

# **BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

## **CO-ORDINATING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**FRIDAY, 17 MARCH 2023 AT 10:30 HOURS**  
**IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 3 & 4, COUNCIL HOUSE, VICTORIA**  
**SQUARE, BIRMINGHAM, B1 1BB**

### **A G E N D A**

#### **1 NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST**

The Chair to advise/meeting to note that this meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's meeting You Tube site ([www.youtube.com/channel/UCT2kT7ZRPFCXq6\\_5dnVnYlw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCT2kT7ZRPFCXq6_5dnVnYlw)) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

#### **2 APOLOGIES**

To receive any apologies.

#### **3 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Members are reminded they must declare all relevant pecuniary and other registerable interests arising from any business to be discussed at this meeting.

If a disclosable pecuniary interest is declared a Member must not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless they have been granted a dispensation.

If other registerable interests are declared a Member may speak on the matter only if members of the public are allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless they have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', Members do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that they have an interest.

Information on the Local Government Association's Model Councillor Code of Conduct is set out via <http://bit.ly/3WtGQnN>. This includes, at Appendix 1, an interests flowchart which provides a simple guide to declaring interests at meetings.

- 5 - 16**
- 4 **ACTION NOTES – 17 FEBRUARY 2023**
- To confirm the Action Notes from the meeting held on 17 February 2023.
- 17 - 18**
- 5 **CO-ORDINATING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ACTION TRACKER**
- To review and note the actions from previous Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.
- 19 - 42**
- 6 **EXEMPT ACCOMMODATION INQUIRY UPDATE REPORT**
- To receive an update report from Councillor Sharon Thompson, Cabinet Member for Housing and Guy Chaundy, Assistant Director Housing Strategy and Enabling Services on the implementation of the recommendations of the Exempt Accommodation Scrutiny Inquiry.
- 43 - 52**
- 7 **CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO PRIORITIES**
- Cllr. Ian Ward, Leader of the Council, to attend to report on his Portfolio Priorities.
- 53 - 84**
- 8 **SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23**
- To review the Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme, to receive updates on the work programmes for the other 7 Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Scrutiny Inquiries, and to note the Terms of Reference for the Homes for Ukraine Task and Finish Group.
- 9 **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).
- 10 **OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**
- To consider any items of business by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) that in the opinion of the Chair are matters of urgency.
- 11 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**
- To note the date of the next meeting is scheduled for 14 April 2023 at 10.00am
- 12 **AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS**

Chair 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'.



## BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**COORDINATING O&S COMMITTEE – PUBLIC MEETING**

1000 hours on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023, Committee Rooms 3 and 4,

Council House, Victoria Square, B1 1BB

**Action Notes****Present:**

Councillor Albert Bore (Chair)

Councillors: Jack Deakin, Mick Brown, Mohammed Idrees, Chaman Lal, Ewan Mackey, Kerry Jenkins, Saima Suleman, Alex Yip, Roger Harmer, Deirdre Alden.

**Also Present:**

Cllr. John Cotton, Cabinet Member Social Justice, Community Safety & Equalities

Cllr. Morriam Jan, Visiting Member

Maureen Connolly, CEO of BSWA

Revinder Johal, Commissioning Manager for Adult Social Care

Kalvinder Kohli, Assistant Director Early Intervention (online)

Shirin Marashi, Senior Commissioning Officer

Emily Owen, Student Wellbeing and Partnership Officers, University of Birmingham

James Mason, Student Wellbeing and Partnership Officers, University of Birmingham

Nicky Brennan, Victims Commissioner, OPCC

William Noble, Research Officer, OPCC

Christian Scade, Head of Scrutiny and Committee Services

Ed Brown, Committee Officer

**1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST**

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**2. APOLOGIES**

None.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

None.

#### **4. ACTION NOTES - 27 JANUARY 2023**

The Action Notes of the meeting on the 27 January were agreed.

##### **RESOLVED:**

- That the action notes of the formal meeting held on 27 January 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### **5. CO-ORDINATING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ACTION TRACKER**

##### **RESOLVED:**

- That the Action Tracker be noted

#### **6. DOMESTIC ABUSE PREVENTION STRATEGY REVIEW**

The Chair introduced the report and thanked the officers who had brought us to this point.

(See Document No 1)

A report was submitted providing an overview of the approach to reviewing and developing the new Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy 2024+ and an update on cross-party scrutiny engagement to date and ongoing opportunities to engage in the consultation of the strategy.

Kalvinder Kohli, Assistant Director Early Intervention and Prevention and Revinder Johal, Commissioning Manager for Adult Social Care presented the section on the Strategy review and the approach to review and engagement with the use of slides.

Key points included:

- This was a sensitive area of work and colleagues were reminded that support was available.
- In 2022 domestic abuse was the third highest reason for homelessness.
- The existing strategy had been widely consulted upon and involved a wide range of partner organisations across the city.
- There had been a shift in strategy moving upstream away from crisis intervention, and focussing on early intervention and prevention.
- The partnership approach required a wholesale system change and a change in culture. There had been unanimous support from the partner agencies.
- Women and Children were at the centre of the strategy as domestic abuse is a gendered crime. However, the strategy recognised that anybody could experience

domestic abuse, and equality was embedded in the strategy, with particular consideration to those with protected characteristics.

- Key achievements included:
  - A commissioned prevention pathway providing support to victims
  - Retained refuge provision which had continued to be built on.
  - A cross-directorate domestic abuse group.
  - A developed Human Resources offer for staff.
  - Specialist officers for housing where domestic abuse was a factor.
  - The implementation of Part 4 Domestic Abuse Act 2021 new statutory duty (*provision of support to victims who reside in safe accommodation*). This included:
    - A shadow board set up a year in advance of the new duty.
    - A full needs assessment had been completed.
    - A refreshed strategy had been produced.
    - Commissioned support in safe accommodation which included children's workers, therapeutic and counselling sessions, family support workers etc.
    - A community grants prospectus was developed to enable smaller grass roots organisations to bid for pots of monies to support victims who often had protected characteristics. These included Domestic Abuse Learning Disability Coordinator, Domestic Abuse school link workers, The Leaving to Healing programme etc
- Regarding next steps the approach would:
  - Review and reflect on the current strategy, considering what has been achieved, what challenges were encountered and what may need to continue in the new strategy.
  - Ensure, strong partnership involvement, in continued recognition that no one single agency can deliver on the significant whole system approach required to tackle and prevent domestic abuse across Birmingham.
  - Ensure the Council's corporate priority of prevention and early intervention is central to the new strategy.
  - Align with the new Homelessness Prevention Strategy and Violence Against Women and girls (VAWG) strategy.
- The issues of early intervention and prevention were addressed, and the Domestic Abuse Strategy Timeline was outlined.
- The approach had been approved by DALSP Board and presented at Cabinet member briefings. There had been cross-party scrutiny involvement and a strategy working group had been established.

Emily Owen and James Mason, Student Wellbeing and Partnership Officers, University of Birmingham, gave a presentation using slides on Enhancing Support for Student Vulnerability on Campus. Issues covered included:

- The Wellbeing Network.

- Student Wellbeing and Partnership, which comprised of Vulnerable Student Support, training and development, Partnerships and Non-traditional Student Vulnerabilities.
- Changing attitudes and behaviours.
- Early identification and help.
- Safety and support.
- Next steps and developments including:
  - Identifying best practice within the sector.
  - The use of data to understand prevalence, identify trends and inform proactive prevention work.
  - Developing new partnerships within the community both voluntary and statutory.
  - Coproduction with students.

Maureen Connolly, CEO of Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid (BSWA), presented the section on Partner feedback on current strategy: successes and achievements using slides.

Key points included:

- Key Obstacles for Women including:
  - A low rate of arrests and prosecutions (less than 4% of crimed cases).
  - A shortage of refuge accommodation and family housing and suitable and affordable housing.
- Data was presented showing a significant rise in cases particularly during the Covid-19 lockdown which had a big impact on services. Data also showed that high risk cases (victims at the highest risk of the most significant harm) were rising quickly and it was noted that the thresholds for what was considered a high risk case were very high in Birmingham.
- Further data from the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) was presented showing that of victims, 6% were male compared to 94 % female with 3% in the LGBT community and of perpetrators 94.5% were male and 5.5% were female (the data for perpetrators in the LGBT community was not known).
- The Birmingham City Council Commissioned Domestic Abuse Pathway was showing the services available to women such as Home Options, Advice and Wellbeing and the helpline and Webchat which could then in turn refer on to specialist teams, Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid (BSWA) and other services.
- Trans issues were identified and referred on to the LGBT centre.
- Women and Children were prioritised as that was where the risks were.
- Services were in one place in order to prevent escalation and there had been significant success stories.
- There was no gatekeeping and the organisation had worked with women to consider what could be done differently



- New interventions recognised children as victims and took account of families with complex needs where issues had the potential to escalate. Age-related services were also available.
- In terms of cultural change, the organisation was working to support women and also share practice and the understanding of challenges.
- There had been an issue that large properties were often purchased quickly, which reduced the chance for them to be bought as refuges.
- The organisation was looking to find ways to find a new model and to help vulnerable women.

During the discussion the following issues were raised:

In response to a query from Councillor Mackey on the rise of domestic abuse in lockdown, the CEO of BSWA noted the rapid rise and informed those present that a regional campaign had been set up so that women knew where they could go. She further reported that practice had adapted quickly, and the police had help protect victims of domestic abuse. She further noted that the scenarios had been very alarming with an increase of women murdered during the lockdown and as such the organisation and partners had needed to act quickly.

In response to a query from Councillor Deirdre Alden concerning housing issues surrounding domestic abuse, the CEO of BSWA noted that there was very little choice about where to house victims due to a lack of space. She further noted issues surrounding the safest place to house victims which included areas other than Birmingham.

The Commissioning Manager, Adult Social Care, agreed to further investigate the success rate of injunctions carried out by Birmingham City Council.

In response to further questions from Councillor Deirdre Alden on how the statistics were compiled, the CEO of BSWA explained that the majority of cases were not crimed and statistics were affected by the fact that if cases were not dealt with by the police when reported, victims would be reluctant to report cases in future.

It was clarified that a crimed case was a case in which a significant assault had been determined. The determination depended on evidence of harm and as such whilst coercive control was a crime, cases were rarely crimed.

The Victims Commissioner, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) further clarified that there were often different elements in a case and where this was the case the different elements were crimed as separate entities. She further noted that for many victims there could be a back catalogue of incidents not reported.

The Chair suggested that the data could be presented differently to aid clarity.

In response to questions from Councillor Suleman concerning the sharing of information about services and the role of intersectionality, the CEO of BSWA informed those present that there were agencies to contact and that information was available. However, she acknowledged that there was a finite number of staff operating the helpline and as such

it could sometimes be difficult to get through meaning that some people did not get support. She further acknowledged that intersectionality was important but also acknowledged that there was a lot of pressure across the sector. She suggested that there was more to learn for the statutory sector and that it was important to understand situations.

In response to an issue raised by Councillor Brown regarding domestic abuse and particularly coercive control involving older children and young adults within a family, the CEO of BSWA acknowledged that this was a challenge that was not easy to resolve and that this was something that needed to be looked at further.

In response to issues raised by Councillor Lal regarding the causes of domestic abuse, statistics showing different levels of domestic abuse in different communities and people at risk of modern slavery, the CEO of BSWA explained that domestic abuse took place as a result of women's place in society. She added that if no action was taken against perpetrators the situation could escalate, and drew attention to the low arrest and prosecution rate and the prevalence of victim-blaming. Councillor Cotton, Cabinet member for Social Justice, Community, Safety, and Equalities, added that work was being done in conjunction with Birmingham University on modern slavery and the Commissioning Manager for Adult Social Care further mentioned wider work done with universities on domestic abuse.

In response to a question from Councillor Idrees on statistics surrounding female Genital Mutilation (FGM) the CEO of BSWA indicated that she did not think that figures were reducing based on the information available to her. She further clarified that FGM was treated as family abuse and it was necessary to look at the whole picture.

Responding to a query from Councillor Deakin regarding trans victims of domestic abuse, it was explained that trans victims were referred to the LGBT centre who could take a more nuanced approach. She added that whilst there were services for male victims, thousands of women were being turned away due to capacity issues.

During consideration of lessons learned from current strategy: main challenges and what could be done differently, the following issues were raised:

- The importance of working in strategic partnerships and a collaborative approach.
- The need to change how things were heard and the need to end victim-blaming.
- The need to assess risk properly.
- The need for a place for victims to go.
- The importance of the early intervention model.
- The need to act to protect.

Nicky Brennan, Victims Commissioner of OPCC presented the section on Emerging Issues, including, Successes challenges and emerging issues, children as victims, training, housing,

MARAC, criminal justice responses, cost of living crisis and key issues to take forward into new strategy using slides.

Points highlighted included:

- The role of Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) to amplify the voice of victims and to help them recover.
- The increase in support across the region and the funding of services.
- 'By and For' services to support victims of Domestic Abuse, Sexual Abuse, FGM, Forced Marriage, Honour Based Abuse and specialist support services that support LGBT+ victims of domestic abuse and hate crime and increase trust in the criminal justice system.
- The Specialist Domestic Violence Courts – in particular issues surrounding the backlogs faced by courts and the discussions at regional level surrounding specialist domestic abuse courts.
- The importance of the accessibility of victim support, particularly for minorities.
- The Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Fund.
- Changing behaviours such as the No Excuse for Abuse Campaign and the Time to talk initiative which challenged surrounding social media personalities who promote misogynistic perspectives focussing on boys in a school setting, calling out misogynist behaviour and educating boys on how to be allies.
- The impact of the cost-of-living crisis on domestic abuse particularly with regard to victims being financially dependent on their abusers.
- Further challenges included:
  - Housing for domestic abuse victims.
  - Court backlogs and the lack of investment in the criminal justice system.
  - The impact of the cost of living on providers.
  - The prevalence of misogynistic figures online.
  - The NHS/Public Health response to victims and survivors through treatment such as sexual health, dental etc.
  - The lack of recourse to public funds.

