



**MEETING OF BIRMINGHAM
CITY COUNCIL, TUESDAY,
9 JANUARY 2024**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL HELD
ON TUESDAY, 9 JANUARY 2024 AT 1400 HOURS IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT:- Lord Mayor (Councillor Chaman Lal) in the Chair.

Councillors

Akhlaq Ahmed
Gurdial Singh Atwal
David Barker
Matt Bennett
Sir Albert Bore
Marje Bridle
Zaker Choudhry
Maureen Cornish
Jack Deakin
Barbara Dring
Ray Goodwin
Fred Grindrod
Kath Hartley
Jon Hunt
Timothy Huxtable
Katherine Iroh
Brigid Jones
Ayoub Khan
Narinder Kaur Kooner
Mary Locke
Majid Mahmood
Karen McCarthy
Yvonne Mosquito
David Pears
Lauren Rainbow
Rinkal Shergill
Saima Suleman
Paul Tilsley
Ian Ward
Waseem Zaffar

Deirdre Alden
Raqeeb Aziz
David Barrie
Jilly Bermingham
Nicky Brennan
Martin Brooks
Debbie Clancy
John Cotton
Adrian Delaney
Jayne Francis
Rob Grant
Roger Harmer
Adam Higgs
Mumtaz Hussain
Mohammed Idrees
Kerry Jenkins
Jane Jones
Saqib Khan
Kirsten Kurt-Elli
Ewan Mackey
Rashad Mahmood
Saddak Miah
Richard Parkin
Rob Pocock
Darius Sandhu
Sybil Spence
Jamie Tennant
Lisa Trickett
Ken Wood

Robert Alden
Shabina Bano
Baber Baz
Marcus Bernasconi
Kerry Brewer
Mick Brown
Liz Clements
Phil Davis
Diane Donaldson
Sam Forsyth
Colin Green
Deborah Harries
Des Hughes
Shabrana Hussain
Zafar Iqbal
Meirion Jenkins
Amar Khan
Izzy Knowles
Bruce Lines
Basharat Mahmood
Lee Marsham
Gareth Moore
Rick Payne
Julien Pritchard
Shafique Shah
Ron Storer
Sharon Thompson
Penny Wagg
Alex Yip

NOTICE OF RECORDING

215 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 INTERESTS

216 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.

There were no declarations of interests made by Members.

MINUTES

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and –

217 **RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the City Council meeting held on 5 December 2023 be taken as read and confirmed and signed.

LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord Mayor informed the Council that his first announcement of 2024 was a sad one, as he advised the Chamber of the death of former Councillor Margaret Byrne, who passed away on 9 December 2023.

Margaret served as a Councillor for Shard End Ward from 2000 to 2010; during which time she served on numerous Committees.

Margaret had four children, Jeanette, David, Dianne and Joanne; eight grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

218 It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and:-

RESOLVED:-

That this Council placed on record its sorrow at the death of former Councillor Margaret Byrne and its appreciation of her devoted service to the residents of Birmingham.

The Council extended its deepest sympathy to Margaret's family in their sad bereavement.

Members and officers stood for a minute's silence, following which a

number of tributes were made by Members.

The Lord Mayor's second announcement related to those mentioned in The King's Birthday Honours list this year, for services to Birmingham or who lived in Birmingham.

Awarded an OBE:

- Ian Woodroffe

An MBE:

- Chitraloka Bolar
- Gillian Clayton
- Dr Edward Day
- Ivora Maria Ferreira-Bean
- William Gavan
- Christiana Melam

And the British Empire Medal:

- Frances Lee

219 It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and:-

RESOLVED:-

That this Council joined the Lord Mayor in congratulating them all on these marvelous achievements.

PETITIONS

Petitions Relating to City Council Functions Presented at the Meeting

The following petitions were presented:-

(See document No. 1, 'Additional Meeting Documents')

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

220 **RESOLVED:-**

That the petitions were received and referred to the relevant Chief Officer(s).

Petitions Update

A Petitions Update had been made available electronically:-

(See document No. 2, 'Additional Meeting Documents')

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and

221 **RESOLVED:-**

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

QUESTION TIME

222 The Council proceeded to consider Oral Questions in accordance with Council Rules of Procedure (B4.4 F of the Constitution).

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

APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

Councillor John Cotton addressed the Council and it was-

223 **RESOLVED:-**

1.) That City Council approved the appointment of the following individuals to serve on the Independent Remuneration Panel:

ROLE	APPOINTEE	TERM OF OFFICE
Independent Remuneration Panel – Citizen Representative	Veronica Docherty	January 2024 – December 2027
Independent Remuneration Panel – Citizen Representative	Muhammed Ali	January 2024 – December 2027
Independent Remuneration Panel – TUC Appointed Member	Frank Duffy	January 2024 – December 2027
Independent Remuneration Panel – Co-opted Member (former Councillor)	TBC	TBC

2.) That the appointments be made to serve on the Committees and other bodies set out below:-

Councillor Katherine Iroh was appointed as the new Labour Group Secretary.

Council Business Management Committee:

Councillor Katherine Iroh replaced Councillor Des Hughes.

Councillor Ray Goodwin replaced Councillor Miranda Perks.

SCRUTINY INQUIRY ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH: IS BIRMINGHAM MEETING YOUNG PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS?

A report of Councillor Mick Brown was submitted:-

(See document No. 3, agenda item 8)

Councillor Mick Brown moved the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Paul Tilsley.

Councillor Gareth Moore declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a Trustee of Birmingham LGBT and Birmingham Citizens Advice who both held contracts with the NHS.

A debate ensued.

Councillors Gareth Moore, Julien Pritchard, Karen McCarthy, Baber Baz, Kerry Jenkins and Kirsten Kurt-Elli spoke during the debate.

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor Mick Brown to sum up.

It was therefore-

224

RESOLVED:-

That City Council agreed to:

- 1.) Approve recommendations R01 to R05, set out in Appendix 1, and that the Executive be requested to pursue their implementation.
- 2.) Approve recommendations R06 to R25, set out in Appendix 1, prior to consideration at the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 23 January 2024.

ROUTE TO NET ZERO ANNUAL REPORT 2023

A report of Councillor Majid Mahmood was submitted:-

(See document No. 4, agenda item 9).

Councillor Majid Mahmood moved the recommendation which was seconded from the floor..

A debate ensued.

Councillors Timothy Huxtable, Roger Harmer, Julien Pritchard, Diane Donaldson and Liz Clements spoke during the debate.

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor Majid Mahmood to sum up.

It was therefore-

225

RESOLVED:-

1.) That City Council noted the report.

ADJOURNMENT

226 It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and-

RESOLVED:-

That the Council be adjourned until 1710 hours on this day.

The Council then adjourned at 1640 hours.

At 1710 hours the Council resumed at the point where the meeting had been adjourned.

LEAD MEMBER REPORT: WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

A report of Councillor Basharat Mahmood was submitted:-

(See document No. 5, agenda item 10).

Councillor Basharat Mahmood moved the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor David Barrie.

A debate ensued.

Councillors Phil Davis and Gareth Moore spoke during the debate.

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor Basharat Mahmood to sum up.

It was therefore-

227 **RESOLVED:-**

1.) That City Council noted the report.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

A report of the Interim City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer was submitted:-

(See document No. 6, agenda item 11).

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

The Lord Mayor informed Council that there was one amendment to be debated with the report (see document No. 7, agenda item 11).

Councillor Meirion Jenkins moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Robert Alden.

A debate ensued.

Councillors Fred Grindrod, Paul Tilsley and Miranda Perks spoke during the debate.

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor John Cotton to sum up.

The amendment to the report in the names of Councillors Meirion Jenkins and Robert Alden having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be lost.

Names were called and the Chamber doors were locked.

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

For the amendment (21)

Matt Bennett	Robert Alden	Gareth Moore
Meirion Jenkins	David Barrie	Ken Wood
Ewan Mackey	Timothy Huxtable	Adrian Delaney
Adam Higgs	Bruce Lines	Ron Storer
Julien Pritchard	Rick Payne	Robert Alden
David Pears	Richard Parkin	Debbie Clancy
Darius Sandhu	Kerry Brewer	Rob Grant

Against the amendment (52)

Ray Goodwin	Mary Locke	Diane Donaldson
Des Hughes	Miranda Perks	Karen McCarthy
Jamie Tennant	Sharon Thompson	Brigid Jones
Saqib Khan	Shafique Shah	Saddak Miah
Paul Tilsley	Kirsten Kurt-Elli	Mumtaz Hussain
Jayne Francis	Saima Suleman	John Cotton
Lisa Trickett	Shabrana Hussain	Basharat Mahmood
Marje Bridle	Lauren Rainbow	Mohammed Idrees
Waseem Zaffar	Rashad Mahmood	Phil Davis
Shehla Moledina	Ian Ward	Majid Mahmood
Liz Clements	Rinkal Shergill	Zafar Iqbal
Kath Hartley	Raqeeb Aziz	Kath Scott
Colin Green	Sir Albert Bore	Deborah Harries
Kerry Jenkins	Jane Jones	Amar Khan
Akhlaq Ahmed	David Barker	Jilly Bermingham
Fred Grindrod	Lee Marsham	Mick Brown
Izzy Knowles	Marcus Bernasconi	Martin Brooks
Rob Pocock		

Abstentions (5)

Roger Harmer	Baber Baz	Penny Wagg
Ayoub Khan	Zaker Choudhry	

It was therefore-

228

RESOLVED:-

That City Council:

- 1.) Approved the amendments to the Terms of Reference for Audit Committee (Part B14 of the Constitution), set out in Appendix 1
- 2.) Agreed that the City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer be authorised to implement the changes (set out in 2.1) with effect from 10 January 2024.
- 3.) Noted that on 12 December 2024 Cabinet approved the creation of a 'Cabinet Committee – Property' in order to expedite asset sales to support the delivery of the Council-wide strategy for the 2024/25 financial year, with the terms of reference set out in Section 7.
- 4.) Noted the timeline for delivering a comprehensive review of the Council's Constitution, set out in Section 5.
- 5.) Noted that a cross-party working group, consisting of 5 Members (3 Labour, 1 Conservative and 1 Liberal Democrat), was established by Council Business Management Committee on 18 December to support the Monitoring Officer's review of the constitution.
- 6.) Noted that the Leader of the Council would Chair the Constitution Working Group.

