

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

TUESDAY, 15 MARCH 2022 AT 14:00 HOURS
IN HOLTE SUITE, VILLA PARK, TRINITY ROAD, ASTON,
BIRMINGHAM, B6 6HE

A G E N D A

1 NOTICE OF RECORDING

Lord Mayor to advise that this meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's meeting You Tube site (www.youtube.com/channel/UCT2kT7ZRPFCXq6_5dnVnYlw) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Members are reminded that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non pecuniary interests arising from any business to be discussed at this meeting. If a disclosable pecuniary interest is declared a Member must not speak or take part in that agenda item. Any declarations will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

5 - 114

3 MINUTES

To confirm and authorise the signing of the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 22 February 2022.

4 LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(1400-1410)

To receive the Lord Mayor's announcements and such communications as the Lord Mayor may wish to place before the Council.

5 PETITIONS

(10 minutes allocated) (1410-1420)

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

As agreed by Council Business Management Committee a schedule of outstanding petitions is available electronically with the published papers for the meeting and can be viewed or downloaded.

6 QUESTION TIME

(70 minutes allocated) (1420-1530)

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

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

115 - 116

7 APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

(5 minutes allocated) (1530-1535)

To make appointments to, or removals from, committees, outside bodies or other offices which fall to be determined by the Council as set out in the schedule.

117 - 156

8 EXECUTIVE BUSINESS REPORT

(35 minutes allocated) (1535-1610)

To consider a report of the Cabinet.

The Leader, Councillor Ian Ward and Councillor Tristan Chatfield to move the following Recommendation:

“That the report be noted.”

(break 1610 - 1640)

157 - 180

9 SCRUTINY BUSINESS REPORT

(35 minutes allocated) (1640-1715)

To consider a report of the Interim Head of Scrutiny & Committee Services.

Councillor Carl Rice to move the following Recommendation:

“That the report be noted”

181 - 214

10 **COUNCIL-OWNED ASSETS**

(30 minutes allocated) (1715-1745)

To consider a report of Economy and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee together with an Executive Commentary

Councillor Saima Suleman to move the following Motion:

“That the recommendations R01 to R06 be approved, and that the Executive be requested to pursue their implementation with an initial assessment brought to Overview & Scrutiny no later than 30 September 2022.”

215 - 216

11 **MOTIONS FOR DEBATE FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

(90 minutes allocated) (1745-1915)

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



**MEETING OF BIRMINGHAM
CITY COUNCIL
22 FEBRUARY 2022**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL HELD
ON TUESDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2022 AT 1400 HOURS IN THE HOLTE
SUITE, VILLA PARK, TRINITY ROAD, ASTON, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT:- Lord Mayor (Councillor Muhammad Afzal) in the Chair.

Councillors

Akhlaq Ahmed	Peter Griffiths	Saddak Miah
Alex Aitken	Fred Grindrod	Gareth Moore
Deirdre Alden	Roger Harmer	Simon Morrall
Robert Alden	Deborah Harries	Yvonne Mosquito
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Kath Hartley	John O'Shea
Mohammed Azim	Adam Higgs	David Pears
David Barrie	Jon Hunt	Robert Pocock
Baber Baz	Mahmood Hussain	Julien Pritchard
Matt Bennett	Shabrana Hussain	Hendrina Quinnen
Kate Booth	Timothy Huxtable	Carl Rice
Sir Albert Bore	Mohammed Idrees	Gary Sambrook
Nicky Brennan	Zafar Iqbal	Darius Sandhu
Marje Bridle	Ziaul Islam	Shafique Shah
Mick Brown	Morriam Jan	Sybil Spence
Tristan Chatfield	Brigid Jones	Dominic Stanford
Zaker Choudhry	Nagina Kauser	Ron Storer
Debbie Clancy	Mariam Khan	Martin Straker Welds
Liz Clements	Zaheer Khan	Saima Suleman
Maureen Cornish	Chaman Lal	Paul Tilsley
John Cotton	Mike Leddy	Lisa Trickett
Phil Davis	Bruce Lines	Ian Ward
Adrian Delaney	Mary Locke	Mike Ward
Diane Donaldson	Majid Mahmood	Ken Wood
Peter Fowler	Zhor Malik	Alex Yip
Jayne Francis	Karen McCarthy	Waseem Zaffar
Eddie Freeman		

NOTICE OF RECORDING

- 19611 The Lord Mayor advised that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcasting via the Council's internet site and that members of the Press/Public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

The Lord Mayor reminded Members that they did not enjoy Parliamentary Privilege in relation to debates in the Chamber and Members should be careful in what they say during all debates that afternoon.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 19612 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 this meeting.

The Lord Mayor noted that where a member had requested a dispensation to speak and vote on the Financial Plan, the Independent Chair of Standards Committee, Peter Wiseman, had considered such requests and had agreed to grant the appropriate dispensation. He continued that this would allow the member to take part and vote in the debate provided they have made a disclosable pecuniary interest.

The Deputy Lord Mayor requested Members to please note that If a Member would like to speak on a matter where a pecuniary interest has been disclosed, then the Member will need to say BEFORE speaking on the substantive issue, that he/she has a pecuniary interest and that the details have already been disclosed to the Monitoring Officer before the start of the Meeting.

Councillor Mohammed Idrees declared an interest as a member of Unite Union and that his wife worked in a school in Birmingham as a Teaching Assistant.

Councillor Fred Grindrod declared a pecuniary interest in that his wife worked at Kings Norton Boys School.

MINUTES

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and –

- 19613 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2022 having been circulated to each Member of the Council, be taken as read and confirmed and signed.

LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Death of former Councillor, Honorary Alderman Alberta Margaret Waddington

The Lord Mayor indicated that, once again, he must begin his announcements with some extremely sad news, as he informed the meeting of the death of former Councillor, Honorary Alderman Alberta Margaret Waddington MBE, known to colleagues as Margaret.

The Lord Mayor noted Margaret was elected and served as a Councillor for Sutton Trinity Ward from June 2004 to May 2018; and became an Honorary Alderman on 22 May 2018. The Lord Mayor continued that during her time on the City Council, Margaret served on numerous Committees, including as Vice-Chair of Public Protection Committee, and Chair of the Sutton Coldfield District Committee.

The Lord Mayor noted that Margaret leaves behind her husband Derek, son David, daughter Sarah, and grandchildren Tilly and Phoebe; and asked all to join him in extending to all of Margaret's family and friends, our deepest condolences.

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

19614

RESOLVED:-

That this Council places on record its sorrow at the death of former Councillor, Honorary Alderman Alberta Margaret Waddington and its appreciation of her devoted service to the residents of Birmingham. The Council extends its deepest sympathy to members of 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.

PETITIONS

Petition Relating to City Council Functions Presented prior to the Meeting

The following petition were presented:-

(See document No. 1)

In accordance with the proposals by the persons presenting the petition, it was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and -

19615

RESOLVED:-

That the petition be received and referred to the relevant Chief Officer to examine and report as appropriate.

Petitions Relating to City Council Functions Presented at the Meeting

The following petitions were presented:-

(See document No 2)

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

19616 **RESOLVED:-**

That the petitions be received and referred to the relevant Chief Officers (s) to examine and report as appropriate.

Petitions Update

The following Petitions Update was submitted:-

(See document No 3)

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and -

19617 **RESOLVED:-**

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

APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

19618 There were no appointments to be made.

The Lord Mayor made the following statement:-

‘Please be mindful of any political statements made during the pre-election period for the Erdington by-election because this meeting is been webcast. So be careful in your comments.’

FINANCIAL PLAN

The Financial Plan was submitted:-

(See document No 4)

The Leader, Councillor Ian Ward declared a pecuniary interest for which he had received dispensation from the Chair of the Standards Committee and moved the motion which was seconded.

City Council – 22 February 2022

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

(See document No 5)

Councillor Robert Alden noted his wife worked for the Birmingham Museum Trust and he had notified the City Solicitor of that in advance. He moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Deirdre Alden who reserved her right to speak.

In accordance with Council Standing Orders, Councillors Jon Hunt and Roger Harmer gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No 6)

Councillor Jon Hunt moved the amendment. In seconding the amendment Councillor Roger Harmer declared a pecuniary interest in that his wife worked in a school maintained by the City Council.

In accordance with Council Standing Orders, Councillors Julien Pritchard and Paul Tilsley gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No 7)

Councillor Julien Pritchard moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Paul Tilsley.

A debate ensued.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and

19619 **RESOLVED:-**

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

The Council then adjourned at 1630 hours.

At 1705 hours the meeting resumed at the point it had been adjourned.

A debate continued during which Councillor John Cotton indicated that he had a pecuniary interest as set out in his register of interests and had received dispensation from the Chair of the Standards Committee.

In accordance with Council Standing Orders, Councillors Matt Bennett and Zhor Malik gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No 8)

Councillor Matt Bennett moved the amendment and in doing so noted that the figures contained therein were also in the main Conservative amendment moved earlier in the meeting and should that amendment be agreed then the amendment he was proposing would be withdrawn.

Councillor Paul Tilsley in noting that Edgbaston Cricket Ground was mentioned in the amendment indicated he was a member of Warwickshire County Cricket Club.

Councillor Zhor Malik seconded the amendment. During his speech the Lord Mayor reminded him to keep to the amendment. Councillor Malik continued and the Lord Mayor indicated that, as Councillor Malik was not referencing the budget and because of the behaviour in the meeting, he would adjourn the meeting for 10 minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and

19620 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Council be adjourned until 1755 hours on this day.

The Council then adjourned at 1745 hours.

At 1800 hours the meeting resumed at the point it had been adjourned.

The Lord Mayor explained why he had adjourned the meeting. He noted that there was a complete lack of respect for the Office of the Lord Mayor and reminded the Council that the protocol demands that if the Lord Mayor during the meeting if he stands up then you are required to sit and be quiet. The Lord Mayor noted that he had waited for two minutes and still you are not respecting that aspect and emphasised that it was not about him, but the Office of the Lord Mayor.

The Lord Mayor indicated that he had seen this disrespect in the last meeting and now during the budget meeting. He explained that he had tried to be very fair and was calling the councillors from all sides as his intention was to be as impartial as possible. However, Members were not giving him the respect that the Office of the Lord Mayor demanded. The Lord Mayor finished with the hope that for the rest of the meeting Members would behave properly and give the Office of the Lord Mayor the proper respect.

The Lord Mayor noted that Councillor Malik had 2 minutes 40 seconds left and asked him to concentrate on the amendment.

Councillor Malik continued seconding the amendment.

City Council – 22 February 2022

The debate continued during which Councillor Waseem Zaffar declared a pecuniary interest which had been disclosed to the Monitoring Officer and had received dispensation from the Chair of the Standards Committee.

The Leader, Councillor Ian Ward replied to the debate.

The first amendment to the Motions in the names of Councillors Robert Alden and Deirdre Alden having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and, by the recorded vote set out below, was declared to be lost.

For the First Amendment (22)

Deirdre Alden	Eddie Freeman	David Pears
Robert Alden	Adam Higgs	Gary Sambrook
David Barrie	Timothy Huxtable	Darius Sandhu
Matt Bennett	Bruce Lines	Dominic Stanford
Debbie Clancy	Zhor Malik	Ron Storer
Maureen Cornish	Gareth Moore	Ken Wood
Adrian Delaney	Simon Morrall	Alex Yip
Peter Fowler		

Against the First Amendment (53)

Akhlaq Ahmed	Fred Grindrod	Majid Mahmood
Alex Aitken	Roger Harmer	Karen McCarthy
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Deborah Harries	Saddak Miah
Mohammed Azim	Kath Hartley	Yvonne Mosquito
Baber Baz	Jon Hunt	John O'Shea
Kate Booth	Mahmood Hussain	Robert Pocock
Sir Albert Bore	Shabrana Hussain	Hendrina Quinnen
Nicky Brennan	Mohammed Idrees	Carl Rice
Marje Bridle	Zafar Iqbal	Shafique Shah
Mick Brown	Ziaul Islam	Sybil Spence
Tristan Chatfield	Morriam Jan	Martin Straker Welds
Zaker Choudhry	Brigid Jones	Saima Suleman
Liz Clements	Nagina Kauser	Paul Tilsley
John Cotton	Mariam Khan	Lisa Trickett
Phil Davis	Zaheer Khan	Ian Ward
Diane Donaldson	Chaman Lal	Mike Ward
Jayne Francis	Mike Leddy	Waseem Zaffar
Peter Griffiths	Mary Locke	

Abstentions (1)

Julien Pritchard

The second amendment to the Motions in the names of Councillors Jon Hunt and Roger Harmer having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and, by the recorded vote set out below, was declared to be lost.

For the Second Amendment (9)

Baber Baz	Deborah Harries	Julien Pritchard
Zaker Choudhry	Jon Hunt	Paul Tilsley
Roger Harmer	Morriam Jan	Mike Ward

Against the Second Amendment (45)

Akhlaq Ahmed	Peter Griffiths	Majid Mahmood
Alex Aitken	Fred Grindrod	Karen McCarthy
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Kath Hartley	Saddak Miah
Mohammed Azim	Mahmood Hussain	Yvonne Mosquito
Kate Booth	Shabrana Hussain	John O'Shea
Sir Albert Bore	Mohammed Idrees	Robert Pocock
Nicky Brennan	Zafar Iqbal	Hendrina Quinnen
Marje Bridle	Ziaul Islam	Carl Rice
Mick Brown	Brigid Jones	Shafique Shah
Tristan Chatfield	Nagina Kauser	Sybil Spence
Liz Clements	Mariam Khan	Martin Straker Welds
John Cotton	Zaheer Khan	Saima Suleman
Phil Davis	Chaman Lal	Lisa Trickett
Diane Donaldson	Mike Leddy	Ian Ward
Jayne Francis	Mary Locke	Waseem Zaffar

Abstentions (22)

Deirdre Alden	Eddie Freeman	David Pears
Robert Alden	Adam Higgs	Gary Sambrook
David Barrie	Timothy Huxtable	Darius Sandhu
Matt Bennett	Bruce Lines	Dominic Stanford
Debbie Clancy	Zhor Malik	Ron Storer
Maureen Cornish	Gareth Moore	Ken Wood
Adrian Delaney	Simon Morrall	Alex Yip
Peter Fowler		

The third amendment to the Motions in the names of Councillors Julien Pritchard and Paul Tilsley having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and, by the recorded vote set out below, was declared to be lost.

For the Third Amendment (9)

Baber Baz	Deborah Harries	Julien Pritchard
Zaker Choudhry	Jon Hunt	Paul Tilsley
Roger Harmer	Morriam Jan	Mike Ward

Against the Third Amendment (45)

Akhlaq Ahmed	Peter Griffiths	Majid Mahmood
Alex Aitken	Fred Grindrod	Karen McCarthy
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Kath Hartley	Saddak Miah
Mohammed Azim	Mahmood Hussain	Yvonne Mosquito
Kate Booth	Shabrana Hussain	John O'Shea
Sir Albert Bore	Mohammed Idrees	Robert Pocock
Nicky Brennan	Zafar Iqbal	Hendrina Quinnen
Marje Bridle	Ziaul Islam	Carl Rice
Mick Brown	Brigid Jones	Shafique Shah
Tristan Chatfield	Nagina Kauser	Sybil Spence
Liz Clements	Mariam Khan	Martin Straker Welds
John Cotton	Zaheer Khan	Saima Suleman
Phil Davis	Chaman Lal	Lisa Trickett
Diane Donaldson	Mike Leddy	Ian Ward
Jayne Francis	Mary Locke	Waseem Zaffar

Abstentions (22)

Deirdre Alden	Eddie Freeman	David Pears
Robert Alden	Adam Higgs	Gary Sambrook
David Barrie	Timothy Huxtable	Darius Sandhu
Matt Bennett	Bruce Lines	Dominic Stanford
Debbie Clancy	Zhor Malik	Ron Storer
Maureen Cornish	Gareth Moore	Ken Wood
Adrian Delaney	Simon Morrall	Alex Yip
Peter Fowler		

The fourth amendment to the Motions in the names of Councillors Matt Bennett and Zhor Malik having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and, by the recorded vote set out below, was declared to be lost.

For the Fourth Amendment (31)

Deirdre Alden	Roger Harmer	David Pears
Robert Alden	Deborah Harries	Julien Pritchard
David Barrie	Adam Higgs	Gary Sambrook
Baber Baz	Jon Hunt	Darius Sandhu
Matt Bennett	Timothy Huxtable	Dominic Stanford
Zaker Choudhry	Morriam Jan	Ron Storer
Debbie Clancy	Bruce Lines	Paul Tilsley
Maureen Cornish	Zhor Malik	Mike Ward
Adrian Delaney	Gareth Moore	Ken Wood
Peter Fowler	Simon Morrall	Alex Yip
Eddie Freeman		

Against the Fourth Amendment (45)

Akhlaq Ahmed	Peter Griffiths	Majid Mahmood
Alex Aitken	Fred Grindrod	Karen McCarthy
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Kath Hartley	Saddak Miah
Mohammed Azim	Mahmood Hussain	Yvonne Mosquito
Kate Booth	Shabrana Hussain	John O'Shea
Sir Albert Bore	Mohammed Idrees	Robert Pocock
Nicky Brennan	Zafar Iqbal	Hendrina Quinnen
Marje Bridle	Ziaul Islam	Carl Rice
Mick Brown	Brigid Jones	Shafique Shah
Tristan Chatfield	Nagina Kauser	Sybil Spence
Liz Clements	Mariam Khan	Martin Straker Welds
John Cotton	Zaheer Khan	Saima Suleman
Phil Davis	Chaman Lal	Lisa Trickett
Diane Donaldson	Mike Leddy	Ian Ward
Jayne Francis	Mary Locke	Waseem Zaffar

Abstentions (0)

Motion 1 having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and, by the recorded vote set out below, was declared to be carried.

For Motion 1 (45)

Akhlaq Ahmed	Peter Griffiths	Majid Mahmood
Alex Aitken	Fred Grindrod	Karen McCarthy
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Kath Hartley	Saddak Miah
Mohammed Azim	Mahmood Hussain	Yvonne Mosquito
Kate Booth	Shabrana Hussain	John O'Shea
Sir Albert Bore	Mohammed Idrees	Robert Pocock
Nicky Brennan	Zafar Iqbal	Hendrina Quinnen
Marje Bridle	Ziaul Islam	Carl Rice
Mick Brown	Brigid Jones	Shafique Shah
Tristan Chatfield	Nagina Kauser	Sybil Spence
Liz Clements	Mariam Khan	Martin Straker Welds
John Cotton	Zaheer Khan	Saima Suleman
Phil Davis	Chaman Lal	Lisa Trickett
Diane Donaldson	Mike Leddy	Ian Ward
Jayne Francis	Mary Locke	Waseem Zaffar

Against Motion 1 (29)

Deirdre Alden	Eddie Freeman	Simon Morrall
Robert Alden	Roger Harmer	David Pears
David Barrie	Deborah Harries	Gary Sambrook
Baber Baz	Adam Higgs	Darius Sandhu
Matt Bennett	Jon Hunt	Dominic Stanford
Zaker Choudhry	Timothy Huxtable	Ron Storer
Debbie Clancy	Morriam Jan	Paul Tilsley
Maureen Cornish	Bruce Lines	Ken Wood
Adrian Delaney	Zhor Malik	Alex Yip
Peter Fowler	Gareth Moore	

Abstentions (1)

Julien Pritchard

Motion 2 having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and, by the recorded vote set out below, was declared to be carried.

For Motion 2 (67)

Akhlaq Ahmed	Eddie Freeman	Saddak Miah
Alex Aitken	Peter Griffiths	Gareth Moore
Deirdre Alden	Fred Grindrod	Simon Morrall
Robert Alden	Kath Hartley	Yvonne Mosquito
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Adam Higgs	John O'Shea
Mohammed Azim	Mahmood Hussain	David Pears
David Barrie	Shabrana Hussain	Robert Pocock
Matt Bennett	Timothy Huxtable	Hendrina Quinnen
Kate Booth	Mohammed Idrees	Carl Rice
Sir Albert Bore	Zafar Iqbal	Gary Sambrook
Nicky Brennan	Ziaul Islam	Darius Sandhu
Marje Bridle	Brigid Jones	Shafique Shah
Mick Brown	Nagina Kauser	Sybil Spence
Tristan Chatfield	Mariam Khan	Dominic Stanford
Debbie Clancy	Zaheer Khan	Ron Storer
Liz Clements	Chaman Lal	Martin Straker Welds
Maureen Cornish	Mike Leddy	Saima Suleman
John Cotton	Bruce Lines	Lisa Trickett
Phil Davis	Mary Locke	Ian Ward
Adrian Delaney	Majid Mahmood	Ken Wood
Diane Donaldson	Zhor Malik	Alex Yip
Peter Fowler	Karen McCarthy	Waseem Zaffar
Jayne Francis		

Against Motion 2 (7)

Baber Baz
Zaker Choudhry
Roger Harmer

Deborah Harries
Jon Hunt

Morriam Jan
Paul Tilsley

Abstentions (1)

Julien Pritchard

Motion 3 having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and, by the recorded vote set out below, was declared to be carried.

For Motion 3 (67)

Akhlaq Ahmed
Alex Aitken
Deirdre Alden
Robert Alden
Gurdial Singh Atwal
Mohammed Azim
David Barrie
Matt Bennett
Kate Booth
Sir Albert Bore
Nicky Brennan
Marje Bridle
Mick Brown
Tristan Chatfield
Debbie Clancy
Liz Clements
Maureen Cornish
John Cotton
Phil Davis
Adrian Delaney
Diane Donaldson
Peter Fowler
Jayne Francis

Eddie Freeman
Peter Griffiths
Fred Grindrod
Kath Hartley
Adam Higgs
Mahmood Hussain
Shabrana Hussain
Timothy Huxtable
Mohammed Idrees
Zafar Iqbal
Ziaul Islam
Brigid Jones
Nagina Kauser
Mariam Khan
Zaheer Khan
Chaman Lal
Mike Leddy
Bruce Lines
Mary Locke
Majid Mahmood
Zhor Malik
Karen McCarthy

Saddak Miah
Gareth Moore
Simon Morrall
Yvonne Mosquito
John O'Shea
David Pears
Robert Pocock
Hendrina Quinnen
Carl Rice
Gary Sambrook
Darius Sandhu
Shafique Shah
Sybil Spence
Dominic Stanford
Ron Storer
Martin Straker Welds
Saima Suleman
Lisa Trickett
Ian Ward
Ken Wood
Alex Yip
Waseem Zaffar

Against Motion 3 (7)

Baber Baz
Zaker Choudhry
Roger Harmer

Deborah Harries
Jon Hunt

Morriam Jan
Paul Tilsley

Abstentions (1)

Julien Pritchard

Motion 4 having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and, by the recorded vote set out below, was declared to be carried.

For Motion 4 (69)

Akhlaq Ahmed	Eddie Freeman	Gareth Moore
Alex Aitken	Peter Griffiths	Simon Morrall
Deirdre Alden	Fred Grindrod	Yvonne Mosquito
Robert Alden	Kath Hartley	John O'Shea
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Adam Higgs	David Pears
Mohammed Azim	Mahmood Hussain	Robert Pocock
David Barrie	Shabrana Hussain	Julien Pritchard
Matt Bennett	Timothy Huxtable	Hendrina Quinnen
Kate Booth	Mohammed Idrees	Carl Rice
Sir Albert Bore	Zafar Iqbal	Gary Sambrook
Nicky Brennan	Ziaul Islam	Darius Sandhu
Marje Bridle	Brigid Jones	Shafique Shah
Mick Brown	Nagina Kauser	Sybil Spence
Tristan Chatfield	Mariam Khan	Dominic Stanford
Debbie Clancy	Zaheer Khan	Ron Storer
Liz Clements	Chaman Lal	Martin Straker Welds
Maureen Cornish	Mike Leddy	Saima Suleman
John Cotton	Bruce Lines	Paul Tilsley
Phil Davis	Mary Locke	Lisa Trickett
Adrian Delaney	Majid Mahmood	Ian Ward
Diane Donaldson	Zhor Malik	Ken Wood
Peter Fowler	Karen McCarthy	Alex Yip
Jayne Francis	Saddak Miah	Waseem Zaffar

Against Motion 4 (6)

Baber Baz	Roger Harmer	Jon Hunt
Zaker Choudhry	Deborah Harries	Morriam Jan

Abstentions (0)

Motion 5 having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and, by the recorded vote set out below, was declared to be carried.

For Motion 5 (67)

Akhlaq Ahmed	Eddie Freeman	Saddak Miah
Alex Aitken	Peter Griffiths	Gareth Moore
Deirdre Alden	Fred Grindrod	Simon Morrall
Robert Alden	Kath Hartley	Yvonne Mosquito
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Adam Higgs	John O'Shea
Mohammed Azim	Mahmood Hussain	David Pears
David Barrie	Shabrana Hussain	Robert Pocock
Matt Bennett	Timothy Huxtable	Hendrina Quinnen
Kate Booth	Mohammed Idrees	Carl Rice
Sir Albert Bore	Zafar Iqbal	Gary Sambrook
Nicky Brennan	Ziaul Islam	Darius Sandhu

City Council – 22 February 2022

Marje Bridle	Brigid Jones	Shafique Shah
Mick Brown	Nagina Kauser	Sybil Spence
Tristan Chatfield	Mariam Khan	Dominic Stanford
Debbie Clancy	Zaheer Khan	Ron Storer
Liz Clements	Chaman Lal	Martin Straker Welds
Maureen Cornish	Mike Leddy	Saima Suleman
John Cotton	Bruce Lines	Lisa Trickett
Phil Davis	Mary Locke	Ian Ward
Adrian Delaney	Majid Mahmood	Ken Wood
Diane Donaldson	Zhor Malik	Alex Yip
Peter Fowler	Karen McCarthy	Waseem Zaffar
Jayne Francis		

Against Motion 5 (7)

Baber Baz	Deborah Harries	Morriam Jan
Zaker Choudhry	Jon Hunt	Paul Tilsley
Roger Harmer		

Abstentions (1)

Julien Pritchard

Motions 6-9 having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and, by the recorded vote set out below, was declared to be carried.

For Motions 6-9 (67)

Akhlaq Ahmed	Peter Griffiths	Majid Mahmood
Alex Aitken	Fred Grindrod	Karen McCarthy
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Kath Hartley	Saddak Miah
Mohammed Azim	Mahmood Hussain	Yvonne Mosquito
Kate Booth	Shabrana Hussain	John O'Shea
Sir Albert Bore	Mohammed Idrees	Robert Pocock
Nicky Brennan	Zafar Iqbal	Hendrina Quinnen
Marje Bridle	Ziaul Islam	Carl Rice
Mick Brown	Brigid Jones	Shafique Shah
Tristan Chatfield	Nagina Kauser	Sybil Spence
Liz Clements	Mariam Khan	Martin Straker Welds
John Cotton	Zaheer Khan	Saima Suleman
Phil Davis	Chaman Lal	Lisa Trickett
Diane Donaldson	Mike Leddy	Ian Ward
Jayne Francis	Mary Locke	Waseem Zaffar

Against Motions 6-9 (30)

Deirdre Alden	Eddie Freeman	Simon Morrall
Robert Alden	Roger Harmer	David Pears
David Barrie	Deborah Harries	Julien Pritchard
Baber Baz	Adam Higgs	Gary Sambrook
Matt Bennett	Jon Hunt	Darius Sandhu
Zaker Choudhry	Timothy Huxtable	Dominic Stanford

City Council – 22 February 2022

Debbie Clancy
Maureen Cornish
Adrian Delaney
Peter Fowler

Morriam Jan
Bruce Lines
Zhor Malik
Gareth Moore

Ron Storer
Paul Tilsley
Ken Wood
Alex Yip

Abstentions (0)

For Motion 10 (45)

Akhlaq Ahmed
Alex Aitken
Gurdial Singh Atwal
Mohammed Azim
Kate Booth
Sir Albert Bore
Nicky Brennan
Marje Bridle
Mick Brown
Tristan Chatfield
Liz Clements
John Cotton
Phil Davis
Diane Donaldson
Jayne Francis

Peter Griffiths
Fred Grindrod
Kath Hartley
Mahmood Hussain
Shabrana Hussain
Mohammed Idrees
Zafar Iqbal
Ziaul Islam
Brigid Jones
Nagina Kauser
Mariam Khan
Zaheer Khan
Chaman Lal
Mike Leddy
Mary Locke

Majid Mahmood
Karen McCarthy
Saddak Miah
Yvonne Mosquito
John O'Shea
Robert Pocock
Hendrina Quinnen
Carl Rice
Shafique Shah
Sybil Spence
Martin Straker Welds
Saima Suleman
Lisa Trickett
Ian Ward
Waseem Zaffar

Against Motion 10 (8)

Baber Baz
Zaker Choudhry
Roger Harmer

Deborah Harries
Jon Hunt
Morriam Jan

Julien Pritchard
Paul Tilsley

Abstentions (22)

Deirdre Alden
Robert Alden
David Barrie
Matt Bennett
Debbie Clancy
Maureen Cornish
Adrian Delaney
Peter Fowler

Eddie Freeman
Adam Higgs
Timothy Huxtable
Bruce Lines
Zhor Malik
Gareth Moore
Simon Morrall

David Pears
Gary Sambrook
Darius Sandhu
Dominic Stanford
Ron Storer
Ken Wood
Alex Yip

Therefore it was-

19621

RESOLVED:-

1. **Fees and Charges**

That the schedule of fees and charges as set out in Appendix S be approved.