Councillor Yip noted that this was an opportunity for Overview and Scrutiny to feed into the strategy and be heard and stressed the need for each scrutiny chair to take back to their own committees on what was relevant and feed into the new refreshed strategy. He further stressed that this was an opportunity to look both back and forward on the issue.

He provided feedback from the December roundtable of 30+ groups and noted that a number of points raised at the present meeting reflected those raised at the roundtable. Observations, recommendations and issues raised included:

- With regard to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS):
  - Non-molestation orders
  - Family court

- Low levels of prosecutions
- Number of instances where no further action was taken.
- Modern slavery
- The increasing number of and increasing complexity of cases around domestic abuse (male and female victims).

This was a key element for prevention of future offences.

Further observations, recommendations and issues raised included:

- Education and the impact to the child as a victim in their own right, the voice of the child and getting better more timely education as a priority for children. Mental health and counselling. Whether children fleeing domestic abuse could be placed as a priority for schools when considering places. Moving and porting the housing waiting position from other Councils into Council.
- The issue of housing that was temporary but not temporary enough, causing bed-blocking and an inability for families to move on. Also, poor quality housing that was not joined up.
- The cost-of-living crisis as a new emerging challenge since the strategy was created. In particular its influence on coercion and control, finance and pressure upon commissioned services as well as legal aid and no resource to public funds.
- The need for longer term funding- not short-term funding for organisations.
- The need for earlier prevention to reverse the trend which had been moving in the wrong direction for several years. Offences were arising at an ever-younger age and there was a need to get prevention right.
- The need to place the voice of the victims at the heart of the process.
- The suggestion for a direct line for commissioned services and councillors to cut through red tape for discretionary payments, advice or housing in emergency cases not just the email that is used.
- The need for short term and medium-term changes, as part of a long-term strategy.
- The complexity of this issue which crosses multiple portfolios and the desire to see Cabinet Members (multiple) reporting back to ensure joined-up action on this.
- Changing behaviours and attitudes earlier.

He further suggested that training for Councillors on how to address issues of domestic abuse would be welcomed.

During further discussion the following issues were raised:

Councillor Kerry Jenkins commented that the roundtable had been informative and useful and added that discussion was ongoing. She further commented that whilst changing attitudes were the most important feature, they were also the hardest as domestic abuse was an ongoing issue and it had been difficult to see how attitudes had changed in recent history. Issues surrounding victim-blaming, particularly in the mainstream media were further highlighted and the need to call-out victim-blaming was raised. She further suggested that more could be done by Councillors to work with their own communities to

educate and change attitudes, and whilst this may exist in some communities already, it needed to be taken onboard as a whole and that she would like to see this in the strategy.

She further stressed the need for early intervention and prevention and the need to think about how to get other partners onboard to deliver.

She suggested that training on domestic abuse issues should be mandatory for Councillors.

Councillor Jan added that the CEO of BSWA had offered training. She also raised the suggestion that every victim should approach the CPS as Women's Aid had funding for legal aid which could help those who could not afford solicitors. She raised the question of whether legal aid would still be in place if cases took a long time to get to court.

In response to a query from Councillor Lal about the correct use of funds by organisations, the Victims Commissioner, OPCC, assured that there was a robust monitoring process to ensure that money funded to partner organisations was spent properly.

The CEO of BSWA added that she had not heard of any agency that had not used the money funded to them properly and the Commissioning manager, Adult Social Care, further assured that there was a robust procurement process in place and ongoing contract management to ensure that bids were delivered on.

Councillor Suleman supported her ideas of training for Councillors and a single point of contact for Councillors on the issue. She further raised the issue of victims of abuse becoming perpetrators and the need to get the message across that these people had the choice not to become abusers.

Councillor Mackey drew attention to training materials available through the Local Government Association.

Councillor Jenkins stipulated that whilst having a single point of contact was good for signposting for the right support, it was important to ensure that certain cases were not prioritised over others.

Councillor John Cotton, Cabinet member for Social Justice, Community, Safety, and Equalities thanked the members of the Committee for an important session and made the following summarising comments:

- When scrutiny was involved at any early stage it helped to shape policy rather than being reactive.
- There had been a strong message, and everyone appeared to be on the same page regarding understanding the challenge and what action was needed. He made reference to the 'Everyone's Battle, Everyone's Business' approach.
- Given the cross-cutting nature of the issues each Overview and Scrutiny Committee had a role to play.

- There was a need for the strategy to be owned across all cabinet portfolios and directorates.
- There was a responsibility to build an environment that tackled the root causes of domestic abuse.
- There was a demand for crisis support and it was important to meet that whilst also working on prevention work. A balance was needed as some issues needed to be dealt with immediately.
- A great deal of funding was short-term which needed to be spent at the crisis end rather than the prevention end. As such representations needed to be made to the government or long-term sustainable funding to aid the delivery of prevention.
- An offer had been made regarding the training of Councillors.
- Regarding the single point of contact and the 'no wrong door' approach, it was necessary to look at systems. There was a need to meet need as it came and there was a need to know referral routes.
- A timeline had been set out for the next steps. Many other stakeholders needed to take part. The strategy should not just be for the Council but for the whole city.

Councillor Yip, as Chair of the Cross-party Scrutiny Working Group, concluded by highlighting the positive work that had taken place to date and asked officers to consider the following suggestions ahead of refreshing the strategy:

- To implement a direct point of contact for signposting Councillors.
- To consider prioritising children fleeing domestic abuse for education places.
- To consider housing priorities with regard to people escaping domestic abuse
- To look into longer-term funding.

The Chair made the suggestion that the Committee look at the refreshed strategy before it came to Cabinet in December. This would mean that a meeting would likely need to be scheduled for either October or early November to allow comments ahead of the Cabinet report being finalised. As such it would be necessary to firm up the timetable to take forward and build into the future scrutiny work programme.

#### **RESOLVED:-**

- (i) That the observations and issues raised by the Committee (summarised via the minutes above) be reviewed by officers.
- (ii) That the Committee consider the refreshed Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy prior to it going to Cabinet.
- (iii) That, following adoption of the new strategy by Cabinet, the committee be updated on an annual basis on its implementation.

## **7. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23**

The Chair raised the need to firm up the March and April work programme so as to accommodate Homes for Ukraine.

### **RESOLVED:-**

- (i) That, subject to items for March and April being confirmed by the Chair in consultation with officers outside of the meeting, the work programmes for Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee was noted.
- (ii) That the work programmes for the other Overview and Scrutiny Committees be noted.

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

There were no requests for Call In for Co-ordinating OSC.

## **9. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business.

## **10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that next meeting of the Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be 17 March 2023 at 10.30am

The meeting ended at 12:02pm





**CO-ORDINATING OSC JANUARY 2022**

**ACTION TRACKER 2022/23**

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1	23 September 2022	Cost of Living Crisis	The Director of Strategy, Equality and Partnerships to provide information on the groups of people who have receive payments and further analysis of this is available.	IN PROGRESS Information Requested
2	9 December	Planning Enforcement	That the Senior Enforcement Officer respond following the meeting to the request that supporting evidence for HMOs could be sent to ward members for consideration and comment.	IN PROGRESS Information requested and update provided:  Legal services and the Planning Area Teams have been consulted. Confirmation is being sought whether any process changes can be implemented around the consultation of LDCs with members.
3	27 January	Cabinet Member Update, Social Justice, Community Safety & Equalities	That the Cabinet member will follow the issue of traveller sites with Cllr. Lal after the meeting.	COMPLETE
4	27 January	Cabinet Member Social Justice, Community Safety & Equalities	That the Cabinet Member will provide information on the take up of additional hours for the advice sessions at the centres.	COMPLETE
5	27 January	Cabinet Member Social Justice, Community Safety & Equalities	The Cabinet Member agreed to meet with the Board of Deputies and the Jewish Leadership Council and will confirm if the letter was sent to the MPs when the definition was adopted and restate the message	IN PROGRESS Information Requested

6	27 January	Cabinet Member Social Justice, Community Safety & Equalities	The Cabinet Member will follow up the issues regarding building capacity of holiday schemes with Cllr. Harmer	IN PROGRESS Information Requested
7	27 January	Homes for Ukraine	That a Task and Finish Group be established to consider the issues raised at the meeting regarding the Homes for Ukraine programme. The Chair will develop the Terms of Reference for the Homes for Ukraine Task and Finish Group to action this work quickly.	COMPLETE Draft terms of reference developed.
8	27 January	Customer Services Task and Finish Group Update.	The Assistant Director for Customer Service and Business Support to raise the issue of relative's responsibility to maintain the grave when relatives are no longer alive and cemetery opening times with the Bereavement Services Manager and provide a response.	COMPLETE This information will be captured as part of the Customer Services Task and Finish Group updates specific to Bereavement Services.
9	17 February	Domestic Abuse Strategy	Officers to review the observations and issues from Committee on 17 February.	IN PROGRESS. Information requested. This will be completed in advance of the draft Domestic Abuse strategy coming back to Committee for pre-Decision scrutiny.
10	17 February	Domestic Abuse Strategy	Committee considers the refreshed draft Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy prior to going to Cabinet	COMPLETE. Now listed under future items on work programme
11	17 February	Domestic Abuse Strategy	Following adoption of the new strategy, the Committee is updated annually on its implementation.	COMPLETE. Now listed under future items on work programme.

# Birmingham City Council

## Coordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date 17.03.2023




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**Subject:** Exempt Accommodation Scrutiny Recommendations Update

**Report of:** Guy Chaundy, Assistant Director Strategy & Enabling Service, City Housing

**Report author:** Guy Chaundy, Assistant Director Strategy & Enabling Service, City Housing  
Collette Campbell, Senior Housing Modernisation & Strategy Manager, City Housing  
Marie Dobinson, Project & Change Manager, PPI

### 1 Purpose

- 1.1 To present an update on all the Exempt Accommodation (EA) Scrutiny Review recommendations and outcomes, including inspection activity and ongoing work to shape future government reforms. This can be found in Appendix 1
- 1.2 The latest EA scrutiny recommendation action plan tracker can be found in Appendix 2

### 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Receive the report contained in the slide deck presentation (Appendix 1)
- 2.2 For the Committee to review the recommendations R01-R08 updates (Appendix 2) and confirm agreement with relevant status given for each

### 3 Any Finance Implications

- 3.1 The council's exempt accommodation oversight activity in 2022/23 has been funded through a £1.9m BCC Invest to Deliver budget. Further grant funding has been secured through DLUHC to continue operations for two more years - £1.62m for 2023/24 and £1.57m for 2024/25.
- 3.2 An updated business case for 23/24 and 24/25 is being prepared to set out how the new DLUHC grant funding and any remaining 22/23 funding will be utilised. It is expected that inspection capacity will be maintained in its current capacity over the next couple of years.

## **4 Any Legal Implications**

- 4.1 The non-commissioned Supported Exempt Accommodation sector is regulated through the Regulator for Social Housing and Charities Commission. The provision is predominantly paid for through Housing Benefit claims in line with Housing Benefit Regulations. It is widely understood the current legal framework is insufficient to ensure appropriate quality and oversight of this type of provision.
- 4.2 The government has been undertaking a national inquiry into Exempt Accommodation since December 2021 to determine future legislation requirements for the sector, and Birmingham City Council's Overview & Scrutiny report and Supported Housing Needs Assessment was included as evidence towards this in line with Scrutiny Recommendation 07.
- 4.3 The government has introduced a draft Supported Housing Bill which looks to address the gap in sector regulation and includes the following proposals: Setting up a new national advisory group; national standards for supported exempt accommodation; a licensing scheme for local authorities and a new planning use-class for supported exempt accommodation.
- 4.4 Agreeing and implementing the Bill will follow the usual parliamentary process, including consultation with local authorities. It is currently estimated the new regulations will be implemented in Summer 2024.

## **5 Any Equalities Implications**

- 5.1 The Scrutiny recommendations are seeking positive improvements for citizens who access supported exempt provision and local communities and neighbourhoods. This includes the following vulnerable groups: Young people leaving care, young people at risk and teenage parents; People with experience of the criminal justice system; People experiencing mental ill health, people with drug and alcohol dependency and people who have physical/learning disabilities that are below the threshold of care; People at risk of domestic abuse; Homeless people with identified other support needs, rough sleepers, refugees and travellers; People with multiple/complex needs.

## **6 Appendices**

- 6.1 Supported Exempt Accommodation – OS Committee Slides 17.03.2023
- 6.2 EA Scrutiny Review Recommendations Mar-23 Action Plan v12

# Supported Exempt Accommodation - Update

Guy Chaundy, Assistant Director Housing Strategy & Enablement

Coordinating Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023



# Key updates

- Scrutiny Recommendations
- Inspection Outcomes
- Draft Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Bill
- Full Council - motions update

# R01 & R02 – Building on the success of the pilot

- ***R01d – Identification of resources to inspect 20,000 units***
  - Business case for 2023/25 being finalised – incorporating DLUHC grant funding (£3.19m)
  - Despite reduced grant funding, expecting to maintain current level of resources for at least the next year with some support from 22/23 budget carried forward.
  - 8.5 year inspection cycle remains based on current resource levels/sector size
  - Longer term, consulting with DLUHC on a new licensing scheme to be introduced as part of the reforms
- ***R02a – Single clear route for citizens (tenants and residents) to raise concerns and have them resolved***
  - Agreed complaints route is through [PRS@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:PRS@birmingham.gov.uk) mailbox
  - Website is up and running, additional content reviewed with City wide residents group (meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> March) to further agree content and structure of updated website, working with Web team to get this finalised early April.
- ***R02b – Option of local coordination groups and a charter for local areas where EA concentration is high to be explored***
  - Resident participation officer – recent recruitment has not been taken up, and post is going back out to be readvertised. Resident engagement strategy is being developed with input from the city wide residents group

# Inspection outcomes - Since April 2022 / Totals

- Key data: Inspections – 885 since April 22 (Total 1969 since Oct 20)
- Cat 1s & Cat 2s – averaging 97% resolution
- 21 properties decommissioned (Total 64)
- Support plan reviews – 660 (Total 1176), Safeguarding reviews 23 (Total 58)
- Community Safety investigations: 496 (1134) ,CPW 1 (19) Evictions 116(314) Arrests 8 (36)
- HB overpayments recalled: £963k (Total £4.15m) vacated tenants & insufficient CSS
- Planning Enforcement – 1 this year, (Total 13, from 236 reviews)



## **R03 - Ensuring Council wide practice is consistent with the aims of the Quality Standards, Charter of Rights and Supported Housing Strategy**

*R03a Adopt a council wide approach to commissioning, placing conditions on use of exempt accommodation based on their adherence to the quality standard and charter*

- Commissioned provision is managed contractually
- For non-commissioned provision, collating providers and managing agents most frequently being referred to by Housing Support & Solutions Hubs, in order to prioritise QS accreditation and ensure appropriate rehousing options and prevention, and finalise a 'preferred provider list'
- Pulling together data on referrals to SEA made through BCC or Hubs. Approximately 500 referrals via HSS / SIFA Fireside in 2022
- Supported Housing Strategy now agreed at Cabinet Jan 23.
- 5 year delivery plan is in development (strongly dependent on national reforms).

