



**MEETING OF BIRMINGHAM
CITY COUNCIL
7 FEBRUARY 2017**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL HELD
ON TUESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2017 AT 1400 HOURS IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT:- Lord Mayor (Councillor Carl Rice) in the Chair.

Councillors

Muhammad Afzal	Mohammed Fazal	Majid Mahmood
Mohammed Aikhlaq	Mick Finnegan	Karen McCarthy
Deirdre Alden	Des Flood	James McKay
Robert Alden	Jayne Francis	Gareth Moore
John Alden	Matthew Gregson	Yvonne Mosquito
Nawaz Ali	Carole Griffiths	Brett O'Reilly
Tahir Ali	Peter Griffiths	John O'Shea
Sue Anderson	Paulette Hamilton	David Pears
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Andrew Hardie	Eva Phillips
Mohammed Azim	Roger Harmer	Robert Pocock
Susan Barnett	Kath Hartley	Hendrina Quinnen
David Barrie	Barry Henley	Chauhdry Rashid
Bob Beauchamp	Penny Holbrook	Habib Rehman
Kate Booth	Des Hughes	Fergus Robinson
Steve Booton	Jon Hunt	Gary Sambrook
Randal Brew	Mahmood Hussain	Valerie Seabright
Marje Bridle	Timothy Huxtable	Shafique Shah
Mick Brown	Mohammed Idrees	Mike Sharpe
Alex Buchanan	Zafar Iqbal	Sybil Spence
Sam Burden	Ziaul Islam	Claire Spencer
Andy Cartwright	Kerry Jenkins	Stewart Stacey
Tristan Chatfield	Meirion Jenkins	Ron Storer
Zaker Choudhry	Julie Johnson	Martin Straker-Welds
Debbie Clancy	Brigid Jones	Sharon Thompson
John Clancy	Carol Jones	Paul Tilsley
Lynda Clinton	Josh Jones	Karen Trench
Lyn Collin	Nagina Kauser	Lisa Trickett
Maureen Cornish	Tony Kennedy	Anne Underwood
John Cotton	Ansar Ali Khan	Margaret Waddington
Ian Cruise	Changese Khan	Ian Ward
Basharat Dad	Mariam Khan	Mike Ward

City Council – 7 February 2017

Phil Davis	Chaman Lal	Fiona Williams
Diane Donaldson	Bruce Lines	Ken Wood
Peter Douglas Osborn	John Lines	Alex Yip
Barbara Dring	Keith Linnecor	Waseem Zaffar
Neil Eustace	Mary Locke	

NOTICE OF RECORDING

18793 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.

The whole of the meeting would be filmed except where they were confidential or exempt items.

MINUTES

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and –

18794 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the City Council held on 10 January 2017, having been printed and a copy sent to each Member of the Council, be taken as read and confirmed and signed.

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and –

18795 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the City Council held on 10 January 2017, 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

18796 There were no announcements.

PETITIONS

Petitions Relating to City Council Functions Presented at 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 –

18797 **RESOLVED:-**

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

Petitions Update

The following Petitions Update was submitted:-

(See document No 2)

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and -

18798 **RESOLVED:-**

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

QUESTION TIME

18799 The Council proceeded to consider Oral Questions in accordance with Standing Order 9 (B).

During a question by Councillor Jon Hunt to the Leader Councillor John Clancy, Councillor Waseem Zaffar rose on a point of order to confirm that 1) he had acted in his capacity as Councillor for the Lozells and East Handsworth Ward; 2) prior to meeting with the school and taking action, when the matter had been brought to his attention by his constituents, he had sought advice from the Cabinet Member and officers and 3) the situation should not be allowed to overshadow the excellent work of the school or his relationship with it.

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

APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

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

(See document No 3)

There were no further nominations and it was-

18800 **RESOLVED:-**

That the following appointments be made for the period indicated:-

Independent Remuneration Panel

<u>Appointee</u>	<u>Term of Office</u>	
Sandra Cooper	28 February 2017 – 31 August 2019	<i>Re-appointment</i>
Graham Macro	28 February 2017 – 31 August 2019	<i>Re-appointment</i>
Jacqui Francis	28 February 2017 – 31 August 2021	<i>New appointee</i>
Rose Poulter	28 February 2017 – 31 August 2021	<i>New appointee</i>

Council Business Management Committee

Councillor Yvonne Mosquito to be appointed in place of Councillor Barry Bowles until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2017.

