

**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**

**CORPORATE RESOURCES AND GOVERNANCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY, 26 JULY 2017 AT 10:30 HOURS**  
**IN COMMITTEE ROOM 2, COUNCIL HOUSE, VICTORIA SQUARE,**  
**BIRMINGHAM, B1 1BB**

**A G E N D A**

**1 NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST**

The Chairman to advise/meeting to note that this meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site ([www.birminghamnewsroom.com](http://www.birminghamnewsroom.com)) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

**2 APOLOGIES**

To receive any apologies.

**3 APPOINTMENT OF CORPORATE RESOURCES AND GOVERNANCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, CHAIR, DEPUTY CHAIR AND MEMBERS**

(I) To note the resolution of the City Council appointing the Committee, Chair and Members to serve on the Committee for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2018:-

Labour Group

Councillors Afzal, Aikhlaq (Chair), C Khan, Mosquito, Pocock, Seabright, Spence and Zaffar.

Conservative Group

Councillors Barrie, Brew and Mackey.

Liberal Democrat Group

Councillor Tilsley

(ii) to elect a Deputy Chair for the purposes of substitution for the Chair, if absent, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the City Council in 2018.

4 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

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

**5 - 8** 5 **CORPORATE RESOURCES AND GOVERNANCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - TERMS OF REFERENCE 2017/18**

To note the Committee's terms of reference, as set out in the attached schedule.

**9 - 12** 6 **CORPORATE RESOURCES & GOVERNANCE -ACTION NOTES**

To confirm the action notes from the meeting held on 17 May 2017

**13 - 20** 7 **REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

Report of the Leader of the Council

**21 - 24** 8 **CORPORATE RESOURCES WORK PROGRAMME JULY 2017**

To note the Work Programme

9 **CORPORATE RESOURCES AND GOVERNANCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - DATES OF MEETINGS 2017/18**

To approve a schedule of dates for the Committee's meetings during 2017/2018.

(I) The Chairman proposes that the Committee meets on the following Wednesdays at 1030 hours in the Council House:-

| 2017        | 2018          |
|-------------|---------------|
| 6 September | 3 January     |
| 4 October   | 7 February    |
| 1 November  | 7 March       |
| 13 December | 4 or 11 April |

(ii) The Committee is also requested to approve Wednesdays at 1030 hours as a suitable day and time each week for any additional meetings required to consider 'requests for call in' which may be lodged in respect of Executive decisions.

10 **REQUEST(S) FOR CALL IN/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION/PETITIONS RECEIVED (IF ANY)**

To consider any request for call in/councillor call for action/petitions (if received).

11 **OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

To consider any items of business by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) that in the opinion of the Chairman are matters of urgency.

12 **AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS**

Chairman to move:-

'In an urgent situation between meetings, the Chair jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee'.



## **CORPORATE RESOURCES AND GOVERNANCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

*To fulfil the functions of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee as they relate to any policies, services and activities relating to governance (including transparency, regional working and partnerships); finance; workforce; citizens (including inequality, social cohesion and public engagement) and performance (including customer services, council wide efficiency, commissioning and procurement).*

All Councillors, except Cabinet Members (and the Lord Mayor) can be members of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Chairs of these committees are appointed by the Full Council and Deputy Chairs are elected by each committee at its first meeting, for the purpose of substitution for the Chair if absent.

### **General role**

Overview and Scrutiny Committees will:

- (a) make reports and/or recommendations to the full Council, the Executive and/or other organisations in connection with the discharge of the functions specified in their terms of reference;
- (b) consider any matter covered in their terms of reference that may affect or be likely to have an effect on the citizens of Birmingham; and
  - (i) is relevant to the Council's strategic objectives: and/or
  - (ii) is relevant to major issues faced by officers in managing a function of the Council; and
  - (iii) is likely to make a contribution to moving the Council forward and achieving key performance targets.
- (c) exercise the "request for call-in" and "call-in" any Executive decisions made but not yet implemented by the Executive.

Overview and Scrutiny Chairs should maintain regular engagement with Cabinet Members to enable flexibility to be built into the Overview and Scrutiny work programme, so as to respond to the council's policy priorities in a timely way.