2. **Capital Strategy and Programme and Treasury Management**

That the proposals, as set out in the Capital Strategy Chapter 6 and Appendices J, M-Q be approved for:

- a) Capital Programme (Appendix J)
- b) Treasury Management Strategy (Appendix M)
- c) Treasury Management Policy (Appendix N)
- d) Service and Commercial Investment Strategy (Appendix O)
- e) Debt Repayment Policy (Appendix P)
- f) Prudential Indicators (Appendix Q)

3. **Pay Policy**

That in fulfilment of the requirements of Sections 38 to 43 of the Localism Act 2011, the Pay Policy Statement, as set out in Appendix R, be approved.

4. **Dedicated Schools Grant**

Following the approval by Schools Forum on 20th January 2022, that Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) school and early years funding formula for 2022/23 as set out in Chapter 4 of the Financial Plan be approved as follows for School block (a-f), and early years block (g-i):

- a) the National funding Formula as the basis for Birmingham schools funding for 2022/23
- b) an additional supplement of £4.69 per primary pupil and £3.53 per secondary pupil
- c) the Minimum Funding Guarantee at 2% with no capping or scaling
- d) the growth fund at £987,071
- e) the falling rolls fund at £1,061,000
- f) approve any minor variations required by the Education and Skills Funding Agency to ensure compliance with School Finance regulations
- g) the early years funding formula for 3 and 4 Year Olds at £4.52 per hour with additional protection for maintained nursery schools
- h) the early years funding formula for 2 Year Olds at £5.61 per hour
- i) maintain the current level of Deprivation and Free School Meals (FSM) supplements at the 2021/22 values

5. Revenue Budget

That the revenue budget for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2022 of £759.231m, including the budget allocations to the various Directorates of the Council, as set out in Appendix K to the Financial Plan, be approved.

6. Council Tax Requirement

That the following calculations be now made in accordance with Section 31A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2022:

	£
a. aggregate of estimated City Council expenditure, contingencies, and contributions to financial reserves	3,882,906,284
b. Parish Precepts	1,886,544
c. aggregate of estimated income (including Top-Up Grant), and use of financial reserves	(3,180,324,292)
d. net transfers to/(from) the Collection Fund in relation to Business Rates	(318,794,716)
e. Transfer to/(from) the Collection Fund in relation to Council Tax	17,365,000
f. Council Tax Requirement, being the aggregate of (a) to (e) above	403,038,820

7. Council Tax - Basic Amount

That the Basic Amount of Council Tax for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2022 be set at £1,559.98, pursuant to the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, being the Council Tax Requirement of £403,038,820 divided by the Council Tax Base of 258,362 Band D properties.

8. Council Tax – City Council and Parish Precepts

- (i) That the basic amount of Council Tax for City Council services for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2022 be set at £1,552.68 pursuant to the formula in Section 34(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

City Council – 22 February 2022

	£	£
a. Basic Amount calculated under Section 31B		1,559.98
LESS		
b. Parish precepts	1,886,544	
DIVIDED BY		
City Council Tax base	258,362	7.30
		<hr/> 1,552.68

- (ii) That, pursuant to Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Basic Amount of Council Tax for City Council services is not excessive in relation to determining whether a referendum is required on the level of Council Tax.
- (iii) That the basic amount of Council Tax for New Frankley in Birmingham Parish for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2022 be set at £1,586.42 pursuant to the formula in Section 34(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

	£	£
a. Basic Amount calculated under Section 34(2)		1,552.68
PLUS		
b. The New Frankley in Birmingham Parish precept	43,520	
DIVIDED BY		
The tax base for New Frankley in Birmingham Parish	1,290	33.74
		<hr/> 1,586.42

- (iv) That the basic amount of Council Tax for the Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2022 be set at £1,602.64 pursuant to the formula in Section 34(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

	£	£
a. Basic Amount calculated under Section 34(2)		1,552.68
PLUS		
b. The Royal Sutton Coldfield Parish Council precept	1,843,024	
DIVIDED BY		
The tax base for Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council	36,890	49.96
		<hr/> 1,602.64

9. **Council Tax - Total**

That, in accordance with Section 30 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the amounts of Council Tax set for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2022 for each category of dwelling listed within a particular valuation band, shall be calculated by adding:

- a. the amount given by multiplying the basic amount of Council Tax for the relevant area by the fraction whose numerator is the proportion applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band, and whose denominator is the proportion applicable to dwellings listed in valuation Band D; to
- b. the amounts which are stated in the final precepts issued by the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority and the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner; and shall be:

Band	Council Tax Areas without a Parish Council	Council Tax New Frankley in Birmingham Parish	Council Tax Royal Sutton Coldfield Town
	£	£	£
A	1,205.50	1,227.99	1,238.81
B	1,406.42	1,432.66	1,445.28
C	1,607.34	1,637.33	1,651.75
D	1,808.26	1,842.00	1,858.22
E	2,210.09	2,251.33	2,271.15
F	2,611.93	2,660.67	2,684.09
G	3,013.76	3,069.99	3,097.03
H	3,616.51	3,683.99	3,716.43

10. **Financial Plan**

That the Financial Plan be approved.

The meeting ended at 1955 hours.

APPENDIX

Questions and replies in accordance with Standing Order 10.2.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
DEBORAH HARRIES**

A1 Land at Stechford Cascades

Question:

Can the Leader please confirm:

- (a) when he intends to make a decision on the future of the site of the former Stechford Cascades, which closed its doors in 2017;**
- (b) that he will ask officers to keep the site - next to the main Stechford shopping area and park - which was cleared in 2020 and is partly open and vulnerable to fly-tipping, graffiti and traveller occupation, in good order;**
- (c) that any decision on the future of the site will have a strong community and neighbourhood consideration, and not simply a land sale at the highest price to off-set existing capital commitments;**
- (d) that he will ask officers to re-engage with Stechford Baptist Church and the YMCA on their existing long-standing proposal for a mixed affordable housing and community scheme, as they have not heard anything from the council for two years, since before lockdown?**

Answer:

- (a) Demolition of the Stechford Cascades was completed in 2020 having been delayed due to the presence of asbestos in the structure. Subsequently the site has been declared surplus and Cabinet has agreed its intention to bring the site forward for sale by informal tender. In light of the strong community interest in the site Officers have been asked by the Leader to delay the disposal process in order to allow a local community organisation the time to develop their proposals and to make an offer for the site if they wish.
- (b) While unfortunately the site has been the subject of repeated antisocial behaviour our officers have previously taken action on a number of occasions to remove fly-tipping and graffiti. Following the departure of an illegal traveller encampment from the site in November 2021 external concrete bollards were sited at the entrance and repairs to the hoarding undertaken in an effort to prevent further unauthorised access. Officers will continue to take appropriate action in response to further issues that are identified.
- (a) The sale of Stechford Cascades site is important to support the delivery of the capital budget commitments within the Community Sport Service, including those associated with the provision of the new Stechford leisure centre and the demolition of the Stechford Cascades. The market value will be reflective of the planning guidance given for the site in respect to use mix and massing / density.

- (b) Officers have met with Stechford Baptist Church and the YMCA, in person and remotely, on several occasions during the past two years and have provided a significant amount of advice and assistance to develop proposals for the Cascades Site. This has included the provision of formal pre-application advice (at no charge) during early 2021. Officers are presently awaiting confirmation of the group's intentions regarding land value to ensure they meet the City Council's aspirations of market value and have set a deadline of the 28th February to receive these to assist in bringing the matter to a conclusion.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
PAUL TILSLEY**

A2 Powers to fine motorists

Question:

From June, all councils in the UK will be able to issue £70 fines to drivers for minor traffic offences such as failing to give way to oncoming traffic. Could the Leader give details of how this will be publicised and more importantly enforced in the city?

Answer:

Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act (2004) made provision for Government to confer powers on Local Authorities to enforce moving traffic contraventions. A set of Regulations giving effect to these Part 6 powers is currently passing through Parliamentary approval and is expected to come into force during 2022.

Once approved, Local Authorities will need to apply to the Secretary of State for a Designation Order to obtain Part 6 powers. The Government intends to publish further guidance to Local Authorities in June 2022, via the Local Government Association.

I can confirm that we do intend to pursue use of these powers. However, for an Authority the size of Birmingham, a significant amount of work will be required to prepare the business case, make the application, identify and prioritise suitable locations for enforcement, carry out any physical works (e.g. installation of cameras) and undertake the necessary procurement processes to enter into an enforcement contract with a suitable supplier.

There is also a requirement for formal consultation with regard to the introduction of these powers and in addition we would expect to undertake a communication exercise with citizens to ensure full and proper public engagement ahead of implementation. Further details on this will emerge in due course.

On this basis we currently anticipate enforcement to start no earlier than February 2023.

For clarity the extent of these contraventions only extends to those infringements which are supported by specific traffic regulation orders (e.g. banned turns, yellow boxes, one-way streets, etc). General driving offences (e.g. dangerous driving, driving without due care and attention, etc) will remain with existing enforcement powers conferred to the Police.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
JON HUNT**

A3 David's Law

Question:

Further to the Lib Dem Motion in January 2022 calling for 'David's Law', will the Leader give direct reassurances he will be strongly lobbying Government and Local MP's for changes in legislation on schools to make the school gates a safer place for students and pedestrians?

Answer:

Birmingham City Council is committed to improving safety outside schools across the city and the continuing expansion of our 'car-free school streets' scheme underlines that commitment. In addition to further expansion of this scheme, which also helps reduce congestion and air pollution, we will continue to call on the government to ensure that the expanded range of powers available to local authorities to enforce moving traffic offences include options for creating and enforcing Car Free School Streets schemes.

Further, we will call on the government to provide funding to schools and local authorities to support sustainable and active travel to school.

We will also look to Birmingham MPs to support us in this lobbying.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR JOHN LINES**

A4 Trojan Horse

Question:

How much in total has the Council paid in external legal advice relating to the Trojan Horse Affair?

Answer:

Total spend to date £799, 747. 32

Time period: May 2014 – January 2022

The Trojan Horse affair due to its complexity and the fact that its spread over approximately 8 years meant that in order for the Council to appropriately safeguard its position and the position of its employees, there was significant reliance on specialist external Legal advice.

B NO WRITTEN QUESTIONS WERE SUBMITTED TO THE DEPUTY LEADER

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, SKILLS AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR ZAKER CHOUDHRY

C1 Reading ages

Question:

There have been growing reports of an oncoming crisis with one in five pupils entering secondary school with a reading age of a six year old. Could the Cabinet Member give details of how City schools will be tackling this issue to ensure no one is left behind?

Answer:

The Council's commissioned school improvement partner, Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP), is currently working with the Education Endowment Foundation, St Matthews Research School and the Council's Early Years Network to develop an early years and KS1 Oracy project which was launched with a conference earlier this month.

The conference will be followed up with an intensive 2-year oracy development project for up to 40 schools in Birmingham, with the Education Endowment Foundation funding around 90% of the cost of rollout.

BEP has also taken the principles of the Accelerator Programme to map out how their Consortium Partners will impact on school improvement in the city. Through the Birmingham Institute of Professional Learning, BEP now has a pipeline of evidence-based programmes. BEP's Consortium Partners are also supporting consortia of schools to make evidence-based choices on key projects to engage with to improve outcomes in their schools.

CITY COUNCIL – 22 FEBRUARY 2022

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, SKILLS AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR MIKE WARD

C2 Missed Education

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member provide the number of pupils in city schools who missed the whole of the autumn term?

Answer:

Data from the School Census which will include the number of pupils in city schools who missed the whole of the autumn term will be available to local authorities at the end of March.

Schools are encouraged to use the council's robust arrangements to support the attendance of children and young people. These include the FAST Track to Attendance procedures which ensure families are supported via Early Help where appropriate.

Schools should quickly contact families where a child does not attend school, including by undertaking home visits, to establish their whereabouts and seek to ensure they return to school as soon as possible.

When schools have exhausted their reasonable enquiries and have not located the child, they are required to make a prompt referral to the council's Children Missing Education team who will investigate further and work with partners including the Children's Trust and the UK Border Agency if necessary.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, SKILLS
AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR ADRIAN DELANEY**

C3 Adderley Resignation Case

Question:

According to the New York Times Trojan Horse podcast “When I asked the Employment Tribunal for its records from the Adderley Resignation Case, the Birmingham City Council hired a fancy barrister to fight me.

Not only do they not want the records released, the Council wrote to the Tribunal that the case ought to be destroyed”.

Why did the Council do this and on whose behalf?

Answer:

The statements in the podcast misrepresent the position.

A member of the public is only able to view witness statements and the bundle whilst the hearing is going ahead and that member of the public is in the hearing. At any other time, it is for the Tribunal to decide whether it should release documents upon receipt of a request. The Tribunal refused the journalist’s request.

The Tribunal’s document retention policy required paperwork to be retained until proceedings are completed which, in this case, was 10 June 2016. The journalist’s request was submitted to the Tribunal in 2018.

The Tribunal had, in error, retained a single copy of the bundle which was annotated with notes from the Judge. The Tribunal asked the Council, acting on behalf of the Governing Body of Adderley School, and the Claimants for their comments on the request to release the bundle. The Council and three of the four Claimants opposed the Journalist’s request. The barrister who had represented the Governing Body of Adderley School at the Tribunal prepared the response, which is legally privileged and cannot be disclosed.

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

D1 West Heath Library

Question:

A joint Strategic Directors report to the Cabinet Member Finance was approved on the 31st March 2012 to secure £545k funded by Corporate Capital Resources from the Local Improvement Budget for the replacement of the West Heath Library (CA -02355-03). Please detail what this ring fenced budget has been spent on and what, if any of it, remains?

Answer:

The **£545k** was originally allocated from the Local Improvement Budget Phase 2, funded from new bids and approved by the Cabinet Member for Finance on 21/3/2012.
The £545k was to fund the rebuild of West Heath Library and was allocated to code CA-02355-03 in 2012/13.

The budget has all been spent as follows:-

£30k was spent on development costs but following the strategic review of community libraries (and the 3 tier approach) the new build of West Heath Library was abandoned with the preferred option being a relocation to Oddingly Hall instead.

In 2015/16 **£57k** of the remaining budget (£515k) was vired to Kings Norton Library (code CA-02803-03) to replace the roof. This was approved under delegations on 30/11/2015.

A further report (attached below) was approved by The Leader of the Council Jointly with the Corporate Director of Place on 12th December 2017 to allocate the remaining budget of **£456k** to support the Community Libraries Strategy as follows:

£50k – for self-service IT investment at 12 libraries

£150k – for the refurbishment of Oddingly Hall (to replace the service provided at West Heath Library)

£71k – refurbishment and modernisation of Hall Green Library

£120k – refurbishment and reconfiguration of Sutton Coldfield Library

£30k – for essential health & safety works at Stirchley Library

£20k – refurbish & reconfiguration of Aston & Bartley Green Libraries

£15k – refurbishment of the Bell Tower at Northfield Library

TOTAL - £456k.

Birmingham City Council

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

PUBLIC REPORT

Report to: The Leader of the Council Jointly with the
Corporate Director - Place
Report of: Assistant Director
Neighbourhoods & Communities Division
Date of Decision: 12 December 2017
SUBJECT: REDIRECTION OF CORPORATE CAPITAL
RESOURCES TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY
LIBRARIES STRATEGY
Key Decision: No
If not in the Forward Plan: Relevant Forward Plan Ref: N/A
(please "X" box) Chief Executive approved ☐
O&S Chair approved ☐
Relevant Cabinet Member(s): Councillor Ian Ward – Leader
Relevant O&S Chair: Councillor Mohammed Aikhlaq – Corporate Resources
& Governance
Wards affected: Various

1. Purpose of report:

- 1.1 To maximise the effectiveness of capital resources previously allocated to West Heath Library in delivering the Community Library Strategy as set out in the Cabinet Report 14th February 2017.
- 1.2 This proposed investment (as set out in paragraph 5.5) will have the benefit of extending the life of the community libraries building portfolio and support the Library Services by improving their service delivery offer to the local community and attract new users.

2. Decision(s) recommended:

That the Leader of the Council Jointly with the Corporate Director - Place

- 2.1 Approve the redirection of £456k of corporate resources from West Heath Library to support the Community Libraries Strategy as detailed in paragraph 5.5.
- 2.2 To note that these works will be procured in accordance with the Procurement Governance Arrangements and orders for works will be placed under Chief Officer delegation.

Lead Contact Officer(s): Chris Jordan
Assistant Director Neighbourhoods & Communities Division
The Place Directorate

Telephone No: 0121 303 6674
E-mail address: Chris.Jordan@birmingham.gov.uk

Birmingham City Council

3. Consultation

3.1 Internal

The Interim Chief Finance Officer has been consulted as has the Deputy Leader and both are supportive of this proposal going forward. An extensive consultation exercise was undertaken with Ward and Town Council elected members as part of the process to deliver the new 'Community Library Service Tiered Delivery Model'. This proposal supports the delivery of that model. Officers from Legal and Governance and City Finance have been involved in the preparation of this report. Library staff are being consulted on the operational impacts of the proposals as they are developed.

3.2 External

Engagement with Trade Union representatives will be progressed as the schemes are developed.

4. Compliance Issues:

4.1 Are the recommended decisions consistent with the Council's policies, plans and strategies?

Libraries have a key role to offer in supporting three of the Council priorities for Children, Jobs & Skills and Health, set out in the Vision and Forward Plan approved by Cabinet in May 2017. In February 2017 a report entitled Community Library Service Tiered Delivery model was agreed by Cabinet. This set out the strategy for delivering our community library service going forward and identified which libraries would fall into which Tier of delivery some of which would require investment in the transformation process.

4.2 Financial Implications

(Will decisions be carried out within existing finance and Resources?)

A joint Strategic Directors report to the Cabinet Member Finance was approved on the 31st March 2012 to secure £545k funded by Corporate Capital Resources from the Local Improvement Budget for the replacement of the West Heath Library (CA -02355-03). £23k was used to demolish West Heath Library following its closure in February 2014 due to its poor state of repair which had become a severe health and safety risk to the staff and service users. Also £67k was expended in January 2016 replacing the roof and rebuilding the bell tower at Kings Norton Library.

However since the original budget approval the library model has changed. A Cabinet report of the 14th February 2017 agreed that West Heath Library would not be rebuilt but instead be re-provided for within Oddingley Hall. This proposal requests that the funding is redirected to support the Community Library Tiered Delivery Model and specifically to invest the funding in the buildings and ICT infrastructure of the Community Libraries as detailed in paragraph 5.5. The libraries identified in this report for capital investment all have revenue funding allocated to them.

4.3 Legal Implications

The Council has a statutory duty pursuant to the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 to provide a 'comprehensive and efficient Library service' to all those seeking to make use of it. This duty is discharged through a combination of services including supporting the Community Libraries.

Birmingham City Council

Data Protection

The requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 and Human Rights Act 1998 have been taken into consideration in terms of the processing, management and sharing of data involved in these proposals. The decision has no data protection implications.

4.4 Public Sector Equality Duty

A full Equalities analysis was undertaken on the proposals contained within the cabinet report of February 2017 (ref EA001361) and these are reattached and applicable to this proposal (Appendix 1).

5. Relevant background/chronology of key events:

- 5.1 A report on the Community Library Service Tiered Delivery Model was agreed by cabinet in February 2017. The new model was required in order to deliver a significant level of savings. This report set out which sites would be required going forward and which Tier (or type) of delivery model would be adopted for those that remained.
- 5.2 The Place Capital Programme has a budget of £456,099 that was originally earmarked for the re-build of West Heath Library. The cabinet report of February 2017 agreed that West Heath Library would not be rebuilt and instead the service would be delivered from a refurbished Oddingley Hall at a cost of £150,000.
- 5.3 The report to Cabinet in February highlighted the fact that "Securing investment to modernise the library offer remains a priority and will be needed within the second phase of transformational change" and it remains the case that resources to invest both in building maintenance and modernisation of the service are not at the required levels. It is therefore essential that maximum impact is delivered from the capital resource that remains.
- 5.4 The projects identified in paragraph 5.5 are the first tranche of priorities which will enable the buildings to be brought up to a standard whereby health and safety issues can be addressed and the buildings brought back to a reasonable state of repair so they can continue to offer a good standard of service to their users. Individual approval reports for each of the priorities listed in paragraph 5.5 will be presented to Chief Officers seeking permission to place orders for work/replacement equipment in due course as the proposals are developed. Works will be procured in accordance with the Procurement Governance Arrangements.

Birmingham City Council

5.5

Project	Amount – up to
Self service equipment - Investment to ensure that non-supported self service (in 12 libraries) is replaced. The existing equipment in these libraries has now exceeded its useful life and repairs are no longer financially viable.	£50,000
Refurbishment of Oddingley Hall to accommodate a Tier 3 Library to replace the service formerly delivered from West Heath Library prior to its closure and subsequent demolition.	£150,000
Refurbish following flood damage and undertake modernisation of Hall Green Library. This library suffered severe flood damage due to a burst pipe. Rather than just repair the damage there is an opportunity to modernise this dated library which has had minimal investment spent on the internal fabric and bring it up to the standard of a 21 st century library. The priority is to upgrade the public areas to include reconfiguration of space and internal refurbishment including replacement furniture and equipment.	£71,000
In response to public consultation support the development of a sustainable business plan by undertaking refurbishment and reconfiguring works at Sutton Coldfield Library to enable it to operate independently on one floor (first floor) facilitating the release of the second floor for sole use by a prospective tenant on a 10+ year lease generating income to support the operational running costs of the building. This will also allow part of the first floor to be converted to a café/play space to be operated by a third party on a 5 year license bringing in a one off annual contribution..	£120,000
A contribution towards essential health and safety works (roof, boiler) at Stirchley Library as part of a partnership with the Friends of Stirchley Library (to match fund s106 funding).	£30,000
Fund the investment needed in establishing Tier 3 sites at Aston and Bartley Green to refurbish and reconfigure space.	£20,000
Refurbish Northfield Bell Tower to ensure structural stability to the building envelope. The structural integrity of the building envelope needs to be addressed before it becomes a serious health and safety issue that could impact on the public should the building fail.	£15,000
TOTAL	£456,000

5.6 This above allocation does not address all the priorities identified at libraries and funding will need to be identified for future tranches. It is proposed that condition surveys are carried out to identify a comprehensive list of works required on the library buildings portfolio.

Birmingham City Council

6. Evaluation of alternative option(s):

- 6.1 Do nothing – this would not address the financial need to invest in the Community Libraries property portfolio ensuring buildings are structurally safe and fit the criteria for a 21st century modern library facility.

7. Reasons for Decision(s):

- 7.1 To redirect corporate capital resources in line with the 'Community Libraries Tiered Delivery Model'.
- 7.2 To support the Council's strategic priorities as stated in paragraph 4.1

Signatures

Date

Cabinet Member


Councillor Ian Ward, Leader of the Council

14-12-17

Chief Officer


Jacqui Kennedy, Corporate Director - Place

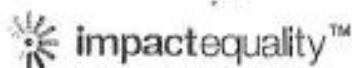
11/12/2017

List of Background Documents used to compile this Report:

Cabinet Report 14th February 2017 Community Library Service Tiered Delivery Model.

List of Appendices accompanying this Report (if any):

1. Equality Assessment



Equality Analysis

Birmingham City Council Analysis Report

EA Name	Birmingham Library Service Tiered Delivery Model For Community Libraries
Directorate	Place
Service Area	Homes And Neighbourhood - Place
Type	Amended Function
EA Summary	The Community Library service are consulting on introducing a tiered Library service which will incorporate greater community support. This is aligned to the budget allocation set in 2014/15.
Reference Number	EA001361
Task Group Manager	liz.parkes@birmingham.gov.uk
Task Group Member	sarah.chincock@birmingham.gov.uk
Date Approved	2017-02-03 00:00:00 +0000
Senior Officer	chris.jordan@birmingham.gov.uk
Quality Control Officer	placeequalitycontrol@birmingham.gov.uk

Introduction

The report records the information that has been submitted for this equality analysis in the following format.

Initial Assessment

This section identifies the purpose of the Policy and which types of individual it affects. It also identifies which equality strands are affected by either a positive or negative differential impact.

Relevant Protected Characteristics

For each of the identified relevant protected characteristics there are three sections which will have been completed.

- Impact
- Consultation
- Additional Work

If the assessment has raised any issues to be addressed there will also be an action planning section.

The following pages record the answers to the assessment questions with optional comments included by the assessor to clarify or explain any of the answers given or relevant issues.

1 Activity Type

The activity has been identified as a Amended Function.

2 Initial Assessment

2.1 Purpose and Link to Strategic Themes

What is the purpose of this Function and expected outcomes?

Deliver a city wide community library service through a tiered system, based around the Society of Chief Librarians universal offers : learning, digital, reading, information, and health. The proposed tiered model proposes to co-deliver Libraries rated as Tier 3 libraries. The Tier 3 libraries that are being consulted on are, Bartley Green, Bloomsbury, Glebe Farm, Kents Moat, Selly Oak and West Heath Library. These libraries will be supported by 15 hours of BCC library staffing working alongside partners and stakeholders. This still ensure accessibility of the library service to almost all of Birmingham residents who will still be within 2 miles of a library service. The consultation proposes the closure of Sutton Coldfield and Aston Libraries.

For each strategy, please decide whether it is going to be significantly aided by the Function.

Children: A Safe And Secure City In Which To Learn And Grow	Yes
---	-----

Comment:

Children have been consulted through the use of two questionnaires. It was import that we capture the views of the future generation and provide a library service that will meet there needs.

Health: Helping People Become More Physically Active And Well	Yes
---	-----

Comment:

Health is one of the Society of Chief Librarians universal offers. Libraries provide access to health information both online and through selected book stock.

Housing: To Meet The Needs Of All Current And Future Citizens	No
Jobs And Skills: For An Enterprising, Innovative And Green City	Yes

2.2 Individuals affected by the policy

Will the policy have an impact on service users/stakeholders?	Yes
Will the policy have an impact on employees?	Yes

Comment:

It is acknowledged that the proposed changes are likely to have an impact on staff. Through the consultation process the council will follow policy and procedures, these will include briefings, meetings with managers, one to one consultation, email, written communications and Trade Union consultation. The proposed new Community Library service model indicated a staffing reduction of an estimated 13 fte from a total workforce of 112 fte. Data is held regarding the workforce profile in relation to age, pregnancy and maternity, race, gender and disability, though not in relation to other protected characteristics. It is important to ensure that the process of implementing the new organisational design does not adversely affect individuals with one or more protected characteristics. A range of staff and Trade Union consultations will help to inform the decision-making process to determine the development of the savings programme.