EXEMPTION FROM STANDING ORDERS

It was moved by Councillor Sharon Thompson, seconded and:-

18801 **RESOLVED:-**

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

Allocate 30 minutes for item 8 (West Midlands Strategic Transport Plan: “Movement for Growth”).

WEST MIDLANDS STRATEGIC TRANSPORT PLAN: “MOVEMENT FOR GROWTH”

The following report of the Cabinet Member for Transport and Roads was submitted:-

(See document No 4)

Councillor Stewart Stacey moved the amendment, which was seconded by Councillor Phil Davis.

In accordance with Council Standing Orders, Councillors Timothy Huxtable and David Pears gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No 5)

Councillor Timothy Huxtable moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor David Pears. Councillor Timothy Huxtable subsequently amended the amendment by replacing the words ‘Birmingham City Council’ with the words ‘West Midlands Combined Authority’.

A debate ensued.

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

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

It was therefore -

18802 **RESOLVED:-**

That Full Council:

- 1: Notes that Birmingham Connected sets out the city's longer term transport aspirations as agreed by Cabinet in November 2014 and requests West Midlands Combined Authority to both speed up the delivery of the rail and metro transport aspirations as set out in Birmingham Connected (such as the re-opening to commuter travel of the Camp Hill, Tamworth and Sutton Park Lines) and to consider wider transport aspirations (such as the construction of the Metro "Varsity Route)" within Birmingham.
- 2: Recognises Movement for Growth which was adopted by the West Midlands Combined Authority on 26th June 2016 as the Statutory Transport Plan for the West Midlands and that the constitution will be amended as appropriate.
- 3: Notes the report of the Lead Member on the West Midlands Combined Authority Transport Delivery Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and

18803 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Council be adjourned until 1700 hours on this day.

The Council then adjourned at 1623 hours.

At 1700 hours the Council resumed at the point where the meeting had been adjourned.

REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

MAXIMISING JOBS AND SKILLS OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CITY

The following report of the Economy, Skills and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee was submitted:-

(See document No 6)

Councillor Zafar Iqbal moved the motion which was seconded by Councillor Ken Wood.

A debate ensued.

Councillor Zafar Iqbal 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 -

18804

RESOLVED:-

That the report is noted, and discussion points are forwarded to the Economy, Skills and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee to feed into future work.

MOTIONS FOR DEBATE FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

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

Councillors Paul Tilsley and Mike Ward have given notice of the following Motion:-

(See document No 7)

Councillor Paul Tilsley moved the Motion, which was seconded by Councillor Mike Ward.

A debate ensued during which Councillor Rob Pocock declared a non-pecuniary interest as a researcher for the Smart Meters Programme Team within the (former) Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) when he referred to the research undertaken by DECC.

Councillor Paul Tilsley 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 -

18805

RESOLVED:-

This Council, mindful of the need to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gases, calls upon HM Government to use its influence with the Big 6 energy providers to introduce a strategy by which Smart Meters will be installed systematically and using a common meter.

If all homes in Birmingham, numbering 410,000, are to have smart meters installed by 2020, the Government's target date, at the current cost of £400 per installation, the cost could be halved thereby saving a total of £82,000,000 in energy costs to Birmingham residents and help to reduce Energy Poverty.

B. Councillors Paulette Hamilton and John Cotton have given notice of the following Motion:-

(See document No 8)

Councillor Paulette Hamilton moved the Motion during which she indicated that she wished to amend the motion by removing the words 'Surrey and' from the third paragraph. Councillor John Cotton seconded the amended motion.

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

(See document No 9)

Councillor Lyn Collin moved the amendment and in doing so indicated that she wished to amend the amendment by replacing '15%' with '4.99%' in the proposed amended third paragraph. Councillor Robert Alden seconded the amended amendment.

