

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

TUESDAY, 13 JUNE 2023 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 Public-I microsite [\(please click this link\)](#) 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 they must declare all relevant pecuniary and other registerable interests arising from any business to be discussed at this meeting.

If a disclosable pecuniary interest is declared a Member must not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless they have been granted a dispensation.

If other registerable interests are declared a Member may speak on the matter only if members of the public are allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless they have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', Members do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that they have an interest.

Information on the Local Government Association's Model Councillor Code of Conduct is set out via <http://bit.ly/3WtGQnN>. This includes, at Appendix 1, an interests flowchart which provides a simple guide to declaring interests at meetings.

3 MINUTES

To confirm and authorise the signing of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 23 May 2023.

4 LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(10 minutes allocated) (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

(10 minutes allocated) (1410-1420)

To receive and deal with petitions in accordance with Council Rules of Procedure (B4.4 E of the Constitution).

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.

6 QUESTION TIME

(70 minutes allocated) (1420-1530)

To deal with oral questions in accordance with Council Rules of Procedure (B4.4 F of the Constitution).

- A. Questions from Members of the Public to any Cabinet Member or Ward Forum Chair (20 minutes)
- B. Questions from any Councillor to a Committee Chair, Lead Member of a Joint Board or Ward Forum Chair (up to 10 minutes)
- C. Questions from Councillors other than Cabinet Members to a Cabinet Member (up to 20 minutes)
- D. Questions from Councillors other than Cabinet Member to the Leader or Deputy Leader (up to 20 minutes)

7 APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

(5 minutes allocated) (1530-1535)

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

29 - 64

8 **EXECUTIVE BUSINESS REPORT**

(55 minutes allocated) (1535-1630)

The Leader of the Council, Councillor John Cotton to move the following recommendation:

"That the report be noted".

(break 1630-1700)

65 - 68

9 **HOUSING OMBUDSMAN SPECIAL REPORT (UPDATE)**

(45 minutes allocated) (1700-1745)

Councillor Jayne Francis to move the following recommendation:
"That the report be noted".

69 - 72

10 **MOTIONS FOR DEBATE FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

(90 minutes allocated) (1745-1915)

To consider the attached Motions of which notice has been given in accordance with Council Rules of Procedure (B4.4 G of the Constitution).



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF BIRMINGHAM CITY
COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 23 MAY 2023 AT 1600 HOURS IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT:- Lord Mayor (Councillor Maureen Cornish) in the Chair.

Councillors

Akhlaq Ahmed	Diane Donaldson	Saqib Khan
Saima Ahmed	Barbara Dring	Izzy Knowles
Alex Aitken	Jayne Francis	Narinder Kaur
Deirdre Alden	Sam Forsyth	Kooner
Robert Alden	Ray Goodwin	Bruce Lines
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Rob Grant	Chaman Lal
Raqeeb Aziz	Colin Green	Bruce Lines
Shabina Bano	Fred Grindrod	Mary Locke
David Barker	Roger Harmer	Ewan Mackey
David Barrie	Deborah Harries	Majid Mahmood
Baber Baz	Kath Hartley	Rashad Mahmood
Matt Bennett	Adam Higgs	Lee Marsham
Jilly Bermingham	Des Hughes	Karen McCarthy
Marcus Bemasconi	Jon Hunt	Saddak Miah
Bushra Bi	Mumtaz Hussain	Shehla Moledina
Sir Albert Bore	Mahmood Hussain	Gareth Moore
Nicky Brennan	Timothy Huxtable	Yvonne Mosquito
Kerry Brewer	Mohammed Idrees	Richard Parkin
Marje Bridle	Zafar Iqbal	Rick Payne
Martin Brooks	Katherine Iroh	David Pears
Mick Brown	Ziaul Islam	Miranda Perks
Zaker Choudhry	Morriam Jan	Rob Pocock
Debbie Clancy	Meirion Jenkins	Julien Pritchard
Liz Clements	Brigid Jones	Hendrina Quinnen
John Cotton	Jane Jones	Lauren Rainbow
Phil Davis	Amar Khan	Darius Sandhu
Jack Deakin	Ayoub Khan	Shafique Shah
Adrian Delaney	Mariam Khan	Rinkal Shergill
		Sybil Spence
		Ron Storer
		Saima Suleman

NOTICE OF RECORDING

- 118 The Lord Mayor advised that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcasting via the Council's Public-I website and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 119 The Lord Mayor reminded Members that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests relating to any items of business to be discussed at the meeting.

Councillor John Cotton declared a pecuniary interest in relation to agenda item 20 'Pay Policy 2023-24'. The specific interest was recorded on Councillor Cotton's existing Register of Interests submission. Councillor Cotton would withdraw from the Chamber when this item was considered.

MINUTES

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and –

- 120 **RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the City Council meeting held on 18 April 2023 be taken as read and confirmed and signed.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LORD MAYOR 2022/2023

The following Annual Report of the Lord Mayor was submitted:-

(See document No. 1)

The Lord Mayor requested that the report be formally received and should any Members have questions they should be put them in writing to her after the meeting for a response.

A brief video was shown which captured some of the highlights from the 2022/23 municipal year

It was moved by the Lord Mayor (Councillor Maureen Cornish), seconded and -

121 **RESOLVED:-**

That the annual report of the Lord Mayor be received.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF LORD MAYOR'S AWARDS

122 The Lord Mayor explained that the Lord Mayor's Award was presented for outstanding achievement or exceptional service to the City and people of Birmingham. The Award recognised 'going the extra mile' in the contribution that was made and the person or organisation nominated should readily be distinguishable and stand out from their peers in what they have achieved for the City of Birmingham.

The Lord Mayor noted that there were seven recipients of the Lord Mayor's Award and she was delighted to announce and present Awards to the following recipients:

- Lawrence Barton DL
- Paul Cashmore
- Harry and Sheila Dennick
- Dennis Kennedy
- Tom McCauley
- Debbie Roscoe Kennedy
- Duran Duran

Duran Duran were unable to attend the meeting and so a short video was played which captured the moment when the Lord Mayor had presented them with their award after a recent performance by the band in Birmingham.

The Lord Mayor indicated that she was sure you will join me in recognising the tremendous contribution of all of this year's recipients.

123 **HONORARY ALDERMAN PRESENTATION**

The Lord Mayor explained that she would be conferring the title of Honorary Alderman and Honorary Alderman Posthumous upon a number of our former colleagues.

The Lord Mayor noted that the title of Honorary Alderman and Honorary Alderman Posthumous would be conferred upon the following recipients:

- Honorary Alderman Mohammed Aikhlaq (unable to attend the meeting and was represented by Mohammed Irfan).
- Honorary Alderman Tahir Ali.

- Honorary Alderman Paulette Hamilton (unable to attend the meeting and presentation to be made to her separately).
- Honorary Alderman Mike Leddy.
- Honorary Alderman John Lines.
- Honorary Alderman Chaudhry Rashid (unable to attend the meeting and was represented by his son, Arshad).
- Honorary Alderman Carl Rice (unable to attend the meeting and presentation to be made to him separately).
- Honorary Alderman Mike Sharpe.
- Honorary Alderman Mike Ward.
- Honorary Alderman Neil Eustace (Awarded Posthumously).
- Honorary Alderman Mohammed Fazal (Awarded Posthumously).
- Honorary Alderman Ray Hassall (Awarded Posthumously).
- Honorary Alderman Penny Holbrook (Awarded Posthumously).
- Honorary Alderman Keith Linnecor (Awarded Posthumously).

ELECTION OF THE LORD MAYOR 2023/2024

It was moved by the Lord Mayor (Councillor Maureen Cornish), seconded and -

124 **RESOLVED:-**

That Council Rules of Procedure (B4.4 B of the Constitution relating to time limits for speeches) be suspended for that part of the meeting relating to ceremonial matters.

It was moved by Councillor Robert Alden and seconded by Councillor Sybil Spence and by a show of hands was declared to be carried and-

125 **RESOLVED:-**

That Councillor Chaman Lal be elected Lord Mayor of this City for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2024.

Councillor Chaman Lal then entered the Chamber and was received with acclamation. Councillor Lal was informed that he had been elected Lord Mayor of the City and he thereupon made and signed the declaration accepting the office.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by the Lord Mayor (Councillor Chaman Lal) that the meeting be adjourned for 10 minutes.

126 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Council be adjourned for 10 minutes.

The Council then adjourned at 1655 hours.

At 1705 hours the Council resumed at the point where the meeting had adjourned.

On re-entering the Chamber, the Lord Mayor (Councillor Chaman Lal) took the Chair.

Before the meeting was reconvened, Pastor Councillor Yvonne Mosquito said a prayer.

The Lord Mayor acknowledged his election and made his inaugural speech.

PRESENTATION TO THE RETIRING LORD MAYOR

- 127 The Lord Mayor presented Councillor Maureen Cornish with a badge as a memento of her year of office as Lord Mayor.
-

PRESENTATION TO THE RETIRING LORD MAYOR'S CONSORT

- 128 The Lord Mayor presented Mr Malcolm Cornish with a badge as a memento of his year of office as Lord Mayor's Consort.
-

VOTE OF THANKS TO RETIRING LORD MAYOR AND LORD MAYOR'S CONSORT

It was moved by Councillor Brigid Jones, seconded by Councillor Robert Alden and by a show of hands was declared to be carried and -

- 129 **RESOLVED:-**

That this Council tenders to Councillor Maureen Cornish its warm thanks for presiding over its meetings during the past year and for the conscientiousness and impartiality shown by her whilst in the Chair; it is noted with particular respect the dignity, kindness and courtesy which have characterised her conduct as Lord Mayor of the City of Birmingham during the year 2022/2023 and records its deep appreciation of the interest, time and energy she has devoted to meeting the many duties of her office.

The Council also takes great pleasure in conveying to Mr Malcolm Cornish its most grateful appreciation of his services as Lord Mayor's Consort and the keen interest that he has shown in the affairs of the City.

Councillor Maureen Cornish responded appropriately.

APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY LORD MAYOR

It was moved by the Conservative Group and by a show of hands was declared to be carried and -

130 **RESOLVED:-**

That Councillor Maureen Cornish be appointed Deputy Lord Mayor of this City for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2024.

Councillor Maureen Cornish made and signed the declaration accepting the office and the Lord Mayor invested her with her badge of office.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by the Lord Mayor that the meeting be adjourned for 10 minutes and that when reconvened Councillor Sir Albert Bore, as Father of the House, should take the Chair for the first item of business.

131 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Council be adjourned 10 minutes and that when reconvened Councillor Sir Albert Bore, as Father of the House, take the Chair for the first item of business.

The Council then adjourned at 1735 hours.

At 1745 hours the Council resumed at the point where the meeting had adjourned and Councillor Sir Albert Bore took the Chair.

ALLOWANCES

It was moved by Councillor Sir Albert Bore, seconded and -

132 **RESOLVED:-**

That an allowance of £33,965.37 be made to the Lord Mayor for his present year of office.

It was moved by Councillor Sir Albert Bore, seconded and -

133 **RESOLVED:-**

That an allowance of £10,259.89 be made to the Deputy Lord Mayor for her present year of office

The Lord Mayor then entered the Chamber and resumed the Chair.

DATES OF MEETINGS

A list of the proposed dates was set out in the Summons.

The motion as amended above relating to dates having been moved by the Lord Mayor and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried and -

134

RESOLVED:-

It was suggested that meetings of the Council be held in the Council Chamber at 1400 hours on the following Tuesdays:-

<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
13 June	9 January
11 July	6 February
12 September	27 February
7 November	16 April
5 December	

—

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL IN 2024

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and -

135

RESOLVED:-

That the Annual Meeting of this Council in 2024 be held on Tuesday 21 May 2024 at 1600 hours in the Council Chamber, Council House.

LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements from the Lord Mayor.

PETITIONS

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 -

136

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 -

137

RESOLVED:-

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

The Lord Mayor advised the meeting that it was necessary to move to item 21 on the agenda. This was because Councillor Ian Ward had informed the Chief Executive that he had stepped down as Leader of the Council as of 4pm this afternoon.

The Labour Group had advised the Chief Executive of the selection of Councillor John Cotton as Leader of the Council elect.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS – APPOINTMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and –

138

RESOLVED:-

That Councillor John Cotton be formally appointed as the Leader of Birmingham City Council, for a 4-year term or for up to the end of his term of office as a Member, whichever is shorter, in accordance with the provisions of Part B, paragraph 1.4 of the Constitution.

Names were called and the Chamber doors were locked.