Will the policy have an impact on wider community?	Yes
--	-----

Comment:

It is acknowledged that the new model will have a greater impact on the users of the two libraries proposed for closure. A set of principles have been used throughout the model: this will see an

enhancement of service at Mere Green Library if Sutton Coldfield closes, and Birchfield will be moved to a tier 1 library if Aston Library closes.

2.3 Relevance Test

Protected Characteristics	Relevant	Full Assessment Required
Age	Relevant	Yes
Disability	Relevant	Yes
Gender	Relevant	Yes
Gender Reassignment	Relevant	Yes
Marriage Civil Partnership	Relevant	Yes
Pregnancy And Maternity	Relevant	Yes
Race	Relevant	Yes
Religion or Belief	Relevant	Yes
Sexual Orientation	Relevant	Yes

2.4 Analysis on Initial Assessment

The budget review process identified savings to the community library service in 2014 of £1.6 million to be achieved by 2017/18. This is following savings of £3.5 million already delivered since 2012. The library service in Birmingham needs to design a service for the 21st Century which is financially sustainable and is underpinned by transformational change to deliver on a modern set of outcomes. To deliver the type of change required will take time and the city council will need to work with and listen to partners at a national level and with organisations and individuals from local communities. It is clear that Birmingham Community Library Service cannot continue to operate as it has done in the past. The majority of the Library budget covers staff and premises costs, the principle way to achieve the significant reductions that are required is to reduce the opening hours across the service and to reduce the number of staff working for the service. The authority continues to prefer to retain a library service, even though this may mean reduced hours of operation, as opposed to wholesale closures. It recognises that this is not possible in all cases due to budgetary constraints, operational effectiveness, and premises related issues.

A number of options have been explored during this time including reducing the number of libraries that BCC runs to 24 libraries, and the remaining 13 libraries being run through 3rd sector organisations and partnerships, this was explored in EA000352. A staff led mutual and a in-house model have also been explored. Alternative delivery models for Hall Green Library, Spring Hill Library and West Heath Library were explored in EA000379. The delivery of West Heath Library relocated into a preferred option Oddingley Hall was explored in EA 001193.

The savings target for community libraries was set in 2015/16. It was a three year target growing each year with a final cumulative figure to be achieved of £1.8m in 2017/18. During this period a number of different approaches to delivering the savings have been considered.

Closure of the lowest priority sites, whilst maintaining the level of budget, service provision and opening hours at all other sites. This approach would have closed 13 sites as many of the lower priority sites are already the least costly and therefore a considerable amount of sites would have closed. Accessibility to the service would have been significantly reduced under this model.

Delivering the service via a staff led mutual. This option was considered as it has the potential to deliver cost reductions and increase income and therefore retain larger numbers of libraries. Cost reductions can be achieved in a number of ways but a significant element is the ability to achieve a reduction in business rates. The income increases were projected through charitable donations, increased income through coffee/vending sales and new fees such as reservations. Alongside further options around building repairs and maintenance and suppliers. The model reviewed at the time fell short of the budget requirements due to the business rate strain. The model also required the city council to invest in self service before the service was transferred, which it was unable to do at the time.

Using open plus to deliver libraries in unstaffed mode. This option would require significant investment and internal layout remodelling, but other local authorities such as Peterborough City Council has used this technology to reduce the hours in which libraries are open with staff but by operating in unstaffed mode the amount of hours libraries are actual open to the public is maintained or increased. This option also considered some of the libraries being operated through a new charitable organisation.

Following on from these options, a refined tiered offer has been designed that will be consulted on during October

2016. We aim to invest in our Libraries and make them more responsive and flexible to our customer's needs. We are proposing to reshape the delivery of Birmingham Library Services into Tiers. The main Library offer will be delivered through the Library of Birmingham and Tier 1 and Tier 2 libraries which will be managed and delivered by Birmingham City Council.

Tier 3 Libraries these Libraries will be professionally supported by BCC but led by local communities and volunteers. The council will be looking to work in partnership with local communities or other organisations in the city to provide library services in these locations. As part of the partnership the council will offer 15 hours of professional staff support per week.

Tier 4 Libraries this will be a very localised and specific response, to support new activity around library service provision. BCC will seek to support local communities by way of a one off grant to deliver library provision from a new community venue. This may be a community wanting to deliver something that supports the existing delivered service or one or more of the five society of chief librarians universal offers. The closure of Sutton Coldfield Library and Aston Library are also considered through the consultation process.

The proposal also details an investment in self service and supporting volunteers with a training package.

o Tier 1: Main Library - these would be open for 35 hours, more likely to be delivered from the current library building and have other services delivered from the site such as the benefit verification service. All will have investment in installing self service equipment. The proposal is for 19 sites to be in this category.

o Tier 2: Community Library - these would be open for 21 hours, likely to be delivered from the current library building although options may exist to increase hours of operation by working with partners. The proposal is for 10 sites in this category.

o Tier 3: Supported Community Library - these would be run by a community organisation, from either their own premises or via a transferred facility. The City Council's library service will work in partnership to support the organisation through a 15 hour worker and through the provision of books and investment in self service equipment. The proposal is for 6 sites to be in this category.

o Tier 4: Community Initiated Library Services - the proposal under Tier 4 is to ensure that any local schemes put forward that increase access to one of the universal offers (Digital, Learning, Information, Reading and Health) are considered for support through a one-off pump priming grant. I.e. this could be organisations wanting to loan books or providing free internet access etc. There is no proposed number for the local offer this will be dependent on the ideas that come forward and the number that can be supported through the £20,000 small grant budget available. One site already falls into this category.

A needs assessment has been conducted learning from best practice as evidenced in the Chateris review following the local enquiry into the public library service provided by the Wirral Metropolitan Borough

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-local-enquiry-into-the-public-library-service-provided-by-wirral-metropolitan-borough-council>

The starting point for the model has been to carry out an assessment and prioritise the 37 community libraries. The prioritisation excludes the Library of Birmingham and also Castle Vale as this is no longer directly run by the City Council.

The assessment was undertaken using data from 11 indicators which represented considerations suggested in the Charteris Report and this was a similar approach to work done by other local authorities when assessing need. Libraries were then ranked from 1 to 37 (excluding Castle Vale and LoB but including West Heath and Bloomsbury) on each of these indicators which then led to a combined score to demonstrate their viability for service provision going forward.

The 11 criteria listed below were used to rank the community libraries.

1. Population of library catchment area
2. Total children and young people aged 0-19 in the library catchment area
3. Total adults aged 65+ in the library catchment area
4. Number of libraries within 2 miles of a library
5. Total books and other items issued

6. Average IMD score

7. Total visits

8. Cost per visit

9. PC Usage

10. Total attendance at activities and events

11. Building performance (sites scored better if had recent investment or were new build)

The needs analysis captures data from a variety of sources to reflect the criteria around need/viability.

All the criteria had an equal weighting and each library was ranked 1 to 37 depending on where they scored on the criteria.

Demographic data includes resident population, proportion of children and young people 0-19 living in the catchment area of the library.

The Index of multiple deprivation includes income deprivation; employment deprivation; health deprivation and disability; education deprivation; crime deprivation; barriers to housing and services deprivation; and living environment deprivation.

Access to other libraries includes the number of other libraries within a 2 miles radius of the library. Walking distance according to Google Maps.

Library performance data captures visits, active users, PC usage, participation in events and learning activity.

Library financial data is a cost per visit (calculation based on the out turn budget figure for each site divided by the number of visits).

Building Quality rank is dependent on level of investment received in the last 10 years and the level of investment needed in the next 10 years.

A high ranking suggests there is a lower level of need/viability for a library based on a particular indicator. Where a catchment area has a high level of deprivation a library will have a low score because there is more need for its services. Libraries that have good performance in terms of visits, issues, IT usage, membership, attendance at events and activities will have low scores because there is evidence of viability and need through the uptake of services. Buildings that are costly to operate or require investment through refurbishment will have higher scores for this indicator.

As libraries often draw their catchment from across ward and city boundaries, the catchment areas were created by including any Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) where a defined percentage of the resident population (3%) used the library in the past 12 months. They have an average of roughly 1,700 residents and 650 households. Measures of proximity (to give a reasonably compact shape) and social homogeneity (to encourage areas of similar social background) are also included. The catchment area data reflects actual users of the library.

All rankings have been combined to give an overall score, which indicates how well libraries are aligned to meeting the needs of the local community and library users, and the longer term viability of the building.

The individual library and catchment area profiles give detailed demographic data on age, gender, BME population and disability. Data on economic activity, educational attainment, was also included as well as identifying those LSOAs ranked as the most deprived in the (national) Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). All major bus/train routes serving the library catchment areas were identified and plotted.

It is acknowledged that this is an initial assessment and that it will progress to a full assessment once citywide consultation has taken place.

3 Full Assessment

The assessment questions below are completed for all characteristics identified for full assessment in the initial assessment phase.

3.1 Age - Assessment Questions

3.1.1 Age - Relevance

Age	Relevant
-----	----------

3.1.2 Age - Impact

Describe how the Function meets the needs of individuals of different ages?

The Library service will continue to be delivered from sites across the city. Therefore this allows access for all age groups to the library service. It is intended that volunteers will support the delivery of tier 3 and tier 4 libraries. The proposal is to reduce opening hours in Tier 1 Libraries to opening for 35 hours per week, Tier 2 Libraries opening for 21 hours per week and Tier 3 Libraries open for 15 hours per week with the option for longer opening hours when supported by volunteers. The impact of change in opening hours may be greater for library users in older age groups who may also have disabilities, as it may be more difficult for these groups to access alternative library sites.

Do you have evidence to support the assessment?	Yes
---	-----

Please record the type of evidence and where it is from?

Community Libraries Needs analysis 2015/16, Individual Library and catchment area profiles 2016, results from public consultation that ran from October 25th 2016 - January 27th 2016. 4 public meetings were held alongside 33 briefing sessions plus additional meetings with interested parties and stakeholders. 6 specific focus groups also detailed the impact on protected groups.

You may have evidence from more than one source. If so, does it present a consistent view?	Yes
--	-----

3.1.3 Age - Consultation

Have you obtained the views of individuals of different ages on the impact of the Function?	Yes
---	-----

If so, how did you obtain these views?

The public consultation ran from October 25th 2016 to January 27th 2017, and the results from the questionnaire have now been analysed. This was alongside 4 public meetings and 33 briefing sessions held at all libraries across the city. In addition 6 focus groups were facilitated by the Strategic Research team these sessions engaged with 41 Birmingham citizens.

Have you obtained the views of relevant stakeholders on the impact of the Function on individuals of different ages?	Yes
--	-----

If so, how did you obtain these views?

Stakeholder meetings have taken place throughout the period of the consultation. Staff have been fully consulted with and the Trade Unions involved.

Comment:

Staff age ranges with data provided by HR

Age range	pre service redesign	post service redesign
20-29	4%	3%
30-39	17%	18%

40-49	21%	24%
50-59	48%	45%
60-69	10%	10%

Is a further action plan required?	No
------------------------------------	----

3.1.4 Age - Additional Work

Do you need any more information or to do any more work to complete the assessment?	No
Do you think that the Function has a role in preventing individuals of different ages being treated differently, in an unfair or inappropriate way, just because of their age?	No
Do you think that the Function could help foster good relations between persons who share the relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it?	No

3.2 Disability - Assessment Questions

3.2.1 Disability - Relevance

Disability	Relevant
------------	----------

3.2.2 Disability - Impact

Describe how the Function meets the needs of individuals with a disability?

Community Libraries are designed to be accessible for residents with physical and visual disabilities. The impact of reduced opening hours may be greater for disabled users due to additional difficulty in accessing alternative library locations or a more limited library service.

Do you have evidence to support the assessment?	Yes
---	-----

Please record the type of evidence and where it is from?

No data on library users is recorded through the Library Management system although the IMD data takes into account health deprivation. The consultation questionnaire recorded if participants considered themselves to have a disability. A focus group session looked at the impacts on the proposed model with disabled residents. One participant rents the community room in a community library. The workshops offer a mixture of advice and practical sessions, all based around employment support and health & wellbeing (e.g. CV writing and IT classes). Around 30 clients with disabilities come to the workshops every week.

. Many clients cannot afford their own computers or have internet at home, so the library is their source of access to the Internet, for activities such as looking for jobs (which is important as DWP/ job centre do not have time to help them).

. One participant uses internet to search for a book across the BCC library network and has it delivered to the local library - this saves him having to travel, and pay for travel, across different libraries.

. Being able to go to the library and use the resources help people with disabilities to be independent.

. One participant uses his local library to hold meetings / talk to people with disabilities as part of his voluntary role - this is free as he uses a corner of the library rather than renting a room."

You may have evidence from more than one source. If so, does it present a consistent view?	Yes
--	-----

3.2.3 Disability - Consultation

Have you obtained the views of individuals with a disability on the impact of the Function?	Yes
---	-----

If so, how did you obtain these views?

Community Libraries Needs analysis 2015/16, Individual Library and catchment area profiles 2016, results from public consultation that ran from October 25th 2016 - January 27th 2016. 4 public meetings were held alongside 33 briefing sessions plus additional meetings with interested parties and stakeholders. 6 specific focus groups also detailed the impact on protected groups.

Have you obtained the views of relevant stakeholders on the impact of the Function on individuals with a disability?	Yes
--	-----

If so, how did you obtain these views?

Community Libraries Needs analysis 2015/16, Individual Library and catchment area profiles 2016, results from public consultation that ran from October 25th 2016 - January 27th 2016. 4 public meetings were held alongside 33 briefing sessions plus additional meetings with interested parties and stakeholders. 6 specific focus groups also detailed the impact on protected groups. Staff and Trade Unions have also been consulted

Comment:

Staff data pre and post service design

Disability

Yes 7% 8%

No 91% 91%

Not assigned 2% 1%

Is a further action plan required?	No
------------------------------------	----

3.2.4 Disability - Additional Work

Do you need any more information or to do any more work to complete the assessment?	No
Do you think that the Function has a role in preventing Individuals with a disability being treated differently, in an unfair or inappropriate way, just because of their disability?	No
Do you think that the Function could help foster good relations between persons who share the relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it?	No
Do you think that the Function will take account of disabilities even if it means treating Individuals with a disability more favourably?	Yes
Do you think that the Function could assist Individuals with a disability to participate more?	No
Do you think that the Function could assist in promoting positive attitudes to Individuals with a disability?	No

3.3 Religion or Belief - Assessment Questions

3.3.1 Religion or Belief - Relevance

Religion or Belief	Relevant
--------------------	----------

3.3.2 Religion or Belief - Impact

Describe how the Function meets the needs of individuals of different religions or beliefs?
Community libraries are a statutory service under the 1964 Public Libraries and Museums act. Local authorities must provide a comprehensive and efficient library service to those wishing to may use thereof.
The community library service provides a service to the whole population and therefore there is no positive or negative impact as a result of a citizens religion or beliefs.

Do you have evidence to support the assessment?	Yes
---	-----

Please record the type of evidence and where it is from?

Needs analysis 2015/16 , performance data, results from public consultation that ran from October 25th 2016 - January 27th 2016. 4 public meetings were held alongside 33 briefing sessions plus additional meetings with interested parties and stakeholders. 6 specific focus groups also detailed the impact on protected groups.

You may have evidence from more than one source. If so, does it present a consistent view?	Yes
--	-----

3.3.3 Religion or Belief - Consultation

Have you obtained the views of individuals of different religions or beliefs on the impact of the Function?	Yes
---	-----

If so, how did you obtain these views?

Needs analysis 2015/16 , performance data, results from public consultation that ran from October 25th 2016 - January 27th 2016. 4 public meetings were held alongside 33 briefing sessions plus additional meetings with interested parties and stakeholders. 6 specific focus groups also detailed the impact on protected groups.

Have you obtained the views of relevant stakeholders on the impact of the Function on individuals of different religions or beliefs?	Yes
--	-----

If so, how did you obtain these views?

Needs analysis 2015/16 , performance data, results from public consultation that ran from October 25th 2016 - January 27th 2016. 4 public meetings were held alongside 33 briefing sessions plus additional meetings with interested parties and stakeholders. 6 specific focus groups also detailed the impact on protected groups.

Is a further action plan required?	No
------------------------------------	----

3.3.4 Religion or Belief - Additional Work

Do you need any more information or to do any more work to complete the assessment?	No
---	----

Do you think that the Function has a role in preventing individuals of different religions or beliefs being treated differently, in an unfair or inappropriate way, just because of their religion or belief?	No
Do you think that the Function could help foster good relations between persons who share the relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it?	No

3.4 Gender - Assessment Questions

3.4.1 Gender - Relevance

Gender	Relevant
--------	----------

3.4.2 Gender - Impact

Describe how the Function meets the needs of Men and women?

The community library service provides a service to the whole population and therefore no disadvantage is applied to either men or women.

Do you have evidence to support the assessment?	Yes
---	-----

Please record the type of evidence and where it is from?

Community Libraries Needs analysis 2015/16 , Individual Library and catchment area profiles 2016, results from public consultation that ran from October 25th 2016 - January 27th 2016. 4 public meetings were held alongside 33 briefing sessions plus additional meetings with interested parties and stakeholders. 6 specific focus groups also detailed the impact on protected groups.

You may have evidence from more than one source. If so, does it present a consistent view?	Yes
--	-----

3.4.3 Gender - Consultation

Have you obtained the views of Men and women on the impact of the Function?	Yes
---	-----

If so, how did you obtain these views?

Community Libraries Needs analysis 2015/16 , Individual Library and catchment area profiles 2016, results from public consultation that ran from October 25th 2016 - January 27th 2016. 4 public meetings were held alongside 33 briefing sessions plus additional meetings with interested parties and stakeholders. 6 specific focus groups also detailed the impact on protected groups.

Have you obtained the views of relevant stakeholders on the impact of the Function on Men and women?	Yes
--	-----

If so, how did you obtain these views?

Meetings have been held across the city with interested parties and stakeholders. Staff and Trade Unions have been consulted throughout the process.

Comment:

Pre-service redesign post service redesign

Gender

Female 81% 81%

Male 19% 19%

Is a further action plan required?	No
------------------------------------	----

3.4.4 Gender - Additional Work

Do you need any more information or to do any more work to complete the assessment?	No
---	----

Do you think that the Function has a role in preventing Men and women being treated differently, in an unfair or inappropriate way, just because of their gender?	No
---	----

3.5 Gender Reassignment - Assessment Questions

3.5.1 Gender Reassignment - Relevance

Gender Reassignment	Relevant
---------------------	----------

3.5.2 Gender Reassignment - Impact

Describe how the Function meets the needs of Individuals who have undergone or are intending to undergo gender reassignment?

Community libraries are a statutory service under the 1964 Public Libraries and Museums act. Local authorities must provide a comprehensive and efficient library service to those wishing to may use thereof. The closure of a library may impact on service users and this may be more significant for citizens with some protected characteristics . I.e elderly/disabled/undergoing gender reassignment/ pregnant women and children as they may find it difficult to access an alternative library which may be further away.

Do you have evidence to support the assessment?	Yes
---	-----

Please record the type of evidence and where it is from?

Needs analysis 2015/16 , performance data, results from public consultation that ran from October 25th 2016 - January 27th 2016. 4 public meetings were held alongside 33 briefing sessions plus additional meetings with interested parties and stakeholders. 6 specific focus groups also detailed the impact on protected groups.

You may have evidence from more than one source. If so, does it present a consistent view?	Yes
--	-----

3.5.3 Gender Reassignment - Consultation

Have you obtained the views of Individuals who have undergone or are intending to undergo gender reassignment on the impact of the Function?	Yes
--	-----

If so, how did you obtain these views?

Needs analysis 2015/16 , performance data, results from public consultation that ran from October 25th 2016 - January 27th 2016. 4 public meetings were held alongside 33 briefing sessions plus additional meetings with interested parties and stakeholders. 6 specific focus groups also detailed the impact on protected groups.

Have you obtained the views of relevant stakeholders on the impact of the Function on Individuals who have undergone or are intending to undergo gender reassignment?	Yes
---	-----

If so, how did you obtain these views?

Needs analysis 2015/16 , performance data, results from public consultation that ran from October 25th 2016 - January 27th 2016. 4 public meetings were held alongside 33 briefing sessions plus additional meetings with interested parties and stakeholders. 6 specific focus groups also detailed the impact on protected groups.

Is a further action plan required?	No
------------------------------------	----

3.5.4 Gender Reassignment - Additional Work

Do you need any more information or to do any more work to complete the assessment?	No
Do you think that the Function has a role in preventing individuals who have undergone or are intending to undergo gender reassignment being treated differently, in an unfair or inappropriate way, just because of their gender reassignment?	No
Do you think that the Function could help foster good relations between persons who share the relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it?	No

3.6 Marriage Civil Partnership - Assessment Questions

3.6.1 Marriage Civil Partnership - Relevance

Marriage & Civil Partnership.	Relevant
-------------------------------	----------

3.6.2 Marriage Civil Partnership - Impact

Describe how the Function meets the needs of individuals who are married or in civil partnerships?

Community libraries are a statutory service under the 1964 Public Libraries and Museums act. Local authorities must provide a comprehensive and efficient library service to those wishing to may use thereof. Therefore there is no positive or negative impact as a result of a persons marital or civil partnership status.

Do you have evidence to support the assessment?	Yes
---	-----

Please record the type of evidence and where it is from?

Community Libraries Needs analysis 2015/16 , Individual Library and catchment area profiles 2016, results from public consultation that ran from October 25th 2016 - January 27th 2016. 4 public meetings were held alongside 33 briefing sessions plus additional meetings with interested parties and stakeholders. 6 specific focus groups also detailed the impact on protected groups.

You may have evidence from more than one source. If so, does it present a consistent view?	Yes
--	-----

3.6.3 Marriage Civil Partnership - Consultation

Have you obtained the views of individuals who are married or in civil partnerships on the impact of the Function?	Yes
--	-----

If so, how did you obtain these views?

Community Libraries Needs analysis 2015/16 , Individual Library and catchment area profiles 2016, results from public consultation that ran from October 25th 2016 - January 27th 2016. 4 public meetings were held alongside 33 briefing sessions plus additional meetings with interested parties and stakeholders. 6 specific focus groups also detailed the impact on protected groups.

Have you obtained the views of relevant stakeholders on the impact of the Function on individuals who are married or in civil partnerships?	Yes
---	-----

If so, how did you obtain these views?

Community Libraries Needs analysis 2015/16 , Individual Library and catchment area profiles 2016, results from public consultation that ran from October 25th 2016 - January 27th 2016. 4 public meetings were held alongside 33 briefing sessions plus additional meetings with interested parties and stakeholders. 6 specific focus groups also detailed the impact on protected groups.

Is a further action plan required?	No
------------------------------------	----

3.6.4 Marriage Civil Partnership - Additional Work

Do you need any more information or to do any more work to complete the assessment?	No
---	----

Do you think that the Function has a role in preventing individuals who are married or in civil partnerships being treated differently, in an unfair or inappropriate way, just because of their marriage/civil partnership?	No
Do you think that the Function could help foster good relations between persons who share the relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it?	No

3.7 Pregnancy And Maternity - Assessment Questions

3.7.1 Pregnancy And Maternity - Relevance

Pregnancy & Maternity	Relevant
-----------------------	----------

3.7.2 Pregnancy And Maternity - Impact

Describe how the Function meets the needs of Pregnant women or those who are on maternity leave?

Community libraries are a statutory service under the 1964 Public Libraries and Museums act. Local authorities must provide a comprehensive and efficient library service to those wishing to may use thereof. The closure of a library may impact on service users and this may be more significant for citizens with some protected characteristics . i.e pregnant women as they may find it difficult to access an alternative library which may be further away.

Do you have evidence to support the assessment?	No
Do you plan to collect any evidence?	No
You may have evidence from more than one source. If so, does it present a consistent view?	Not applicable

3.7.3 Pregnancy And Maternity - Consultation

Have you obtained the views of Pregnant women or those who are on maternity leave on the impact of the Function?	No
If not, why not?	No relevant individuals identified
Have you obtained the views of relevant stakeholders on the impact of the Function on Pregnant women or those who are on maternity leave?	No
If not, why not?	No relevant stakeholders identified
Is a further action plan required?	No

3.7.4 Pregnancy And Maternity - Additional Work

Do you need any more information or to do any more work to complete the assessment?	No
Do you think that the Function has a role in preventing Pregnant women or those who are on maternity leave being treated differently, in an unfair or inappropriate way, just because of their pregnancy and maternity?	No
Do you think that the Function could help foster good relations between persons who share the relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it?	No

3.8 Race - Assessment Questions

3.8.1 Race - Relevance

Race	Relevant
------	----------

3.8.2 Race - Impact

Describe how the Function meets the needs of Individuals from different ethnic backgrounds?

Community libraries are a statutory service under the 1964 Public Libraries and Museums act. Local authorities must provide a comprehensive and efficient library service to those wishing to may use thereof.

The community library service provides a service to the whole population and therefore there is no positive or negative impact as a result of a citizens race.

Do you have evidence to support the assessment?	Yes
---	-----

Please record the type of evidence and where it is from?

Community Libraries Needs analysis 2015/16 , Individual Library and catchment area profiles 2016, results from public consultation that ran from October 25th 2016 - January 27th 2016. 4 public meetings were held alongside 33 briefing sessions plus additional meetings with interested parties and stakeholders. 6 specific focus groups also detailed the impact on protected groups.

You may have evidence from more than one source. If so, does it present a consistent view?	Yes
--	-----

3.8.3 Race - Consultation

Have you obtained the views of Individuals from different ethnic backgrounds on the impact of the Function?	Yes
---	-----

If so, how did you obtain these views?

Community Libraries Needs analysis 2015/16 , Individual Library and catchment area profiles 2016, results from public consultation that ran from October 25th 2016 - January 27th 2016. 4 public meetings were held alongside 33 briefing sessions plus additional meetings with interested parties and stakeholders. 6 specific focus groups also detailed the impact on protected groups.

Have you obtained the views of relevant stakeholders on the impact of the Function on Individuals from different ethnic backgrounds?	Yes
--	-----

If so, how did you obtain these views?

Community Libraries Needs analysis 2015/16 , Individual Library and catchment area profiles 2016, results from public consultation that ran from October 25th 2016 - January 27th 2016. 4 public meetings were held alongside 33 briefing sessions plus additional meetings with interested parties and stakeholders. 6 specific focus groups also detailed the impact on protected groups. Staff and Trade Unions have also been consulted.

Comment:

Staff data pre and post redesign

Ethnicity

African	1%	1%
British	39%	51%
Caribbean	6%	6%
Indian	9%	9%
Irish	1%	1%

Kashmiri 1% 1%
 Pakistani 7% 7%
 White/Asian 1% 1%
 White/Black Caribbean 1% 1%
 Other 19% 18%
 Not assigned 9% 2%
 Prefer not to say 1% 1%
 Bangladeshi 2% 2%
 Unknown 3% 1%

Is a further action plan required?	No
------------------------------------	----

3.8.4 Race - Additional Work

Do you need any more information or to do any more work to complete the assessment?	No
Do you think that the Function has a role in preventing individuals from different ethnic backgrounds being treated differently, in an unfair or inappropriate way, just because of their ethnicity?	No
Do you think that the Function could help foster good relations between persons who share the relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it?	No

3.9 Sexual Orientation - Assessment Questions

3.9.1 Sexual Orientation - Relevance

Sexual Orientation	Relevant
--------------------	----------

3.9.2 Sexual Orientation - Impact

Describe how the Function meets the needs of individuals of different sexual orientations?
Community libraries are a statutory service under the 1964 Public Libraries and Museums act. Local authorities must provide a comprehensive and efficient library service to those wishing to may use thereof.