A debate ensued.

THE QUESTION BE NOW PUT

It was moved by Councillor Gareth Moore and seconded –

“That the question be put.”

The Motion was put to the vote and, by a show of hands, was declared to be lost.

The debate continued during which Councillor Mary Locke declared an interest as she worked in the National Health Service as housekeeper at a Community Hospital.

LENGTH OF MEETING

It was moved by Councillor Robert Alden and seconded by Councillor Jon Hunt that Standing Order 13 (Length of Council Meetings) be suspended and the meeting be extended by 60 minutes to 2015 hours.

The Motion was put to the vote and, by a show of hands, was declared to be lost.

The debate continued.

Councillor Paulette Hamilton replied to the debate.

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

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

It was therefore –

18806

RESOLVED:-

This City Council notes that seven years of public sector spending cuts has resulted in unprecedented cuts to both statutory and discretionary care services both here in Birmingham and across the country. The impact of these cuts upon the most vulnerable in our society is a matter of real concern and was again made very clear in the responses to the recent consultation on this Council's budget plans for 2017-18.

Council further notes that these concerns over the future funding and viability of social care services are widely shared across local government and by council leaders of all parties. It is clear that there is now a national crisis in the funding and provision of social care.

This Council observes with some concern that several Conservative-led local authorities, including the Prime Minister's own local council in Windsor and Maidenhead, are now considering Council Tax rises of up to 15% in order to try and close the enormous funding gap in social care. This desperate measure further illustrates why immediate, radical action by Government is now required.

Accordingly, this Council warmly welcomes the statement by Lord Porter, Chairman of the Local Government Association that the Treasury should "grow up" and properly fund social care. It also endorses the call by Dr Sarah Wollaston MP, the Chair of the Commons Health Select Committee, for forthcoming talks on the future funding of health and social care to include both the NHS and representation from across the political parties.

Council requests that the Leader writes to the Prime Minister to support the call for cross party talks and to make the case for a new, fairer funding settlement for health and social care. Furthermore, this Council requests that the City's Members of Parliament lend their support to this call, so that our citizens are able to access properly funded, decent and sustainable health and social care services now and in the future.

C. Councillors Gary Sambrook and Ken Wood have given notice of the following Motion:-

(See document No 10)

The Lord Mayor noted that the time was 1915 hours and he indicated his intention to deal with the remaining Motion and amendment in accordance with Standing Orders and proceed to a vote.

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

(See document No 11)

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

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

(See document No 12)

NB The documents have been amended to show that Councillor Rob Sealey (Conservative) did not vote as he was not in attendance at the meeting.

Therefore, the total results referred to in the interleave should read:-

Yes – 34 (For the Amendment);

No – 66 (Against the Amendment);

Abstain – 0 (Abstentions).

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

It was therefore –

18807 **RESOLVED:-**

This Council believes that voter fraud, however perpetrated, on any scale is unacceptable.

The Council notes the findings of previous reviews into this matter, both within Birmingham and nationally, including the judicial review into the 2004 local elections in Birmingham, the 'Election Assessment Mission (EAM) 2015' conducted by the commonwealth parliamentary association UK (CPA UK) and most recently the 'Securing the Ballot' report by Eric Pickles that followed allegations of corruption in Tower Hamlets.

The Council commends the hard work and dedication of this City's electoral services staff in doing all they currently can within their current powers to fight this blight on our democracy. In particular we welcome the steps they took in the 2016 elections to roll out independent monitoring at polling stations, as an important step towards tackling voter fraud and intimidation.

This Council calls on the Returning Officer to ensure the continuation of this independent monitoring team.

This Council notes that to ensure the security of our democracy more still needs to be done to ensure our elections are free and fair.

The meeting ended at 1920 hours.

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

A1 Overseas Travel

Question:

Can you please provide details of any overseas travel undertaken by Council Members or Officers between the following date ranges (inclusive) which appear to be gaps in the Overseas Travel report to Council Business Management Committee. The Information should include all information included in the standard schedule of visits report to CBM?

