

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

CITY COUNCIL

TUESDAY, 13 MARCH 2018 AT 14:00 HOURS
IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL HOUSE, VICTORIA SQUARE,
BIRMINGHAM, B1 1BB

A G E N D A

1 NOTICE OF RECORDING

Lord Mayor to advise that this meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site (www.civico.net/birmingham) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

3 MINUTES

To confirm and authorise the signing of the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 27 February 2018.
Minutes to follow.

5 - 48

LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(1400-1410)

To receive the Lord Mayor's announcements and such communications as the Lord Mayor may wish to place before the Council.

5 PETITIONS

(15 minutes allocated) (1410-1425)

To receive and deal with petitions in accordance with Standing Order 9.

As agreed by Council Business Management Committee a schedule of

outstanding petitions is available electronically with the published papers for the meeting and can be viewed or downloaded.

QUESTION TIME

(90 minutes allocated) (1425-1555)

To deal with oral questions in accordance with Standing Order 10(C)

- A. Questions from Members of the Public to any Cabinet Member, Assistant Leader or Ward Forum Chairman (20 minutes)
- B. Questions from any Councillor to a Committee Chairman, Lead Member of a Joint Board or Ward Forum Chairman (20 minutes)
- C. Questions from Councillors other than Cabinet Members and Assistant Leaders to a Cabinet Member or Assistant Leader (25 minutes)
- D. Questions from Councillors other than Cabinet Member and Assistant Leaders to the Leader or Deputy Leader (25 minutes)

7 APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

(5 minutes allocated) (1555-1600)

To make appointments to, or removals from, committees, outside bodies or other offices which fall to be determined by the Council.

8 EXEMPTION FROM STANDING ORDERS

Councillor Diane Donaldson to move an exemption from Standing Orders.

9 AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

(5 minutes allocated) (1600 - 1605)

To consider a report of the Council Business Management Committee

Councillor Brigid Jones to move the following Motion:

"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."

53 - 64

10 **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL**
(15 minutes allocated) (1605-1620)

To consider a report of the Council Business Management Committee.

Councillor Brigid Jones to move the following Motion:

"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."

65 - 78

11 **REVIEW OF SCRUTINY**
(30 minutes allocated) (1620-1650)

To consider a report of the Council Business Management Committee.

Councillor John Cotton to move the following Motion:

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

(break 1650-1720)

79 - 84

12 **BIRMINGHAM'S RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING**
(30 minutes allocated) (1720-1750)

To consider a report of the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Equalities.

Councillor Tristan Chatfield to move the following Motion:

"That the *Declaration of Intent* (Appendix 1) be adopted as the City

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.*"

85 - 110

13 **BIRMINGHAM DOMESTIC ABUSE PREVENTION STRATEGY 2018 - 2023**

(30 minutes allocated) (1750-1820)

To consider report of the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care.

Councillor Paulette Hamilton to move the following Motion:

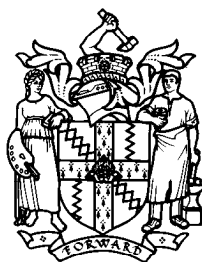
"That the Birmingham Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy 2018 - 2023 (Appendix 1) is approved as the City Council's new domestic abuse strategy and that the Corporate Director of Place be authorised to publish and disseminate the document as appropriate."

111 - 112

14 **MOTIONS FOR DEBATE FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

(90 minutes allocated) (1820-1950)

To consider the attached Motions of which notice has been given in accordance with Standing Order 4(A).



**MEETING OF BIRMINGHAM
CITY COUNCIL
27 FEBRUARY 2018**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL HELD
ON TUESDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2018 AT 1400 HOURS IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

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

Councillors

Muhammad Afzal	Des Flood	Mary Locke
Mohammed Aikhlq	Jayne Francis	Ewan Mackey
Deirdre Alden	Carole Griffiths	Majid Mahmood
John Alden	Peter Griffiths	Karen McCarthy
Robert Alden	Paulette Hamilton	James McKay
Tahir Ali	Andrew Hardie	Gareth Moore
Sue Anderson	Roger Harmer	Yvonne Mosquito
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Kath Hartley	Brett O'Reilly
Mohammed Azim	Barry Henley	John O'Shea
Susan Barnett	Des Hughes	David Pears
Bob Beauchamp	Jon Hunt	Robert Pocock
Matt Bennett	Mahmood Hussain	Hendrina Quinnen
Kate Booth	Shabrana Hussain	Chauhdry Rashid
Steve Booton	Timothy Huxtable	Carl Rice
Barry Bowles	Mohammed Idrees	Fergus Robinson
Randal Brew	Zafar Iqbal	Gary Sambrook
Marje Bridle	Ziaul Islam	Shafique Shah
Mick Brown	Morrian Jan	Mike Sharpe
Alex Buchanan	Kerry Jenkins	Sybil Spence
Andy Cartwright	Meirion Jenkins	Claire Spencer
Tristan Chatfield	Simon Jevon	Stewart Stacey
Zaker Choudhry	Julie Johnson	Ron Storer
Debbie Clancy	Brigid Jones	Martin Straker Welds
John Clancy	Carol Jones	Sharon Thompson
Lynda Clinton	Josh Jones	Paul Tilsley
Lyn Collin	Nagina Kauser	Karen Trench
John Cotton	Tony Kennedy	Lisa Trickett

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Ian Cruise	Changese Khan	Margaret Waddington
Basharat Dad	Narinder Kaur Kooner	Ian Ward
Phil Davis	Chaman Lal	Mike Ward
Diane Donaldson	Mike Leddy	Fiona Williams
Peter Douglas Osborn	Bruce Lines	Ken Wood
Barbara Dring	John Lines	Alex Yip
Neil Eustace	Keith Linnecor	Waseem Zaffar
Mohammed Fazal		

NOTICE OF RECORDING

18977 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 they were confidential or exempt items.

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

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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.

She continued that the City Solicitor had provided a proforma for Members to complete in advance of the meeting. Provided that Members had completed that form, they just needed to state that they have a disclosable pecuniary interest. If Members had not completed the form, they need to advise the meeting the nature of their interest. Any declarations would be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

The Lord Mayor noted that if a disclosable pecuniary interest was declared a Member must normally not speak or take part in that agenda item. However, the Independent Chair of the Standards Committee, Peter Wiseman, had granted a dispensation to all Members attending Full Council on 27 February 2018 for the purpose of debating and voting on the Council Plan and Budget 2018+, provided they have made a disclosable pecuniary interest.

The Lord Mayor therefore requested that the following Motion be moved and seconded:-

"That, in accordance with paragraph 6 (2), page 73, of the Constitution relating to the declaration of interests, and paragraph 14, page 78, regarding dispensations, that those Members of Council who have declared a disclosable pecuniary interest be granted a dispensation in order that they can participate in debate and vote where appropriate at this Full Council.

The grounds for this dispensation are that so many Members of the Council have disclosable pecuniary interests in the matter that the meeting would be inquorate; or

that it is otherwise considered appropriate to grant a dispensation.”

The Motion was formally moved by Councillor Mike Ward and formally seconded by Councillor Bob Beauchamp.

The Motion was put to the vote and, by a show of hands, was declared to be carried and it was-

18978 **RESOLVED:-**

That, in accordance with paragraph 6 (2), page 73, of the Constitution relating to the declaration of interests, and paragraph 14, page 78, regarding dispensations, that those Members of Council who have declared a disclosable pecuniary interest be granted a dispensation in order that they can participate in debate and vote where appropriate at this Full Council.

The grounds for this dispensation are that so many Members of the Council have disclosable pecuniary interests in the matter that the meeting would be inquorate; or

that it is otherwise considered appropriate to grant a dispensation.

MINUTES

The Lord Mayor indicated that it had been established that the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2018 did contain an error in that in Minute No. 18958 an amendment which was not carried was included in the resolution. Therefore the amendment has been deleted and the Minutes are resubmitted for confirmation and signing.

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and –

18979 **RESOLVED:-**

That resolution No.18962 dated 6 February 2018 be rescinded and the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2018 having been printed and copies circulated to each Member of the Council, be taken as read and confirmed and signed.

Councillor Deirdre Alden, on a point of clarification, referring to page 3018 of the minutes of the meeting held on 6 February indicated that it should be noted that the in a report to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee in November 2009 the City Council was advised that “In UHB the car park fees are used to help finance the 25 year Private Finance Initiative (PFI) to build and use the big new hospital opposite the Queen Elizabeth Hospital site”. This was the reason that she had raised the issue at the last meeting and she requested that it be noted the City Council had been told.

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and –

18980 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the City Council held on 6 February 2018, having been printed and a copy sent to each Member of the Council, be taken as read and confirmed and signed.

LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Council Website

18981 The Lord Mayor indicated that she was delighted to announce some successes for the Council's website, which was designed and built with contributions from citizens, staff and a cross Party Member group.

In the last year the new site was awarded

- official Honouree status in the 2017 Webby Awards - the leading international award, honouring excellence on the internet;
- won a Plain English Campaign 2017 Website Award; and most recently
- won gold status in the Lovie awards - a pan-European award honouring online excellence.

The Lord Mayor asked all in the Chamber to join her in congratulating all those involved in achieving these successes.

PETITIONS

Petitions Relating to City Council Functions Presented prior to the Meeting

The following petitions were presented:-

(See document No 1)

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

18982 **RESOLVED:-**

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

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 -

18983 **RESOLVED:-**

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

Petitions Update

The following Petitions Update was submitted:-

(See document No 3)

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and -

18984 **RESOLVED:-**

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

CITY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

Councillor Mike Ward proposed that Councillor Paul Tilsley be removed from the Standards Committee without replacement and it was-

18984 **RESOLVED:-**

That Councillor Paul Tilsley (Lib Dem) be removed from the Standards Committee without replacement.

EXEMPTION FROM STANDING ORDERS

It was moved by Councillor Diane Donaldson, seconded and:-

18985 **RESOLVED:-**

That, pursuant to CBM Committee discussions, Standing Orders be waived as follows:

Allocate 15 minutes for item 8 (Annual Pay Policy Statement 2018/19).

PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2018/19

The following report of the Deputy Leader was submitted:-

(See document No 4)

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 -

18986 **RESOLVED:-**

That the City Council:

- 1) Approves the Birmingham City Council Pay Policy Statement 2018-19
 - 2) Approves the publishing of the Pay Policy Statement
 - 3) Notes that as and if required any in year revisions to the Pay Policy Statement will be taken to Council Business Management Committee for approval.
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COUNCIL PLAN AND BUDGET 2018+

The Council Plan and Budget 2018+ was submitted:-

(See document No 5)

At this point in the meeting Councillor Diane Donaldson moved a procedural Motion which was seconded.

It was therefore –

18987 **RESOLVED:-**

That, pursuant to a Council Business Management discussion, Standing Orders be waived to allocate the remaining time of the meeting to 1915 hours for the whole debate on the Council Plan and Budget 2018+ report, permit the Leader of the City Council to make a speech of up to 30 minutes, permit the other Group Leaders to make a speech of up to 30 minutes each, permit all other speakers in the debate to speak for up to 5 minutes, permit the Leader of the City Council to reply to the debate without time limit, and agree that amendments to the Motions should be taken in the order that the amendments were notified to the Lord Mayor.

On a point of order, Councillor Jon Hunt noted that the amendments had not yet been circulated around the Chamber and further noted that the Liberal Democrat one had been submitted in good time.

Having been advised that the amendment pack was still been printed, the Lord Mayor moved that the meeting be adjourned and having been seconded it was-

18988

RESOLVED:-

That the Council be adjourned.

The Council then adjourned at 1424 hours.

At 1437 hours the meeting resumed at the point it had been adjourned.

Prior to the meeting the following Councillors completed a proforma detailing relevant pecuniary and non pecuniary interests.

(See document No 6)

Mohammed Aikhlaq	Andrew Hardie	Yvonne Mosquito
Deirdre Alden	Roger Harmer	Brett O'Reilly
John Alden	Barry Henley	John O'Shea
Robert Alden	Jon Hunt	David Pears
Sue Anderson	Mahmood Hussain	Hendrina Quinnen
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Timothy Huxtable	Chauhdry Rashid
Kate Booth	Mohammed Idrees	Carl Rice
Barry Bowles	Meirion Jenkins	Fergus Robinson
Randal Brew	Simon Jevon	Gary Sambrook
Marje Bridle	Brigid Jones	Shafique Shah
Mick Brown	Tony Kennedy	Mike Sharpe
Tristan Chatfield	Changeese Khan	Sybil Spence
Zaker Choudhry	Chaman Lal	Ron Storer
Debbie Clancy	Mike Leddy	Stewart Stacey
Lynda Clinton	Bruce Lines	Sharon Thompson
Phil Davis	John Lines	Paul Tilsley
Peter Douglas Osborn	Keith Linnecor	Lisa Trickett
Neil Eustace	Mary Locke	Ian Ward
Des Flood	Ewan Mackey	Fiona Williams
Carole Griffiths	Majid Mahmood	Ken Wood
Peter Griffiths	Karen McCarthy	Alex Yip
Paulette Hamilton	Gareth Moore	

The Leader Councillor Ian Ward noted he had completed the proforma with his interests and moved the motion which was seconded.

In accordance with Council Standing Orders, Councillors Jon Hunt and Roger Harmer gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No 7)

Councillor Jon Hunt noted he had completed the proforma with his interests and moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Roger Harmer who noted he had completed the proforma with his interests.

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

(See document No 8)

Councillor Robert Alden noted he had completed the proforma with his interests and moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Randal Brew who reserved the right to speak.

A debate ensued during which Councillors Ewan Mackey, Susan Barnett, Gary Sambrook, Paulette Hamilton, David Pears, Carl Rice, Merion Jenkins, Deirdre Alden, Tristan Chatfield, Paul Tilsley, Timothy Huxtable, Gareth Moore, John O'Shea, Debbie Clancy, Zaker Choudhy, Brigid Jones, John Lines, John Alden, Stewart Stacey and Randal Brew noted that they had completed the proforma with their interests. Councillor Julie Johnson indicated that she had no interests to declare.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and

18989

RESOLVED:-

That the Council be adjourned until 1702 hours on this day.

The Council then adjourned at 1633 hours.

At 1702 hours the meeting resumed at the point it had been adjourned.

The debate continued.

The Leader, Councillor Ian Ward replied to the debate.

The first amendment to the Motions was put to the vote and, by the recorded vote set out below, was declared to be lost.

For the First Amendment (34)

Deirdre Alden	Des Flood	Gareth Moore
John Alden	Andrew Hardie	David Pears
Robert Alden	Roger Harmer	Fergus Robinson
Sue Anderson	Jon Hunt	Gary Sambrook
Bob Beauchamp	Timothy Huxtable	Ron Storer
Matt Bennett	Morriam Jan	Paul Tilsley
Randal Brew	Simon Jevon	Karen Trench
Zaker Choudhry	Carol Jones	Margaret Waddington
Debbie Clancy	Bruce Lines	Mike Ward
Lyn Collin	John Lines	Ken Wood
Peter Douglas Osborn	Ewan Mackey	Alex Yip
Neil Eustace		

Against the First Amendment (64)

Muhammad Afzal	Jayne Francis	Keith Linnecor
Mohammed Aikhlq	Carole Griffiths	Mary Locke
Tahir Ali	Peter Griffiths	Majid Mahmood
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Paulette Hamilton	Karen McCarthy
Mohammed Azim	Kath Hartley	James McKay
Susan Barnett	Barry Henley	Brett O'Reilly
Kate Booth	Des Hughes	John O'Shea
Steve Booton	Mahmood Hussain	Robert Pocock
Barry Bowles	Shabrina Hussain	Hendrina Quinnen
Marje Bridle	Mohammed Idrees	Chauhdry Rashid
Mick Brown	Zafar Iqbal	Carl Rice
Alex Buchanan	Ziaul Islam	Shafique Shah
Andy Cartwright	Kerry Jenkins	Mike Sharpe
Tristan Chatfield	Julie Johnson	Claire Spencer
John Clancy	Brigid Jones	Stewart Stacey
Lynda Clinton	Josh Jones	Martin Straker Welds
John Cotton	Nagina Kauser	Sharon Thompson
Basharat Dad	Tony Kennedy	Lisa Trickett
Phil Davis	Changese Khan	Ian Ward
Diane Donaldson	Chaman Lal	Fiona Williams
Barbara Dring	Mike Leddy	Waseem Zaffar
Mohammed Fazal		

Abstentions (0)

The second amendment to the Motions was put to the vote and, by the recorded vote set out below, was declared to be lost.