The community library service provides a service to the whole population and therefore there is no positive or negative impact as a result of a citizens sexual orientation.

Do you have evidence to support the assessment?	Yes
---	-----

Please record the type of evidence and where it is from?

Community Libraries Needs analysis 2015/16 , Individual Library and catchment area profiles 2016, results from public consultation that ran from October 25th 2016 - January 27th 2016. 4 public meetings were held alongside 33 briefing sessions plus additional meetings with interested parties and stakeholders. 6 specific focus groups also detailed the impact on protected groups.

You may have evidence from more than one source. If so, does it present a consistent view?	Yes
--	-----

3.9.3 Sexual Orientation - Consultation

Have you obtained the views of individuals of different sexual orientations on the impact of the Function?	Yes
--	-----

If so, how did you obtain these views?

Community Libraries Needs analysis 2015/16 , Individual Library and catchment area profiles 2016, results from public consultation that ran from October 25th 2016 - January 27th 2016. 4 public meetings were held alongside 33 briefing sessions plus additional meetings with interested parties and stakeholders. 6 specific focus groups also detailed the impact on protected groups.

Have you obtained the views of relevant stakeholders on the impact of the Function on individuals of different sexual orientations?	Yes
---	-----

If so, how did you obtain these views?

Community Libraries Needs analysis 2015/16 , Individual Library and catchment area profiles 2016, results from public consultation that ran from October 25th 2016 - January 27th 2016. 4 public meetings were held alongside 33 briefing sessions plus additional meetings with interested parties and stakeholders. 6 specific focus groups also detailed the impact on protected groups.

Is a further action plan required?	No
------------------------------------	----

3.9.4 Sexual Orientation - Additional Work

Do you need any more information or to do any more work to complete the assessment?	No
---	----

Do you think that the Function has a role in preventing individuals of different sexual orientations being treated differently, in an unfair or inappropriate way, just because of their sexual orientation?	No
Do you think that the Function could help foster good relations between persons who share the relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it?	No

3.10 Concluding Statement on Full Assessment

The proposed future operating model for community libraries which we have consulted on has the potential to impact negatively on citizens with protected characteristics in particular children, the elderly and disabled citizens. This impact may be more noticeable for children and elderly citizens as they have to travel further to access the library service, as hours are reduced across the service. However the consultation and engagement process has informed the process so that appropriate changes have been considered and implemented to mitigate any adverse impacts. Through this process it is acknowledged that Kents Moat and Glebe Farm libraries are in areas of high deprivation, the needs assessment has been adjusted so that deprivation has a higher weighting than the other criteria. Therefore following consultation it has been proposed to channel the resource allocated for Kents Moat Library which is due to close shortly due to redevelopment in the area, to Glebe Farm Library to enhance services for the community. Sutton Coldfield Library will remain open temporarily as a tier 1 Library. Therefore this removes the impact on the elderly, the young and pregnant women of travelling further to access the library service. This will be reassessed as and when proposals around the future of Sutton Library are finalised. A reduced service will continue to be provided from Aston Library as it is acknowledged that children make good use of the local community library and that this would not be the case if the service closed and was provided from Birchfield Library which is not as accessible to the Aston community. Through the consultation it has been demonstrated that proximity to a community library is greatly valued, this is evident through the Be Heard consultation results and the 1675 completed children's surveys. By maintaining provision in Sutton Coldfield and Aston Library all Birmingham residents will be within 2 miles of a library service.

There has been no evidence that the service wide reduction in opening hours of 155 hours (14%) has a disproportionate effect on any group with a protected characteristic. The model was generated from 11 criteria which included a weighted figure for deprivation.

Impact of staffing reductions

The impact of staffing reductions does not disproportionately affect any particular group. However, following implementation of the service redesign monitoring and review of any trends in changes in employment patterns will be undertaken.

Mitigation

It is highly unlikely that a selection process will be required following a VR process which was undertaken within the legal framework and Birmingham City Council policy. If any selection process is undertaken, appropriate action will be undertaken to ensure a fair and transparent process. The outcome of any selection process if required will be monitored and reviewed.

Please see EA appendix 5A for detailed report.

4 Review Date

02/02/17

5 Action Plan

There are no relevant issues, so no action plans are currently required.

Birmingham City Council

Birmingham City Council Executive Reports Checklist

Report Title: REDIRECTION OF CORPORATE CAPITAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY LIBRARIES STRATEGY

Report version: Final 11.12.2017

Joint Executive Member and Chief Officer Report:

Report Author: Chris Jordan

Assistant Director Neighbourhoods & Communities Division

To be completed in respect of all Cabinet, District Committee and Ward Forum Reports. This also applies for Joint Cabinet Member and Chief Officer Reports.

Committee Services have been instructed to return any Report which does not have a fully completed Checklist attached. The purpose is for the author to indicate who has been consulted in the preparation and clearance of the report and when.

CONSULTATION

Names and dates to be inserted

Has the report been discussed and cleared with:

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

Deputy Leader, Cllr Brigid Jones
11.12.17

Relevant District Committee/Ward Forum Chair

COMPLIANCE ISSUES

Has the report been cleared with relevant Corporate Director?

Cleared by: Jacqui Kennedy

Date:
15/11/2017

Has report been cleared with the relevant Finance Officer?
(see over page)

Cleared by: Richard
Teague 23/11/2017 &
Parmjeet Jassal 27/11/2017

Date:

Has report been cleared with the relevant Directorate Legal Officer?
(see over page)

Cleared by: Lisa Morgan

Date:

Has the report been cleared with the relevant Corporate Procurement Officer? (see over page)

Cleared by:

Date:

MEDIA CONSIDERATIONS

Has relevant Media officer been made aware of report and agreed draft press release/statement?

Any significant comments for the attention of the Leader / Chief Executive?

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR PETER FOWLER

D2 Information Required

Question:

In response to Question D2 at the Full Council Meeting on 11th January 2022 you stated that the answer did not include data relating to Extra Personnel, but this would be available shortly. Can you now provide a complete answer to the question which included this data?”

Answer:

January D2 answer to question – Full or part-time and employed through an agency

Directorate	2018	2019	2020	2021
Adults Social Care	298	441	286	314
Digital & Customer Services****	71	140	185	
Education and Skills	20	46	26	229
Finance and Governance****	76	193	219	
Inclusive Growth*	19	15	11	
Neighbourhoods**	112	210	240	
Partnerships, Insight and Prevention***	1	8	105	
HR and Organisation Development****	2	11	12	
Commonwealth Games 2022			2	5
Council Management*****				491
City Housing**				120
City Operations**				257
Places, Prosperity & Sustainability*				34
Strategy, Equalities & Partnerships***				29

Revised table below includes the additional agency workers information provided by Extra Personnel in the highlighted rows – this data is separate as they are a lot two provider - providing specialist resource –

- 1) SIA trained resource to security (inclusive Growth/PP&S)
- 2) PBA (Pay Between Assignments - Swedish derogation - where hourly rates are reduced but workers are paid when on notice) workers for the refuse collection service (Neighbourhoods/City Ops)

Directorate	2018	2019	2020	2021
Adults Social Care	298	441	286	314
Digital & Customer Services****	71	140	185	
Education and Skills	20	46	26	229
Finance and Governance****	76	193	219	
Inclusive Growth*	77	111	130	
Neighbourhoods**	881	806	798	
Partnerships, Insight and Prevention***	1	8	105	
HR and Organisation Development****	2	11	12	
Commonwealth Games 2022			2	5
Council Management****				491
City Housing**				120
City Operations**				713
Places, Prosperity & Sustainability*				158
Strategy, Equalities & Partnerships***				153
TOTALS	1,426	1,756	1,763	2,183

The separate details of Extra Personnel agency staff are detailed below:

Dept Description	Year	Workers Paid
Birmingham Industrial 2 - Waste	2018	769
Birmingham Industrial 2 - Waste	2019	596
Birmingham Industrial 2 - Waste	2020	558
Birmingham Industrial 2 - Waste	2021	456
Birmingham Ind 5 - Security	2018	58
Birmingham Ind 5 - Security	2019	96
Birmingham Ind 5 - Security	2020	119
Birmingham Ind 5 - Security	2021	124

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND
RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR MAUREEN CORNISH**

D3 CAZ FPN

Question:

Broken down by service area, since the introduction of the Clean Air Zone how many payments, and at what total value, has the Council paid to the CAZ enforcement team in CAZ charges and fixed penalty notices?

Answer:

The table below shows the total amount paid by council directorate for CAZ charges from implementation to 31st January 2022, including both daily charge and PCN payments. Individual CAZ transactions are not available as the way that payments are processed results in a number of transactions going through as a single payment, therefore, one payment could include a number of vehicle charges and PCN payments.

Directorate	£
BIRMINGHAM CHILDRENS TRUST	24
CITY HOUSING	1,994
CITY OPERATIONS	175,368
COUNCIL MANAGEMENT	3,590
EDUCATION & SKILLS	2,705
TOTAL	183,681

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND
SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR GARETH MOORE**

E1 Capital Works – Adult Care Centres

Question:

Please list all capital works undertaken in the last 4 years, and planned within the next 4 years, for Council owned adult day centres (broken down by centre)

Answer:

The capital spend in the last four years for internal day services is as follows:

Heartland Day Centre £133,000

Ebrook Day Centre £ 633,000

For the next four years there is currently no spend agreed, but we are working with property services to look at bids for capital resources to enable a further programme of physical improvements to the centres to meet the needs of the citizens.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND
SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR TIMOTHY HUXTABLE**

E2 Unvaccinated Social Care Workforce

Question:

What percentage of the adult social care workforce are unvaccinated? Broken down by percentage who have had no jabs, one jab but not second or booster, or two jabs but no booster?

Answer:

Number of staff	Fully Vaccs	1st Only	Not Vaccinated
1617	1291	50	212
	79.8%	3.1%	13.1%

Notes:

- The above data includes the total staffing numbers for the internal adult social care workforce
- For unvaccinated BCC care homes staff, I can confirm that these staff no longer work within the Care Homes and have been redeployed into alternative roles, that do not require vaccination, or are medically exempt and are not currently in the workplace.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID BARRIE

E3 Vacancy Rates

Question:

What is the current vacancy rate within the Adult Social Care workforce? Please break this down between role (social worker, home carer, enablement, residential care etc.)

Answer:

In answer to this question the answer to which is set out below, it is important that elected members fully understand the context in relation to the data. For example, we have 40 care assistant vacancies out of a workforce of several hundred, whereas we have 1 data manager out of a small team. Therefore, it is inevitable that the impact is arguably greater for the data team than the care team. I would also like to remind elected members that vacancies are an inevitable aspect of running a large and complex service and they are currently covered through the use of agency staff and colleagues acting up in roles to ensure we can continue to deliver services. The recruitment and retainment of social care staff is a national issue and unfortunately Birmingham is not alone in this. Like other authorities, Birmingham consistently seeks to recruit staff. The pandemic has also detrimentally impacted on vacancy levels and we are currently working with Finance and HR to improve our Birmingham offer.

If there are any areas that you or any member have particular concerns on these can be raised directly with me or with our Director of Adult Social Care who would be happy to provide more context.

Position	Vacancies	Position	Vacancies
Assistant Director	1	Procedure Writer	1
Assistant Team Manager	1	Professional Support Officer	4
Bus Guide	2	Project Manager	2
Business Analyst	2	Project Officer	1
Business Support Officer	1	Referral & Advice Officer	1
Care Assistant	40	Restorative Youth Justice Worker	1
Care Assistant - Driver	7	Senior Care Assistant	3
Care Assistant: Driver	5	Senior Day Centre Officer	4
Catering and Facilities Assistant	23	Senior Direct Care Worker	3
Chef	2	Senior Facilities Assistant	3
Client Financial Services Assistant	10	Senior Funeral and Property Officer	1
Community Care Assistant	6	Senior Learning and Development Officer	2
Community Catering Trainer	1	Senior Occupational Therapist	1
Community Support Worker	1	Senior Occupational Therapy Assistant	1

City Council – 22 February 2022

Position	Vacancies	Position	Vacancies
Data Analyst	1	Senior Practitioner	19
Data Quality Officer	2	Senior Practitioner AMHP	1
Day Centre Officer	11	Senior Practitioner Community Network	1
Deputy Manager	1	Senior Practitioner Delivery	1
Deputy Service Manager	4	Senior Referral & Advice Officer	1
Domestic Abuse Outreach Worker	1	Senior Social Care Practitioner	1
Driver/Caretaker	1	Senior Social Worker	6
Employment Officer	1	Service Co-ordinator	1
Enablement Assistant	18	Service Manager	4
Enablement Officer Residential	1	Social Care Facilitator	1
Experienced Social Worker	3	Social Care Practitioner	15
Facilities Technician	2	Social Justice Officer	1
Family Support Worker	6	Social Worker	135
Head of Service, Ops & Partnerships	3	Social Worker (TCP)	1
Home Care Assistant	1	Specialist Best Interest Assessor	2
Home Care Work Planner	2	Specialist Practitioner	1
Housekeeping Assistant	1	Specialist Practitioner AMHP	11
Integrated Transitions Lead	1	Specialist Practitioner BIA	1
Learning & Development Officer	2	Specialist Practitioner Health	2
Manager	1	Team Leader	3
Multi-disciplinary Team Manager	8	Team Manager -Special Care/Commissioning	1
Night Enablement Assistant	1	Transport Co-Ordinator/Driver	1
Occupational Therapist	12	(Post Title TBC)	3
Occupational Therapy Support Officer	1		

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND
SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR ADAM HIGGS**

E4 Reablement/Rehabilitation Services

Question:

Based on the latest figures available, what proportion of older people (aged 65ov) were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement/rehabilitation services?

Answer:

The proportion of people still at home 91 days after discharge is monitored annually as part of our Short and Long Term Support annual statutory return (SALT STS004). This measures the number of people who were discharged from hospital into rehabilitation between October and December, and the number of those still at home after 91 days. The latest figure we have for this is therefore from our 2020/21 SALT return.

Between 01/10/2020 and 31/12/2020 596 people were discharged into Enablement, of which 291 (48.8%) were still at home after 91 days. It is important to note, that in this measure we have only counted those who came directly through Birmingham City Council, not the broader multi-disciplinary aspect of our Early Intervention Community Team (EICT) partnership which provides a 'one stop shop' to help people in Birmingham to remain as healthy and independent as possible in their own home. Therefore, the total number of citizens receiving support through EICT services during this period is significantly higher.

Please also note that for the purposes of this measure we can only count someone as living at home if we have evidence that is where they were on the 91st day. For those who were enabled to the point where they no longer require services, we are not always able to identify where they were at this point – so the actual figure may be much higher.

For 2020/21 the final figure for Birmingham will be available by the end of June 2022, and national figures will be published by November 2022.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND
SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR BRUCE LINES**

E5 Adult Social Care

Question:

What is the total number of people currently in receipt of a service from Adult Social Care, who have had a recorded review, reassessment or assessment within the last 12 months?

Answer:

As at 01/02/2022, there were 8,560 people receiving an eligible service who had been reviewed, reassessed or assessed within the prior 12 months, out of a total of 11,975 people receiving eligible services.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY**

F1 Full Garage Review

Question:

Please provide a copy of the Full Garage Review that was due to be concluded by March 2021 (per written questions D6 23 Feb 2021)

Answer:

Please find attached a copy of the Garage Review produced April 2021.

The project is continuing to progress and has been included as a part of the housing transformation root and branch review of Housing Management over recent months. Dedicated officers have commenced in post from January 2022. Further improvements to the automated application process are taking place and there has been a 20% increase in lettings.

Currently the garage portfolio is being reviewed in conjunction with the Capital Investment and Repairs and Housing Development teams to determine the best course of action for those sites which may not be viable for future garage use and a list of current potential demolition sites for review follows.

F1 – APPENDIX 1

Garage Project 2020/21

Update April 2021



Making a positive difference every day to people's lives



Introduction/ Overview

- Now in the latter stage of conducting a comprehensive review of Birmingham City Council Garages. The objective to increase income streams by increasing the number of units being let and identify sites that can be used for development.
 - **Northgate Identifies 11,166 Garages which required inspection.**
 - **Stage 1 of the review – Knowing our Stock is now complete and 7609 garages inspected.**
 - **Following inspection 3557 (Northgate records to be removed as duplicated or demolished sites).**
 - The initial inspection of our stock began with the employment of three agency workers in June/July of 2020, and a fourth officer in December
 - Despite the Coronavirus Pandemic creating many obstacles, we now have an up to date picture of city wide stock, with accurate records, inspection information and photographs of each site.
-

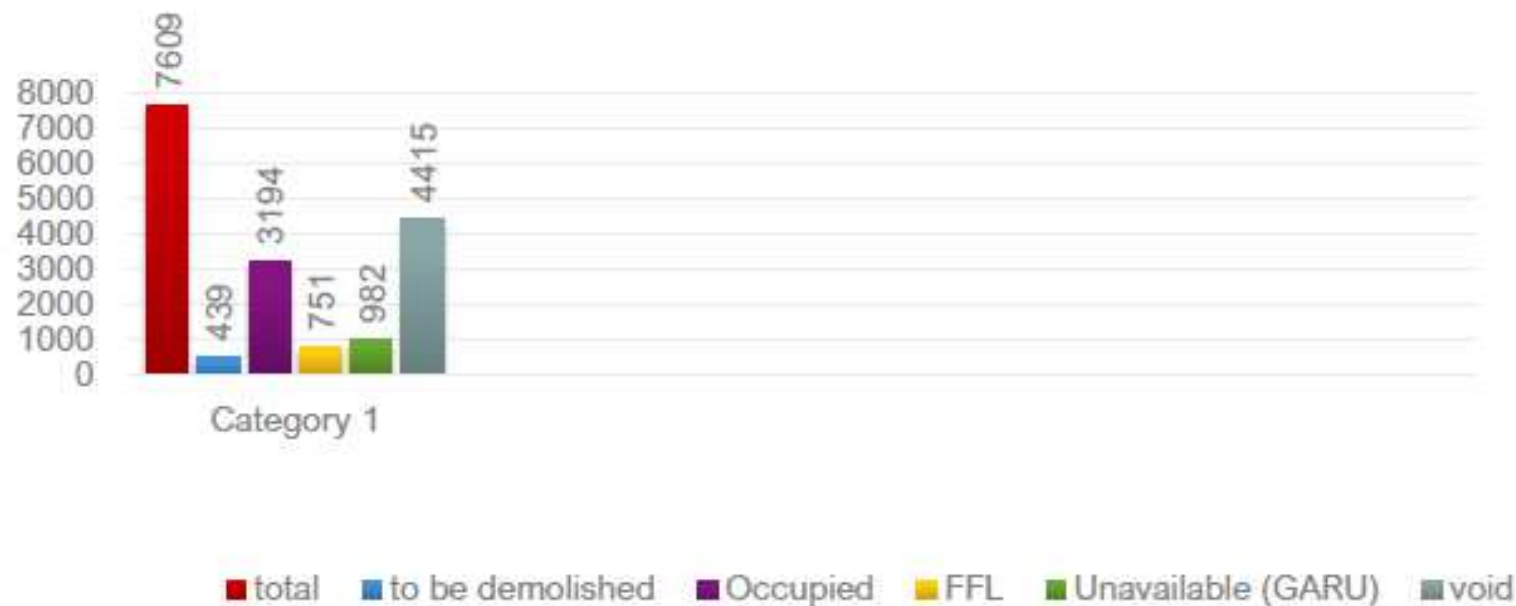
Knowing our Stock

- Locate all garage keys held by BCC
- Match sites to Land and Property records.
- Inspect garage sites to identify:
 - ✓ sites where garages had been demolished/potential for demolition.
 - ✓ void garages with and without keys.
 - ✓ fit for let stock, requiring lock changes and minimal repairs for quick win lets.
 - ✓ garages in need of major repair.

Findings - Sites



Findings – Garage Units



Stage 1 Outcomes

- All garage sites recorded with Land and Property have been visited and matched against Northgate records, the records will be uploaded to correct Northgate in due course, when IT have the capacity.
 - Land and property data base has been updated and all garages now have a PAL reference number.
 - Urgent repairs/Health and Safety issues reported to the repairs team or the local Neighbourhood Services team for action.
 - Findings recorded with photographs and condition survey's have been completed for each sites.
-

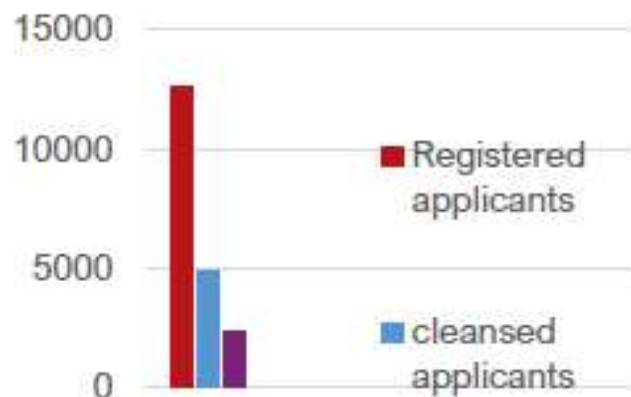
Stage 1 Outcomes Cont'd.....

- Land and Property records now include MEWS garages this was previously missing in many instances.
- Records have been updated to reflect demolished sites.

Stage 2 – Knowing our Customers

- Stage 1 and Stage 2 work overlapped.
- Where work could not be completed due to cancelled training staff worked on cleansing the garage application list.
- **12631 Applications were open prior to cleansing.**
- **Removal of duplicate and deceased applications reduced the initial list to 4846 potential applicants.**
- **Applications dated back to 2003 and contact is made in priority order by date submitted.**
- 190 Telephone calls made to applicants (61 details incorrect/129 responses received).
- 2320 letters have been sent to date, starting with oldest applications first, giving 21 days to respond before we close the application.
- 521 responses received of these 146 applicants no longer require garages.
- This figure is expected to reduce as we contact further applicants as the date they applied is more recent.

Findings: Applications



Breakdown of contact from mailing:

Method of Contact	Count
Email	77
Online	255
Phone	132
Post	57
Grand Total	521

Of those that have contacted us 146 have stated they no longer wish to remain on the list

Method of Contact	Count
Email	13
Online	7
Phone	97
Post	29
Grand Total	146

Long term sustainable plan

- Implementation and testing of new IT and application systems once system build complete.
- 1st stage letting of Fit for Let garages (with keys x751), to match applications to clear backlog, lettings are now taking place. We foresee this taking 6-9 months as this is a manual process presently as we are awaiting IT enhancements
- 2nd stage of lettings Void Repairs programme established and in progress this will continue throughout project and as part of business as usual
- Approximately 2069 lock changes needed city wide, it is not clear yet if these garages are storing any items that may need disposing of /fly tipped waste
- A process is being looked at to complete lock changes and repairs in batches through price per property. However, a meeting is being scheduled with repairs colleagues as they are concerned that these high number of requests should not be included in price property. If this matter is not resolved (these repairs are not included as PPP) this will severely impact on our ability to let garages and our subsequent income generation projections.
- A procedure to apply 14 day notices is in place as historically there has been a high number of cases where garages are full when we open them despite no recorded tenant, again this will delay the letting of that unit.

Lettings: Year on Year

Report run on : 19/04/2021

Year	OCCP	Total	Year	OCCP	Total
2012	76	76	2017	186	186
2013	108	108	2018	81	81
2014	145	145	2019	105	105
2015	199	199	2020	44	44
2016	244	244	2021 (to date)		14
			Grand Total	1197	1202

Ongoing work

- Review Sundry accounts to be converted to rent accounts these are pre 1995 accounts that pay monthly/quarterly and require new Tenancy Conditions.
- Tenancy Conditions review to address current market interest and local initiatives (CAZ, Cycle to work, mobility scooters etc).
- Review arrears and look at partnership working with the rents team to support the process.
- Review Price per property agreement for future operating.
- Sites for potential development have been identified, these are sites that had already been demolished or are beyond repair but have no future plan at this stage. There is potential here for BMHT and other Housing Development Schemes.

F1 – Appendix 2

GARAGE SITES - RECOMMENDED FOR POSSIBLE DEMOLITION FOLLOWING INSPECTION

FFL - Fit for let
OCCP - Occupied
VRIP - Repair

EAST

<u>SITE</u>	<u>POSTCODE</u>	<u>PAL</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>TOTAL UNITS</u>	<u>FFL</u>	<u>OCCP</u>	<u>VRIP</u>
Rotherfield Road Garage Site	B26 2SN	PAL 02538	East	8	0	0	8
Old Bromford Lane Garage Site	B8 2RP	PAL 02370	East	12	0	1	11
Outmore Road	B33 0UW	PAL 12576	East	1	0	0	1
Naseby Road Garage Site	B8 3HG	PAL 03742	East	2	0	0	2
Hedyn Grove Garage Site	B26 3DG	PAL 02529	East	2	0	0	2
Prodesley Road Garage Site	B26 2TG	PAL 02527	East	2	0	1	1
Foley Road Garage Site	B8 2JR	PAL 03335	East	8	0	0	8
Este Road Garage Site	B26 2ES	PAL 03678	East	6	0	1	5
TOTAL				41	0	3	38

CENTRAL WEST

<u>SITE</u>	<u>POSTCODE</u>	<u>PAL</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>TOTAL UNITS</u>	<u>FFL</u>	<u>OCCP</u>	<u>VRIP</u>
Charles Drive	B7 3HU	PAL 03475	C/W	18	0	11	7
Dyas Road Garage Site	B44 8SP	PAL 02465	C/W	3	0	1	2
Heathfield Road Garage Site	B19 1HA	PAL 03133	C/W	8	0	1	7
Kingstanding Road Garage Site	B44 9DN	PAL 03508	C/W	5	0	0	5
Leatherhead Close Garage Site (East)	B6 4TA	PAL 02887	C/W	19	0	0	19
Marroway Street Garage Site	B16 0AX	PAL 05914	C/W	7	0	1	6
Porchester Drive Garage Site	B19 2LU	PAL 08576	C/W	13	0	1	12
Wandsworth Road Garage Site	B44 9LT	PAL 03513	C/W	2	0	0	2
TOTAL				75	0	15	60

SOUTH

<u>SITE</u>	<u>POSTCODE</u>	<u>PAL</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>TOTAL UNITS</u>	<u>FFL</u>	<u>OCCP</u>	<u>VRIP</u>
Abdon Ave, Ascot Court Garage Site	B29 4PY	PAL 03744	SOUTH	10	0	1	9
Allens Croft Road Garage Site	B14 6RP	PAL 02374	SOUTH	15	0	5	10
Alvechurch Road Garage Site	B31 3QW	PAL 03484	SOUTH	17	0	3	14
Brompton Pool Road Garage Site (West)	B28 0SJ	PAL 02928	SOUTH	1	0	1	0
Dawlish Road Garage Site	B29 7AA	PAL 03529	SOUTH	8	0	2	6
Firth Drive Garage Site (East)	B14 4DL	PAL 02455	SOUTH	4	0	0	4
Firth Drive Garage Site (West)	B14 4DL	PAL 02382	SOUTH	5	0	2	3
Fladbury Crescent Garage Site (East)	B29 6PH	PAL 02468	SOUTH	18	0	5	13
Hawkesley Drive Garage Site	B31 4EU	PAL 12522	SOUTH	32	0	6	26
Highters Close Garage Site (South)	B14 4NN	PAL 02935	SOUTH	3	0	0	3
Hollybush Grove Garage Site	B32 2AB	PAL 03522	SOUTH	10	0	0	10
Houldey Road Garage Site	B31 3HJ	PAL 03497	SOUTH	16	0	2	14
Ivyhouse Road Garage Site (North)	B38 8JJ	PAL 03072	SOUTH	6	0	0	6
Leshurst Crescent Garage Site (North)	B17 0LG	PAL 02444	SOUTH	16	0	1	15
Lessoow Drive Garage Site (East)	B15 2SW	PAL 02392	SOUTH	14	0	3	11
Lessoow Drive Garage Site (West)	B15 2SN	PAL 03301	SOUTH	6	0	0	6
Medway Grove Garage Site	B38 9LB	PAL 08749	SOUTH	23	0	0	23
Tantallon Drive Garage Site	B32 3LT	PAL 02918	SOUTH	15	2	2	11
Taysfield Road Garage Site	B31 1JT	PAL 02919	SOUTH	19	0	16	3
Westcroft Grove Garage Site	B38 8AT	PAL 02475	SOUTH	6	0	5	1
Wolverely Road Garage Site	B32 4EH	PAL 02922	SOUTH	4	0	0	4
Woodcock Lane Garage Site (North)	B27 6SE	PAL 02923	SOUTH	7	0	1	6
TOTAL				255	2	55	198

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR MATT BENNETT**

F2 Council Owned Garage Site

Question:

If the full garage review completed in March 21 does not detail it, or has not been completed as promised, please list each council owned garage site and the current plans for them (eg demolition, refurbishment, housing development, sale etc)

Answer:

This project is ongoing and work is in progress with Capital Investment and Repairs and Housing Development to complete a comprehensive list of proposals for all sites. This includes those identified for demolition, investment or whether the land could be used for development.