20-23 August 2015

27 Nov- 15 Dec 2015

3 Apr-5 April 2016

24 Aug-14 Sep 2016

Answer:

All foreign travel undertaken by Members and Officers of Birmingham City Council is routinely reported to Council Business Management Committee. Within these dates there have been periods when no foreign travel has been undertaken ie. 20-23 August 2015 and 3-5 April 2016.

However, in the course of researching this answer, it became apparent that the trade mission to China and Hong Kong in September 2016 was not reported to Council Business Management Committee.

I declared the visit in the Statutory Register of Members Interests and the visit, arranged in partnership with the Department for International Trade, also attracted widespread national and international media coverage. I have discussed the successful trade mission in Scrutiny, Cabinet and Full Council. At no point has any member of the opposition highlighted that the visit had not been reported to Council Business Management Committee.

I apologise for this oversight but at no point has any member of the opposition highlighted that the visit had not been reported to Council Business Management Committee.

Copies of all remaining travel schedules submitted to CBM are available if required.

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

A2 Overseas Travel

Question:

What was the total cost to the council of the visit to Hong Kong in September 2016?

Answer:

The visit to Hong Kong was part of a wider visit that included mainland China. Flights, outbound and return, were paid for by external investors who were keen to do business with Birmingham.

Birmingham needs to attract global capital to continue its physical regeneration and fuel economic growth and wealth creation. The purpose of the visit, arranged in partnership with the Department for International Trade, was to meet with credible and active investors in the China and Hong Kong markets.

During the visit we met with 11 individual investors, mainly in the real estate sector, and held a seminar event (at no cost to the council) that was attended by 35 high profile investors. These included the Country Garden Holdings Group who have since committed £2bn to the city. Another group of investors has subsequently invested £55 million in capital into 214 homes in the city.

We continue to work closely with several other potential investors as a result of this successful visit as they look to invest capital into our housing and infrastructure. The total cost to the council of the Hong Kong visit was;

£457 for hospitality and subsistence

£1,635 for accommodation.

NB: These figures are for one member and one officer.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR GARETH MOORE**

A3 Visit

Question:

How many council members and officers went on the visit to Hong Kong in September 2016?

Answer:

The visit, arranged in partnership with the Department for International Trade, was kept as lean as possible with just one member and one officer travelling to Hong Kong.

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

A4 Accommodation

Question:

Where did council members and officers stay for each night of the trip to Hong Kong in September 2016?

Answer:

Two rooms were taken at a hotel operated by the Hyatt group. Hong Kong is comprised of an island and a mainland section and the hotel was located on the island as this is the location of all meetings during the visit.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR RON STORER**

A5 That's Entertainment

Question:

How many people were entertained by the council on the trip to Hong Kong in September 2016?

Answer:

Three people were 'entertained' by the council on the visit over two occasions. The total cost associated with this was £216.23. One group of investors has subsequently invested £55 million in capital into 214 homes in the city.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY**

A6 Entertaining

Question:

What was the total cost to the council of entertaining during the visit to Hong Kong in September 2016?

Answer:

Three people were 'entertained' by the council on the visit over two occasions. The total cost associated with this was £216.23. One group of investors has subsequently invested £55 million in capital into 214 homes in the city.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR RANDAL BREW**

A7 Refreshments

Question:

What was the total spend per officer\member on food and drink per day on the visit to Hong Kong in September 2016, listing food and drink separately?

Answer:

Food and drink subsistence expenditure during the visit ran to £241 – that is approximately £40 per officer/member per day. Due to the nature of foreign issued receipts, which often don't itemise food and drink and are issued in some instances in Chinese characters, it's not possible to give an exact break down of food or drink but it would be approximately £13 per officer of beverages and £27 for food. The rounding is to account for exchange rate fluctuations.

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

A8 Expenses

Question:

Excluding accommodation, travel, food and drink for council officers and members, what other expenses were incurred on the visit to Hong Kong in September 2016?

