

Report of:	Leader of the Council
To:	Co-ordinating O&S Committee
Date:	November 9th, 2018

Progress Report on Implementation: Partnership Working: BCC and Parish/Town Councils Review Information

Date approved at City Council:	December 5 th 2017
Member who led the original review:	Cllr Mohammed Aikhlaq
Lead Officer for the review:	Emma Williamson
Date progress last tracked:	NA

1. In approving this Review the City Council asked me, as the Leader, to report on progress towards these recommendations to this Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
2. Details of progress with the remaining recommendations are shown in Appendix 2.
3. Members are therefore asked to consider progress against the recommendations and give their view as to how progress is categorized for each.

Appendices

1	Scrutiny Office guidance on the tracking process
2	Recommendations you are tracking today

For more information about this report, please contact

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Appendix ①: The Tracking Process

In making its assessment, the Committee may wish to consider:

- What progress/ key actions have been made against each recommendation?
- Are these actions pertinent to the measures required in the recommendation?
- Have the actions been undertaken within the time scale allocated?
- Are there any matters in the recommendation where progress is outstanding?
- Is the Committee satisfied that sufficient progress has been made and that the recommendation has been achieved?

Category	Criteria
1: Achieved	The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has been fully implemented within the timescale specified.
2: Not Achieved (Obstacle)	The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has not been fully achieved, but all possible action has been taken. Outstanding actions are prevented by obstacles beyond the control of the Council (such as passage of enabling legislation).
3: Not Achieved	The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has not been fully achieved, but there has been significant progress made towards full achievement. An anticipated date by which the recommendation is expected to become achieved must be advised.
4: In Progress	It is not appropriate to monitor achievement of the recommendation at this time because the timescale specified has not yet expired.
5: Achieved (outcomes to be monitored)	The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has been fully implemented within the timescale specified. However, the outcome has not yet materialised, or "work on the ground" has yet to be seen. Reporting on the recommendation as part of the tracking process ceases. However, a report back on the outcome or continuing implementation will be reported back to the Committee as determined by the members in consultation with the Cabinet Member.

Appendix 2 : Progress with Recommendations

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cabinet Member's Assessment
R01	<p>That a council policy on parish/town councils and other local governance structures (including the points set out in paragraph 3.2.5) is developed and adopted:</p> <p>a) The policy should be substantially developed well ahead of the May elections seeking early cross-party agreement on the broad policy principles</p> <p>b) Formal adoption of the policy by the City Council should take place after the May elections</p> <p>c) A Cross Party Community Governance Working Group should be established to shape and take forward this policy.</p> <p>A lead Cabinet Member and senior officer should be identified.</p>	Leader with the Assistant Leaders	<p>a) March 2018</p> <p>b) July 2018</p> <p>c) March 2018</p>	4-In progress
Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')				
<p>As reported previously a Green paper on Working Together with Birmingham's Neighbourhoods was approved by Cabinet on 6.3.18. This set out proposals for closer partnership working with people in their local area to make services more responsive to local needs and to improve local neighbourhoods. These proposals included the creation of new parish, town or neighbourhood councils.</p> <p>Consultation on this Green Paper took place over the Summer; a Be Heard Survey took place as well as consultation events being held. Consultation findings have now been analysed and will be reflected in the White Paper which is scheduled to go to Cabinet in the New Year. It is intended to launch this at an event on community cohesion in the New Year to emphasise the linkages between the two strategies.</p> <p>A Cross Party Working Group has been established, chaired by Cllr Sharon Thompson. Members include councillors from all political groups, councillors and officers from both existing parish/town councils, as well as other officers from the council, NALC and Locality. Two meetings have taken place with a further two meetings scheduled before the end of the year. The main focus of the meetings so far has been the Green Paper and consultation findings.</p>				

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cabinet Member's Assessment
R02	<p>That a charter or framework agreement is agreed, working with the parish/town councils, building on the heads of terms already submitted by both NFIBPC and RSCTC (having regard to the principles set out in paragraph 3.3.11).</p> <p>A lead Cabinet Member and senior officer should be identified.</p>	Leader with the Assistant Leaders	March 2018	4-In progress
Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')				
<p>The Green Paper included proposals for an outline framework for relationships, Charter Agreements and Local Devolution Deals. Specific questions on each of these proposals were included in the Be Heard Survey so that views and suggestions could be gathered. Responses will be reflected on when developing the White paper.</p> <p>RSCTC have now submitted a Heads of Terms to support the development of a Devo Deal and recently met with the Leader, Cllr Ward, to discuss this. There's a strong desire from all parties to progress this and agreement that this should not be held back by the development timescales for the White paper.</p>				

An officer operational group has also been introduced, led by Chris Jordan, Assistant Director – Neighbourhoods & Communities, between the City Council and RSTC to deal with service issues. This group meets every 6 weeks. The same offer has been made to Frankley Parish Council.

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cabinet Member's Assessment
R03	That the lead Cabinet Member, Assistant Leaders and senior officers engage further with NFIBPC and RSCTC to assist in developing the specific policy framework around "devo deals". This should be guided by the four levels in 3.3.9 and should be considered as part of the overall policy. As part of this process, some early potential deals should be identified.	Leader with the Assistant Leaders	July 2018	4-In progress
Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')				
See response to R02 above. Feedback from NFIBPC and RSCTC, gathered through the O & S report process, was reflected in the Green Paper. Both have also responded to the consultation, which again will be taken into account when developing the White Paper. Further discussions will take place as appropriate.				

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cabinet Member's Assessment
R04	That a Cabinet lead and named officer are nominated to work with RSCTC and NFIBPC to put in place to deliver on projects that are currently with BCC. In the case of RSCTC this comprises various projects that are in excess of £1m in value where funding has been approved and is included with the RSCTC budget for 2017/18.*	Leader with the Assistant Leaders	February 2018	4-In Progress
Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')				
The Assistant Director for Neighbourhoods and Communities and the Assistant Director for Highways and Infrastructure have engaged with RSCTC to ensure that progress has been made on the outstanding projects. See also information under R02 re the officer operational group.				

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cabinet Member's Assessment
R05	Progress towards achievement of these recommendations should be reported to the Corporate Resources and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee no later than March 2018. Subsequent progress reports will be scheduled by the Committee thereafter, until all recommendations are implemented.	Leader of the Council	March 2018	4-Achieved
Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')				
As highlighted above, the Green paper on Working Together with Birmingham's Neighbourhoods was presented to Cabinet on 6.3.18 and to Committee on 7.3.18.				

An additional update paper is submitted for discussion at this meeting.