A list of current proposed sites for demolition follows.

F2 - APPENDIX**GARAGE SITES - RECOMMENDED FOR POSSIBLE DEMOLITION FOLLOWING INSPECTION**

FFL - Fit for let
 OCCP - Occupied
 VRIP - Repair

EAST

<u>SITE</u>	<u>POSTCODE</u>	<u>PAL</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>TOTAL UNITS</u>	<u>FFL</u>	<u>OCCP</u>	<u>VRIP</u>
Rotherfield Road Garage Site	B26 2SN	PAL 02538	East	8	0	0	8
Old Bromford Lane Garage Site	B8 2RP	PAL 02370	East	12	0	1	11
Outmore Road	B33 0UW	PAL 12576	East	1	0	0	1
Naseby Road Garage Site	B8 3HG	PAL 03742	East	2	0	0	2
Hedyn Grove Garage Site	B26 3DG	PAL 02529	East	2	0	0	2
Frodesley Road Garage Site	B26 2TG	PAL 02527	East	2	0	1	1
Foley Road Garage Site	B8 2JR	PAL 03333	East	8	0	0	8
Este Road Garage Site	B26 2ES	PAL 03678	East	6	0	1	5
TOTAL				41	0	3	38

CENTRAL WEST

<u>SITE</u>	<u>POSTCODE</u>	<u>PAL</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>TOTAL UNITS</u>	<u>FFL</u>	<u>OCCP</u>	<u>VRIP</u>
Charles Drive	B7 5HU	PAL 03473	C/W	18	0	11	7
Dyas Road Garage Site	B44 8SP	PAL 02463	C/W	3	0	1	2
Heathfield Road Garage Site	B19 1HA	PAL 03133	C/W	8	0	1	7
Kingstanding Road Garage Site	B44 9DN	PAL 03308	C/W	5	0	0	5
Leatherhead Close Garage Site (East)	B6 4TA	PAL 02887	C/W	19	0	0	19
Marroway Street Garage Site	B16 0AX	PAL 05914	C/W	7	0	1	6
Porchester Drive Garage Site	B19 2LU	PAL 08376	C/W	13	0	1	12
Wandsworth Road Garage Site	B44 9LT	PAL 03313	C/W	2	0	0	2
TOTAL				75	0	15	60

SOUTH

<u>SITE</u>	<u>POSTCODE</u>	<u>PAL</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>TOTAL UNITS</u>	<u>FFL</u>	<u>OCCP</u>	<u>VRIP</u>
Abdon Ave, Ascot Court Garage Site	B29 4PY	PAL 03744	SOUTH	10	0	1	9
Allens Croft Road Garage Site	B14 6RP	PAL 02374	SOUTH	15	0	5	10
Alvechurch Road Garage Site	B31 3QW	PAL 03484	SOUTH	17	0	3	14
Brompton Pool Road Garage Site (West)	B28 0SJ	PAL 02528	SOUTH	1	0	1	0
Dawlish Road Garage Site	B29 7AA	PAL 03529	SOUTH	8	0	2	6
Firth Drive Garage Site (East)	B14 4DL	PAL 02453	SOUTH	4	0	0	4
Firth Drive Garage Site (West)	B14 4DL	PAL 02382	SOUTH	5	0	2	3
Fladbury Crescent Garage Site (East)	B29 6PH	PAL 02468	SOUTH	18	0	5	13
Hawkesley Drive Garage Site	B31 4EU	PAL 12522	SOUTH	32	0	6	26
Highters Close Garage Site (South)	B14 4NN	PAL 02933	SOUTH	3	0	0	3
Hollybush Grove Garage Site	B32 2AB	PAL 03322	SOUTH	10	0	0	10
Houlday Road Garage Site	B31 3HJ	PAL 03497	SOUTH	16	0	2	14
Ivyhouse Road Garage Site (North)	B38 8JJ	PAL 03072	SOUTH	6	0	0	6
Leahurst Crescent Garage Site (North)	B17 0LG	PAL 02444	SOUTH	16	0	1	15
Leasow Drive Garage Site (East)	B15 2SW	PAL 02392	SOUTH	14	0	3	11
Leasow Drive Garage Site (West)	B15 2SN	PAL 03301	SOUTH	6	0	0	6
Medway Grove Garage Site	B38 9LB	PAL 08749	SOUTH	23	0	0	23
Tantallon Drive Garage Site	B32 3LT	PAL 02918	SOUTH	15	2	2	11
Taysfield Road Garage Site	B31 1JT	PAL 02919	SOUTH	19	0	16	3
Westcroft Grove Garage Site	B38 8AT	PAL 02473	SOUTH	6	0	5	1
Wolverely Road Garage Site	B32 4EH	PAL 02922	SOUTH	4	0	0	4
Woodcock Lane Garage Site (North)	B27 6SE	PAL 02923	SOUTH	7	0	1	6
TOTAL				255	2	55	198

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE ALDEN**

F3 Temporary Accommodation

Question:

How many Council properties by year since 2012 have been turned over/rented or any other form to use for temporary accommodation?

Answer:

At this time there are 2082 properties recorded as Birmingham City Council Dispersed Temporary Accommodation.

The total number of council properties brought into use for Temporary Accommodation since 2012 is 1813. The breakdown per year of when these units were brought into use, is shown below.

2012	2
2013	39
2014	32
2015	143
2016	93
2017	157
2018	667
2019	259
2020	329
2021	42
2022	50
Grand Total	1813

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR SIMON MORRALL**

F4 Temporary Accommodation

Question:

For how many properties does the Council receive payments for providing exempt accommodation a year (broken down by year since 2017?)

Answer:

The Council does not provide exempt accommodation, so therefore the Council does not receive payments for providing exempt accommodation.

**G NO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED FOR CABINET MEMBER FOR
SOCIAL INCLUSION, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND EQUALITIES**

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND
PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR MORRIAM JAN**

H1 Missed Waste Collections

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member provide a specific list of all roads which residents and crews have reported missed collections during the last 24 months, advising if this was a missed household, recycling or green collection?

Answer:

Please note that we do not hold historical records of the names of roads reported as missed by the crews therefore the attached table is a list of the number of missed collections by road broken down by household, recycling and garden as reported by resident.

The data does not contain any duplicate reports from the same household in the same collection cycle. It does however contain duplicate reports where multiple households in the same street have reported the same missed collection.



MissedCollectionsBy
Street.xlsx

(NB: Attachment saved: V drive:Council Regulatory Team/Council/Questions/Written Questions/2021-2022/22 Feb 2022/Answers/H1-Excel Sheet)

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND
PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR BABER BAZ**

H2 Dropped Waste Collections

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member provide a specific list of all waste collection rounds that have been reported as being dropped by Depots during the last 24 months?

Answer:

Whilst data on the number of rounds dropped is retained, a historical record of which roads they are is not maintained. The roads reported by the crews as missed is a live database which is updated on a daily basis. A road will stay on the list until the collection is completed and is then removed from the database.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE AND
PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR DEBORAH HARRIES**

H3 Volunteer Litter Pickers

Question:

Please can the Cabinet Member clarify the currently confused arrangements for our hundreds of invaluable volunteer litter-pickers, to acquire equipment to help keep our streets and parks clean and can he also (re)consider a phone number for the service and a delivery option for those many elderly volunteers who don't use email and/or are unable to collect equipment from a depot?

Answer:

Process for issuing equipment

The current process for issuing community equipment to volunteers and community groups primarily focuses on collection from the Montague Street depot on Wednesdays and Thursdays between 10am and 2pm. Volunteers need to book in and make their request via our website <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/litterpick> or email cleanergreenerstreets@birmingham.gov.uk with their request.

I have attached a form that walks through this process and also how to request collections after the litter pick has taken place. This is a temporary form and we are currently working with our communication teams to update the website and forms available to improve how volunteers can make future requests and access our service.

Volunteer Request and Data Collection Sheet

We collect this data to help us capture the impact volunteers are having across the city which helps to demonstrate the value of this work and how we may better support in the future. You can also use this form to arrange collection of your litter pick and request equipment.

Please email the form to the Cleaner Greener Streets team:

- You can email the completed form or email the information directly (into an email) to Cleanergreenerstreets@birmingham.gov.uk

Name of Your Group and Ward:	<i>Handsworth streets</i>
-------------------------------------	----------------------------------

Date of event	Location (include postcode/lamppost number etc if collection required)	How many bags collected	Do you need us to collect these bags (only say 'Yes' if you have not reported already)	Number of volunteers at session	Number of hours (to nearest half hour)
<i>1/4/2018</i>	<i>Litter pick – 123 Soho rd, B21 8UU. Lamppost Number 123</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>1.5</i>

Please tell us any issues that you had on your litter pick and anything else you would like to report (i.e flytipping):

Thank you for helping us to keep Birmingham Streets **Cleaner and **Greener**.**

Share your litter picks photos using #cleanerbrum and tagging us @bhamcitycouncil adding the location. You can also email photo's at: cleanergreenerstreets@birmingham.gov.uk

Equipment Request

- Please allow 5 working days for us to process your request
- Requests should be sent to CleanerGreenerStreets@birmingham.gov.uk. Our team will then contact you to follow up via email.
- Request are subject to stock levels and need

Name of Your Group and Ward:		
Equipment	Amount (individual amount not 'box' etc)	Reason for request
Litter Pickers Adult		
Litter Pickers Childs		
Gloves		
Street Cart		
Sacks		
High Vis Adults		
High Vis Childs		
First Aid Kits		
Training Package		
Graffiti Kit		
Brooms		
Hoes		
Clapper boards		
Other (please specify below)		

If, however the volunteer cannot pick up the equipment required we can and will arrange for this to be delivered by the depot. We are also planning to have several days where we open on a Saturday for groups to collect equipment (if they cannot make weekdays).

We continue to support the work of the volunteers helping to make our communities cleaner and greener and will work with them to ensure that they are able to receive the equipment they need. All enquiries should be directed to cleanergreenerstreets@birmingham.gov.uk.

Phone number for vulnerable residents

In respect to the contact number where possible we would want communications to be online via the website or contacting our inbox. Where there is a volunteer that is classed as vulnerable or has no access to online services, they can call the main line 0121 303 1111 who can support them with their request. We are continually working with the digital and customer service teams to ensure contact centre staff have the correct information to deal with related queries and are in the process of updating the information with them in respect of this.'

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL TILSLEY

I1 Dropped Kerbs

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member confirm how many dropped kerbs there are currently in the City as well as confirming details of the number installed per year?

Answer:

We do not hold information on the number of dropped kerbs in the city.

With regard to the number of new dropped kerbs (vehicle crossings) installed per year, in the financial 2019/20, 787 were constructed, in 2020/21 there were 815 and in the 2021/22 year (to date) 833 have been constructed.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR MORRIAM JAN

I2 Flooding

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member provide a full update on progress with the Perry Beeches Flood Prevention Scheme and application to Environment Agency, especially in light of the community's adoption of the 3Bs' Neighbourhood Plan and its emphasis on flood prevention?

Answer:

The Perry Beeches Flood Alleviation Scheme is indicatively programmed for 2027, subject to feasibility and finding cost effective interventions.

As Perry Beeches is affected by numerous sources of flooding – fluvial (river), pluvial (surface water), sewer flood risk and groundwater - it will require a partnership approach to developing a solution. This will involve the combined input of the City Council, the Environment Agency, Severn Trent Water, residents and community organisations (amongst others) in order to develop options such as flood storage, bunds, sewer upsizing, walls & gates to better protect properties and to find a deliverable solution.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR BABER BAZ

I3 Clean Air Zone Fines

Question:

How many appeals have been lodged against fines levied for driving in the Clean Air Zone?

Answer:

In responding to this question 'appeals' has been assumed to mean a representation or challenge against a Clean Air Zone Penalty Charge Notice, which has been issued for the non-payment of a Clean Air Zone daily fee, without a valid exemption from the fee being in place.

Up to 31 January 2022, 64,872 representations (including change of ownership) had been received by the Council's Parking Services team. This represents just under 11% of all Clean Air Zone Penalty Charge Notices issued during the same period.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR PETER FOWLER

I4 Risk Register – Civil Works

Question:

The risk register for the civil works and camera solution for the CAZ gave a risk (R020) the 'Insufficient lighting for cameras to correctly capture VRMs due to the number of location changes driven by Jacksons design works' - the mitigation for this was 'additional lighting or other amendments to existing lighting would need to be made to ensure useable images' and 'relocate cameras back to optimal position once new civil contractor in place.' On what date were these mitigations completed?

Answer:

Once the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras were installed they were subjected to a 'ground truth' test. This approach is in line with the ANPR Guidance for Local Authorities, which was issued by the Joint Air Quality Unit (JAQU) and draws on guidance for the operation of these types of systems contained in the National ANPR Standards for Policing and Law Enforcement.

The testing undertaken prior to 'go-live' also included a review of the images captured by the cameras, in day and night-time conditions. This was to verify that the images met the minimum standard recommended by the Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA) for their Certification of Approved Devices (CoAD), which the cameras used in the operation of the Clean Air Zone are benchmarked against.

The testing determined that no mitigating actions, such as additional lighting, were required.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR CHARLOTTE HODIVALA

I5 Information – Mitigation Works

Question:

Please provide a list and maps of all mitigation work proposed, including mitigation work delivered as identified in the risk register for the civil works and camera solution for the CAZ.

Answer:

Once the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras were installed they were subjected to a 'ground truth' test. This approach is in line with the ANPR Guidance for Local Authorities, which was issued by the Joint Air Quality Unit (JAQU) and draws on guidance for the operation of these types of systems contained in the National ANPR Standards for Policing and Law Enforcement.

The testing undertaken prior to 'go-live' also included a review of the images captured by the cameras, in day and night-time conditions. This was to verify that the images met the minimum standard recommended by the Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA) for their Certification of Approved Devices (CoAD), which the cameras used in the operation of the Clean Air Zone are benchmarked against.

The testing determined that no mitigating actions, such as additional lighting, were required.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR MEIRION JENKINS

I6 Information – Mitigation Works

Question:

Please provide a list and maps of all mitigation work proposed, including mitigation work delivered.

Answer:

In line with the other questions received around 'mitigation work' it has been assumed that this question relates to potential mitigations around the installation of the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras used in the operation of the Clean Air Zone.

Once the ANPR cameras were installed they were subjected to a 'ground truth' test. This approach is in line with the ANPR Guidance for Local Authorities, which was issued by the Joint Air Quality Unit (JAQU) and draws on guidance for the operation of these types of systems contained in the National ANPR Standards for Policing and Law Enforcement.

The testing undertaken prior to 'go-live' also included a review of the images captured by the cameras, in day and night-time conditions. This was to verify that the images met the minimum standard recommended by the Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA) for their Certification of Approved Devices (CoAD), which the cameras used in the operation of the Clean Air Zone are benchmarked against.

The testing determined that no mitigating actions, such as additional lighting, were required.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR KEN WOOD

I7 Information – Mitigation Works

Question:

Please provide a copy of the post implementation review/lessons learned report scheduled to be completed 6 months after implementation of the ‘main CAZ infrastructure- civil engineering and cameras solution’ project.

Answer:

This report has not been completed so I am unable to provide this information at this point. However, it is due to be completed in April 2022 and will be shared once it has been completed.

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

I8 Assessments

Question:

What assessment has been made of percentage of Council fleet that is compliant with the clean air zone and how many of non-compliant Council vehicles would need to drive into the zone on a daily basis?

Answer:

The operation of the Council's fleet is the responsibility of its respective directorates and services and, as such, is outside of the scope of the Transport and Environment portfolio. Therefore, I am unable to provide this information.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VULNERABLE
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PEARS**

J Information Required

Question:

Please provide an updated version of the tables you supplied in response to Written Question J4 at the Full Council Meeting of 11th January 2022.

Answer:

Please be advised that we have yet to be invoiced for the costs associated with all interim/consultants in the service for January 2022 and therefore the figures go up to, and are inclusive of, December 2021.

Please find attached 2 separate documents containing the following information:

- Appendix 1 - Interim/Consultant spend from Sept 2021 to Mar 2022
- Appendix 2 - Total Agency spend updated table

J – Appendix 1

Area	Commissioned By	Approved by	Agency (Do Not Share)	Start Date	Contract end date (if assignment active)	Actual End Date	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs from Sept 2021 to Mar 2022	A high-level list of activities they've been involved with	A summary of the improvements they've made (bullet points of what has improved since the consultants have been here).
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Lord	01/09/2021	25/03/2022		Yes	£86,400.00	<p>ALL OF THESE OFFICERS ARE COMPLETING BUSINESS AS USUAL ACTIVITY ON THE ASSESSMENT AND REVIEWS OF EDUCATION HEALTH CARE PLANS.</p> <p>The service has been realigned into locality teams of North, South, East & West as well as dedicated officers to focus on complaint resolution and tribunal activity generated through the assessments and reviews outcomes.</p>	<p>The impact these officers will bring to the service is to maintain a manageable case load and determine the best outcomes for young people and their families.</p>
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Hays	01/09/2021	25/03/2022		Yes	£12,000.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Venn	27/09/2021	25/03/2022		Yes	£42,000.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	01/09/2021	25/03/2022		Yes	£54,000.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Spencer Clarke	01/09/2021	25/03/2022		Yes	£36,000.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	01/09/2021	25/03/2022		Yes	£36,000.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	01/09/2021	25/03/2022		Yes	£36,000.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	01/09/2021	25/03/2022		Yes	£66,000.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Venn	25/01/2021	25/03/2022		Yes	£40,560.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	28/02/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£36,000.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	04/10/2021	21/11/2021		No	£24,700.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	26/04/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£36,000.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	10/05/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£36,000.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	15/11/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£40,200.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	10/05/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£36,000.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Baltimore	01/11/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£40,200.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Spencer Clarke	10/05/2021	21/12/2021		Yes	£36,000.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	14/06/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£30,160.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Baltimore	18/10/2021	14/01/2022		No	£32,405.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	08/11/2021	12/11/2021		No	£9,240.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Venn	04/10/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£40,200.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	18/10/2021	31/03/2023		No	£40,200.00		

City Council – 22 February 2022

Area	Commissioned By	Approved by	Agency (Do Not Share)	Start Date	Contract end date (if assignment active)	Actual End Date	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs from Sept 2021 to Mar 2022	A high-level list of activities they've been involved with	A summary of the improvements they've made (bullet points of what has improved since the consultants have been here).
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	25/10/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£40,200.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	01/09/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£37,400.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Education Futures	25/01/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£37,400.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Venn	06/12/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£48,000.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	15/11/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£38,800.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	01/04/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£44,000.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	01/09/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£37,400.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Venn	08/11/2021	14/02/2022		No	£39,800.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Hays	01/09/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£36,000.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Spencer Clarke	19/04/2021	29/11/2021		Yes	£37,400.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	15/11/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£38,800.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	10/05/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£36,000.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Venn	09/03/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£30,160.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Spencer Clarke	10/10/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£37,400.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	19/04/2021	04/02/2022		No	£36,000.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Venn	11/10/2021	26/11/2021		No	£32,405.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Baltimore	04/10/2021	14/01/2022		No	£32,405.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	26/04/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£36,000.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Venn	04/10/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£40,200.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	06/12/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£38,800.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Baltimore	06/12/2021	30/10/2021		No	£38,800.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Venn	06/04/2021	17/12/2021		No	£26,800.00		

City Council – 22 February 2022

Area	Commissioned By	Approved by	Agency (Do Not Share)	Start Date	Contract end date (if assignment active)	Actual End Date	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs from Sept 2021 to Mar 2022	A high-level list of activities they've been involved with	A summary of the improvements they've made (bullet points of what has improved since the consultants have been here).
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Venn	18/10/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£40,200.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Venn	23/08/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£37,400.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	10/05/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£36,000.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	01/03/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£37,400.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Baltimore	01/11/2021	21/12/2021		No	£32,405.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	04/01/2022	31/03/2023		Yes	£12,000.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Venn	04/10/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£38,800.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Venn	18/10/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£40,200.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Baltimore	11/10/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£26,800.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Venn	01/11/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£40,200.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	06/09/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£40,200.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	20/12/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£13,400.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	06/12/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£32,960.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	04/01/2022	31/03/2023		Yes	£13,400.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	01/11/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£49,400.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	28/02/2022	31/03/2023		Yes	£0.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	01/04/2022	31/03/2023		Yes	£0.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	10/01/2022	31/03/2023		Yes	£0.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	07/02/2022	31/03/2023		Yes	£0.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	01/04/2022	31/03/2023		Yes	£0.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	28/02/2022	31/03/2023		Yes	£0.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	14/02/2022	31/03/2023		Yes	£0.00		

City Council – 22 February 2022

Area	Commissioned By	Approved by	Agency (Do Not Share)	Start Date	Contract end date (if assignment active)	Actual End Date	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs from Sept 2021 to Mar 2022	A high-level list of activities they've been involved with	A summary of the improvements they've made (bullet points of what has improved since the consultants have been here).
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	14/02/2022	31/03/2023		Yes	£0.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Venn	14/02/2022	31/03/2023		Yes	£0.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	28/02/2022	31/03/2023		Yes	£0.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Baltimore	08/10/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£26,800.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	01/11/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£36,000.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	01/09/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£36,000.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	08/11/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£30,000.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	04/10/2021	26/11/2021	26/11/2021	No	£27,000.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Hays	01/09/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£42,000.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Baltimore	18/10/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£51,000.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Venn	01/09/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£54,000.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	01/09/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£44,000.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Spencer Clarke	01/09/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£54,000.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	18/10/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£54,000.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Baltimore	04/10/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£42,800.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	18/10/2021	14/02/2022	14/02/2022	No	£54,000.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	01/09/2021	19/11/2021	19/11/2021	No	£27,000.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Panoramic	11/01/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£13,400.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Venn	01/09/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£58,000.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Venn	25/10/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£45,000.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Venn	04/10/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£52,000.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Baltimore	04/10/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£34,000.00		

City Council – 22 February 2022

Area	Commissioned By	Approved by	Agency (Do Not Share)	Start Date	Contract end date (if assignment active)	Actual End Date	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs from Sept 2021 to Mar 2022	A high-level list of activities they've been involved with	A summary of the improvements they've made (bullet points of what has improved since the consultants have been here).
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Baltimore	04/10/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£56,800.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Baltimore	27/09/2021	31/03/2023		Yes	£51,000.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Baltimore	31/01/2022	31/03/2023		Yes	£17,000.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Baltimore	23/03/2022	31/03/2023		Yes	£0.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Baltimore	14/02/2022	31/03/2023		Yes	£0.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Smart Education	01/09/2021	25/03/2022		Yes	£26,800.00	These officers are maintaining the Parent & School link service - offering support and advice to parents, carers, young people and schools	Increasing the support to families whilst the service undergoes the significant change needed to provide a better service to citizens of Birmingham
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Smart Education	01/09/2021	25/03/2022		Yes	£26,800.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Smart Education	01/09/2021	25/03/2022		Yes	£26,800.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Smart Education	01/09/2021	25/03/2022		Yes	£26,800.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Smart Education	01/09/2021	25/03/2022		Yes	£9,200.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Venn	01/09/2021	25/03/2022		Yes	£9,200.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Venn	01/09/2021	25/03/2022		Yes	£9,200.00		
SENAR	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Venn	01/09/2021	25/03/2022		Yes	£9,200.00		
SEND Strategic Transformation	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Hays	01/09/2021	25/03/2022		Yes	£29,050.00	These officers are working directly on the SEND transformation objectives set by the Dfe Commissioner	The impact these officers are having is yet to be determined as this is a new function within the service following the Ofsted inspection outcome
SEND Strategic Transformation	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Lord	01/09/2021	25/03/2022		Yes	£41,500.00		
SEND Strategic Transformation	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Hays	18/10/2021	25/03/2022		Yes	£30,000.00		
SEND Strategic Transformation	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Hays	18/10/2021	25/03/2022		Yes	£26,000.00		
SEND Strategic Transformation	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Hays	18/10/2021	25/03/2022		Yes	£28,750.00		
SEND Strategic Transformation	AD SEND & Inclusion	E&S Workforce Review Board	Venn	18/10/2021	25/03/2022		Yes	£22,500.00		

J – Appendix 2

Agency	Spend	Confirmed Address
Baltimore	£523,000	PS21, 21 Princes Street, Bristol, BS1 4PH
Education Futures	£100,500	19 New Street, Horsforth, Leeds, LS18 4BH
Hays	£1,574,961	1 Colmore Square, Birmingham, B4 6AJ
Lords	£255,300	Crown House, The Square, Alvechurch, Birmingham B48 7LA
Panoramic	£2,522,190	St Bartholomew's House, Lewins Mead, Bristol, BS1 2NH
Penna	£320,000	2 nd Floor, 10 Bishops Square, Spitalfields, London, E1 6EG
Smart Education	£148,878	1-3 The Courtyard, Calvin Street, Bolton, BL1 8PB
Spencer Clarke	£361,465	11 Bartle Court Business Centre, Rosemary Lane, Preston, PR4 0HF
Tile Hill	£105,000	York House, 221 Pentonville Road, London N1 9UZ
Venn Group	£726,106	Waterloo House, 20 Waterloo Street, Birmingham, B2 5TB

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF LICENSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION
COMMITTEE FROM COUNCILLOR ROGER HARMER**

K1 'Fixed Penalty Notices (Littering)

Question:

How many Fixed Penalty Notices were issued for littering in calendar year 2021 and January 2022 by ward?

Answer:

The following tables identify where FPNs for littering have been issued. Litter FPNs can only be issued in areas where the Litter Officers can see someone littering i.e. dropping litter and leaving it. The Officers therefore operate in high footfall areas where there are people and litter is likely to be dropped. These are mostly shopping centres on high streets.

January to December 2021

Ward Issued	No. FPNs
Acocks Green	25
Aston	1
Bordesley and Highgate	19
Brandwood and Kings Heath	24
Erdington	26
Hall Green South	1
Handsworth	1
Harborne	7
Ladywood	3865
Moseley and Kings Heath	1
Northfield	21
Sutton Mere Green	2
Sutton Vessey	4
	3997

January 2022

Ward Issued	No. FPNs
Acocks Green	6
Bordesley and Highgate	38
Brandwood and Kings Heath	4
Erdington	6
Ladywood	299
Northfield	5
Total	358

Wards not mentioned
have no FPNs served.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF LICENSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION
COMMITTEE FROM COUNCILLOR ZAKER CHOUDHRY**

K2 Fixed Penalty Notices (Fly Tipping)

Question:

How many Fixed Penalty Notices were issued for fly tipping in calendar year 2021 and January 2022 by ward?

