



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL HELD
ON TUESDAY 13 MARCH 2018 AT 1400 HOURS IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

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

Councillors

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

NOTICE OF RECORDING

- 18991 The Lord Mayor advised that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcasting via the Council's internet site and that members of the Press/Public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

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

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 18992 The Lord Mayor reminded Members that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non pecuniary interests arising from any business to be discussed at this meeting.
-

MINUTES

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and –

- 18993 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2018 having been printed and copies circulated to each Member of the Council, be taken as read and confirmed and signed.

LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 18994 The Lord Mayor advised that she had no announcements but would be referring to the forthcoming local elections later in the meeting.
-

PETITIONS

Petition Relating to City Council Functions Presented prior to the Meeting

The following petition was presented:-

(See document No 1)

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

18995 **RESOLVED:-**

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

Petitions Relating to City Council Functions Presented at the Meeting

The following petitions were presented:-

(See document No 2)

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

18996 **RESOLVED:-**

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

Petitions Relating to External Organisations Presented at the Meeting

The following petitions were presented:-

(See document No 3)

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

18997 **RESOLVED:-**

That the petitions be received and referred to the relevant external organisations.

Petitions Update

The following Petitions Update was submitted:-

(See document No 4)

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and -

18998 **RESOLVED:-**

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

QUESTION TIME

18999 The Council proceeded to consider Oral Questions in accordance with Standing Order 10 C

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

The Deputy Leader responded to question to the Leader in his absence.

During a reply to a supplementary question from Councillor Gary Sambrook, Councillor Lisa Trickett made reference to the Conservative Central Government policy relating to Universal Credit which was causing deprived working families to lose their entitlement to free school meals. On a point of order, Councillor Robert Alden emphasised that the view expressed by Councillor Trickett was not correct as it had been established that no families had lost free school meals due to the Universal Credit.

Councillor Trickett then went on to mention a petition submitted by Councillor Alden which suggested that the controlling group had plans to introduce fortnightly rubbish collections which was untrue. The Lord Mayor stopped Councillor Trickett from continuing the answer along those lines and advised Councillor Robert Alden that he could pursue the matter outside the Chamber as he felt appropriate.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

19000 No appointments were made.

EXEMPTION FROM STANDING ORDERS

It was moved by Councillor Diane Donaldson, seconded and

19001 **RESOLVED:-**

That, pursuant to discussions by Council Business Management Committee, Standing Orders be waived as follows:

- Allocate 5 Minutes for item 9 (Amendments to the City Council's Constitution)
- Allocate 15 Minutes for item 10 (Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel)
- Allocate 30 Minutes for item 11 (Review of Scrutiny)
- Allocate 30 Minutes for item 12 (Birmingham's Response to Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking)
- Allocate 30 Minutes for item 13 (Birmingham Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy 2018-2023)

Council Business Management Committee also agreed that the time for the meeting be extended to 1950 if required.

The Lord Mayor requested that, in accordance with Standing Order 7 (Suspension of Standing Orders), a Leader or Deputy Leader (or their nominee) of one of the Party Groups to move that the meeting be extended to 1950 hours and that that be seconded by the Leader or Deputy Leader (or their nominee) of another Party Group.

It was proposed by Councillor Robert Alden, seconded by the Deputy Leader Councillor Brigid Jones and

19002 **RESOLVED:-**

That the meeting be extended to 1950 hours.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

The following report of the Council Business Management Committee was submitted:-

(See document No 5)

The Deputy Leader Councillor Brigid Jones moved the motion which was seconded.

A debate ensued.

The Deputy Leader Councillor Brigid Jones replied to the debate.

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

It was therefore -

19003 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Council adopts the following changes to its constitution:

"The Statutory Officers of the Council are as follows:

- **Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive)** – This is the Chief Executive of the Council. The Council must approve the appointment of the Head of Paid Service before a final offer of appointment is made to him/her. The Council must approve the dismissal of the Head of Paid Service before notice of dismissal is given to him/her.
- **City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer** – This role promotes the legality of decision making, high standards of conduct by Councillors and officers and supports the Standards Committee.

- **Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer** – This will be the City Solicitor.
- **Corporate Director of Finance** - This role is responsible for ensuring the sound financial administration of the Council.
- **Scrutiny Officer (Head of Scrutiny Services)** - This role promotes Overview & Scrutiny functions of the Council.”

and authorises the City Solicitor to implement the changes to the Constitution set out in the Appendices with immediate effect.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL 2017-18

The following report of the Council Business Management Committee was submitted:-

(See document No 6)

The Deputy Leader Councillor Brigid Jones moved the motion which was seconded.

There being no debate, the Motion having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

It was therefore -

19004

RESOLVED:-

The recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel on Page 4 of its Annual Report be accepted and implemented with effect from 22 May 2018.

REVIEW OF SCRUTINY

The following report of the Council Business Management Committee Cross-party Scrutiny Group was submitted:-

(See document No 7)

Councillor Barry Bowles declared an interest but explained that he had been advised that he could take part in the debate but leave for the vote.

Councillor John Cotton moved the motion which was seconded.

A debate ensued.

Councillor John Cotton replied to the debate.

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

It was therefore -

19005 **RESOLVED:-**

City Council endorses the recommendations set out on page 11 – 12 of the attached report.