For the Second Amendment (25)

Deirdre Alden	Des Flood	Gareth Moore
John Alden	Andrew Hardie	David Pears
Robert Alden	Timothy Huxtable	Fergus Robinson
Bob Beauchamp	Meirion Jenkins	Gary Sambrook
Matt Bennett	Simon Jevon	Ron Storer
Randal Brew	Bruce Lines	Margaret Waddington
Debbie Clancy	John Lines	Ken Wood
Lyn Collin	Ewan Mackey	Alex Yip
Peter Douglas Osborn		

Against the Second Amendment (70)

Muhammad Afzal	Carole Griffiths	Keith Linnecor
Mohammed Aikhlq	Peter Griffiths	Mary Locke
Tahir Ali	Paulette Hamilton	Majid Mahmood
Sue Anderson	Roger Harmer	Karen McCarthy
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Kath Hartley	James McKay
Mohammed Azim	Barry Henley	Brett O'Reilly
Susan Barnett	Des Hughes	John O'Shea
Kate Booth	Jon Hunt	Robert Pocock
Steve Booton	Mahmood Hussain	Hendrina Quinnen

City Council – 27 February 2018

Barry Bowles	Shabrana Hussain	Chauhdry Rashid
Marje Bridle	Mohammed Idrees	Carl Rice
Mick Brown	Zafar Iqbal	Shafique Shah
Alex Buchanan	Ziaul Islam	Mike Sharpe
Andy Cartwright	Morriam Jan	Claire Spencer
Tristan Chatfield	Kerry Jenkins	Stewart Stacey
John Clancy	Julie Johnson	Martin Straker Welds
Lynda Clinton	Brigid Jones	Sharon Thompson
John Cotton	Josh Jones	Paul Tilsley
Basharat Dad	Nagina Kauser	Karen Trench
Phil Davis	Tony Kennedy	Lisa Trickett
Diane Donaldson	Changeese Khan	Ian Ward
Barbara Dring	Chaman Lal	Fiona Williams
Mohammed Fazal	Mike Leddy	Waseem Zaffar
Jayne Francis		

Abstentions (3)

Zaker Choudhry	Carol Jones	Mike Ward
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Motion 1 was put to the vote and, by the recorded vote set out below, was declared to be carried.

For Motion 1 (64)

Muhammad Afzal	Jayne Francis	Keith Linnecor
Mohammed Aikhlal	Carole Griffiths	Mary Locke
Tahir Ali	Peter Griffiths	Majid Mahmood
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Paulette Hamilton	Karen McCarthy
Mohammed Azim	Kath Hartley	James McKay
Susan Barnett	Barry Henley	Brett O'Reilly
Kate Booth	Des Hughes	John O'Shea
Steve Booton	Mahmood Hussain	Robert Pocock
Barry Bowles	Shabrana Hussain	Hendrina Quinnen
Marje Bridle	Mohammed Idrees	Chauhdry Rashid
Mick Brown	Zafar Iqbal	Carl Rice
Alex Buchanan	Ziaul Islam	Shafique Shah
Andy Cartwright	Kerry Jenkins	Mike Sharpe
Tristan Chatfield	Julie Johnson	Claire Spencer
John Clancy	Brigid Jones	Stewart Stacey
Lynda Clinton	Josh Jones	Martin Straker Welds
John Cotton	Nagina Kauser	Sharon Thompson
Basharat Dad	Tony Kennedy	Lisa Trickett
Phil Davis	Changeese Khan	Ian Ward
Diane Donaldson	Chaman Lal	Fiona Williams
Barbara Dring	Mike Leddy	Waseem Zaffar
Mohammed Fazal		

Against Motion 1 (35)

Deirdre Alden	Des Flood	Gareth Moore
John Alden	Andrew Hardie	David Pears
Robert Alden	Roger Harmer	Fergus Robinson
Sue Anderson	Jon Hunt	Gary Sambrook
Bob Beauchamp	Timothy Huxtable	Ron Storer
Matt Bennett	Morriam Jan	Paul Tilsley
Randal Brew	Meirion Jenkins	Karen Trench
Zaker Choudhry	Simon Jevon	Margaret Waddington
Debbie Clancy	Carol Jones	Mike Ward
Lyn Collin	Bruce Lines	Ken Wood
Peter Douglas Osborn	John Lines	Alex Yip
Neil Eustace	Ewan Mackey	

Abstentions (0)

Motions 2-6 were put to the vote and, by the recorded vote set out below, were declared to be carried.

For Motions 2-6 (64)

Muhammad Afzal	Jayne Francis	Keith Linnecor
Mohammed Aikhlq	Carole Griffiths	Mary Locke
Tahir Ali	Peter Griffiths	Majid Mahmood
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Paulette Hamilton	Karen McCarthy
Mohammed Azim	Kath Hartley	James McKay
Susan Barnett	Barry Henley	Brett O'Reilly
Kate Booth	Des Hughes	John O'Shea
Steve Booton	Mahmood Hussain	Robert Pocock
Barry Bowles	Shabrana Hussain	Hendrina Quinnen
Marje Bridle	Mohammed Idrees	Chauhdry Rashid
Mick Brown	Zafar Iqbal	Carl Rice
Alex Buchanan	Ziaul Islam	Shafique Shah
Andy Cartwright	Kerry Jenkins	Mike Sharpe
Tristan Chatfield	Julie Johnson	Claire Spencer
John Clancy	Brigid Jones	Stewart Stacey
Lynda Clinton	Josh Jones	Martin Straker Welds
John Cotton	Nagina Kauser	Sharon Thompson
Basharat Dad	Tony Kennedy	Lisa Trickett
Phil Davis	Changese Khan	Ian Ward
Diane Donaldson	Chaman Lal	Fiona Williams
Barbara Dring	Mike Leddy	Waseem Zaffar
Mohammed Fazal		

Against Motions 2-6 (35)

Deirdre Alden	Des Flood	Gareth Moore
John Alden	Andrew Hardie	David Pears
Robert Alden	Roger Harmer	Fergus Robinson
Sue Anderson	Jon Hunt	Gary Sambrook
Bob Beauchamp	Timothy Huxtable	Ron Storer
Matt Bennett	Morriam Jan	Paul Tilsley
Randal Brew	Meirion Jenkins	Karen Trench
Zaker Choudhry	Simon Jevon	Margaret Waddington
Debbie Clancy	Carol Jones	Mike Ward
Lyn Collin	Bruce Lines	Ken Wood
Peter Douglas Osborn	John Lines	Alex Yip
Neil Eustace	Ewan Mackey	

Abstentions (0)

Motion 7 was put to the vote and, by the recorded vote set out below, was declared to be carried.

For Motion 7 (64)

Muhammad Afzal	Jayne Francis	Keith Linnecor
Mohammed Aikhlq	Carole Griffiths	Mary Locke
Tahir Ali	Peter Griffiths	Majid Mahmood
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Paulette Hamilton	Karen McCarthy
Mohammed Azim	Kath Hartley	James McKay
Susan Barnett	Barry Henley	Brett O'Reilly
Kate Booth	Des Hughes	John O'Shea
Steve Booton	Mahmood Hussain	Robert Pocock
Barry Bowles	Shabrana Hussain	Hendrina Quinnen
Marje Bridle	Mohammed Idrees	Chauhdry Rashid
Mick Brown	Zafar Iqbal	Carl Rice
Alex Buchanan	Ziaul Islam	Shafique Shah
Andy Cartwright	Kerry Jenkins	Mike Sharpe
Tristan Chatfield	Julie Johnson	Claire Spencer
John Clancy	Brigid Jones	Stewart Stacey
Lynda Clinton	Josh Jones	Martin Straker Welds
John Cotton	Nagina Kauser	Sharon Thompson
Basharat Dad	Tony Kennedy	Lisa Trickett
Phil Davis	Changese Khan	Ian Ward
Diane Donaldson	Chaman Lal	Fiona Williams
Barbara Dring	Mike Leddy	Waseem Zaffar
Mohammed Fazal		

Against Motion 7 (17)

Sue Anderson	Roger Harmer	John Lines
Randal Brew	Jon Hunt	Paul Tilsley
Zaker Choudhry	Timothy Huxtable	Karen Trench
Debbie Clancy	Morriam Jan	Mike Ward
Neil Eustace	Carol Jones	Alex Yip
Des Flood	Bruce Lines	

Abstentions (1)

Peter Douglas Osborn

Motion 8 was put to the vote and, by the recorded vote set out below, was declared to be carried.

For Motion 8 (64)

Muhammad Afzal	Jayne Francis	Keith Linnecor
Mohammed Aikhlaq	Carole Griffiths	Mary Locke
Tahir Ali	Peter Griffiths	Majid Mahmood
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Paulette Hamilton	Karen McCarthy
Mohammed Azim	Kath Hartley	James McKay
Susan Barnett	Barry Henley	Brett O'Reilly
Kate Booth	Des Hughes	John O'Shea
Steve Booton	Mahmood Hussain	Robert Pocock
Barry Bowles	Shabrana Hussain	Hendrina Quinnen
Marje Bridle	Mohammed Idrees	Chauhdry Rashid
Mick Brown	Zafar Iqbal	Carl Rice
Alex Buchanan	Ziaul Islam	Shafique Shah
Andy Cartwright	Kerry Jenkins	Mike Sharpe
Tristan Chatfield	Julie Johnson	Claire Spencer
John Clancy	Brigid Jones	Stewart Stacey
Lynda Clinton	Josh Jones	Martin Straker Welds
John Cotton	Nagina Kauser	Sharon Thompson
Basharat Dad	Tony Kennedy	Lisa Trickett
Phil Davis	Changeese Khan	Ian Ward
Diane Donaldson	Chaman Lal	Fiona Williams
Barbara Dring	Mike Leddy	Waseem Zaffar
Mohammed Fazal		

Against the Motion 8 (34)

Deirdre Alden	Des Flood	Ewan Mackey
John Alden	Andrew Hardie	Gareth Moore
Robert Alden	Roger Harmer	David Pears
Sue Anderson	Jon Hunt	Fergus Robinson
Bob Beauchamp	Timothy Huxtable	Gary Sambrook
Matt Bennett	Morriam Jan	Ron Storer
Randal Brew	Meirion Jenkins	Paul Tilsley
Zaker Choudhry	Simon Jevon	Karen Trench
Debbie Clancy	Carol Jones	Margaret Waddington
Lyn Collin	Bruce Lines	Mike Ward
Peter Douglas Osborn	John Lines	Alex Yip
Neil Eustace		

Abstentions (0)

Therefore it was-

18990

RESOLVED:-

1. **Revenue Budget**

That the revenue budget for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2018 of £855.189m, including the budget allocations to the various Directorates of the Council, as set out in Appendix 8 to the Council Plan and Budget 2018+, be approved subject to any revision needed in the light of the ongoing and further planned consultations and equalities assessments on individual savings proposals.

2. **Council Tax Requirement**

That the following calculations be now made in accordance with Section 31A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2018:

	£
a. aggregate of estimated City Council expenditure, contingencies, and contributions to financial reserves	3,076,183,815
b. Parish Precepts	1,896,389
c. aggregate of estimated income (including Top-Up Grant), and use of financial reserves	(2,310,473,005)
d. net transfers to/(from) the Collection Fund in relation to Business Rates	(436,445,905)
e. Transfer to/(from) the Collection Fund in relation to Council Tax	(1,987,201)

- f. Council Tax Requirement, being the aggregate of (a) to (e) above 329,174,093

3. **Council Tax - Basic Amount**

That the Basic Amount of Council Tax for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2018 be set at £1,322.84, pursuant to the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, being the Council Tax Requirement of £329,174,093 divided by the Council Tax Base of 248,838 Band D properties.

4. **Council Tax – City Council and Parish Precept**

- (i) That the basic amount of Council Tax for City Council services for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2018 be set at £1,315.22 pursuant to the formula in Section 34(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

	£	£
a. Basic Amount calculated under Section 31B		1,322.84
LESS		
b. Parish precepts	1,896,389	
DIVIDED BY		
City Council Tax base	248,838	7.62
		<hr/> 1,315.22

- (ii) That, pursuant to Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Basic Amount of Council Tax for City Council services is not excessive in relation to determining whether a referendum is required on the level of Council Tax.

- (iii) That the basic amount of Council Tax for New Frankley in Birmingham Parish for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2018 be set at £1,349.22 pursuant to the formula in Section 34(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

	£	£
a. Basic Amount calculated under Section 34(2)		1,315.22
PLUS		
b. The New Frankley in Birmingham Parish precept	45,521	
DIVIDED BY		
The tax base for New Frankley in Birmingham Parish	1,339	34.00
		<hr/> 1,349.22

- (iv) That the basic amount of Council Tax for the Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council for the financial year commencing on

City Council – 27 February 2018

1st April 2018 be set at £1,365.18 pursuant to the formula in Section 34(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

	£	£
a. Basic Amount calculated under Section 34(2)		1,315.22
PLUS		
b. The Royal Sutton Coldfield Parish Council precept	1,850,868	
DIVIDED BY		
The tax base for Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council	37,047	49.96
		<hr/> 1,365.18

5. **Council Tax - Total**

That, in accordance with Section 30 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the amounts of Council Tax set for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2018 for each category of dwelling listed within a particular valuation band, shall be calculated by adding:

- a. the amount given by multiplying the basic amount of Council Tax for the relevant area by the fraction whose numerator is the proportion applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band, and whose denominator is the proportion applicable to dwellings listed in valuation Band D; to
- b. the amounts which are stated in the final precepts issued by the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority and the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner; and shall be:

	Council Tax Areas without a Parish Council	Council Tax New Frankley in Birmingham Parish	Council Tax Royal Sutton Coldfield Town
Band	£	£	£
A	1,001.74	1,024.41	1,035.05
B	1,168.70	1,195.14	1,207.56
C	1,335.65	1,365.88	1,380.06
D	1,502.61	1,536.61	1,552.57
E	1,836.53	1,878.09	1,897.59
F	2,170.43	2,219.54	2,242.60
G	2,504.35	2,561.02	2,587.62
H	3,005.22	3,073.22	3,105.14

6. **Minimum Revenue Provision**

That the Minimum Revenue Provision statement 2017/18 (revised) and 2018/19, as set out in Chapter 6 and Appendix 16 of the Council Plan and Budget 2018+, be approved.

7. **Capital Strategy and Budget and Treasury Management**

That the proposals for the Capital Programme, Prudential Indicators, and Treasury Management, as set out in Chapters 5-7 and Appendices 10-18 of the Council Plan and Budget 2018+, including the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy, as set out in Appendix 7, be approved.

8. **Council Plan and Budget 2018+**

That the Council Plan and Budget 2018+ be approved.

The meeting ended at 1912hours.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE ALDEN

A1 Abolition of National Maximum Parking Standards”

Question:

The Council passed a motion in February 2016 relating to the abolition of national maximum parking standards in the NPPF. The amended version of that Motion referred to there being a review under way on car parking in light of the revision to the Framework that would allow the Supplementary Planning Documents to be updated. What was the outcome of this review?

Answer:

The adoption of the Birmingham Development Plan in January 2017 provides the strategic framework to guide future development across the City, in particular how we address climate change, quality of life, delivery of infrastructure, creation of an inclusive economy and Birmingham’s national/international role.

The Council has been reviewing both car parking policy and car parking standards. Parking Standards are currently set out in the Car Parking Guidelines Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), February 2012. The Development Plan will be supplemented by more specific development management and design guidance and it is proposed that these will include updated guidance around the provision of parking in new developments, replacing the existing SPD.

The NPPF states that: *‘Transport policies have an important role to play in facilitating sustainable development but also in contributing to wider sustainability and health objectives.’ (para 29).*

It goes on to state that: *‘If setting local parking standards for residential and non-residential development, local planning authorities should take into account:*

- *The accessibility of the development;*
- *The type, mix and use of development;*
- *The availability of and opportunities for public transport;*
- *Local car ownership levels; and*
- *An overall need to reduce the use of high-emission vehicles.’*
(para 39)

The review has been taking these principles into account. Work is still ongoing and has involved the following:

- Review of existing parking policies and application of parking standards
- Review of parking standards across core cities and neighbouring West Midlands authorities
- Parking surveys in the city centre, key local centres and around public transport interchanges

- Accessibility mapping – considering levels of access by public transport to different areas of the city

The outcomes of this review will inform the planned Development Management Document and the Birmingham Design Guide and it is anticipated that draft versions of these documents will be available for initial consultation in summer 2018.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN ALDEN

A2 Cost of visit to Brussels

Question:

What was the cost of the recent visit to Brussels to meet EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier broken down by spend heading including travel, accommodation, subsistence, foreign currency etc.

Answer:

Costs as follows:

Travel - £955

Accommodation - £0

Subsistence - £0

Note: Costs were for two people and visit was undertaken in one day (out early morning, back late evening), hence no accommodation and subsistence costs.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT ALDEN

A3 EU's future relationship with Birmingham

Question:

In your recent meeting with Michel Barnier in Brussels what specifically did you ask for in terms of the EU's future relationship with Birmingham?