MOTIONS FOR DEBATE FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

The Council proceeded to consider the Motions of which notice had been given in accordance with Council Rules of Procedure (B4.4 G of the Constitution).

A. Councillors Izzy Knowles and Deborah Harries had given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

(See document No. 7, agenda item 12)

Councillor Izzy Knowles moved the Motion which was seconded by Councillor Deborah Harries.

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure, Councillors Rick Payne and Robert Alden gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No. 8, 'Amendments – City Council')

Councillor Rick Payne moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Robert Alden.

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure, Councillors Julien Pritchard and Rob Grant gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No. 9, 'Amendments – City Council')

Councillor Julien Pritchard moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Rob Grant.

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure, Councillors Majid Mahmood and Rashad Mahmood gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No. 10, 'Amendments – City Council')

Councillor Majid Mahmood moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Rashad Mahmood.

A debate ensued.

Councillors Rick Payne and Lisa Trickett, spoke during the debate.

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor Izzy Knowles to sum up.

The amendment to the Motion in the names of Councillors Rick Payne and Robert Alden having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be lost.

The amendment to the Motion in the names of Councillors Julien Pritchard and Rob Grant having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be lost.

The amendment to the Motion in the names of Councillors Majid Mahmood and Rashad Mahmood having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

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

RESOLVED:-

“Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt in the UK, and across the world. The average global temperature has already increased by 1.2°C above pre-industrial levels and alongside this, the natural world has reached crisis point, with 28% of plants and animals threatened with extinction.

The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world as more than one in seven of our plants and animals face extinction, and more than 40% are in decline.

Climate change remains a major concern for UK voters with 66% of people (according to YouGov) expressing they are 'worried about climate change and its effects'.

Alongside this, the popularity of Sir David Attenborough's Save Our Wild Isles initiative demonstrates public concern that UK wildlife is being destroyed at a terrifying speed.

Climate & Ecology Bill

The Climate & Ecology Bill, a private member's bill is expected to go back before the House of Commons in early 2024. It seeks to address the challenges that this situation poses by creating a whole-of-government approach to deliver a net zero and nature positive future.

Based on the latest science, the CE Bill aims to:

- Align current UK environmental policy on the need to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030, which was goal agreed to at COP15, via the Kunming-Montreal Framework (22 December 2022) and;
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the UK's fair share of the remaining global carbon budget to give the strongest chance of limiting global heating to 1.5°C, which was the goal agreed to at COP21, via the Paris Agreement (12 December 2015).

By bridging the gap between the UK Government's current delivery and what has been agreed at international levels, Britain has a chance to be a world leader on climate and the environment; seizing the opportunities of the clean energy transition, including green jobs and skills, reduced energy bills and a boost for the UK's food and energy security.

Council notes that:

In declaring a climate emergency in 2019, it made a commitment to reduce the city's carbon emissions and limit the climate crisis. As part of this declaration, an ambitious target was set for 'the council and city to become net zero carbon by 2030, or as soon as possible thereafter as a just transition allows', going beyond the Government's own net zero by 2050 target.

Birmingham's greenhouse gas emissions have fallen by 37% compared to 2005 levels.

The Climate Change, Nature and Net Zero Programme Board has brought the dual challenge of nature and climate together, to drive forward the council's decarbonisation efforts, and accelerate the City of Nature Plan.

The Climate and Ecology Bill has been introduced in the UK Parliament on four occasions since 2020. It is expected to go before the House in early 2024. It is already supported by:

- Over 130 Cross-party MPs and Peers including 4 of the 10 Birmingham MP's and all Liberal Democrat MP's.
- 40 Lords of which 15 are Lib Dems.
- 329 Local authorities. Birmingham would be the first of the 7 WMCA local authorities to sign up.
- Eminent scientists, such as Sir David King.

- NGOs, such as Friends of the Earth (including the Birmingham branch), The Wildlife Trusts, the Doctors' Association, Oxfam, the W.I. and CPRE.
- Businesses, such as The Co-operative Bank, Riverford and The Body Shop; and 42,000 members of the public.

The Climate and Ecology Bill would require the UK Government to develop and achieve a new environmental strategy, which would include:

1. Delivering a joined-up environmental plan, as the crises in climate and nature are deeply intertwined and require a plan that considers both together.
2. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions in line with 1.5°C to ensure emissions are reduced in line with the best chance of meeting the UK's Paris Agreement obligations.
3. Not only halting, but also reversing the decline in nature, setting nature measurably on the path to recovery by 2030.
4. Taking responsibility for our overseas footprint, both emissions and ecological.
5. Prioritising nature in decision-making.
6. Ending fossil fuel production and imports as rapidly as possible.
7. Providing for re-training for those people currently working in fossil fuel industries; and
8. Giving the British people a say in finding a fair way forward via a temporary, independent, and representative Climate & Nature Assembly, as part of creating consensus and ensuring that no one and no community is left behind.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. Support the Climate and Ecology Bill, subject to central government developing an appropriate environmental delivery strategy, including the provision of appropriate financial and other resources for local authorities;
2. Inform local residents and local press/media of this decision;
3. Write to MPs, Lords and local Environmental groups to inform them that this motion has been passed, and urge them to sign up to support the CE Bill—or thank them for already doing so;
4. Write to Zero Hour, the organisers of the cross-party campaign for the CE Bill, expressing the Council's support (councils@zerohour.uk).
5. Continue the work of the Climate Change, Nature and Net Zero Advisory Committee, which advocates and supports the strategic objectives of the Climate Change, Nature and Net Zero Programme.
6. Encourage discussion about environmentalism and green issues at ward meetings.

7. Ensure that the Route to Zero Strategy remains a top priority during the council's current transformation process.”

Councillor Gareth Moore proposed a 20-minute extension to the meeting. This was seconded from the floor and agreed by Council.

B. Councillors Liz Clements and Lee Marsham had given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

(See document No. 11, agenda item 12)

Councillor Liz Clements moved the Motion which was seconded by Councillor Lee Marsham.

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure, Councillors Deirdre Alden and Timothy Huxtable gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No. 12, 'Amendments – City Council')

Councillor Deirdre Alden moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Timothy Huxtable.

Councillor Deirdre Alden expressed a view that the Motion should be amended or preferably withdrawn due to it naming a member of the public, namely an unelected person which in Councillor Alden's view, resulted in the resources of Council being used to promote a political candidate ahead of a forthcoming election.

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure, Councillors Colin Green and Jon Hunt gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No. 13, 'Amendments – City Council')

Councillor Colin Green addressed the Council, requesting the following amendments to the wording of the original amendment:

That the following lines be removed from the amendment:

“The extensions to the Metro network, both in Digbeth and Broad Street have missed vital opportunities to enhance the cycle network.”

“and recognising the constraints that many residents and businesses such as private hire drivers face in continuing to need private vehicles”.

Councillor Colin Green moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Jon Hunt.

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor Liz Clements to sum up.

The Lord Mayor advised City Council that after considering advice from officers, he would allow the Motion, although he would also ask that the City Solicitor considered the comments made by both Councillors Deirdre Alden and Robert Alden in relation to the Motion and its potential withdrawal.

Council further noted the comments made by Councillor Paul Tilsley, suggesting that the Labour Group may wish to consider removing the name of the individual within the Motion.

Councillor John Cotton addressed the Council and informed Members that the Motion as originally submitted had been cleared via the standard process by the City Solicitor. Therefore, the Motion as originally submitted would not be amended.

The amendment to the Motion in the names of Councillors Deirdre Alden and Timothy Huxtable having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be lost.

The amendment to the Motion in the names of Councillors Colin Green and Jon Hunt having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

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

It was therefore-

RESOLVED:-

“This Council notes that:

Birmingham is experiencing record levels of growth and investment, and developing a world class transport network for the city will be crucial to attract future investment.

The Council has been engaged in careful negotiation with the government for the past 4 years over ongoing highways funding, which would have seen £600 million invested in the city’s roads and highways infrastructure over the next 12 years.

Bus franchising in the West Midlands would see the West Midlands Combined Authority decide routes and fares, giving the region greater control over its bus services.

Labour’s candidate for Mayor of the West Midlands, Richard Parker, has committed to bringing in bus franchising across the region.

The extension of the Metro to East Birmingham would help to break down barriers to employment, reduce congestion on the roads, and improve the air quality in the east of the city.

Progress in extending the Metro to the east of the city centre has been slow. Alongside low levels of funding, the cost of Metro line infrastructure per mile

is a barrier to the development of a genuine network and work needs to be done to reduce its cost.

The arrival of HS2 from London will bring fantastic new opportunities for our city, and the development around Curzon Street Station will transform the area and connect the developments at Smithfield and in Digbeth to expand the footprint of the city centre.

If completed in full, the northern phase of HS2 would put Birmingham at the heart of a transformative network, linking our city with Manchester and Leeds.

The city needs to accelerate its strategy for moving away from the use of fossil fuels including the switch to electric vehicles and active travel, learning from good practice elsewhere.

This Council believes that:

As a growing city, we need a reliable, fully integrated public transport system, and to be connected into a nationwide public transport infrastructure system, in order to realise our full potential.