Answer:

Fixed penalty notices issued under section 33ZA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 as an alternative to prosecution proceeding are reported through the council's Licencing and Public Protection Committee on a rolling basis. For the calendar year 2021, 73 were issued and 14 in January 2022.

CITY COUNCIL

15 MARCH 2022

APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

Set out below for approval and noting are appointments to be made by the City Council.

RECOMMENDED:-

That the appointments be made to serve on the Committees and Bodies below:-

Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor ----- (Con) to replace Councillor Saddak Miah (Lab) for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of City Council in May 2022.

To note that Justine Lomas has replaced Adam Hardy as the Roman Catholic diocese representative on the Committee.

Trust and Charities Committee

Councillor ----- (Con) to replace Councillor Zhor Malik (Lab) for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of City Council in May 2022.

Please note that the two Councillor appointments are as a result of changes to aggregate proportionality which has led to the Labour Group having to give up a seat on two Committees to the Conservative Group.

Executive Business Report

Birmingham City Council

City Council

15th March 2022



Subject: Executive Business Report

Report of: Cabinet

Report author(s): Becky Hellard (Director, Council Management)
Paul Kitson (Strategic Director of Place, Prosperity & Sustainability)
Craig Cooper (Commonwealth Games Programme Director)

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?

☐ Yes

☒ No

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

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. On 10th September 2019, Full Council accepted the recommendations of the Coordinating O&S Committee review in respect of changes to the Full Council agenda.
- 1.2. Recommendation 3 of the review requested that the Executive provide an update to Full Council on its work via the provision of an Executive Business Report ('EBR'). EBRs will be provided to Full Council four times per municipal year and will include details of progress made in relation to Council strategic outcomes and priorities linked to two Cabinet Member portfolios.
- 1.3. Following the outbreak of Covid-19 in March 2020, previous EBRs (from June 2020 to July 2021) have been used to provide an update on the whole Council's response to the pandemic, including emergency planning, impact on services and plans for recovery. As the Council has now stepped down the emergency response to Covid-19, a decision has been taken to revert to the original purpose and format of EBRs.

- 1.4. This EBR provides an update on two Cabinet Member portfolios:
- Finance and Resources; pages 2 - 15
 - Leader, including economic recovery and the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games; pages 15 - 39

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the report be noted.

3. Finance and Resources Portfolio

3.1. Finance

Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)

- 3.1.1. In February 2021, the City Council approved the 2021-25 Financial Plan. This was a plan that was developed against the backdrop of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, and continued uncertainty relating to service demand and financial pressures facing both the Council and the wider public sector.
- 3.1.2. In this plan we committed to realign the Council's budget, which had already been significantly impacted by the pandemic since March 2020, and manage levels of spending in year, whilst developing robust financial plans for the year ahead, the medium term of up to four years, and the long-term future up to ten years.
- 3.1.3. The delivery of a balanced budget for 2021/22 was a statutory requirement; however, we have seen a number of Councils across the country struggle to balance their budget and either issue S114 notices or apply for capitalisation directions to enable them to set balanced budgets. This was not the case for Birmingham City Council (BCC), and we were both realistic and ambitious in the budget that we would support the Council's delivery plan while also improving and modernising services, and transforming to become a better Birmingham.
- 3.1.4. The budget approved in February 2021 was a one year budget. At the time, we had plans to develop future budgets to cover longer periods, as we had hope that national government would fulfil its promise of delivering a multi-year financial settlement for local government. Sadly, this has still not been the case.
- 3.1.5. In setting the budget in February 2021, we committed to undertake a new 'rolling budget' approach where we would adopt a continuous process for reviewing the budget. This came into effect from April 2021. In July and October 2021, Cabinet received reports providing updates on the budget alongside the regular quarterly in-year financial monitoring reports. These

new in-year MTFP refresh reports updated Members on MTFP projections and plans to manage spend, and were a first for BCC. They will be continued in future years, as an example of best practice.

- 3.1.6. Additionally this year, as part of the budget setting process, we ran an online training session for elected Members to refresh them on the process and their role when approving the budget at City Council.
- 3.1.7. Development of a balanced budget for 2022/23 commenced in the late summer of 2021, and CLT engaged in the delivery of ongoing sustainable transformation savings over a four year period. These savings of circa £125 million, as reported to Cabinet in October 2021, are based around three key themes: People, Place, and Fit For Purpose Council. After a significant amount of work and due diligence, savings proposals have been included in the 2022-26 budget of over £107m, resulting in a balanced budget for year one (2022/23) and a gap of £33m over the period 2023-26.
- 3.1.8. The balanced budget for 2022/23 was approved by Full Council on the 22nd February 2022, and work is now underway to close the remaining MTFP gap by July 2022, when the first in-year rolling budget report will be presented to Cabinet.

Improving Our Financial Management

- 3.1.9. From April to May 2021, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) undertook a review of the Council's Financial Management capacity against their five-star model. They awarded BCC a three-star rating, stating:

"It is clear that over the last two years at Birmingham City [Council] the core finance function has moved on from the more traditional stewardship aspects of financial management that had evolved through keeping the services 'safe' by trying to ensure that the organisation works within its approved financial targets to a much more mature and dynamic supporting and enabling service. Our evidence strongly points to a significant improvement having been achieved over the last two years on Financial Management capability to a position where high levels of effectiveness are now evident."

"Birmingham City Council should be considered to be an exemplar in the transformation of financial management capability given the extent of improvement achieved over the last two years."

- 3.1.10. The achievement of a three-star rating is a significant improvement on our previous one-star score in July 2019, which indicated that the Council was only as the basic 'securing stewardship' level. We are extremely proud of our three-star rating, which was achieved twelve months ahead of our original planned timetable.

- 3.1.11. Listed below are the significant activities that took place to achieve this rating:
- Implementation of accountability letters, requiring Directors and Assistant Directors to commit to deliver a sustainable financial position for Birmingham City Council.
 - A review of the scheme of delegation, to ensure the scheme was fit for purpose.
 - Financial regulations review, to ensure it was a modern fit for purpose document.
 - Budget holder training to enable budget managers to manage their budgets in an efficient and effective manner, enabling the council to remain compliant with its financial regulations.
 - 'My Finance' intranet site for budget holders, a dedicated finance page on the Intranet to provide council staff with a specific area where they can access documents and information.
 - Capital programme management, strengthening the Capital Board and management of the programme to aid financial planning, management and service delivery.
- 3.1.12. CIPFA have stated that:
- "...given the grip, pace and progression to achieve this three-star rating it is envisaged that if this level of progress is maintained, Birmingham has real potential to achieve four-star status...subject to the current trajectory of improvement and the series of development area improvements highlighted within our report being substantially addressed."*
- 3.1.13. This is a goal that we are striving to achieve, and a report detailing the progress of this journey will be reported to Cabinet in due course.
- 2021/22 Savings Programme**
- 3.1.14. The total savings programme for 2021/22 is £36.7m, of which £33.1m is new in-year savings.
- 3.1.15. £31.8m (87%) of the total savings are either achieved or on target, with a further £1.5m (4%) anticipated to be delivered by year end. The total savings anticipated to be achieved by year end is 91%. This is a significant improvement on previous years. In 2020/21, 73% of budget savings were delivered.
- 3.1.16. These savings figures include the £20.1m establishment saving. At month ten, £18.6m has been achieved, and we are hopeful that 100% will be delivered by the end of the financial year.

- 3.1.17. The Council has incurred £36.4m of Covid-related expenditure in 2021/22. Whilst there has been some in-year government grant funding to mitigate Covid-related costs (tranche five funding of £12.5m), the remaining balance has been funded by other Council funding streams including Covid-19 grants carried forward from previous years, specific public health fundings, and the Council's general fund.

New Human Resources, Finance and Procurement System – '1B'

- 3.1.18. The Council is implementing a new human resources, finance and procurement system in April 2022, known as 1B. This Oracle Fusion cloud-based solution will replace the existing system, and bring a range of improvements including:

- Introduction of new and improved ways of working for staff and managers.
- Delivery of an enhanced real-time overview of the Council's finances, with tools to help us further maximise income, monitor budgets and allocate resources effectively.
- Tracking of every penny of council expenditure in an efficient and timely manner, enabling the Council to drive value for money through its purchasing and contract agreements with suppliers of goods and services.
- Enabling and enhancing our workforce strategy, from attracting talent to performance management and development, giving managers and staff the right tools to deliver their responsibilities wherever they are.

- 3.1.19. As with any large new system in a complex organisation, there are a variety of different programmes of work to be undertaken to enable a successful rollout. We have been working alongside a dedicated team of suppliers and subject matter experts to implement the new system.

- 3.1.20. A number of key milestones have been delivered through 2021 and early 2022, including:

- The development of Oracle configuration and custom components to support the Council's specific requirements.
- Validation and user acceptance testing nearing completion, with remaining defects being resolved.
- Connection of Oracle Fusion with a range of other Council systems to facilitate the exchange of information, including schools systems.
- Adoption and learning activity with 39,000 Oracle users, rolling out support to professional users across all Council directorates.

- Collaboration with wider Council operating model initiatives, to ensure alignment with the wider transformation agenda.

- 3.1.21. Measures have been taken to reduce the risk profile of this complex programme of activity, and enhanced support arrangements have been considered to deliver 'hypercare' following the April 2022 go live date. Challenges in specific areas and the delivery of custom components by the Council's delivery partner Evosys are being managed actively through February and March 2022.
- 3.1.22. A key decision criterion remains the outcome of payroll comparison activity, to ensure the quality of payroll processing across a wide community of staff, schools and external payrolls.

Transaction Services

- 3.1.23. The Council processes over two million transactions each year. This includes payments to suppliers, raising invoices to customers, and the payment of staff via our payroll system. Due to the size of Birmingham City Council, the combined value of these transactions is enormous - in excess of £1 billion per annum.
- 3.1.24. Any organisation with high levels of financial transactions is at risk of fraud and duplicate payments, and needs to constantly update its processes to guard against and prevent fraudulent activity.
- 3.1.25. Over the last year we have significantly enhanced these processes. We received a 'best in class' designation from CIPFA for our new fraud detection and prevention in transaction services process, which has subsequently detected and prevented a number of significant fraud attempts.
- 3.1.26. The new Pre-payment Report in Transaction Services has also reduced the number of duplicate and over-payments to virtually nil. This new report is modelled on one available in the new 1B system, meaning that we will be able to seamlessly transfer it across to the new system in April 2022.

Refreshing Our Approach to Business Cases and the Capital Programme

- 3.1.27. Over the last year we have introduced a more robust business case process for large programmes, with a view to rolling this approach out across all Council projects. This has been supported by a stronger data and insight function, further strengthened by a revitalised Corporate Programme Management Office (CPMO). We have increased capacity in the corporate finance team to review and challenge business cases to ensure that they are realistic, affordable, deliverable, and meet the aims and objectives of the Council.

- 3.1.28. As part of the MTFP process, we have introduced a dedicated Finance Business Partner for each of the three key transformation savings themes: People, Place, and Fit For Purpose Council. These business partners have played a valuable role in ensuring that the options presented in business cases were solid and deliverable – essential to enable the setting of a balanced budget.
- 3.1.29. The Finance team has worked closely with the CPMO to develop business case templates, and is now considering additional ways to enhance the planning process, as well as the development of a communications strategy.
- 3.1.30. Early in 2021/22, we established an Invest to Deliver Group to undertake due diligence on requests for funding in-year. The group was initially formed to review business cases for Invest To Deliver initiatives, but it quickly became apparent that its remit needed to expand across all funding request.
- 3.1.31. A robust and challenging business case development process is a necessary precursor for best practice financial monitoring and reporting. We have developed our financial reporting processes to focus on exceptions and solutions to manage variances. This has already had a positive impact, with reported overspend reducing significantly from £27.4m at Q1 to £4.4m at Q3, and a forecast nil variance by year-end. This is a clear sign of organisation improvement, showing how an organisation can swiftly amend processes and adapt to manage a potential crisis.
- 3.1.32. We had previously committed to the development of a 25-year capital plan – an approach which is untested in local government. The ‘art of the possible’ was scoped and tested in 2021/22, and included at a high-level in the financial plan reported to City Council in February 2022.
- 3.1.33. A Phase One proof of concept has been developed. This includes identifying the benefits of a 25-year plan, such as being able to provide a framework for capital planning and decision-making in the medium term, as well as considering potential drawbacks including the inherent uncertainty of future policy, economic and technological factors.
- 3.1.34. During the successful proof of concept work, long-term capital plans and needs were identified and explored with a number of key services. The outcome of this work has enabled a plan to be developed for Phase 2, aiming to deliver a more detailed 25-year plan by Autumn 2022. This will need to include a consideration of existing assets, both in terms of their condition and future suitability, and the need to replace, repurpose or add to them in future, and alternative models of asset utilisation and potential technological advances. These capital requirements will then be compared to projections of capital resources that the Council may have available over the next 25 years.

- 3.1.35. This 25-year capital plan will be iterative, updated each year, and recognised as robust financial management supporting sound decision-making.

Statutory Accounts

- 3.1.36. On 30th June 2021 we presented a complete Statement of Accounts to external audit for 2020/21 – one month earlier than the statutory timetable. Since then, we have been supporting the external audit of the accounts.
- 3.1.37. The National Audit Office launched a new Code of Audit Practice for 2020/21 accounts . This introduced a revised approach to Value For Money audits, which changed the auditors approach from having to complete a risk assessment to needing to gain an understanding of a local authority's general arrangements.
- 3.1.38. Accordingly, this year has seen an increased volume of external audit queries, greater sample sizes and requests for more evidence, as external audit requirements have increased from previous years. The external auditor has also required greater testing around property valuations and income and expenditure recognition. The Council's support to the external audit was commended by auditors ahead of the Audit Committee in October 2021.
- 3.1.39. The audit is expected to be completed by March 2022. Nationally, audit options for the majority of councils have been delayed due to a number of issues that are beyond the control of the Council.
- 3.1.40. In light of high levels of staff turnover in the preceding twelve months, and the introduction of remote working arrangements for all staff, the timely completion of the draft Statement of Accounts and extent of support provided for the external audit represents a significant achievement for the Council.
- 3.1.41. Despite greater scrutiny of the Council's accounts, at this stage we do not expect any change to the Councils outturn reported in the draft accounts presented in June 2021.
- 3.1.42. Our focus is now on developing an enhanced approach for the 2021/22 audit, to ensure that services think about value for money in everything they do, thereby enabling maximum impact.

Team Achievements

- 3.1.43. Over the last year, we have worked hard to raise the profile of our finance team across the sector by celebrating our successes in a number of different forums. This section of the report provides a brief update on some of these activities.
- 3.1.44. In 2021, our team was shortlisted for two 2021 Public Finance Awards: Achievement in Financial Reporting and Accountability, and Covid-19 Leader Of The Year, receiving a highly commended award for the latter.

- 3.1.45. We have been an active member of CIPFA Midlands, and are working with the group to raise the profile of Birmingham, share lessons learned and learn from others to strengthen the region.
- 3.1.46. We have spoken with other local authorities to share examples of best practice and our approach to developing innovative solutions. This includes sharing information about our budget engagement app, Target Operating Model (TOM) and our journey to gaining a three-star CIPFA rating. This engagement is important, not just in ensuring the transfer of knowledge but raising the reputation of BCC and establishing our team as leaders in the field.
- 3.1.47. A member of our team presented on a recent CIPFA webinar about our successful approach to gaining Levelling Up funding, raising the profile of Birmingham with other financial professionals across the country.
- 3.1.48. The team took part in a Local Government Association (LGA) sounding board discussion forum to share knowledge with Executive Leader, where the LGA presented on our journey to three-star CIPFA accreditation.
- 3.1.49. And, looking ahead, we have submitted an entry to the Local Government Chronicle (LGC) 2022 Awards in the Most Improved Council category, demonstrating our journey to three-star and the organisational change that was required.

Summary

- 3.1.50. In summary, the finance team has achieved a significant amount in the past year. We are proud of the progress that has been made, and to have been recognised by our professional body CIPFA as a three-star financial management authority.
- 3.1.51. Whilst we have made big strides to improve financial management and governance at BCC, we are not complacent and we recognise that there is more to do to further enhance the finances of this authority. We will continue at pace on our organisational improvement journey.

3.2. Corporate Procurement Services

- 3.2.1. Since June 2021, increased focus has been placed on enhancing commissioning, procurement and contract management practices across the Council. The Corporate Procurement Service is part of a wider transformation programme implementing a new Target Operating Model (TOM), with specific outcomes including:
- Implementing a category management model of delivery, seeking to improve early engagement for professional procurement advice on procurement and commercial activity.

- Enhancing the Council's approach to robust contract management through the adoption of a Contract Management System.
- Review and overhaul of procurement governance arrangements.
- Formalising and adopting a new Procurement Strategy.
- Embedding new Social Value Policy changes.

3.2.2. Progress on the transformation programme has focused on a number of key themes:

People

3.2.3. The new structure for the Corporate Procurement Service includes 33 full-time equivalent staff, with a recent round of recruitment securing eight permanent appointments. This includes the appointment of three apprenticeship roles. A second round of recruitment for remaining posts has commenced.

3.2.4. An agreement has been made to move existing Category resource (three full-time equivalent staff) currently in the Digital & Customer Services Directorate into the Corporate Procurement Service. This will take effect from 1st April 2022.

3.2.5. Training plans are being developed to ensure that the right skills are available within and across the service.

Process/Policy

3.2.6. In November 2021, Cabinet adopted a number of revisions and updates to the Council's Social Value Policy.

3.2.7. Through a Task and Finish Group formed with colleagues from Overview and Scrutiny, a formal review of the Council's Procurement Governance Arrangements (PGA) has now been completed. Formal recommendations from this review have been submitted to the Cabinet Member for consideration as part of a wider refresh of the PGA due to come to Full Council in May/June 2022.

3.2.8. During 2021 the Council has retained Living Wage Accreditation, and introduced a new MatchMyProject system to promote opportunities for community organisations to work with suppliers to support delivery of their social and community projects.

Systems

3.2.9. The new 1B system is a key interdependency for the transformation programme. From April 2022, the introduction of the new system will transform Purchase to Pay (P2P) processes and will provide electronic tendering functionality in the future.

3.2.10. Whilst positive progress has been made so far, there is more to do in 2022/23 to further embed and enhance the transformation programme, including:

- Implementing a new Contract Management framework, including appropriate alignment of resources based on contractual risks.
- Concluding recruitment activity to formalise the permanent service structure.
- Adopting and embedding new Procurement Governance Arrangements.
- Taking forward plans to implement improved governance controls on contracted spend with third party suppliers, through adoption of a No Purchase Order/No Pay policy.
- Advancing delivery of the procurement savings target in line with the MTFP. This is covered in more detail below.

Achieving Savings

3.2.11. As part of the MTFP, the Corporate Procurement Service has been tasked with achieving savings of £2.7m from existing and new supplier contracts in the 2022/23 financial year. Analysis has been carried out to identify opportunities for savings from within our top 150 suppliers. These have been RAG-rated according to the likelihood of the identified savings being realised. Similarly, tail-end (off-contract) spend is being analysed to identify areas where spending can be stopped or else consolidated into negotiated contracts. Savings are expected to be obtained by challenging suppliers to reduce charges within a contract. This might be by reducing unit costs, looking at alternative delivery methods, specification redesign as part of a re-tendering process, or any other contractual mechanisms to reduce cost without affecting service levels.

Local Spend and Social Value

3.2.12. The total spend for Birmingham for the period January to December 2021 was £1.347 billion, across 8,263 suppliers, broken down as follows:

- Invoice spend in Birmingham – 49%
- Invoice spend in West Midlands – 7%
- Invoice spend (other) – 44%

3.2.13. The total local (Birmingham & West Midlands) spend for the same period was £759m, which breaks down into:

- Invoice spend in Birmingham - £668m
- Invoice spend in West Midlands - £91m

- 3.2.14. In October 2021, Cabinet approved updates to our Social Value Policy and the Birmingham Business Charter for Social Responsibility. These changes were implemented by 1st December 2021.
- 3.2.15. A new measure has been added to the Green & Sustainable theme (NT44 – Programme to achieve net zero by 2030). This measure allows the bidder to commit to achieving net zero (as a company) by 2030, in addition to other environmental or social value commitments offered in the tender for a project.
- 3.2.16. The Council has signed up to the UK Steel Charter and is encouraging relevant suppliers to do the same. The Council has also adopted the Councils For Fair Tax Declaration.

3.3. Human Resources

Case Reviews

- 3.3.1. Good progress has been made reviewing cases over six months old. Action plans are now in place, with proactive work taking place to identify where cases are at risk of becoming long-term. A new protocol for case recording and a consistent approach using a single tracking system has been implemented. We are commencing procurement of a new case management system to improve recording, data collection and reporting moving forward. Additional resource has been secured to support case work.

Target Operating Model (TOM)

- 3.3.2. Work progresses towards the new TOM. A number of key appointments have now been made, and we are preparing to advertise externally for key vacancies at Grade 7.
- 3.3.3. The approach to transition from Human Resources/Organisational Development to the new People Services structure is being finalised, and staff will move to roles in the new team once there is sufficient resource in place to stand up functions.
- 3.3.4. In the interim, additional HR Business Manager resource will be put in place to provide enhanced support to Housing, City Operations and Council Management functions. Further resource is being secured to ensure the right levels of support to key organisational change and transformation programmes across the Council.

Resourcing

- 3.3.5. Work has begun to tackle recruitment challenges in high priority areas of the organisation identified by the Council Leadership Team (CLT). These include Housing, Adult Social Care (with a business case for social worker pay),

Customer Services (including the contact centre), and the Strategy, Equality and Partnerships (SEP) directorate.

Employee Relations

- 3.3.6. Regular meetings with trade unions (TU) have recommenced, and consultation is now live on a number of proposals for service redesigns.
- 3.3.7. On equal pay, progress has been made on offers to settle potential pay claims under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with trade unions, with BCC having completed its commitment to make offers to staff where we hold complete details by 14th February 2022. However, data from trade unions remains outstanding for over 25% of claims in scope. We forecast that 70% of offers will be made by 7th March 2022; currently, this stands at 52%. 414 offers have been made and settled, of 8000 eligible cases.

1B Programme

- 3.3.8. A robust plan is in place to implement the new 1B Oracle system from April 2022. We are now in a period of intense communications activity across the workforce, with training commencing for users in March.

3.4. Occupational Health, Safety and Wellbeing

Long-Term Sickness Absence

- 3.4.1. A recent Cabinet Report in November 2021 provided a general overview of the profile of sickness absence data across BCC. This took into consideration the impact of the pandemic, in addition to other factors including absenteeism, presenteeism, and the attenuative effect of home working on a considerable proportion of the workforce.
- 3.4.2. These statistics, which are in line with national trends as reported by the Labour Force Survey, direct our resource and focus towards the management of stress, anxiety and depression, musculoskeletal disorders, and the impact of seasonal colds and the flu virus.
- 3.4.3. With regards to long-term sickness absence, at any one time we are generally managing over 100 cases extending over six months. In partnership with other areas of People Services and legal colleagues, we are carrying out the following activities to reduce the number of long-term sickness absences:
- Reviewing and defining measures in place to proactively support employees and managers in relation to sickness absence
 - Reviewing of current cases of long-term sickness over six months, and targeted resource to progress cases as appropriate

- Development of organisational trend data in relation to general sickness absence, taking into consideration local factors and head count
- Trend analysis to help develop understanding of the impact of preventative measures
- Reviewing of the current sickness absence policy and associated processes, including the development of any necessary recommendations as identified
- Establishment of Case Conference Meeting Terms of Reference (ToR) and schedule for 2022/23

Target Operating Model (TOM)

- 3.4.4. We are currently seeking to recruit to additional clinical posts that have been established as part of the new People Services TOM. This includes new Occupational Health Advisers and a Wellbeing Team to help us to address high levels of organisational demand and support interventions to tackle Long-Term Sickness Absence (as outlined above).
- 3.4.5. The Safety Team is being restructured in line with the TOM proposal, to enable us to better align our offer across directorates, specifically the Children And Families directorate (including maintained schools). This will also allow us to consolidate our approach to self-assessment returns and Adviser-led audit cycles, providing CLT and Cabinet with more accurate performance monitoring information.
- 3.4.6. We are taking the Enhance Employee Assistance Programme out to tender, in order to market test the submissions and seek to shift to a more rounded offer of support. This is in line with the recent report to Cabinet.
- 3.4.7. Within the Wellbeing Service, as we recruit to currently vacant posts, we will ensure that our offer is directly aligned to changes already underway in Occupational Health. This includes seeking to shift towards a range of proactive, preventative interventions. A 'Layers of Support' model has been presented to CLT and TU colleagues, and a new strategy for wellbeing developed.
- 3.4.8. Once posts are filled, we will introduce a campaign to raise awareness through a number of channels, including mandatory training modules, manager bulletins, news items and roadshows and posters at locations where intranet access is limited. This will be aimed at establishing a common understanding of how to take care of our own mental health and wellbeing, as well as how to support our peers. The new approach will better equip managers to cope with employee sickness absence related to stress, anxiety

and depression, by having associated support mechanisms clearly defined and easily accessible.

- 3.4.9. The team will also seek to build on the achievement of our Foundation level Thrive at Work accreditation, and strive to achieve Bronze level accreditation over the next twelve months.

Corporate Landlord Programme

- 3.4.10. Corporate Landlord Property and Asset Board meetings have now broadly established the extent of the portfolio, assigned responsible persons and developed new performance data metrics. We will look to incorporate these new metrics into the quarterly Corporate Performance Framework, in addition to the improvements outlined above related to annual audit cycles. Strategic Risk Register entries will be updated to reflect the significant progress made and the subsequent reduction of risk levels.

Field Workers and Risk Marker

- 3.4.11. The new Risk Marker tool is nearing completion, with a working model being shared with key stakeholders this month. This is an important risk management system for BCC, enabling the logging of incidents that take place outside of office locations and the forewarning of identified risks. A new central risk assessment tool, training package and Lone Worker Alert system established by Resilience colleagues will further mitigate the risks to field workers as they travel around the city performing their duties, and increase legal compliance for BCC as an employer.

Commonwealth Games

- 3.4.12. With less than six months to go until the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, Safety Advisory Group (SAG) meetings have intensified. A new audit and inspection cycle will be agreed with Resilience following recent SAG training sessions, and our support will continue as the Council takes its turn on the global stage.

4. Leader's Portfolio

4.1. Economic Recovery from Covid-19

Background – Economic Impact of Covid-19

Labour Force Impact

- 4.1.1. The city has seen an unprecedented increase in unemployment during the pandemic, peaking at 83,920 in March 2021, up by 35,560 (+73%) on pre pandemic levels. Youth claimant numbers peaked at 16,305 up 7,465 (+84%). Unemployment has subsequently fallen from this peak but remains

Page 15 of 39

40% above pre pandemic levels at the end of 2021. Claimant count unemployment was already high in the city prior to Covid-19 when compared to the national average and other core cities and the pandemic has exacerbated this position. The claimant unemployment rate in the city has increased from 9.0% in Feb 2020 to stand at 12.6% currently (December 2021) and the gap between the unemployment rate locally and nationally has increased from 5.3 percentage points to 7.2 percentage points.

- 4.1.2. Certain communities and areas within the city have seen a disproportionate increase in unemployment during the pandemic: young people, workers from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities, and those in lower skilled and less secure employment have borne the brunt of the increase in unemployment locally. Areas with existing high levels of unemployment and a higher share of residents in the above groups have seen the largest increase in claimants since the pandemic began. The gap between unemployment levels in the most deprived and most affluent areas of the city has increased during this period.