# Birmingham SEA Quality Standards & Charter of Rights

- No specific quality standard for non-commissioned SEA provision exists, although there is the National Statement of Expectations – best practice
- Birmingham has been working with the Birmingham Voluntary Sector Council (BVSC) since 2019 to design a quality standard for Birmingham and improve quality, and develop an approved list (*Recommendation 3b*)
- 40 signed up / fee paid and undergoing rigorous assessment – out of 179 providers in Birmingham
- 11 Awarded – Gold, Silver or Bronze and 3 awaiting approval in March.
- Rigorous assessment process - informed by intelligence from inspection teams, interviews with resident, background checks, onsite visits, interviews with staff and residents, website, media reports
- Providers under regulatory review or judgement with the RSH – any award is suspended for a year subject to addressing concerns of the regulator.

## The Charter of Rights for Tenants

- A right to feel safe and protected
- A right to decent living conditions
- A right to clear information on your support entitlement
- A right to security of property
- A right to seek advice and assistance, and to challenge

Quality Standards Accredited Providers	RP/MA	Award	Date
Spring Housing	RP	Gold	Feb 22
YMCA	RP	Gold	Apr 22
Changes UK	RP	Silver	Feb 22
Midland Mencap	RP	Silver	Apr 22
Ashley Community Housing	RP	Silver	Oct 22
Birmingham Supported Living	RP	Silver	Oct 22
FHSC	RP	Bronze	Feb 22
St Anne's Hostel	RP	Bronze	Apr 22
THS Throughcare	RP	Bronze	Apr 22
Gateway2Housing	MA	Bronze	Oct 22
Servol	RP	Bronze	Oct 22

- Charter of Rights co-designed with 50 residents in Birmingham by Spring Housing & BCC - improve the rights of people living in Supported Exempt Accommodation
- Key to Quality Standards Accreditation – resident policies
- Voluntary, with no fee to sign up – 113 providers are adoptees
- Monthly inductions and quarterly Best Practice forums

# R04 - Supporting the Housing Benefit Process

## *R04a - New provider visits – process agreed March 22*

- Any new providers not signed up to the Quality Standards – visits continuing
- 8 refused, 13 agreed since March 22
- This does not include applications rejected without a visit as providers are unable to evidence the required criteria for exempt status.

## *R04c – Payment to be reviewed at 2-6months, to include a site visit not just a desk exercise. System of risk based reviews*

- System of risk based reviews in place. Visits are continuing to focus on any 2-6 month reviews where Care Support and Supervision (CSS) evidence has been provided and is 'less than minimal'.
- In total, 7000 2-6 month desktop reviews have taken place since April 22 – 439 claims cancelled due to CSS concerns, leading to 116 additional inspections.
- Ongoing issue around resourcing particularly re ASC team – business case in progress to recruit a 3<sup>rd</sup> social worker, but likely to still be under resourced for additional volumes

## R05 – Strengthening Planning controls

*R05 - Recommendation for Planning leads and the relevant O&S committee to review existing practices, enforcement policies and procedures*

- Recommendation/action completed March 22, specific action was to circulate planning committee reporting to all members (ongoing)
- Further review Dec 22 – Supporting evidence for Lawful Development Certificates (LDC) be sent to Ward Members for consideration and comment during the planning application process
- Officers can confirm ward members are consulted on LDC applications and all public documents are published, as would be the case for any planning application. Nonetheless, a lot of supporting information for LDCs is likely to contain sensitive information, e.g. sworn affidavit, bills, invoices, tenancy agreements, etc and this information would not be published due to data protection.

## R06 – Working with Regional Partners and other LAs

*R06 - The Cabinet member should work with the regulator and other local authorities to prevent/reduce 'lifting and shifting' of vulnerable people from elsewhere in the country. This is a national issue, and the Leader should raise this with WM leaders and Core City Groups*

- Working with other local authorities now joining the National Supported Housing Improvement Programme, as well as ongoing engagement with core cities
- Supported Housing Bill references introduction of National Standards for Supported Exempt Accommodation and new Licensing scheme. Detail being worked through
- Better regional working is also part of the interim measures in the Supported Housing Strategy, deliver plan for this is underway (due April 23).
- The Council is doing all in its current power, subject to national protocols being agreed.

## R07 – Lobbying for Change

*R07 - The Council should work with the government to address the issues set out in the Scrutiny report. It should also be made clear the 2 year programme for legislative change is unacceptable – raise with DLUHC*

- Project team is regularly engaging DLUHC on the reforms needed.
- Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Bill introduced June 2022 – largely informed by the Birmingham pilot
- It is a Private Members Bill with Government Support
- Royal Assent estimated by the close of parliamentary session Autumn 23.
- Implementation of new regulations is currently estimated to be Summer 2024.

# Draft Supported Housing Bill – What is included

A range of measures intended to regulate Supported Housing

- National Advisory Panel
- Strategic planning duty
- National Standards
- Licensing Scheme (subject to consultation)
- A new planning class; and duty requiring the government to consider planning reforms within 3 years after licensing commences
- Change in homeless legislation – leaving supported housing due to quality issues cannot be intentionally homeless
- Powers to make regulations enabling information relating to licensing to be shared



# Further lobbying required

- Review of funding model and HB regulation – not yet timetabled by the government, but expected to link up with licensing
- Citizens funding their own support in some cases – currently not means tested. Further lobbying needed to ensure this is picked up in the National Standards or the Licensing scheme consultation
- Detail re Licensing scheme and national standards currently being developed
- Greater powers for community safety enforcement



# Update on Full Council Motions

## Covenants policy

- Data matching exercise - SEA addresses and RTBs
- Draft policy being worked through, inc testing cases with Legal
- Develop a process for Commercial property, HMOs and Right to Buys

## Standards Committee – members declarations of interest

- Commissioning a model code of conduct which will take into account the motion on exempt.

## Independent Inquiry

- Work is ongoing to finalise terms of reference and agree the lead agency to chair and service the inquiry



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**Exempt Accommodation Scrutiny Review Recommendations - Action PI**

Latest update: March 22

[Click link for Exempt Accommodation Scrutiny Review Report - December 2021](#)**KEY TO RAG**

Issue/ significant delay	RED
Risk of delay / not on track	AMBER
Progress is on track	GREEN
Action complete/ ongoing	BLUE

Rec	Description	Key Deliverables / Action	Who	Start Date	Planned Completion Date	Progress Update (Latest highlighted at top)	Status	RAG
R01	Building on the success of the pilot (1)		Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, Community Safety & Equalities		Feb-22	Scrutiny / Cabinet Member Assessment: R01a-c - Achieved fully R01d - 4) Not achieved (Obstacle)	Risk/Issue	A
R01a	The multi-disciplined, cross-departmental, team that is dedicated to Exempt Accommodation should be continued beyond the pilot. Mainstream funding should be identified and included in the 2022/23 budget, to resource the team, including officers from housing, adult social care, community safety, housing benefits, waste management, environmental health and planning.	1) Agree Business Case for 2022/23 funding with Invest to Deliver Group 2) Ensure approvals and process of recruitment agreed at Workforce Board 3) Confirm lead for waste management and any processes to link with Operational teams	Guy Chaundy / Workstream leads / HR leads / Marie Dobinson	01/01/2022	28/02/2022	11/22: The multi-disciplinary team includes specialist officers from Community Safety and a seconded Police Officer, Housing Inspection Officers, Adults and Social Care, Revenue and Benefits and Planning. Additional Waste Management link has been made. The Project Delivery group also includes partners BVSC and Spring Housing who are leading the work around the Quality Standards and the Charter of Rights. The BCC Adults Commissioning team are leading the work on the Needs Assessment and Supported Housing Strategy. The Supported Exempt Accommodation Officers have attended Ward meetings and provided an overview of the multi-disciplinary property inspections that have taken place with Housing – (property standards) Adult and Social Care, Community Safety and in some instances Planning. The number of inspections undertaken and outcomes in respect of property hazards, support to tenants, ASB/Crime and city wide benefit reviews have been explained. March 22: The Business Case and funding for 2022/23 has been agreed at Invest to Deliver Group. Recruitment is being taken through directorate workforce review/spend boards. The team in place for the pilot (including agency resources) has been extended, and a number of new posts will be recruited via BCC internal and external process. New posts will commence as soon as possible from April 2022. Waste management link has been identified and will provide resource to work with the Delivery group and improve team's ability to respond to issues.	Complete/ Ongoing	B
R01b	The multi-agency pilot team should also work closely with the Regulator of Social Housing.	4) Continue working arrangements - team has established working arrangements through GC.	Guy Chaundy	01/01/2022	28/02/2022	We continue to work with the Regulator for social housing, particularly around providers going through the Quality Standard process, and any providers who are exiting the market.	Complete/ Ongoing	B
R01c	There should be clear leadership and accountability with a senior officer and Cabinet Member responsible for this area of work.	5) Confirm schedule for continuing Exempt Accommodation Sponsor Boards	Guy Chaundy	01/01/2022	28/02/2022	11/22: Ward level data on inspections and outcomes is now in place and available where required. Terms of reference of Exempt Accommodation Board is being reviewed to update recent membership changes, and incorporate revised outcomes for National Supported Housing Improvement Programme, and the additional motions passed at City Council in November 2022. The current members of the Board are Cllr Sharon Thompson (Chair), and Paul Langford, Interim Managing Director of City Housing (Co-chair); Cllr Mariam Khan (Health & Social Care), Cllr Yvonne Mosquito (Finance & Resources), Cllr John Cotton (Social Justice, Community Safety & Equalities); plus Directors for ASC, Revenues & Benefits, Community Safety and Place, Prosperity & Growth directorates. March 22: There is clear leadership and accountability through the Exempt Accommodation Sponsor Board. Schedule of Boards is in place monthly for the next 12 months in line with the business case.	Complete/ Ongoing	B

R01d	Resources to continue work to oversee and inspect over 20,000 units should also be identified.	6) Following Business Case approval, agree targetted plan for inspections over 2022/23, linking with Quality Standards schedule	Guy Chaundy / Collette Campbell / BVSC / Marie Dobinson	01/01/2022	28/02/2022	<b>03/23: An updated business case for 23/24 and 24/25 is being prepared to set out how the new DLUHC grant funding and any 22/23 carry forward will resource teams going forward. It is expected that the team size will be maintained in its current capacity over the next couple of years, and possibly increased in some areas such as Adult Social Care. Longer term, as part of the consultation on the Supported housing bill, DLUHC is currently exploring with local authorities the introduction of a new Supported Housing Licensing scheme.</b> 11/22: The SEA partnership was set up in Nov 2020. To date this small team have conducted 1700 property inspections, some of these inspections will include repeat inspections to the same property. The city currently has 8511 Exempt properties, this equates to 23,434 units. The rate of inspections continues to be around 1000 properties per year, which would indicate	Risk/Issue	A
R02	<b>Building on the success of the pilot (2)</b>		<b>Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods</b>		Feb-22	Scrutiny / Cabinet Member assessment - 3) Not achieved (Progress made)		A
R02a	There should also be a single, clear route for citizens (residents of both exempt accommodation and the local areas) to raise concerns and have them resolved and work on remedies for change.	1) Confirm process for raising citizen/resident and councillor concerns (including icasework process and dedicated email address), including links to corporate contact centre 2) Finalise content for	Guy Chaundy / Collette Campbell / Marie Dobinson	01/01/2022	28/02/2022	<b>03/23: Agreed complaints route is through PRS@birmingham.gov.uk mailbox. Website is up and running, A recent meeting was held with representatives of the city-wide residents group to further agree the content and structure of the updated website. This has mostly been agreed with a further two weeks given to the group to review the updated version. The CWRG have also been asked to provide suggestions as to the engagement work they would like included as part of an engagement strategy</b> 11/22: The route for concerns and complaints continues to be the PRS mailbox, progressed via the iCasework process. Additional web content is in process of being finalised, delayed due to resource issues. Data on complaints is being reviewed to understand if any further re-	In Progress	G
R02b	The option of local coordination groups and a charter for local areas where there are high concentrations of exempt accommodation should be explored.	3) Continue to engage city-wide resident groups 4) Recruit Comms & Engagement officer 5) Confirm local areas to be targetted re charter development	Guy Chaundy / Collette Campbell (plus Comms Officer/Tenancy officer when recruited)	01/01/2022	28/02/2022	<b>03/23 - Resident Participation officer - recent recruitment has not been taken up. The post is going back out to be readvertised, in order to ensure capacity to engage residents. Resident engagement strategy is being developed with input from the city-wide residents group.</b> 11/22 - Recruitment of Tenancy participation officer has been subject to ongoing delays however, now successful. Candidate to start December, and take forward engagement with local resident groups including development of a charter for local areas. SEA Senior Housing Modernisation manager continues to support the EA residents forum. 08/22 - There is a risk around this due to the current vacancy and potential lack of ongoing funding to recruit the Tenancy Participation officer. Future DLUHC funding will not cover this for 2023-25 March 22 update Engagement with resident groups is continuing. A City-wide residents group is well established	Risk/Issue	A
R02c	There should be a clear route for local councillors to deal with casework relating to exempt accommodation.	6) Ensure Councillors are aware of and utilise the agreed process for raising and resolving concerns in R02a	Guy Chaundy / Collette Campbell	01/01/2022	28/02/2022	11/22: The Supported Exempt Accommodation Officers have attended Ward meetings and provided an overview of the multi-disciplinary property inspections that have taken place with Housing – (property standards) Adult and Social Care, Community Safety and in some instances Planning. The number of inspections undertaken and outcomes in respect of property hazards, support, ASB/Crime and city wide benefit reviews have been explained. 06/22: There are named managers in City Housing responsible for ensuring complaints for a particular area of the city are dealt with through the iCase process. March 22: Connected to a) above, the process for complaints will also include local councillors to	Complete/ Ongoing	B
R02d	The pilot should also continue to work with the local residents' groups who contributed to the Scrutiny Report.	7) Engage local resident groups which were involved in the Scrutiny report and ensure they are taking part in the resident groups which have been set up	Guy Chaundy / Collette Campbell Resident Engagement Officer when recruited)	01/01/2022	28/02/2022	11/22: While some meetings were cancelled over the summer period, there has continued to be engagement with the Exempt Accommodation forum and resident groups on the Supported Housing Strategy and an update on the Scrutiny recommendations is planned for December 22. Connected to a) above, all residents groups who contributed to the Scrutiny Report are part of the city-wide group meeting monthly.	Complete/ Ongoing	B
R03	<b>Ensuring Council-wide Practice is consistent with the aims of the Charter and Supported Housing Strategy</b>		<b>Cabinet Member for Housing &amp; Homelessness</b>		Jun-22	Scrutiny/Cabinet Member Assessment - 6) In progress R03a - planned completion date now moved to January 2023 in line with Cabinet decision		A