BIRMINGHAM'S RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The following report of the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Equalities was submitted:-

(See document No 8)

Councillor Tristan Chatfield moved the motion which was seconded by Councillor Ewan Mackey.

A debate ensued during which Councillor Peter Douglas Osborn made reference that the Jill Jesson report on child sexual exploitation in the 1990's had been buried. The Deputy Leader Brigid Jones on a point of order indicated that the said report had been buried for two years but when discovered the recommendations in it had been enacted upon.

Councillor Tristan Chatfield replied to the debate.

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

It was therefore -

19006 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Declaration of Intent (Appendix 1) be adopted as the City Page 3 of 68 Council's response to the Modern Slavery Act 2015, and serve as its strategic policy document upon which delivery plans be created and developed in line with its aspirations.

That the Birmingham's Pledge (Appendix 2) be adopted by the City Council as a vision to aspire to, with the intention to use the principles and proposals outlined in the Declaration of Intent as the means to realise the Pledge.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and

19007 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Council be adjourned until 1720 hours on this day.

The Council then adjourned at 1640 hours.

At 1720 hours the Council resumed at the point where the meeting had been adjourned.

BIRMINGHAM DOMESTIC ABUSE PREVENTION STRATEGY 2018-2023

The following report of the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care was submitted:-

(See document No 9)

Councillor Pauline Hamilton moved the motion which was seconded.

A debate ensued during which Councillor Gareth Moore declared an interest as a Trustee of the Birmingham LGBT which provided domestic abuse support in Birmingham and the wider West Midlands.

Councillor Pauline Hamilton replied to the debate.

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

It was therefore -

19008 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Birmingham Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy 2018 – 2023 (Appendix 1) is approved as the City Council's new domestic abuse strategy and that the Corporate Director of Place be authorised to publish and disseminate the document as appropriate.

MOTIONS FOR DEBATE FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

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

A. Councillors Jon Hunt and Roger Harmer have given notice of the following Motion:-

(See document No 10)

Councillor Jon Hunt moved the Motion, which was seconded by Councillor Roger Harmer.

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

(See document No 11)

Councillor Deirdre Alden moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Gary Sambrook.

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

(See document No 12)

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

In accordance with Council Standing Orders, Councillors Lisa Trickett and Brigid Jones gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No 13)

Councillor Lisa Trickett moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Brigid Jones.

THAT THE QUESTION BE NOW PUT

Councillor Mike Leddy proposed and on being put to the vote it was-

19009 **RESOLVED:-**

That the question be now put.

Councillor Jon Hunt responded to the amendments.

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

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

(See document No 14)

The total results referred to in the interleave read:-

Yes – 37 (For the amendment);

No – 61 (Against the amendment);

Abstain – 0 (Abstentions).

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

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

(See document No 15)

The total results referred to in the interleave read:-

Yes – 37 (For the amendment);

No – 61 (Against the amendment);

Abstain – 0 (Abstentions).

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

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

It was therefore -

19010 **RESOLVED:-**

This Council has no confidence in the previous Administration's management of waste management services including refuse collection, street cleaning and recycling.

Councillors Sir Albert Bore and Sharon Thompson have given notice of the following Motion:-

(See document No 16)

Councillor Sir Albert Bore moved the Motion, which was seconded by Councillor Sharon Thompson.

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

(See document No 17)

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

A debate ensued.

Councillor Sir Albert Bore replied to the debate.

At the conclusion of his reply Councillor Sir Albert Bore indicated that he would be willing to accept the inclusion of the penultimate paragraph of the Conservative amendment in the motion in place of the last paragraph of the motion if the amendment was withdrawn. Councillor Robert Alden indicated that he would be agreeable if the 7th paragraph of the amendment was also added. Councillor Sir Albert Bore began by indicating that with some revised wording which Councillor Robert Alden went on to suggest, the 7th paragraph would be acceptable. However he then indicated that it was

factually incorrect in respect of the words ‘despite a commitment not to do so’ and he could not accept its inclusion in the motion.

Therefore the Motion and the amendment remained as they were submitted.

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

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

(See document No 18)

The total results referred to in the interleave read:-

Yes – 26 (For the amendment);

No – 59 (Against the amendment);

Abstain – 10 (Abstentions).

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

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

(See document No 19)

NB The documents have been amended to show that Councillor Gurdial Singh Atwal had voted for the motion.

The total results referred to in the interleave read:-

Yes – 68 (For the Motion);

No – 0 (Against the Motion);

Abstain – 0 (Abstentions).

It was therefore –

19011

RESOLVED:-

The Council notes that the Government has ignored repeated warnings regarding the serious consequences of funding pressures facing local government.

Councils in England face an overall funding gap that will exceed £5 billion by 2020, with a £2.3 billion funding gap for social care alone.

At the same time, councils also face an unprecedented surge in demand for adult social care, children's services and homelessness support.

The Council notes that rather than tackling this national crisis, Government is shifting the burden onto councils and council tax payers. The social care precept and the freedom to add a further one per cent to council tax bills for 2018/19 pass the pressures onto citizens in the form of higher council tax rises without solving the long-term problem.

Council calls on the Government to heed the advice of the cross-party Local Government Association and urgently address the local government funding crisis.

Only with the right funding and powers, can councils continue to lead their local areas, improve residents' lives, reduce demand for services and save money for the taxpayer.

