnshire Borough Council will, where practicable, enable Town/Parish and Village Councils access to their own support services, and enable them to take advantage of facilities such as printing and purchasing, at a mutually agreed price.

North East Lincolnshire Borough Council will appoint a named liaison officer as a first point of contact.

Delegating Responsibility for Service Provision

Opportunities will be explored for Town/Parish and Village Councils to discharge functions on behalf of North East Lincolnshire Borough Council, who will consider this where it provides best value (taking account of cost, quality, local preferences and practicability) and provide the name of a nominated officer to liaise with the Town/Parish Council.

13. *Staffordshire County Council Local Charter*

Staffordshire is made up of 32 local Councils, which are represented by The Staffordshire Association of Local Councils which supports and advises local councils within the Staffordshire area. The Charter is a short document comprising six key headings; some examples are included below:

Service Provision

If a local council (or group of councils) wishes to take on delegated responsibility for service delivery, the County Council will encourage this, where it is cost-effective and practicable.

Where a local council takes over service provision, the level of funding will be agreed by the County Council and the local council.

- Local councils have signed agreements to undertake routine highway maintenance (including grass cutting, sign cleaning etc) on behalf of the County Council (e.g. Betley Parish Council);
- Under the Community Paths Initiative, local councils look after public footpaths and rights of way in their area;
- Local councils are to be invited to help monitor mineral extraction and waste management sites for the County Council.

Local Community Life

The County Council will promote local community life through capital grants to village halls and community centres, and through the community discount scheme for the disposal of surplus property.

Practical Support

The County Council will offer local councils access to its own support services, to enable councils to take advantage of facilities such as training, printing and purchasing.

- County Council staff have led training courses for local councils (e.g. on Health and Safety);



Partnership Working: BCC and Parish/Town Councils

- Local councils have purchased IT equipment at competitive prices through the County Council's Information Systems Service;
- Local councils have used the County Council's Central Print and Design Unit for their publications, leaflets, etc.

Local Governance

The County Council will continue to maintain its close working relationship with the Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association through the annual meetings between senior Members and the SPCA Executive and its Area Committees.

14. Kirklees Metropolitan Council

The Kirklees Charter sets out how the Metropolitan Council will work with the 5 Parish Councils within the Kirklees area. The key areas highlighted within the charter are set out below.

Sustainability and Local Community Life

Kirklees MC will involve parish and town councils in the processes of preparing and implementing the Kirklees Community Strategy to promote or improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area.

Local Governance

Parish and town councillors are invited to attend respective Kirklees Area Committees. At the beginning of each municipal year, arrangements regarding Parish/Town Councillor membership on area committees are agreed, including any voting rights on concurrent functions. These formal arrangements are set out in Kirklees MC's Constitution.

Information and Communication

Parish and Town Councils may be invited to attend sub committees and working groups that are set up by their Local Area Committee. Kirklees MC will attend meetings with the parish and town councils (or groups of such councils) at a mutually agreed time to discuss matters of common interest.

Delegating Responsibility for Service Provision

When a parish or town council achieves quality status and they wish to discharge functions on behalf of a principal authority, Kirklees MC will consider this where it provides best value (taking account of cost, quality, local preferences and practicability). Where it is not good value or practicable, Kirklees MC, in consultation with the parish or town council, may seek alternative ways to influence service delivery at a local level. Where services are devolved, the relevant finance needs to follow the function.

Practical Support

Kirklees MC will, where practical, offer parish and town councils access to their own support services, to enable them to take advantage of facilities such as printing and purchasing, at a mutually agreed price. All



Parish and Town Councillors and Parish and Town Clerks can access KMC's internal training courses at the same cost as to its own services.

Parish and Town Councillors who are representatives on Area Committees can access training, development, advice and support through the Local Area Structures Team in the same way as other Area Committee members. Area Committees can extend this training to other Parish and Town Councillors, if this is resourced locally.

There are also further headings detailing arrangements for Financial Arrangements, Delegating Responsibility for service provision, Complaints and Standard Committee.

A REPORT OF THE CORPORATE RESOURCES AND GOVERNANCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL – 5th DECEMBER 2017

PARTNERSHIP WORKING: BCC AND PARISH/TOWN

EXECUTIVE COMMENTARY

On behalf of the Executive and the Assistant Leaders, I would like to thank the members of the Corporate Resources and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee for this report which explores the relationship between the City Council and the parish/town councils within its borders.