Unless the Government commits to significant long-term investment in Birmingham's roads and highways, they risk transport chaos across the city.

Bus franchising would bring about improvements to bus services for communities right across the city, connecting people to opportunities and helping them to make the switch away from car usage.

Extending the Metro to the East of Birmingham must be the top priority for the Mayor of the West Midlands.

The short-sighted cancellation of Phase 2 of HS2 is a disaster for Birmingham and will hold back our city's growth, reducing opportunities for our residents.

Simplicity is the key to successfully getting more people out of cars and on to public transport. One significant improvement would be to make multi-modal routes:

- Clear through visual maps of the city.
- Affordable through the availability of shared and fixed price ticketing.

This Council resolves to:

Further lobby the Government to reconsider significant long-term investment in the city's roads and highways infrastructure. Call on the Mayor of the West Midlands to use all of the powers at his disposal to speed up the extension of the Metro to East Birmingham and to bring about a franchising model for the bus network.

Lobby the Mayor and the Government to bring forward meaningful rail solutions that will ease the burden on our existing lines, deliver the full complement of platforms at Curzon Street and London Euston, and put

Birmingham at the centre of a modern, high-speed network and ensure that we get our fair share of transport funding.

Call upon the Government, and future Governments, to reinstate the HS2 development between Birmingham and Manchester”.

The meeting ended at 1941 hours.

CITY COUNCIL 9 JANUARY 2024

WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS AND CHAIRS

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

A To the Leader of the Council

1. Staff Release for Union Duties

From Councillor Adam Higgs

2. Job Evaluation Funding from Policy Contingency

From Councillor Adrian Delaney

3. Ladywood Right to Return

From Councillor Darius Sandhu

4. 8 Principles

From Councillor David Barrie

5. **Special Advisor**

From Councillor David Pears

6. **Equal Pay Pensions Impact**

From Councillor Ewan Mackey

7. **Ladywood Masterplan**

From Councillor Deirdre Alden

8. **Equal Pay Milestones**

From Councillor Gareth Moore

9. **Equal Pay Talks**

From Councillor Kerry Brewer

10. **Ladywood Consultation**

From Councillor Matt Bennett

11. **Task and Finish**

From Councillor Richard Parkin

12. **Conflicts of Interest**

From Councillor Rick Payne

13. Task and Finish End Date

From Councillor Robert Alden

14. Community Organiser

From Councillor Timothy Huxtable

15. Resident Charter

From Councillor Bruce Lines

16. Section 25 Statement Agreement

From Councillor Debbie Clancy

17. Project Resource Ladywood

From Councillor Ken Wood

18. Ladywood Estate Regeneration Revenue Commitment

From Councillor Ron Storer

19. Equal Pay Letters from the Unions

From Councillor Roger Harmer

B To the Deputy Leader of the Council

1. Risk Registers

From Councillor Robert Alden

2. Prior Knowledge of Potential Equal Pay Liability

From Councillor Alex Yip

3. GMB Ballot

From Councillor Bruce Lines

C To the Cabinet Member for Children Young People and Families

NONE SUBMITTED

D To the Cabinet Member for Digital, Culture, Heritage & Tourism

1. 365 Licenses

From Councillor Meirion Jenkins

2. **365 Licenses 2**
From Councillor Ron Storer
3. **Solstice**
From Councillor Adrian Delaney

E To the Cabinet Member for Environment

1. **Task and Finish End Date**
From Councillor Robert Alden
2. **Task and Finish Checks**
From Councillor Richard Parkin
3. **Wildflower Meadows 1**
From Councillor Rick Payne
4. **Wildflower Meadows 2**
From Councillor Alex Yip
5. **Wildflower Meadows 3**
From Councillor Gareth Moore
6. **Returned Equipment.**
From Councillor Deirdre Alden
7. **Vehicle Breakdowns**
From Councillor David Barrie
8. **Fleet Replacement Strategy.**
From Councillor David Pears
9. **Green Lid Bins**
From Councillor Ewan Mackey
10. **Green Lid Bins 2**
From Councillor Ron Storer
11. **Tree Removal in Yardley East**
From Councillor Deborah Harries

12. **Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme**

From Councillor Izzy Knowles

F To the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources

1. **Blacklisted**

From Councillor Ron Storer

2. **Credit Rating**

From Councillor Darius Sandhu

3. **Commonwealth Games Legacy Fund**

From Councillor Ewan Mackey

4. **Section 25 Agreement**

From Councillor Debbie Clancy

5. **Capture Purchase**

From Councillor Deirdre Alden

6. **Capture Issues Flagged**

From Councillor David Barrie

7. **MOVED TO J3**

8. **Procurement of Special Advisor**

From Councillor David Pears

9. **Statutory Interest**

From Councillor Adrian Delaney

10. **Potential Statutory Interest**

From Councillor Meirion Jenkins

11. **Building Brum**

From Councillor Bruce Lines

12. **Cavendish Consulting**

From Councillor Alex Yip

13. **School Costs**

From Councillor Adam Higgs

G To the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

NONE SUBMITTED

H To the Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness

1. **Selective Licensing Inspections**

From Councillor Deirdre Alden

2. **Compliance Action Plan**

From Councillor Adam Higgs

3. **Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman case 23001172**

From Councillor Roger Harmer

I To the Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities

Jewish Population in Birmingham

From Councillor Ewan Mackey

J To the Cabinet Member for Transport

1. **LED Lighting**

From Councillor Robert Alden

2. **Alcester Road**

From Councillor Izzy Knowles

3. **CAZ Reserves**

From Councillor Timothy Huxtable

K To the Chair of the Ladywood Ward Forum

8 Principles

From Councillor David Barrie

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
ADAM HIGGS**

“Staff release for union duties”

Question:

In April 2022 Cabinet approved £1m of funding over two years to backfill ‘union colleagues’ so that they could be released to support the delivery of a new job evaluation scheme. Please provide a breakdown of how this £1m was spent, including which unions had staff released and for how many days each, and clarify if this figure was included within, or is in addition to, the £667k facilities time reported for 22/23 in open data?

Answer:

The Report to Cabinet on 26 April 2022 identified forecast costs to undertake the estimated 3,200 job evaluations using the standard NJC scheme which would have involved at least 12 trade union representatives being released full time for two years. The costs of backfill were therefore forecast to be £699,456 for 2022/23 with a further £349,728 forecast for 2023/24 (total over two years £1,049,184).

The Council will be aware that this approach was not successful and as such the Board paper in July 2023 recommended a different approach be taken to enable a speedier outcome. This resulted in the approval of the Addendum in October 2023. As a result, the actual release time relating to the programme in 2022/23 is estimated to have been only £48,000 mainly relating to joint working groups and early training.

The funding to support the job evaluation scheme is in addition to the c.£667,000 facilities time reported in the 2022/23 data. This is an estimate of spending on business-as-usual trade union activity that BCC supports as part of our commitment to open and transparent industrial relations. This number is calculated as the number of full-time equivalent days spent on union duties multiplied by the average salary as defined by the Local Government Transparency Code.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
ADRIAN DELANEY**

“Job Evaluation funding from policy contingency”

Question:

On 26 April 2022, the Cabinet approved funding of £3,572,705 from the Policy Contingency Fund and resource request to support the completion of all phases of Job Evaluation / Pay & Grading Programme to achieve the modelling of a new fit for purpose NJC for LGS pay structure. Please provide a breakdown of how this money was spent and the outcome of that work.

Answer:

The Report to Cabinet on 26 April 2022 identified forecast costs to undertake the estimated 3,200 job evaluations using the standard NJC scheme. This was broken down in the paper as follows:

Expenditure	2022/23	2023/24	Totals
Project Team	£781,014	£390,507	£1,171,521
External Expertise	£1,268,000	£84,000	£1,352,000
Backfill Trade Union	£699,456	£349,728	£1,049,184
Totals	£2,748,470	£824,235	£3,572,705

The Council will be aware that this approach was not successful and as such the Board paper in July 2023 recommended a different approach be taken to enable a speedier outcome. This resulted in the approval of the Addendum in October 2023. As a result, the principal spending in 2022/23 and YTD 2023/24 has related to the staffing costs for the JE team as follows:

2022/23: £555,403
2023/24 (Apr to Sept): £333,990

The JE team, working with the joint trade unions, is now working to deliver the plan in line with the modified NJC scheme agreed as part of the Addendum plan. The revised programme is disclosed in response to Question A8 below.

Progress to date includes:

- The Addendum to the Principles document for Job Evaluation and Pay Equity was agreed on 21st October 2023.
- OSG formed and approved Terms of Reference. Meeting fortnightly.

- Detailed programme plan completed with on-going iterative work to integrate with other key programmes. Plan presented to OSG for review 14 Dec 2023
- Joint Working Group to develop collaborative working between BCC and joint Trade unions commenced on 22 Nov 2023, meeting weekly.
- Appeals Process agreed by joint trade unions and BCC on 22 December 2023.
- 8 x Job Evaluation Analysts commenced Nov / Dec 2023. Induction training complete, formal programme training with WME to start March 2024. 4 Further Analysts resourced – release dates 5 Feb 2024.
- 2256 existing JD's from BCC and Schools uploaded to Role Mapper system.
- Pilot JDQ workshops launching on 8 January 2024. Pre-meeting / training 19 Dec 2023
- Sharepoint to enable simple access and collaborative development set up Dec 2023. Access and training to be provided to joint trade unions on JWG / OSG in Jan 2024.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
DARIUS SANDHU**

“Ladywood right to return”

Question:

Will all residents who wish to stay in Ladywood be offered a replacement property on a full like-for-like basis following the Ladywood estate regeneration?