The need for adequate funding for local government is urgent. To maximise the potential of local government and protect local services from further cuts, funding gaps must be properly addressed and local government as a whole must be allowed to keep all of the business rates it collects locally each year to put it on a sustainable footing.

The Council requests that the Leader of the Council and leaders of the opposition parties write to the government calling on them to stop making council tax payers foot the bill for a local government funding crisis that sees councils facing a £5.8 billion funding gap by 2020.

Councillors Gary Sambrook and John Alden have given notice of the following Motion:-

(See document No 20)

The Lord Mayor indicated that the time for the item had been used and she asked that the motion and amendment be formally moved and seconded without speeches

Councillor Gary Sambrook formally moved the Motion, which was formally seconded by Councillor John Alden.

In accordance with Council Standing Orders, Councillors Peter Griffiths and John Cotton gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No 21)

Councillor Peter Griffiths formally moved the amendment which was formally seconded by Councillor John Cotton.

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

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

(See document No 22)

NB The documents have been amended to show that Councillor Ken Wood had voted against the amendment.

The total results referred to in the interleave read:-

Yes – 69 (For the amendment);

No – 26 (Against the amendment);

Abstain – 0 (Abstentions).

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

It was therefore –

19012` **RESOLVED:-**

This Council calls on the Executive to review the Council's housing allocation scheme in conjunction with our partners in Housing Birmingham. The review should cover the first twelve months of operation of the scheme as reported to Cabinet on 25/7/2017, and specifically include the changed requirements needed as a result of the introduction of the Homeless Reduction Act on 3/4/2018. The review should seek widespread feedback from residents, elected representatives, the City HLB, tenants' groups, registered social landlords and other stakeholders across the city.

The Lord Mayor noted that it was the Interim Chief Executive's last meeting and hers. She also noted that a number of Councillors were not standing for re-election. She concluded by wishing all those standing in the election a good campaign.

The meeting ended at 1943 hours.

APPENDIX

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

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR TIM HUXTABLE

A1 Summit costs

Question:

What was the cost to the Council of hiring the hall at the ICC for the Partnership Summit on 17 January 2018?

Answer:

Nil

The NEC company kindly provided the venue free of hire charges.

The City Council only paid for staffing, catering and technical support.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR PETER DOUGLAS OSBORN**

A2 Gold Coast Visit

Question:

Can you please provide a list of all attendees to the Commonwealth Games handover on the Gold Coast, Australia, whose attendance is being paid for in full or in part by Birmingham City Council?

Answer:

Staging a major multi-sports event such as the Commonwealth Games is a complex logistical operation. To ensure a future Host City is as prepared as possible, there is a clear need for a transfer of knowledge and the best way to do that is to attend the edition of the Games that comes immediately before. The Commonwealth Games Federation have established an observer programme specifically to meet this need. Mindful of the need to represent best value to the taxpayer, there is a clear commitment from the Birmingham 2022 team that the minimum possible number of delegates will attend, but what they bring back will be invaluable in the four years ahead.

Officers and Members attending the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games paid in part or full by Birmingham City Council:

Protocol and Representation Programme & civic duties:

Lord Mayor (receiving the Commonwealth Games Flag as the First Citizen of Birmingham, the next host city)

Lord Mayor's Consort

Incoming Chief Executive (also attending Observer Programme)

Head of Cabinet Office (Supporting Lord Mayor and Chief Executive)

Observer Programme:

Service Director - Sport, Events, Open Space and Wellbeing

Acting Assistant Director Transport

Commonwealth Games Programme Manager

Major Programmes and Projects Link Manager for the Games Village

Media and communications support:

Head of Public Affairs (also attending Observer Programme, where appropriate)

Press and PR Manager (also supporting Commonwealth Games Federation's media operation)

Total – 10

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR DES FLOOD**

A3 Amirah Foundation

Question:

What contracts, partnership agreements or grant funding allocations have been agreed between the Council and the Amirah Foundation in the last 3 years, including the date each was agreed?

Answer:

The table below shows projects that were funded and approved by Birmingham Community Safety Partnership for the Amirah foundation.

Grant Programme	Year	Amount
Birmingham Community Safety Partnership - Small grants pot	2015/16	£5,000
Birmingham Community Safety Partnership - Community Grant Programme Provision of community grants where voluntary and community organisations can demonstrate match funding to tackle issues and priorities affecting their community/neighbourhoods	2015/16	£18,510
Office of Police and Crime Commissioner – Victims Fund	2015/16	£7,700

A separate project was commissioned by the Adult Social Care Directorate:
Contract title - Her Story

Funding £24,600

Contract Start Date, 1 June 2017, Contract Termination Notice December 2017. A pro rata payment of £6,400 had been made to the organisation against the contract prior to its termination.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR ALEX YIP**

A4 Amirah Foundation investigation

Question:

What investigations are the council currently carrying out to ensure that any council money paid to the Amirah Foundation has not been misused following recent allegations about financial irregularities at the now defunct charity?

Answer:

All Birmingham Community Safety Partnership (BCSP) grants are subject to performance monitoring against the outputs and outcomes for which the grant was awarded. Payments of the grant are not made until that performance is demonstrated. The BCSP hold ultimate governance for the grants awarded. During 2015-16, the grants awarded to Amirah Foundation would have gone through this process.