Sectoral Impacts

- 4.1.3. Whilst the impact of Covid-19 has been felt across the whole economy, a number of more customer-facing sectors have been disproportionately impacted by Covid-restrictions and related factors, including an increase in home working that has led to a decrease in city centre footfall. Government business support measures have so far prevented the feared wave of business closures; however, sectors including hospitality, culture, retail, construction and travel continue to be impacted by a fall in turnover, increased financial stress and branch closures. There have been several high-profile examples of branch closures in Birmingham, including the closure of John Lewis in Grand Central. These sectors have laid off or furloughed more employees compared to other areas of the Birmingham economy.

The Council's Response

Economic Recovery Strategy

- 4.1.4. Preparation of an Economic Recovery Strategy formed part of the Council's response to the economic impact of Covid-19. The strategy considered the best ways to support the economy as the city recovers from the pandemic and adapts to changing conditions, including the continuing challenges posed by the United Kingdom leaving the European Union. Our strategy complements the plans set out by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) and the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), and outlines the Council's overall priorities for economic recovery:

- Place development and management

- Green recovery
- Supporting people and businesses – with a focus on protecting jobs and helping people find training and work
- Unlocking and accelerating

Discretionary Grant and Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) Schemes

- 4.1.5. As part of a broader package of measures to support our local business community, the Council continues to distribute business support grant funding to businesses that have been affected by the pandemic.
- 4.1.6. Throughout Covid-19, national government has allocated funding to local authorities to support businesses through locally designed business support schemes. This funding is intended for local authorities to use to support businesses which did not qualify for the various national mandatory schemes but had been significantly impacted by Covid-19 and related restrictions. In total, over the pandemic the Council has been allocated a total of £52.4m in locally designed, discretionary grant support schemes.
- 4.1.7. The online grant schemes were designed, managed and delivered by the Business Development and Innovation Team. These schemes included the Discretionary Business Grant Scheme and Additional Restriction Grant (ARG 1, 2 and 3) schemes. This support from government has been welcomed, timely and vital to enable Birmingham's local businesses to survive, safeguard existing jobs and move towards recovery. Funding has played a major role in safeguarding the local economy, with 100% of received monies distributed to Birmingham businesses across a range of impacted sectors including hospitality and culture, personal care, travel and tourism, and wider supply chain businesses.
- 4.1.8. Grant funding distributed by the Council has safeguarded 30,000 local jobs and helped 14,250 businesses to survive, improve confidence and move towards recovery.

Support to Hospitality and Leisure Sectors

- 4.1.9. Throughout the pandemic the Council has been proactive in helping businesses in the hospitality and leisure sectors survive the impact of numerous lockdowns and closures.
- 4.1.10. BCC has spent over £2m on a range of interventions to support the continued operation of businesses, including the creation of new outdoor spaces when indoor premises were shut or impacted by social distancing restrictions. Measures taken range from widening footways and removing pay and display

parking bays, to closing roads to enable the creation of additional event space.

- 4.1.11. Funding has been provided to local centres to hold events to encourage the return of visitors, alongside marketing campaigns to raise awareness of business reopening.
- 4.1.12. Extensive deep cleaning has taken place across a number of local centres to improve the environment and street scene, in addition to the installation of new signage to ensure social distancing and pedestrian flows were maintained in busy areas. This has required the Council to work closely with a range of partners including Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), West Midlands Police (WMP), traders and licensing.

Our Longer Term Response to Covid-19

Our Future City Plan (OFCP)

- 4.1.13. 'Our Future City Plan – Central Birmingham Framework 2040' (OFCP) will replace the existing Big City Plan with a new vision for the central area of the city. OFCP will provide a new vision and strategy for development that will stimulate green, inclusive growth that meets our diverse needs, and maximises the potential of all of Birmingham's communities. The framework will provide a new focus on creating a green, fair and inclusive city to tackle the current and future economic, social and environmental challenges.
- 4.1.14. To ensure we are creating a shared vision for the future, the Council produced the 'Shaping Our City Together' document which was the first stage of a continuous process of engagement through which Birmingham's communities will be encouraged to shape and influence the OFCP. The vision was well received, and the feedback is being taken forward as part of the work to develop the OFCP Framework and Delivery Plan which will go out for public consultation later in the year.

Birmingham Smithfield

- 4.1.15. The Birmingham Smithfield Development Joint Venture Agreement between the Council and Lendlease was signed on 28th June 2021. The Council completed early enabling works on site in December 2021 that included the demolition of Manor House, Pershore St and Markets Car Park, and handed over the cleared parts of the site for temporary use as a Game Venue for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games on 15th February 2022. Lendlease commenced public consultation on the planning application for the development in early March 2022 and anticipate submitting the planning application in Summer/Autumn 2022.

Enterprise Zone

- 4.1.16. The Enterprise Zone (EZ) has continued to go from strength to strength in driving growth in the city and helping to mitigate some of the impact from the pandemic. Despite Covid-19 generating a lower take-up of office space than has been experienced previously, there has been high profile interest in office space in Birmingham City Centre, with a pipeline of developments expected to come forward and generate an influx of construction activity. Office vacancy rates remain low and there are relatively high rental rates within the Central Business District (CBD). Prime office yields in the CBD have remained stable throughout the pandemic. A number of key sites have completed and are attracting significant new occupiers to the city centre. Phase 2 of Paradise is progressing well with the largest office building at One Centenary Way under construction and the announcement that Arup will be creating a new global hub in the building for 1,000 employees. Other parts of the development are also moving forward with planning permission granted for a new hotel and the world's first residential octagonal tower that will create over 300 new homes.
- 4.1.17. In January 2020 planning consent was secured for the Martineau Galleries development, which will create 1,300 homes, 8,000 jobs and 1.4m sqft of new commercial floorspace right opposite the new HS2 Curzon Station.
- 4.1.18. At Three Snowhill BT have taken 283,000 square feet of floorspace across twelve floors, which will become the base for 3,500 staff. Construction of another EZ site at 103 Colmore Row has also recently completed, with the 26-storey tower in the heart of the business district offering new grade office space, a rooftop restaurant and a 4-storey winter garden.
- 4.1.19. In Digbeth a number of exciting new developments close to the new HS2 Curzon Station are coming forward. Oval Estate secured outline planning consent for 17ha of land, with the potential to create 200,000 sqm of new commercial space, shops, and restaurants alongside 1,850 new homes. The plans include an extension to the iconic Custard Factory. Close by, full planning permission was granted in July 2021 for the £260m Upper Trinity Street development that will deliver over 900 homes, hotel and new cultural and commercial floorspace set around attractive public realm that will open up the canal and bring the locally listed lock keepers' cottage back into use. The Enterprise Zone is complimenting these developments by making significant investment in the public realm on Digbeth High Street alongside delivery of the Birmingham Eastside Metro Extension.
- 4.1.20. Work on delivering the new HS2 Curzon Station is accelerating with the enabling works to prepare the site for construction almost complete. The joint venture of Mace Dragados has been appointed to construct the new station and work will start on site early next year. The Council is seeking funding

from the Enterprise Zone to create a station that is fully integrated within the city centre with full connectivity to the surrounding area.

City Centre Office Space

- 4.1.21. Despite the initial negative impact of Covid-19 on the take-up of office space in the city centre, we are now seeing a steady increase in demand post-pandemic. A major reason for this strength can be found in the quality of office space the centre is now able to offer, ranking first among cities outside London in demand for Grade A property – accounting for 85 per cent of activity.
- 4.1.22. The quality of the office supply, when taken alongside the city's excellent connectivity, pipeline of talent, and strong business, professional and finance services (BPFS) clusters, means that the centre has been well placed to seize opportunities from regional office consolidations and relocations out of London. This has been evidenced with several successful major investment projects, including Department of Transport, Goldman Sachs and Arup.

Greater Icknield

- 4.1.23. Greater Icknield is identified as a growth area, mainly for housing, in the Birmingham Development Plan. At present the major Birmingham Development Plan allocations at Icknield Port Loop (1,152 dwellings) and Soho Loop (750 dwellings) are under construction. Phases 1-2 of Port Loop (215 dwellings) are nearing completion, while site preparation work is underway on phase 3 for 98 dwellings. The Soho Loop development is build-to-rent, forward funded by Swedish company Heimstaden Bostad. Also on site is the Dudley Road Improvement Scheme.
- 4.1.24. The two principal pipeline sites are City Hospital, a planning application for which is expected in summer 2022, and the Ladywood estate redevelopment, the procurement of a development partner for which is ongoing.
- 4.1.25. BCC is also working with Sandwell Council to take a joined-up approach to the regeneration of the area, guided by the new Smethwick to Birmingham Corridor Framework SPD.
- 4.1.26. The Edgbaston Reservoir Masterplan is another focus for change, with the revised masterplan now out for consultation.

Urban Centres

- 4.1.27. The Urban Centres Framework (Jan 2020) lists ambitions for improvements to ten district and local centres. The development and delivery of specific projects in those centres is more advanced in some than in others - for example, progress is more advanced in Perry Barr, Sutton Coldfield and Meadway. Several centres (Alum Rock Road, Bordesley Green, Coventry Road and Stechford) now fall within the remit of the East Birmingham

Inclusive Growth Strategy. Others are candidates for future round bids to the Levelling Up Fund.

- 4.1.28. Monitoring scheduled for March 2022 will provide a clearer picture of the impact of the pandemic on land-use change and vacancy in Birmingham's district and local centres.

Perry Barr

- 4.1.29. Perry Barr is identified as a growth area in the Birmingham Development Plan and will be at the heart of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games in the summer. Ahead of the Games, more than £700m of public sector investment is delivering:

- A revamped Alexander Stadium;
- The first phase of new homes (968 on site, a further 446 with full consent, and 500 proposed as Phase 2 currently with outline consent);
- New central park and linear green space as part of the residential development;
- A redeveloped fit for purpose rail station;
- New bus and sprint bus infrastructure;
- Segregated cycle route;
- Improved pedestrian accessibility;
- A new secondary school and sixth form.

- 4.1.30. This activity has continued throughout the pandemic and has so far delivered significant social value outputs, including 41,600 work placement hours, the upskilling of 1,600 residents and £253m spend with local businesses (within 30 miles).

- 4.1.31. The 'Perry Barr 2040: A Vision for Legacy' masterplan sets the framework for delivery of further change which will unlock wider housing growth. Priorities include:

- Revision and delivery of the balance of the Phase 1 scheme to optimise placemaking and commercial outcomes.
- Revision of the Phase 2 scheme to deliver equivalent housing numbers alongside the retention of the bus garage as a new destination accommodating a range of cultural, community, and entrepreneurial uses.
- Strengthening the town centre with new development at Birchfield Gateway and by working with existing occupiers.

- Improving and connecting parks and green spaces – over time creating a ‘green loop’ around Perry Barr.

Peddimore

- 4.1.32. Peddimore is a 330-acre employment development site allocated by release from the green belt, located on at the northern edge of the city boundary in Minworth adjacent to the M42 and M6 toll motorways. Planning consent has been obtained for over 4 million square feet of logistics and manufacturing warehouses set out within intensive planted landscaping.
- 4.1.33. Delivery is underway in two simultaneous phases in accordance with the 2018 Development Agreement; BCC project partners IM Properties plc are on site constructing core infrastructure, landscaping and levelling of plateau for the benefit of both Zone 1 which they completed acquisition in July 2021 and also BCC’s retained Zone 2 60-acre manufacturing site. Zone 2 site preparation with enhanced power supply is programmed to complete in July 2022.
- 4.1.34. A new A38 roundabout junction will provide access into the Peddimore estate but also serve to supply access to the Langley Sustainable Urban Extension to the west.

Langley Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE)

- 4.1.35. The Council has continued to work with the Langley Consortium to progress their development submission and an outline application for up to 5,500 houses with associated infrastructure including sports pitches, open space and schools has now been submitted for determination. The application will be considered during the year and work will continue to support the Consortium in their engagements with stakeholders and the local community whilst they develop future applications as they move towards the implementation of this key development project.

East Birmingham

- 4.1.36. The East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Programme has been established to deliver the vision and objectives of the East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Strategy (EBIGS) which sets out the Council’s approach to the East Birmingham/North Solihull Inclusive Growth Corridor in the context of major planned infrastructural investments including HS2 and the planned Midland Metro extension to Solihull. The East Birmingham Board has been established to take forward the delivery of the Strategy. The Board includes representatives of a range of key stakeholders and is chaired by the Member of Parliament for Birmingham Hodge Hill.
- 4.1.37. The East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Programme is currently in the process of mobilisation, and recruitment is underway to expand the core

programme team which will work at scale with public, private and third sector partners to bring forward a comprehensive set of projects. This will include preparing business cases, bidding into external funding and the co-ordination of project delivery. Eleven projects are already being progressed, addressing priorities including employment and skills, development, connectivity and community engagement and development, and several further projects are in development. East Birmingham has been identified in the Council's Levelling Up Strategy as a pilot area for Place-Based Integrated Delivery and will be a key focus for the innovative delivery of corporate priorities including Route to Net Zero and Connected Digital City.

Bordesley Park

- 4.1.38. The Bordesley Park Area Action Plan identifies the Bordesley Park (former Wheels) site and environs as a key area of change which has the potential to become an attractive location for high quality employment use which delivers inclusive and sustainable growth, improved transportation and employment and training opportunities.
- 4.1.39. Following the end of the temporary lease, the site is now under the control and management of the City Council. A report to Cabinet in October 2021 provided an update on the way forward for the site including potential procurement routes which are being progressed. This report also approved the release of funding of up to £1.2m to progress the development of the site, including the procurement of Japanese Knotweed removal, undertaking site investigations, securing the site, and on-going security (to be funded from either the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) or the future capital receipt from the disposal of the site).
- 4.1.40. A LUF Bid for the remediation of Bordesley Park was submitted to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) on 7th June 2021 totalling £19.05m (£17.145 from government with City Council co-funding of £1.905m in line with LUF guidelines). Government confirmed the success of the bid on 27th October 2021.
- 4.1.41. The City Council has started to progress the remediation of the site including site investigations and the submission of a planning application for the treatment of the extensive Japanese Knotweed on the site.

National Exhibition Centre (NEC)

- 4.1.42. BCC owns the freehold of the land at the National Exhibition Centre (NEC), within the administrative area of Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (MBC). The Council and the NEC are working together to bring forward development and growth at this key site.
- 4.1.43. The NEC has recently published a new draft masterplan for the site with public consultation undertaken at the end of 2021 and the final document to

be published in Spring 2022. Development partners will then be sought to bring forward the proposals within the masterplan.

- 4.1.44. The masterplan sets out the vision to create a unique environment for living, supported by new space for working and leisure. It highlights the opportunity at the NEC that arises from the re-purposing of surface level car parks and realising the development potential of underutilised plots. Proposals within the early phases of the masterplan incorporate 5000 new homes, 52,000 sqm of commercial, leisure and community space, and new amenities and public realm.

Arden Cross

- 4.1.45. Arden Cross is a significant £3.2b mixed use opportunity of 346 acres with the new HS2 Interchange Station at its heart, located to the east of the NEC and M42.
- 4.1.46. The landowners at the site, including the Council, have joined together as Arden Cross Limited to bring forward the site. Together with partners, Arden Cross Ltd, have developed a masterplan for the site with the opportunity to develop 600,000 sq m of commercial space and up to 3000 homes, which once developed will support 27,000 jobs.
- 4.1.47. The site is currently green belt but is allocated for development within the Solihull Local Plan which is at the Examination in Public stage.

Cross Cutting Themes

Route to Zero

- 4.1.48. Birmingham City Council declared a climate emergency on 11th June 2019. It made the commitment to take action to reduce the city's carbon emissions and limit its part in the climate crisis. The ambition 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. A 'Call to Action' action plan, approved by Full Council in January 2021, set out an initial set of actions the Council would take on its path to achieving its 'Route to Zero (R20)'. To date, one progress and monitoring report has been published and was approved at Full Council in January 2022.
- 4.1.49. Locally, Birmingham is heading in the right direction – the City's CO2 emissions decreased by 40.6% in 2019 from a 1990 baseline and are at an all-time low since 1990. Over the past year there have been many notable achievements. We have:
- Introduced the Clean Air Zone (CAZ) on 1st June 2021. Since introduction the percentage of vehicles that do not meet the emission standards of the zone has reduced month on month.

- Secured funding and planning permission to deliver 36 new homes which will pilot new energy efficient technologies.
- Signed agreements with energy companies to make at least 185 homes more energy efficient.
- Delivered 20 hydrogen buses which are now in use, operated by National Express.
- Driven forward a partnership in East Birmingham to develop a Net Zero Neighbourhood as a demonstrator for a place-based approach to carbon reduction and investment.
- Adopted the Birmingham Transport Plan in October 2021, which will help bring down emissions from cars and support a modal shift to lower carbon travel options
- Adopted the Urban Forest Masterplan – the first city in the United Kingdom to do so.
- Committed to a 3 Cities Retrofit programme, alongside Coventry City Council and City of Wolverhampton Council.
- Been involved with the WMCA's Net Zero Neighbourhood (NZN) proposal (which will include the Whole House Retrofit Energiesprong Pilot).

4.1.50. Alongside this, the Council has also been putting in place the vital strategy and policy foundations which will underpin the city's Route to Zero, including review of the Birmingham Development Plan and improved energy specifications for Birmingham Municipal Housing Trust (BMHT) new build homes. We are also embedding the behaviour change needed across the Council to ensure that carbon reduction is mainstreamed and driven in everything the Council does – both projects and day to day operations.

Levelling Up Fund

4.1.51. The Council has successfully bid for funding through the Levelling Up Fund, to support important initiatives happening across the city. Three of our four bids for the Levelling Up Fund were successful, securing over £52 million in new funding for the following projects:

- A457 Dudley Road Improvements – £19.941m for major transport improvements to help reduce congestion, encourage active travel (walking and cycling), provide better facilities for public transport users and improve connectivity to new housing developments where more than 2,000 new houses are currently being built.

- Moseley Road Baths and Balsall Heath Library – £15.539m to allow for the next phase of restoring the Grade II listed Edwardian swimming pool and library.
- Remediation of the former Birmingham Wheels Site (Bordesley Park) – £17.145m which will act as a catalyst for the area's regeneration and help create up to 3,000 jobs in the area

‘Prosperity and Opportunity For All’ – Our Levelling Up Strategy

4.1.52. On 24th November 2021 the Council launched Prosperity and Opportunity for All, Birmingham's Levelling Up strategy. The strategy outlined the need for government to support the delivery of 5 accelerators:

- Support long term, single pot funding and devolved powers
- Back the integrated local place delivery model demonstrator, the East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Strategy, covering 250,000 people to tackle deep levels of deprivation
- Harness our early intervention and prevention model
- Deliver green and digital infrastructure including a comprehensive green, reliable, frequent, and affordable transport network
- Back an at scale housing retrofit across the cities of Birmingham, Coventry, and Wolverhampton to tackle carbon emissions

4.1.53. The strategy represents an ambitious blueprint to improve the lives and life chances of people and communities across the city.

Economic Outlook for Birmingham

4.1.54. The local economy is expected to recover strongly in 2022 with KPMG forecasting the economy will grow by 7.8% this year, with the Commonwealth Games helping drive faster growth in the West Midlands than any other region.

4.1.55. Longer term forecasts for Birmingham from the Oxford Forecasting Model show that by 2040:

- Our population will grow to 1.25m, with average annual growth around double the UK rate.
- Our economic output (GVA) is forecast to increase from £27bn per annum to £36bn by 2040 with average annual growth of 1.4%, in line with UK growth.
- GVA per head and per worker are also set to grow but at a slightly slower pace than nationally.

- Employment forecasts to 2040 vary considerably by sector. Growth in services employment, will be partnered by a reduction in manufacturing employment. The largest growth will be in the Professional, Scientific and Technical sector (+30%), alongside the Administrative and Support Services sector (+27%).

4.1.56. It should be noted that the above are base forecasts, which do not directly consider the strategic interventions and unprecedented levels of investment planned locally.

4.1.57. Improving the skills base locally will be key to both driving productivity and economic growth but also ensuring local people can fully participate in a more knowledge intensive jobs market with the transition to net zero and growth in sectors like ICT, BPFS and advanced manufacturing that require higher level skills. Ensuring residents benefit from the major growth opportunities and unprecedented investment planned locally will be key to securing a more inclusive economic future for the city.

4.2. Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games

Ready, Get Set to BE BOLD Hosts

4.2.1. As Full Council meets today, there are 135 days to go until the opening ceremony of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, the largest event in take place in our city in a generation. With just over four months to go, we are in the thick of final preparations to assure ourselves, our partners, and our citizens that Birmingham will put its best foot forward as it steps onto the world stage.

4.2.2. It is important to take a moment to reflect on the scale of our achievement. The Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games will be delivered on time and on budget, collectively overcoming the substantial challenges that come with delivering a world-class sporting event in a compressed timescale of four and a half years (as opposed to the traditional seven), during the uncertainty and consequences of Brexit, and in the wake of a global pandemic. Any one of these challenges individually would pose a significant risk to our Commonwealth Games programme; to deliver a Games in spite of all three speaks to the resilience, strength and collective will of Birmingham residents, stakeholders, partners and the Council.

4.2.3. The Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games will bring world-class sport to our city – but we have always stated that the Games will be much more than a sporting event. The accompanying Birmingham 2022 Festival, launched in March 2022, will continue for most of this year, celebrating the rich and diverse heritage of our communities, the heart and soul of the city. The Business and Tourism Programme (BATP) will boost our global reputation as

Page 27 of 39

a leading destination for tourism, trade and investment, creating a legacy of new jobs and opportunities that will long outlast the closing ceremony. It is our hope that in decades to come, people will point back to 2022 as the start of a golden decade of opportunity for the city, putting Birmingham firmly on the map as a world-class city where people want to live, work and play.

GO for a BOLD Legacy

4.2.4. Birmingham's Legacy Plan sets out the following commitments:

- **B**oost investment in Birmingham, creating thousands of jobs and become a world-leader in hosting international events
- **E**ngage every child and young person in the Games, including all 400+ schools in the city
- **B**uild programmes and community projects to kickstart an accessible fitness and wellbeing boom
- **O**pen our city to the world and connect our communities for and after the Games
- **L**aunch an era of green growth through high-quality sports facilities, thousands of new homes and green transport links to become a carbon-neutral city by 2030
- **D**eliver our promise to the city and become a leading local authority with bold ambitions

4.2.5. This report sets out achievement to date against each of these themes.

Boost Investment in Birmingham

4.2.6. We want Birmingham to be an entrepreneurial city where people come to learn, work and invest, and where everyone from all parts of the city can prosper and succeed. The significant investment associated with the Games presents an opportunity to support key economic sectors and upskill citizens to access new employment opportunities.

4.2.7. Our flagship Games capital builds, Alexander Stadium and Perry Barr Residential Scheme, continue to provide significant employment opportunities. As at January 2022 the following had been achieved:

	Alexander Stadium	Perry Barr Residential Scheme
New jobs created	313	420
Apprentices	4	64
People upskilled	334	1,313

Volunteering hours	687	2,266
--------------------	-----	-------

- 4.2.8. Wider benefits from the Alexander Stadium, delivered by McLaughlin & Harvey, include Kickstart work placements at the Stadium and outreach into local schools to plan site visits, Construction Career Workshops, work experience opportunities and resource packs, engaging with the Birmingham Career and Enterprise Hub SEND Community of Practice.
- 4.2.9. The Women in Construction project is also underway, targeting young people in schools and challenging misconceptions about gender specific roles within the industry.
- 4.2.10. We have maintained a focus on community benefit, working through the You Matter Communities Fund to deliver three rounds of community funding for projects across the city, and the You Matter timebank, which matches skills from the construction team with local social enterprises and community organisations.
- 4.2.11. The Perry Barr Regeneration Scheme are on track to create 430 employment opportunities by April 2022. Lendlease has signed up to the Birmingham Business Charter for Social Responsibility (BBCSR), with an action plan in place against 32 social value targets. As part of this plan, they are working in partnership with Birmingham City Council's Employment Access Team (EAT) to promote jobs and training opportunities to local communities.
- 4.2.12. Working with our partners we are putting in place the programmes and initiatives to ensure the right people are connected to the right opportunities. Over the past 12 months, the WMCA's Commonwealth Games Jobs and Skills Academy has invested £5m in training over 4000 unemployed residents in key Games-related occupations including security, stewarding, hospitality and cleaning. A further £2m is being invested in higher level skills development, with over 700 people undertaking Level 3 qualifications to help businesses prepare for the Games. Funding has also been secured to deliver individualised pre- and post-employment support to 3,500 people to access Games opportunities – providing the wraparound support they need to make successful applications and transitions post-Games.

A Major Events City

- 4.2.13. Birmingham has a proud history of hosting major national and international events. This prior experience, alongside our reputation for successful delivery of complex projects, was one of the reasons we were able to secure the Commonwealth Games for 2022.
- 4.2.14. Our Major Sporting Events Strategy (2022-2032), agreed by Cabinet in 2021, aims to capitalise on the springboard provided by Birmingham's status as Proud Host City for the 2022 Commonwealth Games. Over the next ten

years we will be looking to attract and host events that deliver positive social, economic and environmental impacts for residents and businesses across the city, whether this is through enhancing and improving key sporting and community facilities, helping to create more jobs, amplifying the city's vibrant cultural sector, or simply by ensuring that the events we hold reflect the diverse population and different interests of all of our communities

4.2.15. 2022 will be a year of major events for Birmingham. In addition to the Commonwealth Games, we are hosting:

- Muller Indoor Grand Prix (February 2022)
- British Indoor Athletics Championships (February 2022)
- All England Badminton Championships (March 2022)
- Diamond League (May 2022)
- Great Birmingham Run 10k and Half Marathon (May 2022)

4.2.16. In 2023, we will be hosting both the World Blind Games and the World Trampoline and Tumbling Championships.

Promoting Birmingham

4.2.17. The Business and Tourism Programme (BATP) has been developed to capitalise on the significant economic opportunities that come with being a Proud Host City. The programme is being delivered by our partner the West Midlands Growth Company (WMGC), who are the investment promotion agency for the region.

4.2.18. The £24m programme aims to create a long-term legacy by boosting perceptions of the city, region and UK as a world-class destination for trade, investment and tourism. It will target domestic and overseas visitors, investors, businesses and event organisers during a three-year campaign of promotional activity. This will strengthen relationships with important overseas markets at a national and local level.

4.2.19. Whilst the Council does not have delivery responsibility for BATP we are a key stakeholder and active participant in the investment promotion programme. We will use the opportunity of the BATP to drive long-term economic benefit by:

- Boosting Birmingham's reputation as a world-class destination for tourism, trade and investment.
- Using the Games as a hook to increase awareness and drive consideration to visit Birmingham and the West Midlands

4.2.20. A recent senior sales mission to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in February 2022 met with a number of major investors and sovereign wealth funds. Our

aim was to develop strategic relationships with the world's best and most ambitious developers and investors to create a lasting legacy for Birmingham and the region. We will adopt a similar approach around targeting major capital markets particularly when they align with QBR (Queen's Baton Relay) events.

- 4.2.21. During Games time, UK House (The Exchange on Broad Street) will be the focal point of the Department for International Trade (DIT) programme and provide a platform for national government to deliver a series of high level Business Sector Summits. These Summits will connect local and national companies to international opportunities, showcase our capability and innovation, and drive investment anchored around a proposed investment conference on the eve of the Games. We are currently working with DIT on the content of the programme and will aim to leverage the opportunity to facilitate investment and where possible 'level up' the city.