R03a	Adopt a council wide approach to commissioning, placing conditions on use of exempt accommodation based on their adherence to the quality standard and Charter.	1) Confirm process for commissioning new and current providers incorporating QS and Charter of Rights process 2) Confirm the aims of the Supported Housing Strategy, undertake consultation and agree Cabinet decision.	Guy Chaundy / John Hardy	01/01/2022	12/12/2022	<b>03/23: Work is currently being undertaken to collate providers and managing agents mostly referred to by the Housing Support and Solution hubs in order to prioritise for QS accreditation and ensure appropriate rehousing options and prevention. This will allow for the formalisation of a 'preferred provider list'</b> 11/22: A review of providers signed up to the SEA Quality Standards remains underway, along with risk assessment in order ensure appropriate capacity and specialisms before any decision on switching to a 'preferred list'. Delivery of this recommendation is later than planned due to the supported Housing Strategy also being delayed, however expected to be confirmed alongside the Strategy in January 2023. 02/08/2022 - Supported Housing Strategy sign off is delayed to December 2022, decision has moved in line with overall Housing Strategy. BVSC are supporting a review with the Housing Solutions team to review the referral list, capacity etc. Referrals list, capacity etc will be reviewed in September - decision to be made after this March 22 update Commissioned provision is under contract, the non-commissioned provision will be subject to a standardised approach for those going through accreditation. Any Providers who are not currently signed up to the Quality standards are being targeted. As providers complete the awards, a referral and placement process is also in the process of being agreed - expected September 2022. A draft Supported Housing Strategy is in development, based on the findings of the Supported Housing Needs Assessment which was finalised at the Sponsor Board in	Risk/Issue	A
R03b	A list of approved providers based upon the Standard and Charter should be drawn up and shared with other agencies.	3) Finalise a current list of agreed providers process for maintaining it and regular share with agencies	Guy Chaundy / BVSC	01/01/2022	30/06/2022	<b>03/23: A further 3 providers are due for formal decision/outcome in March 23</b> 11/22 - A total of 11 providers have been awarded the Quality Standard, and a further 2 are developing. 2 providers are suspended due to RSH judgements. In total 40 providers are signed up/being assessed or awarded. BCC webpages are being updated in line with decisions made at Exempt Accommodation Board. 07/22 - BCC Webpage updated, this will be shared/communicated regularly with agencies March 22: 7 providers have had their Quality Standard award confirmed at Exempt Accommodation Board in February - 2x Gold, 2xSilver, 3x Bronze. A press release has been issued about the Gold Standard award, and the Silver and Bronze awards.	Complete/ Ongoing	B
R04	Support the Housing Benefit Process		Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources Cabinet Member for Housing & Homelessness Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care		Mar-22	Scrutiny/Cabinet Member Assessment - 6) In progress		A
R04a	As part of the process of reviewing housing benefit applications, Adult Social Care visits with other relevant staff should be undertaken where a provider has not signed up to the Quality Standard accreditation scheme, so that the evaluation of 'support' is informed by Adult Social Care expertise in care, support and safeguarding, whilst responsibility for the HB determination rests with the Housing Benefit Team.	1) Confirm new process for reviewing HB "SEA Status" applications to incorporate ASC visits	David Kinnair / Operations team	01/01/2022	30/03/2022	<b>03/23: Any new providers applying for enhanced HB, not signed up to the Quality Standards - visits are continuing. 8 have been refused, and 13 agreed since March 22</b> 11/22 - Since January 2022, 10 new providers have been awarded SEA status, and 7 refused based on the new housing benefit application process 09/22 - Benefits Team confirmed action is ongoing. Any applications from new providers not already signed up to the Quality standards are being sent through to the multi-disciplinary group to arrange a visit with the RP and MA present, including a review of support to residents prior to SEA status being granted. Due to ongoing resourcing issues with the Adults Social Work team, if a social worker is unable to join the first visit, the SEA Housing Team will lead including a review of support standards, and will escalate to the ASC team as necessary. March 22 update Process for SEA Status applications has been agreed. There remains an issue with capacity of both the ASC and HB teams to undertake on the ground visits to review support for tenants, but this is being supported with the rest of the multi-disciplinary teams.	Complete/ Ongoing	B
R04b	The Quality Standard should be used to help determine whether the appropriate level of support is being provided.	2) Ensure QS is incorporated in the process for 1	See above	01/01/2022	30/03/2022	The Housing team are already making an assessment of support as part of the inspection processes.	Complete/ Ongoing	B

R04c	Payment should be reviewed after two months or at least within six months (so as to ensure providers are not forewarned of when the review will take place) with Adult Social Care, Housing and Community Safety input where appropriate. Reviews should include a site visit, not just a desk exercise. A system of risk-based reviews should be developed targeting a proportion of each category of provider as well as those known to be at higher risk.	3) Review process for 2 month reviews to incorporate ASC, Housing and Community safety input 4) Develop system of risk-based reviews to ensure prioritisation of those known to be at higher risk	David Kinnair / Other area leads / Marie Dobinson	01/01/2022	30/03/2022	<b>03/23 - Since April 22, 7000 HB reviews have taken place at 2-6month point (desktop) - 49 claims cancelled due to CSS concerns, leading to 116 additional inspections (including social care). There remains an ongoing issues with resourcing these visits particularly in the ASC team. A business case is in progress to recruit a 3rd social worker although this may still be insufficient for the additional volumes of visits requested.</b> 11/22 - Visits are continuing to focus on any 2-6month reviews where Care Support and Supervision has been identified as 'less than minimal'. These are referred through to the Operational Teams to undertake a whole property/support inspection, and are adding to the overall caseload for the team, leading to some delays undertaking the inspection. The situation continues to be monitored, but the SEA team would benefit from increased ASC resources so they can support more visits and increased resource in City Housing for property visits proportionate to the number of units in the City. 09/22 - similar to R04a, ASC resources are limited, so if they are unable to lead a visit, a SEA Housing officer will lead a review of support and escalate if required. A process is set up through the weekly multi-disciplinary group, although could be improved by introduction of a data sharing agreement. Currently a whole property/support review is scheduled to take place, which depending on the size of the property could be a very resource intensive exercise. These whole property reviews do often highlight issues with other claims at the same property however. Action remains open as there is potential the teams will be unable to manage all additional CSS visits, as well as ongoing complaints, H&S and safeguarding issues which arise but this is something which continues to be monitored.	Risk/Issue	A
R05	<b>Strengthening Planning Controls</b>		<b>Leader and relevant O&amp;S Committee</b>		<b>Mar-22</b>	<b>Scrutiny / Cabinet Member Assessment: 1) Achieved (Fully)</b>	<b>Complete/ Ongoing</b>	<b>B</b>
R05a	There is a gap between Councillors' and residents' expectations of planning enforcement and the service delivered by the Planning Department. We ask the Leader and the relevant O&S Committee to review existing practices, enforcement policies and procedures.	1) Review of Planning practices, enforcement policies and procedures 2) Confirm recommendations at additional Scrutiny Committee	James Fox & Uyen-Phan Han to support Leader/Committees	01/01/2022	30/03/2022	<b>03/23: Recommendation / action completed in March 2022. Specific action was to circulate planning committee reporting to all members, which remains ongoing. Further review took place in December 2022. A request was made for supporting evidence for Lawful Development Certificates (LDC) to be sent to Ward members for consideration and comment during the planning application process. Officers can confirm ward members are consulted on LDC applications, and all public documents are published as would be the case for any planning application. Nonetheless, a lot of supporting information for LDCs is likely to contain sensitive information eg sworn affidavit, bills, invoices, tenancy agreements etc and this information would not be published due to data protection.</b>	Complete/ Ongoing	B
R06	<b>Working with Regional Partners and other Local Authorities</b>		<b>Leader Cabinet Member for Housing &amp; Homelessness</b>		<b>Mar-22</b>	<b>Scrutiny/ Cabinet member Assessment - 6) In progress</b>	<b>Risk/Issue</b>	<b>A</b>
	The Cabinet Member should work with the regulator and other local authorities to prevent/reduce "lifting and shifting" of vulnerable people from elsewhere in the country. This is a national issue, and the Leader should raise this with WM Leaders and Core City groups.	1) Confirm process for allocation of EA placements - including those from out of area - as part of the Supported Housing Strategy	Guy Chaundy, John Hardy, Pam Powis, David Kinnair	01/01/2022	30/03/2022	<b>03/23: Collette/Pam/David - Is there much more to add here? I cant think of anything CC</b> 11/22 - Supported Housing Bill references introduction of National Standards for Supported Exempt Accommodation which will include quality of support, referral processes. Better regional working is also part of the interim measures in the Supported Housing Strategy. The Council is doing all in its current power, subject to national protocols being agreed. 09/22 - Supported Housing Bill now due for 2nd reading in November 2022, currently no evidence of regional working or national protocol around referrals being included. Proposal is also included in the BCC Supported Housing Strategy delivery plan expected to be signed off by Cabinet in December 22 08/22 - Regional asks around the TDD devolution deal have been submitted, to provide powers at a regional level to control provision 03/22 - While there are regional forums for partners to work together, what is lacking is a national protocol about how referrals are made. This has been referenced in our submission to the DLUHC inquiry in February. While there is a local process around allocation in some areas, not all agencies are adhering to this and the council lacks power to enforce currently. Process and approach will be included as part of the Strategy but will still require national change to fully achieve this.  Original update - March 22 A meeting has taken place with MET leaders (chaired by the BCC Leader) on 26th January, in order to reach consensus on the recommendations and rally up regional response to the inquiry. There is a proposal to use another meeting with MET leaders to further discuss the lift and shift issue with regards to local authority placements, although this will still require national changes to give council's powers to control movement. However, unfortunately there is not comprehensive data on the origin of placements as it is not recorded as standard and therefore BCC officers have started to collect it when out on visits. However, it will take time to collect a meaningful amount. From the limited data collated so far, there are currently no London boroughs named. Currently, some are residents from neighbouring authorities but there is not enough data to act on this at the moment. It is also to be noted that	Risk/Issue	A

