

# **BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

## **CO-ORDINATING O&S COMMITTEE – PUBLIC MEETING**

**1000 hours on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022, Charles Dickens Theatre, BMI**

### **Action Notes**

**Present:**

Councillors Carl Rice (Chair); Mohammed Aikhlaq, Kate Booth, Liz Clements and Ewan Mackey,

**Officers Present:**

Christian Scade, Interim Head of Scrutiny and Committee Services

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

The Chair advised that this meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet 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 were confidential or exempt items.

#### **2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Cllrs: Deirdre Alden, Mick Brown, Debbie Clancy; Roger Harmer, Mariam Khan, Narinder Kaur Kooner and Saima Suleman

#### **3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None declared.

#### **4. ACTION NOTES**

**RESOLVED:**

The action notes of the formal meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022 were agreed.

#### **5. ACTION NOTES**

**RESOLVED:**

The action notes of the formal meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022 were agreed.

## **6. SCRUTINY END OF TERM REPORT**

The Committee considered a report from the Interim Head of Scrutiny and Committee Services who provided information on work carried out by Overview and Scrutiny Committees during 2021/22.

During the discussion that followed, a range of issues were highlighted in relation to:

- The Principles of Good Scrutiny.
- The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules and Overview and Scrutiny Framework.
- Recent recruitment to the Scrutiny Team.
- The different types of scrutiny activity which had been undertaken in relation to holding the executive to account, policy review and policy development, and work arising from City Council, including work on traffic management and road safety around schools.

Updates were also provided in relation to in-depth / inquiry work including Exempt Accommodation, Council-owned Assets, litter, and procurement and commercial governance.

Reflecting on the work which had been undertaken during 2021/22 there was agreement on the benefits, and added value, of in-depth task and finish scrutiny work.

A range of issues were considered in relation to ways to strengthen cross-party engagement in scrutiny; ways to increase the number of in-depth inquiries reported to City Council along with possible amendments to the Constitution. This included issues relating to:

- The importance of networking and building relationships with partners and other local authorities.
- The need to develop a balanced work programme across the year.
- The importance of Chairing, including options for Opposition Members to Chair either formal Committees and/or Inquiries.
- The importance of creating a strong organisational culture that recognised the critical role of Overview and Scrutiny.
- The importance of focusing on issues which reflected the concerns of citizens.

- The need for increased support and resources to ensure the scrutiny process was driven forward by evidence and had the ability to provide effective democratic accountability and oversight of the Council's executive.

Although there was no agreement in relation to making immediate changes to the Constitution, the Committee agreed it would be useful, after the local elections in May, for the incoming Committee to review the procedures and arrangements that were in place.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the end of term scrutiny report be noted.
- (ii) That, after the local elections in May, the incoming Coordinating Committee be asked to review the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Procedures and Arrangements.

**7. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the date and time of the next meeting would be confirmed after the local elections in May.

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

None

**9. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

None

**10. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS**

**RESOLVED:**

That in an urgent situation between meetings the Chair, jointly with the relevant Chief Officer, be authorised to act on behalf of the Committee.

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The meeting ended at 10:50 hours.