The adult social care contract was terminated December 2017 when the organisation contacted the Directorate to state they no longer had the resources to continue to deliver the contract.

Three meetings were held with Amirah Foundation including a monitoring meeting held on 8 Nov 2017. The Foundation was able to provide appropriate evidence of delivery against the funding.

The contract specification required evidence of outcomes and there were also sufficient clauses in the contract to ensure that Birmingham City Council was able to exit the contract with short notice should this become necessary.

Given the governance arrangements that existed in respect of Birmingham Community Safety Partnership funded projects and the Adult Social Care Project, officers are satisfied that the Amirah Foundation did not receive any money for work that it did not deliver.

Appropriate enquiries are now being made in response to recent claims about the Amirah Foundation.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR JOHN ALDEN**

A5 Travel

Question:

Please provide a full list, by directorate, of all trips abroad currently known about by Council officers and Members that have been approved and/or taken place between the period December 2017 to date, specifying the location, number and grades of officers attending, total cost of and justification for each visit?

Answer:

Please see attached detailed response (please note: Grades of officers attending are not recorded).

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR MATT BENNETT**

A6 Decision

Question:

There have been concerns expressed regarding the Bordesley Green Local Innovation Fund and the seemingly last minute decision not to approve the bids discussed at the Bordesley Green. Ward Forum, but instead to allocate all the funding to a project that had not been discussed previously. Please can you explain and provide a copy of all correspondence pertaining to this unusual decision?

Answer:

There were 3 Bordesley Green meetings at which the Local Innovation Fund (LIF) was discussed preceding the decision about the final proposal that was put forward. These took place on 27th October 2017, 8th November 2017 and 30th November 2017.

The successful bid, 'Getting Citizens Active', was discussed at the Ward meeting on 30th November 2017. This was supported by all three Ward Councillors and the total ward LIF was allocated to that one project, on the basis that ongoing maintenance and responsibility for this was resolved. A number of other smaller projects were held in reserve in the event that this could not be assured. However, Ward members secured this commitment and therefore put the preferred project forward as their recommended proposal. This was approved by the Cabinet Committee Local Leadership at its meeting on 20th December 2017.

A copy of the Minutes from the Ward meetings will be sent to Councillor Bennett.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
FROM COUNCILLOR GARY SAMBROOK**

B Sickness by service

Question:

What is the breakdown of sickness absence per FTE for each council service area?

Answer:

Figures provided below relate to a rolling 12 month period ending on 31.01.2018, which is the latest date available.

Directorate	Division	Average Sickness Days per FTE per Year (KPI)	Directorate	Division	Average Sickness Days per FTE per Year (KPI)
Policy	Strategic Policy	4.12	Economy	Former Economy	11.91
Place	Housing	10.88	Economy	Planning	2.34
Place	Finance - Place	9.63	Economy	Development	3.24
Place	Waste Management	18.78	Economy	European Affairs	1.21
Place	Sports & Events Division	8.33	Economy	Employment & Skills	4.95
Place	Neighbourhoods and Communities	8.75	Economy	Housing Development	3.70
Place	Birmingham Adult Education Service	5.91	Economy	Highways & Infrastructure	4.25
Place	Regulation and Enforcement Services	8.69	Economy	Transportation & Connectivity	4.64
Place	Investment Enterprise & Employment	0.38	Economy	Birmingham Property Services	7.21
Children & Young People	Children's Services	11.12	Adults Social Care & Health	Stakeholder Engagement Team	7.96
Children & Young People	Finance - A&C / CYPF Team	3.09	Adults Social Care & Health	Adult Care	10.98
Children & Young People	Education and Commissioning	12.38	Adults Social Care & Health	Commissioning	5.73
Strategic Services	Business Improvement	9.00	Adults Social Care & Health	Public Health Services	3.31
Strategic Services	ICT and Digital	7.28	Finance and Governance	Legal & Democratic Services	6.25
Strategic Services	Human Resources	6.94	Finance and Governance	Birmingham Audit	2.34
Strategic Services	Revenues and Benefits	8.78	Finance and Governance	Shared Services Centre	8.31
Strategic Services	Corporate Communications	2.52	Finance and Governance	Corporate Finance Team	2.50
Strategic Services	Corporate Procurement Services	1.04	Finance and Governance	Finance - Corp Res and Economy	15.08
Economy	Urban Design	13.30			
Economy	HS2 Programme Team	1.57			

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

C1 DEFRA

Question:

Further to written answer D16 from 7 November, can you please provide a full copy of the letter sent to Therese Coffey MP in response to the concerns she raised about Birmingham's poor recycling rates and her request for the council to set out what they were planning to do to improve?

Answer:

Since the question set in November 2017, we have received further correspondence from Therese Coffey MP and following the proposed introduction of the WRCO role, an amended response has been prepared to respond to both letters. The latest letter from the Minister offers us the opportunity to work with her department and contact has been made with her department to take up that offer.

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

C2 Overspends

Question:

Before any movement in reserves (including directorate reserves) or use of contingency, what has been the overspend on waste management services in each of the last 3 years, including the current projected overspend for 2017/18?

Answer:

In 2015/16 the overspend was £0.6m (against a net waste management budget of £59.3m). In 2016/17 the overspend was £12.1m (against net budget of £53.2m). The projected overspend for 2017/18 is £12.5m (against net budget of £58.4m).