Answer:

There were no other known expenses other than the costs outlined in the question.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER CHILDREN, FAMILIES
AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR MATT BENNETT**

C School Uniform

Question:

Can the Cabinet Member please advise as follows:-

School A is a catholic faith primary school, a parent wishes his 4 year daughter to come to school wearing a hijab, but this does not comply with the schools existing uniform policy. The father is supported by the local Councillor whose is also a Cabinet Member and has discussed the issue on social media. The Cabinet Member has told the school that they need to change their policy to comply with the Equalities Act”.

What advice should the relevant Council Officers give the school in this hypothetical situation?

Answer:

For any officer advising school A, the Department for Education guidance is the best starting point. It reflects the law on uniform policies, human rights, equalities and discrimination. The following paragraph is particularly relevant to the circumstances at School A:

“Where a school has good reason for restricting an individual’s freedoms, for example, the promotion of cohesion and good order in the school, or genuine health and safety or security considerations, the restriction of an individual’s rights to manifest their religion or belief may be justified. The school must balance the rights of individual pupils against the best interests of the school community as a whole. Nevertheless, it should be possible for most religious requirements to be met within a school uniform policy and a governing body should act reasonably through consultation and dialogue in accommodating these.”

The Equality Act for Schools, 2014 (DfE) makes provision for schools with a religious character. The Equality Act 2010 does not deal specifically with school uniform or other aspects of appearance such as hair colour and style, and the wearing of jewellery and make-up, but the general requirement not to discriminate in the treatment of pupils applies here as in relation to other aspects of school policy. It is for the governing body of a school to decide whether there should be a school uniform and other rules relating to appearance, and if so what they should be. Other long standing guidance makes it clear

- Long-standing guidance makes it clear that schools must have regard to their obligations under the Human Rights Act 1998 (it is here rather than in relation to equality law that most case law has been determined to date) as well as under equality law, and that they need to be careful that blanket uniform policies do not discriminate because of race, religion or belief, gender, disability, gender reassignment or sexual orientation. Consequently it will be up to the individual school to consider the implications their uniform requirements have on their pupils.

- There are potential issues around school uniform policies and religion and belief. Schools should be sensitive to the needs of different cultures, races and religions and act reasonably in accommodating these needs, without compromising important school policies, such as school safety or discipline. It is well established that it would be race discrimination to refuse to let a Sikh child wear a turban because of a school policy requiring that caps be worn, but legal judgments have not supported the absolute right of people of faith to wear garments or jewellery to indicate that faith.

It is not the duty of the local authority to determine the uniform policy for a school. Ultimately, it is the decision of the governing body to set the uniform policy but in doing so, the following should be taken into consideration.

Considerations for School A

- For the specific case, School A, has the school spoken to the child about their views and wishes to express their faith (UNCRC Article 14)?
- Has the school undertaken an analysis of the population demography by faith groups to consider whether this is appropriate?
- Has the school consulted with parents or school council on any changes to the school uniform policy?
- Does the school apply sanctions to all breaches of the uniform policy?
- Has the school accessed support from the Diocese or independent legal advice?

The Council's School Resilience Officer would be happy to discuss any specific cases and to offer support to School A, should such a situation arise.

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

D1 How many vehicles and operatives used

Question:

Please provide the number of vehicles and operatives used to collect residual, recyclable and green waste, respectively, to support the service.

Answer:

We have:

72 vehicles used on domestic collections
13 vehicles used on green waste collections
49 vehicles used on recycling collections
27 vehicles used for a mixture of trade waste and domestic flats/ Houses of Multiple Occupation. Based on a usage ratio of 45/55 between trade/domestic collections this equates to 15 additional vehicles allocated to domestic collections, giving a total of 87.

For staffing numbers generally:

For domestic and trade waste collections there is a total of 365 FTEs with 274 FTEs attributable to domestic collections.

For recycling there is a total of 168 FTEs.

For green waste there is total of 47 FTEs during the collection season. During the off-season BCC employees are retained and assigned to other collections (offset by equivalent reduction in Agency staff, whilst Agency staff working directly on green waste collections are released).

Agency staff are employed on daily basis and therefore numbers vary depending on availability of BCC staff to cover scheduled collection activity.