Answer:

Negotiating the UK's exit from the EU is a matter for the UK Government and the meeting with Michel Barnier did not discuss this process.

However, the 10 Core cities urban areas are home to 20m people, generates 25% of the UK economy, delivers 29% of UK international trade and hosts 37.5% of UK university students. It is estimated Core Cities exported over £72m in 2016 and are home to more than a quarter of UK businesses.

As the Leader of the largest Core City I have a duty to discuss how the shared interests of the cities, local communities and businesses can be best met in the lead up to and after Brexit.

Growth from the Core Cities will play a critical role in the success of the UK's post – Brexit economy and the meeting discussed our hopes and ambitions for the future.

The Government has so far refused to discuss this crucial issue with the ten Core Cities creating the impression that the Conservative Government is not interested in the wellbeing of people outside London and the South East of England. The Leaders of Core Cities will continue to make the case for our citizens and I will continue to make the case for Birmingham.

I would welcome discussions with the UK Government.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR BOB
BEAUCHAMP**

A4 Continued Membership of Common Market

Question:

In your recent meeting with Michel Barnier in Brussels, did you ask for continued membership of common market and/or free movement of people?

Answer:

No

However, the 10 Core cities urban areas are home to 20m people, generates 25% of the UK economy, delivers 29% of UK international trade and hosts 37.5% of UK university students. It is estimated Core Cities exported over £72m in 2016 and are home to more than a quarter of UK businesses.

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I would welcome discussions with the UK Government.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR GARY SAMBROOK

A5 Final EU Deal

Question:

In your recent meeting with Michel Barnier in Brussels, did you ask for any exceptions\exemptions for Birmingham in the final EU deal?

Answer:

No

However, the 10 Core cities urban areas are home to 20m people, generates 25% of the UK economy, delivers 29% of UK international trade and hosts 37.5% of UK university students. It is estimated Core Cities exported over £72m in 2016 and are home to more than a quarter of UK businesses.

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I would welcome discussions with the UK Government.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ALEX YIP

A6 Superloos

Question:

In total how much was spent on the installation of Superloos across the City and how much will be spent on their removal, including any exit costs from the contract with the supplier?

Answer:

The installation of Superloos in the current contract was at the expense of the contractor, with Birmingham City Council paying a rental and maintenance fee for the units over the life of the contract. We have had to terminate a number of units over the life of the contract with a number of closures last year due to public safety issues. The cost of removing the units and making good the ground that the units are removed from, under these circumstances, sits with the contractor and as such BCC have had no additional costs. Any exit costs for the contract as a whole would need to be agreed under negotiation with the contractor

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ROB SEALEY

A7 Requests for unique exemptions

Question:

In your recent meeting with Michel Barnier in Brussels, did you support the requests floated by Manchester City Council for its own unique exemptions?

Answer:

No

However, the 10 Core cities urban areas are home to 20m people, generates 25% of the UK economy, delivers 29% of UK international trade and hosts 37.5% of UK university students. It is estimated Core Cities exported over £72m in 2016 and are home to more than a quarter of UK businesses.

As the Leader of the largest Core City I have a duty to discuss how the shared interests of the cities, local communities and businesses can be best met in the lead up to and after Brexit.

Growth from the Core Cities will play a critical role in the success of the UK's post – Brexit economy and the meeting discussed our hopes and ambitions for the future.

The Government has so far refused to discuss this crucial issue with the ten Core Cities creating the impression that the Conservative Government is not interested in the wellbeing of people outside London and the South East of England. The Leaders of Core Cities will continue to make the case for our citizens and I will continue to make the case for Birmingham.

I would welcome discussions with the UK Government.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JON HUNT

A8 Independent Review - Findings and Recommendations

Question:

At the last meeting you responded to a written question from Councillor Matt Bennett regarding the “Hijabgate” affair and the question of an independent review. You stated that the matter had been resolved but gave no further details. If there was an independent review, did it come up with findings and recommendations that could be shared to assist other Councillors in similar situations - and if so what were they?

Answer:

The investigation report dealt with the specific issues relating to the substantive complaint. The Code of Conduct for Councillors is currently under review to take into account learning from recent conduct cases and to include guidance on conduct.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN,
FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR ALEX YIP**

B Travel Assist

Question:

Before any mitigations or transfers from reserves, by how much is the 17/18 budget for Travel Assist projected to overspend compared to the original budget?

Answer:

The original 2017/18 budget for Travel Assist was £17.3m. The projected overspend is £2.6m. The proposed increased budget for 2018/19 of £18.4m recognises that the 2017/18 original budget was, in hindsight, insufficient to meet the impact of growing demand and costs during 2017/18 despite the introduction of tighter controls and modernisation of working practices. If the latter changes had not been implemented the projected overspend could potentially have been higher.

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

C1 Fly-Posting

Question:

How many reports of Fly-Posting have there been by month for the last 3 years?

Answer:

2015											
Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
24	31	21	44	26	30	17	35	21	35	17	18

2016											
Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
31	27	25	23	15	31	36	34	32	76	86	46

2017											
Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
51	50	44	98	91	85	72	62	54	57	40	17

2018											
Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
70											

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

C2 G3 Waste Reduction and Collection Officers

Question:

Since commencing their new roles, how many ‘interventions’ have the new G3 ‘Waste Reduction and Collection Officers’ made with residents to encourage increased recycling, broken down by the type of intervention (face to face, leaflet etc.)?

Answer:

The WRCO will be operational from 1st April 2018.

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

C3 Fly-Tipping reports

Question:

How many reports of Fly-Tipping have there been by month for the last 3 years?

Answer:

The first of the two tables below shows the number of reports received by Waste Management and Regulation & Enforcement Directorates that were categorised at the initial reporting stage as relating to dumped waste/rubbish.

The total number of reports does not equate to the number of incidents; this is due to a number of reasons which includes, but is not limited to: duplicate enquiries/incidents being reported more than once, by different reporters or on multiple dates or to different council teams; enquiries for which linked records are created in the electronic database for the purpose of assisting with job management; and enquiries where waste/rubbish may not subsequently be identified as the root cause or primary element of a multi-issue referral.

The second set of data are the incidents identified by Waste Management collection crews as flytipping and reported quarterly under DEFRA's Waste Data Flow 'fly-tipping' arrangements [data for last quarter are being finalised and are therefore shown here as estimates]. This table is the "accurate" measure of levels of fly tipping in the city.

Summary of Citywide Flytipping by Year Reported to Waste Management and Regulation & Enforcement

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2014	1513	1272	1650	1860	2034	2632	2767	1975	1878	1452	1333	1546
2015	1997	1926	2311	2129	1713	2119	2147	1857	1837	1702	1644	1491
2016	1956	1718	1834	1830	1681	1958	1992	1833	1635	1464	1312	1221
2017	1774	1691	2316	1978	1918	2059	2363	2295	1637	1876	2039	1450
2018	1789											

Summary of City wide Incidents of Flytipping Collected by Waste Management from Public Land & Highways

This data is collated quarterly from reports made by collection crews and published to DEFRA as part of the WasteDataFlow (previously 'Fly Capture')

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2014	1334	1164	1457	1313	1231	1456	1281	1561	1190	1065	865	1064
2015	1159	1016	1002	1075	1059	1192	1202	916	834	919	973	867
2016	1086	1028	1197	1152	1151	1209	1365	1352	1342	1279	1229	1146
2017	1158	1039	1377	1269	1202	1224	1563	1533	1049	1260 est.	1230 est.	1090 est.

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

C4 G3 Leading Hands

Question:

What percentage of the G3 Leading Hands have been successfully assimilated into the new G3 WRCO roles?

Answer:

This is work in progress.

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

C5 Missed collections

Question:

Per week, how many missed collections have been reported since 1 January 2018?

Answer:

The table below sets out the data requested. Please note the impact of the bad weather on the first two weeks of the year.

Week Number	Week Beginning	Number of Individual Properties Reported a Residual and or Recycling Missed Collection
1	01/01/2018	1060
2	08/01/2018	1027
3	15/01/2018	633
4	22/01/2018	519
5	29/01/2018	452
6	05/02/2018	496
7	12/02/2018	441

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,
RECYLCING AND THE ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR FERGUS
ROBINSON**

C6 Charge to Access Household Recycling Centres

Question:

How many traders per month are currently paying the charge to access Household Recycling Centres compared to the number projected to be doing so when the 17+budget was set?

Answer:

The scheme has not yet been implemented properly.

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

C7 Overtime and agency staff

Question:

Since 1 January 2018 how much has been spent on overtime and agency staff for waste and recycling collection?

Answer:

For the month of January 2018, £0.4m has been spent in aggregate on overtime and agency staff.

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

C8 Vacancies

Question:

How many vacancies are there currently within the waste collection service?

Answer:

Within the Waste Collection service there are currently 131 vacancies.

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

C9 Roads visited by waste collection crews

Question:

According to the Council's GPS tracking software for fleet, how many roads per week are visited by waste collection crews where the collection has then been reported to have been missed each month for the last 12 months?

Answer:

The tracking system is not linked to the lift mechanism of the collection vehicles, so whilst it shows that a vehicle has travelled down a road it does not confirm whether collections have been undertaken or not. As a result it is not possible to provide a response as has been specifically requested.

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

C10 Sickness Absence

Question:

For the last 12 months what was the sickness absence rate within waste collection, broken down by month.

Answer:

February 2017

17.22 Average sickness days per FTE (KPI)

March 2017 Format of Dashboard changed

February 2017	March 2017	YTD	YTD Last Year
17.00	17.35	13.28	0.00

April 2017

March 2017	April 2017	YTD	YTD Last Year
17.29	14.51	14.51	11.01

May 2017

April 2017	May 2017	YTD	YTD Last Year
14.55	13.87	14.24	10.63

June 2017 (Dashboard not available therefore rerun report)

14.61 Average sickness days per FTE (KPI)

July 2017

June 2017	July 2017	YTD	YTD Last Year
14.15	24.49	16.31	10.41

August 2017 (Dashboard not available therefore rerun report)

27.62 Average sickness days per FTE (KPI)

September 2017

September 2017	October 2017	YTD	YTD Last Year
20.67	18.75	19.14	11.13

October 2017

September 2017	October 2017	YTD	YTD Last Year
20.67	18.75	19.14	11.13

November 2017

October 2017	November 2017	YTD	YTD Last Year
19.09	19.05	19.23	11.70

December 2017

November 2017	December 2017	YTD	YTD Last Year
19.11	18.49	19.15	12.09

January 2017 (Dashboard not yet produced report run today takes accounts of sickness input maybe subject to change)

17.99 Average sickness days per FTE (KPI)

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

C11 Amusements in Cannon Hill Park

Question:

On what date were the Fun Park and mini-golf in Cannon Hill Park approved for installation and which Cabinet member approved them?

Answer:

A temporary mini golf was installed in Cannon Hill Park in 2012 as part of a trial to assess its viability. This was done in consultation and agreement with the Cabinet Member at the time.

A contract award was made under officer delegation for a permanent mini golf in 2014 by the Head of Parks. In addition, a further contract award was made under officer delegation by the Head of Parks in April 2015 for a fun park.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,
RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR JON HUNT**

C12 Street Cleaning Department - unable to recruit into permanent posts

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member inform us why the street cleaning department has been unable to recruit into permanent posts?

Answer:

We are currently consulting with Trades Unions regarding a new street cleansing redesign which will release more posts for recruitment with a target date of 1st April. However, we have recently recruited an additional 26 Beat Sweepers who have either already started or are starting in the next couple of weeks and released those number of agency staff. Recruitment to current vacancies is on-going.

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

C13 Street Cleaning Posts - Filled Permanently

Question:

At the last meeting the Cabinet Member reported figures which indicated that roughly a third of posts in street cleaning are filled by agency staff. At a time when joblessness continues to be a problem for many, why have those posts not been filled permanently?

Answer:

We are currently consulting with Trades Unions regarding a new street cleansing redesign which will release more posts for recruitment with a target date of 1st April. However, we have recently recruited an additional 26 Beat Sweepers who have either already started or are starting in the next couple of weeks and released those number of agency.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,
RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ROGER HARMER**

C14 Missed collections - January 2018

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member provide the details of the missed collections in January 2018, by ward, of recycling, residual and trade waste?

Answer:

WARD	Individual Property Reported Missed Collections			
	Recycling	Residual	Trade	Total
Acocks Green	28	40	4	72
Aston	7	26	1	34
Bartley Green	63	98	9	170
Billesley	58	61	11	130
Bordesley Green	16	32	15	63
Bournville	66	59	5	130
Brandwood	52	49	5	106
Edgbaston	59	48	6	113
Erdington	36	25	4	65
Hall Green	36	29	14	79
Handsworth Wood	36	15	0	51
Harborne	72	93	12	177
Hodge Hill	30	61	3	94
Kings Norton	37	61	4	102
Kingstanding	41	43	4	88
Ladywood	14	19	10	43
Longbridge	78	76	5	159
Lozells and East Handsworth	13	9	5	27
Moseley and Kings Heath	21	30	12	63
Nechells	12	35	31	78
Northfield	73	73	3	149
Oscott	53	25	3	81
Perry Barr	24	22	2	48
Quinton	58	104	4	166
Selly Oak	39	39	15	93
Shard End	54	66	4	124
Sheldon	50	47	4	101
Soho	10	30	1	41
South Yardley	31	43	16	90
Sparkbrook	16	31	37	84

City Council – 27 February 2018

Springfield	8	18	19	45
Stechford and Yardley North	40	96	3	139
Stockland Green	31	29	2	62
Sutton Four Oaks	58	45	4	107
Sutton New Hall	41	42	1	84
Sutton Trinity	83	42	4	129
Sutton Vesey	42	32	2	76
Tyburn	27	23	0	50
Washwood Heath	16	41	26	83
Weoley	81	113	5	199

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF PLANNING FROM COUNCILLOR
DEIRDRE ALDEN**

D Off street car parking

Question:

Since 2012, on average how many off street car parking spaces have been created per dwelling in planning applications approved by the Council?

Answer:

The number of parking spaces approved through planning applications is recorded through the officer's reports for each individual application and is taken into consideration as part of the process of determining planning applications. However, currently the total number of parking spaces created across all applications approved is not directly monitored and as such it is not possible to provide an answer to this question in the time available.

It is proposed to introduce new policy on planning requirements for parking provision through the emerging Development Management Document which will be consulted upon this summer. Monitoring indicators will need to be developed so that the effectiveness of policies introduced by this document can be measured and consideration will be given to recording the total number of parking spaces approved each year across the various categories of development.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES**

Council Business Management Committee considered a report relating to changes to the City Council's Constitution.

Under the Representation of the People Act 1983 the Council must appoint both a Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer. The new Chief Executive's terms and conditions of employment do not include the role of Returning Officer and Election Registration Officer. It is therefore proposed that the role should be integrated into the role and job description of the City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer.

The proposed amended text on page 21 of the Constitution is set out below:

"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."

The tracked changes are set out in Appendix 1.

MOTION

That the Council adopts the following changes to its constitution:

"The Statutory Officers of the Council are as follows:

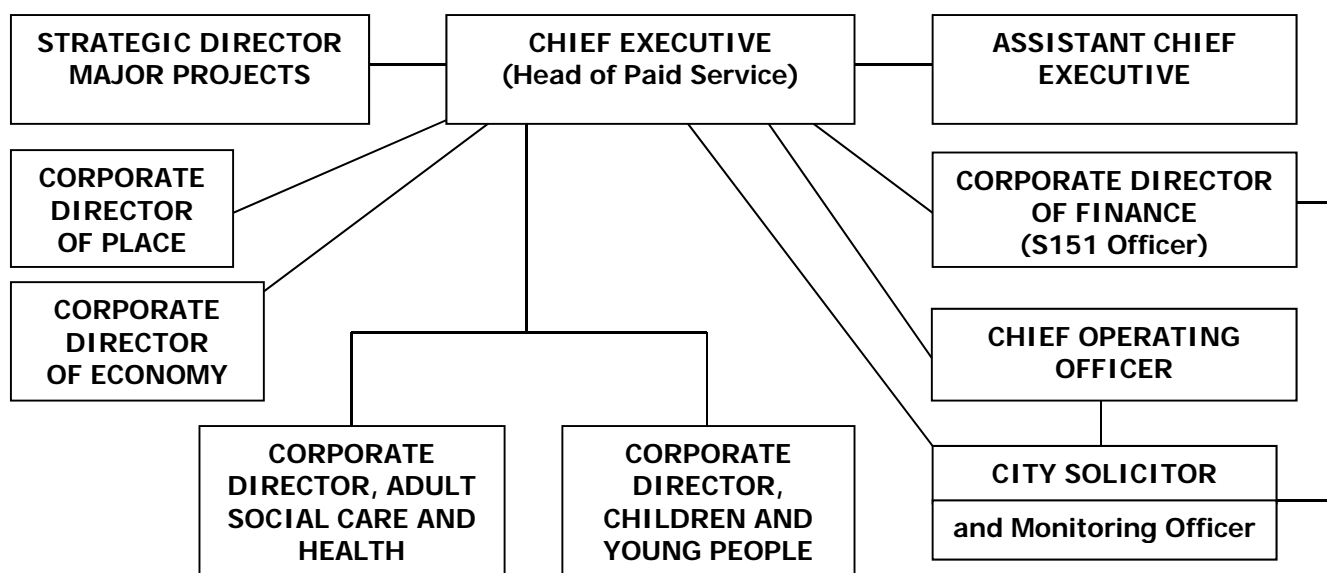
- **Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive)** – This is the Chief Executive of the Council. The Council must approve the appointment of the Head of Paid Service before a final offer of appointment is made to him/her. The Council

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.