### **Specific functions**

- (a) Policy development and review

Overview and Scrutiny Committees may:

- (i) assist the Council and/or the Executive in the development of its budget and policy by appropriate analysis of policy and budget issues;
- (ii) conduct appropriate research, community and other consultation in the analysis of policy and budget issues and possible options;
- (iii) consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options;

- (iv) question Members of the Executive and/or Chief Officers about their views on issues and proposals affecting their areas of responsibility; and
  - (v) liaise with other external organisations operating in the city, whether national, regional or local to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working.
- (b) Scrutiny

Overview and Scrutiny Committees may:

- (i) review and scrutinise the Executive decisions made by and performance of the Executive and/or Chief Officers in relation to decisions taken by them or in relation to their areas of responsibility/department;
- (ii) review and scrutinise the performance of the council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas – including the areas of responsibility of the Regulatory and Non-Executive Committees, but not the actual decisions of the Regulatory and Non-Executive Committees;
- (iii) make recommendations to the Executive, Chairmen of Committees, Chief Officers and/or Council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process;
- (iv) review and scrutinise the performance of other relevant public bodies in Birmingham (including Health Authorities) and to invite reports from them by requesting them to attend and engage with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee about their activities and performance;
- (v) question and gather evidence from any person (with their consent);
- (vi) establish sub-committees to undertake aspects of that committee's remit, or Task and Finish Committees to carry out specific time limited enquiries as agreed with the five Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairs and subject to available resources.

### **Conflicts of interest – Membership of Overview and Scrutiny Committees and District and Ward Forums**

- (a) If an Overview and Scrutiny Committee is scrutinising specific decisions in relation to the business of the District Committee and / or Ward Forum of which an Overview and Scrutiny Committee Councillor is a Member, then that Councillor must withdraw from the meeting during the consideration of such matter.
- (b) Where, however, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is reviewing policy matters, generally, as opposed to a specific decision of the District Committee and/or Ward Forum, the Member must declare his/her interest before the relevant agenda item is reached, but need not withdraw.

### ***Overview and Scrutiny Work and Non-Executive Committees***

- (a) Overview and Scrutiny Committees are only permitted by law to scrutinise the Executive decisions of the council – Cabinet, Cabinet Committees, Cabinet Members, District and Ward Forums, and officers.
- (b) In terms of the Regulatory Committees, these carry out quasi-judicial functions and, as such, appropriate appeal rights and procedures apply to the same, which do not involve the Overview and Scrutiny Committees arrangements.

## ***Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees***

The five Overview and Scrutiny Chairs shall monitor the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees so as to ensure that such work is properly planned, co-ordinated and progressed. In this connection, they shall have the power to:

- (a) give such guidance to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees in any cases of uncertainty, as to work which they should or should not be undertaking, as may be necessary to achieve such co-ordination, including the allocation of “call-in” to the appropriate Committee;
- (b) determine, in any cases of uncertainty, the allocation of responsibility for specific tasks between the Overview and Scrutiny Committees;
- (c) publish each year an Annual Programme of major scrutiny reviews as suggested by individual Overview and Scrutiny Committees following consideration of the Council Plan and priorities; and;
- (d) agree the establishment of any task & finish groups; and
- (e) consider overview and scrutiny development, working practices and constitutional arrangements
- (f) elect one of the Scrutiny chairs to act as “Lead Scrutiny Member”

An observer from the Principal Opposition Group may attend meetings of the five committee Chairs when considering the above matters.

## ***“Request for Call-In” and “Call-In”***

- (a) When an Executive decision is taken by the Cabinet, Cabinet Member(s) or Chief Officer jointly with Cabinet Members, Cabinet Committee Local Leadership, District Committees or Ward Forums, the decision shall be published by electronic means, and copies of it shall be available at the main offices of the Council, normally within three days of being made. All Members and Chief Officers will be sent a notification of all such decisions within the same timescale, by the Committee Services Officer responsible for publishing the decision.
- (b) The relevant notice will bear the date on which it is published and will specify that the Executive decision may be implemented, after the expiry of three working days after the publication of the decision, unless a “Request for call-in” is made of the Executive decision, by at least two Councillors (who are not members of the Cabinet) The “Request for Call In” should state the reason for call-in.
- (c) Once a “Request for Call In” has been received, the five Overview and Scrutiny Chairs will agree which Overview and Scrutiny Committee should hear the call-in. That Committee must meet to consider the request. The meeting should take place not later than 15 clear working days after the original publication of the decision.
- (d) It is for the Committee to decide whether to Call In a decision or not. The council does not expect an Overview and Scrutiny Committee to Call In an Executive decision unless one or more of the following criteria applies.