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

D2 Number of Household Collections"

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member report the number of bulky household collections made during 2016, including the number made for disabled people?

Answer:

Between the 1st January 2016 and 31st December 2016 the City Council have received 31,788 requests, of which 1,832 required assistance. I am unable to specify the exact number of requests made by disabled people, however the 'required assistance' amount stated will include disabled as well as elderly people.

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

D3 Tonnage - recyclable materials

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member inform us of the tonnage of recyclable materials, excluding green waste, collected from household collections by year from 2012 to 2016, comparing it with the tonnage collected in household recycling centres?

Answer:

The amount of household waste collected for recycling directly from households via the kerbside collection services and the waste collected at the household recycling centres was;

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Kerbside Collected Paper & Cardboard	25,034	22,577	21,480	23,440
Kerbside Collected Comingled (bottles, cans & plastic)	16,633	17,703	17,632	23,358
Kerbside Total - Recycling	41,667	40,280	39,112	46,798
Household Recycling Centre - Recycled	10,939	18,127	15,367	5,826

Please note that prior to 2015/16 wood waste segregated at the household recycling centres was sent for recycling and/or composting and was counted in our recycling figures. In 2015/16 wood waste segregated at the household recycling centres (13,365 tonnes) was sent for use as bio-fuel and was not counted in our recycling figures.

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

D4 Tonnage of green waste

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member inform the Council of the tonnage of green waste collected from household collections by year from 2012 to 2016?

Answer:

The amount of garden waste collected directly from households via the kerbside collection service was;

April 2012 to March 2013 – 41,349 tonnes

April 2013 to March 2014 – 35,937 tonnes

April 2014 to March 2015 – 13,294 tonnes

April 2015 to March 2016 – 15,493 tonnes

It is worth noting that the volume of garden waste composted via the household recycling centres has increased significantly since March 2014.

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

D5 Tonnage of household residual waste

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member provide the amount of tonnage of collection of household residual waste that was collected by year from 2012 to 2016?

Answer:

The amount of household residual waste collected directly from households via the kerbside collection services was;

April 2012 to March 2013 – 243,624 tonnes

April 2013 to March 2014 – 247,550 tonnes

April 2014 to March 2015 – 230,125 tonnes

April 2015 to March 2016 – 238,589 tonnes

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

D6 Waste Collections

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member report the cost of waste collections for 2016, broken down by cost of residual waste, net cost of green waste collections, the cost of recyclable collections, cost of collecting flytipping and cost of disposing of street litter?

Answer:

The actual net costs (as stated in the Financial Returns to the DCLG) for 2015/16 are set out below:

Residual Waste Collections , £20.8m.

Garden Waste Collections, £0.145m.

Recycling Collections , £6.2m.

These costs reflect the direct costs and the appropriate proportion of business support costs and exclude waste disposal costs.

The cost of collecting flytipping is not recorded separately on the financial system.

The cost of disposing of street litter is not recorded separately on the financial system.

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

D7 Bulky Household Collections - Free and Chargeable

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member inform us of the number of bulky household collections carried out in the last 12 months when the service was free of charge, including the number made for disabled people?

Answer:

The City Council started charging for all Bulky Household Collections on the 1st April 2014. For the preceding 12 months we received 63,191 requests, of which 1,346 required assistance. I am unable to specify the exact number of requests made by disabled people, however the 'required assistance' amount stated will include disabled as well as elderly people.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREET,
RECYCLING AND THE ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR TIMOTHY
HUXTABLE**

D8 Budget Consultation

Question:

In the Budget Consultation 2017+ reference HN1, there is a proposal to reduce the number of shrubs and flower beds in parks.

Would be Cabinet Member list the locations of the parks this proposal will potentially affect?

Answer:

The reduction in grounds maintenance is across the whole city and it is anticipated that any reduction in the number of shrubs and flower beds will not be solely restricted to parks.

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

D9 Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN)

Question:

What are the dates for each of the FPN's relating to fly tipped waste issued by the Council in 2016/2017?

Answer:

The Unauthorised Deposit of Waste (Fixed Penalties) Regulations 2016 came in to force on 9th May 2016 and amended the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to allow Local Councils to issue fixed penalty notices for small scale “fly-tipping”.