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

C3 Waste complaints

Question:

For each month in the last 3 years, how many complaints were received by the council relating to waste collection?

Answer:

YEAR	MONTH	MISSED RESIDUAL, RECYCLING AND GARDEN COLLECTION COMPLAINTS REPORTED AGAINST:		
		INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES	WHOLE ROADS WITH DUPLICATE REPORTS*	WHOLE ROADS WITH DUPLICATE REPORTS* REMOVED
2015	Feb	1554	729	519
	Mar	1975	1163	711
	Apr	1611	482	353
	May	1329	385	274
	Jun	3362	2529	1544
	Jul	2446	2853	1775
	Aug	1656	1135	802
	Sep	1828	1360	968
	Oct	2123	1319	896
	Nov	3521	2297	1340
	Dec	3245	3417	1864
2016	Jan	3386	6715	3142
	Feb	2843	2472	1298
	Mar	3899	2839	1393
	Apr	3072	1046	635
	May	3299	846	504
	Jun	3761	1052	603
	Jul	2680	1036	570
	Aug	2512	991	646
	Sep	2274	916	523
	Oct	2386	565	382
	Nov	2491	1169	654
	Dec	1451	912	611
2017	Jan	1930	2434	1208
	Feb	1393	687	429
	Mar	4146	7316	2986
	Apr	3832	7864	3253
	May	2854	1538	934
	Jun	5093	8559	3703
	Jul	13568	50894	24041
	Aug	13400	39125	20703
	Sep	8350	11882	8358
	Oct	6094	7213	4552
	Nov	4175	3232	1903
	Dec	3199	11680	5690
2018	Jan	3618	10914	5359
	Feb	1915	1990	1054

*Duplicate reports are where multiple reports have been made against the same road in the same week.

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

C4 Street Cleaning Complaints

Question:

For each month in the last 3 years, how many complaints were received by the council relating to street cleanliness?

Answer:

YEAR	MONTH	STREET CLEANSING COMPLAINTS
2015	Feb	560
	Mar	624
	Apr	583
	May	411
	Jun	417
	Jul	398
	Aug	460
	Sep	490
	Oct	530
	Nov	389
	Dec	382
2016	Jan	609
	Feb	464
	Mar	743
	Apr	501
	May	444
	Jun	479
	Jul	471
	Aug	482
	Sep	554
	Oct	564
	Nov	464
	Dec	601
2017	Jan	723
	Feb	637
	Mar	845
	Apr	548
	May	452
	Jun	579
	Jul	858
	Aug	738
	Sep	519
	Oct	521
	Nov	532
	Dec	445
2018	Jan	1096
	Feb	658

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

C5 WRCO implementation 1

Question:

The agreement with the Unions approved at Cabinet in December to end the bin dispute stated that the new WRCO roles would be phased in from 1 February 2018. Answers to written questions on 28 February confirmed they are now not due to start until 1 April. What is the reason for this delay?

Answer:

We are still in discussions with the Trade Unions to ensure the work of the WRCO is fully understood by all staff. A training plan has been drafted and will be delivered to enable the role to be effective from the day of delivery.

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

C6 WRCO implementation 2

Question:

The agreement with the Unions approved at Cabinet in December to end the bin dispute stated that the new WRCO roles would be phased in from 1 February 2018. Answers to written questions on 28 February confirmed they are now not due to start until 1 April. What is the financial impact of this delay?

Answer:

The estimate of the cost of delaying the implementation of the new structure and operating model is £0.3m per month. This has been included in the outturn statement.

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

C7 Sickness in waste

Question:

Answers to written questions in February stated that the current year to date figures for sickness absence within the waste collection service was 19.15 days per FTE (against a corporate target of 9.25 days). What is the average sickness rate broken down by each day of the week (Monday-Friday)?

Answer:

We are unable to accurately calculate the average rate without collecting data on individual working patterns and officers have neither the time nor capacity to do this.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS, RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR RON STORER

C8 Missed collections

Question:

For each depot, which 10 roads have received the most missed collections in the last 12 months (including the number of times each has been missed)?

Answer:

Individual Residual, Recycling and Garden Missed Property Reports by Street by Depot Between Feb 2017 – Feb 2018

LIFFORD	Total	MONTAGUE	Total	PERRY BARR	Total	REDFERN	Total
Alcester Road South, B14	181	Gillott Road, B16	59	Lichfield Road, B74	134	Church Road, B25	128
Longbridge Lane, B31	178	City Road, B16	36	Birmingham Road, B72	110	Heath Way, B34	118
Rednal Road, B38	164	Rotton Park Road, B16	32	Jockey Road, B73	107	Hall Hays Road, B34	109
Shenley Fields Road, B29	139	Wynn Street, B15	30	Tyburn Road, B24	96	Brownfield Road, B34	95
Redditch Road, B38	132	Wicket Drive, B16	27	Clarence Road, B74	89	Coventry Road, B26	93
Green Meadow Road, B29	131	Trinity Road, B6	24	Rocky Lane, B42	87	Wake Green Road, B13	92
Lordwood Road, B17	127	Witton Road, B6	23	Walmley Road, B76	86	Baldwins Lane, B28	83
Hole Lane, B31	124	Icknield Port Road, B16	22	Chester Road North, B73	83	Sheldon Heath Road, B26	81
Haunch Lane, B13	115	Sandfields Avenue, B10	21	Boldmere Road, B73	80	Tile Cross Road, B33	77
Selly Oak Road, B30	113	Bordesley Green, B9	19	Walsall Road, B74	78	Northleigh Road, B8	76
Frankley Beeches Road, B31	113					Yardley Wood Road, B13	76