- (e) Where the Committee does decide to call in a decision, the “re-consideration” which is then required must take place at a meeting of the full Cabinet – irrespective of who made the original decision on behalf of the Executive.

### Call-In Criteria

|    |  |
|----|--|
|    | <b><i>(a) Is the Executive decision within existing policy?</i></b>  |
| 1  | <i>the decision appears to be contrary to the Budget or one of the ‘policy framework’ plans or strategies;</i>   |
| 2  | <i>the decision appears to be inconsistent with any other form of policy approved by the full Council, the Executive or the Regulatory Committees;</i>   |
| 3  | <i>the decision appears to be inconsistent with recommendations previously made by an Overview and Scrutiny body (and accepted by the full Council or the Executive);</i>  |
|    | <b><i>(b) Is the Executive Decision well-founded?</i></b>  |
| 4  | <i>the Executive appears to have failed to consult relevant stakeholders or other interested persons before arriving at its decision;</i>  |
| 5  | <i>the Executive appears to have overlooked some relevant consideration in arriving at its decision;</i>   |
| 6  | <i>the decision has already generated particular controversy amongst those likely to be affected by it or, in the opinion of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, it is likely so to do;</i>   |
| 7  | <i>the decision appears to be particularly “novel” and therefore likely to set an important precedent;</i>   |
| 8  | <i>there is a substantial lack of clarity, material inaccuracy or insufficient information provided in the report to allow the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to hold the Executive to account and/or add value to the work of the Council.</i> |
|    | <b><i>(c) Has the Executive decision been properly taken?</i></b>  |
| 9  | <i>the decision appears to give rise to significant legal, financial or propriety issues;</i>  |
| 10 | <i>the notification of the decision does not appear to have been in accordance with council procedures;</i>  |
|    | <b><i>(d) Does the Executive decision particularly affect a district?</i></b>  |
| 11 | <i>the decision appears to give rise to significant issues in relation to a particular District.</i>   |



**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

**CORPORATE RESOURCES AND GOVERNANCE O&S**

**COMMITTEE – PUBLIC MEETING**

**1430 hours on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017, Committee Room 2 – Action Notes**

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**Present:**

Councillor Mohammed Aikhlaq (Chair)

Councillors Randal Brew, Ewan Mackey, Rob Pocock, Hendrinna Quinnen, and Sybil Spence

**Also Present:**

Cllr Deirdre Alden,

Cllr Lisa Trickett, Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling and Environment

Ken Lyons, Head of Commercialism

Steve Hollingworth, Assistant Director Place

Iram Choudry, Research & Policy Officer, Scrutiny Office

Emma Williamson, Head of Scrutiny Services

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**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](http://www.birminghamnewsroom.com)) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Muhammed Afzal, David Barrie, Changese Khan, Chaman Lal and Yvonne Mosquito

**3. CORPORATE RESOURCES & GOVERNANCE-ACTION NOTES APRIL 2017**

**RESOLVED:-**

To note the action notes

#### **4. REQUEST FOR CALL IN: IMPLEMENTATION OF CHARGING SCHEME FOR CAR PARKING IN CANNON HILL PARK AND APPROVAL TO UNDERTAKE ASSOCIATED IMPROVEMENT (SEE DOCUMENT NO 1)**

Cllr Dierdre Alden outlined her reasons for requesting the Call-in

- A clear lack of consultation with elected members from the Edgbaston ward, whilst the main area of the park falls within the Kings Heath and Moseley ward, the boundary of the car park actually falls within Edgbaston ward
- The introduction of car parking fees will have a detrimental effect on visitor numbers and may penalise users on low incomes who may travel by car to use the facilities of the park.
- The experimental Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) only appears to cover streets within 1 ward i.e. Kings Heath and Moseley, it fails to cover streets within either Sparkbrook or Edgbaston which may also be effected by additional displacement of vehicles within their areas.
- There is also the possibility that visitors to the QE hospital may start to use the car park as an overflow to the main hospital car park.

Cllr Ewan added the following points

- Consultation with local residents: It's unclear within the report how much weighting /consideration is given to the views of residents who are opposed to the proposed changes.
- Whilst Sutton Park does not charge for car parking, it does charge a small entrance fee But the income generated is yet to yield a profit. He therefore felt that some of the financial claims within the report were questionable as it was unclear as to how long a period it would take for the car park to start making a profit.