R07	Lobbying for Change		Cabinet Member for Housing & Homelessness		Mar-22	1) Achieved (Fully) - Ongoing	Complete/ Ongoing	B
	The Council should work with government to address the issues set out in 2.5.2. It should also be made clear that the two year programme for legislative change is unacceptable and this should continue to be raised with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) (formerly MHCLG).	1) Letter to minister - setting out the 'ask', responding to the DLUHC Inquiry 2) Further lobbying activity to be identified	Guy Chaundy	01/01/2022	30/03/2022	<p><b>03/23: The project continues to regularly engage DLUHC on the reforms needed. Supported Housing Bill is about to conclude its 3rd reading in Commons March 23, at which point it goes to the Lords. Royal Assent is estimated by the close of the parliamentary session (Autumn this year due to the coronation). Consultation with local authorities on the detail behind the Bill is ongoing, and implementation of new regulations is currently estimated by DLUHC to be Summer 2024.</b></p> <p>11/22: Motions passed at City Council to lobby government - see entry below CC Motions 4-10 10/22 - Cllr Thompson requested this priority is re-opened as lobbying is an ongoing activity and should remain ongoing until the reforms take place - status updated to complete/ongoing 09/22 Conference planned for 5th October - a number of influential people and organisations to examine SEA issues 08/22 update: Select Committee visited - 16th June. Ongoing engagement with DLUHC over summer as part of policy workshops. Workshop with Crisis 26th August, to feed in information to Supported Housing Bill.</p> <p>Original action update - March 22 As part of the national DLUHC Inquiry in Exempt Accommodation, the Board and the Cabinet Members for Homes &amp; Neighbourhoods and Vulnerable Children &amp; Families have been working with the regional authorities, core cities and pilot authorities to develop some common messages and recommendations for national change. Letters were distributed to other pilots, LGA and METs to ensure they were also sending in submissions to the inquiry. A joint pilot meeting reached agreement on policy recommendations for government. Councillor Thompson presented alongside BCC officers and Jean Templeton, Chair of WMCA Homeless Taskforce to MET Leaders meeting, chaired by the BCC Leader. Also reached agreement and sign off from</p>	Complete/ Ongoing	B
R08	Reporting on progress		Cabinet Member for Housing & Homelessness		Mar-22	1) Achieved (Fully) ongoing	Complete/ Ongoing	B
	Progress towards achievement of these recommendations should be reported to the Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee no later than March 2022. Subsequent progress reports will be scheduled by the Committee thereafter, until all recommendations are implemented.	1) Prepare Action plan and updates 2) Confirm reporting schedule to Scrutiny	Guy Chaundy, Marie Dobinson	01/01/2022	30/03/2022	<p><b>Reporting prepared for 17th March O&amp;S Committee</b></p> <p>November 22: Reporting is being prepared for 9th December O&amp;S Committee March 22: Reporting is being prepared for 11th March Committee (papers due 2nd March)</p>	Complete/ Ongoing	B
CC Motions	Additional Exempt Accommodation motions agreed at Full Council 07 December 21				Mar-22			
3.1	This Council calls on Birmingham City Council to actively enforce all existing covenants on properties preventing the conversion of single dwelling family use to other uses.	1) Enforce all existing covenants on properties preventing conversion of single dwelling family use	Legal/Housing/PPS	07/12/2021	30/03/2022	<p><b>03/23: Data matching and policy development is underway, working with legal to test cases. 3 processes to be developed - Commercial, HMOs and RTBs</b></p> <p>11/2022 Further motion passed at City Council in November 22 - below ref CC Motion 7 - issue of delay is being progressed by CH/PPS Directorate</p>	Risk/Issue	A
3.2	Call on the Council's legal team to draft a statutory instrument (referenced on page 26 of EA Scrutiny report) to present to Government.	2) Council's legal team to draft a statutory instrument (referenced on page 26 of report) to present to Government	Legal services	07/12/2021	30/03/2022	<p>01/09/2022 - Legal have confirmed that it is not for Legal services to 'draft a Statutory instrument to present to government. Government would never accept one from BCC, and this point is better dealt with by the Council Lobbying Central Government for the relevant Statutory Instrument - which was included in the DLUHC inquiry evidence, and continues to be in lobbying activity.</p> <p>March 2022: The need for a Statutory instrument was Included in the recommendations which were forwarded as part of the DLUHC Inquiry in February</p>	Complete/ Ongoing	B
3.3	The Council also calls on the Executive to bring forward a report to Cabinet looking at placing a covenant on all council properties, including right to buy sales, which would prevent single dwelling family homes from being converted to other uses.	3) Cabinet Report re covenant on all Council properties, including right to buy sales to prevent single dwelling family homes from being	Housing/PPS	07/12/2021	30/03/2022	<p><b>03/23: Data matching and policy development is underway, working with legal to test cases. 3 processes to be developed - Commercial, HMOs and RTBs</b></p> <p>11/2022 - Housing update: Covenant for Right to Buys is in place. PPS update: Cabinet member has been provided with confirmation the commercial portfolio has been reviewed - 5 assets out of 5000 which we manage are occupied as exempt accommodation. Legal services have been instructed to insert a clause in all new agreements expressly prohibiting any new assets for this</p>	Risk/Issue	A
CC Motions	Additional Exempt Accommodation motions agreed at Full Council 01 November-22							



7.1	Support the campaign led by the homelessness charity Crisis to 'Regulate the Rogues', which calls on the Government to urgently introduce new laws in England to strengthen the regulation of Supported Exempt Accommodation.	Press release and other communications to ensure this campaign is widely understood by citizens and politicians throughout the country	Corporate Comms	01/11/2022	30/11/2022	11/2022 - Press release issued, and work continues as part of the Supported Housing Improvement Programme to ensure legislation meets the needs of Birmingham. <a href="https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/news/article/1211/birmingham_city_council_responds_to_dl_uhc_report_on_exempt_accommodation">https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/news/article/1211/birmingham_city_council_responds_to_dl_uhc_report_on_exempt_accommodation</a>	Complete/ Ongoing	B
7.2	Welcome the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Select Committee report into Exempt Accommodation, call on Government to implement its recommendations and place on record the Council's thanks to all those locally who contributed to the Select Committee's work.	Press release on the Inquiry	Corporate Comms	01/11/2022	30/11/2022	11/2022 - Press release issued and work continues as part of the Supported Housing Improvement Programme to ensure legislation meets the needs of Birmingham. <a href="https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/news/article/1211/birmingham_city_council_responds_to_dl_uhc_report_on_exempt_accommodation">https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/news/article/1211/birmingham_city_council_responds_to_dl_uhc_report_on_exempt_accommodation</a>	Complete/ Ongoing	B
7.3	Continue to lobby the Government for greater powers to control provision and growth based on the city's needs assessment.	Undertake comparison of Supported Housing Bill and if this meets the requirements of the Needs	Housing Directorate	01/11/2022	30/12/2022	<b>03/23: Continuing to liaise with DLUHC and lobby government on new bill proposals</b> 11/2022 - Supported Housing Bill had second reading 18th November in parliament - a review of this is being prepared for the Exempt Accommodation Board 14th December.	In Progress	G
7.4	Launch an independent public inquiry into the growth of Exempt Accommodation in the city, helping to strengthen the case for nationwide legislative reform. This inquiry should be independent not only of the council but also anyone involved in any way in the exempt accommodation market, including housing providers in Birmingham and elsewhere.	Suggested actions: Establish ToR, and lead Plan approach/budget Launch enquiry Agree recommendations	Housing Directorate	01/11/2022	31/03/2023	<b>03/23: Work is ongoing to finalise the ToR, and agree the lead agency to chair and service the inquiry</b> Terms of reference is underway, a number of high profile chairs have been approached although several were unavailable in the timescales - investigating procurement implications with one organisation.	In Progress	G
7.5	In addition, the Council calls on the Standards Committee to update the Council Code of Conduct so that: Any elected member, or their spouse or partner, save for their primary residence, shall declare the use of all other properties they own and/or have an interest in. If the usage has potential safeguarding implications, the details shall be provided to the Monitoring Officer and held on a confidential basis as part of the Register of Interest.	Update Council Code of Conduct to include declaration of all properties, including any safeguarding considerations.	Standards Committee	01/11/2022	31/03/2023	<b>03/23: Commissioning a model code of conduct which will take into account the motion on exempt</b> 10.02.2023 - The Standards Committee met on 26th January 2023 and has commissioned a view of the Member Code of Conduct in line with the recommendation of Full Council. It hopes to give further consideration to any proposed amendments at its next meeting later in February 2023.	In Progress	G
7.6	Call on all Members, in conjunction with the Monitoring Officer, to ensure that existing legal requirements, as set out in the Localism Act 2011 and associated guidance, are understood and enforced so that every elected member declares all disclosable interests. This includes all land and property interests within Birmingham held by either themselves or their spouse or partner. Details of these should only be withheld where the member and the monitoring officer, who is responsible for the register of members' interests, consider that disclosure of its details could lead to the member, or a person connected to the member, being subject to violence or intimidation or potential safeguarding implications. Council notes that commercial interests are not a legitimate reason to withhold information from the public register of members' interests.	Communication to be prepared - linking to review of code of conduct Enforce existing agreements in Localism Act 2011 Members to declare all disclosable interests	All Members & Monitoring officer	01/11/2022	31/03/2023	<b>03/23: Commissioning a model code of conduct which will take into account the motion on exempt</b> 10.02.2023 - The Standards Committee met on 26th January 2023 and has commissioned a view of the Member Code of Conduct in line with the recommendation of Full Council. It hopes to give further consideration to any proposed amendments at its next meeting later in February 2023.	In Progress	G



7.7	<p>Council calls on the Executive to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring a report forward before the end of the calendar year setting out a policy for the use and enforcement of covenants on properties sold and owned by the council to prevent the conversion of family homes into HMOs or Exempt Accommodation.</li> <li>• Carry out and publish an urgent review into all council owned property currently being used as exempt accommodation, converting all former family homes back into their original use and assessing the impact on other accommodation on the local area to ensure it is appropriately sited, well managed, and used to prioritise demand placed on the city council and not that of other local authorities”.</li> </ul>		Legal/Housing/PPS	01/11/2022	30/12/2022	<p><b>03/23: Data matching exercise is underway - legal have provided a briefing setting out some of the reasons why this will take longer to complete, but support is being provided by City Housing Strategy &amp; Enablement to develop the policy and test cases with legal</b></p> <p>10.02.2023 - Legal services prepared a briefing setting out some key issues including variable terms of covenants connected to RTBs, accurate data on all RTBs and the manual nature of reviewing covenant terms which will take additional time to do. GC has agreed to support with additional resources to review the SEA and RTB data and identify matches.</p>	In Progress	R
	<b>Coordinating O&amp;S Committee 9th December - Actions</b>							
8	Assistant Director S&E City Housing to provide statistics on the prosecutions relating to organised crime and exempt accommodation.		Guy Chaundy / Pam Powis	09/12/2022	28/02/2023	<p><b>03/23: Update from Community Safety has been prepared to share with Committee members.</b></p> <p>An update for Scrutiny has been requested via CST team. Certain information and statistics is not possible to obtain as it is held by WM Police and being used to gather evidence for prosecutions.</p>	In Progress	G
9	Assitant Director S&E (City Housing) to provide information on the numbers of people placed by the Council in exempt accommodation.		Guy Chaundy / Stephen Philpott	09/12/2022	28/02/2023	<p><b>03/23: - Summary data is indicating around 500 referrals made through HSS/ SIFA Fireside - other data continues to be collated and refined</b></p> <p>Summary data is being prepared although with some difficulty as referrals to SEA does not follow a single process or held within a single system</p>	Risk/Issue	A
10	A briefing is sent to all members on to update members on the work regarding covenants on Council properties.		Janie Berry	09/12/2022	28/02/2023	Briefing has been completed, raising a number of further issues which is updated in Full Council motion update 7.7 above.	Complete/ Ongoing	B
11	That an update report on Exempt Accommodation Scrutiny Recommendations request for Co-ordinating OSC meeting in March / April 2023.		Guy Chaundy	09/12/2022	28/02/2023	<p><b>03/23: Update confirmed for 17th March 23 - reporting completed</b></p> <p>Update is in the process of being scheduled for March or April</p>	Complete/ Ongoing	B



# Birmingham City Council

## Coordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023




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**Subject:** Cabinet Member Priorities, Leader  
**Report of:** Councillor Ian Ward, Leader  
**Report author:** Richard Brooks, Director of Strategy, Equality and Partnerships

### 1 Purpose

- 1.1** To provide the Committee with an overview of current priorities and issues relating to the Leader's responsibilities covered by the Committee, specifically:
- West Midlands Combined Authority
  - Other Policy and Partnerships

### 2 Recommendations

- 2.1** That the Committee consider the report and identify issues for further scrutiny as part of their future work programme.

### 3 Report

#### 3.1 West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA)

- 3.1.1** The most important work with the WMCA at present relates to the **Trailblazer Devolution Deal** (TDD). The West Midlands and Greater Manchester were identified as places for new and "deeper" devolution deals in the Levelling Up White Paper in February 2022. These deals are intended to act as a template for other mayoral combined authority areas.

**3.1.2** The WMCA has developed a wide- ranging set of proposals for the deal and engaged with officers and members from local authorities over the last 6 months to refine them. In Birmingham, the Deputy Leader holds the [portfolio for levelling up and devolution on the WMCA and has played a leading role in the TDD, including attending ministerial meetings. Birmingham City Council has been particularly active in advocating for:

- A double devolution” approach, recognising the role of the local authorities alongside the CA across all aspects of the deal, e.g., net zero, housing investment, employment support
- Specific powers and flexibilities for local authorities, to support our place shaping role
- Levelling Up Zones – based on our work to develop the East Birmingham North Solihull partnership with proposals for fiscal flexibilities and the alignment of infrastructure investment with public service improvements.

Negotiations are now at the stage of considering detailed text with inputs from various government departments. The intention is to announce the deals at the time of the spring Budget.

**3.1.3** Other important issues recently addressed by the WMCA Board include:

- **The WMCA Budget for 2023/24.** This year’s budget relied upon an increase in transport levy and use of reserves. Over the medium term the budget is forecast to be in significant deficit, so there will be ongoing discussions about how to make it more sustainable. The TDD could provide for more certainty, but this cannot be assumed.
- **The Commonwealth Games Legacy Fund.** In addition to an underspend returned directly to the city council, the government has provided £70m from its own underspend on the Games for a legacy fund. This is being allocated to the West Midlands Combined Authority for joint decisions on how it is spent. We are currently working through those plans. One issue is that the fund is only for two years, whereas our legacy plans need to run much further ahead.
- **The Very Light Rail (VLR) Regional Package** – proposals to DfT for £36.5m funding to develop VLR demonstrators in Coventry and Wolverhampton and potentially build a new industry in the West Midlands.
- **The Transition Plan for the Local Enterprise Partnerships.** The Local Enterprise Partnerships are being wound up and their functions transferred to the combined authorities or the local authorities. Birmingham City Council is taking on functions including the management of the Birmingham city centre Enterprise Zone and some business support functions (to be funded through the Shared Prosperity Fund).

- **Progress with the HS2 Growth Delivery Plan** and the need to counter the negative stories about the project appearing in the media and hold the government to account in seeing the project through.

## 3.2 Core Cities

**3.2.1** As the largest cities outside London, the Core Cities remains a key partnership in terms of influencing the national and international agenda on urban policy. The Chief Executive in Birmingham has taken on the role of Chair of the Chief Executives group within Core Cities. The group appointed a new Director in September 2022 and has been reviewing and refocusing its work.