Whole Road Residual and Recycling Missed Reports* by Street by Depot Between Feb 2017 – Feb 2018

LIFFORD		MONTAGUE STREET		PERRY BARR		REDFERN ROAD	
Street	Total	Street	Total	Street	Total	Street	Total
Alcester Road South, B14	63	Trinity Road, B6	31	Kingstanding Road, B44	49	Brownfield Road, B34	59
Shenley Fields Road, B29	60	Holliday Road, B21	29	Walmley Road, B76	48	Coventry Road, B26	45
Selly Oak Road, B30	52	Witton Road, B6	28	Tyburn Road, B24	43	Mansel Road, B10	43
Harborne Park Road, B17	51	Rotton Park Road, B16	26	Glendower Road, B42	43	Alum Rock Road, B8	43
Northfield Road, B17	51	Normandy Road, B20	25	Lichfield Road, B74	41	Barrows Lane, B26	42
Rednal Road, B38	47	City Road, B16	24	Chester Road, B24	40	Somerville Road, B10	40
The Roundabout, B31	47	Wenlock Road, B20	22	Rectory Road, B75	39	Sandford Road, B13	40
Fladbury Crescent, B29	47	Cherrywood Road, B9	22	Hartopp Road, B74	38	Wardend Road, B8	39
Welches Close, B31	46	Sefton Road, B16	22	Lindridge Road, B75	38	Cotterills Avenue, B8	39
Hole Lane, B31	45	Little Oaks Road, B6	22	White Farm Road, B74	38	Beaufort Avenue, B34	39
Frankley Beeches Road, B31	45			College Road, B44	38	George Arthur Road, B8	39
				Farnborough Road, B35	38		
				Hartopp Road, B74	38		

*Duplicates have been removed where the same road has been reported in the same week by multiple residents.

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

C9 Fleet

Question:

What is the average age of fleet within the waste management service?

Answer:

Light Commercial Vehicle – Average age profile is 10 years

Large / Heavy Goods Vehicle – Average age profile is 7 years

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

C10 Bid commitments

Question:

The Council's bid for the Government Weekly Collection Support Scheme, used to pay for the roll out of micro-chipped wheelie bins, included commitments to introduce a recycling reward scheme, a trial of food waste collections and market testing for the waste collection service. Given none of these have gone ahead in line with the commitment made when being rewarded £30m of tax payer money from the government, what updates have the Council provided to the Government department as to why they have not met the conditions of the grant?

Answer:

The bid did make reference to the introduction of a recycling reward scheme and market testing for its collection services. With regards to market testing, the bid recognised the benefits from looking at other services across the country to ensure an efficient and value for money service. The proposals laid down in the current waste restructure business case delivers that efficiency. The proposals in the business case also include learning from the Future Council Cases for change which considered recycling collection frequencies and recycling incentivisation.

Commitment to food waste collections did not form part of the bid.

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

C11 Waste manager turnover

Question:

Since 2012 how many individuals in JNC graded posts with responsibility for any element of the waste management service have left the Council since 2012 in total, including the percentage of those who left with a compromise agreement in place?

Answer:

Five individuals (one interim) in JNC grade posts have left the Council since 2012. 100% of those individuals left with a compromise agreement.

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

C12 SN45 Parkland

Question:

In response to written questions on 6 February we were informed that a list of parkland sites that would be built on as part of saving SN45 would come to Cabinet in March. That report contains less than half of the targeted 32 acres. What is the full list of sites?

Answer:

The target of 32 acres is made up of 8 acres a year over 4 financial years i.e. from 16/17 to 19/20. Therefore we will be identifying additional areas of unproductive open space over the next 2 financial years and consulting with relevant Ward Members, as we have done previously, before taking any decision to re-appropriate the land. This open space is not parkland, it is space that is accounted for in the Parks Service budget and historically has been referred to as Parks' land.

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

C13 SN45 Parkland 2

Question:

Which community groups including amounts paid, received payments for consultations for sites potentially being included in the saving for SN45?

Answer:

I am not aware of any community groups receiving payments for consultation for sites potentially to be included. Consultation was undertaken with Ward Members, and where concerns have been raised, these sites have not been taken forward.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY
SAFETY AND EQUALITIES FROM COUNCILLOR EWAN MACKEY**

D Openness on cleanliness

Question:

In January 2016 the then Leader of the Council said, in relation to street cleansing that “*We need open data and transparency and we have to be honest about what is happening*” and that “*We will be making the data around street cleaning far more publicly available so it will become clear where we are currently not doing the things we should be doing.*”

However ward level street cleanliness data has not been updated on the council’s open data website since May 2016 following a string of negative headlines from the first time it was published. Furthermore answers to written questions in January this year asking for an update confirmed that the Environmental Quality Survey was suspended during the strike and has not recommenced.