Here upon a poll being demanded the voting was as follows:-

For the Recommendation (59)

Akhlaq Ahmed	Saima Ahmed	Alex Aitken
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Raqeeb Aziz	Shabina Bano
David Barker	Jilly Bermingham	Marcus Bernasconi
Bushra Bi	Sir Albert Bore	Nicky Brennan

Marje Bridle	Martin Brooks	Mick Brown
Liz Clements	John Cotton	Phil Davis
Jack Deakin	Diane Donaldson	Barbara Dring
Jayne Francis	Sam Forsyth	Ray Goodwin
Fred Grindrod	Kath Hartley	Des Hughes
Mahmood Hussain	Mohammed Idrees	Zafar Iqbal
Katherine Iroh	Ziaul Islam	Brigid Jones
Jane Jones	Amar Khan	Mariam Khan
Saqib Khan	Narinder Kaur Kooner	Mary Locke
Majid Mahmood	Rashad Mahmood	Lee Marsham
Karen McCarthy	Saddak Miah	Shehla Moledina
Yvonne Mosquito	Miranda Perks	Rob Pockock
Hendrina Quinnen	Lauren Rainbow	Shafique Shah
Rinkal Shergill	Sybil Spence	Saima Suleman
Jamie Tennant	Sharon Thompson	Lisa Trickett
Penny Wagg	Waseem Zaffar	

Against the Recommendation (31)

Deirdre Alden	Robert Alden	David Barrie
Baber Baz	Matt Bennett	Kerry Brewer
Zaker Choudhry	Debbie Clancy	Adrian Delaney
Colin Green	Roger Harmer	Deborah Harries
Adam Higgs	Jon Hunt	Mumtaz Hussain
Timothy Huxtable	Morriam Jan	Meirion Jenkins
Ayoub Khan	Izzy Knowles	Bruce Lines
Ewan Mackey	Gareth Moore	Richard Parkin
Rick Payne	David Pears	Darius Sandhu
Ron Storer	Paul Tilsley	Ken Wood
		Alex Yip

Abstentions (2)

Rob Grant	Julien Pritchard
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Councillor John Cotton was formally appointed as the Leader of the Council.

LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF CABINET MEMBERS

- 139 At the invitation of the Lord Mayor, Councillor John Cotton, Leader of the Council, rose to outline his Cabinet but before doing so he congratulated the Lord Mayor and his wife on their appointment and wished them a successful year.

Members noted that Cabinet Advisors would not be appointed at this point.

Councillor John Cotton announced the Cabinet as follows:-

Deputy Leader	Councillor Sharon Thompson
Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families	Councillor Karen McCarthy
Cabinet Member for Digital, Culture, Heritage and Tourism	Councillor Saima Suleman
Cabinet Member for Environment	Councillor Majid Mahmood
Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources	Councillor Brigid Jones
Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care	Councillor Mariam Khan
Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness	Councillor Jayne Francis
Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities	Councillor Nicky Brennan
Cabinet Member for Transport	Councillor Liz Clements

REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

A report from the City Solicitor was submitted:-

(See document No. 4, agenda item 18)

Councillor John Cotton moved the recommendations which were seconded from the floor.

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor John Cotton to sum up.

It was therefore-

140

RESOLVED:-

- 1.) That approval be given to the amendments to Parts A, B and D of the Constitution, set out via the Change Log at Appendix 1 and the tracked change versions attached at Appendix 2.
- 2.) That the City Solicitor be authorised to implement the changes with effect from 24 May 2023.

CITY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

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

(See document No. 5)

The Leader of the Council, Councillor John Cotton set out the following amendments to City Council appointments in relation to the Labour Group:

Education, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

Omar Haneef was replaced by Osamugi Ogbe as a Parent Governor Representative.

Councillor Baber Baz set out the following amendments to City Council appointments in relation to the Liberal Democrat Group:

Co-Ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Councillor Morriam Jan to replace Councillor Roger Harmer.

Education, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Councillor Deborah Harries to replace Councillor Morriam Jan.

Economy and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Councillor Jon Hunt to replace Councillor Izzy Knowles.

Homes Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Councillor Penny Wagg to replace Councillor Roger Harmer.

Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Councillor Izzy Knowles to replace Councillor Roger Harmer.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor John Cotton, moved the recommendation which was seconded.

It was-

141 **RESOLVED:-**

That subject to the above amendments, City Council made appointments to Committees and Other Bodies as set out below:

CITY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS 2023/24

In accordance with aggregate proportionality requirements based on 114 seats, the following adjustments need to be reflected in the composition of **Committees**: ie

Labour	=	0 seats
Conservative	=	- 2 seats
Liberal Dem	=	0 seats
Green	=	+ 2 seats

Committees will have regard to aggregate number of seats on all the Sub-Committees which they appoint.

1. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SERVE ON OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES UNTIL THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL IN MAY 2024

(A) CO-ORDINATING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Must comply with proportionality requirements)

12 Members

Labour (8)	Conservative (3)	Liberal Democrat (1)
Cllr Sir Albert Bore	Cllr Ewan Mackey	Cllr Morriam Jan
Cllr Akhlaq Ahmed	Cllr Darius Sandhu	
Cllr Mick Brown	Cllr Alex Yip	
Cllr Jack Deakin		
Cllr Shabrana Hussain		
Cllr Mohammed Idrees		
Cllr Kerry Jenkins		
Cllr Lee Marsham		

Councillor Sir Albert Bore as Chair

(B) FINANCE AND RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Must comply with proportionality requirements)

8 Members

Labour (5)	Conservative (2)	Liberal Democrat (1)
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Cllr Jack Deakin
Cllr Sybil Spence
Cllr Hendrina Quinnen
Cllr Rashad Mahmood
Cllr Alex Aitken

Cllr Meirion Jenkins
Cllr Ken Wood

Cllr Paul Tilsley

Councillor Jack Deakin as Chair

(C) HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Must comply with proportionality requirements)

8 Members

Labour (5)	Conservative (1)	Liberal Democrat (1)	Green (1)	
Cllr Mick Brown	Cllr Gareth Moore	Cllr Paul Tilsley	Cllr Pritchard	Julien
Cllr Kath Hartley				
Cllr Jane Jones				
Cllr Kirsten Kurt-Elli				
Cllr Rob Pocock				

Councillor Mick Brown as Chair

(D) EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Must comply with proportionality requirements)

8 Members

Labour (5)	Conservative (2)	Liberal Democrat (1)
Cllr Kerry Jenkins	Cllr Adam Higgs	Cllr Deborah Harries
Cllr Shabina Bano	Cllr Debbie Clancy	
Cllr Jilly Bermingham		
Cllr Des Hughes		
Cllr Shehla Moledina		

Councillor Kerry Jenkins as Chair

Other Voting Members (4)

- 1 Church of England diocese representative – Sarah Smith
- 1 Roman Catholic diocese representative – Justine Lomas
- 2 Parent Governor Representatives – Rabia Shami and Omar Hanif

(E) ECONOMY AND SKILLS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Must comply with proportionality requirements)

8 Members

Labour (5)	Conservative (2)	Liberal Democrat (1)
Cllr Akhlaq Ahmed	Cllr Simon Morrall	Cllr Jon Hunt
Cllr Bushra Bi	Cllr Richard Parkin	
Cllr Raqeeb Aziz		
Cllr Katherine Iroh		
Cllr Jamie Tennant		

Councillor Akhlaq Ahmed as Chair

(F) SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Must comply with proportionality requirements)

8 Members

Labour (5)	Conservative (2)	Liberal Democrat (1)
Cllr Lee Marsham	Cllr Timothy Huxtable	Cllr Colin Green
Cllr Saima Ahmed	Cllr Richard Parkin	
Cllr David Barker		
Cllr Martin Brooks		
Cllr Waseem Zaffar		

Councillor Lee Marsham as Chair

(G) HOMES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Must comply with proportionality requirements)

8 Members

Labour (5)	Conservative (2)	Liberal Democrat (1)
Cllr Mohammed Idrees	Cllr Ken Wood	Cllr Penny Wagg
Cllr Lauren Rainbow	Cllr Ron Storer	
Cllr Ziaul Islam		
Cllr Saqib Khan		
Cllr Rinkal Shergill		

Councillor Mohammed Idrees as Chair

(H) NEIGHBOURHOODS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Must comply with proportionality requirements)

8 Members

Labour (5)	Conservative (2)	Liberal Democrat (1)
Cllr Shabrana Hussain	Cllr Deirdre Alden	Cllr Izzy Knowles
Cllr Marcus Bernasconi	Cllr Kerry Brewer	
Cllr Marje Bridle		
Cllr Ray Goodwin		
Cllr Gurdial Singh Atwal		

Councillor Shabrana Hussain as Chair

2. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE REGULATORY COMMITTEES UNTIL THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL IN MAY 2024

(A) PLANNING COMMITTEE

(Must comply with proportionality requirements)

15 Members

Labour (10)	Conservative (3)	Liberal Democrat (2)
Cllr Martin Brooks	Cllr Gareth Moore	Cllr Colin Green
Cllr Akhlaq Ahmed	Cllr David Barrie	Cllr Mumtaz Hussain
Cllr Jack Deakin	Cllr Rick Payne	
Cllr Diane Donaldson		
Cllr Mahmood Hussain		
Cllr Jane Jones		
Cllr Lee Marsham		
Cllr Yvonne Mosquito		
Cllr Lauren Rainbow		
Cllr Shela Moledina		

Councillor Martin Brooks as Chair

(B) LICENSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

(Must comply with proportionality requirements)

15 Members

Labour (10)	Conservative (2)	Liberal Democrat (2)	Green (1)	
Cllr Phil Davis	Cllr Adam Higgs	Cllr Penny Wagg	Cllr Pritchard	Julien
Cllr Diane Donaldson	Cllr Simon Morrall	Cllr Izzy Knowles		
Cllr Barbara Dring				
Cllr Sam Forsyth				
Cllr Zafa Iqbal				
Cllr Saddak Miah				
Cllr Narinder Kaur Kooner				
Cllr Sybil Spence				
Cllr Mary Locke				
Cllr Ziaul Islam				

Councillor Phil Davis as Chair

(B1) LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE A

(Must comply with proportionality requirements except when meeting to consider matters under the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005)

3 Members

Labour (2)	Conservative (1)	Liberal Democrat (0)
Cllr Phil Davis	Cllr Adam Higgs	
Cllr Mary Locke		

(B2) **LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE B**

(Must comply with proportionality requirements except when meeting to consider matters under the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005)

3 Members

Labour (2)	Conservative (1)	Liberal Democrat (0)
Cllr Diane Donaldson	Cllr Simon Morrall	
Cllr Saddak Miah		

Councillor Diane Donaldson as Chair

(B3) **LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE C**

(Must comply with proportionality requirements except when meeting to consider matters under the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005)

3 Members (1 seat given up by Conservative Group to the Liberal Democrat group)

Labour (2)	Conservative (0)	Liberal Democrat (1)
Cllr Sam Forsyth		Cllr Penny Wagg
Cllr Zafar Iqbal		

Councillor Sam Forsyth as Chair

3. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UNTIL THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL IN MAY 2024

(Outside of proportionality requirements)

9 Members –

Labour Group Leader, Deputy Leader, Group Secretary & Chair of Co- Ordinating O&S Committee

Conservative Group Leader & Group Secretary Liberal

Democrat Group Leader or Group Secretary 2 Labour

Labour (6)	Conservative (2)	Liberal Democrat (1)
Cllr John Cotton	Cllr Robert Alden	Cllr Baber Baz
Cllr Sharon Thompson	Cllr Gareth Moore	
Cllr Des Hughes		
Cllr Sir Albert Bore		
Cllr Brigid Jones		
Cllr Miranda Perks		

Councillor John Cotton as Chair

4. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE AUDIT COMMITTEE UNTIL THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL IN MAY 2024

(Must comply with proportionality requirements)

8 Members

Labour (5)	Conservative (2)	Liberal Democrat (1)
Cllr Fred Grindrod	Cllr Meirion Jenkins	Cllr Paul Tilsley
Cllr Shabrana Hussain	Cllr Bruce Lines	
Cllr Shafique Shah		
Cllr Miranda Perks		
Cllr Amar Khan		

Councillor Fred Grindrod as Chair

5. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE TRUSTS AND CHARITIES COMMITTEE UNTIL THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL IN MAY 2024

(Must comply with proportionality requirements)

8 Members

Labour (5)	Conservative (2)	Liberal Democrat (1)
Cllr Marcus Bernasconi	Cllr Maureen Cornish	Cllr Mumtaz Hussain
Cllr Jilly Bermingham	Cllr David Pears	
Cllr Basharat Mahmood		
Cllr Kath Scott		
Cllr Lisa Trickett		

Councillor Marcus Bernasconi as Chair

6. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE UNTIL THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL IN MAY 2024

(City Councillor appointments outside of proportionality requirements)

6 Members

Labour (2)	Conservative (2)	Liberal Democrat (2)
Cllr Kath Hartley	Cllr Gareth Moore	Cllr Paul Tilsley
Cllr Mahmood Hussain	Cllr Deirdre Alden	Cllr Colin Green

6 Independent lay members:

Stephen Atkinson Alastair
Cowan Mohammed Khan Peter
Wiseman Steven Jonas
Professor Stephen Shute

1 member representing the New Frankley in Birmingham Parish Council and 1 member representing the Sutton Coldfield Parish Council

(Parish member must be present when matters relating to the Parish Council or its Members are being considered):

New Frankley in Birmingham Parish Councillor Cllr Ian Bruckshaw
Sutton Coldfield Parish Councillor Cllr Derrick Griffin

Peter Wiseman as Chairman (independent)

The quorum is 5 members, including at least one of the Independent Lay Member and the Parish Councillor if it relates to a Parish Council matter.

7. ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES UNTIL THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL IN MAY 2024

(A) Local Government Association – General Assembly

(4 Councillors to exercise 17 votes in accordance with proportionality)

Labour Group Members	11 votes
Conservative Group Member	4 votes
Liberal Democrat Group Member	2 votes

Cllr John Cotton	(Lab)
Cllr Sharon Thompson	(Lab)
Cllr Robert Alden	(Con)
Cllr Roger Harmer	(Lib Dem)

(B) West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority

(4 Councillors appointments must comply with proportionality requirements)

Labour (3)	Conservative (1)
Cllr Basharat Mahmood	Cllr David Barrie
Cllr Sybil Spence	
Cllr Gurdial Singh Atwal	

Cllr Basharat Mahmood as Lead Member

(C) West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

To appoint two Labour members and one Conservative member and their named substitutes to serve on West Midlands Police and Crime Panel.