**3.2.2** The group is focusing on three main areas of work during this year:

- **The UK Urban Futures Commission** - The commission will develop a practical action plan for cities and city-leaders to maximise the potential of the UK's city regions, supported and encouraged by national policy. The Commissioners have now been announced.
- **The 3CI Cities Commission for Climate Investment.** This commission, founded by Core Cities in partnership with the Connected Places Catapult and London Councils has now engaged with the Key Cities group and the County Councils Network and secured funding from the former BEIS department. Its aim is to develop innovative new finance models and an investable pipeline of projects aimed at tackling climate change.
- **International work.** This includes developing the C7 group of cities networks within the G7 conferences, which has now become a permanent part of the G7 events and pushing for a greater role for the cities in inward investment, trade and international diplomatic functions.

**3.2.3** In addition, Core Cities has regular discussions and correspondence with government officials and ministers, including on local government finance, housing and the Autumn Statement and is jointly hosting the annual Urban Summit with the LGA on 22 March.

## 3.3 Levelling Up Birmingham All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG)

**3.3.1** The Levelling Up Birmingham All-Party Group was constituted in May 2022, with the following purpose:

- To showcase and advocate for *Prosperity and Opportunity For All: Birmingham's Levelling Up Strategy*, putting the city at the forefront of this emerging policy agenda.

- To use the APPG as a vehicle to engage with key influential stakeholders including Government, investors, businesses and public sector partners, with a view to securing the resources, powers and system change required to deliver the strategy.
- To promote the city as a *global city*, articulating that whilst there are many challenges, we also have the solutions in Birmingham, with huge potential and untapped talent. We need Levelling Up to be the key to unlock a 'golden decade of opportunity'.

**3.3.2** The APPG uses the five Levelling Up Accelerators outlined in the city's Levelling Up Strategy as an overarching framework for its work programme and has been deliberately designed to operate on a cross-party basis, bringing together a coalition of advocates for Birmingham to lobby for the interests of the city and its levelling up ambitions on the national stage.

**3.3.3** It is co-chaired by Preet Gill MP and Gary Sambrook MP (replacing original co-Chair Andrew Mitchell following his appointment to Cabinet).

**3.3.4** Cratus currently act as formal secretariat to the APPG, with the Council/SPEACL providing advice and guidance on the development of the work programme and meeting structure.

**3.3.5** Previous meetings

- The APPG was launched in June 2022 with a summer reception at the Library of Birmingham, jointly hosted with the West Midlands Forum. Speakers included the Leader, then co-Chairs Preet Gill and Andrew Mitchell, Liam Byrne MP, and Andy Street.
- In October 2022, the APPG held its first business meeting in Birmingham to coincide with the Conservative Party Conference. The agenda centred around the 3 Cities Programme (Levelling Up Accelerator 5), making links to the current Cost of Living Crisis and climate emergency.

**3.3.6** Work Programme - The next business meeting of the APPG will take place in May 2023 (location and date TBC). It is envisaged that this will take a panel discussion format, inviting representatives from across local and national business communities, as well as national government, to discuss:

- Challenges and opportunities for Birmingham businesses, including the impact of the current cost of living crisis
- The Our Future City Plan (OFCP) as a long-term policy framework for the city, cementing Birmingham's status as the country's premier regional destination while proactively tackling challenges including the climate emergency

- How businesses, the APPG and national government can work together, using the OFCP plan as a guide to tackle the cost-of-living crisis, address the climate emergency and level up Birmingham

The draft work programme for 2023 is attached at **Appendix A**

**3.3.7** During its first year, the APPG has already proved to be a valuable asset for the Council and its wider external affairs programme. Supporting the Council's maturing working relationship with national government, it provides a unique cross-party platform for advocating for the city's interests on the regional, national and Parliamentary stage.

**3.3.8** APPG events have already proved successful in attracting high-profile speakers and contributors from policy thinktanks, national media and national government, opening Council events up to new audiences. Going forward, the APPG will be managed by the new SPEACL division as a core part of its external affairs offering.

### **3.4 Birmingham City Partnership Board (BCPB)**

**3.4.1** Founded in 2018, the Birmingham City Partnership Board (formerly Birmingham City Board) provides a strategic forum for partners across Birmingham to come together and discuss the policy opportunities and challenges facing the city. It provides a unified voice for the city on the regional and national stage, advocating for the Council's levelling up agenda in the context of the Covid-19 recovery.

**3.4.2** BCPB is a non-statutory partnership and does not hold any formal decision-making or budgetary powers for the city of Birmingham.

**3.4.3 Membership** - The Deputy Leader of Birmingham City Council chairs the Board. Membership is from across Birmingham's public, private and voluntary sectors, with organisations chosen based on whether they can provide strategic leadership, sponsorship, and direction to help Birmingham respond to the risks, challenges, and opportunities it faces. Chairs of statutory partnerships across Birmingham are also included in board membership.

Member organisations include:

- Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce
- Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP)
- Birmingham Voluntary Services Council (BVSC)
- West Midlands Police (WMP)
- West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner (WMPCC)
- NHS and Integrated Care System (ICS)
- Birmingham City University
- WMCA.

**3.4.4 Strategic goals and workplan** - In 2022, the Board agreed six strategic goals:

- improve employability and employment
- increase living standards for all citizens
- engage with and empower our communities
- create a safer lived experience for our residents
- improve health and happiness
- work towards net zero

**3.4.5** Since Autumn 2022, meetings of the Board have focused on exploring aspects of the cost-of-living crisis related to the strategic goals, identifying both short-term opportunities to work together and develop a joint city-wide approach and long-term opportunities to level up the city.

A workplan for 2023 was agreed by the Board at its February meeting. This is attached as **Appendix B**.

**4 Any Finance Implications**

- Not applicable for this report.

**5 Any Legal Implications**

- Not applicable for this report.

**6 Any Equalities Implications**

- Not applicable for this report

**7 Appendices**

- Appendix A – APPG Work Programme
- Appendix B – Birmingham City Partnership Board Work Plan



# APPG for Levelling Up Birmingham

## Forward Plan 2023

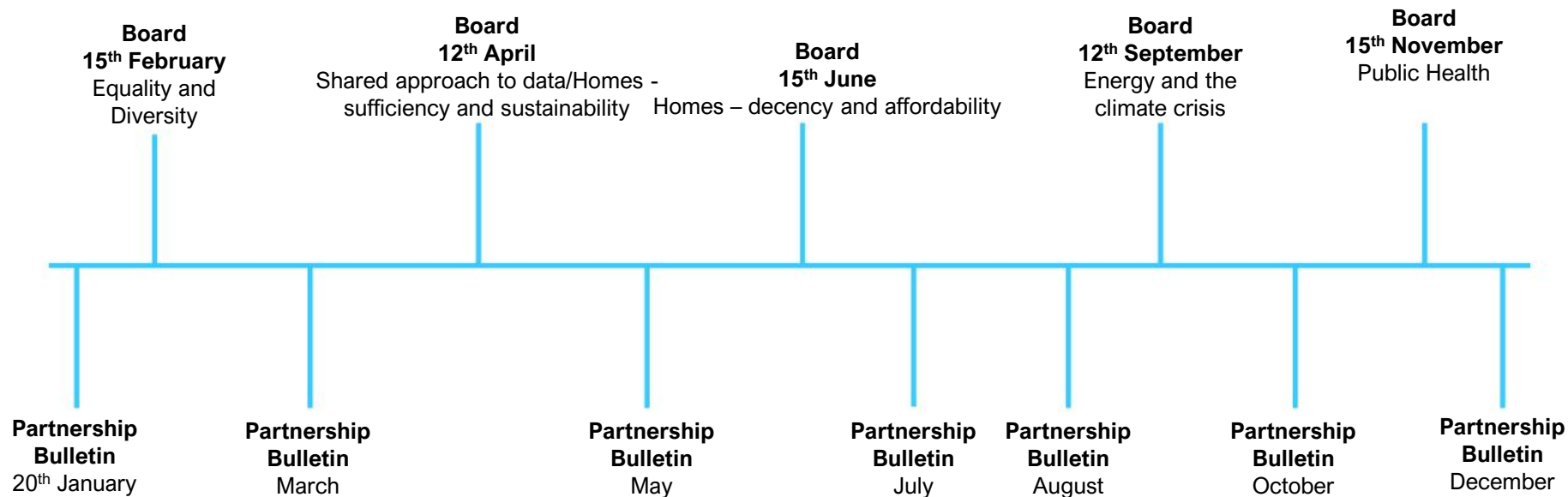


# Birmingham City Partnership Board

## Work Programme 2023

Meeting date	Topic and Draft Agenda	Links to Strategic Goals
12 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	<p>Part 1 - Our shared approach to data and insight</p> <p>Part 2 – Homes (sufficiency and sustainability)</p>	<p>Underpins all goals</p> <p>Goal 2 – Increase living standards for all citizens</p>
15 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	Homes (decency and affordability)	Goal 2 – Increase living standards for all citizens
12 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	Energy and the climate crisis	<p>Goal 2 – Increase living standards for all citizens</p> <p>Goal 6 – Lead the way to net zero</p>
15 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	Health inequalities	Goal 5 – Improve health and happiness

# 2023 Timeline







## Scrutiny Work Programme 2022/23

<b>Chair:</b>	Cllr Sir Albert Bore
<b>Deputy Chair:</b>	Cllr. Kerry Jenkins
<b>Committee Members:</b>	Cllrs: Akhlaq Ahmed, Deidre Alden, Mick Brown, Jack Deakin, Roger Harmer, Mohammed Idrees, Kerry Jenkins, Chaman Lal, Ewan Mackey, Saima Suleman, Alex Yip
<b>Officer Support:</b>	Head of Scrutiny and Committee Services: Christian Scade, (07517 550013) Senior Overview & Scrutiny Manager: Fiona Bottrill, (07395884487) Scrutiny Manager: Amelia Murray (07825979253)

## 1 Terms of Reference

- 1.1 As per City Council on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022 the Committee's Terms of Reference is to "plan and co-ordinate the work of all the Overview & Scrutiny Committees. To fulfil the functions of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee as they relate to any policies, services and activities concerning governance (including transparency, regional working, and partnerships); citizens (including communications and public engagement); performance; customer services; social cohesion; equalities and emergency planning." These functions include:
- giving 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;
  - determining, in any cases of uncertainty, the allocation of responsibility for specific tasks between the Overview and Scrutiny Committees;
  - ensuring (by means, for example, of issuing appropriate guidance and/or instructions) that the Overview & Scrutiny Committees pay proper attention in their work to the consideration of key cross cutting issues, in particular equalities, transparency and improvement;
  - publishing each year an Annual Programme of major scrutiny inquiries as suggested by individual Overview and Scrutiny Committees following consideration of the Council Plan and priorities;
  - agreeing the establishment of any task & finish groups; and
  - considering overview and scrutiny development, working practices and constitutional arrangements.



## **2 Purpose of the Report**

- 2.1 To enable the Committee to:
- 2.2 Review the work programme for the Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee and update members on the work programmes of the other Scrutiny Committees and the Scrutiny Inquiries that will be carried out during 2022/23.

## **3 Recommendations**

- 3.1 The Committee:
- 3.2 Reviews and agrees any amendments at to the work programme for the Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out in Appendix 1.
- 3.3 Reviews the work programmes March - May 2023 for the Commonwealth Games, Culture and Physical Activity, Education and Children's Social Care, Economy and Skills, Health and Adult Care, Housing and Neighbourhoods, Resources, Transport and Sustainability Overview and Scrutiny Committees as set out in Appendix 2.
- 3.4 Notes the update on the Scrutiny Inquiries in section 7 of the report.
- 3.5 Notes, and agrees, the Terms of Reference/ work outline for the Homes for Ukraine Task and Finish Group set out in Appendix 3.

## **4 Background**

- 4.1 Each Scrutiny Committee has developed a work programme and any cross-cutting issues have been considered by Co-ordinating OSC to decide how these will be managed. The Inquiries for 2022/23 have been agreed and the Task and Finish Groups established to undertake this work.

## **5 Co-ordinating Scrutiny Committee Work Programme**

- 5.1 Appendix 1 sets out the work programme for March -May 2023. Members are asked to review the work programme and the items to be scheduled and agree any amendments.

## **6 Scrutiny Committee Work Programmes**

- 6.1 The Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee terms of reference include the duty to plan and co-ordinate the work of all the Overview & Scrutiny Committees. The work programmes from March-May 2023 for the other Overview and Scrutiny Committees are attached as Appendix 2 to enable Members to consider the range and scope of issues that



will be scrutinised and identify any gaps or duplication to be raised with Committee<sup>1</sup>. The cross-cutting issues relating to future work are set out below:

Lead Committee	Meeting and Agenda Item	Members to be invited and reason
Co-ordinating OSC	Customer Services T&F Group Meetings	The Chair or Deputy Chair of the Scrutiny Committee that includes the service under consideration with the Committee's Terms of Reference to be invited.
Commonwealth Games, Culture and Physical Activity O&SC	Meeting: TBC Report on employment and skills Legacy of the Commonwealth Games	Members of the Economy and Skills OSC At the meeting on the 8 <sup>th</sup> July Co-ordinating O&SC decided that this issue falls within the remit of the CWG, Culture and Physical Activity OSC, and as it has been identified during the work planning for the Economy and Skills O&SC as an issue of interest Members of this Committee would be invited to the relevant meeting.

## 7 Scrutiny Inquiries 2022/23

- 7.1 Two inquiries (Employment and Skills for Young People and Promoting Health and Wellbeing – Commonwealth Games) are on track to be presented at Council on 4 April.
- 7.2 The other two inquiries (Child Criminal Exploitation, and Children and Young People's Mental Health) are currently in the evidence gathering stage.