Answer:

BCC tenants will be allocated properties on the basis of the BCC allocations policy, and in line with the option to return policy, to match their current housing need.

We are working with the preferred bidder (St Joseph’s - a wholly owned subsidiary of Berkeley Homes) and partner agencies to explore options which will enable other residents of all housing tenures to remain in Ladywood as the regeneration is delivered.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID BARRIE

“8 principles”

Question:

What are the ‘8 principles’ the council is operating under for the Ladywood regeneration scheme? Please note this refers to the 8 principles mentioned by Ladywood Ward Councillors to residents

Answer:

The 8 principles were set out in the Spring 2019 original Cabinet report. They were also set out in communications by Ward Members including:

- Letters to all households within the regeneration area, from the Ward Members, in June 2019 and June 2023, the latter inviting people to the Ward Forum of 20 July 2023.
- The content of the Ward Forum in July 2023.
- Hand delivered newsletters across the area.
- Letters and email updates to residents who had responded via response slips.

The 8 principles are:

- To secure high quality, sustainable new homes as part of a well-designed neighbourhood.
- To provide a safe and attractive network of connected public open spaces and pedestrian routes.
- To create a new local centre with facilities and amenities to serve the local community.
- To enable the enhancement of the canal through improved access and greater levels of utility and interface with development.
- To create improved connections across the Middleway including boulevarding.
- To create a complementary mix of commercial and other uses to support a vibrant active neighbourhood.
- To provide new, high quality social housing.
- To ensure that the existing community is retained and involved in the development of the new neighbourhood.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
DAVID PEARS**

“Special Advisor”

Question:

During which dates was Gerard Coyne, former Labour Councillor for Longbridge, former candidate for General Secretary of Unite, and current Chair of Sandwell Area Unite Branch, formally engaged by the Council as a special advisor on reaching agreement with the Unions on equal pay, and at what total cost to the taxpayer?

Answer:

Gerard Coyne has been engaged since 10th July 2023, and the total cost of this engagement stands at circa £50,000 as at the end of the calendar year. These arrangements have been inside IR35. His services have been procured via the BCC Hays Framework, and we believe that his contribution has significantly improved industrial relations within the Council.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
EWAN MACKEY**

“Equal Pay Pensions impact”

Question:

Does the Equal Pay figure of £760m quoted as the potential liability for equal pay, include the costs of changes to pensions from any award?

Answer:

Yes, where applicable the £650m - £760m includes the impact of any pension changes because any successful equal pay claim in tribunal would be likely to include a claim for lost pension. On this basis consideration for this liability has been included on a case-by-case basis.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

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

“Ladywood Masterplan”

Question:

Please share a copy of the indicative masterplan for Ladywood developed by Berkeley Homes as part of their bid for the scheme.

Answer:

The Council are presently engaged in carrying out consultation for the purpose of developing a masterplan for the regeneration of the Ladywood Estate.

There is no indicative masterplan developed by Berkeley Homes. Proposal plans developed by Berkeley Homes did form part of the confidential discussion documents which were prepared for the structured negotiations which took place with Berkeley Homes, as part of the formal procurement process leading to the recommendation that they be appointed, but there is no such ‘indicative masterplan’ document to share.

A masterplan will be developed for the purposes of the formal decision-making processes of the Council, as the local planning authority, which will be shared and consulted upon before it is formally adopted.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

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

“Equal Pay Milestones”

Question:

Paragraph 1.5 of the report 'The Birmingham City Council Equal Pay Programme Update' presented to Full Council on 5 December 2023, said that key milestones would be shared with Trade Unions in December, please provide a copy of those milestones, along with an update on progress against each.

Answer:

The BCC Job Evaluation team progressed a Joint Working Group with the joint trade unions (GMB, UNISON and Unite) on 22 November 2023 at which the programme overview and key milestones were shared.

The joint BCC/Trade Union Operational Steering Group was set up as required in the Addendum on 1 December 2023. At our meeting on 14 December the detailed programme plan was shared with this group for discussion. At the request of the OSG this detailed plan is due to be shared with the Joint Working Group at our meeting on 8 January. These documents are being made available to the trade union representatives on the JWG and OSG. Progress will be reported weekly to the Commissioners.

The planner is a very large document and would not be simple to share in this format, however a separate meeting can be arranged to take members through the plan and progress to date.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
KERRY BREWER**

“Equal Pay Talks”

Question:

We understand that an informal meeting to discuss Equal Pay with Trade Unions took place on 26 January 2023, with at least one Cabinet Member and council officer present. Please confirm which Cabinet Members attended that meeting and if it included any discussion of a potential liability in excess of that already provided for within the accounts?

Answer:

The meeting held on 26 January 2023 was one of the regular meetings between the Council’s political leadership and representatives of the recognised trade unions. It was attended by myself in my former capacity as Cabinet Member and by the previous Leader of the Council. There was no discussion of the kind purported by the questioner.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
MATT BENNETT**

“Ladywood Consultation”

Question:

When will formal consultation on the development and the CPOs take place for the Ladywood regeneration scheme?

Answer:

Consultation on the scheme will only commence when a contract with the preferred bidder, (St Joseph’s a wholly owned subsidiary of Berkeley Homes), is in place.

There will be no CPO progressed until Planning Consent is secured.

We anticipate that the planning application for Ladywood will be submitted for consideration in 2025.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
RICHARD PARKIN**

“Task and Finish”

Question:

What actions have you taken, as Leader, to satisfy yourself that, as of today, there are no task and finish arrangements currently operating within the waste management or parks services?

Answer:

I am briefed by senior officers and Cabinet Members on a regular basis in relation to matters across cabinet portfolios, including working practices when this is appropriate and relevant.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
RICK PAYNE**

“Conflicts of interest”

Question:

In June 2017 council agreed that a register of professional interests for any officer with delegated decision-making powers should be published online. Despite this being the will of full council, despite the example of case law and other council approaches being provided, and despite chasing, this has still not happened. Please can you confirm that there were no conflicts of interest declared, whether officer or member, in respect of the decision to engage Gerard Coyne as special advisor?

Answer:

I have asked the City Solicitor to ensure that the Register of Professional Interests should be published as a matter of priority.

Gerard Coyne was identified as an appropriate candidate to work in a facilitation role between the Council members, the Officers, and the Trade Union partners in the delivery of work in the job evaluation programme. His appointment was approved on 10th July 2023 in accordance with council procedures including any potential conflicts of interest. At the end of the current approval period, the role will be reviewed and any conflicts of interest duly considered and further approval sought if an extension is proposed.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

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

“Task and Finish end date”

Question:

Within the model that generated the estimated equal pay liability of £650-£760m that you announced in June, on what date was it assumed that task and finish would have ceased?

Answer:

The modelling assumes that all elements of the Equal Pay programme and the deployment of new terms and conditions are completed in line with plans and in all cases prior to 1 April 2025.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
TIMOTHY HUXTABLE**

“Community Organiser”

Question:

Who is the community organiser for Ladywood, following previous commitments made by the council to appoint one?

Answer:

The Council is currently engaging with the Ladywood community through enhanced existing structures within the Place, Neighbourhoods, and Housing teams.

A Programme Director has been appointed and has been in post since late October 2023, leading the Council’s in-house project management and community engagement team.

The Neighbourhood Action Coordinator for Ladywood, part of the Neighbourhoods team, is engaging local community groups and voluntary organisations to support the regeneration project. They are also involved in the Community Development Trust for Ladywood.

Officers from City Housing are coordinating community engagement work to ensure that all Ladywood residents and stakeholders are fully engaged in the Ladywood regeneration project and that their voices are heard, and comments acted upon.

Other appointments will be made as the programme progresses in line with the Cabinet approval, subject to necessary S151 approval.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR BRUCE LINES

“Resident Charter”

Question:

Please provide a copy of the Resident Charter referred to at a recent public meeting for the Ladywood Estate Regeneration? If this has not been finalised, please state when it will be finished and if and when residents will be able to comment ahead of adoption?

Answer:

The Ladywood Residents Charter is currently being drafted in consultation with the local community and stakeholders. The programme is as follows:

The Resident & Community Charter survey went live on Thursday 21 December and will remain open for 6 weeks to give the community adequate time to submit their responses. The survey can be accessed via this link <https://forms.office.com/e/6wZgNjW1BY>.

The survey includes a breakdown of the key themes shared by residents at the community workshops held in the autumn. It is recommended that residents review the feedback for each section before submitting their responses.

Details of the survey have been distributed via the Ladywood Regeneration Newsletter. At present this has been issued to those who have agreed to join the mailing list. We have been encouraging completion of the contact form, which allows residents to share their contact details, let us know about any access issues and tell us the ways in which they would like to be involved. Increasing the number of residents sharing their contact details will help us to ensure that as many people as possible receive communications. The link for the contact form is <https://forms.office.com/e/PWFK59SAGW>. We have also made a phone line available (0121 216 1002) for people who do not have access to the online contact form or need support with completing it.

We are committed to ensuring as many residents as possible have their say in shaping the Residents & Community Charter by taking the following actions in the new year.

Throughout January there will be:

- Posters placed in communal areas across the estate.
- Door knocking to make residents aware of the survey.
- Surgeries to support those that either don't have the necessary digital access or need help with completing the survey. Surgeries will be provided

by the Birmingham City Council project team. We will also be working with a number of community organisations to run surgeries.

- The most vulnerable residents who have told us that they need help will be supported by either a telephone call or a home visit.
- The Ladywood Regeneration webpage is in the process of being updated to reflect this information.

Door knocking will commence from 15 January and details of the dates and times of surgeries that are to be held will be updated on the Council's website.

In the meantime, we will be monitoring the number of responses and where these are coming from to help us better target areas where we have been unable to engage.