The Cabinet Member, Cllr Lisa Trickett responded

- She apologised for not consulting with the local Edgbaston councillors
- The introduction of parking charges was included as part of the councils 2017 budget and formed part of the budget consultation process
- Cllr Trickett proposed to hold a further residents' meeting and residents from Edgbaston ward would also be invited to attend.
- The rationale behind the introduction of the experimental TRO was to identify the roads which would be impacted most from the displacement of parking around the immediate vicinity of the park
- The experimental TRO has been set up a to ensure maximum flexibility, it can be amended within a 2 week period to reflect any concerns raised by residents and it will continue to be monitored over a 12 month period
- The scheme will also provide a means of improving the safety of users of the park with the introduction of CCTV and new lighting. She also stressed that the

proposed upgrades to the car park were crucial in maintaining the revenue stream of the MAC. (Midlands Arts Centre)

- A funding reduction of 10% to the parks was approved within the council budget and if the proposed charges are not introduced at the park, savings targets for the portfolio will still remain and further budget cuts will have to be identified from other service area to mitigate the loss of revenue from the car park.

Members of the Committee raised the following points

- The TRO only covering 1 ward of the city was a matter of concern
- Concerns were also raised on how the TRO would be enforced.
- It was not clear from the report if other alternatives to this plan had been considered. The cabinet member responded by saying that this option was the most viable for securing a guaranteed income stream which was a requirement to secure the repayments against the prudential borrowing used to pay for the upgrade. A citywide business plan to support the development of revenue streams for the city's parks would also be created
- A number of concerns were raised about the consultation process. Members felt the focus was largely on the views of local residents as opposed to the users of the park .

The Cabinet Member and officers then left the room. Following a discussion amongst Committee members it was

**RESOLVED:-**

That the decision taken by the Cabinet Member should be "called in", with 3 votes in favour and 2 against.

**5. REQUEST(S) FOR CALL IN/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION/PETITIONS RECEIVED (IF ANY)**

None

**6. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

None

**7. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS**

Agreed

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The meeting finished at 1555 hours.



## **Corporate Resources and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**26<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

### **Leaders Portfolio Update July 2017**

#### **SUMMARY**

This report provides an update on key areas of my portfolio for the year ahead as background for the meeting on 26 July.

This report covers:

- Vision and priorities for the year ahead
- Housing
- Brummie Bonds
- Service Birmingham
- West Midlands Pension Fund
- Children's Trust
- West Midlands Combined Authority
- The evolution of devolution

#### **VISION AND PRIORITIES**

Cabinet has now formally agreed the Vision and Priorities of the Council (2017 to 2020) together with the performance measures.

Our Vision is for Birmingham to be a city of growth where every child, citizen and place matters.

We have identified four key priorities:

- Children - a great city to grow up in  
Make the best of our unique demography and create a safe and secure city for our children and young people to learn and grow.
- Housing - a great city to live in  
Provide housing in a range of types and tenures, to meet the housing needs of all of the current and future citizens of the city.
- Jobs and Skills - a great city to succeed in  
Birmingham will be renowned as an enterprising, innovative and green city.

- Health - a great city to grow old in  
Helping people become healthier, especially relating to physical activity.

Birmingham will be a city of inclusive growth where the opportunities and benefits of progress and investment are felt by all.

The city council is just one player in achieving these priorities. We want to strengthen our connections with partners and citizens, with businesses and government to develop a shared longer-term vision for the city of Birmingham.

## **HOUSING**

At the recent Local Government Association Conference we launched Building Great Homes, Creating Great Places (attached).

This pamphlet outlines our simple but ambitious commitment to:

- Build enough new homes of all types
- Enable people to get and keep the housing they need and eradicate homelessness
- Improve existing housing and its management

I take real pride in the fact that we've built more social housing since 2009 than any other local authority in the UK.

Birmingham was also the first local authority to build new homes for sale, and has built more than any other Council.

We pioneered the “buy now, pay later”, approach to the sale of new homes in 2009.

This means the Council shares with developers some of the risks of development – delays in securing planning permission, fixing bad ground conditions, buying land up front in a fragile housing market.

In 2016, we developed this approach further with InReach, so that the City Council acts as developer and takes all of the sales risk, but also captures all of the profit.

The homes are selling faster than they can be built and often well before completion.

We have established the successful Housing Birmingham Partnership, with political and agency leaders committed to working together on long term housing aims.