Member	Substitute
Cllr Shabina Bano (Lab)	Cllr Vacancy (Lab)
Cllr Kath Scott (Lab)	Cllr Vacancy (Lab)
Cllr Gareth Moore (Con)	Cllr David Barrie (Con)

Midyear Birmingham to nominate to the Met Leaders 2 Labour representatives to serve on West Midlands Police and Crime Panel, along with named substitutes.

Member

Substitute

Cllr Alex Aitken (Lab)
Cllr Vacancy (Lab)

Cllr Vacancy (Lab)
Cllr Vacancy (Lab)

(D) West Midlands Shareholders Airport Committee

Leader of the Council - Voting Member

Cllr Vacancy (Lab) and Cllr Robert Alden (Con) as observers to attend each year one of the scheduled meetings of the West Midlands Shareholders Airport Committee:

(E) Departmental Consultative Committees

Chairman of Departmental Consultative Committees:

Inclusive Growth Directorate (previously Economy) Cllr Katherine Iroh

Education and Skills Directorate (previously Children and Young People) Cllr Jilly Bermingham

Housing Directorate (previously Neighbourhoods) Cllr Des Hughes

City Operations Directorate Cllr Narinder Kaur Kooner

Adults Social Care Directorate (previously Adults Social Care and Health) Cllr Mick Brown

(F) Joint Scrutiny Committee for the Supervisory Board of the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership

Appoint one member of Authority and a substitute Member:

Cllr Narinder Kaur Kooner (Lab) and Cllr Shabrana Hussain (Lab) (Substitute)

(G) Joint Scrutiny Committee for the Supervisory Board of the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership

Appoint one member of Authority and a substitute Member:

Cllr Narinder Kaur Kooner (Lab) and Cllr Shabrana Hussain (Lab) (Substitute)

(H) West Midlands Combined Authority

The following appointments need to be made:-

WMCA Board

Member

Cllr John Cotton (Lab)
Cllr Sharon Thompson (Lab)

Substitute

Cllr Jane Jones (Lab)
Cllr Mariam Khan (Lab)

WMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Member

Cllr Jamie Tennant (Lab)
Cllr Lauren Rainbow (Lab)
Cllr Ken Wood (Con)

Substitute

Cllr Miranda Perks (Lab)
Cllr David Barker (Lab)
Cllr Ewan Mackey (Con)

Transport Delivery Committee

(7 Councillors appointments must comply with proportionality requirements)

Labour (4)

Cllr Mary Locke
Cllr Narinder Kaur Kooner
Cllr Saddak Miah
Cllr Ian Ward

Conservative (2)

Cllr Timothy Huxtable
Cllr Robert Alden

Liberal Democrat (1)

Cllr Zaker Choudhry

Cllr Mary Locke as Lead Member

WMCA Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Cllr Rinkal Shergill (Lab)

WMCA Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee

Member

Cllr Brigid Jones (Lab)

Substitute

Cllr Marje Bridle (Lab)

WMCA Housing & Land Delivery Board

Cllr Jayne Francis (Lab)

WMCA Investment Board

Cllr Sharon Thompson (Lab)

WMCA Public Service Reform Board

Cllr John Cotton (Lab)

WMCA Wellbeing Board

Cllr Karen McCarhy (Lab)

WMCA Environment Board

Cllr Majid Mahmood (Lab)

Strategic Economic Delivery Board

Cllr John Cotton (Lab)

WMCA HS2 Delivery Board

Cllr John Cotton (Lab)

(I) WM Growth Company - Board of Directors

The Leader will be the Council's nomination.

(J) Safety Advisory Groups

To make appointments on the basis of 1-1-1 plus the Local Ward Member Aston Villa

Football Club Safety Advisory Group

Councillor Ray Goodwin	(Lab)
Councillor Alex Yip	(Con)
Councillor Ayoub Khan	(Lib Dem)
Councillor Morriam Jan	(One Aston Ward Member/Lib Dem)

Birmingham City Football Club Safety Advisory Group

Councillor Shabina Bano	(Lab)
Councillor Richard Parkin	(Con)
Councillor Baber Baz	(Lib Dem)
Councillor	(Bordesley and Highgate Ward Member)

Warwickshire County Cricket Club Safety Advisory Group

Councillor Fred Grindrod	(Lab)
Councillor Robert Alden	(Con)
Councillor Paul Tilsley	(Lib Dem)
Councillor Deirdre Alden	(One Edgbaston Ward Member)

(K) Annual Appointments to Other Bodies

(Historically, proportionality has been applied to positions requiring two or more members, although it does not need to be applied to such appointments).

Body

Representative

<u>Body</u>	<u>Representative</u>	
(a) Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education - 8 Representatives (To comply with proportionality – 5 Lab; 2 Con; 1 Lib Dem)	Cllr Nicky Brennan Cllr Gurdial Singh Atwal Cllr Bushra Bi Cllr Sybil Spence Cllr (Vacancy) Mr Peter Fowler Mr Guy Hordern Cllr Zaker Choudhry	(Lab) (Lab) (Lab) (Lab) (Lab) (Con) (Con) (Lib Dem)
Cllr Nicky Brennan as Chair		
(b) City Housing Liaison Board 3 Councillors plus 1 Lab alternate 1 Lab; 1 Con; 1 Lib Dem	Cllr Jayne Francis Cllr Mary Locke Cllr Richard Parkin Cllr Roger Harmer	(Lab) (Lab alt) (Con) (Lib Dem)

PAY POLICY 2023-24

A report from the City Solicitor was submitted:-

(See document No. 6, agenda item 20)

Councillor Sharon Thompson moved the recommendation which was seconded from the floor.

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor Sharon Thompson to sum up.

It was therefore-

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RESOLVED:-

- 1.) That Council approved the updated Pay Policy 2023-2024.

The meeting ended at 1842 hours.

Birmingham City Council

City Council

13 June 2023



Subject: Executive Business Report
Report of: Cabinet
Report author: Paul Kitson (Director – Place, Prosperity and Sustainability)
Sue Harrison (Director - Children and Families)

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential:

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1. On 10th September 2019, Full Council accepted the recommendations of the Coordinating O&S Committee review in respect of changes to the Full Council agenda.
- 1.2. Recommendation 3 of the review requested that the Executive provide an update to Full Council on its work via the provision of an Executive Business Report ('EBR'). EBRs will be provided to Full Council four times per municipal year and will include details of progress made in relation to Council strategic outcomes and priorities linked to two Cabinet Member portfolios.
- 1.3. This EBR provides an update on two Cabinet Member portfolios:
 - Leader Portfolio, with a focus on 'Our Future City'; pages 2 - 12
 - Children, Young People and Families; pages 13 - 37
- 1.4. As we approach the halfway point of 2023, the Council continues to proactively work with local, regional and national partners to drive forward progress against our strategic priorities for the city – striving towards a bolder, better, and fairer Birmingham for all. The ongoing Cost of Living Crisis, including high levels of inflation and energy costs, continues to be a challenge for many of our most vulnerable residents and communities.

- 1.5. However, we must also recognise some of the reasons to celebrate our progress in 2023. The launch of the 'Our Future City Framework' sets out an ambitious long-term vision for the future of our shared city, one in which everyone has an opportunity to aspire, thrive and succeed. We also celebrate the results of our recent Ofsted inspection, which rated our Children's Services 'Good' for the first time in over a decade – recognising the dedication and hard work of all our staff and partners in this area.

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

3 Leaders Portfolio

3.1 'Our Future City' Overview

- 3.1.1 'Our Future City: Central Birmingham 2040 Framework' (OFCF) is a bold plan to transform Central Birmingham into a greener city of more jobs, better transport options and higher quality new homes, and is one of the most important strategies written for the city this century. The plan will break down the physical and perceived barriers between the city centre and the area outside of the Middle Ring Road to ensure growth in the city centre reaches the wider communities.

- 3.1.2 Delivery of the framework's vision would double the amount of green spaces to a level comparable with Vienna and double Birmingham's network of active travel routes to 200km – the same level of healthy transport infrastructure as in Copenhagen, with the ultimate aim for the city to become a benchmark for meeting the challenges of the 21st century in its own right. A significant area of the city is covered by the framework, which replaces the previous successful vision of the Big City Plan, which has run its course and underpins the growth being witnessed today in the city.

- 3.1.3 In addition, the framework outlines the potential to create 74,000 new jobs and 35,000 much needed homes for the city in an area of 1,800 hectares and a population of 130,000 people. A framework of this scale has not been attempted elsewhere nationally or internationally and it represents a step change in how the city will deliver inclusive growth for its residents.

3.2 'Shaping Our City Together' Consultation Process

- 3.2.1 In January 2021, the Council published the 'Shaping Our City Together' document for public consultation. The aim of the document was to start a conversation with Birmingham's communities to create a shared vision for the city.

3.2.2 This was the first document to be released with the purpose of setting out an inspiring vision and strategy for Central Birmingham - one that could create a fair, inclusive, and green place that benefits all. The aim was to take a more collaborative approach with our civic family from individuals, businesses, and charities, to ensure we are creating a shared vision and strategy for the future. The feedback was then used to inform the development of the 'Our Future City: Central Birmingham Framework 2040'.

3.2.3 The 'Shaping Our City Together' document was based around 6 themes to group together the potential actions that will ultimately deliver the framework's vision:

City of Centres

3.2.4 This theme recognises that Birmingham is more than one place - it is a collection of centres of activity that have evolved over centuries. There is the potential to develop this further as a 'City of Centres' - multiple destinations and mixed-use neighbourhoods that attract visitors and succeed as places that are loved by their communities, with a sense of pride and belonging.

3.2.5 Central Birmingham already holds a number of established quarters and neighbourhoods with existing communities, alongside the potential for other areas to grow and provide the new homes and employment space we need as a growing city.

City of Growth for All

3.2.6 Birmingham is the largest city economy in the UK outside of London, and a key driver of growth in the West Midlands' and national economies. A thriving, inclusive, resilient, and liveable Central Birmingham is vital to maintaining this position through improving the quality of life and place and creating the conditions to attract investment. The focus will be on promoting green and sustainable growth.

3.2.7 Our city needs to continue to welcome inward investment and to provide the opportunities for a range of major developments for new homes, workplaces, leisure, culture, and social infrastructure. We also need to ensure that there are the right conditions for home-grown businesses to start-up, thrive and grow - from those serving local community needs to the large businesses serving national and global markets.

City of Nature

3.2.8 The ability to easily access nature within our city is essential to providing a high quality of life, tackling climate change, and creating attractive places to live.

3.2.9 As a whole, Birmingham has a significant amount of green space with several outstanding parks and gardens. However, there are significant gaps in the provision of green space within central areas of the city. This is having a

negative effect on people's health, and with the urban population expected to rise this effect could be exacerbated.

- 3.2.10 The aim is to make a radical transition by putting nature back at the very heart of the city - to be a Biophilic City. Residents, visitors, and workers will be able to access safe and diverse green and open spaces within walking distances of their home and places of work. We can use nature to transform the way we build, design our public realm, and improve connectivity, as well as support the restoration and viability of urban areas ensuring more space for living, working and playing.

City of Layers

- 3.2.11 Birmingham is a unique and distinct city with a wealth of interesting stories, rich heritage, and historic landmarks. As the role and purpose of city centres change and lifestyles and workstyles merge and evolve, it is the sense of community and belonging - the social interactions experienced through culture at all levels - that people will want to come to cities for. The built environment needs to respond to these 'layers' of culture and creativity and enable the city to not only showcase its output commercially as a vital part of our visitor, leisure and night-time economy, but also to celebrate and build on it for its own citizens, for their growth, employment and careers, and the enrichment and quality of life. Our buildings, places and spaces not only reflect the history of our city but present opportunities to forge a new outlook responding to communities that live and work here.

City of Connections

- 3.2.12 Located at the heart of the country, Birmingham is at the centre of the national transport network, with excellent rail and road links, and a major international airport. However, many parts of Central Birmingham are still dominated by vehicles and their supporting infrastructure, resulting in disconnected places, poor public realm and unhealthy living conditions. This is a significant contributing factor to traffic congestion and air pollution.
- 3.2.13 Supporting the comprehensive proposals set out in the Birmingham Transport Plan, the aim is to enable a people-centred approach to connectivity within neighbourhoods, providing walking, cycling and public transport on major routes and reducing the need for cars by making the alternatives much easier, affordable and safer.
- 3.2.14 Increasing reliance upon and general use of digital connectivity opens opportunities for different ways of working and living, but all communities need access to modern infrastructure to benefit from these changes.

City of Knowledge and Innovation

- 3.2.15 Birmingham is a city of innovation and entrepreneurship, with a strong record of being at the forefront of major innovations in industry that have shaped the world we live in today.

- 3.2.16 As we look ahead, it will be crucial to focus on supporting the growth of our knowledge, technology, innovation and creative sectors. This will require a creative approach to adapting the built environment, supporting resilience and growth of businesses, as well as growing a skilled population to compete in an evolving job market.