As Cabinet Member with responsibility for openness and transparency, what representations have you made to the latest Leader of the Council or the Cabinet Member for Clean Streets to encourage a more open approach to street cleanliness data as previously promised by one of the former leaders of this Administration?

Answer:

The EQS was suspended during the strike however as we move into a new street cleansing redesign that builds in other elements of services to the streets it became apparent that we needed a broader system that could be used. Subsequently, APSE has launched a new quality inspection of not only streets but the environment as well.

LAMS is a quality inspection system to monitor Street cleansing and grounds maintenance and produces a total street scene quality score. LAMS is used to measure the quality of localities and at the same time benchmark these against other local authorities.

Street cleansing

- No of litter inspections
- No of detritus inspections
- No of fly tipping inspections
- Percentage of sites that are grade A (fly tipping)
- No of graffiti inspections
- Percentage of sites below grade B (graffiti)

City Council – 13 March 2018

- Cleanliness Indicator score (combined litter & detritus)
- Percentage of sites acceptable (combined)

Grounds maintenance

- Number of inspections
- Quality indicator score
- Percentage of sites acceptable

It is envisaged that this new LAMS Quality inspection system will be introduced as the new street cleansing redesign comes in.

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

E1 Tower Blocks

Question:

Can you provide copies of any assessments carried out since June 2017 which identified *essential* measures to address *building specific* safety issues within tower blocks? If these are not available to be shared publicly, please make available to elected members on blue paper.

Answer:

For each tower block, Fire Risk Assessments are carried out on an annual basis and these do identify remedial works required. These can be minor works such as intumescent strips to fire doors; door closers and renewal of fire stopping provision. If you would like to view these in conjunction with a qualified fire risk assessor from within the Housing Service, please contact Martin Tolley, Head of Capital Investment, who will arrange this for you.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR GARY SAMBROOK

E2 Tower Blocks 2

Question:

Who has been given copies of any assessments which identified essential measures to address building specific safety issues within tower blocks since June 2017?

Answer:

For each tower block, Fire Risk Assessments (FRAs) are carried out on an annual basis. Information concerning dates that the FRAs were conducted has been provided to the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government. Any Freedom of Information requests concerning FRAs have been appropriately responded to.

If you would like to view these in conjunction with a qualified fire risk assessor from within the Housing Service, please contact Martin Tolley, Head of Capital Investment, who will arrange this for you.

These forms are kept in a secure IT system and utilised by Asset Management and Maintenance Division to deliver repairs and maintenance programmes.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR BOB BEAUCHAMP

E3 Tower Blocks 3

Question:

What percentage of residents living in council owned tower blocks have children under the age of 18 (broken down by ward on current ward boundaries)?

Answer:

<u>Wards</u>	<u>% of households living in council owned tower blocks who have children under the age of 18</u>	<u>Number of households living in council owned tower blocks who have children under the age of 18</u>
Acocks Green	3.2%	10
Aston	47.6%	771
Bartley Green	35.8%	106
Billesley	47.7%	164
Bordesley Green	58.8%	10
Bournville	57.5%	127
Brandwood	33.1%	258
Edgbaston	16.0%	68
Erdington	62.8%	423
Hall Green	66.7%	2
Handsworth Wood	20.0%	4
Harborne	16.2%	39
Hodge Hill	48.7%	357
Kings Norton	55.3%	314
Kingstanding	84.8%	162
Ladywood	35.5%	449
Longbridge	53.8%	171
Lozells and East Handsworth	50.0%	7
Moseley and Kings Heath	5.3%	6
Nechells	45.7%	1014
Northfield	44.0%	263
Oscott	0.0%	0
Out of City	0.0%	0
Perry Barr	23.2%	19
Quinton	67.9%	390
Selly Oak	54.5%	18
Shard End	44.8%	321
Sheldon	47.5%	177
Soho	0.0%	0
South Yardley	4.9%	10
Sparkbrook	37.3%	22
Springfield	41.7%	5
Stechford and Yardley North	41.0%	86

City Council – 13 March 2018

Stockland Green	18.2%	14
Sutton Four Oaks	60.0%	3
Sutton New Hall	0.0%	0
Sutton Trinity	50.0%	66
Sutton Vesey	4.7%	2
Tyburn	22.6%	12
Washwood Heath	29.6%	83
Weoley	34.3%	161
City	42.5%	6114
* tower block defined as high or medium rise flats		

Across the city 14377 households live in Council-owned medium-rise or high-rise flats (“tower blocks”). Of these, 6114 households have dependent children under the age of 18.

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

E4 Tower Blocks 4

Question:

What percentage of residents living in council owned tower blocks are aged 55 or over (broken down by ward on current ward boundaries?)