The regulations did not amend the offence and it still remains that the fixed penalty notice can only be issued to the person that deposits the waste or knowingly causes or permits the waste to be deposited.

In June 2016 the Licensing and Public Protection Committee set the penalty notice at a discharge level of £400.

Since its introduction this authority has now issued 22 fixed penalty notices (see attached table).

No. FPN re Section 33	Date of Offence	Date Issued
1	06/09/2016	06/12/2016
2	03/10/2016	07/12/2016
3	27/09/2016	08/12/2016
4	12/10/2016	08/12/2016
5	26/09/2016	08/12/2016
6	12/10/2016	09/12/2016
7	18/08/2016	14/12/2016
8	05/10/2016	19/12/2016
9	04/06/2016	19/12/2016
10	26/09/2016	20/12/2016
11	26/09/2016	21/12/2016

City Council – 7 February 2017

12	27/11/2016	09/01/2017
13	06/09/2016	09/01/2017
14	28/11/2016	09/01/2017
15	20/08/2016	16/01/2017
16	05/12/2016	16/01/2017
17	08/01/2017	18/01/2017
18	17/09/2016	18/01/2017
19	06/09/2016	27/01/2017
20	22/12/2016	27/01/2017
21	21/07/2016	30/01/2017
22	26/12/2016	24/01/2017

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND
SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR FIONA WILLIAMS**

E Dementia Awareness Week

Question:

“What is Birmingham City Council doing For Dementia Awareness week in May given that it is in the same week as mayor making?”

Answer:

As the Cabinet Member of Health and Social Care, I recognise that dementia is an illness that affects many of our citizens. This is why when this administration decided to have an ambassador role to champion key priorities, I was clear that Dementia was a key priority that needed to be championed.

I am delighted that Cllr Williams is the ambassador and would like to thank her for all her hard work. To this end we are planning to have a DEMENTIA FRIENDS session for all elected members as close to Dementia Awareness week as possible. All elected members will get an invite and information on services available.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPARENCY,
OPENNESS AND EQUALITY FROM COUNCILLOR ROB SEALEY**

F Parks Service Play Area Rationalisation and Land Disposal

Question:

The attached e-mail was sent out to me on Friday 23rd December at 1705 detailing the closure of the play area by Browning Tower, Overbury Road, Northfield within the Bournville Ward (the closure of which Councillor Huxtable and I have campaigned against) and about which Councillor Huxtable and I submitted a petition from local residents supporting its retention.

The timing of sending out such an email (i.e. after 5pm on the last working day before Christmas) would appear to be directly contradictory to the aspirations within the City Council.

Would the Cabinet Member comment about this shabby attempt to bury bad news?

From: [Kiran Singhara](#)

Sent: 23/12/2016 17:05

To: [Councillor Timothy Huxtable](#); [Councillor Robert Sealey](#); [Councillor Mary Locke](#)

Cc: [Councillor Lisa Trickett](#)

Subject: Parks Service Play Area Rationalisation and Land Disposal

Sent on behalf of Steve Hollingworth – Assistant Director, Sport, Events and Parks

Dear All

Please see attached letter outlining the proposals discussed at our recent meeting.

Regards

Steve Hollingworth

Assistant Director

Sport, Events & Parks

PO BOX: 2122

Margaret Street

Birmingham

B3 3BU

Tel: 0121 464-2023

Visit us at www.birmingham.gov.uk/parks

Helping make Birmingham a cleaner, greener and smarter City.

<<

Bournville Ward - Play Area LettervPS.docx (29.3KB)

(29.3KB)

>>

Answer:

A letter was sent out to Ward Councillors before the Christmas break, following a meeting to discuss play areas in their Ward. The letter reflected the views of those councillors that attended, and therefore is fully open and transparent. Officers worked right up to the break to meet the pre-Christmas deadline set by the Assistant Director.

The letter stated that:-

“Councillors did not support this proposal and wanted to keep play provision at this location. Equipment will be removed as it becomes un-serviceable and not replaced”

Therefore the play area is not being removed and the equipment will continue to be maintained for as long as we are able to do so.