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM STRUCTURE CHART



The Statutory Officers of the Council are as follows:

- **Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive and Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer)** – 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.

The Council's Corporate Directors have delegated powers in respect of all matters which are not "key decisions" and not reserved for decision by the Council or by a Committee of the Council. Details of these delegated authorities can be found [here](#).

Further information regarding the Senior Leadership Team can be found [here](#):
https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50068/how_the_council_works/965/management_structure

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

2017-18

A. INTRODUCTION

1. The Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel was discussed at the Council Business Management Committee meeting of 26 February 2018 and a copy of the Panel's Report is attached as an Appendix to this Report.
2. The Panel has worked consistently within the requirements of the Local Government Act 2000 and the accompanying Statutory Guidance and Regulations on Councillors' allowances.
3. The City Council must have regard to the recommendations of an Independent Remuneration Panel before it can set up or amend its Members' Allowances Scheme. The Council is, of course, free to accept the Panel's recommendations in full, in part, or not all.

B. PANEL'S RECOMMENDATIONS

4. The Panel's main recommendation is for the Basic Allowance to be increased by 2% to £16,592 for the coming year. The Panel will review the basic allowance again in the 2018/19 year, after the new ward arrangements have been in operation. Co-optees' allowances should also increase by 2%, in line with the Basic Allowance.
5. The Panel received limited new evidence on Special Responsibility Allowances and recommends that these remain unchanged. As in previous years, should further changes be made to the Constitution in May, the Panel will reconvene to consider any change in the new municipal year.
6. The Panel also recommends that a parental policy should be implemented, including provision for maternity/paternity/adoption leave.

MOTION

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.



COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCES

Annual Report of the Birmingham Independent Remuneration Panel 2017-2018

MARCH 2018

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

2017-2018

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

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FOREWORD

The Independent Remuneration Panel met in late 2017 and early 2018 to review the basic allowance, in line with the principles set out in the full 'root and branch' review of the Member Allowances Scheme completed three years ago.

The Panel reviewed the evidence for the basic allowance, including that given by councillors in an open session in December 2017, and has recommended an increase of 2% for the coming year. The Panel will review the basic allowance again in the 2018/19 year, after the new ward arrangements have been in operation. Co-optees' allowances should also increase by 2%, in line with the Basic Allowance.

The Panel received limited new evidence on Special Responsibility Allowances and recommends that these remain unchanged. Following advice that the intention is to remove the roles of Assistant Leaders (subject to agreement by City Council), the Panel did not review these roles and does not expect that this SRA will form part of the Member Allowances Scheme in the new municipal year. As in previous years, should further changes be made to the Constitution in May, the Panel will reconvene to consider any change in the new municipal year.

In addition, the Panel was asked to consider whether a maternity/paternity/adoption leave policy should be introduced. After taking evidence from councillors, and reviewing practice elsewhere, the Panel agreed to recommend that such a policy should be implemented; and that that policy should include provision for maternity/paternity/adoption leave.

I would like to thank all those councillors and officers who gave evidence for their valuable contributions; and to Ingrid Whyte, Senior Finance & Purchasing Officer (Democratic Services) and Emma Williamson, Head of Scrutiny Services, for their help in producing this report.

Sandra Cooper,
Chair
March 2018

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Basic Allowance increases by 2% to £16,592.
2. The Special Responsibility Allowances remain unchanged (as shown in Appendix 1).
3. The co-optee allowances increases by 2% (as shown in Appendix 1).
4. The independent carers' allowance (hourly rate) continues to be increased in line with the Living Wage, currently at £8.75 per hour; and that this allowance remains linked to the Living Wage in future years.
5. The professional care (hourly rate) continues to be raised in line with the Council's rate for a Care Assistant (Grade 2 post) taking the mid-range spinal point.
6. Travel expenses and Subsistence Allowances continue to reflect the Council's Scheme for officers.
7. The City Council brings in a policy for maternity, paternity and adoption leave for elected members, covering both the Basic Allowance and the Special Responsibility Allowance.
 - The Panel recommends that Members shall continue to receive their Basic Allowance in full during parental leave for six months subject to review and possible six month extension. If, however, an election is held during Members' parental leave and they are not re-elected, or decide not to stand for re-election, the basic allowance will cease from the date when they are no longer a Member.
 - The Panel recommends that Members entitled to a Special Responsibility Allowance continue to receive this allowance during parental leave in line with the City Council employee policy (i.e. for weeks 1 to 6, 90% of the SRA, and weeks 7 to 18, 50% of the SRA).. If, however, an election is held during Members' parental leave and they are not re-elected, or decide not to stand for re-election, or are removed from the post which attracts the SRA, the SRA will cease from the date when they are no longer a Member or no longer hold the post.

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

1. Basic Allowance

As in previous years, the Panel has worked within the requirements of the Local Government Act 2000 and the accompanying Guidance and Regulations on members' allowances in making its recommendations for 2018/19.

The Panel reaffirms the principles of the Birmingham Councillors' Allowances Scheme set out in previous reports. The key factors which the Panel takes into account remain:

1. The promotion of a healthy democracy by reducing financial disadvantage as a barrier to people from a wide range of backgrounds and a wide range of skills standing for election or serving as Councillors.
2. The maintenance of an ethic of voluntary public service and the need to reflect this within the Basic Allowance (BA) paid to all Councillors.
3. Councillors should not expect nor receive a full-time salary.

Setting the 2018/19 Basic Allowance

The "root and branch" review of the basic allowance (October 2013) proposed that the ASHE (Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings), place of work by local authority area (Birmingham) for a full time male, is used to set the basic allowance.

Having reviewed the chosen comparator, the Panel has agreed to retain the link with ASHE. Applying the ASHE rate would result in an increase of £1,731 (approx. 10%). However, in considering whether to recommend such an increase, the Panel also took into account other factors.

	CURRENT RATE	ASHE 2017	PROPOSED RATE	
<i>Gross min. time (3 days x 52 weeks)</i>	156.00	156.00	156.00	<i>days p.a.</i>
<i>x Baseline per day</i>	132.93	147.72	135.70	
<i>Gross Rate</i>	20,737.08	23,044.32	21,169.20	
<i>Less public service discount 25%</i>	5,184.27	5,761.08	5,292.30	
TIME ELEMENT	15,552.81	17,283.24	15,876.90	
ADDITIONAL EXPENSES ELEMENT	715.00	715.00	715.00	
BASIC ALLOWANCE	16,267.00	17,998.00	16,592.00	<i>rounded</i>

In November 2017 the Panel met with the Group Secretaries and, in December 2017, the panel held an open session for all councillors. The majority of councillors the Panel spoke to were in favour of an increase: the suggestions ranging from a 2% rise to a 23% rise. Most, however, were in favour of a modest rise, perhaps in line with that of council officers.

The main reason for this was to reflect the anticipated increased workloads with the reduction of the number of councillors and introduction of one and two member wards in May 2018. Other reasons for an increase cited included: the loss of the councillor pension scheme; the reduced support available to members from the council and the need to attract younger councillors. Councillors also suggested that additional allowances for licensing or scrutiny members should be considered to reflect the increased workloads expected with the reduction in the number of councillors to carry out these and other council governance responsibilities. Another suggestion was that travel and other expenses are converted into an increased allowance for all councillors, as it was reported that there is some reluctance amongst members to claim these, as these are published annually. Members also raised the disparity in allowances for sitting on outside bodies.

The Panel also asked members whether the current assumption of three days a week for council work was correct; the majority concurred that it was.

Finally, the Panel again reviewed the current basic allowance alongside that for councillors in the core cities and in the West Midlands region, and found that Birmingham's basic allowance remains amongst the highest in this comparator group.

Given the combination of these factors, the Panel is therefore recommending that the Councillors' Basic Allowance increase by 2%. There have been a number of years with no increases, and in the light of this the recommended 2% is considered to be modest and appropriate.

The Panel will review the basic allowance in the 2018/19 year, after the new ward arrangements have been in operation, and will take further evidence from councillors.

2. Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA)

The Panel received limited evidence on special responsibility allowances and were of the view that these should remain unchanged, in line with the basic allowance.

The Panel notes the removal of the posts of District Committee Chairs from the Constitution and that these will no longer be part of the Members Allowance Scheme.

The Panel had intended to review the posts of Assistant Leaders in this municipal year; however we have been advised of the intention to remove these roles (subject to agreement by City Council). Our expectation therefore is that this SRA will not form part of the Member Allowances Scheme in the new municipal year.

Should further changes be made to the Constitution in May, the Panel will reconvene to consider any change in the new municipal year.

3. Co-optees' Allowances

The Panel took no new evidence on co-optee allowances and was of the view that these should remain in line with the basic allowance. Therefore the Panel recommends an increase of 2% for co-optees allowances.

4. Carers' Allowances

In 2012, the City Council agreed to adopt the Living Wage for all its employees, and subsequently extended this to externally-contracted care sector workers from October 2014.

In 2015, the Panel recommended that the Independent Carers' Allowance adopt the change from the National Minimum Wage to the Living Wage, currently at £8.75 per hour.

The Panel therefore recommends that this continues for 2018/19 and that this continues to track the Living Wage in the future.

The professional care (hourly rate) is based on the Council's rate for a Care Assistant. After making enquiries, the Panel found that the rate is now graded as a Grade 2 post and agreed to take the mid-range spinal point currently at £8.81 per hour (at time of writing).

5. Travel expenses and Subsistence Allowances

The Panel considered the proposal that travel and subsistence allowances form part of the Basic Allowance; but decided against this change. The Panel therefore recommends that these continue to reflect the Council's Scheme for officers.

The Panel emphasised the need to ensure that the list of approved duties for which such expenses can be claimed is kept up to date and in accordance with all relevant legislation.

6. Parental Leave Policy

At the start of the year, the Panel undertook to consider submissions with regards to a maternity policy.

The current position, in line with s.85 Local Government Act 1972, is that a Councillor who is absent from all meetings of the Council and any committees of which they are a member for a period of six months automatically ceases to be a member of the Council unless they have been given leave of absence by the Council before the expiry of that six month period. The responsibility for compliance with these requirements lies with the individual councillor.

Reviewing evidence from other local authorities (including Camden and Brent), and submissions from councillors, the Panel agreed to support the introduction of a maternity, paternity or adoption leave ("parental leave") policy for Birmingham councillors, and that this is agreed by City Council at or before the Annual General Council meeting in May 2018.

The Panel recommends that Members shall continue to receive their Basic Allowance in full during parental leave for six months subject to review and possible six month extension. If,

however, an election is held during Members' parental leave and they are not re-elected, or decide not to stand for re-election, the basic allowance will cease from the date when they are no longer a Member.

Similarly, Members entitled to a Special Responsibility Allowance will also continue to receive this allowance during parental leave in line with the City Council employee policy (i.e. for weeks 1 to 6, 90% of the SRA, and weeks 7 to 18, 50% of the SRA). If, however, an election is held during Members' parental leave and they are not re-elected, or decide not to stand for re-election, or are removed from the post which attracts the SRA, the SRA will cease from the date when they are no longer a Member or no longer hold the post.¹

The Panel expects that any replacement to cover the period of absence is appointed by Council or the Leader of the Executive (or in the case of a party group position, the party group) then that individual will be entitled to claim an SRA for that period of absence.

The policy should also mirror the City Council's policy with regards to shared maternity/paternity rights.

The Panel will review this in light of any future evidence.

¹ Legal advice was obtained in determining these recommendations.

Appendix 1: Proposed Members' Allowances Rates (from May 2018)

BASIC ALLOWANCE (per annum unless otherwise stated)

	£
Baseline per Day Rate	135.70
Basic Allowance	16,592.00
Time Element	15,877.00
Additional Expenses Element	715.00

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCE (per annum unless otherwise stated)

Baseline per week (£1,125.30 discounted by 15%)	956.51
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STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

Leader of the Council (rounded up)	50,000.00
Deputy Leader of the Council	40,000.00

STRATEGIC SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Cabinet Member	25,000.00
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RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHAIRING KEY REGULATORY, OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

Chair of the Planning Committee	15,000.00
Chair of Licensing & Public Protection Committee	15,000.00
Leader of the Largest Qualifying Opposition Group	15,000.00
Chair of an Overview & Scrutiny Committee	12,500.00
Assistant Leaders*	10,000.00

OTHER ROLES WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Deputy Leader of the Largest Qualifying Group	7,000.00
Chair of the Audit Committee	5,000.00
Chair of the Trusts and Charities Committee	5,000.00
Leader of Other Qualifying Opposition Groups	5,000.00
Deputy Leader of Other Qualifying Opposition Groups	2,500.00
Lead Opposition Spokesperson (Shadow Cabinet)	2,500.00
Political Group Secretaries	2,500.00

(A Qualifying Opposition Group is one with a minimum of 6 Members)

** We are advised that these posts will be removed before May 2018.*

CO-OPTEE ALLOWANCES (*per annum*)

	£
Chair of the Standards Committee	1,020.00
Member of an Overview & Scrutiny Committee	848.00
Member of the Standards Committee	568.00

CARERS' ALLOWANCES

Independent care – hourly rate with effect from October 2017	8.75
Professional care with supporting documentation – hourly rate	8.81

TRAVEL EXPENSES AND SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES

Car, Motorcycle and Bicycle Allowance Rates are set in line with those paid to officers of the authority.

Day and Overnight Subsistence Allowances are set in line with those paid to officers of the authority or the inflation factor in the council's budget.

Car Mileage Rates

First 10,000 business miles in tax year	45p per mile
Each business mile over 10,000 in tax year	25p per mile
Supplement for official passenger	5p per mile

If car mileage is claimed for travel outside the West Midlands area, the payment will be the lesser of the value of the actual mileage claimed or the peak time standard rail fare.

Motorcycle Mileage Rates ***24p per mile***

Bicycle Mileage Rates ***20p per mile***

Other Travel Expenses

Rail Travel (supporting receipt required)	Standard Class Fare
Taxi, Tube and Bus Fares, Car Parking, Toll Charges (Supporting receipts if possible)	Actual Cost

If a travel pass is provided by the Council the recipient must make a contribution of 40% towards the total cost met by the Council. The recipient also forgoes the right to claim for travel allowances or expenses for duties undertaken in the area covered by the pass or to make use of transport services provided directly by the Council, unless the relevant travel service is not available, or there are health and safety reasons.

Appendix 2: Membership of the Independent Remuneration Panel

Chair of the Panel

Sandra Cooper, Citizen Representative, Stirchley

Council Appointees

David Grainger

Sajid Shaikh

Citizen Representatives

Graham Macro, Sutton Coldfield

Jacqui Francis, Kings Norton

Rose Poulter, Moseley and Kings Heath (Deputy Chair)

Co-opted Members

Former Elected Member Malcolm Cornish

Honorary Alderman Peter Kane

**REPORT OF THE CROSS-PARTY SCRUTINY GROUP
REVIEW OF SCRUTINY**

The motion:

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

1. Introduction

At the meeting of Council Business Management Committee in November 2017, a cross-party sub-group was established to undertake a review of Overview and Scrutiny. Three years on since the number of committees was reduced, it is timely to review the role of scrutiny in light of changes to council governance, with the removal of District Committees (which had been given a scrutiny role following the Kerslake report) and in anticipation of further changes taking effect from May 2018.

2. Purpose of the Review

The purpose was to review the Council's scrutiny arrangements to ensure that Scrutiny is an effective partner in the council's governance, and is successful in providing constructive challenge and helping to drive improvement across the council and its services.

The key lines of enquiry were:

- To review the role of scrutiny: what role does the City Council want scrutiny to play in the governance of the City Council?
- To review the relationship with the Executive – how can scrutiny's role be better facilitated through the scrutiny / executive relationship?
- To review the structure of scrutiny – what structure (i.e. numbers and remits of committees, balance of standing committees and task and finish) will best deliver scrutiny's role?
- To review the resourcing of scrutiny in light of any proposed changes, bearing in mind the current financial context.

