

## **BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

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

**1030 hours on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2018, Committee Rooms 3 & 4**

#### **Action Notes**

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**Present:**

Councillor John Cotton (Chair)

Councillors Mohammed Aikhlaq, Tahir Ali, Deirdre Alden, Debbie Clancy, Liz Clements, Charlotte Hovalala and Rob Pocock

**Also Present:**

Councillor Brigid Jones (Deputy Leader)

Steve Powell, Assistant Director, Finance and Governance

Michael Furness, Head of City Finance, Finance and Governance

Councillor Sharon Thompson (Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods)

Jonathan Tew, Assistant Chief Executive

Chris Jordan, Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods and Communities

Councillor Marje Bridle

Emma Williamson, Head of Scrutiny Services

Gail Sadler, Scrutiny Officer

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

The Chairman advised that this meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site ([www.civico.net/birmingham](http://www.civico.net/birmingham)) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

#### **2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Albert Bore, Roger Harmer, Penny Holbrook and Mariam Khan.

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

None.

#### **4. ACTION NOTES/ISSUES ARISING**

(See document No 1)

Referring to the resolutions under item 5 Corporate Governance Plan, Councillor Pocock asked whether an update on the JNC re-structure had been provided and was assured by the Chair that the information had been requested but not yet received.

The action notes from the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2018 were agreed.

#### **5. BUDGET 2019/20+ CONSULTATION**

(See document No 2)

Councillor Brigid Jones, Deputy Leader, along with Steve Powell, Assistant Director, Finance and Governance and Michael Furness, Head of City Finance, attended the meeting to give an overview of the budget and implications for corporate priorities and any cross-cutting and long term issues.

During the discussion that followed, members made the following comments:-

- Future consideration of budget cuts could be given a wider context by engaging with residents on a rolling programme throughout the year and providing residents with options rather than proposals.
- The consultation document also includes additional proposals for savings in the coming year, but savings brought forward from the previous year was not included to put the savings into context. Members were told that the information was publically available.
- There is a need to understand the policy implications for reducing budgets. A specific example was prevention and early intervention services and the impact decisions will have on future provision and costs.
- Consideration should be given to the wider impact of budget reductions i.e. cutting arts funding is a risk to the culture of the City.
- It needs to be made clear that this consultation is an outline budget. Specific budget lines and their implementation will be subject to consultation.
- It was suggested that details of statutory and non-statutory services should be publicised as part of the consultation in order that the public are able to establish where they may be able to help to reduce costs.
- There is a wider issue about how the Council effectively engages with citizens and ensures there is a systematic procedure across the council. Previous savings proposals have led to legal challenges.
- Assurance was sought around the process undertaken to ensure that the proposed savings were deliverable.

#### **RESOLVED:-**

- Councillor Cotton to meet with the Deputy Leader and officers to discuss earlier public involvement in Scrutiny.
- A budget consultation response will be submitted by this committee and other O&S committees who are considering budget proposals relating to their portfolios.

## **6. WORKING WITH NEIGHBOURHOODS - UPDATE**

(See document No 3)

Councillor Sharon Thompson, the Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods, Jonathan Tew, Assistant Chief Executive, and Chris Jordan, Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods and Communities introduced the report and explained that the White Paper contains a wider range of options and is more inclusive than the Green Paper. Members made the following points:-

- Concern was raised about the response to the consultation which had been held in the summer and it was suggested that perhaps there should have been a second consultation.
- Clarity was needed about what services were/were not on offer.
- There must be a clear commitment from the Council that where responsibilities for services are taken by a Town Council then the budget for that service goes with it.
- Need for discussion around Ward Plans and how they can be best delivered through the relationship framework.
- Regarding the Local Package and Community Asset Transfer - there appears to be a disconnect between the intention and what is actually happening.
- It was suggested that the intended outcomes to be achieved are presented at the front of the document and, at the end of the document, include a transformation programme timeline and milestones to track progress.

### **RESOLVED:-**

- The Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods to re-send a copy of the Relationship Managers list to all members.
- A further update report to be brought back to this committee, jointly with Housing and Neighbourhoods O&S committee, in April.

## **7. WORK PROGRAMME – DECEMBER 2018**

(See document No 4)

- A briefing on Community Asset Transfer was requested.
- The Terms of Reference for the Universal Credit Review to be put on the work programme.

### **RESOLVED:-**

- That the work programme be noted.

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

None.

## **9. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

- Following another accident on Belgrave Middleway on 1<sup>st</sup> December, Councillors Cotton and Clements to review a petition to install speed cameras and crash barriers that was referred by Council Business Management Committee to the Sustainability and Transport O&S Committee earlier in the year. Councillors Cotton and Clements will review the Belgrave Middleway petition and report back.
- Time limits on answering questions in Full Council will form part of the Review of Full Council.
- Members requested a quarterly snapshot of what items are on the work programmes of other O&S committee. Councillor Cotton and officers will review how best to share the information with members of this committee.
- Some members had a problem accessing the committee meeting papers through the emailed link. Therefore, it was suggested that a further email with a PDF document pack should be sent to committee members on the day of the meeting.

## **10. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS**

### **RESOLVED:-**

In an urgent situation between meetings, the Chairman jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee

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The meeting ended at 1254 hours.