Consultation Outputs and Feedback

- 3.2.17 The 'Shaping Our City Together' consultation took place over two months between 26th January and 26th March 2021. The consultation was publicised online across numerous websites and social media channels, as well as via local news publications and the trade press. Internally, the consultation was publicised on the Council's social network 'Yammer', in the Council's weekly newsletters and in the Chief Executive's own fortnightly email bulletins, sent to all employees at the Council.
- 3.2.18 This consultation exercise was undertaken in the face of stringent Covid-19 restrictions in early 2021. This meant that face-to-face meetings and mass gatherings were banned for the duration of the consultation period. Therefore, all engagement exercises were undertaken virtually over the internet, using conferencing applications such as Microsoft Teams (MS Teams) and Zoom. This innovative use of digital engagement processes proved to be an advantage, as people wishing to attend meetings did not have to travel to the Council offices in Birmingham City Centre or to another physical venue elsewhere within the city, and instead could easily engage with the consultation from home.
- 3.2.19 Social media engagement was mainly carried out via Birmingham City Council's Twitter page. However, the Council's YouTube account also played a major role, hosting webinars and a series of brief videos introducing the OFCP's six themes.
- 3.2.20 Reaching young people was key to our engagement strategy. Youth Services were commissioned to undertake specialist consultation on our behalf, with activities including an online survey, on street interviews, and a design competition focussing on part of the city. Engagement was also undertaken with universities.
- 3.2.21 Key outputs from the consultation included:
- Over 4,000 people watched the consultation launch livestream (over 48hour period).
 - 233 people responded to the online survey distributed via Twitter.
 - Over 40 formal representations were received from developers, landowners, investors, government organisations, national institutions and local community interest groups.
 - Eight seminars/workshops were hosted on MS Teams, providing a focus upon each of the six chapters or 'city themes' covered in the Plan. The

events were attended by over 50 people from a variety of backgrounds and representing a wide range of different stakeholders.

- Pre-recorded webinar discussions featuring key stakeholders and Council officers, each focusing upon a specific theme covered in the Plan. Collectively, the webinars have gathered over 1300 views on YouTube.
- Separate consultation exercise tailored towards younger people, prepared by Birmingham City Council Youth Services. The consultation was sent to 450 people between the ages of 10 and 19 and generated over 150 responses.
- Major publicity in media (newspaper columns, TV, and radio), including Birmingham Mail coverage of the consultation launch.
- Focused publicity events (People for Public Services and two Universities – Aston University and Birmingham City University).

3.2.22 Overall, the proposals and ideas were well received. There was general support for the vision and city themes. A summary of the feedback received is included below:

Vision

- Heritage and historic buildings should be protected, reused, and enhanced.
- High-quality affordable housing should be delivered.
- Request for high-quality design and vision should address the climate emergency.
- Concern the vision doesn't cover outer areas of the city and that the character of different areas of the city should be protected.
- Need to provide appropriate transport, health, and education infrastructure to meet the demand of new residential development.

City of Centres

- Centres should provide green infrastructure and accessible and appropriate facilities for residents.
- Build on the existing identities of local centres and improve connections between local centres.
- Support local businesses.
- Include opportunities for renewable energy and climate adaptation measures.

City of Growth for All

- Concern regarding impact of tall buildings.

- Improve quality of public realm and ensure new developments contribute to carbon neutrality.
- Avoid gentrification and protect identity of existing centres and communities.
- Ensure new developments and open spaces are fully accessible.
- Deliver employment opportunities for local residents.

City of Nature

- Support delivery of green open space, infrastructure, and proposals to improve the canal network and repurpose roads.
- Increase lighting in parks and open spaces to improve safety.
- Question what ongoing management and maintenance of new green space is proposed.
- Encourage community involvement to enhance local residents sense of ownership of green spaces.

City of Layers

- Heritage and historic assets should be protected and enhanced.
- Commitment to safeguard the culture of the LGBT+ community.
- More investment in culture and cultural facilities.
- Historic buildings that are vacant should be repurposed.

City of Connections

- Support improvements to affordable sustainable travel modes, public transport, cycling and walking links.
- Concerns regarding pedestrian and cyclist safety.
- Need to ensure sustainable travel options are fully accessible.

City of Knowledge and Innovation

- Need to incentivise businesses to relocate to Birmingham.
- Universities to have a role in upskilling tech industries.
- Need to offer learning and education for all levels and abilities, utilising existing libraries and community centres.

3.3 **‘Our Future City Plan’: Delivery Plans for Central Birmingham Areas**

- 3.3.1 In 2021, following the ‘Shaping Our City Together’ consultation, the City Council appointed a multi-disciplinary team led by Arcadis to support the council in producing delivery plans for each area within the Central Birmingham area, to inform the development of a framework. The aim was to

take the themes and consultation feedback and examine each area in detail to create up to date plans and delivery strategies, including feasibility and viability studies and potential concept/outline designs, for bold proposals that demonstrably meet the Framework's vision.

- 3.3.2 The preparation of these plans is an essential first step in guiding future housing development, economic growth and place making in the area. They establish a context for future due-diligence development briefs, development of local planning policy and planning applications as well as aiding interest from development partners and investors. Where appropriate, key proposals and principles will be enshrined within the review of the Birmingham Local Plan and become planning policy in the future.
- 3.3.3 The team focussed on the following areas: Knowledge Quarter and Nechells, Digbeth and Bordesley, Highgate and Balsall Heath, Edgbaston, Ladywood, and Hockley.
- 3.3.4 These areas were defined by their geography, characteristics and connections rather than political boundaries. They also reinforce a key objective of the framework to break down the physical and perceived barriers between the city centre and the areas outside of the Middle Ring Road to ensure growth in the city centre reaches the wider communities.
- 3.3.5 The delivery plans were developed in consultation with key stakeholders internally and externally, including landowners, developers, public sectors agencies and other council departments such as Housing, Transportation and Route to Zero. Where appropriate, high level delivery data for new housing growth, new employment areas, active travel routes and new or improved open spaces was identified. The delivery plans include key interventions and proposals identified and broken down into delivery phases.

3.4 **Development of the Our Future City Framework**

- 3.4.1 The delivery plans contain an extensive amount of detail that would not be appropriate or accessible to publish as a document for public consultation. Therefore, the team focussed on crystallizing this information into the 'Our Future City Birmingham: Central Birmingham Framework 2040'.
- 3.4.2 For the purposes of making the framework more accessible, the delivery plan areas were consolidated into five Central Areas:
- **City Heart:** Bull Ring, Colmore Business District, Snowhill and Steelhouse, Southside, Town, Westside;
 - **Central North:** Eastside and Aston Triangle, Gun Quarter, Nechells, Newtown;
 - **Central East:** Bordesley, Digbeth, Small Heath;
 - **Central South:** Balsall Heath, Edgbaston, Highgate;

- **Central West:** Hockley, Jewellery Quarter, Ladywood, Spring Hill.

3.4.3 This draft framework sets a strategic vision for central Birmingham's future, and our aim of creating a fair, inclusive, and green place that benefits all our communities. It provides an overarching strategy to address the challenges the city faces, and unlock opportunities for all.

3.4.4 It supports the Birmingham Local Plan review by identifying key areas with potential for change. It also sets out proposals and the infrastructure to support the levels of growth we need to achieve.

3.4.5 The bold proposals included in this framework set a programme of work for the next 20 years. Where appropriate the proposals will be embedded into the statutory planning process, collaboratively shaping the city alongside the Birmingham Local Plan and other tools such as Supplementary Planning Documents and the emerging Design Code.

Vision and Core Principles

3.4.6 The framework sets out a deliberately bold and aspirational vision for the city:
'By 2040 Birmingham will be a leading international city, operating on a global stage, where prosperity is shared by all – happy, healthy and affordable. Our connected, culturally distinct neighbourhoods showcase the best environmental quality, resilience and adaptability.

A city proud of our unique identity and diversity that embraces technology and creativity, beauty, and imagination.'

3.4.7 The core principles underpinning this vision are:

- Inclusive
- Creative
- Resilient
- Connected

Delivery Approach

3.4.8 The Council has a strong track record of delivering transformational change in the city. Since the days of the Highbury Initiative in the 1980s, the Council has been at the forefront of identifying bold visions and proposals that have enabled the city to reinvent itself and address the challenges of the time.

3.4.9 The framework will continue this journey and bring together a comprehensive approach to delivery that will provide the basis for the Council and its partners to support the delivery of projects.

3.4.10 There is a strong history of partnership working in Birmingham which has delivered major projects over the years such as the new Library and the transformation of Paradise Circus. This will continue with the bold Proposals outlined in this framework that will be driven forward through joint working

between the Council, West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), Homes England and the West Midlands Growth Company (WMGC) to develop an integrated approach to target investors. The new Devolution Deal for the West Midlands is a game changing opportunity to accelerate delivery of proposals within the framework.

- 3.4.11 Building on the existing public engagement work done to date, there will be regular and meaningful engagement in the delivery of the framework, with the role of the community built into the overall governance arrangements. The Council will actively work with stakeholders in the area to deliver the visions for the Central Areas and secure high-quality development. Over the next 12 months we will set up governance arrangements to develop key proposals and bring together the relevant stakeholders through structures such as Project Boards.

Links to Existing Strategies

Housing Delivery

- 3.4.12 The framework identifies a number of Housing Action Areas where a broad mix of new homes should be developed to accommodate a range of family and household sizes, including multi-generational occupation. Existing housing in these areas could be improved or retrofitted to make them fit for the future.
- 3.4.13 The Council's Birmingham City Housing Strategy (2023– 2028) is a high-level plan that sets out our vision for housing, with a delivery plan for how the Council and partners will ensure we meet the housing aspirations of our residents. Proposals for Housing Action Areas within the framework will be brought forward in line with the strategy to ensure there is a joined-up approach to delivery.

Property and Site Development

- 3.4.14 The Council's Property Strategy sets out how we are taking a long-term strategic approach to how we utilise our unique asset base ensuring we maximise commercial and social returns by re-aligning the City Council's property to act as a catalyst for development. Where appropriate the Council will consider how best its assets can enable and deliver proposals within OFCP in a way that drives inclusive economic growth.

Sustainable Transport

- 3.4.15 Many of the OFCP proposals are captured within the Birmingham Transport Plan 2031 and it's through this important strategy that delivery will be brought forward. With initiatives such as the £5bn City Regional Transport Settlement there are significant resources available to support projects.

Social and Cultural Infrastructure

- 3.4.16 With the creation of a significant number of new homes, investment will be required to ensure the appropriate services are in place so that they become

functioning and sustainable neighbourhoods. When new infrastructure is needed, innovative models for delivery and service provision should be explored, for example, community and social facilities will be an integral part of the proposals at Ladywood and Smithfield.

Headline Outputs

- 3.4.17 To ensure that Birmingham becomes a healthier, walkable, liveable, thriving city by 2040, the framework aims to:
- Double the amount of green space in the city, from 15% to 30%
 - Double the amount of active travel routes, from 100km to 200km
 - Deliver 35,000 homes
 - Create 74,000 jobs
- 3.4.18 These outputs will deliver significant outcomes and benefits to the city ranging from increased employment and fairer pay for residents to an increased supply of affordable housing.

3.5 Launch of the Our Future City Framework

- 3.5.1 A number of events are being held across May and June 2023 to launch the Framework to a range of audiences, including local communities, national and international investors, developers and national government.

The UK's Real Estate Investment and Infrastructure Forum (UKREiiF)

- 3.5.2 On 16th May 2023 the Council launched the Framework at UKREiiF in Leeds. UKREiiF is attended by Government, investors, developers, local authorities and public sector partners and is the UK's premier event that connects people, places and businesses to accelerate the Levelling Up agenda, whilst unlocking sustainable, inclusive and transformational investment across the UK.
- 3.5.3 The framework was received to national acclaim and generated significant interest in Birmingham as place to live, invest and do business.

Highbury Hall

- 3.5.4 Symbolising the spirit and importance of the Highbury Hall Initiative the Framework was launched at an event on 25th May 2023 for local stakeholders, community groups and investors.

All Party Parliamentary Group for Levelling Up Birmingham

- 3.5.5 The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Levelling Up Birmingham (Levelling Up APPG) was established in early 2022 to promote Birmingham's levelling up ambitions on a national and international stage. It is run on a cross-party basis, co-chaired by Preet Gill MP (Labour, Edgbaston) and Gary Sambrook (Conservative, Northfield).

- 3.5.6 The next business meeting of the Levelling Up APPG on 5th June 2023 will be used to promote the Our Future City Framework to an audience of MPs, Members of the House of Lords, senior civil servants and London-based developers and investors. It will provide an opportunity to discuss how the Council can work with national stakeholders, including national government, to deliver the ambitions set out in the Framework.

3.6 **Further Consultation and Approvals**

- 3.6.1 Following the launch at Highbury Hall on 25th May, a formal 8-week period of consultation has now commenced. An engagement strategy has been developed to guide the delivery of a coordinated programme of consultation activities, to meet the requirements of relevant regulations and our adopted Statement of Community Involvement.

3.6.2 Consultation activities include:

- Online questionnaire using the council's consultation forum BeHeard;
- A notification letter/email to the planning consultation database and all who responded to the previous consultation;
- Press release and social media posts signposting the public to consultation material;
- Videos explaining the proposals and encouraging people to respond to the consultation;
- Printed copies of the framework, and questionnaire with freepost address will be available at local libraries and the Council's Woodcock Street office;
- Use of existing networks and organisations in the framework boundary; and
- Several drop-in events across the framework area with consultation materials and officers available to answer questions.

Timeline for approval

- 3.6.3 The Framework needs to be approved by the City Council in a timely manner to set a clear vision for the city, and ensure the guidance has the desired effect on planning and investment decisions.