Seven members were appointed to the group: Cllr John Cotton (chair), Cllr Deirdre Alden, Cllr Basharat Dad, Cllr Roger Harmer, Cllr Brigid Jones, Cllr Gareth Moore and Cllr Claire Spencer. Meetings were held between December and February; this included a meeting with the three party leaders in January.

3. Background

Overview and Scrutiny in Birmingham has a long history as a well-respected and high-profile scrutiny function. Work over the years has won a number of awards and has made significant contributions to the governance and efficiency of the council.

A review of scrutiny committee numbers and remits was undertaken in early 2015, as required by the Kerslake Report of December 2014, but also in acknowledgement of the reduction in resources. Because of this review, the number of scrutiny committees was reduced by half, and District Committees were given a local scrutiny role. Nonetheless, the work programmes continue to encompass the full range of council policy and service areas. The number of scrutiny committees may have reduced, but the breadth and depth of work they are expected to cover has not.

Further work was undertaken in late 2016 and early 2017, when the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) facilitated workshops drawing together a mix of scrutiny members and officers, to discuss future approaches to scrutiny.

Scrutiny has also come under the spotlight nationally: the Communities and Local Government (CLG) Select Committee published its report on the effectiveness of local authority overview and scrutiny committees on 11 December 2017. Birmingham members and officers gave evidence to this review, and good practice from Birmingham was cited in the report (notably scrutiny reports being discussed and agreed by the main City Council meeting, together with good examples of proactive work to help set the policy agenda).

4. The Role of Scrutiny

The role of scrutiny in the governance of the council has three broad strands:

- a) *Holding to account*: the challenging of decisions is a key role and is the key role of the call-in function. Call-in should not be seen as a failure but as a legitimate means of challenging decisions – a view shared by the party leaders. Any cabinet member and officer who have taken a decision should be prepared to debate and defend that decision in public. The review group looked at the guidance on call-in and has set out proposed clarifications in Appendix 1 (see *Recommendations* below).

There are other means of holding to account, including through Cabinet Member attendance at scrutiny meetings (which has taken the place of the Cabinet Member reports to City Council) and it should also be remembered

that scrutiny has statutory powers to hold some partners to account, notably local health bodies.

- b) *In-depth scrutiny and contribution to policy development*: to properly add value scrutiny must get into the detail of issues. This includes both looking back – addressing where things have gone wrong and understanding the reasons – and looking forward, through contribution to policy development. In the CfPS workshops held in 2016, there was general agreement that scrutiny could add most value by active involvement in policy development. The CLG Select Committee also noted the benefits of what is sometimes called “pre-decision scrutiny”: “By commenting on and contributing to a decision before it has been made, scrutiny committees are able to offer executives the benefit of their ability to focus on an issue in greater depth over a longer period of time.”

Again, this work need not focus exclusively on the work of the City Council; whilst legislation gives some powers to require defined partner organisations to have regard to recommendations and to share information, scrutiny can look at any matters which affect the authority's area or the inhabitants of that area.

- c) *Oversight of performance and finance*: committees should be looking at performance indicators and finance information and have the ability to drill down where there are areas of poor performance. Not having that facility can contribute to serious service failure. The CLG Select Committee report cited the example of the Francis Report (published in 2013 following failings at the Mid Staffordshire NHS Trust): “whilst the failings were not attributed to local committees, the report was critical of local authority health scrutiny, highlighting a lack of understanding and grip on local healthcare issues by the members, little real interrogation and an over-willingness to accept explanations.”

Underpinning each of these roles is the acceptance that scrutiny is an integral part of the governance of the city and should be systematically engaged at the earliest possible stage. There are plenty of good examples to demonstrate the value of this, for example the work undertaken in scrutiny to support the development of policy around the localisation of council tax in 2012; a complex matter that nevertheless has stood the test of time.

Scrutiny can be seen both as a safety net and as a means to drill down and better understand the council's and partners' performance and the wider service delivery.

Reports to City Council

Scrutiny reports to City Council were discussed and members of the review group were clear that producing reports for City Council was not scrutiny's only role. As

noted above, the work undertaken in committee meetings also plays a critical role in the health of the organisation.

However, it is recognised that reporting to City Council is a key line of accountability and one area where Birmingham is ahead in terms of good practice. The Select Committee report recommends that “overview and scrutiny committees should report to an authority’s Full Council meeting rather than to the executive, mirroring the relationship between Select Committees and Parliament”, as many local authority scrutiny committees do not do this.

Members also recognised that reports to City Council could also be better used to inform members of the wider work that scrutiny undertakes. A report to City Council in April 2016 introduced some new approaches, including the presentation of short reports summarising work undertaken in committee meetings with a motion or suggested actions; these could include more contentious issues, areas where policy is not yet resolved, or other matters of high political priority, and act as a way of prompting wider policy debate in the chamber. Examples of this approach include the debate on the NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plan in December 2016 and the Maximising Jobs and Skills report in February 2017.

With regards to inquiry style reports to City Council, there have been a number of examples of disagreements between the Executive and Scrutiny on the content or timing of recommendations. The “8 day rule” process should be amended to allow, where necessary, a meeting of the relevant Cabinet Member and scrutiny members to discuss areas of difference; and for scrutiny committees to have the option to outline proposed outcomes and work with the Executive over a longer time period as to how these outcomes could be achieved (see *Recommendations* below).

Reports or letters from scrutiny that are not taken to City Council should be published on the website and sent to all Councillors, together with the Executive response.

In Birmingham, an Annual Report is submitted to the City Council meeting, detailing the work completed in the previous year and plans for the current municipal year. This could also be reviewed, with lead scrutiny members (cross-party) reporting their views on scrutiny and areas requiring improvement as part of the report (see *Recommendations* below).

Given these changes, we believe that a further review of the operation and functions of the full City Council meeting would also be timely.

Measures of success for scrutiny

There was some discussion of what success for scrutiny would look like. Given the political nature of the process, determining performance indicators for scrutiny has proved difficult for local authorities across the country. However, it is crucial that

scrutiny can demonstrate a positive impact. Consideration also needs to be given to the “feedback loop” of scrutiny work back to the Executive. Recommendations are routinely “tracked” for implementation but there’s little consideration of impact or outcomes, and there are examples where scrutiny work has not been heeded, only for similar issues to arise later.

There is a need for a more outcome-focused approach, which would entail scrutiny reports being clearer about what the recommendations are expected to achieve and the Executive reporting back on what has changed, as well as implementation of specific recommendations. A more flexible approach would help to provide better evidence about the impact of scrutiny (see *Recommendations* below). Scrutiny should work with CfPS and/or Inlogov to define useful measures of success. Working with other local authority scrutiny committees on this area would also be beneficial.

5. Relationship with the Executive: Parity of Esteem

The CLG Select Committee report was concerned with the overall relationship between local authority scrutiny and executive members, and notes that “there is no parity of esteem between the scrutiny and executive functions”. This is especially important given that scrutiny was originally introduced as “a counterweight to the increased centralised power of the new executive arrangements”.

These concerns are reflected in Birmingham, where scrutiny members do not always feel that scrutiny is given sufficient weight or access to enable them to carry out the role effectively. In practice, this is about:

- a) *Transparency of work programmes and decisions*: Key decisions (i.e. those that go to Cabinet) are set out in the Forward Plan; however forthcoming Cabinet Member/Chief Officer decisions are not shared in advance, and decisions delegated to officers are rarely published at all. For scrutiny members to be able to contribute effectively, advance notice is needed. Similarly, for policy development, there is currently no way of tracking the development of a policy to enable scrutiny to timetable appropriate involvement. Overall, there is a lack of transparency of Cabinet Member work programmes/decision schedules, and variation in how Cabinet Members and Scrutiny Chairs work together to identify useful pieces of work for scrutiny to undertake (see *Recommendations* below).
- b) *Information sharing*: scrutiny members do not always have access to the information they need to scrutinise areas properly. This can be about timeliness of information (there is often a reluctance to share early information with scrutiny members); or about reduced resources to provide the information; or a lack of understanding of what information members are entitled to.

The Select Committee is clear that “councillors working on scrutiny committees should have access to financial and performance data held by an authority, and that this access should not be restricted for reasons of commercial sensitivity”. They support the CfPS proposal that committees must be able to ‘*follow the council pound*’ and have the power to oversee all taxpayer-funded services.” This includes scrutiny involvement “at a time when contracts are still being developed, so that all parties understand that the service will still have democratic oversight despite being delivered by a commercial entity”.

Practically, consideration needs to be given to the systems in place and how councillors can be given access to information via on-line systems (an area scrutiny could consider in the coming year – see *Recommendations* below). But this is also about building a culture of mutual respect and trust that facilitates the sharing of sensitive information.

- c) *Attendance at Scrutiny Committee meetings*: officers and Cabinet Members should have to attend and give evidence. The Select Committee report says: “There should be a greater parity of esteem between scrutiny and the executive, and committees should have the same access to the expertise and time of senior officers and the chief executive as their cabinet counterparts”.

However, it should be made clear that officers should not be asked political questions and Cabinet Members should attend to represent policy decisions. Equally, Cabinet Members should not be expected to have all the operational detail, and those questions are properly directed to officers.

To address these issues, the review group recommends that early in the new municipal year, a new Executive / Scrutiny protocol is drawn up. There should also be a trigger mechanism, written into the Constitution, whereby scrutiny can escalate matters where they feel they are being blocked or held up by the Executive or officers (see *Recommendations* below).

Furthermore, the officer and Cabinet Member requirements regarding attendance should also be included in the Executive / Scrutiny protocol. Whilst there was consensus that scrutiny committees should continue to determine their own work programme, it would also be beneficial to work more closely with the Executive. Early involvement of Cabinet Members in work programme development would assist this, with Cabinet Members and Scrutiny Chairs meeting at the start of the Municipal Year to discuss key and emerging policy issues (see *Recommendations* below).

6. How could/should committees and appointments work differently post-election

Members considered the numbers and remits of Scrutiny Committees, and also membership and the political allocation of Scrutiny Chairs.

With regards to numbers and remits: there was a clear view in favour of increasing the number of Scrutiny Committees. Members agreed that the reduction in the number of scrutiny committees in 2015 had not worked as Committees have struggled to cover the full extent of the work required of them and as a consequence have had a reduced focus on some key issues. The evidence collected suggests there should be at least eight Overview and Scrutiny Committees, although arguments can be made for additional committees. However, consideration should be given to the equitable distribution of workloads amongst committees and the likelihood of resources being available to support these for the next four years.

Health Scrutiny

The workload of the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) has always been a challenge due in part to the statutory nature of the duties placed on the health scrutiny function in relation to scrutinising the planning, provision and operation of local health services in the area and the requirement for consultation where proposals are being considered for a substantial development or variation of health services in an area. Due to the volume and speed of changes happening in the health service currently, the number and range of issues that need to be dealt with through either the main Birmingham HOSC or one of the Joint health scrutiny committees with Solihull and Sandwell, is steadily increasing.

Already, since the beginning of 2018, there have been three health scrutiny meetings in January, the main Birmingham HOSC, a Solihull joint HOSC and a Sandwell joint HOSC. There are currently already three meetings scheduled for March and it can be anticipated that this will be the future pattern of meetings for the foreseeable future.

There are major and controversial changes already happening on the Sandwell side including proposed changes to a range of oncology services, the high-profile impact of the Carillion administration on the completion of the Midland Metropolitan Hospital and proposed changes to GP contracts and the future of walk-in centre services. Similarly, the Solihull Joint HOSC is dealing with major issues such as the merger of the three Clinical Commissioning Groups and transition to one organisation and also the merger of two large hospital trusts, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust and Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust - both of which are generating significant concerns which will require the continued involvement of the scrutiny committees.

This is exacerbated by the volume of changes and reorganisations already being implemented in Sandwell and West Birmingham as a result of the Black Country STP and this will be happening increasingly across Birmingham as more of the changes planned to take place under the auspices of the Birmingham and Solihull STP begin to be implemented.

The number and remit of scrutiny committees is a matter for the Executive to determine following the May elections and the review group does not want to fetter that discretion. Nonetheless, the review group believes that any approach should adopt the following:

- a) A lead scrutiny committee should be created, responsible for oversight of the work programme and overseeing the scrutiny function alongside its substantive remit. The membership of this Committee should include all the Scrutiny Chairs and the Chair of the Committee would be the Lead Scrutiny Member. This would give a clear cross-party steer to the scrutiny work programme as a whole and facilitate transparent prioritisation of scrutiny work.
- b) An O&S Committee or Sub-Committee with a clear remit for finance should form part of the new arrangements, whether that be a Finance Committee or Sub-Committee or a major part of the lead scrutiny committee's remit.
- c) The health and social care responsibilities and statutory duties are onerous and sufficient for one committee (an outline of current workloads is set out above). Therefore, the Health and Social Care O&S Committee should have no other areas of responsibility.
- d) Any future changes to scrutiny remits should be agreed with the lead scrutiny committee, to ensure a full appreciation of the impact of the changes proposed and an equitable balance of workloads across committees;
- e) To maintain stability in committee remits over the municipal years; recent years have seen almost annual changes which have had an impact on the timescales of work produced (see *Recommendations* below).

Scrutiny Chairs and Membership

The allocation of Scrutiny Chairs was discussed, in light of recommendations from the CLG Select Committee report, which states: "It is vital that the role of scrutiny chair is respected and viewed by all as being a key part of the decision-making process, rather than as a form of political patronage". They believe there is "great merit in exploring ways of enhancing the independence and legitimacy of scrutiny chairs such as a secret ballot of non-executive councillors"; though they accept it is for individual authorities to determine this. They do recommend that "DCLG works with the LGA and CfPS to identify willing councils to take part in a pilot scheme where the impact of elected chairs on scrutiny's effectiveness can be monitored and its merits considered".

The allocation of Scrutiny Chair roles is a political decision, and since scrutiny's inception, Birmingham has tended to allocate these to members of the controlling group or groups, with the exception of the 2003-4 municipal year, when they were shared on a cross-party basis. However, the review group was of the view that these

posts should now be allocated on a proportionate basis, in line with national best practice (see *Recommendations* below).

Deputy Chairs should continue to be elected by the Committee, as introduced in 2015. If the current system is retained, then the option of electing deputy chairs from opposition parties could be considered (as already happens in some committees).

Similarly, the four-year election cycle is also an opportunity to have more stability of membership on scrutiny committees. There is a need to balance those members who are “experts” in that area and those who would bring a fresh perspective. Attendance at meetings has also been a concern in the last year and needs to be addressed (see *Recommendations* below).

Member Training

Member training in relation to scrutiny also needs consideration. The Select Committee states that “It is incumbent upon councils to ensure that scrutiny members have enough prior subject knowledge to prevent meetings becoming information exchanges at the expense of thorough scrutiny. Listening and questioning skills are essential, as well as the capacity to constructively critique the executive rather than following party lines”.

Member training should include codes of behaviour in scrutiny committees, questioning skills and chairing skills.

Scrutiny Bulletin

In addition, to ensure that all members of the council are aware of scrutiny’s work programme, a monthly bulletin should be sent to all members.

7. Resources and Officer Support

The Select Committee notes the diminution of scrutiny resources across the country. However, “it is imperative that scrutiny committees have access to independent and impartial policy advice that is as free from executive influence as possible”.

However, it is not just about scrutiny support, but also senior officer support: “Decisions relating to the resourcing of scrutiny often reflect the profile that the function has within an authority ... [however].... if there is a culture within the council of directors not valuing scrutiny, then focussing on staff numbers will not have an impact.”

The review group acknowledged that should the number of scrutiny committees be increased, the overall resource implications for scrutiny would need to be considered

and should match both the number of committees and the role expected of scrutiny (see *Recommendations* below).

With regards to access to advice, it is also suggested that scrutiny builds relationships with local universities and businesses, to access wider sources of information.

To further support Scrutiny Chairs and committees, thought needs to be given to ensuring links between scrutiny and directorates (as well as with Cabinet Members), either through the creation of link officers for each committee, or other links on a themed basis, to support the work programmes.

8. Conclusion

Throughout the range of issues covered in this review, the underpinning theme is that of the culture of the City Council and its openness to challenge. The Select Committee came to the same conclusion, stating:

“We have found that the most significant factor in determining whether or not scrutiny committees are effective is the organisational culture of a particular council. Having a positive culture where it is universally recognised that scrutiny can play a productive part in the decision-making process is vital and such an approach is common in all of the examples of effective scrutiny that we identified. Senior councillors from both the administration and the opposition, and senior council officers, have a responsibility to set the tone and create an environment that welcomes constructive challenge and democratic accountability. When this does not happen and individuals seek to marginalise scrutiny, there is a risk of damaging the council’s reputation, and missing opportunities to use scrutiny to improve service outcomes. In extreme cases, ineffective scrutiny can contribute to severe service failures.”

Ultimately the success, or otherwise, of scrutiny is the success, or otherwise, of the City Council as a whole. In fostering a culture where challenge is valued rather than seen as a threat, where leadership in democracy and accountability is prized, scrutiny is at its most effective and the whole organisation thrives.