## 8 Homes for Ukraine

- 8.1 Following the report on Homes for Ukraine at the Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 27 January, the Committee agreed to set up a Task and Finish Group. Its purpose is to review the programme and identify lessons learnt regarding the services and support provided through the contracts; how the contracted services worked with the community and voluntary organisations; outcomes for hosts and guests, and how to collaborate with organisations across the City when responding to crisis situations.

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<sup>1</sup> Scrutiny Work Programme are live documents and may be updated prior to future Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings in December.



- 8.2 Appendix 3 sets out the Terms of Reference/ Work Outline for this Task and Finish Group. It will report back to a future Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

## 9 Request(s) for Call In / Councillor Call for Action / Petitions Received (if any)

- 9.1 There are no other meetings scheduled at this time.

### **Call in Meetings:**

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*None scheduled*

### **Petitions**

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*None scheduled*

### **Councillor Call for Action requests**

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*None scheduled*

It is suggested that the Committee approves Friday at 10.00am 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 Forward Plan for Cabinet Decisions

- 10.1 Since the implementation of the Local Government Act and the introduction of the Forward Plan, scrutiny members have found the Plan to be a useful tool in identifying potential agenda items.
- 10.2 The Committee may wish to consider whether issues currently listed on the Forward Plan require further investigation or monitoring via scrutiny. This can be viewed in full via [Forward Plans \(cmis.uk.com\)](http://ForwardPlans(cmis.uk.com)).

## 11 Legal Implications

- 11.1 There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report.

## 12 Financial Implications

- 12.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report.

## 13 Public Sector Equality Duty

- 13.1 The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:





- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

13.2 The Committee should ensure that it addresses these duties by considering them during work programme development, the scoping of work, evidence gathering and making recommendations. This should include considering: How policy issues impact on different groups within the community, particularly those that share a relevant protected characteristic; Whether the impact on particular groups is fair and proportionate; Whether there is equality of access to services and fair representation of all groups within Birmingham; Whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people are being realised.

13.3 The Committee should ensure that equalities comments, and any recommendations, are based on evidence. This should include demographic and service level data and evidence of residents/service-users views gathered through consultation.

## 14 Use of Appendices

14.1 Appendix 1 – Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme March - May 2023

14.2 Appendix 2 – Scrutiny Committee Work Programmes March - May 2023

14.3 Appendix 3 – Homes for Ukraine Task and Finish Group Terms of Reference

# CO-ORDINATING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME MARCH -MAY 2023

Meeting Date: 17 March 2023

10.30am Committee Rooms 3 and 4, Council House

Item/ Topic	Type of Scrutiny	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Visits	Additional Information (Including joint working / links with other O&S Committees)
Leader Priorities	Cabinet Member Priorities	Cabinet member to set out priorities for the administration and key deliverables for 2022/23 and issues for further scrutiny within the remit of the Committee	Cabinet Support Officer, Rebecca Grant	Leader  Rishi Shori, Director and Solicitor, Strategic Partnerships, External Affairs and Corporate Leadership	N/A	<p>Leader Priorities in respect of Co-ordinating O&amp;S Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Structure and Governance of the Council</li> <li>2. Communications</li> <li>3. Council Wide Efficiency and Improvement</li> <li>4. Policy and Partnerships</li> <li>5. West Midlands Combined Authority</li> </ol> <p>The Committee has already received a presentation focused on Corporate Communications from Assistant Director Communications, Eleri Roberts at the Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 18 November, and from Deputy Leader, Cllr Bridget Jones on Council Wide Efficiency and Improvement on 14 October.</p>
Exempt Accommodation	Report on implementation of Recommendations of Exempt Accommodation Scrutiny Inquiry	To report on the implementation of the outstanding recommendations of the Exempt Accommodation Scrutiny Inquiry	Assistant Director Housing Strategy and Enabling Services, Guy Chaundy	<p>Councillor Sharon Thompson, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness</p> <p>Guy Chaundy, Assistant Director,</p>	N/A	<p>This report follows on from the previous presentation at the Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 9 December.</p> <p>The Inquiry was agreed by Council in December 2021.</p>

				Housing Strategy and Enabling Services  Pamela Powis, Head of Service, Community Safety		
Scrutiny Work Programme	Decision	To review the work programme and agree the items to be considered at future meetings, to receive an update on the Work Programmes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Scrutiny Inquiries and to note, and agree, the Terms of Reference for the Homes for Ukraine Task and Finish Group	Head of Scrutiny and Committee Services, Christian Scade	N/A	N/A	

**Final Deadline: 8 March 2023**

**Publication: 9 March 2023**

**Meeting Date: 14 April 2023**

**10.00am Committee Rooms 3 and 4, Council House**

<b>Item/ Topic</b>	<b>Type of Scrutiny</b>	<b>Aims and Objectives</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Witnesses</b>	<b>Visits</b>	<b>Additional Information (Including joint working / links with other O&amp;S Committees)</b>
Homes for Ukraine (Task Group)	Report from Scrutiny Task and Finish Group	To review the programme to learn lessons regarding the services and support that was provided through the contracts; how the contracted services worked with community and voluntary organisations; outcomes for hosts and guests, and how to collaborate with organisations across the City when responding to crisis situations.	Richard Brooks, Director, Strategy, Equality and Partnerships	Refer to Terms of Reference	Refer to Terms of Reference	The Terms of Reference/ work outline for the Task and Finish Group was considered at the Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 17 March.
Customer Services Programme	Report from Task and Finish Group	To report on the implementation of the Task and Finish Group recommendations and services response to the culture workshops	Wendy Griffiths	To be confirmed	N/A	
Scrutiny Work Programme	Decision	To review the work programme and agree the items to be considered at future meetings, to receive an update on the Work Programmes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Scrutiny Inquiries	Head of Scrutiny and Committee Services, Christian Scade	N/A	N/A	

**Final Deadline: 5 April 2023**

**Publication: 6 April 2023**

**To be scheduled:**

- City Observatory - to consider the data available that is relevant to the terms of reference for the Co-ordinating OSC
- Council Procedures and Arrangements
- Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements
- Trailblazer Devolution Deal - Update
- Tracking and Monitoring of Recommendations – report on how recommendations from O&S Committees are tracked and monitored, and how they relate to the wider Council including Cabinet Members and Senior Officers. This should also cover email and digital security within the Council.
- Scrutiny Communications Strategy – consider developing a strategy during 2023/24.
- Update on Elections Act: To be reported after May 2023 including learning from elections held in other areas.
- Domestic Abuse Scrutiny (October 2023 TBC) – Pre-Decision Scrutiny before Cabinet in December 2023 and then (ongoing) annual review of strategy .



**Date of Meeting: Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 2pm in Committee Rooms 3 & 4**

Item/ Topic	Type	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Visits	Additional Information
Arts and Culture: Impact of Financial Pressures	Follow up report	Report outlining the financial challenges affecting the sector, and how the Council is working with arts and culture organisations to mitigate these challenges and build on the success of Commonwealth Games. This will particularly refer to the BMT.	Symon Easton Head of Cultural Development & Tourism Cultural Development, BID's & Tourism Service	Cllr Jayne Francis, Cabinet Member for Digital, Culture, Heritage & Tourism  To be confirmed	None	Requested by Members at their November committee meeting. This item will be based on a briefing on BMT to be provided to Cabinet and Group Company Governance

**Final Deadline: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**Publication: Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**TO BE SCHEDULED:**

1. Culture Strategy 2023-2033 including the External Review of Culture
2. Sport and Physical Activity Strategy (at an early stage of development)
3. Economy and Skills O&S to be invited to the CWG, Culture and Physical Activity O&S Committee for report on employment and skills legacy of CWG.
4. Enhancing Tennis Opportunities Across the City

Commonwealth Games, Culture and Physical Activity O&S Committee

## ECONOMY &amp; SKILLS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2022-23

Meeting Date: 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Item/ Topic	Type of Scrutiny	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Visits	Additional Information (Including joint working / links with other O&S Committees)
Employment & Skills Inquiry – Informal meeting	Inquiry	For the Committee to reflect on the evidence gathering sessions to date and to consider conclusions and recommendations	Fiona Bottrill, Scrutiny Manager	N/A	N/A	

Final Deadline: n/a

Publication: n/a



**Meeting Date: 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

Item/ Topic	Type of Scrutiny	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Visits	Additional Information (Including joint working / links with other O&S Committees)
East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Strategy (TBC)	Agenda Item	To keep up to date with the ongoing work in the area and identify further issues for scrutiny	Mark Gamble	Mark Gamble	None Required	The committee has regularly received 6 monthly updates since the approval for implementation.
Our Future City Plan: Shaping Our City Together	Agenda Item	To be appraised on ongoing plan and take part in future consultation and engagement and identify further issues for scrutiny	Simon Delahunty-Forrest	TBC	None Required	A further update was requested following the original item presented to committee in July. This work also complements the EBICGS. Members also have the opportunity to keep up to date on proposed consultation and engagement.

**Final Deadline: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**Publication: Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 10am in Committee Rooms 3 & 4, Council House

Item/ Topic	Type	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Visits	Additional Information
Birmingham Safeguarding Children's Partnership (BSCP)	Update Report	To receive the BSCP Two-Year Report, the Independent Chair's Accountability Report, and provide evidence to two Inquiries: CCE and Children and Young People's Mental Health	Simon Cross Business Manager, BSCP	Penny Thompson, Independent Chair, BSCP  Simon Cross Business Manager, BSCP	None	BSCP last attended on 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2022  Members of the C&YP Mental Health Inquiry from HOSC invited (Cllrs: Brown, Hartley, Moore, Pritchard, and Tilsley)
Children's Trust	Update Report	To provide an update on progress with the priorities	Seamus Gaynor, Head of Executive, Children's Trust  Suman McCarthy, Cabinet Support Officer	Andrew Christie, Chair, Children's Trust  Andy Couldrick, Chief Executive, Children's Trust  Cllr Karen McCarthy, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families  Sue Harrison, Strategic Director, Children and Families	None	
Children and Families Directorate Improvement Plan	Quarterly Update Report	To provide a quarterly update on progress	Sue Harrison, Strategic Director, Children and Families	Sue Harrison, Strategic Director, Children and Families  Kerry Madden, Strategic Improvement Programme Director	None	

Final Deadline: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and publication: Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 10am in Committee Rooms 3 & 4, Council House

Item/ Topic	Type	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Visits	Additional Information
SEND Accelerated Progress Plan (APP)	Update Report	To provide an update on progress	Sue Harrison, Strategic Director, Children and Families	Sue Harrison, Strategic Director, Children and Families  Helen Ellis, Director, SEND and Inclusion	No	Brief monthly updates to be circulated to Members by e-mail.
Young People's Substance Use Service	Update Report	<p>To update Members on the Service (under the HSC Act 2012, local authorities have a legal duty to protect children from harm, reduce health inequalities and improve the health of their local population by ensuring that there are public health services aimed at reducing drug and alcohol misuse)</p> <p>Outstanding Information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The referral process for elected members, so they can add this to their resource toolkit when they are dealing with casework to be provided.</li> <li>• Data to see young people's transition out of substance misuse is to be provided.</li> </ul>	Karl Beese Commissioning Manager - Adult Public Health Services	<p>Chris Baggott, Service Lead (Health Protection)</p> <p>John Freeman, Commissioning Manager, Adults Social Care</p>	None required	<p>This item was last discussed on 24 November 2021 and may provide useful background information to this item</p> <p>Members of the Health and Social Care O&amp;S Committee to be invited to attend for this item.</p>

Item/ Topic	Type	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Visits	Additional Information
Youth Services	Evidence Gathering	To provide evidence to the Child Criminal Exploitation Inquiry	Soulla Yiasouma, Head of Youth Service	Soulla Yiasouma, Head of Youth Service	None required	This item was last discussed on 30 March 2022 and may provide useful background information to this item.

**Final Deadline: Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023 (Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023 is a bank holiday) and publication: Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

**TO BE SCHEDULED:**

1. Grand Challenges, City Observatory data indicators by committee remit.
2. Scrutiny Inquiry: Child Criminal Exploitation.
3. Joint Scrutiny Inquiry with Health and Social Care O&S Committee: Children and Young People's Mental Health.
4. Visits.
5. Student attendance at school during their period (Period Poverty Inquiry). The focus of the report would be on the learning / good practice that has been identified and how this being shared with schools across the city, and members of the Health and Social Care O&S Committee to be invited to attend for this item.
6. The DfE SEND Commissioner to attend a committee meeting early next year.
7. Janie Berry, City Solicitor to be added to update Members on tribunals and delays etc., and feedback on how the role of Legal Services contributes and makes risk informed decisions.
8. School Exclusions, Part-Time Timetables, & Unsuitable School Places: Officers to come back in six months with an update on the progress of the work undertaken (September 2023).