3.6.4 Approval milestones include:

- Start of public consultation on draft framework – 25th May (lasting eight weeks)
- Review consultation feedback and prepare final framework – Summer 2023
- Approval of final framework by Cabinet – Autumn 2023

4 Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families

4.1 Context

- 4.1.1 Birmingham is one of the youngest cities in the United Kingdom, with 36.6% of our 1.14 million residents aged under 25. As both a city and a Council, we have a duty to ensure that all our children and young people get a good start in life, with equal opportunities to aspire and succeed. This is particularly challenging in the current context, with the long-running impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and increasing levels of deprivation due to historically high levels of inflation.
- 4.1.2 In 2022, 37.3% of Birmingham pupils were eligible for free school meals, 14.8% above the England average. 51% of children under 16 live in the 10% most deprived areas, with nearly 43% (over 100,000) of our children living in relative poverty.
- 4.1.3 This update provides an update on progress made in the Children, Young People and Families portfolio over the last year.

4.2 Cabinet Member Priorities

- 4.2.1 The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families has identified a series of priorities for the next twelve months. These are as follows:
- 4.2.2 Continue to build on the improving services being delivered with our Birmingham Children's Trust and partner agencies.
- 4.2.3 Continue efforts to ensure that our services are sustainable, compliant, and designed to deliver best outcomes for children, young people, families, and communities, through working with our partners and wider City Council team.
- 4.2.4 Continue to ensure everything we do is inclusive for all our children and young people from all communities, backgrounds, and needs.
- 4.2.5 Embed our Improving Services for Children and Families Plan which brings together improvement and transformation activity that impacts on children, young people, and their families. This plan seeks to drive forward the short and medium-term work to strengthen and improve services for children across the Council.
- 4.2.6 Continue to work with key partners to widen access to Early Education Entitlement (EEE) and improve Early Years multiagency arrangements with health colleagues.
- 4.2.7 Continue to work with our Department for Education (DfE) appointed commissioner to transform and improve services for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in line with statutory requirements. This will enable us to deliver sustainable, well performing services with inclusion of children and young people at their heart, through delivery of the

Accelerated Progress Plan and action plans within the SEND and Inclusion strategies.

4.2.8 Deliver on our SEND sufficiency plan to ensure we continue to increase capacity to meet the education needs of our children and young people with assessed needs.

4.2.9 Further develop our Children and Young Persons' Travel Service with a robust eligibility process that identifies the needs of the young people we support, ensuring that transport is suitable for their needs and encourages their development. This will include development of a travel menu that will include promotion of personal transport budgets, and a Travel Training service to support development towards independent travel.

4.2.10 Strengthen approaches to identify, recognise and respond to the vulnerability of specific groups of children and young people including additional action to ensure:

- Children missing out on education are identified and supported to quickly return to school/education.
- Robust arrangements are in place for children and young people who are Electively Home Educated.
- Children supported by the Virtual School receive a stable education and are enabled to achieve their academic potential.
- License functions for Child Employment and Chaperones are improved to ensure a timely and appropriate response.

4.2.11 Commission the Healthy Child Programme to align with the developing Family Hubs Model, to achieve the best outcomes for children and young people 0-19.

4.3 Recent Ofsted Inspections

Local Authority Children's Services 20th February to 3rd March 2023

4.3.1 At the most recent inspection of our children's services earlier this year Ofsted judged Birmingham as being good in each of the areas inspected. Areas inspected included:

- the impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families.
- the experiences and progress of children who need help and protection.
- the experiences and progress of children in care.
- the experiences and progress of care leavers.

4.3.2 Working together with Birmingham Children's Trust and our partner agencies we are continuing to get better in all areas of service, and this is providing improved outcomes for Birmingham children, including those in care, unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, and care-experienced young people.

- 4.3.3 Our children's social care services had previously been graded 'Inadequate' by Ofsted since 2010 and had been failing for longer. The City Council took the decision in January 2017 to deliver its social care services through a Trust, under the leadership of Andrew Christie as Chair and Andy Couldrick as Chief Executive of our Birmingham Children's Trust which launched in 2018, supported by a board of executive directors and independent non-executive directors.
- 4.3.4 The 2023 Ofsted report stated: *'Since the last inspection in 2018, much progress has been made by Birmingham City Council and Birmingham Children's Trust in improving the experiences and outcomes of their children. Children are now safeguarded through effective 'front door' arrangements, thorough child protection assessments and a strong response to safeguarding children at risk of exploitation.'*
- 4.3.5 Ofsted gave the following feedback on Birmingham's children's services:
- 4.3.6 On the impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families:
- 'The Trust has made strong progress in most areas which required improvement at the last inspection, and pace has been sustained through the pandemic and beyond. Political leaders give great priority to children in Birmingham. Despite the financial pressures the council faces, investment in strengthening services in response to increased demand is a continuing commitment.'
 - 'There has been a positive shift in the quality and impact of partnership working between the council and the Trust, along with other key strategic allies. This is particularly evident in the implementation of the early help strategy, with many more families receiving effective help at the right time.'
 - 'The response to exploitation through the EMPOWERU (contextual safeguarding hub) service is a real strength.'
- 4.3.7 On the experiences and progress of children who need help and protection:
- 'Since the inspection in 2018, Birmingham Children's Trust and partners have developed and implemented strong early help services for children and families. Children and families benefit from an effective early help offer, with services that support them at the lowest level of intervention. Children receive a timely and thorough assessment of their needs that leads to effective plans that improve their experiences.'
 - 'The emergency duty service responds to children's needs in a timely and proportionate way. The service interacts and aligns with daytime and weekend services, with effective handover arrangements to daytime services.'

- 'When children are identified as being at risk of harm, there is an effective response through timely child protection strategy meetings, which are overseen well by managers and result in clear actions.'
- 'Views of children, parents and professionals are sought to inform assessments and, as a result, child protection enquiries are thorough and lead to children receiving the right level of support.'
- 'Children and families benefit from the timely allocation of social workers, who commence assessments promptly. The views of children and adults are threaded throughout the assessment. Strengths and protective factors are clearly identified and inform analysis and appropriate decision-making. Management oversight consistently informs next steps.'

4.3.8 On the experiences and progress of children in care:

- 'Children enter care in a timely manner and when it is in their interests to do so. Decisions for children to come into care are appropriately overseen by a senior manager. There is a clear rationale and children reviewing their records would understand why decisions were made about them.'
- 'Children's identity needs are well considered when seeking an appropriate placement match. Careful consideration is given to sibling relationships, with effective together or apart assessments helping to determine appropriate placement needs. This enables children to live with their brothers and sisters when it is in their best interests.'
- 'Children are encouraged and supported to keep in touch with important people in their lives. Family-time arrangements are in line with children's needs. Social workers reassess arrangements when circumstances change, or children express views of not wishing to see parents.'
- 'Thorough court social work assessments are reducing the need for the number of expert and independent social worker assessments. This is contributing to improved timescales and, as a result, decisions about children's long-term plans are made sooner.'
- 'Children's wishes and feelings are well considered and integrated into care plans, for example, their wishes around family time.'
- 'Children leave care to return to their families when it is right to do so.'

4.3.9 On the experiences and progress of care leavers:

- 'Care-experienced young people benefit from personal advisers (PAs) who make time to develop strong and supportive relationships with their young people, understanding their lived experiences and their needs.'
- 'The local offer for care-experienced young people is comprehensive and is readily available in a range of formats. Care-experienced young people are familiar with the offer and appreciate the range of support it provides.'

PAs routinely share the offer and discuss it with young people but are always conscious of the need to ensure that young people fully understand their options and make well-informed choices.'

- 'Care-experienced young people are actively involved in a range of events, conferences, and forums. These are a regular forum for providing information and exploring opportunities, but also for care experienced young people to showcase their achievements, meet up with others and feel valued.'
- 'Care-experienced young people who are parents feel particularly involved in contributing their voice. They feel that what they say is listened to and makes a difference, such as the development of a pregnancy pathway. They value participation opportunities as social events and feel less isolated as a result. They feel connected to senior leaders and feel part of a large family.'
- 'Accommodation options for young people are carefully considered with the young person's input and in their best interests. The majority are in suitable accommodation.'

Areas Identified for Improvement

4.3.10 Ofsted found that the following areas need to improve including:

- the effectiveness of the response to domestic abuse.
- earlier pre-birth assessments to support early permanence planning, and the timely realisation of permanence plans and legal status for children in stable placements.
- earlier engagement of personal advisers for children leaving care.
- consistency of written plans.

4.3.11 An action plan will be drawn up to respond to the areas identified for improvement.

4.3.12 We are on an improvement journey with our children and young people's services to ensure all our children and young people thrive and realise their potential and ambitions.

Birmingham Youth Offending Service Inspection

4.3.13 Birmingham Youth Offending Service was inspected by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation in December 2022. While the service is judged to be Requires Improvement, the report has recognised the considerable work that has been undertaken in improving the service.

4.3.14 During the inspection, HMIP identified some areas of significant improvement. The inspectorate acknowledged the commitment of the Partnership Board and the substantial work that has been invested in developing and enhancing the Board.

- 4.3.15 Inspectors identified several areas where more work is required, all of which were already understood by the service and featured in our service development plan. We are determined to continue to transform and modernise the service as we wish to deliver the very best services to our children, families, victims, and communities.

4.4 **Supporting Care-Experienced Young People**

- 4.4.1 As corporate parents, elected members have a duty to support and look after young people in our care as we would our own children, affording them the same life chances and providing them with appropriate support and guidance.
- 4.4.2 We need to work with our partners to put in place policies that promote better outcomes for our care experienced young people. We need to ensure that all our practices and policies in Birmingham readdress the imbalance in outcomes for those with care experience, to protect and support our children and care experienced young people from discrimination and lack of access to opportunities. As such we are seeking to increase the pathways providing care experienced young people with meaningful and supported apprenticeships and career opportunities and mentors that can continue to support them.
- 4.4.3 Our care experienced people have told us the significant challenges and stigma they face which includes discrimination and a lack of security, when they begin their adult lives, which is a huge transition and major step forward to independence. There is much we have done but we still have a way to go. Our care experienced young people are our responsibility and the protected characteristic proposed will support us to continue to do what we can to help realise their, and our, ambitions for them.
- 4.4.4 The Birmingham Children's Trust are doing some incredible work in supporting our children and young people in care and supporting our care leavers in ensuring they are supported with housing and receive council tax exemptions which we intend to build on.

Care Experience as a Protected Characteristic

- 4.4.5 In April 2023, Full Council approved the motion for 'care experience' to be recognized as a protected characteristic, whereby we have resolved to:
- formally support the Show Us You Care Too campaign and adopt 'care experience' as an additional equality strand alongside the protected characteristics as set out in the Equality Act 2010.
 - formally call upon our partners to treat care experience as a Protected Characteristic.
 - lobby Government to amend the Equality Act 2010 to include care experience as a protected characteristic.

- continue to build on the work of our Children's Trust and to continue to support the efforts of our Corporate Parenting Board.

4.5 **Children and Families Improvement Programme**

4.5.1 In January 2022, the Children and Families Directorate embarked on a wide programme of improvement. The 'Improving Services for Children and Families Plan' was launched to bring together into one plan all City Council improvement and transformation activity that impacts on children, young people, and their families. This plan seeks to drive forward the short and medium-term work to strengthen and improve services for children across the Council.

4.5.2 The work in this plan sits alongside work to develop and deliver our longer-term vision for children and young people in Birmingham through our partnership Children and Young People's Plan 2023-2028.

4.5.3 The Improving Services for Children and Families Plan sets out the activity that will support the Directorate, alongside colleagues from across Council, to deliver the vision for children and young people:

Our vision is that Birmingham Children Thrive, all children and young people are safe, healthy, included, confident and achieving. Our children and families will be supported by a Children and Families Directorate that has strong governance and management and a strong front line working with our partner organisations across the city as one system putting children and families at the heart of everything they do.

4.6 **Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND)**

4.6.1 In September 2018, as a result of an Ofsted/CQC Inspection of SEND services, Birmingham received a Written Statement of Action (WSOA) outlining 13 areas of significant weakness. The local area was judged unable to meet the needs of children with additional needs/SEND through appropriate provision.

4.6.2 A re-inspection by Ofsted and CQC from 24th to 27th May 2021 looked at Birmingham's provision (for children with additional needs/SEND) and confirmed (in the letter dated 6 Jul 2021 from the chief inspector): *"The area has made sufficient progress in addressing one of the 13 significant weaknesses identified at the initial inspection. The area has not made sufficient progress in addressing 12 significant weaknesses."*

4.6.3 Since 2021, Birmingham has been under a statutory direction with John Coughlan as independent Commissioner appointed by the Minister. The SEND Improvement Board (SIB) has been in place since December 2021, drawing together the most senior strategic leaders from all relevant stakeholders

across Birmingham. John Coughlan chairs this group and is accountable to Ministers for the progress made by the local area to address the areas of significant weakness and to monitor the performance against the outcomes required.

Accelerated Progress Plan

4.6.4 Birmingham's SEND partnership, consisting of council, local and national health partners and school leaders developed the Accelerated Progress Plan (APP) to address the areas of significant weakness.

4.6.5 All the elements of the plan were grouped together into four objectives:

- System Leadership (Objective 1)
- Getting the Basics Right (Objective 2)
- Working Together Well (Objective 3)
- Pathways (Objective 4)

Areas of Progress

4.6.6 As recognised by John Coughlan in his most recent report to the Secretary of State, there have been '*a number of significant and welcome areas of progress and development in Birmingham SEND*'.