Further details can be found on the Ladywood page of the Council's website.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

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

“Section 25 Statement agreement”

Question:

At Cabinet on 14 February 2023, as well as voting to recommend the 23/24 financial plan to Council, you also specifically and explicitly agreed to the level of risk and budget assumptions set out in the Section 25 Statement from the Chief Finance Officer. Ahead of making that informed decision that you agreed with assumptions made by the Chief Finance Officer, what conversations did you have with Cabinet colleagues about the £800m liability you were warned about a little over 10 days earlier, and how this may impact on the assumptions you were agreeing to?

Answer:

Cabinet would have considered all relevant advice in making their recommendations to council as part of their budget responsibilities.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
KEN WOOD**

“Project Resource Ladywood”

Question:

Are all job roles listed in the Project Resource Plan at Appendix 5 of the Ladywood Estate Regeneration Cabinet report now in post and if not, which ones are still to be recruited to and what impact does the non-essential spend freeze have on this?

Answer:

A Programme Director has been appointed and in post since October 2023 and is funded via City Deal. In addition, there is project management, planning, CPO, and property support in place via existing BCC staff.

Other appointments will be made as the project progresses in line with the Cabinet approval, subject to necessary S151 approval.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

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

“Ladywood estate regeneration revenue commitment”

Question:

How much of the £242,536 revenue commitment in 23/24 for the Ladywood Estate Regeneration Scheme has so far been spent and on what dates did each payment get Spend Control Board approval and has any approval been sought\approved for the £500k per annum revenue impact for 2024 to 2027?

Answer:

The Cabinet report of 27 June 2023 contained a proposed resourcing plan that identified a sum of £242k in 2023/24 and £500k for the following three years (2024/25 to 2026/27).

Since that time further options have been explored including the use of external funding, and a sum of £382,729 City Deal resources have been obtained which are being used to fund a programme director and consultation activity. Approval was obtained at Spend Control Board for this sum. No further spend has been approved.

Options are being explored which do not impact on General Fund.

A19

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
ROGER HARMER

“Equal pay letters from the Unions”

Question:

“Can you please provide copies of all letters sent during 2023, to you and the Chief Executive, from the Unions, relating to equal pay claims?”

Answer

:

Officers are currently reviewing documentation and a full response will be made available following.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

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

“Risk Registers”

Question:

Please provide copies of the Council's Corporate Risk Register, including Risk Management Actions Plans, for each quarter in the years 2020/21 to 2023/24.

Answer:

The Strategic Risk Register is the council's corporate risk register. It is a dynamic working document with rolling updates and quarterly snapshots of the risk management action plans have not been retained and therefore cannot be provided.

Officers have agreed to review the length of time items are retained to ensure that all future action plans are held with the Audit Committee agenda item for future reference.

Risk levels and changes are reported to Audit Committee three or four times a year as follows:

Strategic Risks were reported to Audit Committee in:

July 2020 - [Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

November 2020 - [Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

January 2021 - [Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

April 2021 - [Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

July 2021 - [Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

October 2021 - [Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

January 2022 - [Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

April 2022 - [Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

September 2022 - [Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

January 2023 - [Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

February 2023 - [Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

July 2023 - [Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

October 2023 - [Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR ALEX YIP

“Prior knowledge of potential equal pay liability”

Question:

At Full Council on 5 December 2023, I asked if any of your cabinet colleagues who were in receipt of the 3 February email setting out a potential £800m equal pay liability, had any conversations with you about this before you voted at cabinet and council to recommend and approve the budget for 2023/24. You failed to answer this question directly, please can you do so now?

Answer:

I will answer this question and the answer is ‘no’.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR BRUCE LINES**

“GMB ballot”

Question:

In a tweet in April 2022 you said you were "*proud to be a member of @GMBWestMidlands and support the equal pay fight in Birmingham. BCC should be leading the way*" and shared an image showing support for GMB Union's fight for equal pay from the council. Given this view, and the continued delays in settling equal pay by BCC, will you be supporting fellow GMB members and encouraging them to vote Yes in the current ballot against the council's delays?

Answer:

I have never hidden the fact I am a member of a trade union and have always ensured this is reflected in my declarations of interests.

As tweeted in April 2022, I am a proud trade union member and that position has not changed. I still believe that Birmingham City Council should be leading the way when it comes to improvements in service delivery, culture and pay equity.

This is why since becoming a Deputy Leader, I and the Leader have made the same commitment to be open about the Council's challenges and will do all we can to ensure that pay equity is implemented, an issue that has plagued this City since the Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition in the City.

C

**PLEASE NOTE NO WRITTEN QUESTIONS WERE SUBMITTED FOR
THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE AND
FAMILIES**

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR DIGITAL, CULTURE,
HERITAGE AND TOURISM FROM COUNCILLOR MEIRION JENKINS**

“365 Licenses”

Question:

How many inactive users currently hold Microsoft 365 licenses?

Answer:

Zero

Inactive licences are cleared down and made available for reassignment on a minimum of a weekly basis.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR DIGITAL, CULTURE,
HERITAGE AND TOURISM FROM COUNCILLOR RON STORER**

“365 Licenses 2”

Question:

How many Microsoft 365 licences does the Council currently hold for users who have left the organisation?

Answer:

5

The process is that once users have left the organisation, their licence is removed and made available to be reassigned elsewhere/or given up if we no longer need it.

There are a small number of users that have left the organisation that do still have a licence assigned (albeit the account is locked), this is for very particular reasons to facilitate swift retrieval of data and by special exemption agreed by the Director of People Services and the Chief Information Officer.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR DIGITAL, CULTURE, HERITAGE AND TOURISM FROM COUNCILLOR ADRIAN DELANEY

“Solstice”

Question:

Please provide details of the business case for the purchase and implementation of the Mersive Solstice system including:

- **Total capital costs of installation**
- **Total ongoing revenue costs for licensing and maintenance**
- **Identified business benefits over simply using existing 365 capabilities for screen sharing**
- **Any forecast savings over the lifetime of the system**
- **Procurement route followed, including date appeared on PPAR and date entered onto contract register**
- **Authorisation route, including who signed off and when**

Answer:

Total capital costs of installation

- £98,742, including all kit, audio, visual, acoustic screens and licences.

Total ongoing revenue costs for licensing and maintenance

- 5,472 per annum for 16 rooms. The cost per room is slightly less than a comparable licence for Microsoft Teams Rooms.

Identified business benefits over simply using existing 365 capabilities for screen sharing

- Wifi enabled as opposed to needing hardwired cables
- Multi-functional screens providing whiteboard capability as well as visual in meeting screens
- Conferencing facilities that can see the entire room and zoom in on a specific speaker

- This project was also about replacing aged and ineffective kit that had been transferred in a hurry from other buildings during the pandemic which was not designed for use in the Council house with its high ceilings. The screens in many cases were too small and in all cases the audio and visual experience very poor due to echo and distance from the microphone or speakers. There were many complaints from users about the experience both for those in the room and those online.

Any forecast savings over the lifetime of the system

- A very small saving on cost per room compared with Teams Rooms licence

Procurement route followed, including date appeared on PPAR and date entered onto contract register

- No requirement for PPAR as spend is below threshold
- Procurement route: mini competition through framework -NHS Shared Business Services Framework Agreement for Audio Visual and Integrated Operating Theatres (Ref SBS/18/CR/WCN/9343 - LOT 4)
- Tender issued on 9th Dec 2022 and Tender received 9th Dec 2022 then evaluated, and the successful bidder was IDNS.
- Entered onto contract register 25 Jan 2023

Authorisation route, including who signed off and when

- This initiative was part of the New Ways of Working programme business case approved by Cabinet in July 2021
- Authorisation route - Finance & Legal, DPR & Head of Technology Practice Commercial & Investment on behalf of Digital and Technology Services CIO
- Who signed off and when - Finance & Legal on 23rd January 2023, Head of Technology Practice Commercial & Investment on 25th January 2023
- Both Section 151 Spend Control Approval was obtained on 15th & 26th September 2023

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM
COUNCILLOR ROBERT ALDEN**

“Task and Finish end date”

Question:

On what date did all task and finish arrangements within the waste management and parks services finally and fully cease?

Answer:

This is currently the subject of equal pay litigation between the council and several employees and as such would require the disclosure of confidential or exempt information, which we are unable to do if we are to properly defend the council's position.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM
COUNCILLOR RICHARD PARKIN**

“Task and Finish checks”

Question:

What actions have you taken, as Cabinet Member, to satisfy yourself that, as of today, there are no task and finish arrangements currently operating within the waste service?

Answer:

I am briefed by senior officers on a weekly basis in relation to matters across all aspects of my portfolio, including working practices when this is appropriate and relevant.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM
COUNCILLOR RICK PAYNE**

“Wildflower Meadows 1”

Question:

What is the planned revenue saving from the proposed changes to replace turf with wildflower meadows in Pype Hayes Park, Sorrel Park and Paget Village Green?

Answer:

At present there is a live, ongoing, consultation into community park improvement proposals at the sites in question.

The survey on the Be Heard public consultation portal lists a range of possible improvements at each site, seeking the views of respondents on their preference for the various options.

The consultation process will help inform the shaping of the final proposals at each site. It is at that point that we will be in a position to disclose full details on proposed allocation of individual budget items and costings. Until that point these are merely ideas for discussion.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM
COUNCILLOR ALEX YIP**

“Wildflower Meadows 2”

Question:

What is the total of money set aside, including funding source, for the completion of works to convert turf to wildflower meadows in Pype Hayes Park, Sorrel Park, and Paget Village Green?

Answer:

At present there is a live, ongoing, consultation into community park improvement proposals at the sites in question.

The survey on the Be Heard public consultation portal lists a range of possible improvements at each site, seeking the views of respondents on their preference for the various options.