Recommendations

1. That Executive and Scrutiny Chairs work together to:
 - a) Agree a new Executive / Scrutiny protocol to guide new ways of working. This should include guidance on officer and Cabinet Member attendance at scrutiny meetings, and should make clear that officers should not be asked political questions and Cabinet Members should attend to present policy decisions.
 - b) Facilitate early involvement of Cabinet Members in work programme development through an early meeting of Cabinet Members and Scrutiny Chairs at the start of the municipal year (see section 5, page 6).
 - c) Put in place member training for scrutiny as part of the member development programme, to include codes of behaviour in scrutiny committees, questioning skills and chairing skills (section 6, page 9). An understanding of the role and powers of scrutiny and background should also be part of any training, including training for the Executive.
 - d) Ensure effective links between scrutiny and directorates (as well as with Cabinet Members), either through the creation of link officers for each committee, or other links on a themed basis, to support the work programmes.
2. That the Executive should, in the new municipal year, bring forward proposals for the following (or if not, a report to scrutiny explaining why):
 - a) Increasing the number of scrutiny committees, reflecting the view of the sub-group, to increase the capacity of scrutiny to undertake more in-depth work.
 - b) Creating a lead scrutiny committee, responsible for oversight of the work programme and overseeing the scrutiny function as well as its substantive remit. The membership should include all the Scrutiny Chairs and the chair of the committee would be the Lead Scrutiny Member.
 - c) Having an O&S Committee or Sub-Committee, with a clear remit for finance, whether that be a single Finance Committee or Sub-Committee or a major part of the Co-ordinating O&S Committee's remit.
 - d) Having a Health and Social Care O&S Committee with no other areas of responsibility;
 - e) Any future changes to scrutiny remits should be agreed with the lead scrutiny committee, to ensure a full appreciation of the impact of the changes proposed and an equitable balance of workloads across committees.
 - f) Maintaining stability in committee remits over the municipal years (see section 6, page 8);

- g) Appointing Scrutiny Chairs on a proportionate basis (see section 6, page 9);
 - h) Ensuring that resources for scrutiny match both the number of committees and the role expected of scrutiny (see section 7, page 9).
 - i) Publishing a forward plan of non-key decisions (or share these with members); and developing a mechanism for publishing or sharing stages of policy development (such as the House of Commons' bill tracker).
3. That Scrutiny in 2018/19 bring forward proposals to:
- a) Amend the "8 day rule" process to allow, where necessary, a meeting of the Cabinet Member and scrutiny members to discuss areas of difference; and for scrutiny committees to have the option to outline proposed outcomes and work with the Executive over a longer time period as to how these outcomes could be achieved (see section 4, page 4);
 - b) Revise the Annual Report to the City Council meeting, to include lead scrutiny members (cross-party) reporting their views on scrutiny and areas requiring improvement as part of the report (see section 4, page 4);
 - c) Implement a revised method for monitoring the impact of scrutiny, beyond the tracking of the implementation of recommendations (see section 4, page 4);
 - d) Undertake a review of the systems and support available to members to enable the effective and efficient sharing of information (see section 5, page 5);
 - e) Undertake a review of the City Council meeting, including roles, functions and operation;
4. That Council Business Management Committee bring forward amendments to the Constitution (and associated guidance) to:
- a) Amend the procedure for call-in, as set out in Appendix 1 (page 13);
 - b) Introduce a trigger mechanism whereby scrutiny can escalate matters where they feel they are being blocked or held up by Executive or officers (see section 5, page 6);
5. That the party groups try to ensure some stability of scrutiny committee membership across municipal years, and encourage attendance at meetings.

Appendix 1: Proposed Alterations to Call-in Process

A number of issues regarding call-in have been raised in the last couple of years with regards to call-in. In addition, officers have conducted a review of the call-in process in recent months.

Members of the review group considered these and propose that the following clarifications are made to the Call-In procedure note:

1. That, whilst decisions “to note” should not be subject to call-in (as there is no substantive decision for Cabinet to reconsider), the substance of what is being noted can be called to the next scrutiny meeting and the Cabinet Member will be expected to attend the next relevant scrutiny meeting to explain/give further details on the decision/policy.
2. The convention that Cabinet Member, officers and members who are not members of the committee leave the room whilst committee members deliberate (i.e. after the presentations and question and answer part of the Call-In meeting) is retained, even though livestreaming of the meeting will continue.
3. If a lead scrutiny committee or similar is reinstated (see Recommendation 2 above), then where there is uncertainty or dispute about which is the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee for a call-in, that decision could lie with the Chair of that committee

It was suggested that the review group consider the reasons for call-in, listed in the Constitution¹, as these are very broad. The review group considered this and agreed that there were no real issues with the reasons set out in the Constitution; however, clearer guidance and more training for officers would be beneficial.

¹ Note: the reasons for call-in are not specified in legislation; these are a matter of local discretion.

Report from the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Equalities**TITLE: Birmingham's Response to Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking****1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The attached document *Declaration of Intent* sets out the Council's response to Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, the position it wishes to adopt in regard to these horrific crimes, and outlines the actions the Council is prepared to take to help tackle this issue. This declaration has been developed in response to the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). The NRM was introduced in 2009 to meet the UK's obligations under the Council of European Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and is the process of locating and identifying "potential victims of trafficking".
- 1.2 Additionally the attached document *Birmingham's Pledge* is a Pledge by Birmingham City Council to become a Slavery Free Community and join with other Council's and Organisations Country-Wide to help support the growth and development of a Slavery Free Community.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The *Declaration of Intent* and *Birmingham's Pledge* are new strategies developed in response to the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

The *Declaration of Intent* outlines how the Council has chosen to respond to this crime and the actions it intends to take to tackle it.

The *Birmingham's Pledge* is a promise to try and make Birmingham a City where Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking are not tolerated and cannot survive.

The *Declaration of Intent* will have an impact on the following areas and help deliver against them:

Children: The Council has a duty under the Children Act 1989, where they have reason to believe that a child may suffer, or is suffering, significant harm, to investigate and decide whether any action is needed to protect the welfare of that child.

Adults: The Care Act 2014 sets out local responsibilities and roles for assessing and supporting adults in need of care and support.

Housing: Homelessness legislation provides a framework for councils to decide whether an individual is owed a statutory duty by the councils.

Public Procurement: The Council has a duty under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 to ensure its procurement and supply chains are free of Modern Slavery and accordingly the Birmingham City Council Transparency Statement has been produced and accepted by Cabinet – Appendix 3.

This approach is consistent with the Vision and Priorities 2017 to 2020 report and the Council Business Plan and Budget 2017+.

3. Strategy Approach

- 3.1 Birmingham City Council has formed a cross-directorate Modern Slavery Partnership Group which is charged under the *Declaration of Intent* with the responsibility for delivering against the promises and intentions contained in the Declaration.

Motion

That the *Declaration of Intent* (Appendix 1) be adopted as the City 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.



Declaration of Intent to tackle Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking by Birmingham City Council.

Birmingham City Council is proud to acknowledge and build upon the City's rich heritage of tackling slavery. In the late 18th Century Members of the highly influential Lunar Society (such as Thomas Day, Erasmus Darwin, Matthew Boulton and James Watt) contributed fully to the Anti-Slavery movement and Joseph Priestley, the clergyman, political theorist, and physical scientist wrote his famous 'Sermon Against the Slave Trade' in Birmingham in 1788.

In 1826, Joseph Sturge, an alderman of the city, as well as a Quaker, and a business man became a leading campaigner in the abolition movement and secretary of the Anti-Slavery Society. His example was followed by William Morgan, Birmingham's Town clerk, who also became a leading member of the Birmingham Anti-Slavery Society.

Women were equally active in this issue, and in 1825, Lucy Townsend held a meeting in her house attended by Elizabeth Heyrick, Mary Lloyd, Sarah Wedgwood, and Sophia Sturge resulting in the formation of the "Birmingham Ladies Society for the Relief of Negro Slaves".

Building on this rich and heroic tradition Birmingham City Council is pleased to adopt this *Declaration of Intent* which will be the Council's response to the horror of Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking and serve as the basis of future policies and procedures to help tackle it.

- A. Birmingham City Council abhors the vile and brutal crime of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking in which people are treated as commodities and exploited for criminal gain. The Council will do everything in its power to work with West Midlands Police and other law enforcement agencies to help disrupt and bring to justice perpetrators of such crimes across the City.
- B. Birmingham will adopt a victim focussed approach to Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking and endeavour to safeguard such individuals –whether they be children or adults – and provide for their health and wellbeing needs while they are in the care of the Council.
- C. Birmingham City Council will do all in its power to avoid any element of MSHT in its procurement process or in its procurement supply chain. In accordance with Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 BCC has produced a Transparency Statement to this effect.
- D. Birmingham City Council is fully aware of its designation as a First Responder under the National Referral Mechanism and its responsibility to identify potential victims and refer cases to the UK Human Trafficking Centre Competent Authority of the National Referral Mechanism.
- E. Birmingham City Council is aware of the need to train its staff to the highest possible level to ensure they are able to rescue and care for victims and refer them into the National Referral Mechanism should the victim consent to do so.
- F. Birmingham City Council is working with the West Midlands Anti-Slavery Network to ensure that the seven Local Authorities in this region agree to adopt the National Training Delivery Group training.
- G. Birmingham City Council will train all its staff and Elected Members to ensure they are educated to the highest possible level in order for them to identify potential victims of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking and how to engage with victims in order to ensure they obtain the best possible care and support for their needs.

- H. Birmingham City Council will publish support guides and the Modern Slavery helpline number and other helpful information on its corporate web site in a variety of languages to help victims, staff and other citizens to report incidents of Modern Slavery.
- I. Birmingham City Council will discharge its statutory duty to safeguard any children who they believe are a victim of Modern Slavery or who are being Trafficked into, out of, or across the city.
- J. Birmingham City Council will work with other statutory authorities and specifically Barnardo's Panel for the Protection of Trafficked Children (PPTC) to ensure they have in place robust standards to deal with missing child victims of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.
- K. Birmingham City Council will actively seek to work in Partnership with Government, West Midlands Police, National Health Service, other law enforcement agencies, Third Sector organisations, and any other bodies or organisations working to tackle Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.
- L. Birmingham City Council will work closely with the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner to help improve the plight of victims, improve and enhance the support provided by the National Referral Mechanism, and seek to lobby Parliament to help bring about changes to improve current legislation and encourage the development of new legislation should that prove necessary.
- M. Birmingham City Council will participate in a Multi-Agency Operational Group run by West Midlands Police to provide intelligence and to help engage with West Midlands Police to disrupt Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking activity when and where the Council become aware of it.
- N. Birmingham City Council is fully aware that under section 52 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, it has a Duty to Notify in relation to anyone who is believed to be a victim - both adults and children - of Human Trafficking (including internal trafficking within UK) and is willing and keen to do so.
- O. Birmingham City Council is willing to share appropriate data with all agencies to help tackle this issue. To this end Birmingham City Council will put in place any additional data sharing arrangements or Memorandum of Understanding as required as well as utilising powers under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
- P. Birmingham City Council will create a strategic Cross Directorate Partnership Group to develop policy and procedures and oversee the Birmingham City Council response to Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking at the highest level. This Group will be responsible for ensuring the delivery and implementation of the intentions set out in this document.
- Q. Further to the items specified above in this document Birmingham City Council is more than willing to take whatever further steps it deems fit to help address the whole issue of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking and help protect victims, disrupt criminal activity and work closely with West Midlands Police and other agencies to bring to justice perpetrators of this abhorrent crime.

Dated:

Signed by:

.....
Councillor Ian Ward
Leader of the Council

.....
Councillor Robert Alden
Leader of Conservative
Group

.....
Councillor Jon Hunt
Leader of Liberal Democrat
Group



Pledge to become a Slavery Free Community

As leaders in Birmingham we, the undersigned, commit to doing everything in our power to make our City free of modern slavery. We will work proactively with national and local government, law enforcement agencies, businesses, the voluntary and community sector, faith bodies and our local communities to:

- Demonstrate strong local leadership for anti-slavery initiatives;
- Raise awareness amongst our staff, associates and the people we serve on a daily basis;
- Train our staff to recognise and respond appropriately to potential signs of slavery;
- Share intelligence and information to help detect slavery and ensure it cannot take root;
- Support victims and survivors in our communities;
- Remove slave-based labour from our supply chains;
- Contribute to building a prosperous and slavery-free local economy.

In this way Birmingham stands in support of the United Nations Global Sustainable Development Goal 8.7, to take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour by 2030.

Dated:

Signed by :

Councillor Ian Ward
Leader of the Council

.....
Councillor Robert Alden
Leader of Conservative Group

.....
Councillor Jon Hunt
Leader of Liberal Democrat Group

Report from the Cabinet Member Health and Social Care**TITLE: Birmingham Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy 2018 - 2023****1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The attached “Towards A Domestic Abuse Free City: Birmingham Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy 2018 - 2023” sets out a direction for the city’s approach to tackling and preventing domestic abuse. The new strategy has been developed through dialogue and support from a wide range of stakeholders including people with lived experience of domestic abuse, Birmingham Community Safety Partnership, Birmingham Health and Wellbeing Board, West Midlands Police, elected members and providers of domestic abuse services across public, private and third sectors.

2. Background and Key Issues

- 2.1 The Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy replaces the Birmingham Violence Against Women Strategy 2013-2015 and forms part of the Council’s Policy Framework to deliver against priority themes:

- Children: The strategy delivers a clear focus to support children touched by all forms of domestic abuse, complementing the **Birmingham Early Help Strategy 2015 - 2017**.
- Housing: The strategy is timely to support the new **Birmingham Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2017+** recognising families who experience domestic abuse as being the second highest presenting reason for households in priority need.
- Jobs and Skills: The strategy will deliver the first Birmingham Domestic Abuse Prevention workplace standard, linking to the Combined Authority work on the Public Health England Workplace Wellbeing Charter.
- Health: The strategy aligns to the **Birmingham Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017** recognising the need to tackle domestic abuse to improve the health and wellbeing of the most vulnerable adults and children.

- 2.2 The strategy also supports work being led by the Council and its partners regard:

- The **Birmingham Financial Inclusion Strategy 2017** recognising families who experience domestic abuse are amongst those most vulnerable to financial hardship, exclusion and poverty.
- The agreed purpose for **Improved Mental Health in Birmingham 2016** because tackling domestic abuse is key to improving the population’s mental health wellbeing.

3. Strategy Approach and Themes

- 3.1 The strategy adopts the Government definition of domestic abuse, is informed by the latest national policy direction and provides Birmingham’s vision to see the city as a place where domestic abuse is not tolerated; where everyone can expect equality and respect in their relationships, and live free from domestic abuse. The vision will enable strategic partnerships and other stakeholders to work differently to better co-ordinate services that focus on: changing attitudes and behaviours; deliver early identification and early help, and

provide safety and support. This refreshed approach will be delivered through the Domestic Abuse Joint Action Plan as detailed in the strategy.

- 3.2 The strategy sets out a high level framework identifying the thematic change required to better respond to and prevent domestic abuse. The framework was scoped and developed taking note of the views expressed during extensive consultation with the public and with cross sector stakeholders who identified the following themes to form Birmingham's Domestic Abuse Joint Action Plan:
- a) Changing Attitudes – successfully Changing Attitudes means preventing domestic abuse by challenging the attitudes and behaviours that foster it.
 - b) Early Identification and Early Help – successful Early Identification and Early Help means intervening early to prevent harm and reduce the impact of domestic abuse on victims and families.
 - c) Safety and Support – successful Safety and Support means ensuring that those individuals experiencing domestic abuse are protected from harm and are supported to recover.
- 3.3 Strategic oversight will be owned by the Birmingham Health and Wellbeing Board and Birmingham Community Safety Partnership who have joint responsibility for and are committed to ensuring Birmingham's vision for the prevention of domestic abuse becomes reality.

Motion

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.

Towards A Domestic Abuse Free City

Birmingham Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy

2018 - 2023

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Foreword

Welcome to the Birmingham Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy 2018-2023. Domestic abuse is a serious issue, both nationally and here in Birmingham. It has a drastic, negative and long lasting impact upon the safety, health and wider life chances of women, children, and families; and drives wider crises such as homelessness and financial exclusion.

Tackling domestic abuse must become everyone's business. The way we respond to domestic abuse as a city is a reflection of our values. We are making a commitment to becoming a trauma informed city; leading the way in tackling domestic abuse, the fear it creates and the harm it causes.

As partners, together we are sending a clear message that:

- We will not tolerate domestic abuse;
- We will take robust, appropriate action against abusers;
- We will make the significant culture change required to influence the behaviours of organisations and future generations.

In doing so, we will ensure that women, their children and families are liberated from fear, insecurity and harm, and can lead the safe, happy, healthy and fulfilling lives that they deserve.