## HEALTH &amp; SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2022-23 WORK PROGRAMME

Date of Meeting: Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Item/ Topic	Type	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Visits	Additional Information
<i>Cabinet Member Update Report</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Cabinet Member to report progress against portfolio priorities</i>	<i>Ceri Saunders</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>None identified</i>	<i>Councillor Mariam Khan, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care.</i>
<i>Day Opportunities Co-Production Review</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Feedback from the independent co-produced review of day opportunity services.</i>	<i>Dr Temitope Ademosu / John Williams / Saba Rai / John Freeman</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>None identified</i>	<i>Also attending are representatives from the Empowering Peoples Team.</i>
<i>Q3 Adult Social Care Performance Monitoring</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Report on red rated performance indicators; 5 performance indicators chosen by HOSC for in-depth examination and the complete set of Adult Social Care performance indicators.</i>	<i>Maria Gavin</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>None identified</i>	

Final Deadline: Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023Publication: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Health and Social Care O&amp;S Committee, March – April 2023

**Date of Meeting: Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

<b>Item/ Topic</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Aims and Objectives</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Witnesses</b>	<b>Visits</b>	<b>Additional Information</b>
<i>ICB Update</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>		<i>Paul Sherriff and Karen Kelly</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	
<i>Immunisation</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Report to set out the challenges with the take up of immunisations</i>	<i>Mary Orhewere / Kate Woolley, Director of Immunisation and Vaccinations</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Report to be presented as a scoping paper for a possible future inquiry based on previous scoping paper for Infant Mortality.</i>

**Final Deadline: Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**Publication: Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

<b>INFORMAL BRIEFINGS (TO BE ARRANGED)</b>
<i>Engaging with third sector providers of Adult Social Care (Louise Collett)</i>
<i>City Observatory Data (Richard Brooks)</i>

**TO BE SCHEDULED:**

1. Public Health Horizon Scanning / JSNA
2. Primary Care Networks
3. Access to GPs
4. Mental Health and Wellbeing Post-COVID
5. Visit to UHB NHS Foundation Trust Hospital sites.
6. Visit to Early Intervention Community Team, Norman Power Centre

**BIRMINGHAM/SOLIHULL JOINT HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE****Date of Meeting:** 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 2.00pm, Committee Rooms 3 and 4, Council House**Venue:** Birmingham

<i>ICS/UHB Update</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Update on actions taken to respond to concerns raised at the January meeting.</i>	<i>Jonathan Brotherton, UHB; David Melbourne, BSol ICS*</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>None identified</i>	
<i>West Midlands Ambulance Service Update</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Update on actions taken to respond to concerns raised at the January meeting.</i>	<i>Vivek Khashu and Mark Docherty, WMAS; David Melbourne, BSol, ICS</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>None identified</i>	
<i>BSol ICS update on performance against finance and recovery plans</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>To update on the current status regarding finance and recovery plans</i>	<i>Paul Athey, ICS Finance Lead*</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>None identified</i>	

\* Representatives from BSol ICS and UHB to be advised.

**Final Deadline:** 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023**Publication:** 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023



# TO BE SCHEDULED

Item/ Topic	Type	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Visits	Additional Information
<i>Integrated Care System and the Role of Scrutiny</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>To determine future arrangements and reporting</i>	<i>David Melbourne, BSol ICS</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>None identified</i>	
<i>ICS Joint Forward Plan</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Report on health planning for the system including commissioning intentions.</i>	<i>Carol Herity to confirm Lead Officer</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>None identified</i>	
<i>ICS Quality Assurance Update</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Update on Quality Assurance to every JHOSC</i>	<i>Carol Herity to confirm Lead Officer</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>None identified</i>	
<i>Update on Post-COVID Syndrome ('Long COVID') Rehabilitation</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Update on previous report presented to JHOSC on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021</i>	<i>Ben Richards, Chief Operating Officer, Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>None identified</i>	<i>Report to include Long COVID implications on health and long-term employment.</i>
<i>Phase 2, Musculoskeletal Redesign Programme</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>To report on the current status of the programme</i>	<i>Marie Peplow, Chief Operating Officer, The ROH</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>None identified</i>	

# HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2022-23 WORK PROGRAMME

**Date of Meeting:** Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Item/ Topic	Type	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Visits	Additional Information
Voids – Improving Standards	Policy Review	<p>To understand the current position of void standards for Birmingham City Council including a description of the current standard and how the service is performing.</p> <p>To outline the transformation plan for voids and its objectives. What will this transformation look like? What progress has been made to date and what impact has it made? What will be happening in the future? What are the challenges the service faces to realise its transformation plan?</p>	Paul Langford, Interim Strategic Director, City Housing	<p>Councillor Sharon Thompson, Cabinet Member for Housing,</p> <p>Paul Langford, Interim Strategic Director, City Housing</p> <p>Asha Patel, Interim Director, Asset Management</p> <p>Natalie Smith, Head of Service, Housing Management</p>	Visits to Birmingham City Council properties are being arranged in advance of this item	This is the first of a two part item. The second part will follow in April.

**Final Deadline:** Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**Publication:** Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Date of Meeting: Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Item/ Topic	Type	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Visits	Additional Information
Voids – Improving Standards	Policy Review	To understand how other Housing providers deliver better performance on void standards and how this is achieved.	Other Housing providers are being identified	Councillor Sharon Thompson, Cabinet Member for Housing,  Paul Langford, Interim Strategic Director of City Housing	Visits to other Housing provider properties are being arranged in advance of this item	This is the second of a two part item. The first part takes place in March.
Localisation	Holding the Executive to Account	Provide progress on delivery of the Working Together in Neighbourhoods White Paper, to include case studies from the Neighbourhood Action Co-ordinator Programme pilot in the 22 wards.	Chris Jordan, Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods	Cllr Ian Ward, Leader of the Council  Chris Jordan, Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods  Karen Cheney, Head of Service, Neighbourhood Development and Support Unit	None Required	Working Together in Neighbourhoods White Paper: <u>Working Together in Birmingham's Neighbourhoods (White Paper)   Birmingham City Council</u>  Progress Report presented in October: <u>Localisation Update 13 October 2022</u>
Inquiry: Reducing Fly-tipping	Follow-up report	To provide further information in relation to Cameras and Prosecution Strategies	Darren Share, Assistant Director, Street Scene	Cllr Majid Mahmood, Cabinet Member for Environment	None Required	Tracking was completed in January 2023, however Members requested that further reports be brought back to a future meeting to

				Darren Share, Assistant Director, Street Scene		address outstanding points in relation to Cameras and Prosecution Strategies.  Legal Services have also been invited to attend.
Cleaner Streets	Policy Development	To provide a formal response to the Committee's recommendations and "What does success look like" with a step-by-step implementation plan and timescales	Darren Share, Assistant Director, Street Scene	Cllr Majid Mahmood, Cabinet Member for Environment  Darren Share, Assistant Director, Street Scene	None Required	The report and recommendations were agreed by Committee at the February meeting.

**Final Deadline: Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

**Publication: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023**

# RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2022-23 WORK PROGRAMME

**Date of Meeting:** Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Item/ Topic	Type	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Visits	Additional Information
Financial Monitoring 2022/23	Monitoring Report	Scrutiny of current financial position	Rebecca Hellard, Director of Council Management	Rebecca Hellard, Director of Council Management Sara Pitt, Director of Finance	None Required	
S106 and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	Briefing	To understand the S106 and CIL Policy and Procedure	Hayley Claybrook, Planning Contributions Team	Hayley Claybrook, Planning Contributions Team	None Required	
Planned Procurement Activities Report	Standing Item	To note the latest Cabinet report on planned procurement activity.	Steve Sandercock, Assistant Director, Procurement	Steve Sandercock, Assistant Director, Procurement	None Required	
Work Programme Development	Decision	Approve work programme for 2022-23	Fiona Bottrill, Senior Overview and Scrutiny Manager	None	None Required	

**Final Deadline:** Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023

**Publication:** Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023

**Date of Meeting: Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

Item/ Topic	Type	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Visits	Additional Information
Financial Monitoring 2022/23	Monitoring Report	Scrutiny of current financial position	Rebecca Hellard, Director of Council Management	Rebecca Hellard, Director of Council Management Sara Pitt, Director of Finance	None Required	
Planned Procurement Activities Report	Standing Item	To note the latest Cabinet report on planned procurement activity.	Steve Sandercock, Assistant Director, Procurement	Steve Sandercock, Assistant Director, Procurement	None Required	
Work Programme Development	Decision	Approve work programme for 2022-23	Fiona Bottrill, Senior Overview and Scrutiny Manager	None		

**Final Deadline: Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**Publication: Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

## SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2022-23 WORK PROGRAMME

**Date of Meeting: Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Item/ Topic	Type	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Visits	Additional Information
Cabinet Member Annual Report	Briefing	Provide an overview of progress towards portfolio priorities	Rose Horsfall, Cabinet Support Officer	Cllr Liz Clements, Cabinet Member Transportation	None	
Annual Flood Risk Management Report	Briefing	Outline current priorities, delivery towards achieving these priorities and future risks	Hannah Hogan, Flood Risk Manager	None	None	

**Final Deadline: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**Publication: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**Date of Meeting: Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

Item/ Topic	Type	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Visits	Additional Information
City of Nature	Briefing	Provide an overview of the progress of the Our Future Nature City Plan  Outline the challenges moving forward and the steps being undertaken to address them	Humera Sultan, Public Health Consultant and Future Parks Accelerator Director	None	None	<a href="https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50273/our_future_city_plan_ofcp/2518/our_future_nature_city_plan">https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50273/our_future_city_plan_ofcp/2518/our_future_nature_city_plan</a>
Development of a new Road Safety Strategy	Briefing	Aims and objectives to be developed	Mel Jones, Head of Transport Planning & Network Strategy	None		

**Final Deadline: Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**Publication: Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2023**





## Work Outline / Terms of Reference

### Homes for Ukraine Task and Finish Group

### Reporting to Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Our key question:	What lessons can be learned from Birmingham City Council's Homes for Ukraine Programme?
<b>1. How is O&amp;S adding value through this work?</b>	<p>City Council on the 6 December 2022 agreed a motion that included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A quick assessment, involving Scrutiny, of the existing programme of support provided so far in Birmingham, by the Council and its partner agencies, in terms of its timeliness and value for money. This assessment should include looking at the successes and lessons learned in other UK local authorities and the interaction with the other pressures the City is facing in areas such as Housing, Education and the Cost-of-Living Crisis. This assessment should also take into account wider issues around asylum and immigration and the existing Government policy that places pressure on cities like Birmingham.</li><li>• Council therefore asks Scrutiny to bring in Birmingham host families to provide evidence when carrying out their assessment of the scheme so that concerns can be properly understood and addressed with improvements made going forward.</li><li>• Council further notes concerns have been raised regarding the procurement for the delivery of support, including the late mobilisation of the contract and the ability of the provider to meet the needs of the contract. Whilst the contract was let via single contractor negotiations based on the justification it would allow a known existing provider to commence work immediately, it took 4-5 months to fully mobilise after the contract award.</li><li>• Concerns have also been expressed about the needs for a database as part of the support scheme and if this represented value for money. Council asks that both these matters are considered within the scrutiny review, including a full audit of how funds received from the Government have been allocated.</li></ul> <p>The Co-ordinating OSC meeting on the 27 January received a report on the Homes for Ukraine programme that provided an overview of the delivery of the Ukraine Response, setting out the key issues and performance of the programme and its providers and a video which provided feedback from some hosts. Members had further questions relating to the governance and value for money of the Refugee Action and PWC contracts which required more detailed consideration. It was agreed that a Task and Finish Group would meet to consider these and report to a future meeting of Co-ordination OSC.</p>



## 2. What needs to be done?

The Task and Finish Group will receive evidence from officers, Refugee Action, Guests, Hosts and Community Groups in order to consider the following key issues:

- Could the preparatory activities in April – June 2022, with BVSA as facilitator, have been improved?
- What were the governance arrangements regarding the decision to award the PWC and Refugee Action contracts?
- How was value for money for the PWC contract tested and what relevance did the pro bono work have on the award of the contract to PWC?
- How was the value for money for the Refugee Action contract tested during the commissioning process and the capacity of the provider to deliver the contract?
- How did the contract management consider feedback from host families and guests? Specific issues that have been identified are: access to ESOL, support to move on to independent accommodation, sign posting to mental health support services, availability of school places, access to high and further education, information, advice and guidance on benefits and council tax, speed of support payments, employment support and recognition of equivalent qualifications
- What safeguarding checks were done to protect both hosts and guests before they arrived and what checks do we have that this was done in a timely and complete fashion.
- How has the Refugee Action contract delivery been monitored and managed? What KPI's were developed as part of the contract, how were these monitored, evaluated and reported on? Has it delivered value for money and do payments reflect the reduction in government funding and any refund for guests that returned to Ukraine?
- Given the concerns regarding the late mobilisation of the contract and the ability of Refugee Action to meet the needs of the contract, what checks were undertaken to ensure the provider had the capability, staff, capacity and proven track record to deliver the contract?
- How many households and individuals were placed in Temporary Accommodation and Air B&B? What were the circumstances that led to these placements? How long were they in temporary accommodation and where did they move on to?
- How did the Council and Refugee Action work with other community and voluntary sector organisations who supported hosts and guests providing support and helping them to navigate complex systems?
- How well did Refugee Action use the data base delivered by PWC? Were there difficulties in compatibility with their own internal systems? Did RA ensure that individuals were removed when they requested this?
- What lessons have been learned through the process about how best to commission and co-ordinate a programme to support individuals and families from other countries who seek refuge in Birmingham?
- How does the approach taken by Birmingham City council compare with other local authorities?



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How can the City Council work with the Community and Voluntary sector to maintain and build the good will required to respond to crisis situations?</li> </ul>
3. What timescale do we propose to do this in?	The Task and Finish Group will report to Co-ordinating OSC on 14 April 2023.
4. What outcomes are we looking to achieve?	To review the Homes for Ukraine Programme contracts to learn lessons regarding the services and support that was provided through the contracts, how the contracted services worked with community and voluntary organisations, outcomes for Hosts and guests and how to collaborate with organisations across the City when responding to crisis situations.
5. What is the best way to achieve these outcomes and what routes will we use?	The Task and Finish Group will meet 5 times. This will include an initial scoping meeting and a meeting to discuss final recommendations. In addition, the Task and Finish Group will consider evidence from officers, Refugee Action, Guests, Hosts and Community Groups.

## Member / Officer Leads

Lead Member:	Chair: Cllr. Sir Albert Bore
Members of the Task and Finish Group:	Cllr. Roger Harmer, Cllr. Kerry Jenkins, Cllr. Yip
Lead Officer and support:	<p>Support for the Task and Finish Group will be provided by Strategy, Equality and Partnerships. Support must be independent of those involved in awarding and delivery of the contracts.</p> <p>Support will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liaising with members to agree meeting dates</li> <li>Liaising with Scrutiny Office to book meeting room</li> <li>Inviting people to give evidence</li> <li>Agreeing the agenda with the Chair</li> <li>Circulating agenda and papers in advance of the meeting</li> <li>Producing a record of Task and Finish Group meetings that is agreed with the Chair / Task and Finish Group members</li> <li>Producing the report for Co-ordinating OSC</li> </ul>