The consultation process will help inform the shaping of the final proposals at each site. It is at that point that we will be in a position to disclose full details on proposed allocation of individual budget items and costings. Until that point these are merely ideas for discussion.

The total set aside for all three parks is £170,000 from a range of sources which include Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), City of Nature (Fair Parks Standard Funding) and a contribution from the Friends of Sorrel Park.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM
COUNCILLOR GARETH MOORE**

“Wildflower Meadows 3”

Question:

What is the estimated cost of work to convert turf to wildflower meadows in Pype Hayes Park, Sorrel Park, and Paget Village Green?

Answer:

At present there is a live, ongoing, consultation into community park improvement proposals at the sites in question.

The survey on the Be Heard public consultation portal lists a range of possible improvements at each site, seeking the views of respondents on their preference for the various options.

The consultation process will help inform the shaping of the final proposals at each site. It is at that point that we will be in a position to disclose full details on proposed allocation of individual budget items and costings. Until that point these are merely ideas for discussion.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM
COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE ALDEN**

“Returned equipment”

Question:

Since April 2022, how many items used by any part of the fleet and waste or parks services, have been taken back by the company who hired/leased them due to unpaid invoices? In each case please specify the date returned, the length of delay in payment, and the outstanding amount owed.

Answer:

Since April, there have been no cases where items have been taken back by the company who hired/leased them due to unpaid invoices.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID BARRIE

“Vehicle Breakdowns”

Question:

In each month since April 2018, how many vehicles within waste collection have been unable to fill any route due to maintenance issues and breakdowns?

Answer:

Please find the table below which shows the number of rounds that were not completed on the scheduled day in each month because of vehicle problems. Please be aware of the following:

- Unfortunately, we do not have data any earlier than February 2022.
- This data does not provide an insight into actual vehicle maintenance issues, because rounds should still be completed by alternative crews (or the same crew in a different vehicle) in the event of a breakdown.
- This data does not provide an accurate scale of impact because an incomplete round could be anything from a single road outstanding (perhaps 20 properties) to the entire round being outstanding (potentially up to 1000 properties). In addition, some outstanding roads may have been collected the following working day after being missed whereas some may not have been collected until the next collection.

		Number of rounds that were not fully completed due to vehicle issues	Number of rounds planned for month	Percentage of planned rounds not fully completed due to vehicle issues
2022	Feb	28	2820	0.9929%
	Mar	38	3243	1.1718%
	Apr	47	2961	1.5873%
	May	26	3102	0.8382%
	Jun	8	3102	0.2579%
	Jul	7	2961	0.2364%
	Aug	25	3243	0.7709%
	Sep	13	3102	0.4191%
	Oct	23	2961	0.7768%

	Nov	28	3102	0.9026%
	Dec	23	2961	0.7768%
2023	Jan	27	3102	0.8704%
	Feb	3	2820	0.1064%
	Mar	4	3243	0.1233%
	Apr	8	2820	0.2837%
	May	3	3102	0.0967%
	Jun	5	3102	0.1612%
	Jul	2	2961	0.0675%
	Aug	2	3243	0.0617%
	Sep	26	3102	0.8382%
	Oct	5	2961	0.1689%
	Nov	6	3102	0.1934%
	Dec	7	2820	0.2482%

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM
COUNCILLOR DAVID PEARS**

“Fleet Replacement Strategy”

Question:

The Fleet replacement strategy approved in June 2019 set out a timetable to replace 247 vehicles within fleet and waste by the end March 2022. How many in total were replaced between June 2019 and March 2022, and how many have been replaced since March 2022?

Answer:

A total of 76 vehicles were procured between June 2019 and March 2022. There have been no other vehicles procured since that date.

I would draw your attention to answer E4 within the December 2023 City Council Written Questions for full details on why this is the case. In short, we were awaiting the delayed announcement from Defra on Simpler Recycling, which was needed to inform future plans.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM
COUNCILLOR EWAN MACKEY**

“Green lid bins”

Question:

Since the initial order of 840 green lid recycling bins on 24 July 2022 (as per written question E9, 12 September 2023) how many more bins have been ordered, on what dates, and when was spending control board approval obtained?

Answer:

Since the initial order, a further 240 green lid bins have been ordered as part of a wider order of bins including for new properties and replacements for those that have been broken or stolen.

Future orders for green lid bins will be subject to spend control approvals and a case will be put forward on the basis that they help increase recycling rates, reduce waste being landfilled or incinerated, and generate an income stream for the city – as per the paper/cardboard contract that the council has.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM
COUNCILLOR RON STORER**

“Green lid bins 2”

Question:

How many requests for an additional green lid recycling bin have been made since the new policy was announced and how many additional bins have been delivered?

Answer:

Since the introduction of wheelie bins almost a decade ago, the Council has allowed citizens to request a second recycling bin free of charge, if a single bin did not provide them with sufficient capacity.

This option was promoted on 30 August 2023, before the issuing of the Section 114 notice and therefore prior to spend control being introduced.

Since that date until 4pm on 3 January 2024, 7,738 requests had been made for additional recycling bins.

Of the requests made for these optional bins, 328 have been closed on the computer system/delivered.

We appreciate the enthusiasm shown for this option and thank those who have expressed an interest for their patience for an extra bin, beyond the core offer for all households.

Fulfilling outstanding and future requests is dependent on Spend Board approval. As per answer E9 this month, a detailed case in support of this initiative will be outlined as part of any future submission.

E11

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2023

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM
COUNCILLOR DEBORAH HARRIES

“Tree removal in Yardley East”

Question:

Further to your reply (last round of written questions) about the large number of tree removals in my ward (see below) could I ask that, just as you identify very specifically the locations of each of the trees that you remove, that you notify me as and when those trees are replaced, confirming the location, and with a tally of the numbers removed and replaced?

Response:

“Highway Trees are inspected on a cyclical 5-year programme. Yardley East is currently being inspected as part of the 2023/2024 arboriculture inspection route, which will explain the increase in the number of tree notifications.

For every tree that is removed a new tree is planted, ideally in the same location. Where this is not possible, a new tree will be planted in a different location within the same ward.”

Answer:

In relation to trees within the Yardley East ward and with the planting season underway, five of the 20 trees removed in 2022/23 have now been planted and the remainder are due to be planted before the end of the planting programme in April 2024. A list of all removals/replants to date listed below:

<u>Tree Removal Location</u>	<u>New Tree Site</u>	<u>Works Completed</u>	<u>Completion Target date</u>
STONEY LANE	STONEY LANE	Yes	N/A
BLAKESLEY ROAD	BLAKESLEY ROAD	Yes	N/A
DOVE CLOSE	DOVE CLOSE	Yes	N/A
HILLBROOK GROVE	HILLBROOK GROVE	Yes	N/A
GLENEAGLES ROAD	GLENEAGLES ROAD	Yes	N/A
ABBESS GROVE	ABBESS GROVE	No	Before End of April 24

BARROWS LANE	BARROWS LANE	No	Before End of April 24
BARROWS LANE	BARROWS LANE	No	Before End of April 24
BARROWS LANE	BARROWS LANE	No	Before End of April 24
BLAKESLEY ROAD	BLAKESLEY ROAD	No	Before End of April 24
CHURCH ROAD	CHURCH ROAD	No	Before End of April 24
DUNCROFT ROAD	DUNCROFT ROAD	No	Before End of April 24
GLENEAGLES ROAD	GLENEAGLES ROAD	No	Before End of April 24
GLENEAGLES ROAD	GLENEAGLES ROAD	No	Before End of April 24
GLENEAGLES ROAD	GLENEAGLES ROAD	No	Before End of April 24
INGLEFIELD ROAD	INGLEFIELD ROAD	No	Before End of April 24
STONEY LANE	STONEY LANE	No	Before End of April 24
STONEY LANE	STONEY LANE	No	Before End of April 24
VIBART ROAD	VIBART ROAD	No	Before End of April 24
VIBART ROAD	VIBART ROAD	No	Before End of April 24
		Total Trees Removed	20
		Total Trees Planted	5
		Number of Trees Remaining on Programme	15

E12

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM
COUNCILLOR IZZY KNOWLES**

“Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme”

Question:

Did the Council make an application to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme in any of Phase 3a (2021), 3b (2022) & 3c (2023)?

Please list details of the applications made.

Answer:

We did not submit to phase 3a in 2021. We had planned to submit an application to phase 3b in 2022, however issues around the availability of baseline building condition data led to our withdrawal.

We submitted to phase 3c in October 2023 to secure funding for the installation of ground source heat pumps at the historic Highbury Hall, as part of the wider restoration of the Grade II listed mansion house.

If successful we expect the ground source heat pumps to reduce Highbury Hall’s emissions by 65,000 tCO₂e.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR RON STORER**

“Blacklisted”

Question:

Has the Council been blacklisted in anyway from any financial markets or bank lending services etc since its financial situation has started to become public from April last year?

Answer:

We are not aware that the Council has not been officially 'blacklisted' from financial markets or bank lending services from April 2023.

The Council has secured loans from local authorities since April 2023 and since issuance of the Section 114 notice in September 2023.

The Council also continues to have a working capital facility in place with its own bankers that can be drawn upon if needed.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR DARIUS SANDHU**

“Credit Rating”

Question:

What is the Council's current credit rating, including the date it was last confirmed?

Answer:

The Council does not currently have an official credit rating with the major credit rating agencies.

The Council previously maintained long term credit ratings with Moody's (Aa1) and Standard and Poor's (AA+) until August 2013 where the purpose of the ratings was to enable the Council to borrow from the capital markets by means of a bond issue, if conditions were appropriate.