Later this month we will launch our new housing strategy - an action plan that will look at everything from major developments to self-build opportunities.

The report will:

- Look at housing options for first-time buyers through to choices for older citizens.
- Renew our efforts to tackle homelessness
- Build on our successful work to bring empty properties back into use.

## **GRENFELL TOWER RESPONSE**

The Grenfell Tower tragedy put housing in the UK under the spotlight and prompted a swift and decisive response from Birmingham City Council.

In reviewing the safety of our tower blocks, and in light of calls from the Chief Fire Officer for the region, Phil Loach, we believe that the addition of water sprinkler systems and other fire suppressant measures would assist us in ensuring that residents of the tower blocks have the best protection in the event of fire that is currently available. It is estimated that this will cost in excess of £31m to retro-fit.

I wrote to the leaders of the core city authorities asking for their support to lobby government to pay for fire suppressant measures and our calls for funding have also been echoed by a number of the city's MPs.

Regardless of the response from government however, it is intended to prioritise the councils spending on a rolling programme of sprinkler installation and fire prevention measures from Capital receipts. A programme of works will be developed once further specifications have been agreed with West Midlands Fire Service and implemented on a rolling programme, the details of which will be reported to Cabinet as soon as possible.

We will also await the outcome of the investigation into the Grenfell Tower incident and implement any further recommendations as necessary.

In light of Grenfell it is clear that we must re-double our efforts and work with partners to deliver the quality homes needed by a growing population.

## **BRUMMIE BOND**

In April we sold the first ever Brummie Bond to Midlands-based Phoenix Life, raising £45 million that we will be able to use to significantly boost our housing investment plans.

The interest rate is lower than that charged by the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB), which means we will pay £1.4 million less in interest over the course of the loan than would have been the case had it borrowed from the PWLB.

The aim is to follow this up with further Brummie Bonds deals.

## **SERVICE BIRMINGHAM**

Having identified the need to reduce IT spend as a percentage of the revenue budget, in June the council agreed a flexible four-year partnership proposal that will deliver £43 million of savings by 2020/21 and better cater for the future needs of the council and its residents.

This followed extensive negotiations with Capita that resulted in an agreement that both sides can support.

The intention is to keep the core services contract in place until March 2021 and allows for the joint venture arrangement, which has some commercial restrictions, to be dissolved.

The savings for the current year (2017/18) will be £10 million, totalling £43 million by 2020/21 – as outlined in the council’s budget in March of this year.

The shape and objectives of the council are changing due a wide range of factors including reduced funding for local government, changes in population profile and an ever-altering technological landscape.

### **WEST MIDLANDS PENSION FUND**

It has been possible following lengthy negotiations to reach agreement for a substantial reduction in Birmingham City Council’s payments into the West Midlands Local Government Pension Fund.

A recent actuarial valuation has shown a significant reduction in the Fund’s projected deficit, which suggests it is highly likely Birmingham City Council will be able to negotiate a further reduction in payments into the Fund.

I intend also to continue to make the case to reduce the amount of money the Fund spends on management costs, which are running at more than £70 million a year and include payments to City-based investment analysts.

All of the money we save through reducing payments into the Fund will be used to increase spending on the Council’s front-line services.

### **BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN'S TRUST**

We are now in the ‘shadow trust’ stage which allows us to create the framework for the Trust, and try out new ways of working that we think will produce better outcomes for children, young people and families. It will give us time to work with young people, staff, partners and unions to create the values and behaviours for the Trust, and think about how each of these important groups will have their voices heard.

We are making key appointments such as head of resources, head of HR, non-executive directors etc, having already appointed the chief executive (Andy Couldrick) and the chair (Andrew Christie) and working on the contract between the council and the trust.

When the Trust goes live in April 2018, the council will no longer directly deliver children’s services, although it will retain statutory responsibility. Services will be delivered by a community interest company based on a wholly owned company and called Birmingham Children’s Trust.

### **OFSTED**

An Ofsted report, following a monitoring visit to examine the progress of children’s services since its latest full inspection in September last year, has found the city council “is making steady progress, and has taken some important steps in improving services for its children and young people”.

Ofsted inspectors visited the council in May to review progress made in the areas of help and protection. They examined case records and spoke to families receiving services, as well as social workers and managers.



They found that “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. Against a long-standing history of failing to provide good services for children, this represents notable progress”.