The full letter is attached for information:-



Date: 20th December 2016

To: Councillor Timothy Huxtable
Councillor Mary Locke
Councillor Rob Sealey

Dear Councillors

Re: Parks - Play Area Rationalisation and Land Disposal – Bournville Ward

Further to the recent Parks Service Play Area Rationalisation and Land Disposal consultation meeting with Councillor Trickett I write to confirm the proposals affecting Bournville Ward discussed at that meeting.

Rationalisation of play facilities:

Browning Tower/ Overbury Road

City Council – 7 February 2017

Play equipment is 20 years old plus
Maintenance and inspection visits suggest low use
Equipment is now obsolete - unable to purchase spare equipment

Other local play area very close at Masfield Square

Recommendations:

Remove Overbury Road play area and invest in Mansfield Square play areas
Retain MUGA facility for older youth and benefit from Youth/ Toddlers facilities being separated.

Councillors did not support this proposal and wanted to keep play provision at this location. Equipment will be removed as it becomes un-serviceable and not replaced

Land Disposal

The Parks Service has not identified any land for disposal for housing development in this Ward.

If, following any local discussions you feel that there any additional areas that could be considered then I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these further with you.

Yours Sincerely

Steve Hollingworth
Assistant Director
Sports, Events and Parks

cc. Councillor Lisa Trickett

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND
ROADS FROM COUNCILLOR TIMOTHY HUXTABLE**

G1 Budget Consultation 2

Question:

In the Budget Consultation 2017+ reference HN1, there is a proposal to reduce the number of shrubs and flower beds on the highways.

Would be Cabinet Member list the locations on the highways this proposal will potentially affect?

Answer:

Grounds Maintenance is being reviewed across all Highways land. The Budget for 2017/18 will be set at the Council Meeting on 28th February. Until then any suggestions about how particular locations might be affected by it would be purely speculative.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND
ROADS FROM COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE ALDEN**

G2 Harborne Lane

Question:

Can the Cabinet Member update me on the ongoing repairs to Harborne Lane (following the massive water leak) including when the work is scheduled to be finished and the road fully re-opened?

Answer:

Severn Trent Water has been undertaking investigations for the repair of the burst water main since the incident on 23rd November. Due to the size and depth of the main and the potential for the damage to the sub-structure of the road beyond the location of the burst, much of the investigation has been necessary to establish the full extent of any potential loss of that sub-structure over a large area.

Severn Trent Water confirmed last week that this investigation work has now been completed and work to repair the pipe has now begun. They currently estimate that the repair to the pipe (which is 6 metres deep) will be completed by mid-February.

Once the pipe is repaired Severn Trent Water will begin to reinstate the road structure and surface in order to get Harborne Lane reopened. They currently expect that this work will take until the end of February to complete.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND
ROADS FROM COUNCILLOR DES FLOOD**

G3 Harborne Lane

Question:

Can the Cabinet Member provide a schedule of repairs relating to Harborne Lane following the massive water leak?

Answer:

Severn Trent Water has been undertaking investigations for the repair of the burst water main since the incident on 23rd November. Due to the size and depth of the main and the potential for the damage to the sub-structure of the road beyond the location of the burst, much of the investigation has been necessary to establish the full extent of any potential loss of that sub-structure over a large area.

Severn Trent Water confirmed last week that this investigation work has now been completed and work to repair the pipe has now begun. They currently estimate that the repair to the pipe (which is 6 metres deep) will be completed by mid-February.

Once the pipe is repaired Severn Trent Water will begin to reinstate the road structure and surface in order to get Harborne Lane reopened. They currently expect that this work will take until the end of February to complete.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VALUE FOR MONEY
AND EFFICIENCY FROM COUNCILLOR MEIRION JENKINS**

H Council Purchase Cards

Question:

What is the bank charge for foreign currency withdrawals using Council purchase cards?

Answer:

The charge for foreign currency withdrawals using a Council purchase card is 2.95%. This fee is itemised separately from the cash withdrawal itself.