Borrowing opportunities have however changed, with the Government providing cheaper loans from the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB) than when the Council first sought the ratings. The Council decided that a public bond issue was unlikely to be used, and so there was no need to continue to maintain the ratings, which required significant management time and the payment of annual fees.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR EWAN MACKEY**

“Commonwealth Games Legacy Fund”

Question:

At Full Council on 5 December 2023, in response to a question on the Commonwealth Games Legacy Fund, you said that it was your understanding that this fund was ringfenced and so not being used for other purposes. Now you have had the opportunity to check your understanding, can you provide an update on the status of this fund, including the total amount spent for its original purpose, and any sums reallocated or unringfenced since the issuing of the s114 notice?

Answer:

The level of underspends available for the Legacy Portfolio amounts to £31million, of which £7million has so far been incurred or contractually committed. This excludes ringfenced grants from the WMCA and is before taking account of any further distributions to be made by the Birmingham 2022 Organising Committee liquidator (not expected to be material).

The BCC CWG Funding Legacy underspend is not formally ringfenced via any agreement with DCMS. A potentially uncommitted balance of up to £24million remains.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY

“Section 25 agreement”

Question:

At Cabinet on 14 February 2023, as well as voting to recommend the 23/24 financial plan to Council, you also specifically and explicitly agreed to the level of risk and budget assumptions set out in the Section 25 Statement from the Chief Finance Officer. Ahead of making that informed decision that you agreed with assumptions made by the Chief Finance Officer, what conversations did you have with cabinet colleagues about the £800m liability you were warned about a little over 10 days earlier, and how this may impact on the assumptions you were agreeing to?

Answer:

Cabinet would have considered all relevant advice in making their recommendations to council as part of their budget responsibilities.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE ALDEN**

“Capture purchase”

Question:

On what date did the Council commence payments for the software 'Capture' to look for duplicate payments, and on what date did this software go live?

Answer:

The system was procured in June 2021 and operated with the SAP system until March 2022.

The Capture solution, previously operating under SAP, is in the process of being transitioned to support the same functionality under the new Oracle Fusion solution, with an expected Go Live date of January 2024.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID BARRIE**

“Capture issues flagged”

Question:

By month since the software Capture was purchased by the council, please provide a breakdown of the number of issues flagged by the software, including a) number of potential issues flagged b) number of incidents of potential fraud prevented c) number of incidents of actual fraud discovered d) value of fraud discovered and amount of this recovered.

Answer:

Capture provides a suite of tools for Accounts Payable to help identify and pre-emptively recover potential overpayments. The suite includes checks for:

- Duplicated payments
- VAT errors
- Sequencing errors
- Out-of-the-norm spikes in payment values
- Net & VAT coding errors

The Capture system is not yet operational for Oracle Fusion and is in the process of implementation with an expected Go Live of January 2024. Therefore, there are no results to report for points a) to d)

Figures for results from June 2021 to March 2022 when Capture was used with the SAP system, will be circulated when they can be retrieved.

F7

**PLEASE NOTE WRITTEN QUESTION F7 – CABINET MEMBER FOR
FINANCE AND RESOURCES - HAS NOW BEEN REDIRECTED TO J3 –
CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT**

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PEARS**

“Procurement of special advisor”

Question:

What procurement route was followed to engage Gerard Coyne, former Labour councillor for Longbridge, former candidate for General Secretary of Unite, and current Chair of Sandwell Area Unite Branch, as special advisor, including which officer(s) and cabinet member(s) approved the spend?

Answer:

I refer Councillor Davis to the response to A12.

F9

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR ADRIAN DELANEY**

“Statutory Interest”

Question:

How much has the Council paid in statutory interest for late invoices since April 2022?

Answer:

Currently, there is no visibility within the ledger to enable the council to separately analyse and report on statutory interest.

There have been a limited requests for this information in the past however following the implementation of Oracle and the issues that have followed more recently, there have been a number of similar requests for this type of information. A change in process to enable this information to be captured going forwards has been flagged for consideration and will be progressed.

F10

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR MEIRION JENKINS**

“Potential Statutory Interest”

Question:

What is the amount of statutory interest that would be due on all unpaid invoices currently over 30 days old, if each supplier claimed it?

Answer:

Based on the current outstanding overdue debt (over 30 days) of £52m and the current statutory late payments annual interest rate of 8% (basis: Late Payments of Commercial Debts Act 1998) the liability would be £4.2m. This is based on the supplier being successful in a court claim.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR BRUCE LINES**

“Building Brum”

Question:

In each of the last 6 years, how much has the Council paid to ‘Building Brum’, either directly or in-kind (e.g. hosting Building Brum events or marketing their work)?

Answer:

Building Brum is a private entity for those with a common interest in the built environment in Birmingham. Birmingham CC has not provided any financial contributions to Building Brum (or any legal trading entity that delivers the aims of Building Brum) nor directly hosted events in kind.

As a collaborative collation of stakeholder within the community Officers have engaged at speaking engagements but as a Council have not commissioned any work directly.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR ALEX YIP**

“Cavendish Consulting”

Question:

How much has the Council paid Cavendish Consulting in each of the last 11 years?

Answer:

Following a search within SAP and Oracle we have been unable to trace any Vendor records for Cavendish Consulting.

Pre-2017 Cavendish Consulting were called Built Environment Communications Group Ltd (BECG Ltd). Having searched against different addresses identified for BECG Ltd and the company registration number we have been unable to trace any records for the organisation.

This excludes one-time payments.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR ADAM HIGGS**

“School costs”

Question:

Since April 2022, please provide a breakdown of money paid to schools for any loss incurred by them as a result of Oracle failings, including the school, date, amount paid, and reason.

Answer:

The Council agreed a one-off 10% reduction in 2023/24 fees for schools who procure the Council's traded services (Human Resources, Payroll, Finance). This was to acknowledge the issues/inconvenience caused by the ERP implementation and equates to £156k, £129k and £136k respectively for those services.

G

**PLEASE NOTE NO WRITTEN QUESTIONS WERE SUBMITTED FOR
THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE**

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE ALDEN

“Selective Licensing Inspections”

Question:

How many properties have been inspected so far across the whole city, and in Edgbaston Ward specifically, as a result of the Selective Licensing Scheme, and how many in the city, and in Edgbaston Ward, have been deemed to need improvements? Please note that when I say Edgbaston Ward, I mean Edgbaston Ward and not North Edgbaston Ward.

Answer:

To date, 50 properties have been inspected city wide, primarily as a training tool for new officers. However, there are approximately 300 properties booked to be inspected in the next few weeks, as more officers are appointed.

The majority of properties inspected city wide have been compliant with the licensing condition; an example of non-compliance is where one property did not have a carbon monoxide monitor which is one of the conditions. The inspecting officer spoke to the landlord, and this was remedied the next day without the need for formal enforcement action. Several properties have had minor disrepair identified, the landlord has been advised and the disrepair has been remedied.

Two properties have been referred to the Private Rented Services team for further investigation and Property Licensing Compliance officers will take further action where appropriate.

In the Edgbaston ward specifically, 6 compliance inspections have been completed. Of these 6, only minor issues were identified and reported to the landlord.

Properties are being inspected on a ward basis. Currently inspections are being booked in 5 different wards. Once these are complete, officers will move to other wards. As capacity increases more wards will be visited at the same time.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNCILLOR ADAM HIGGS

“Compliance Action Plan”

Question:

Please provide an updated copy of the latest compliance action plan that is shared with the Compliance Board responsible for tracking progress against actions to address the RSH findings.

Answer:

Please see separate excel document – Final October 2023 RSH Delivery plan. The updated action plan for December is to be reviewed and agreed with the Regulator on 9th January 2024 and will be available following that meeting.



FINAL October 2023
RSH Delivery Plan (2).

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM
COUNCILLOR ROGER HARMER**

“Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman case 23001172”

Question:

“With regard to case number 23 001 172 at the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman, can you please advise what lessons have been learned from this case and what measures have been put in place to ensure that people are put into suitable interim or temporary accommodation in future?”

Answer:

I can confirm that the recommendations made by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) for case 23001172 have been met. As the LGSCO final decision notes “The Council is taking action to reduce the time families spend in bed and breakfast accommodation, so it is not necessary to recommend a service improvement in this area.” These actions are outlined below.

The number of households approaching the City Council in housing need has increased significantly. The number of homeless presentations is 18.5% higher in 2023 compared to 2022. While success in preventing homelessness has strengthened there has also been increased demand for temporary accommodation. A key lesson and challenge are the availability and suitability of temporary accommodation that meets the specific and sometimes complex needs of a household.

The Housing Solutions and Support redesign invested in additional capacity to undertake Housing Needs Assessments, complete Personal Housing Plans and assist households in the prevention of homelessness. The redesign also launched the Accommodation Finding Team to work with private landlords to secure tenancies for households in housing need, in 2 years over 400 homes have been secured.

The Temporary Accommodation Strategy reviewed the demand for temporary and permanent accommodation and considered the options available to meet the demand for temporary accommodation while there is a lack of available, affordable, permanent homes. The Temporary Accommodation Strategy, approved by Cabinet in June 2023, recommended the continued investment in access to the Private Rented Sector via the Accommodation Finding Team, as well as building upon a pilot Property Acquisition Programme. In addition, there is a programme of leasing homes via Housing Associations for use as Temporary Accommodation, funding from Government for further acquisitions, and each month the service engages with

successful providers on a framework, for the provision of homes to be used as Temporary Accommodation.

There is a regime of inspection of Temporary Accommodation to seek to ensure quality standards are met. The service has commenced using Regulation 10 to contract emergency Temporary Accommodation, through which better provision is sought.