CLlr Paulette Hamilton
Chair of Birmingham Health and Wellbeing Board
Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

Domestic violence is a crime. We are committed to preventing domestic abuse, improving the support and protection for victims and their children, and bringing domestic abusers to justice.

Together with the Birmingham Health and Wellbeing Board, we will hold joint responsibility for the successful delivery of the strategy; With this work being actively driven by the Violence Against Women and Children Steering Group, I am confident we will succeed. Collectively driving action against domestic abuse at this level demonstrates the strength of commitment Birmingham has made to tackling domestic abuse in our city, reflecting;

- The complex nature of domestic abuse and the associated harm and inequalities it creates including mental and physical ill health, homelessness and unemployment;
- The multi-layered and co-ordinated health, social and criminal justice approaches required to tackle this issue;
- The multi-agency input, investment and response required to achieve this.

I believe our strong partnerships, collective efforts and expertise will make a significant difference to help individuals, families and communities feel safe; and live lives free from the threat of harm that domestic abuse creates.

Steve Harris
Chair of Birmingham Community Safety Police and Crime Board
Operations Commander (Birmingham North) West Midlands Fire Service

Commitment Statement

We warmly welcome the Birmingham Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy 2018-23 that sets the challenges and offers opportunities to deliver the aim of a safer city for women and children affected by domestic abuse.

By providing clear direction to put women and children at the centre of our work and to recognise domestic abuse when confronted with it; to offer best practice responses; to challenge ourselves and each other in order to achieve positive outcomes, we can make it possible for women and children to live free from the fear of violence and abuse.

Multi-agency partnerships have at every level, across Birmingham, been key in developing this strategy. It is only by using those partnerships effectively that we can provide the leadership to make the necessary system and cultural changes that will make Birmingham a city free from domestic abuse.

Councillor Tristan Chatfield
Chair of Violence Against Women and Children Steering Group
Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Equalities

And

Maureen Connolly
Deputy Chair of Violence Against Women and Children Steering Group
Chief Executive - Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid

Introduction

Domestic abuse touches the lives, directly or indirectly, of most people in Birmingham. The sheer scale of domestic abuse causes untold harm to individuals, children and families, communities and damages the social fabric of the city.

This strategy adopts the Government definition of domestic abuse as:

“Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality”.

Birmingham has a strong history of partnership working in addressing domestic abuse. Despite this, there is now evidence that domestic abuse in the city, as elsewhere, is increasing and more people are known to be at risk than ever before. At the same time, our public services are shrinking and we need to find new ways to keep our population safe and healthy, and enable our communities to thrive.

We know a great deal about domestic abuse, not least that left unchecked, domestic abuse gets worse over time. As such, the case for identifying victims and intervening earlier to reduce harm is clear. However, our long-term ambition is for a city free from domestic abuse and we must therefore take all practicable steps to

eliminate domestic abuse, reducing harm and demand for services along the way.

This will require everyone to expect equality and respect in their relationships; and every agency understanding the fundamental nature of coercive control within domestic abuse and responding effectively as a result.

Scope of the Strategy

This strategy responds to:

- Adults (predominantly women), children and young people who are experiencing domestic abuse,
- Children who are exposed to or witness domestic abuse at home,
- Those who are perpetrating domestic abuse.

It responds to domestic abuse in the context of:

- Abuse (predominantly) within intimate relationships, no matter how young or old,
- Abuse which continues after a relationship has formerly ended which is known to be a particularly dangerous time for women and their children, and a time when children are often used by a perpetrator to continue the abuse,
- Forced marriage, so-called ‘honour based violence’ and other forms of violence against women that are intrinsically linked to domestic abuse.

Ensuring Equality in Our Response to Domestic Abuse

We know that domestic abuse can happen to anyone, from any background, in any relationship.

The majority of domestic abuse is perpetrated by men against women, or against other men that they are in a relationship with. Male violence accounts for the vast majority of serious harm and deaths through domestic abuse.

The national strategy *Ending Violence against Women and Girls* (2016) emphasises the importance of recognising the gendered nature of domestic abuse.

Domestic abuse is the systematic abuse of power and control, and is fundamentally linked to inequality. Inequality between men and women not only increases the opportunity for the abuse of power, it also makes it harder for women to live free from violence. It is clear that effectively responding to domestic abuse requires a response that takes account of broader gender inequalities.

This does not discount the responsibilities instilled by the Public Sector Duty (s149) of the Equalities Act 2010 to have due regard for the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between people from different groups.

As such, this strategy also takes account of and responds to the needs of population groups sharing the following protected characteristics:

- Age;
- Disability;
- Gender reassignment;
- Marriage and civil partnership;
- Pregnancy and maternity;
- Race;
- Religion or belief;
- Sex;
- Sexual orientation.

To reflect this, here after, this strategy will use the language of women, children, and groups sharing protected characteristics.

Defining and Understanding Domestic Abuse

Defining Domestic Abuse

Controlling or coercive behaviour was written into law under Section 76 of the Serious Crime Act 2015 and helps us to better understand the Government definition of domestic abuse (p5).

Controlling behaviour is behaviour that makes people sub-ordinate or dependent by isolating them from friends and family and other sources of support, taking control of their resources and depriving them of their independence.

Coercive behaviour includes acts of assault, threat, humiliation or intimidation that are used to harm, punish or frighten another person.

Coercive control is ‘the micromanagement of everyday life. Micromanagement crushes the spirit even more fundamentally than the deprivation of basic necessities because it leaves little space for a person to breathe’. (Stark, 2007)

Domestic Abuse and Legislation

Wider legislation helps us to understand the nature of domestic abuse from a statutory context.

For example, **the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (s120)** extended the definition of harm to include ‘impairment suffered from seeing or hearing the ill treatment of another’; which required children

who witness domestic abuse at home to be considered in need of help and protection from the Local Authority, as well as those that are directly injured or abused.

Likewise, the **Care Act 2014** sets out a clear legal framework for how the Health and Social Care system should protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect. It specifies that freedom from abuse (and neglect) is a key aspect of a person’s wellbeing.

In this way, the responsibility to respond to domestic abuse is held by all statutory agencies charged with safeguarding and protecting both adults and children.

Understanding Domestic Abuse

Coercive control lies at the heart of domestic abuse and all the aspects of the domestic abuse that become visible to others, need to be understood within this context.

As agencies, family or friends, we often don’t know what lies beneath what we see, but evidence tells us it is likely to be there. Learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews in Birmingham over the last five years tells us that:

- When we see physical harm, we need to understand the threat and fear that lies beneath and the fact that the victim will be trying to protect her children from these threats and harm at the same time,

- When we recognise a victim's isolation, we need to understand that she will be subjected to constant surveillance and monitoring of movements and activities,
- We need to understand domestic abuse, not as a series of individual and violent incidents, but as a relationship of coercion and control affecting everything that the victim and the family does. This has been described as an abuser's "micro-management of everyday life",
- When we think a victim is unsure or indecisive, we need to understand the threats and manipulation that she may face combined with the assault on her self-confidence by constant undermining, put-downs and challenge to her self-worth,
- We need to stop blaming the victim but understand the safety strategies that are being used and respond to the threat and control which the victim and family faces,
- We need to rethink how we keep children safe. At the moment, we rely too heavily upon an abused mother to keep her children safe and think too little about how we, as agencies, can keep the family safe. We need to empower our staff to know that they can make a difference without the need to take a child into care,
- When child contact is granted, we need to understand that the abuser may be continuing to perpetrate abuse through the

children by undermining the non-abusing parent, overwhelming their mother; monitoring and checking up on her or by actual threats to the children,

- When a victim has no access to money, we need to recognise the control that an abuser will likely have had over the family's finances and the debts that he may have incurred,
- We need to understand the threat that an abuser poses to those close to him. This is particularly true for mental health and substance misuse services who will often be working closely with an abuser and not want to jeopardise their relationship by enquiring too closely about domestic abuse,
- We need to stop domestic abusers from being invisible to our services and we need to control and manage them more effectively. Too often we are not tying up an abuser's history of violence with their current behaviour and then not being able to correctly identify the threat that the abuser poses,
- We need to understand that domestic abusers are most violent when their victim tries to end a violent relationship or seeks help. The majority of our domestic homicides (intimate partners) have been killed when they have sought help or tried to leave. If a victim is taking these brave steps, we must wrap protection around them.

Domestic Abuse in Birmingham

- Birmingham is the largest local authority area in Europe and growing faster than the UK average. At the same time, domestic abuse is increasing in the city with an estimated 41,000 individuals experiencing domestic abuse, the vast majority of whom are women.ⁱ
- Birmingham is a young city where more than a quarter of the population are under 18 years of age. By the time they reach adulthood, more than 1 in 5 children in the city will have experienced domestic abuse at home.
- We recognise that domestic abuse can have a significant impact on a child's health, education and well-being. Locally, domestic abuse is a major factor for 77% of children needing Local Authority support, care or protection. This is significantly higher than the national average.ⁱⁱ
- Between 2013 and 2016, there was a 57% increase in reports of domestic abuse to West Midlands Police but only 19% increase in convictions of abusers through the criminal justice systemⁱⁱⁱ.
- On average, Birmingham has seen a 20% annual increase in the number of referrals of women at high risk from domestic abuse to Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences; from 473 high-risk victims in 2012 to 1,343 in April 2017^{iv}.
- Last year domestic abuse was the second highest reason for homelessness in Birmingham. Whilst 90% of victims who applied as homeless were accepted for housing, only 32% of women and children seeking refuge in an emergency were able to gain refuge accommodation.
- Domestic abuse includes forced marriage, which is significantly under-reported and may be up to 35 times higher than reports currently suggest. The West Midlands is the second highest region, after London, for calls to the Forced Marriage Unit.
- Our population is living longer. A local primary care programme, has shown that family doctors are in a strong position to identify domestic abuse for women who are traditionally under-represented in services, such as older women and disabled women. Nearly 500 more women have been identified by GPs as a result.^v
- Over the last five years, 21 women have been killed through domestic violence. Domestic homicide reviews in Birmingham have identified the need for a cultural change in the way that agencies safeguard women and children, and those with protected characteristics, from abuse and particularly call for a greater understanding of how coercive control affects families and how agencies need to respond.

Impact of Domestic Abuse

- Every child deserves the best start in life. Yet one in six pregnant women will experience domestic violence, and around 30% of domestic violence starts or worsens during pregnancy. Domestic abuse is a significant factor in the onset of pre-term labour, and maternal and perinatal mortality and morbidity¹.
- Growing up in an abusive environment and living in a constant state of control, abuse and terror can have profound consequences on a family's well-being, long into their future. The majority of victims and their children will live with their abuser between two and ten years^{vi}.
- The impact of domestic abuse on the mental health of victims and their children is severe; dealing emotionally with the abuse and trauma they have experienced or witnessed often results in depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorders. More than a third (36%) of women who have experienced severe physical and sexual violence have attempted suicide^{vii}.
- Victims of domestic abuse, and their families, are often subjected to financial abuse. In a recent survey, 52% of women respondents who were still living with their abuser said they could not afford to leave because they had no money of their own^{viii}.
- Victims of domestic abuse may have looked to alcohol or drugs in order to cope with the abuse that they were experiencing, or have been forced into dependency by their abusers. Women experiencing significant domestic abuse are more than twice as likely to have an alcohol problem and eight times more likely to be drug dependent than others.^{ix}
- By virtue of their marginalisation in society, some groups, particularly those with protected characteristics, will face additional barriers to receiving the support that they need. As a result they will often face an escalating risk of harm.
- This impact of domestic abuse upon society, community and economy is rarely given due consideration despite the fact that domestic abuse fractures families, communities, workplaces and local economies. Public services such as the Police, Health, Housing and Children's Services are increasingly overwhelmed by responding to domestic abuse.
- Despite these increasing demands for services, domestic abuse still remains hidden. Without effective support and protection, women and children will be subjected to escalating abuse. On average, four women are killed by their abusers each year in Birmingham. The majority of these were trying to leave or end the relationship at the time.

¹ The British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Our Vision

Birmingham is a place where domestic abuse is not tolerated; where everyone can expect equality and respect in their relationships, and live free from domestic abuse.

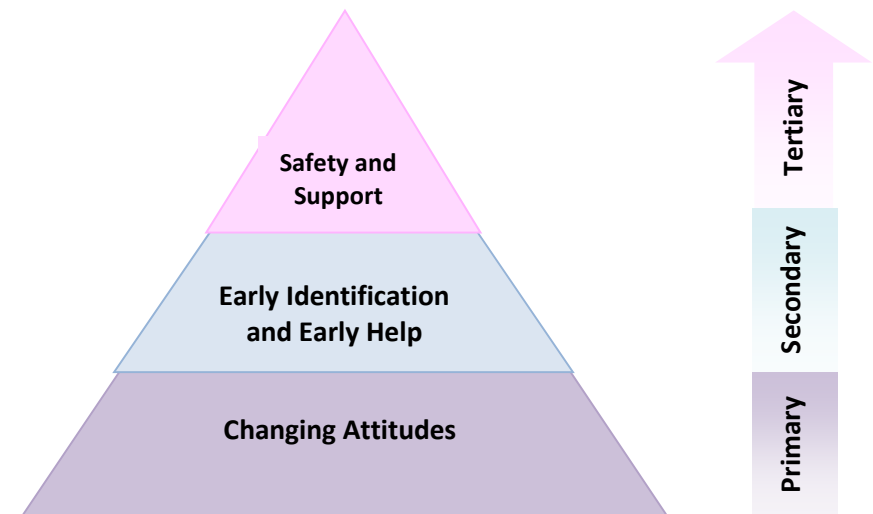
Our vision is rightly ambitious and cannot be achieved by a single agency in isolation. To be successful, **domestic abuse must become everyone's business.**

Our strategy sets out the city's commitment to tackling domestic abuse. Guided by the principles of the national strategy *Ending Violence Against Women and Girls* (2016), we are focusing our approach on women and children – recognising that they are disproportionately affected by domestic abuse.

As a result, the starting point for our new strategy is different from the past as the focus shifts towards pro-active prevention and identifying domestic abuse as early as possible to limit its impact in the future.

To do this, a very careful and considered approach must be taken to rebalance our collective efforts towards **preventing domestic abuse happening in the first place whilst ensuring safety and protection is available where there remains a threat of risk or harm.**

Our new strategy outlines a layered prevention model and focuses on three key priorities:



Changing Attitudes

To be successful we must:

Prevent domestic abuse by challenging the attitudes and behaviours that foster it.

What do we mean by Changing Attitudes?

Changing attitudes in every sphere of public life starts with how organisations respond to domestic abuse. This is about driving the step change required to effect culture change and empowering practice across organisations through strategic leadership, operational management and supervision.

Changing attitudes means working with children from a young age to raise their awareness and educate them about equality and respect. In this way, young people's expectations can be raised about what to expect from their own friendships and relationships as they grow.

It also means that young people will be better equipped to reject images objectifying women via social media and deal with cyber bullying and abuse should they experience it. It is through education and equality that we can prevent domestic abuse for our next generation.

Changing attitudes means increasing public awareness so that those experiencing abuse will be better able to understand what

they are experiencing and know that help is available.

Improving public understanding of domestic abuse will remove the excuses that abusers may have had to 'hide behind' what may have been socially acceptable to their families, friends and work colleagues as well as to the organisations that they came across.

We want to encourage major employers in the city to adopt a common approach to supporting employees who experience domestic abuse and introduce a common challenge to their employees who are abusers. This involves creating safe spaces for employees to disclose with confidence that they will be supported.

Successfully **Changing Attitudes** means an:

Increase in healthy and positive relationships.

Decrease in social tolerance of domestic abuse.

Early Identification & Early Help

To be successful we must:

Intervene early to prevent harm and reduce the impact of domestic abuse on victims and families.

What do we mean by Early Identification and Early Help?

Early identification and early help means strengthening our first responses in every organisation so that all workers are able to identify domestic abuse and intervene at the earliest opportunity.

It is about improving the effectiveness of domestic abuse support pathways and working with 'Trusted Professionals' to encourage people to share their experiences and identify abuse early.

We must strengthen our partnership arrangements – from strategic plans to frontline practice – so that we can identify and respond to domestic abuse as early as possible in an effective, co-ordinated way.

When domestic abuse is left unchecked and without intervention, the scale and severity of abuse increases. The earlier agencies can engage with women, children, and groups sharing protected characteristics, the more chance there is of reducing harm and ensuring families have safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments.

Doing this will ensure women, children and groups sharing protected characteristics, who are affected by domestic abuse, receive the help they need to recover from their experience so that the impact is reduced in the long term.

Responding effectively to domestic abuse at the 'front door' in a large, diverse city like Birmingham requires a strong system behind the scenes. All agencies must know not only how to provide a first response themselves but also what to do next; knowing who to refer to and when.