- We have an improved, co-produced process and system for Educational Health Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA). Improved timeframes have ensured more appropriate support is delivered to CYP to meet their needs earlier.
- The SENAR service has greater consistency and retention of staff compared to the same time last year.
- The capacity to complete reviews and assessments of need is much more appropriate compared to the same time last year.
- The SENAR service is much more accessible with dedicated phone lines for each member of the team operational since January 2023.
- We have increased the average number of annual reviews being undertaken per month from 352 (2021/22) to 690 (2022/23)
- Health partners have worked and reduced waiting times for assessments in the past 9 months.
- We are investing in the 'The Balanced System' for Speech Language and Communication needs.
- The Local Offer website has been updated and there has been a demonstrable uplift in users.
- 99% of school phase transfers for EHCPs were issued within the statutory deadlines in 2023. This compares to 0% in 2021.
- Fewer complaints are being received by the SEND service and there has been improved position in relation to mediations and tribunals in the last six months.

Inclusion Strategy

- 4.6.7 A new Inclusion Strategy was approved by Cabinet on 21st March, linking closely to the Birmingham Change for Children plan and containing three key principles:
1. Recognition of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
 2. Enabling children, young people, and young adults to thrive is everyone's responsibility and success is dependent on strong and effective partnership working.
 3. Some children, young people and young adults currently need support in order to thrive and achieve as well as their peers.
- 4.6.8 The 'Inclusive City' steering group will drive the inclusion agenda and support other task and finish groups turning strategy into delivery – cross partnership, multi-agency working.

Developing Local Provision Phase 1

- 4.6.9 Phase 1 of the Developing Local Provision (DLP) project saw a £14 million investment into mainstream schools and early years settings to develop SEND assistance. This led to very successful outcomes and progress e.g.
- 29% increase in SEND pupils achieving the expected standard – Year 1 Phonics screening.
 - 18.6% increase in SEND pupils reaching early learning goals in Reading.
- 4.6.10 Funding has been agreed for a second phase of the DLP to continue with embedding inclusive practice. Non-negotiable KPIs will be in place for Phase 2 relating to improving attainment, progress, attendance and reducing suspensions and exclusions for children and young people with additional needs.
- 4.6.11 Services for children and young people with SEND and their families are still not where they should be and there is still a significant distance to travel. However, the early signs of improvement are now becoming more substantial and sustainable, providing a strong platform for continued improvement. Stable leadership is in place in this area, as acknowledged by the Commissioner in his most recent report.

4.7 Annual Education Performance Report 2022

- 4.7.1 The Birmingham Education Partnership is commissioned by the Council to deliver school improvement in maintained schools.
- 4.7.2 The Annual Education Performance Report 2022 was published last month. This is the first publication of annual assessment results since 2019 due to the

cancellation of 2020 and 2021 assessments during the pandemic. In the summer of 2022, all exams returned to normal after the pandemic, and some adaptations were in place for specific key stage assessments.

- 4.7.3 In Early Years, 62.7% of Birmingham pupils achieved a Good Level of Development compared to 65.2% nationally. The proportion of children achieving a Good Level of Development in Birmingham as well as nationally has reduced since 2019 but the gap between Birmingham and national has reduced to 2.5% (from 3.8% in 2019).
- 4.7.4 At Key Stage 1, while still behind the national average, pupils in Birmingham narrowed the attainment gap for at least the expected standard in Reading and Writing in 2022. For Maths, the attainment gap remained static. Birmingham is above Core Cities and our statistical neighbours averages in all three subjects, most notably in Reading and Writing, where Birmingham is around 2.0% above its statistical neighbours.
- 4.7.5 The progress of children from Key Stage 1 to 2 continues to improve in all subject areas. Progress in Maths continues to be above the national average. Progress in Reading and Writing is showing definite improvement from 2019 with both subjects above national.
- 4.7.6 48.6% of disadvantaged children in Birmingham reached the expected standard for Reading Writing and Maths, 6.0% above national. For children eligible for free school meals, 48.2% reached the standard, 6.6% above the national average.
- 4.7.7 Birmingham has a higher proportion of secondary schools rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted than the national average. In 2022, Birmingham's Key Stage 4 Progress 8 score of 0.07 is above the state funded national average of -0.03. This means that pupils in Birmingham made more progress from key stage 2 to the end of key stage 4 than those with a similar starting point nationally.
- 4.7.8 Pupils with SEND in Birmingham make weak academic progress when compared with pupils nationally. The Accelerated Progress Plan includes several measures to closely monitor this and ensure that improvements are made.

4.8 **Children out of school**

- 4.8.1 In April 2023, a new post of Assistant Director – Thriving Children and Families was established to take responsibility for all the Council teams that work directly with children, young people, and families regarding vulnerable learners.
- 4.8.2 We provide targeted support for those children who are, or at risk of becoming, persistently absent. Good school attendance is important for children - those

who do not attend regularly cannot achieve their potential in exams, miss out on social aspects of school and can find it difficult to maintain friendships.

4.8.3 The directorate is working closely with schools to support them to improve attendance, particularly those pupils whose attendance rate is of concern. Schools will always work with families to address any issues or concerns and taking action against families for attendance matters is a last resort.

4.8.4 There are several, often complex, reasons why children may go missing from education. These may include (but are by no means limited to): SEND; issues where children are newly arrived to the country or have an insecure immigration status; family homelessness or residence in temporary accommodation; factors around supply of school spaces; and risks around serious youth violence and exploitation. The complexity of this area requires a holistic approach whereby we work constructively with schools, families and support services to ensure that vulnerable children do not miss out on their right to education.

4.8.5 A new partnership Early Help Inclusion Panel was established by Birmingham Children's Trust's Early Help Team and the Council's Tackling Exclusions Group in Autumn 2022, to promote inclusion and prevent exclusions in Primary School age children. The panel has representation from all partners to ensure a multi-agency approach to inclusion and will work in partnership with other agencies to best improve outcomes for children.

Exclusions and Suspensions

4.8.6 We are developing proactive approaches to support schools with relational practice approaches, and to challenge schools where exclusions and suspensions could be avoided. This is underpinned by improvements in data collection to inform help inform authority actions.

4.8.7 Our teams are working with City of Birmingham School (COBS Pupil Referral Unit) to develop use of turnaround places that enable children to maintain their school place and to support mainstream schools to develop effective behaviour support strategies.

Supporting Children Without a School Place

4.8.8 Children who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) without a school place are referred to the Home Bridging Team which develops a package of support for the child. This includes fortnightly safe and well checks and provision for home tutors whilst the child is awaiting a full-time school place. The Children with EHCP Placements Team work to secure a full-time school place for the child. For all other children, the School Admissions (In-Year Admissions) team work to support children back into school. Elective Home Education children whose education is found to be unsuitable are supported to return to school education.

Children without a school place

- 4.8.9 Children not in full time education are a key priority on the Improving Services for Children and Families Plan. The teams within Thriving Children and Families are currently working collectively to review all internal processes regarding children without a school place. In addition to the establishment of a new service area, and additional investment in strategic leadership, we are significantly strengthening senior leadership oversight through improved data dashboards and have commenced dip sampling quality assurance of practice.

Silent Voices, Hidden Lives - Children 'Out of Sight' of Services

- 4.8.10 The following actions are being taken to develop children out of sight services:
- Get the basics right.
 - Deep dive into service areas to review leadership, processes, practice, culture.
 - Ensure services understand statutory guidance and are meeting responsibilities.
 - Appropriate governance, oversight and accountability, corporate safeguarding
 - Strategic use of data across the partnership to improve visibility of children.
 - Construct environments for integrated assessment to wrap around families.
 - Review the outputs of the system and what is working well.
 - Follow children and young people across systems to ensure join up.
 - Maximise opportunities to listen to the views and experiences of children and families.
 - Capitalise on existing partnerships to extend opportunities for joint working.
 - Build opportunities for learning and development, sharing of practice wisdom.
 - Instil reflexive practice through high support, high challenge, continuing professional development (CPD) and supervision.
 - Listen to the workforce.

Elective home education

- 4.8.11 The Elective Home Education team in the Children and Families Directorate works with schools and families to promote inclusion, to help children stay in school and avoid elective home education where possible, engaging with partner agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to ensure that families that wish to home educate are well connected to services and sources of information.
- 4.8.12 Named officers maintain contact and share information with families to establish a positive foundation for future working. The service works interdependently with School Admissions, School Attendance, the 14-19

Team, Birmingham Children's Trust and SEND services to bridge and broker services to families, particularly where the need for support escalates or where families wish to request a school place following a period of home education. A supportive relationship with Birmingham Children's Trust has been established with a senior social worker from CASS supporting case reviews and decision making in partnership with the Elective Home Education team.

4.9 Safeguarding Policy

4.9.1 In December 2022, the (annual) Corporate Safeguarding Policy 2022 was approved by Cabinet and was implemented with immediate effect. This policy sets out the legal framework and wider safeguarding context that the City Council should operate within.

4.9.2 The policy provides guidance for all Birmingham City Council staff, Elected Members, volunteers and individuals, consultants and agencies contracted (and sub-contracted) by Birmingham City Council who may come across concerns regarding the safeguarding and protection of children, young people, and adults within the context of their work.

4.9.3 The policy also sets out our responsibilities in relation to safeguarding and protecting both children and adults at risk. It also sets out the methods by which the council will be assured that it is fulfilling its duties.

4.9.4 By knowing and being aware of our safeguarding responsibilities, each one of us is helping to keep vulnerable people safe. This means that all staff, councillors, volunteers, and the service providers we commission must be aware of their safeguarding responsibilities.

4.9.5 The Council has established a Corporate Safeguarding Network, chaired by the Director of Children's Services, as the designated person with overall responsibility for safeguarding of children and young people at Birmingham City Council. All Council Directorates have nominated representatives to participate in the work of the Network.

4.10 Early Years

4.10.1 Birmingham has 1218 early years and childcare settings across the city, which are a mixture of Private, Voluntary, and Independent settings and schools. The Early Years and Childcare Service works with providers to ensure there is enough, good quality childcare for children aged 0-14 (16 with SEND) and access to early education places for all 3- and 4-year-olds and targeted 2-year-olds.

4.10.2 There is a range of support that includes information, advice, challenge and CPD opportunities to the workforce. The service also ensures that there are enough children's centres to deliver the core purpose and improve outcomes

for young children and their families. The service oversees the quality assurance of provision and integration of services.

What has gone well over the last 12 months?

- 4.10.3 The percentage of 2-year-olds accessing Early Education Entitlement (EEE) continues to increase. We recognise that the whilst the performance sits well below the national level, each term we have seen an increase on the take-up percentage which is now more comparable to pre-Covid.
- 4.10.4 Supporting early year settings, Early Years Consultants (EYC) are now completing engagement visits for all group care providers rated good or outstanding. The visits are being prioritised by the date of the last inspection and the RAG rating they have been assigned. These visits are an opportunity to signpost providers to the universal services offered by the service and external programmes such as the DfE Covid Recovery Programme.
- 4.10.5 The introduction of the 'Birmingham Transition Approach' is going well. The approach has been developed by a multi-agency team including the Parent Carer Forum. This started in May 2022 and has been further developed over the last year. All 10 districts are offering network sessions focused on transitions (summer term 2023). All EYC visits include questions to promote the Birmingham Transition Approach sharing information about reception class offer day and support available to parents without a school place offer.
- 4.10.6 Integrated working with Birmingham Forward Steps through the Early Years Health and Wellbeing (EYHWB) contract continues to progress. The Health Visiting teams are integrated within the overall contract and management arrangements of Birmingham Forward Steps and are located within children's centres. Children and Families are seen as part of the Healthy Child Programme and there is a performance target for children's centres to undertake Early Help assessments.

What difference are we making to the lives of children and young people?

- 4.10.7 We know that the biggest impact to a child's outcomes at the end of the Foundation Stage is having had access to their Early Education Entitlement (EEE). By driving up our take-up rates we are ensuring a greater number of disadvantaged children are having the opportunity to access good quality Early Education which will enhance their development, support more children to be school ready leading to better outcomes when they are 5.
- 4.10.8 We are funding WellComm toolkits in all Early Years Education settings and providing training for practitioners specifically linked to Speech, Language and Communication. The Speech and Language UK project has been a positive extension of our local WellComm project. Feedback from the Early Talk and Early Talk Boost has been very positive, and it has also allowed settings to notice patterns and trends in their setting that they may not have known without this project. All settings have found that their 2-3-year-old group is

outperforming their 3-4-year-old group. This is key as we know the 3-4-year-olds would have been more affected by the impacts of COVID-19 compared to the 2-year-old group. It is also vital information that we can share with all Birmingham schools so that they are aware of the communication and language areas of development that this project is identifying.

- 4.10.9 Through the EYHWB contract with Birmingham Forward Steps (BFS), children and families are now benefitting from integrated and collective working between Children's Centres and Health Visiting teams. BFS partners have strong links with Early Help/Birmingham Children's Trust and work collaboratively as evidenced by presence at CASS front door..

What are our plans to maintain/continue to improve in the next 12 months?