The number of households in B&B accommodation over six weeks with dependents has reduced over the past year, reducing the number of households in unsuitable Temporary Accommodation. The plan is agreed with and monitored by DLUHC advisors with whom the service meets regularly. Having Temporary Accommodation, available always, that is suitable for the needs and complexities of all remains challenging.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE,
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND EQUALITIES FROM COUNCILLOR EWAN
MACKEY**

“Jewish population in Birmingham”

Question:

At Full Council on 3 November 2020, the Leader agreed to produce a report on the Jewish Community in Birmingham to identify what steps could be undertaken to increase the proportion of Jewish residents living within the City. Please provide an update on this report, including publishing a copy and identifying what steps have been taken to implement any recommendations from it.

Answer:

The following activities have been undertaken:

Data review: A data review was conducted to understand what data was available to undertake the statistical analysis that was requested. A search through the websites of key organisations that may hold relevant data (e.g. Office of National Statistics, NOMIS, Institute of Jewish Policy Research (JPR) publications, Board of Deputies of British Jews (BOD) publications) and general internet search was undertaken. It has been concluded that there is insufficient data available to conduct a statistical analysis.

Institute of Jewish Policy Research: Initial engagement with JPR was initiated to explore what data was available to help provide insight about the Jewish community and how an appropriate research organisation could support this.

The key points they made included:

- Likely that **population change within the Jewish community is less migration but more demographic changes** (e.g. older Jewish people tend to live outside London and Manchester and there is a decline in the older population due to age).
- **Census (2011) is the best available data** at the current time. If statistical analysis is required, it is recommended that data from Census (2021) is used when it becomes available.
- **Mixed methods/qualitative research is recommended** to understand motivations for leaving and staying in the city and there is a willingness from JPR to get involved, either in an advisory role or to be commissioned to conduct the research.

A more detailed summary of JPR's response is outlined below:

Topic/issue	Response
<p>JPR summary of what current data shows</p>	<p><i>“The long term general pattern of Jewish migration within Britain has been one of growth in London and the South East and Manchester alongside contraction pretty much everywhere else, including Birmingham.”</i></p> <p><i>“I should clarify that much of the population change we are witnessing is not driven by migration but rather, demographic process. In particular, Jewish communities outside London and Manchester have rather older age profiles and many are declining because of ageing. But in London and Manchester much of the growth is accounted for by extremely high fertility among Strictly Orthodox Jews. The key migratory movement has been to Barnet in London and South Hertfordshire at the expense of the regions.”</i></p>
<p>Availability of robust statistical data to conduct analysis outlined in ‘Birmingham’s Jewish Community’ report</p>	<p><i>“By far the best demographic data source on the Jewish population of Birmingham is the national census. To my knowledge it remains the only source that will provide you with the level of detail you’d need to investigate internal migration for this group. Unfortunately, as you will no doubt be aware, all census data are now a decade old as we are on the cusp of a new census in March (2021) and I would not expect to see detailed data on the Jewish population become available until early next year, if not later.”</i> [Note: It is likely that the data will not be available until at least 12 months after the Census is conducted.]</p> <p><i>“Although JPR does hold far more recent survey data on the Jewish population nationally, the small size of Birmingham’s Jewish community (perhaps 2,000 including Jewish university students from elsewhere) means the number of respondents we capture in the city is too small for a meaningful statistical analysis to be carried out (e.g. our most recent national survey contains 15 Jewish adult respondents from the city).”</i></p>
<p>Proposed research and potential support from JPR (or other appropriate research organisation)</p>	<p><i>“We feel that your best option is indeed some kind of qualitative snowball study and we would be interested in assisting you...However, JPR is a not-for-profit organisation...So unless you have a research budget available our input could only be advisory I’m afraid (e.g. possible suggestions of people to speak to, review content of interview/survey scripts to check they are focusing on the right themes etc.)”</i></p>

Birmingham Jewish community: Members and leaders of the key Jewish community groups (e.g. Birmingham Progressive Synagogue, Representative

Council of Birmingham & West Midlands Jewry and BVSC) were engaged. They made the following points:

- **Satisfaction:** two members stated that, in their view, Jewish residents were satisfied on the whole with the city, felt listened to/'part of the conversation' and satisfied with the support they receive.
- **Reasons for moving out of the city:** There was general agreement that some of the factors influencing people to move out of the city are similar to those expected to be seen in the general population. e.g.
 - to be closer to children and grandchildren;
 - for employment;

Other reasons, that were more specifically related to the Jewish experience included:

- attraction of Israel as a place to live (particularly for older Jewish people);
 - some (thought to be a small proportion) move for Jewish schools;
 - more difficult to find a Jewish partner, due to the small population in the city;
 - lack of Jewish facilities, e.g: kosher restaurants and delis;
 - younger people moving for university and not returning due to enjoying the Jewish community experience in other places (including more Jewish facilities and having more Jewish people to mix with) and wanting to retain this lifestyle;
 - younger people studying in Birmingham are enjoying the experiences (including the independence, engaging with synagogues) but do not want to live in the city.
- **Different perspectives:** there are likely to be differences in views and perspectives between different groups within the Jewish community, which can be explored further.
 - **Survey:** there were no objections to using this method to collect data.

This feedback provides valuable insight that can be used to inform the wider engagement and research activities (e.g. points of further discussion and survey questions).

Other Jewish community groups and organisations have also been engaged (e.g. synagogues, Birmingham JSOC (UoB and BCU), Birmingham Hillel House, Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Jewish Leadership Council. We are currently awaiting responses to the offer to join the discussions as part of the wider community cohesion conversation and contribute to the proposed research.

We will continue our dialogue with Jewish communities to engage them on taking forward Birmingham's community cohesion strategy and Everyone's Battle Everyone's Business equality strategy.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT ALDEN

“LED Lighting”

Question:

Please provide a breakdown of the installation of LED street lighting since 2012, including the total number of street lights then and now, the percentage of these that were LED then and now, and the total number of LED street lights installed by year.

Answer:

Year	Lighting Columns	LEDs	%
2012	95230	5125	5.4
2024	99230	42833	43.2

Number LED's Installed by Year	
pre-2012	5125
2012	9749
2013	4403
2014	2969
2015	697
2016	2622
2017	2007
2018	1950
2019	2325
2020	2656
2021	2822
2022	2921
2023	1727
Unknown Install Date	860
Total	42833

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2023

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT FROM
COUNCILLOR IZZY KNOWLES**

“Alcester Road”

Question:

As part of A435 bus priority improvement measures, double yellow lines have recently been installed to replace single yellow line parking restrictions on the south bound carriageway of Alcester Road between St Mary's Row and Reddings Road.

The consultation on the Be Heard site does not include this section of Alcester Road in the maps either on the 'parking' link or the proposed parking plans. Nor does there appear to be any reference in the TRO.

<https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/economy/moseleyrdalcesterdbus/>

Could you please clarify if it was part of a separate consultation?

The existing consultation mentions letters being sent to 100 surrounding properties. This seems a low number considering the amount of properties and businesses along the entire route of the scheme. Please can you confirm which addresses these notices were sent to?

Answer:

Public Consultation for the full scheme was undertaken in October 2019. At that time, the full scheme comprised 6 sections between Highgate Middleway and Reddings Road. Section 1 of the scheme was subsequently removed. St Mary's Row to Reddings Road formed section 6 of the full scheme.

Statutory Consultation for the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for sections 2, 3, 4 & 5 was undertaken in June 2022. Statutory Consultation for kerbside restrictions within section 6, between St Mary's Row and Reddings Road were omitted in error by TfWM from this process. A revised TRO Statutory Consultation exercise for section 6, relative to kerbside restrictions and bus lane hours of operation is expected to take place over the coming months.

Approximately 100 letters were sent to surrounding properties as part of the Statutory Consultation for the Traffic Regulation Orders on section 2, 3, 4 & 5. They did not include properties within Section 6, St Mary's Row to Reddings Road.

At this time, TfWM are unable to confirm exactly which properties received the letters. This information will be provided as soon as possible.

However, TfWM have now reviewed the design drawings submitted with the approved full business case and have confirmed a discrepancy between the design drawings and the TRO drawings for the works undertaken between St Mary's Row and Reddings Road in section 6. This is an error and TfWM are undertaking further investigations to understand how this occurred. TfWM will work with their designer, contractor and BCC colleagues to resolve this issue as quickly as possible.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

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

“CAZ Reserves”

Question:

What is the total of CAZ reserves allocated to fund the decommissioning of the Clean Air Zone?

Answer:

An amount of £7m has been allocated to fund the decommissioning. £2m to cover actual dismantling of the infrastructure and £5m for any operating costs not covered by the revenues generated by the scheme.

CITY COUNCIL – 9 JANUARY 2024

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF LADYWOOD WARD FORUM FROM
COUNCILLOR DAVID BARRIE**

“8 principles”

Question:

**What are the ‘8 Principles’ you referred to in public meetings
about the Ladywood regeneration scheme?**

Answer:

The 8 principles were set in Spring 2019 after a Ward Forum in February and were embodied in the original Cabinet report.

We publicised them in 2 posted letters to all households within the regeneration area:

- June 2019 which also invited everyone to the Ladywood Fun Day in late July where we had a well-attended regeneration stall.
- and June 2023 where we invited people to the Ward Forum of 20 July.

We repeated the principles in hand delivered newsletters across the area and in letters and email updates to residents who had responded via response slips and at the 2019 Fun Day.

Here are the 8 principles:

- To secure high quality, sustainable new homes as part of a well-designed neighbourhood.
- To provide a safe and attractive network of connected public open spaces and pedestrian routes.
- To create a new local centre with facilities and amenities to serve the local community.
- To enable the enhancement of the canal through improved access and greater levels of utility and interface with development.
- To create improved connections across the Middleway including boulevarding.
- To create a complementary mix of commercial and other uses to support a vibrant active neighbourhood.
- To provide new, high quality social housing.
- To ensure that the existing community is retained and involved in the development of the new neighbourhood.