## **WMCA**

The WMCA came into being in July 2016 following a year of collaboration by the seven metropolitan districts as well as the three Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and the district councils in their areas. The aim, as set out in the launch statement a year earlier was to work together to achieve more than the councils can achieve separately and to give the West Midlands improved economic prospects and access to devolution. WMCA consists of the seven metropolitan councils (constituent members) plus the three LEPs and ten non-constituent councils (counties and districts).

The first devolution agreement, signed by the council Leaders and the Chancellor of the Exchequer in November 2015 led to the addition of further powers to the CA and the creation of the West Midlands Mayor. These were implemented following the election of the Mayor in May 2017. They include an £8bn investment programme covering transport, land and housing and further powers on transport, planning, adult education and employment support. The Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) sets out the overall ambition of the CA to 2030 and brings together the SEPs of the three LEPs.

In May the first West Midlands Mayor was elected. Overall decision making in the CA is now through the Board, which is chaired by the Mayor and includes the Leaders and Deputy Leaders of all the constituent councils, the leaders of the non-constituent councils and the chairs of the three LEPs.

The CA is working on a number of priority areas including transport, housing, jobs and skills, culture and sport, supporting rough sleeping and public service reform.

The Board has recently addressed the following issues:

- Taking forward the findings of the Land Commission to provide adequate land for employment and housing
- Extending the Swift payment system for the transport network
- Relocation of Channel 4 to the West Midlands
- The Commonwealth Games bid
- Transport investment through the National Productivity Investment Fund
- The 2026 Transport Investment Plan
- “West Midlands on the Move” physical activity strategy – developed with Birmingham’s own strategy
- Response to the government’s Industrial Strategy Green Paper

Further devolution

The CA is seeking a further devolution deal and a parallel housing deal to extend its powers and enable faster progress on housing, transport, skills, digital, energy and public service reforms. As with the first devolution deal, any agreement with government signed by the leaders will be subject to ratification by each constituent member council, consultation and Parliamentary approval before it is implemented.

## **ASSISTANT LEADERS**

A recent Cabinet report 'Taking forward Local Leadership in Birmingham' outlined the next steps in the evolution of devolution across the city.

The overriding focus of this work is to improve service delivery in neighbourhoods and bend the organisational culture of the council and the wider public sector towards neighbourhood priorities and needs. Empowering councillors in their local leadership role is critical to achieving this.

The proposed approach is to make significant improvements in 3 ways:

1. Use a consistent Ward Planning process as the basis for setting priorities, steering service redesign and making strategic budget decisions on local services. This will be the core of the place shaping approach adopted by the whole council.
2. Establish a system of “Relationship Managers” and Ward Action Co-ordinators to link ward councillors to service management. This will ensure that councillors have a single point of contact and can get a response to local issues on a day to day basis – a common concern in consultations with councillors. It will set out a core offer that officers are expected to provide to councillors alongside Member responsibility to follow through on issues.
3. Improve data available to councillors and citizens at the local level to support both Ward Planning, day to day responsiveness to local issues and using a big-data approach to integrating and delivering fresh insights and local solutions.

The role of the Assistant Leaders will be to ensure that the central political and administrative system is supporting local action. One key part of their role will be to drive forward and develop future policy options around parish and community councils.

A major new way of taking the whole approach forward could be through the creation of neighbourhood, community, parish or town councils across Birmingham.

The parish council model potentially offers an alternative to the current arrangements that is sustainable, flexible and increases democratic accountability.

- The issue of charging a precept is a potential community concern, however Sutton Coldfield gives us an example of where the introduction of a parish or town council can secure popular support.
- The precept model is flexible and provides long term financial sustainability in a time when BCC central resources remain subject to considerable pressure.

- Parishes could be introduced slowly rather than a 'Big Bang' approach as with the introduction of devolved districts. This would enable consolidation and would give time to learn from the challenges encountered elsewhere in the city.
- Parish councils can range in geographic size so they will be less prescriptive than the district model.
- Parish councils could also play a role in re-energising local politics in parts of our city where democratic participation and community activity are low.