Successful **early identification and early help** means that:

Domestic abuse is identified earlier and victims are able to recover from abuse.

Escalation and harm from domestic abuse is reduced.

Safety and Support

To be successful we must:

Ensure that victims of domestic abuse are protected from harm and supported to recover.

What do we mean by Safety and Support?

Effective safety and support means ensuring women who experience domestic abuse and their children are safe and protected from harm and have access to the right support at the right time.

It means ensuring the first response of front line agencies is consistent and includes recognising types of domestic abuse, identifying threat of risk or harm, and collecting robust evidence.

It is important that victims of abuse and their children are supported and protected, whilst action is taken against their abusers.

There continues to be too much reliance placed upon the non-abusive parent, overwhelmingly the mother, to keep themselves and their children safe. Abusive fathers often remain invisible in child protection proceedings even when they are the ones creating the risk. In this way, there has been insufficient focus on addressing the behaviour of domestic abusers.

To effectively provide safety and support, there must also be an increased focus on preventing abusers from harming others.

Recent changes in the law such as Coercive Control (s76 Serious Crime Act 2015) pave the way for our strengthened response to challenging and managing abusive behaviour through effective enforcement and deterrence.

Safety and Support means ensuring that we continue to put prevention first by ensuring a range of community assets and support networks are available for women and their children to access as part of their journey to recovering from domestic abuse.

Successful **Safety and Support** means:

Increasing the number of victims and their children who feel they can live their lives in safety.

Reducing the risk of harm from domestic abusers.

Governance and Accountability

Strategic Oversight

Birmingham Health and Wellbeing Board and Birmingham Community Safety Partnership are jointly responsible for, and committed to, ensuring that Birmingham's vision for domestic abuse becomes reality.

Strategic Assurance

The Birmingham Safeguarding Adults Board and the Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board will seek assurance together, and through their respective governance structures, on the effectiveness of partnership working in the development and implementation of the Joint Action Plan.

Monitoring Progress

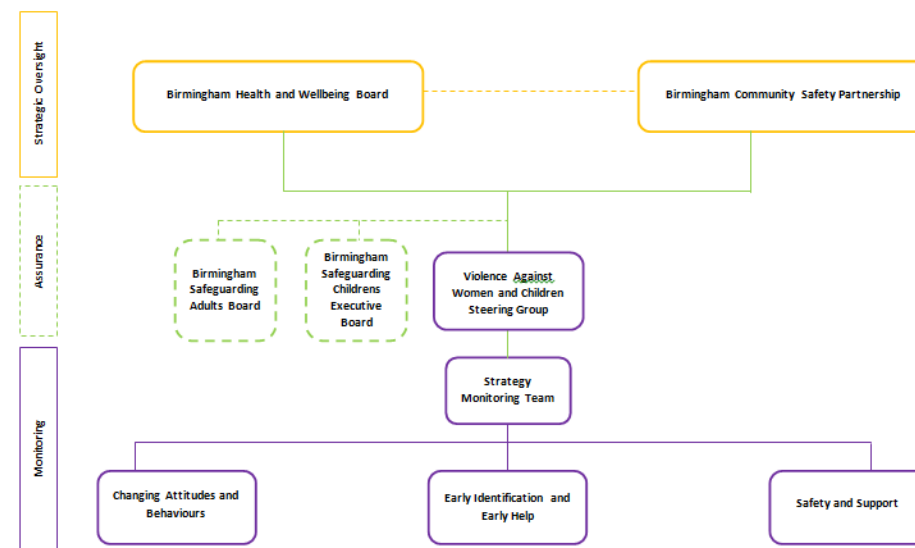
The Strategy Monitoring Team will report progress against the Joint Action Plan to the Violence Against Women and Children Steering Group who will oversee the implementation of the Strategy.

The Citizens Panel will continue to have an active role in helping to monitor progress throughout the life of the strategy.

The Health and Wellbeing Board and Birmingham Community Safety Partnership will undertake a joint review of progress against the Joint Action Plan on an annual basis up to and including 2023.

Governance

The strategy will be monitored through the following governance structure:



Equality Duty

The Public Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act 2010) requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities.

As such, our approach has and will continue to be informed by the latest available intelligence when determining key actions associated with the delivery of our strategy vision.

Joint Action Plan

Delivering the vision

Our Joint Action Plan is set in the context of the following essential principles:

- There is a strategic, system wide approach to responding to domestic abuse and preventing it in the future;
- Women, children, and groups sharing protected characteristics, who experience domestic abuse are at the centre of any action or intervention;
- There is a clear focus on abusers in order to keep victims safe;
- Communities are involved, engaged and empowered to seek, design and deliver solutions to domestic abuse.

The vision is ambitious and to be successful, significant system and organisational culture change is required. The following action plan sets the strategic direction for the next five years. The actions have been split into whole system and priority specific actions; the detail of which will continue to develop over a period of time.

Whole Systems Actions

Whole System Actions	Lead Partner/s	Date for Completion
<p>Transform Birmingham's approach to domestic abuse and coercive control in line with the findings from DHRs through the design and implementation of a trauma informed Birmingham workforce development strategy that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undertakes a domestic abuse training needs analysis for all organisations and delivers both multi-agency and service specific training,• Draws on the expertise of the specialist domestic abuse sector,• Designs best practice guidelines and toolkits to support mainstream workers,• Delivers against the learning from domestic homicide reviews,• Enables staff to work with domestic abuse to understand the multiplicity of need and respond effectively to		

prevention, early identification, early intervention and the safety and support needs of women and children according to their function.		
<p>Ensure the quality of domestic abuse service provision through the design and implementation of a quality assurance framework that incorporates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of agencies against the new Kite Mark Accreditation informed by West Midlands Domestic Abuse Standards, • Specific analysis of domestic abuse through the Children's Safeguarding workforce through Section 11 Safeguarding Audit, • Specific analysis of domestic abuse response across the Birmingham Workforce through the Adult Safeguarding Assurance process, • Quality assurance of Domestic Homicide Reviews and child safeguarding reviews where domestic abuse is a feature. 		
Ensure strategic leads across the city work together to collaboratively shape and drive key priorities and actions across related strategy areas including Housing, Homelessness, Early Help, Financial Inclusion, Safeguarding Adults, Health and Wellbeing, and LGBT to recognise, enable and ensure a robust response to domestic abuse.		
Strengthen evidence and intelligence gathering and sharing to inform policy, practice and priorities for future action. This includes ongoing collation of intelligence to better understand areas of underreporting in particular cohorts e.g. groups sharing protected characteristics.		
Develop and implement an integrated and multi-agency commissioning model in line with the Violence Against Women and Girls: National Statement of Expectations (2016). This should strike the balance between provision for safety and protection, as well as earlier intervention and recovery models for both adults and children.		
Recognise and build upon Birmingham based projects that are effective in their response to domestic abuse and are supported by a strong, locally developed, practice informed evidence base.		
Develop and implement a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) Action Plan to monitor progress and hold the whole system and / or specific organisations to account in responding to recommendations made in DHRs.		
Work with strategic leads in Housing, Homelessness and Safeguarding Adult leads to drive improvement in Houses in Multiple Occupancy (HMOs) and non-regulated accommodation provision through the development of quality standards and local markers.		

Priority-Specific Actions

Priority:	Aim:	Prevention Level:	Priority Action:	Lead Partner/s	Date for Completion
Changing Attitudes and Behaviours	Prevent domestic abuse by challenging the attitudes and behaviours that foster it.	Primary	Widen community engagement and public awareness of domestic abuse, including forced marriage and honour-based violence, by encouraging community-led preventative approaches.		
			Undertake targeted community engagement with groups currently underrepresented in services such as BME communities, LGBT communities, disabled and /or older women.		
			Explore potential of practices and programmes to raise awareness and develop young people's expectations of healthy and positive relationships.		
			Work with Birmingham Education Partnership and specialist services to agree a Birmingham-wide whole school approach to domestic abuse through strengthening equality and respect, and in line with statutory guidance (Keeping Children Safe in Education - 2016)*.		
			Refresh and roll out guidance to schools, colleges, universities and youth settings on dealing with domestic abuse, including the use of nationally available campaign materials and the local development of curriculum materials.		

			Develop and implement campaign and public awareness methods to effectively challenge attitudes to violence against women.		
			Develop and implement the Birmingham Domestic Abuse Prevention workplace standard in line with the West Midlands Combined Authority work on the Public Health England Workplace Wellbeing Charter and encourage Birmingham wide adoption of workplace policies on domestic abuse through Birmingham Chamber of Commerce.		
Early Identification and Early Help	Intervene early to prevent harm and reduce the impact of domestic abuse on victims and families.	Secondary	Strengthen the city-wide understanding of need by accessing and analysing available data, evidence, service standards and intelligence with input from victims and key partners including the City Council, Health, Criminal Justice, Education, Housing, Specialist and wider Third Sector.		
			Establish early contact points and required actions in Primary Care and Emergency Care to improve the effectiveness for the identification of and response to domestic abuse.		
			In line with requirements set out in the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, ensure that appropriate prevention and relief duties are in place for victims of domestic abuse. This includes information, advice, guidance, and support from the Voluntary Sector to prevent homelessness.		
			Establish a holistic, positive pathway and intervention hub for victims of domestic abuse that is capable of addressing multiple		

			needs.		
			Stabilise and expand the general practice – based domestic abuse training, support and referral programme.		
			Define and effectively communicate ‘what works’ and ‘what is safe practice’ for ‘whole family’ approaches to domestic abuse.		
			Embed Birmingham’s current domestic abuse support pathways across all relevant services to improve and optimise effectiveness.		
			Expand current helpline provision.		
			Introduce an ‘Ask Me’ - type scheme where a person experiencing abuse can disclose in places they trust and where staff have been trained to provide an initial safe response.		
			Introduce early identification and early help pathways with ‘Trusted Professionals’ and across health and social care.		
			Evaluate the Child to Parent abuse pilot currently being undertaken in Birmingham Youth Offending Service with a view to extending the programme across wider services if effective.		
			Support initiatives to improve multi-agency responses to domestic abuse such as the Social, Emotional and Mental Health Pathfinder which seeks to transform education for children and young people with multiple needs, including domestic abuse.		

Safety and Support	Ensure that those individuals experiencing domestic abuse are protected from harm and supported to recover.	Tertiary	Ensure there is access to refuge and effective community based support.		
			Strengthen the multi-agency response for those affected by domestic abuse including homeless prevention and health and wellbeing support – recognising that people cannot be kept safe without holistically addressing all of their needs.		
			Agree a common tool across agencies for assessing risk and threat from domestic abuse, following the review being undertaken by the College of Policing.		
			Ensure appropriate referrals across public protection processes and consistent multi agency attendance at Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferencing (MARAC), Domestic Violence Tasking, Child Protection and Integrated Offender Management meetings.		
			Guarantee a proportionate level of independent support for complex, high need victims of domestic abuse (e.g. Independent Domestic Violence Advisors).		
			Establish a clear pathway for Homeless Prevention and Home Options including civil interventions and home security measures.		
			Develop a multi-agency abuser management framework which involves management, diversion, disruption and wherever possible, prosecution of abusers with the aim of protection of women and children. This must be supplemented by effective wrap around		

			support for the victims of domestic abuse.		
			Undertake a review of the Enforcement and Judicial System response to domestic abuse.		
			Assess and address local specialist provision for abusers in line with the RESPECT accreditation.		
			Develop and embed a service user led quality assurance approach to measuring victim satisfaction with the support they receive.		
			Ensure intelligence and learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews are used to inform frontline practice, policy and commissioning direction.		

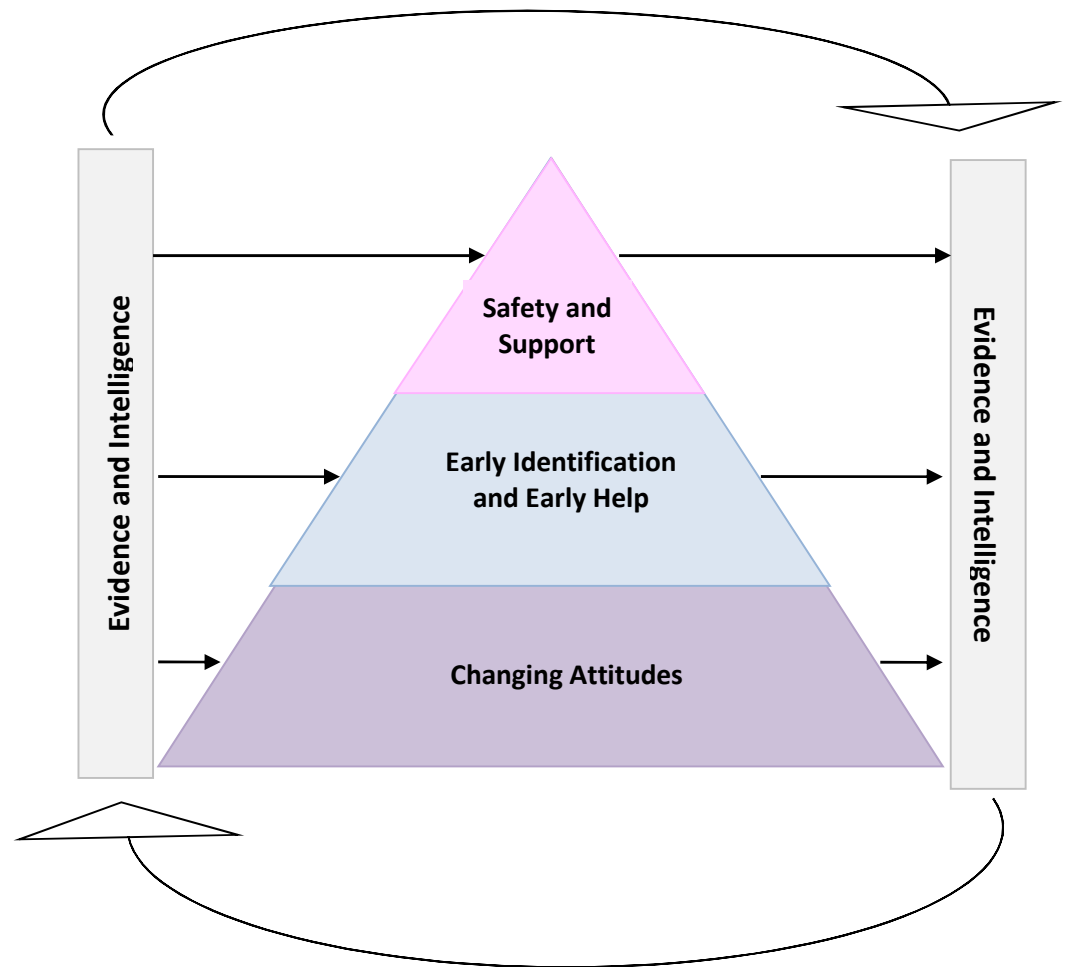
Evidence and Intelligence

There is a clear evidence and intelligence theme which underpins the whole system actions along with all three priority areas within the joint action plan.

To inform and drive continued improvement and innovation in tackling domestic abuse throughout the strategy period, we must ensure that collectively we have access to, utilise and learn from the best available evidence base.

Birmingham is nationally recognised as a leader in the field of domestic abuse field and as such, we must ensure that the strength of local, practice-based evidence is recognised and considered alongside evidence based practice.

The following diagram demonstrates the flow of evidence and intelligence into and out of the strategy model:



References

- ⁱ Domestic Abuse Needs Analysis Update 2016
- ⁱⁱ Domestic Abuse Needs Analysis Update 2016
- ⁱⁱⁱ Domestic Abuse Needs Analysis Update 2016
- ^{iv} MARAC dataset (2017) Safe Lives (Accessed online 20.11.17)
- ^v BSWA(2017) IRIS Programme Update to CCG 25.09.17
- ^{vi} Women's Aid Federation England (2013) *Annual Survey*
- ^{vii} Scott, S & McManus, S (DMSS Research for Agenda)(2016) *Hidden Hurt, violence, abuse and disadvantage in the lives of women* (Published online: Agenda, 2016)
- ^{viii} Howard, M and Skipp, A, (2015) *Unequal, trapped and controlled. Women's experience of financial abuse and Universal Credit* (London: Women's Aid and TUC, 2015)
- ^{ix} Scott, S & McManus, S (DMSS Research for Agenda) (2016) *Hidden Hurt, violence, abuse and disadvantage in the lives of women* (Published online: Agenda, 2016)
- ^x Department for Education (2016) *Keeping Children Safe in Education – Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges.*

MOTIONS FOR DEBATE FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

To consider the following Motions of which notice has been given in accordance with Standing Order 4(1)

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

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

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

"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."

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

"This Council calls on the Executive to review the Council's housing allocation scheme to amend the residency rule for demonstrating a local connection to the area from 12 months to at least 5 years."