

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

CORPORATE RESOURCES AND GOVERNANCE O&S

COMMITTEE

1030 hours on 13th December 2017, Committee Room 6 – Action Notes

Present:

Councillor Mohammed Aikhlaq (Chair)

Councillors Muhammed Afzal, Randal Brew, Meirion Jenkins, Ewan Mackey, Rob Pocock, Paul Tilsley, Waseem Zaffar

Also Present:

Cllr Ian Ward, Leader of the Council

Cllr Brigid Jones, Deputy Leader of the Council

Cllr Alex Yip, Lead Petitioner

Sukvinder Kalsi, Assistant Director

Darren Share, Assistant Director

Iram Choudry, Research & Policy Officer, Scrutiny Office

Emma Williamson, Head of Scrutiny Services

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chairman advised the meeting to note that this meeting will be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site (www.birminghamnewsroom.com) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Yvonne Mosquito.

3. CORPORATE RESOURCES & GOVERNANCE – ACTION NOTES NOVEMBER 2017

RESOLVED

(See document No 1)

The action notes from November 2017 were agreed.

The Chair and the Committee thanked Cllr David Barrie for his contributions to the committee and welcomed Cllr Meirion Jenkins on to the Committee.

4. PETITION-BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL TO REFUND RESIDENTS FOR MISSED COLLECTIONS

(See document No 2)

Cllr Alex Yip presented the petition and made the following key points

- The petition gathered over 14000 signatures
- The petition should be given serious consideration for three main reasons; the weight of signatories, the need to restore the reputation of the council and it was the right thing to do.
- As a consequence of the industrial action, there has been enormous reputational damage to both the council as well as Birmingham
- As the City Council failed in its basic duty to provide residents with a statutory service, it should offer residents a refund.
- One option suggested was to limit the council tax increase for 2018/19 to 3.5% to reflect and recognise the significant impact of the industrial action on residents.

Responding to questions and comments from the Committee, Cllr Ian Ward, Leader of the Council made the following points

- He congratulated Cllr Yip on the number of signatures obtained on the petition.
- All Councils have a statutory duty to collect household refuse without imposing any direct charges. A number of different sources of finance are used to deliver this service including a small proportion of council tax.
- Refuse collection is part of the Councils statutory responsibility at no extra charge and as Council Tax is not attributed to one individual service , it can't be used to provide refunds for missed collections-it would not be appropriate.
- During previous industrial action within Birmingham, there was never any commitment to provide any refunds to residents and no other LA in the country has ever offered refunds for missed collections; to do so now in Birmingham would be unprecedented.
- In relation to green waste, residents are already paying separately for the service and therefore will be entitled to a discount for next year.

RESOLVED

Following a vote by the Members, it was agreed that petition could not be supported by the committee. (4 votes against, 4 votes for with Chair using his

casting vote) and the committee instead would write to the Leader outlining its concerns.

5. REPORT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER

The Chair welcomed Cllr Brigid Jones, Deputy Leader to her first meeting of the Corporate Resources O&S Committee.

Cllr Jones provided members with an update on her portfolio priorities which included a number of different areas including the Business Change Programme, Performance and Review, Human Resources, Communications, Revenue and Benefits, Customer Services and Member Development programme.

She is the first female member of the West Midlands Combined Authority from a constituent authority.

In response to comments and questions from the committee, Cllr Jones made the following points

- She wants to see a comprehensive and robust Member Development Programme in place after the elections in May 2018, and would welcome Members input on the development of the programme
- Gender and BAME Equality-reflective governance is key to the success of the organisation. She will be setting up a working group to look at implementing the findings from the recently published Fawcett society/LGA report on women in Local Government
- With regards to local councils, Cllr Jones is happy to meet with both Sutton Coldfield and Frankley local councils to develop meaningful working relationships.
- Customer Services – there is a tendency to look at this solely from a call centre perspective as opposed to a customer resolution perspective i.e. end to end service. Cllr Jones is looking to have a Cabinet Member advisor for this area of work.

6. CORPORATE RESOURCES AND GOVERNANCE – WORK PROGRAMME DECEMBER 2017

The January meeting will look at the Budget consultation with a focus on the commercialism element.

7. REQUEST FOR CALL-IN

None

8. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None

9. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

Agreed

The meeting finished at 1235 hours.