- 4.10.10 We will continue to focus on driving up participation in the early education entitlements including the new entitlements for working parent announced in the Government's Budget in March 2023. As part of this we are working on a collaborative project with NESTA aimed at improving the take up of early education in our diverse communities which will result in a data tool that can be used within the City Observatory and will enable us to target and address barriers to take-up within specific communities/areas of the city.
- 4.10.11 Improving Outcomes through Transition and Speech, Language and Communication - Our priority now is transitions for children moving this September. We will be working with admissions to ascertain key information regarding which settings feed into each school, with the aim of sharing this information with Schools and Private, Voluntary and Independent providers (PVI), so they know where their children are coming from/going to. In June 2023, in partnership with schools and Maintained Nursery Schools, we will facilitate pilot transition cluster events. This offer will be extended to all 10 districts next summer. These cluster transition events will be an opportunity for Schools and the PVI's to meet up to discuss transition for the children starting school in September 2023. We will continue to extend the project work across early years. The Balance System and Family Hubs will support a consistent approach to Speech Language and Communications (SLC) evidence informed interventions including WellComm and Early Talk and Early Talk Boost.
- 4.10.12 Workforce Development - This is a significant priority area. In partnership with the West Midlands Stronger Practice Hub, we will strengthen communications with the sector to better support providers to access the training and development opportunities available to them.
- 4.10.13 Development of Family Hubs - Leading the Home Learning Environment (HLE) and Early Language Support (ELS) work strand of the Family Hubs Programme, ensuring that this builds on current work within the service such as the Balanced System and Birmingham Early Years Networks.

- 4.10.14 Information and Systems development - An area we need to improve is the information available to parents. We are working on completing several improvements to our data and information systems which are linked to Impulse Nexus. This will give us enhanced data and information storage solutions which allows better reporting, better data matching and a more coherent way of storing data and information. We will continue to review the website to ensure it is easy to navigate and information being provided is accessible, relevant, and accurate.

4.11 **Children and Young People's Travel Service**

- 4.11.1 An Assistant Director for the Children and Young People's Travel Service (CYPTS) took up post in January 2023 and progress continues to be made to improve the service.
- 4.11.2 The CYPTS now has a central database of students and contracts (365) which will significantly improve the data processing that underpins most of the service operation functions.
- 4.11.3 New Application and Eligibility Panels have ensured a robust application process that identifies needs, manages demand, and ensures a sustainable service that protects provision for students and families that need Transport support whilst encouraging parental involvement and student development.
- 4.11.4 The new CYPTS Travel Training Service has been a great success story and many more students are now able to access public transport to support school attendance and engagement with local community and services.
- 4.11.5 Recruitment has started to the new approved structure for the service, giving greater security to the service and ability to move to locality working, developing greater relationships with local stakeholders and families.

4.12 **Youth Service**

- 4.12.1 Birmingham Youth Service operates from 16 centres in Birmingham and works with young people aged 11–25 with the core group being 13 – 19 years old. It is an open access service open to all young people.
- 4.12.2 Most of our youth centres are in areas of high deprivation and therefore reach the most vulnerable. In addition to our youth centres, we also deliver city-wide project work in priority areas such as sexual health, youth violence and youth voice.
- 4.12.3 Birmingham Youth Service empowers young people to achieve and live their best life by creating a safe space where they can access high quality youth service. The Service worked with 7,010 individual young people and had 97,245 attendances in 2022/23.

4.12.4 Our 16 safe spaces and the relationship built with the young person creates the right environment for the young person to feel safe and have a trusted adult to share their concerns and fears as well as their hopes and aspirations. It also allows the youth worker to get to know the young person and help them to overcome their challenges and barriers as well as reaching their goals and aspirations.

4.12.5 Each youth centre provides:

- Information, Advice and Support to young people by a qualified youth worker
- A safe place for young people – somewhere they can be emotionally and physically safe.
- A positive relationship with a “trusted adult” (the youth worker) which is built on honesty, respect and is non-judgemental.
- The Umbrella Scheme – provides sexual health programmes, STI testing and condom distribution.
- Targeted programmes – examples include PVE, youth violence, sexual health, health, and employment.
- Opportunities for young people to get involved in activities, examples include drama, sports, events, residential experiences.
- Volunteering Opportunities
- Youth Participation – an opportunity for young person’s voice to be heard.
- Intensive support for NEET young people
- Resilience 2 Resolve Youth Violence programme

4.13 **Support to Families Through Household Support Fund and Holiday Activities and Food Programme**

4.13.1 Over the last few years, we have been able to support families over school holidays with the Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF). The programme provides supports families, children, and young people to access sports and other activities as well as healthy food during school holidays.

4.13.2 The programme is the biggest of its kinds in the country helping children, young people and their parents have fulfilling, active, fun-filled, and healthy school holidays. There are lots of events, free ideas, and resources for keeping children and young people busy, indoor, and outdoor games, cookery skills, arts and crafts, sports, fitness and dance, health and wellbeing, quizzes, park activities, nature trails and more. The holiday clubs are designed for children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals.

4.14 **Sufficiency**

4.14.1 Two applications submitted by the Council for the creation of free schools for children with special educational needs were approved by the DfE earlier this

year. The extra places that will be provided by these new schools will ease pressure on Birmingham's existing special schools and ensure children are able to access the provision they need. Unlike the usual free school process, the council will take the lead on identifying an appropriate sponsor to run the school, though the final decision will lie with the school's minister.

4.15 Overall Performance Indicators

4.15.1 The table below illustrates corporate performance KPIs reported for 2022/23:

Report Cycle	1			2			3			4		
Measure Title	Target	Result	RAG	Target	Result	RAG	Target	Result	RAG	Target	Result	RAG
Absence Rate: Primary	4.00%	5.00%		4.00%	5.00%		4.00%	5.00%		4.00%	6.90%	
Absence Rate: Secondary	6.00%	6.30%		6.00%	6.30%		6.00%	6.30%		6.00%	8.60%	
BCT Measure: Average social worker caseload	15	19.7		15	20		15	18		15	18	
BCT Measure: Percentage of children in care experiencing three or more moves within a year	10.00%	7.00%		10.00%	8.00%		10.00%	8.00%		10.00%	9.00%	
BCT Measure: Percentage of children who become the subject of a Child Protection plan for a second or subsequent time within the last 2 years	10.00%	11.00%		10.00%	12.00%		10.00%	12.00%		10.00%	12.00%	
BCT Measure: Re-referral Rate	22.00%	18.70%		22.00%	15.00%		22.00%	21.00%		22.00%	21.00%	
Care leavers in suitable accommodation aged 19, 20 or 21	93.00%	92.00%		93.00%	90.00%		93.00%	91.00%		93.00%	93.00%	
Early Years Entitlement: Percentage of 2-year-olds accessing Early Education Entitlement (EEE) (compared to statistical neighbours and national average)	72.00%	67.00%		72.00%	67.00%		72.00%	69.00%		72.00%	67.00%	
Early Years Entitlement: Percentage of 3 and 4-year-olds accessing 15 hours Early Education Entitlement (EEE)	92.00%	86.00%		92.00%	86.00%		92.00%	91.00%		92.00%	90.00%	
Number of children and young people (aged 5-16) with an EHCP awaiting specialist placements for more than 12 weeks	0.00%	0.00%		N/A	244		N/A	278		N/A	327	
Number of individual children attending the HAF programme: Winter holiday							15000	13104		15000	13104	
Number of meals taken up by children through the HAF: Winter holiday							60000	58787		60000	58787	
Number of NEET's aged between 16 and 18 engaged in support to help them into education, training, apprenticeships and jobs	1049	1112		1049	1127		1049	725.3		1049	871	
Percentage of 16 and 17 year olds that are Not in Education, Employment or Training'	5.00%	3.50%		5.00%	3.80%		5.00%	2.20%		5.00%	2.70%	
Percentage of care leavers who are in Education, Employment, and Training	62.00%	63.00%		62.00%	62.00%		62.00%	60.00%		62.00%	61.00%	
Percentage of new Education Health Care (EHC) plans issued within 20 weeks, excluding exceptions	65.00%	68.90%		65.00%	63.00%		65.00%	65.00%		65.00%	67.00%	
Primary school exclusion rate	0.01%	0.02%		0.01%	0.02%		0.01%	0.02%		0.01%	0.02%	
Proportion of eligible pupils transported to school	99.50%	1		99.50%	99.90%		99.50%	99.98%		99.50%	99.50%	
Secondary school exclusions rate	0.10%	0.12%		0.10%	0.12%		0.10%	0.12%		0.10%	0.12%	
Special School Exclusion rate	0.05%	0.07%		0.05%	0.07%		0.05%	0.07%		0.05%	0.07%	

4.16 Birmingham Children's Trust

General Update and Context

4.16.1 Birmingham Children's Trust was established in 2018 by the City Council. Its job was to build a new organisation that would establish the conditions that enabled good social work to thrive in the city, after many years of 'Inadequate' Ofsted judgements. I am pleased to report that in March the Council approved a new 10-year contract with the Trust. In April Ofsted published the report of its inspection of all Trust services, all rated 'Good', and on (26 May the Government confirmed they have lifted the Improvement Direction on the Council after over ten years)

- 4.16.2 These achievements are as a result of extraordinary hard work and commitment from everyone in the Trust, superbly led by its directors and assistant directors, and of some real support and commitment from partners in public and voluntary services right across the city, starting of course with Birmingham City Council.
- 4.16.3 The removal of the government's Improvement Direction after 10 years is a significant milestone and testament to the hard work of everyone across the Trust and Council along with our partners. We know there is more to do but we are providing much better outcomes for our children and families and these improvements are ongoing and sustained.
- 4.16.4 The Council would like to put on record our thanks to Andy Couldrick and Andrew Christie for their fantastic work over the last few years. Andrew intends to retire, and the Council has agreed to Andy assuming the Chair's role once a replacement Chief Executive is recruited. We wish them well, and acknowledge the massive contribution that they have made to the health, safety and wellbeing of our most vulnerable young people.

Current Update

- 4.16.5 We continue to manage unprecedented levels of demand in all areas of our work. Caseloads in some parts of the service are higher than we would wish, and we have sought to support practice by moving resources to establish new and different services.
- 4.16.6 Care numbers have risen, but in line with our projections. However, care costs have risen more steeply, a consequence of a broken market, insufficiency, the impact of regulation and, critically, a sharp rise in the degree of complexity of need we are dealing with.
- 4.16.7 The numbers of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children arriving in Birmingham have also impacted upon the numbers, as they become children in care, and then care leavers. A relatively recent feature, driving up numbers, is the placement by the Home Office of children into adult hotels in the city. These young people have been initially mis-assessed as adults at port of entry and are then assessed and cared for as children by the Trust.
- 4.16.8 Recruitment and retention remains a challenge. We are simply unable to compete with the rates paid by social work agencies and, as authorities get into trouble, increasingly they reach for whole teams of agency workers to pick up work: the hourly rates paid are high. While the region works to address this, a national solution is needed. The Government, in its response to the Care Review, has produced some bold proposals to tackle this issue.
- 4.16.9 Despite the challenges we face, performance has remained strong, quality of practice has improved, the range of services we offer has grown, and we remain optimistic about our work, our partnerships and our impact on children, young people and families.

Contract Review

- 4.16.10 In March 2023 Cabinet agreed a new 10-year contract term. This reflects the confidence that has built in the Trust over its first five years of life, as well as the depth of relationship with the Council, both elected members and officers.

Performance and Inspection Outcomes

- 4.16.11 In 2022/23, the Trust has performed well in relation to the contractual performance indicators.
- 4.16.12 Areas of particularly strong performance in the year have included placement stability for children in care; care leavers living in suitable accommodation; timely reviews for children in care and initial child protection conferences.

Ofsted Inspection

- 4.16.13 In April, Ofsted published the outcome of the ILACS inspection that took place from 20 February to 3 March 2023. It judged children's social care services in Birmingham to be Good. This comes after a decade of 'Inadequate' judgements up to 2018. In effect, services have improved to Good in a five-year, single inspection cycle. That two of these five years were spent in unprecedented circumstances of pandemic, lockdown and post-pandemic readjustment, the achievement is all the more noteworthy.
- 4.16.14 Ofsted made four recommendations, for the Trust and the wider partnership, which will help services to further strengthen:
- the effectiveness of the response to domestic abuse.
 - earlier pre-birth assessments to support early permanence planning, and timely action to progress permanence plans for children in stable placements through changes to legal status.
 - earlier engagement of personal advisers for children leaving care.
 - consistency of written plans.
- 4.16.15 The Adoption service was inspected in December 2022 and was judged to continue to be Good with an Outstanding judgement for Leadership and Management.
- 4.16.16 Our Fostering service is Good.
- 4.16.17 Charles House residential home was inspected in April 2021 and judged 'requires improvement'. Ofsted's visit in December 2022 judged the home to be Good with Outstanding for leadership and management.
- 4.16.18 Ofsted undertook an assurance visit of Edgewood Road on 28 March 2023. Whilst the home remains 'requires improvement to be good', Ofsted

acknowledged that previous concerns had been addressed and no further requirements were placed on the home.

Youth Offending Services

- 4.16.19 A youth offending services inspection in December 2022 judged the service as 'requires improvement'. During the inspection, HMIP identified some areas of significant improvement. The inspectorate acknowledged the commitment of the Partnership Board and the substantial work that has been invested in developing and enhancing the Board.
- 4.16.20 Inspectors identified a number of areas where more work is required, all of which were already understood by the service and featured in our service development plan. We are determined to continue to transform and modernise the service as we wish to deliver the very best services to our children, families, victims, and communities.