## Corporate Resources and Governance O&S Committee: Work Programme 2017/18

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Chair</b>              | Cllr Mohammed Aiklaq  |
| <b>Deputy Chair</b>       | Cllr Randal Brew  |
| <b>Committee Members:</b> | Cllrs Muhammed Afzal, David Barrie, Changese Khan, Ewan Mackay, Yvonne Mosquito, Rob Pocock, Valerie Seabright, Sybil Spence, Paul Tilsley, Waseem Zaffar |
| <b>Committee Support:</b> | Scrutiny Team: Emma Williamson (464 6870), Iram Choudry (303 8263)<br>Committee Manager: Victoria Williams (303 7037)                                     |

### 1 Meeting Schedule

| Date  | Item   | Officer contact   |
|---|--|---|
| 28 June 2017<br>10.30am<br>Committee Room 6       | <i>Informal:</i> Work Programme Discussion<br><br><i>Outcome:</i> to determine the work programme priorities for the year  | Emma Williamson/Iram Choudry, Scrutiny Office             |
| 26 July 2017<br>10.30am<br>Committee Room 2       | 1) Report of the Leader of the Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priorities for the year in relation to corporate leadership;</li> <li>• BIIP Feedback;</li> <li>• Council of the Future;</li> <li>• Partnership working</li> <li>• Evolution of Devolution: Cabinet Committee Local Leadership and Local Innovation Fund;</li> <li>• West Midlands Combined Authority and Mayor update;</li> </ul> | Geoff Coleman, Cabinet Office                             |
| 6th September 2017<br>10.30am<br>Committee Room 6 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cabinet Member for Transparency, Openness and Equality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priorities for the year in relation to transparency and openness (to include an update Bereavement Services)</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Revenue Services update</li> </ol>  | Marcia Wynter, Cabinet Support Officer<br><br>Chris Gibbs |





## 2 Working Groups

Partnership Working-BCC Parish/Town Councils: (Membership: Cllrs Aikhlaq, Brew, Barrie, Pocock)

## 3 Other Suggested Work Areas

- Potential Inquiry to explore the role of BCC and Partnerships across Birmingham
- West Midlands Combined Authority
- Human Resources update
- Recruitment and retention of senior council staff
- Visit to Citiserve
- Assistant Leaders-Update on arrangements for Devolution

## 4 Other Meetings

### Call in

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### Petitions

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*None scheduled*

### Councillor Call for Action requests

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*None scheduled*

## 5 Forward Plan

| Deputy Leader |   |           |
|---------------|---|-----------|
| 003672/2017   | Development of an investment vehicle for commercial property and the disposal of surplus properties | 27 Jun 17 |
| 003701/2017   | Update on the ICT and Digital Future Operating Model - PUBLIC                                       | 27 Jun 17 |
| 003673/2017   | Corporate Revenue Monitoring Report Month 2   | 25 Jul 17 |
| 000288/2015   | ICT Investment and Strategy – PUBLIC  | 04 Aug 17 |
| 003661/2017   | Performance Monitoring - April to June 2017   | 13 Sep 17 |
| 003662/2017   | Performance Monitoring - April to September 2017  | 13 Sep 17 |



|                                       |  |           |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----------|
| 004016/2017                           | Non Domestic Rates Support for businesses following 2017 Revaluation   | 13 Sep 17 |
| 003674/2017                           | Corporate Revenue Monitoring Report 3 and 4  | 19 Sep 17 |
| 003698/2017                           | Capital and Treasury Monitoring Quarter 1 (April to June 2017)   | 19 Sep 17 |
| <b>Leader</b>                         |  |           |
| 000318/2015                           | Discharge of Accountable Body Arrangements for AMSCI - Standing Item   | 19 Sep 17 |
| 003690/2017                           | Phoenix Business Park, Brickfield Road, Tyseley – Proposed Compulsory Purchase Order   | 19 Sep 17 |
| <b>Value for Money and Efficiency</b> |  |           |
| 002967/2017                           | Procurement Contract - Procurement Strategy for the Provision of Design Construction and Facilities Management Services (DCFM) - | 25 Jul 17 |
| 003629/2017                           | Commissioning Security for Council Premises - PUBLIC   | 25 Jul 17 |
| 003712/2017                           | Grounds Maintenance - Contract Overrun (F066) Public   | 25 Jul 17 |
| 003887/2017                           | Commissioning Strategy 2017+ - PUBLIC  | 25 Jul 17 |
| 003904/2017                           | Replacement Social Care IT System (Children and Adults) Approval to Award Contract - Public Report                               | 25 Jul 17 |
| 003741/2017                           | Tender Strategy for the Repair, Maintenance and Major Refurbishments of Lifts (in Housing, Council Buildings and Schools) –      | 04 Aug 17 |