Answer:

Ward	Number of households living in tower blocks with a resident aged 55 or over living in a tower block	% of households living in tower blocks with a resident aged 55 or over
Acocks Green	246	79%
Aston	326	20%
Bartley Green	121	41%
Billesley	101	29%
Bordesley Green	4	24%
Bournville	39	18%
Brandwood	190	24%
Edgbaston	221	52%
Erdington	158	23%
Hall Green	0	0%
Handsworth Wood	2	10%
Harborne	148	61%
Hodge Hill	213	29%
Kings Norton	169	30%
Kingstanding	10	5%
Ladywood	397	31%
Longbridge	46	14%
Lozells and East Handsworth	6	43%
Moseley and Kings Heath	45	40%
Nechells	585	26%
Northfield	195	33%
Oscott	0	0%
Out of City	30	91%
Perry Barr	49	60%
Quinton	102	18%
Selly Oak	9	27%
Shard End	211	29%
Sheldon	92	25%
Soho	0	0%
South Yardley	162	79%
Sparkbrook	15	25%

City Council – 13 March 2018

Springfield	3	25%
Stechford and Yardley North	44	21%
Stockland Green	51	66%
Sutton Four Oaks	2	40%
Sutton New Hall	42	89%
Sutton Trinity	24	18%
Sutton Vesey	32	74%
Tyburn	39	74%
Washwood Heath	90	32%
Weoley	98	21%
City	4317	30%

Across the city, 14377 households live in Council-owned medium-rise or high-rise flats (“tower blocks”). Of these 4317 households contain a resident who is aged 55 or over.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR GARETH MOORE

E5 HMOs

Question:

What financial support or other incentives does the council currently provide to landlords to encourage people to take up single bedroom accommodation in a HMO?

Answer:

The only payment that actually goes to private landlords or HMOs is housing benefit.

The Council does not currently provide financial or other incentives to landlords of HMOs to provide accommodation. The Council has developed a Social Lettings Agency – Let to Birmingham – that seeks to recruit accommodation from the private rented sector for homeless persons through a management agreement.

We as an authority do not currently place people in HMOs.

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

E6 HMOs 2

Question:

How many HMO rooms does the Council currently pay\contribute towards the rent for?

Answer:

Information on Housing Benefit paid to HMO tenancies is not specifically categorised on the Housing Benefit system.

Housing Benefit is paid in the following categories

- Local Authority Housing (council tenants)
- Temporary Accommodation
- Registered Providers/Housing Association
- Private Tenants

We are also able to obtain information relating to certain housing types ie: Bed and breakfast, PSL, dispersed hostels, supported accommodation, boarders etc., but not HMOs.

We as an authority do not currently place people in HMOs.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT
AND ROADS FROM COUNCILLOR ZAKER CHOUDHRY**

F1 Cost - Bus Lane Fines

Question:

What is the cost, to the Council and to emergency services, of verifying whether emergency service vehicles that incur bus lane fines were on a blue light or not?

Answer:

As with every potential contravention in a bus lane which is caught on an enforcement camera, the footage is viewed by a Civil Enforcement Officer in order for them to determine whether a Penalty Charge Notice should be issued. In most cases it will be very clear to the officer on first viewing of the footage whether a vehicle is operating a blue light.

With respect to the cost to the emergency services of verifying that would need to be referred to the relevant emergency services for their consideration.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT
AND ROADS FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL TILSLEY**

**F2 Withdraw Bus Lane Fines imposed ambulances/fire service
tenders"**

Question:

Given the revelation that ambulances have been fined for driving in bus lanes near Heartlands Hospital on blue lanes, will the Cabinet Member withdraw all bus lane fines imposed on emergency ambulances and fire service tenders?

Answer:

It is not council policy to fine emergency vehicles using bus lanes while displaying blue lights and on the rare occasion where a fine is issued in error then it will of course be cancelled.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT
AND ROADS FROM COUNCILLOR SUE ANDERSON**

F3 Gritting

Question:

On the afternoons of Thursday March 1st and Friday March 2nd there were, as forecast, heavy falls of snow leading to significant traffic congestion. What contingency was put in place to ensure that gritting vehicles were active on the main commuting routes during this period?

Answer:

Responding to long range forecasts, additional salt deliveries were ordered early in February to ensure adequate supplies. Responding to predictions of ice, precautionary salting of the network had been undertaken in line with the approved Winter Maintenance Service Operational Plan, every day from 21 February, using over 1,000 tonnes of salt.

As soon as snowfall was forecast, additional preparations were made with the production of a Winter Maintenance Contingency Plan. The Plan was initiated from Monday 26 February, with all necessary arrangements including:

- Adjustment to the shift pattern for operational supervisors and managers who monitor weather conditions, to enable full 24 hour working without breaks
- Doubling of the number of drivers on call for both gritters and loading shovels to enable gritters to operate continuously around the clock
- Commissioning of a 4x4 vehicle on standby to collect winter maintenance staff from their homes and get them to the depot
- Replenishment of all 1,260 grit bins
- Call for assistance to Amey supply chain contractors and the City Council's Waste Management team for potential snow clearance from shopping centres
- Contact with BCC Resilience team for coordination of activities including travel operators readiness
- Media messages prepared and agreed in advance
- Contact with local radio stations to warn of the hazardous road conditions to come
- Several radio interviews were conducted in advance of and during the snowfall
- Amey press statement warning people to drive only if essential was published the Birmingham Mail 27 February

Salting and ploughing operations were delivered continuously throughout the period of snow.

Traffic problems due to lying and drifting snow were widespread across the region and were not isolated to Birmingham. The Urban Traffic Control Centre monitored traffic and reported that despite further snowfall, Birmingham's main routes were substantially running as normal by midday on Saturday 3 March.

On behalf of the whole Council, I would like to thank all staff who contributed to dealing with the marriage of Emma and the Beast in such a dedicated and professional way.