I have long been an advocate of parish councils and the benefits they can provide to communities. Both of the parish/town councils in Birmingham and the City Council are undertaking lots of good work in their respective localities and the best outcomes for our citizens is achieved when the City Council and parish councils work together as a successful partnership. This report highlights areas where this happens successfully and where Birmingham City Council and the parish and town council work well together. I hope that these can be built on going forward. However, it also recognises areas that need to be improved and where further work needs to be undertaken to provide a more joined up service to local residents and this also needs to be addressed.

I welcome the focus on governance and the approach to deliver the policy which we can pursue within the wider context of the City Council's emerging Localisation Policy. Any commitment must of course be mindful of the resource implications of implementation and the budget constraints that the Council is facing. I have therefore agreed with the Chief Executive that the new Assistant Chief Executive will look into this in more detail as a corporate issue when he commences his role in January 2018.

Under the 8 Day Rule, with these resource implications in mind, I requested that Recommendation 1(a) and Recommendation 2 completion dates are put back until April 2018 instead of February 2018. However, this request has not been agreed. Officers will of course endeavour to meet the February 2018 completion date for these recommendations, but this cannot be guaranteed.

I welcome the recommendations in the report and will work with the Assistant Leaders to ensure that the recommendations are implemented.

Councillor Ian Ward
Leader

MOTIONS FOR DEBATE FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

To consider the following Motions of which notice has been given in accordance with Standing Order 4(1)

A. Councillors Jon Hunt and Roger Harmer have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

“Council notes with concern the pressures on neighbourhood policing and high levels of public dissatisfaction with community policing presence and with the 101 phone service.

Council further notes with concern the increase in youth offending reported in the recent Youth Justice Strategic Plan, a 13.7% increase in first-time offenders over 12 months.

Council recalls that the concept and practice of community policing was pioneered in the Handsworth district of our city in the last century.

Council believes that a strong and positive police presence in our communities and neighbourhoods is vital for prevention of crime of all kinds, for maintaining the safety and wellbeing of the city and for the cohesion of our diverse city.

Council regrets the continuing decline in officer numbers in West Midlands Police (a reduction of 2.7% in the last year) and commends its officers for their perseverance at a time when there are major pressures, which are both financial and arising from significant threats to public safety.

Council therefore resolves:-

1. to take all opportunities to lobby Government for support, financial and practical, for enhanced neighbourhood policing;
2. to convey its concerns to the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner and the Mayor of the West Midlands;
3. to request the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel to conduct an investigation into how neighbourhood policing can be sustained, with particular reference to:-
 - a) the potential for enhancing the role of PCSOs in engaging neighbourhoods;
 - b) the question of the public accessibility of the police; and
 - c) the role of the 101 service in handling public inquiries."

B. Councillors Paulette Hamilton and Jayne Francis have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

"Birmingham City Council notes that:

- There are growing concerns about the harassment of women attending the Marie Stopes Birmingham Centre on Arthur Road, Edgbaston.
- Women seeking pregnancy terminations are being targeted by pro-life protestors and this street harassment is a form of sexism against women.
- Independent research for the British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS) has shown that the intimidation and distress felt by the women is also linked to women's broader experiences in public spaces.
- While the distress caused is clear, the efficacy of such protests is not. The number of women who decide to continue their pregnancy after contacting an abortion clinic does not change whether or not there are anti-abortion activists outside.

The council acknowledges that those with deeply held beliefs will continue to campaign against abortion. However it is inappropriate to further this debate by targeting women outside healthcare providers.

Women in Birmingham have a right to make healthcare decisions privately and should be able to access pregnancy termination services without hindrance.

The right to protest must be balanced with the right of pregnant women to choose and to obtain advice and treatment in confidence and free from intimidation.

Furthermore, staff at all women's health clinics should be protected from bullying and intimidation at their place of work.

Those who wish to campaign to restrict women's reproductive choices have plenty of opportunities and locations in which to do so. The area outside a clinic need not and should not be one of them.

The council therefore resolves to:

- Uphold the right of women to seek advice from health services and make difficult decisions on pregnancy terminations free from intimidation and harassment.
- Work with other local authorities dealing with this issue to fully explore all options to prevent protestors from intimidating and harassing women outside women's health clinics in the city.
- Take steps to protect the privacy of staff, patients and nearby residents."