Finance

- 4.16.21 A contract sum has been agreed for 2023/24 of £272m, which includes an allowance of 8.25% for inflation pressures to enable the Trust to increase foster care rates and other care-related payments. This represents a real term increase of £24m and reflects the overspend for 2022/23 reported previously.
- 4.16.22 We will continue to work closely with the Council, and work hard to manage and mitigate the financial pressure, the key drivers of which include:
- increasing demand for services.
 - growing numbers in care.
 - complexity of need and risk.
 - absence of appropriate care placements.
 - rising numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking young people.
- 4.16.23 Children's social care, nationally, remains under acute pressure with rising demand, lack of sufficiency and reducing numbers of foster carers. It is understood the Government is planning for a further £1.7bn investment in 2024/25 across social care. It will be for the Council to determine the split of this between adults and children's social care.

Risks or Areas of Concern

- 4.16.24 The Trust continues to be a key part of system leadership across the city and will want to play a full role in the Year of Change for Children. There are some key partnership challenges that we need to address in the coming year. Successful progress will impact positively on demand for Trust services as well as promoting better outcomes through different and earlier response. Examples include:

- responding to the challenge of domestic abuse and homelessness for women and children – this drives a substantial amount of work in the Trust. The absence of any perpetrator programmes in the city is a particular concern, and one noted by Ofsted.
- children's and parental mental ill health: increasing amounts of Trust resources used as a consequence of delivery and definitional issues around mental health. A better joint, and joined-up, response is required. Birmingham's CAMH services have recently been inspected and judged 'Inadequate' by the CQC. This might offer an opportunity to collaborate over different and more integrated and collaborative service offer
- contextual and transitional safeguarding: increasing the strength of the partner response to safeguarding risks outside of the family and across the life course.
- early intervention and prevention: the work in the Council is progressing and there are real opportunities to build greater prevention into the role of universal services in the city.

4.16.25 We are well-placed to continue to rise to these challenges and maintain the trajectory of improvement we have set hitherto, maintaining effective collaboration with the Council and all of our partners.

4.16.26 We will respond to our recent inspections, of the Trust's social care service and of the Youth Offending Service, and continue to drive improvement.

Impact from the Cost of Living/Energy Crisis

4.16.27 The Trust continues to work with the Council and other partners to develop a coherent response to the cost-of-living crisis and the challenge of keeping warm this winter. We are concerned to ensure that family poverty is addressed and supported rather than referred to the Trust as a type of neglect. We are working with BVSC to ensure that the Household Support Fund is delivered quickly and efficiently to young people and families experiencing hardship. We have implemented hardship projects for care leavers, asylum seekers and children and families with no recourse to public funds as part of this. The announcement that the HSF will extend into 2023/24 is very much welcomed and allow the Trust to work with the Council to continue to support vulnerable children and families.

4.16.28 We will continue to offer innovative holiday schemes in some of our most challenged communities, using Holiday Activities with Food resources and working in partnership with the Council, StreetGames, our delivery partners, and local voluntary organisations. We will ensure we target those who are vulnerable or 'hard to reach', working with our third sector partners including Bfriends, our own established charity.

Protected Characteristic: Care Experience

4.16.29 The Independent Review into Children's Social Care recommended that the "Government should make care experience a protected characteristic". It

asserted that this would provide greater authority to employers, businesses, public services and policy makers to put in place policies that promote better outcomes for care experienced people.

- 4.16.30 In Birmingham we have around 850 care-experienced young people aged 18-21 years and around 440 aged 22-25 years. Over the last 3 to 4 years on average 250 care experienced young people turn 18. As is reflected nationally 40% of care-experienced young people aged 19-21 are not in any education, training or employment (NEET). Figures nationally for all 16-25 years is 10.4% (2022 ONS figures). Whilst congruent with national averages it illustrates the challenges that care-experienced young people face locally when making their way into adulthood.
- 4.16.31 In April 2023 Full Council approved the motion for Care Experience to be recognised as a Protected Characteristic. For the motion to be realised it is important that a clear set of outcomes be identified. Key actions need to be scoped out, aligned and approved so that this forms the basis for the response of the council, the trust and its partners to the motion and its duty to fulfil its corporate parenting responsibilities.

Pressures and Challenges

- 4.16.32 Recruitment and retention in key teams and specialisms. Specifically, agency social workers: this has remained persistently higher than we would want. While we perform better than regional and statistical neighbours, we continue to refine and improve our offer to make the Trust an attractive place to come, and to stay, to build a good social work career.
- 4.16.33 There have been significant issues with access to financial reporting, identification of income, management reporting etc as a result of the implementation of Oracle.
- 4.16.34 School sufficiency, and in particular an ongoing need for additional SEND places within special and mainstream schools. Capacity has been significantly increased in recent years and we will continue to focus on increasing capacity. We are developing a robust SEND sufficiency strategy that will underpin the commissioning of appropriate special school places. Since 2015, special schools have admitted over 600 more pupils. We are currently working with five of our special schools on capital proposals to increase places further. DfE has approved a bid for two new special free schools.
- 4.16.35 It has been a challenging year, but we are seeing improvements throughout the directorate which we will build on.

Birmingham City Council

City Council

13 June 2023



Subject: Housing Ombudsman Special Report (update)

Report of: Paul Langford, Interim Strategic Director of City Housing

Report author: Naomi Morris, Head of Strategic Enabling

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential:

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members on the ongoing engagement with the Housing Ombudsman following 'The Special Report on Birmingham City Council' published by the Housing Ombudsman in January 2023. [Birmingham-Special-Report-FINAL-January-2023-1.pdf \(housing-ombudsman.org.uk\)](#)
- 1.2 This document will outline the main aspects of the report in relation to the complaints procedure failings and the recommendations set out by the Housing Ombudsman to direct the development of Birmingham City Council's action plan to prevent further maladministration.

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That City Council notes the report.

3 Background

- 3.1 The special report identified 14 cases that fell within the scope of this investigation during the six-month monitoring period. All complaints concerned the landlord's handling of repairs and the subsequent complaint and compensation process, and focuses on the 14 cases between 2017-2020, of these there were 5 severe maladministration cases.

- 3.2 Following the report in January 2023, Birmingham City Council were required to publish and provide the Ombudsman an action plan based on an independent review within three months of the report, including recommendations towards repairs, record keeping, complaint handling and compensation.
- 3.3 Succeeding the Action plan being completed and provided, formal monitoring commenced in January 2023 with the Ombudsman monthly, which concluded on 26 April 2023.
- 3.4 Since the formal monitoring period ended, there have been two severe maladministration cases published which are focused on repairs and one maladministration case focused on Housing Management. These are historic cases dated between 2020-2021 and it is likely we will see more of these over the next few months. A new corporate complaints process was introduced in May 2021 which preceded the date of the cases included in the Paragraph 49 investigation. This included bringing in additional dedicated resources with the objective of delivering a consistently high standard of service, reducing delays and improving the quality of responses.
- 3.5 Housing Ombudsman Action plan is monitored through a weekly complaints action group, monthly compliance delivery group and then monthly compliance board. New resources have been deployed to work closely with services on all Ombudsman activity, particularly around repairs.
- 3.6 CLT assurance board and Cabinet Member briefing structure have been amended to provide a specific slot for Ombudsman activity, this shows corporate oversight.
- 3.7 On 18 May 2023, the Ombudsman contacted Birmingham City Council confirming we have complied with the recommendations, acknowledging the action plan and new policies in place to address the failings identified in the report. Further emphasis was advised towards the importance of monitoring and acting on outstanding repairs through accurate record keeping and effectively responding to complaints, offering appropriate compensation through its complaints policy.
- 3.8 The Ombudsman will be meeting with Birmingham City Council on 7th August 2023 to mutually deliver a 'Meet the Ombudsman' event with the purpose of sharing knowledge from the overall engagement, tenants will have the opportunity to ask questions and learn from this session. This consultation was requested by The Ombudsman due to the high level of satisfaction from our engagement and progression following the Special report.
- 3.9 The Ombudsman will continue to monitor us to ensure the plans in place are put into action and embedded in the culture of the landlord. They are satisfied with the Para 49 Action plan created, and a further six months has been granted to ensure all measures are incorporated, returning to review this in approximately December 2023.

4 Options considered and Recommended Proposal

4.1 None.

5 Legal Implications

5.1 The Ombudsman makes the final decision on disputes between us and our residents. All decisions are independent, impartial and fair, promoting positive change in the housing sector.

5.2 When the Ombudsman published the special report, they made a referral to the Regulator of Social Housing who have since issued a Regulatory Notice against Birmingham City Council. This is common practice when they undertake any form of deep dive investigation.

5.3 Our engagement with the Regulator will continue for an undefined period, until Birmingham City Council has been able to assure the Regulator that compliance has been achieved against both the Home Standard and Tenant Involvement and Engagement standard.

5.4 The publication of unlawful decision making from Birmingham City Council from both the Ombudsman and the Regulator impacts our tenants negatively and instigates a breakdown of trust between BCC and our tenants, damaging our reputation publicly.

6 Financial Implications

6.1 The Ombudsman's investigations and identification of Birmingham City Council's maladministration proceeded to financial repercussions for the organisation. During 1 April 2022 to 31st March 2023. 38 (37%) LGO matters were upheld, and £62,611.00 was paid in compensation.

6.2 Additionally in March 2023, £11,500 compensation was paid for 5 upheld Housing Solution matters.

6.3 Birmingham City Council are developing a compensation policy to provide additional governance around spending, ensuring payments are consistent. A draft Compensation Policy was sent to the Housing Ombudsman for review and comments on 23 March 2023.

7 Public Sector Equality Duty

7.1 None.

8 Other Implications

8.1 **How are the recommended decisions consistent with the City Council's priorities, plans and strategies?**

- 8.2 Birmingham City Council's 'Corporate Plan 2022-2026' sets out our mission to support, serve and level up.
- 8.3 Positive engagement with the Housing Ombudsman demonstrates that we are supporting our tenants effectively, contributing to making Birmingham a great place to live.
- 8.4 The Ombudsman contribute to the Council giving citizens a voice and enabling them to be heard.

9 Background Papers

- 9.1 None

10 Appendices

- 10.1 None

Birmingham City Council

City Council

13 June 2023



Subject: Motions for Debate from Individual Members
Report of: Janie Berry, City Solicitor (Monitoring Officer)
Report author: Ben Patel-Sadler, Senior Committee Manager
Ben.Patel-Sadler@birmingham.gov.uk

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential :

1 Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 To consider the following Motions of which notice has been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules (section B4.4 G of the Constitution).

2 Notices of Motion

A. Councillors Ewan Mackey and Richard Parkin have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

“Council notes that July sees the 6th anniversary of the death of Daniel Baird and commends the work of the Daniel Baird foundation since then to raise awareness of and access to bleed kits across the country and the work of the West Midlands Police and West Midlands Fire Service to work with the foundation.

Council notes its disappointment at the lack of concrete action by the Council since 2019 to implement the recommendations of the Full Council motion on bleed kits.

This Council recognises the importance of having defibrillators and bleed kits accessible, especially in public spaces, sports grounds and Government funded facilities.

This Council understands the role that it has in facilitating the delivery of new defibrillators and bleed kits across our City in collaboration with the voluntary and community sector, businesses and partner organisations.

This Council acknowledges the benefits of the rollout of defibrillators by the Government to all state-funded schools that currently don't have one, with over 20,000 expected to be delivered by the end of the academic year to 18,000 schools.

This Council commits to working with the local community to find suitable places to place defibrillators, acknowledging that they are most effective within 3 minutes of a person collapsing.

This Council, therefore, resolves to commission a report into the accessibility of defibrillators and bleed kits in Birmingham and take any steps necessary to ensure that there is a defibrillator and bleed kit within a 3-minute radius of our local centres and high-streets including a campaign of improved public awareness of where these are and how to use them as well."

B. Councillors Colin Green and Zaker Choudhry have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

"Council notes that:

The current bus network does not serve the residents of Birmingham as well as it could.

The general population feel discouraged from switching because journey times can be long, buses are seen to be unreliable, some services are infrequent, and facilities to shelter in whilst waiting are inadequate in poor weather.

There is inconsistency across the city in the efficacy of the network. Some areas are well served; others have unreasonable commute times using public transport – two or three times as long as by car.

People will only switch to buses when the service meets their needs, so supply needs to precede demand.

Getting people onto public transport and out of cars vital for reducing congestion, and this is a key pledge for the Council's "route to zero" commitment which aims for carbon neutrality by 2030, and the WMCA ambition of carbon neutral travel by 2041. The green paper stated that 92% of respondents were concerned about climate change.

Leaving the car at home and using a bus encourages leaving the car at home and walking or cycling, although it was noted in the feedback that dangerous and busy roads deter people from switching.

Buses are a critical component of Birmingham's public transport network. Bus routes, frequency and reliability are key to establishing a policy for a region, and

having a holistic view is imperative to creating a functioning service. This is particularly important for groups with additional needs e.g. families with children, wheelchair users, commuters, people with certain health conditions etc.

Since the pandemic, services have been cut, and reliability has been patchy. Bus scheduling shouldn't be devolved to private companies but should be run for the public good.

Local government is best placed to decide routes, timetables and fares to encourage people out of cars.

The Government's requirements are for half of all journeys in towns and cities to be carried out by walking, cycling and public transport by 2030. This means a 'London-style' transport system in cities across the country to make public transport accessible and the natural choice.

The WMCA is best placed to ensure that the transport network enables people to make better journeys, but they lack the powers needed to have oversight of the system, spending funds on projects instead of improving regularity and reliability.

Council calls on the WMCA and Westminster to end deregulation of Birmingham's bus network and dramatically improve bus travel, so that we have a first-class transport system by 2030, coinciding with HS2 completion.

Council calls for improvements to bus services to begin with immediate effect, so that improvements can be seen year on year."