Engage Every Child and Young Person in the Games

- 4.2.22. 'Bring the Power', the Games schools and youth engagement programme launched in January 2022. Developed in conjunction with young people, the programme is being delivered in partnership with the B2022 Organising Committee. The programme aims to engage over a million young people aged 5-25 across Birmingham and the wider West Midlands and bring them closer to the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.
- 4.2.23. BCC has invested £500,000 into supporting this programme, ensuring that key opportunities are focussed towards Birmingham's young people. Details can be found at www.birmingham2022.com/youth-programme
- 4.2.24. Online curriculum resources have been developed for our schools, who also have the opportunity to apply to host workshops connecting young people to the Games as well as supporting topics such as mental health, empowerment, resilience and skills development. Athlete and mascot visits will be available, and every school in Birmingham has had the opportunity to nominate a baton-bearer.
- 4.2.25. The Common Ground grant is open to secondary schools across Birmingham and is a Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PHSE) focussed opportunity supporting young people to hold conversations about our 'Common Ground' and to extend that conversation into a creative response. As part of BRAP's anti-racist futures work in schools, 'Education is the Commonwealth' will deliver workshops for teachers, parents and young people, and we will be theming the annual Rights Respecting Schools celebrations around the Commonwealth Games.
- 4.2.26. Our Youth Service are working closely with the Bring the Power team to deliver programmes of events for young people in the four officially dedicated

Games hubs: The Lighthouse Centre, Clifton Rd, The Factory and Concord. Events will focus on awareness and understanding of the Games and Commonwealth, music and food workshops focussing on Commonwealth countries and sports sessions focusing on Commonwealth sports.

- 4.2.27. Plans are being developed for further activities such as a Commonwealth Games awards evening for young people, an album written and produced by young people and a week-long activity challenge across Birmingham – ‘Brumopoly’.
- 4.2.28. The Youth City Board are acting as the lead youth board for the Games, working alongside the Organising Committee (OC) Youth Participation team to shape the Bring the Power programme. They participated in the launch of the Queen’s Baton Relay in London, and have undertaken a visit to Liverpool to share their experiences and perspectives on being a Host City.
- 4.2.29. Through BCC’s Employment Access Team, we will be commissioning a local delivery partner to work with 50 young people aged between 17-24 who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training). The programme will raise aspirations via physical and sports activities with embedded qualifications to support attainment or improvement in functional skills (English, maths and digital skills) as well as the transferable soft skills that are sought after by employers.
- 4.2.30. Partner organisations are also delivering projects across Birmingham. The Commonwealth Connections project (delivered by the Bring The Power team and the British Council) has twinned 30 schools across Birmingham with schools across the Commonwealth, and the Birmingham Connect project (delivered by the Commonwealth Sports Foundation and Youth Sports Trust) has been connecting schools across Birmingham through sport and arts, culminating in the Connect All Festival on 18th June.
- 4.2.31. The Bring the Power team at the Organising Committee have linked in with the Birmingham Virtual School, special schools and pupil referral units and the Birmingham Children’s Trust to ensure that as many children as possible are able to access the opportunity to engage with the Commonwealth Games. We have secured 5,000 tickets for children in care and their carers to attend the Games, and the Birmingham Children’s Trust have secured funding from the Commonwealth Sports Foundation to deliver their flagship games programme ‘Unlocking the Games’ to children and families across Birmingham who are known to the Trust, enabling them to celebrate the arrival of the Commonwealth Games in safe and welcoming hubs across the city.

Kickstart an Accessible Fitness and Wellbeing Boom

- 4.2.32. Health inequalities in Birmingham remain stark and have been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. We want Birmingham to rise to the health and wellbeing challenge to enable citizens to achieve their potential and aspirations at every age. One of the ways that the Games can create a legacy for health is through removing barriers to physical activity, and encouraging mental health and wellbeing programmes. We need to support active lifestyles, encourage healthy eating and explore initiatives to boost wellbeing.
- 4.2.33. As a city, we are working in partnership to draw down just under £1m worth of investment from Sport England into the city. The 'Creating Active Communities' project will deliver physical activity interventions across five wards in the city, where the highest levels of inactivity overlap with the highest levels of deprivation. Interventions will be co-designed with the local community, and will be tailored to the needs of each ward.
- 4.2.34. Through the Community Fund, we are commissioning projects that will encourage people to participate in physical activity, enabling the inactive to become active by removing barriers to participation and encouraging the active to remain active.
- 4.2.35. Eight 'Community Games' will be delivered across Birmingham between May and September 2022, in partnership with Sport Birmingham and Inspire Activity. Each Community Games is created alongside local sports and activity groups, and provides a fun, free to access day out as well as connecting local people to the opportunities for sport and physical activity that are available to them locally, encouraging people to try something new.
- 4.2.36. A 'Club Together' programme will provide much needed support to local sports clubs, third sector and voluntary organisations in the city that already deliver sport and physical activity, particularly in areas of need.
- 4.2.37. The Active Wellbeing Society (TAWS) will deliver around 70 'Active Streets' events across Birmingham during the Commonwealth Games period. For a period of time cars will be removed from the community and replaced with activities, engagement and neighbourly gatherings. 70 young people from priority areas across the city will be recruited and paid the Real Living Wage to support with the delivery of training, community consultations and Active Streets events.
- 4.2.38. We are supporting the development of the Birmingham City of Nature Alliance as part of the city's flagship 25 year City of Nature strategy, helping to ensure Birmingham's residents have access to quality green space. The 2022-23 pilot will first focus on the five parks in Bordesley and Highgate Ward, before rolling out to five more 'red' wards in the city (Gravelly Hill, Castle Vale, Balsall Heath West, Pype Hayes and Nechells) towards the end of the financial year. Funding will support Alliance members to work together more closely, as well

as deliver specific activities, including staff time for Alliance development, delivery of educational programmes, physical improvements, sustainable funding strategies, and identifying funding opportunities.

- 4.2.39. The Celebrating Communities programme has provided funding to every ward in the city to encourage residents to come together and celebrate the Games their way. One of the themes was 'Get Active', and the fund has seen a high number of bids from local groups around sport and physical activity initiatives that will take place across the city this summer.

Open Our City to the World and Connect Communities

- 4.2.40. The Games represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to celebrate our distinct identity and personality, helping in the long term to strengthen community resilience and cohesion across the city as a whole so that all areas thrive.
- 4.2.41. Going forward, we need to carry on being bold and telling the world what makes Birmingham a great place, building on the foundation of the Birmingham 2022 Festival programme.
- 4.2.42. The Birmingham 2022 Festival launched on 28th February 2022 and is a six-month celebration of everything that makes Birmingham and the wider West Midlands unique. Aiming to engage over 2.5m people, with the majority of events being free to access, the festival reflects the city and wider region with a focus on heritage, diversity and youth.
- 4.2.43. The Festival will deliver around 250 commissioned projects, of which 107 will be delivered in Birmingham through Creative City, the BCC-funded community art-led grants programme. This is the first time that community arts and culture has been integrated into a Games programme. The team have worked hard to engage with under-represented groups, with 60% of projects specifically engaging participants, leaders and artists from across communities currently under-represented in the city's cultural activity. The Creative City programme is also providing a sector development programme to help community arts groups grow and thrive.
- 4.2.44. From a legacy perspective, a key outcome will be the development of an annual Birmingham International Festival, starting in the summer of 2023 to provide an annual focal point for our residents and visitors to the city. It is crucial, however, that this is delivered in partnership with the city's vibrant cultural sector, and is a viable and sustainable festival that supports and enhances the existing festival scene within Birmingham, reflecting the diversity of artforms that exist across the city. Learning from the Birmingham 2022 Festival experience from across the sector, as well as within the Council, will be integral to successful delivery.

- 4.2.45. We are also commissioning a new Cultural Strategy for the city. As well as reviewing the impact of our current strategy, we will be looking at longer term approaches to factor culture into major developments and regeneration areas, including the city centre, Perry Barr and Balsall Heath. We will also seek to integrate cultural development with health and social care outcomes to deliver wider benefits for residents and communities.
- 4.2.46. All Host Cities have experienced an uplift in tourism, both during the Games itself and in the years afterwards. The Covid-19 pandemic has led to a fall in visitor numbers to Birmingham, but the platform of the Games gives us a real opportunity to showcase our city and encourage visitors to return. This year we will launch a new Visitor Destination Plan to help us maximise the tourism opportunities of the Games in 2022 and beyond. The five-year plan will complement the West Midlands Tourism Strategy, helping the tourism sector to grow sustainably post-Games and supporting economic recovery from the pandemic. It will focus on both business and leisure tourism, showcasing what is best about Birmingham, and playing to our strengths as a city – our heritage, our vibrant, unique cultural scene, our food and drink offer and the wide variety of attractions we have on offer - as well as helping us to re-invigorate our offer to local, regional, national and international businesses, supported by the Games Business and Tourism Plan (BATP).
- 4.2.47. Within our communities, we want to enhance engagement and participation, and sustain local groups and community organisations, building on the interest in volunteering and community action that has become more prominent over the past 18 months and during the Games period. The investments we have made through the £6m Community Fund in providing support to community groups - through programmes like Creative City, Celebrating Communities and Stronger Communities - demonstrates how making links between communities and groups can improve the city experience.
- 4.2.48. The Celebrating Communities Small Grants Funding Scheme has been set up by the Council to help people in all 69 of the city's wards feel involved in the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, celebrate the occasion and hopefully spark some long-lasting initiatives. Over 400 applications from community groups and organisations across the city have been received, and local communities are now making their own decisions about which projects they would want to see funded. To ensure the very best outcomes, training and support workshops have been delivered by Locality and Birmingham Community Matters, to help community groups develop viable proposals and complete the application process. This capacity building training provides groups with core skills and confidence that will assist them when applying for funding applications in the future, helping to support them to become more sustainable.

4.2.49. Stronger Communities is also delivering targeted interventions across the city. The workstream has five projects that focus on the shared stories and experiences of Birmingham's diverse communities:

- **A City Connected By Heritage Trails** will deliver an interconnected network of 20 miles of heritage trails across the city that navigate their way through Birmingham's history.
- **We Made Birmingham** will create a digital record of stories of heritage, migration and community activism in Birmingham, collected and curated by local communities. The project will also train ten community journalists.
- **Getting Communities Talking** will support the delivery of activities for women, particularly migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women from across Birmingham, who are struggling to integrate and be fully engaged in their local communities, helping with language skills as well as tackling loneliness and isolation.
- The **Birmingham Peace Garden** project will support work to help renew the Peace Garden attached to the remains of St Thomas Church as a place of remembrance and peace for all of the city's communities.
- **Inspiring Future Leaders** will work with the BAME LEAP partnership to deliver leadership training, career progression and mentoring, interview techniques and meetings with positive role models to a cohort of young people from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities.

4.2.50. As part of the wider work around Equalities and Cohesion in the city, a Community Stakeholder Panel has been created. The Panel is made up of residents from across the city's ten constituencies and will provide a forum for residents to actively engage with a variety of key agendas for the city, including Commonwealth Games.

Launch an Era of Green Growth

4.2.51. In June 2019 the Council declared a climate emergency and embarked on a strategy to adapt our built environment to a zero-carbon future for Birmingham – a future in which we work with nature rather than against it.

4.2.52. Earlier in 2021 we published Our Future City Plan, which provides a template for major change in our city, using the climate emergency as the impetus.

4.2.53. More recently we published the draft Perry Barr 2040 Masterplan, which seeks to ensure a positive legacy from the Commonwealth Games. The Masterplan will support improvements for residents, including 5,000 new

homes, a new urban centre, and a greener, healthier environment that will create long term benefits for people who live, visit and work there.

4.2.54. The Alexander Stadium, currently undergoing an extensive redevelopment, is a principal venue for hosting the Games. Post-Games, the Stadium will be a lasting legacy for Perry Barr and wider Birmingham, through an improved facility for users and visitors:

- An increase in the permanent capacity of the Stadium from 12,700 to 17,500
- A new West Stand containing offices, conference and event space with six boxes, a main function room, banqueting kitchen along with learning spaces and sports science infrastructure on track level
- A new International Association of Athletics Federations Category 1 track – which is a 400m nine-lane competition standard track
- New connections with the park to create a cohesive destination venue
- Sustainable design features including the use of air source heat pumps, energy efficient lighting systems and a sustainable approach to drainage and flood attenuation, making use of the surrounding parkland

4.2.55. After the Commonwealth Games, Alexander Stadium and associated facilities will become a centre of sporting excellence at a local, regional and world-class level. A new sustainable operating model is in development to ensure that the Stadium and its enhanced community facilities will continue to benefit the city and its residents for generations to come.

4.2.56. The Perry Barr Masterplan will see Perry Barr become one of the best-connected suburbs in Birmingham, with active and sustainable travel choices becoming the norm for residents and visitors. Perry Barr is already benefiting from significant investment, including:

- Construction of the Perry Barr Regeneration Scheme, with nearly 1,000 new homes currently under construction in the first phases, and a further 4,000 homes in the longer term
- The A34 Highways Scheme, which includes extended segregated cycle routes and improved pedestrian facilities
- An improved bus interchange in front of the One Stop Shopping Centre
- The creation of the Sprint priority bus corridor which will link residential and employment areas while making bus journeys quicker and more reliable

- A new Perry Barr station including significant accessibility improvements offering quick, reliable, and frequent access to the city centre

4.2.57. It is also an area which presents exciting opportunities for further change which are being planned:

- Active and sustainable travel choices becoming the norm for residents and visitors through better connectivity;
- Prioritising parks, waterways, allotments and public spaces to create a joined-up green network which supports wellbeing and access to nature;
- Celebrating the area's cultural, sporting and historic identity and providing the conditions for this to continue to thrive
- Strategic re-purposing of vacant land and historically significant existing buildings to create opportunities for entrepreneurial, civic, and community-focussed initiatives and meanwhile uses

4.2.58. We cannot tackle the climate emergency without fundamental changes to the way people and goods move around our city. Working in partnership with Transport for West Midlands (TfWM), we are using the Commonwealth Games as a catalyst to provide and promote sustainable and reliable transport choices – for example through enhanced public transport, walking and cycling connections, the recently announced Cycling For All funding and the promotion of blue and green routes across the city. During Games time, an app will be available to download which will help visitors to the city plan their journey effectively, integrating key public transport information and helping visitors and residents make low-carbon choices.

Deliver Our Promise to the City and Become a Leading Local Authority

4.2.59. The Games is being delivered during a time of transformation across the Council. It is our aspiration that the delivery of the Games will create opportunities to contribute to the organisation's readiness for change, and equip us with the tools and shared learning that will support the Council to be able to deliver future events and projects of this size and scale.

4.2.60. The Commonwealth Games are putting Birmingham on a global stage and firmly on the map as a future events destination. Through the planning and delivery of the Games, the City Readiness service workstreams have developed Operations Plans that will exist as good practice guides beyond the Games for future events delivery. These plans will detail how readiness activities as a Host City should be planned and delivered – such as Command and Control (C3), Waste Management, and Traffic and Transport management plans.

- 4.2.61. Birmingham is the first Host City to deliver a fully integrated volunteer programme. We are using the Games as a springboard for developing a new Volunteer Strategy, offering staff the opportunity to undertake volunteering roles alongside their BCC jobs. This strategy will be key to maximising ongoing engagement with staff and generating a newly formed volunteer workforce to support both large scale city events and community focussed initiatives in the future.
- 4.2.62. Birmingham 2022 is the first Games to deliver an integrated Games Legacy programme, with all Games partners working towards five common goals – helping us to grow and succeed, to bring people together, to improve health and wellbeing, to be a catalyst for change and putting us on the map. By working in partnership we will have achieved far more for Birmingham than we could have done alone, and we have both strengthened existing partnerships while paving the way for new ones. This can only benefit the city over the longer term.
- 4.2.63. From a starting position of bidding for the 2026 Commonwealth Games, we successfully stepped in to rescue the 2022 Games, worked through Brexit and Covid-19, and can say that we have been fundamental to delivering a Games on time and on budget. The scale of this achievement should not be overlooked or downplayed, and citizens, members of staff and partners of all stripes should take genuine pride in our shared success.
- 4.2.64. This event is the start, not the end, of a golden decade of opportunity for the city, and it is incumbent on all of us to think about what comes next. Our new Major Events Strategy will act as a catalyst towards drawing more world class events to Birmingham, and our efficient and effective delivery of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games will give confidence to national government that the Council is a trusted delivery partner.
- 4.2.65. As we move beyond the Games, further information will be reported on the short, medium and long term benefits of being a Proud Host City - not just for the Council in isolation, but as part of a highly effective partnership that has come together for the people of Birmingham, and delivered a Games For Everyone.

Birmingham City Council

City Council

15 March 2022



Subject: Scrutiny Business Report
Report of: Chairs of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees
Report author: Christian Scade, Interim Head of Scrutiny & Committee Services

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

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report reflects on the work programmes of Overview & Scrutiny Committees for the past six months.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

3 Progress since September 2021

- 3.1 Since September 2021 we have been operating with various levels of restrictions on how we do business and have held a combination of “in-person” formal meetings and some online informal meetings during the winter months. An increase in Covid cases over the winter led to a return to working from home advice from the government. Since the relaxation of those restrictions, scheduled O&S meetings have started to move back to formal “in-person” meetings, whilst respecting the capacity of the rooms available and hybrid solutions where non-committee attendees join the meeting virtually online.
- 3.2 We have also successfully recruited two new posts to the Scrutiny team and will have a permanent full time Senior Overview & Scrutiny Manager and an Overview & Scrutiny Manager in post very soon.

4 Scrutiny Work in 2021/22

- 4.1 The four principles of good scrutiny, as identified by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny, are to provide constructive “critical friend” challenge; amplify the voice and concerns of the public; be led by independent people who take responsibility for their role and drive improvement in public services.

- 4.2 This report focuses on the work we have been doing since September 2021 to fulfil these principles, especially in relation to holding the Executive to account and undertaking independent inquiry work.

Holding the Executive to Account

- 4.3 Scrutiny has explored a wide range of issues over the past six months and some examples of this good work are set out below:
- 4.4 Education & Children's Social Care O&S has had a singular top priority since the Autumn and this has been the improvement journey of the SEND service. The Committee has had updates at every meeting from either the Cabinet Member for Vulnerable Children & Families, the newly-appointed Director of Education and Skills (now Director for Children and Families) or members of the senior leadership team, taking Members through the action plan, the dashboard and progress made to date. In addition, representatives from the Parent Carer Forum have been invited and attended every session to add to this.
- 4.5 Safeguarding children is also within the Committee's remit and the Children's Trust and the Birmingham Safeguarding Children's Partnership have both attended to update Members on this. One of the actions leading from this is the Committee writing to the Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Probation to express the Committee's concerns about the new Offensive Weapons Homicide Reviews (OWHRs) specifically, the proposed age criteria (eighteen and over) as set out in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill.
- 4.6 The Chair of Housing & Neighbourhoods O&S Committee has written to the Cabinet Member for Homes & Neighbourhoods to propose a stocktake on progress made against the "Working Together in Birmingham's Neighbourhoods" policy which was approved by Cabinet in January 2019. The committee had concerns about lack of progress and has outlined some suggested actions to provide impetus and requested an update be brought back to committee urgently.
- 4.7 The Resources O&S Committee requested an update on the Financing of the Commonwealth Games, with a particular focus on the position regarding partner contributions - what was initially agreed, how it is being pursued and the contingency plans if the partner funding is not forthcoming, which was provided early in the new year.
- 4.8 Resources O&S members have also been holding the Executive to account on the delayed delivery of the 1B ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) system and the resultant increase in associated costs. A number of risks and issues have been managed, however there are still some significant risks being managed, particularly around any further delays to data migration and there are a number of technical solutions that they have to get right. Members were reassured that the programme remains within budget and there is still some contingency fund and reserves left.
- 4.9 Co-ordinating O&S Committee identified key areas of improving the Customer Services and Complaints system in its inquiry from November 2020. The focus on

Customer Services shows that Scrutiny is determined to tackle the priorities and needs of Birmingham local residents. Building on their work in scrutinising Customer Services the new complaints system has at last begun to generate accurate and detailed information on those Directorates which generate most enquiries from residents and their elected representatives.

- 4.10 In the past accurate data on complaints and enquiries was difficult to compile as there were many disparate access points to report problems to the City Council. By rationalising these access points, the true picture of complaints in the City has at long last become clear. This has allowed Scrutiny to challenge the worst performing Directorates to produce action plans to improve performance and monitor their progress in the coming years.
- 4.11 The Co-ordinating O&S Committee wants to see all councillors sent regular briefings on complaints and to see reports tabled at City Council meetings so that Directorates are held to account for their record on dealing with complaints and enquiries.
- 4.12 Members of the Economy & Skills O&S Committee have been particularly interested in advocating for more opportunities for training and upskilling of residents and, as well as receiving regular updates on youth unemployment, the Committee has also kept a watchful eye on the East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Strategy and highlighted that local people and businesses from the area and the wider city benefit most from the initiative.
- 4.13 Building on this, the Committee has also undertaken a 6-month assessment on the impact of the Clean Air Zone (CAZ) on businesses within the CAZ area and will continue to monitor it.
- 4.14 Strengthening Planning Enforcement was a key recommendation from the Exempt Accommodation inquiry presented to City Council in December 2021. The Economy & Skills O&S committee were tasked with looking at the issue more closely at their meeting in March 2022 to understand existing practices, enforcement policies and procedures and what they mean so that the role and capacity of the Council is clear to the public.
- 4.15 As part of a session focusing on sustainability issues in November 2021, Sustainability & Transport O&S Committee called the West Midlands Pension Fund in, as challenging them on divestment from fossil fuels was an action delegated to the committee by the then Route to Zero Taskforce. Other items in this session included an introduction to the newly appointed Assistant Director for Climate Change, tracking on the plastic-free Birmingham inquiry and an update on waste procurement.
- 4.16 The Commonwealth Games, Culture & Physical Activity O&S Committee chose to focus all of its activity over the past 12 months on holding the Executive, and Directorates, to account on what they are doing to contribute to the success of the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham this summer, and also what the Directorates are doing above and beyond to ensure all communities benefit from a legacy as a

result of the Games. This report is set out separately as Appendix 1 to this report.

Inquiries and Proactive Policy Development Areas

- 4.17 O&S also adds value to the work of the Council through independent inquiry work into specific issues and working with the Executive or Directorates to help shape policy development. The following section sets out what inquiry work has been completed since the last report in September 2021, what is currently underway and what work is being scoped for future consideration.

Inquiries Completed since September 2021:

- 4.18 As noted above, Co-ordinating O&S Committee took the results of their inquiry into **Exempt Accommodation** to City Council in December 2021, having gathered evidence from nearly 100 residents, community groups and politicians into the growing problem.
- 4.19 As the inquiry went to City Council, the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee (Select Committee) announced its intention to gather evidence about the sector to inform future plans, and the Chair of Co-ordinating O&S, Cllr Carl Rice, was quoted as saying that “this was one of the best pieces of engagement with the public that he had seen in his time as a Councillor”. The inquiry was covered positively in both local and national press.
- 4.20 As part of the national inquiry the Cabinet Members for Homes & Neighbourhoods and Vulnerable Children & Families have been working with regional authorities, core cities and pilot authorities to develop some common messages and recommendations for national change. A joint pilot meeting reached agreement on policy recommendations for government and a joint submission was also made to the Select Committee inquiry.
- 4.21 In addition, two parliamentary debates have taken place calling for urgent change, the response from the Minister indicated a need to conclude the external evaluation report for the ongoing pilots (including Birmingham) and this would further inform the national inquiry taking place.
- 4.22 Coordinating O&S Committee is expecting an update on progress made against recommendations in its March 2022 meeting.
- 4.23 In winter 2019/20, Economy & Skills O&S Committee asked the question “What more could the Council do, through the use and management of its property estate, to ensure small and medium-sized businesses and community organisations and enterprises can play a full part in the city’s economic development and regeneration?”
- 4.24 The resulting inquiry on **Council-owned Assets** is being debated at the City Council meeting on 15th March 2022, with recommendations focusing on support that can be offered to community organisations as tenants or bidders for Council-owned

property assets, and on improving the service offered by Birmingham Property Services to make it more transparent and improve communications.

Inquiries Currently Underway

- 4.25 A short inquiry, concerning **litter bins policy**, by Housing & Neighbourhoods O&S Committee is underway with the support of the Cabinet Member for Street Services and Assistant Director of Street Scene. Members have had the opportunity to study the policies of two other local authorities, Bradford and Knowsley, and speak to senior officers and members to learn about what has worked well for them. It is envisaged this piece of work will conclude before the end of this municipal year with recommendations to take forward for a litter bins policy for Birmingham.
- 4.26 Resources O&S Committee is about to complete a task and finish inquiry into **procurement and commercial governance**. In the past the Resources O&S Committee has identified several issues with procurement and contract management arrangements, particularly in relation to the timeliness of decisions and adherence to regulations and governance requirements, so the task and finish group was set up to review and examine the commercial governance process to ensure that it is robust, fit for purpose, complied with and delivers both value for money for taxpayers and the Council. This is expected to conclude, via a report to the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources, by the end of March 2022.

Inquiries being Scoped/Upcoming

- 4.27 Concerns were raised by members of Housing & Neighbourhoods O&S Committee following visits to some void properties. As a result, future scrutiny work will be scoped about the standard of properties being offered and the turnaround time. It is anticipated that this initial scoping will be completed in advance of the new municipal year to enable the new committee members to start quickly in June 2022.

Inquiries being Tracked/Monitored

- 4.28 In addition to the inquiries set out in paragraphs 4.18 – 4.24 which will have actions requiring monitoring this year, the following inquiries still have a small number of recommendations still outstanding before being completely discharged:
- Plastic-free Birmingham
 - Birmingham Tree policy
 - Period poverty
 - Infant mortality
 - Fly tipping

Proactive Policy Development Areas

- 4.29 In addition to the inquiry work above, the last six months have also provided opportunities to look at a number of policy areas in detail. This includes both work that has already taken place, and work that will be taken forward in the future. Some examples of this type of work are set out below:

- 4.30 The Chair of Education & Children's Social Care O&S Committee and the Cabinet Member for Vulnerable Children & Families met early in the new year to discuss areas of importance for scrutiny in the new municipal year and agreed there should be a focus on child exploitation. The Cabinet Member is already working on a piece of work with the hospitality industry and hotels and an awareness raising campaign and has invited Scrutiny to contribute to this work.
- 4.31 Health & Social Care O&S Committee have been seeking to explore pieces of work around weight management and mental health for some time and it is envisaged these would be considered as part of the work programming for 2022/23.
- 4.32 In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Sustainability & Transport O&S Committee held a session in September 2021 with public transport operators looking at what was being done to increase confidence so that more people would return to the bus and train network. This looked at measures being put in place to increase customer safety and offering more flexible travel options as people considered returning to the workplace as restrictions begin to lift.

5 Work Arising from City Council

- 5.1 During the year the Economy & Skills O&S Committee has paid particular attention to the assistance being offered to businesses, in particular SME's, and the work in general in supporting the economic recovery from Covid-19. Specifically, focus has been given to those sectors affected more than others such as hospitality and leisure.
- 5.2 Following a Council Motion in December 2021, the Committee considered the role the Council has supporting businesses through property management, highways and regeneration – what the Council has in place and what more could be done to support businesses to take up opportunities of tenancies for example and where regeneration and work on the highway could benefit businesses.
- 5.3 A motion to City Council on 11 January 2022 called on improvements to be made to traffic management and road safety around schools and asked for developments made to be reported to the Sustainability & Transportation and the Education & Children's Services O&S Committees. It has been agreed that the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment will provide twice-yearly updates as part of his reporting to Sustainability & Transportation O&S Committee and members of the Education & Children's Services O&S Committee will also have the opportunity to take part in these meetings.

6 Health Scrutiny (including work with other boroughs)

- 6.1 Unsurprisingly, the pandemic has dominated the Health & Social Care O&S Committees work and they have continued to hear about the impact on services across the board; from GP practices and hospital pressures through to surgery waiting times and the negative repercussions for people's mental health, especially young people.

- 6.2 The move to Primary Care Networks coupled with the pandemic has seen new systems of supporting patients such as triaging of calls and video conferencing, but this is not aimed at undermining the traditional GP/patient relationship. The development of Social Prescribing to other services has both freed up more GP time for medical issues and provided more targeted support for patients with non-medical issues. The NHS anticipated the winter pressures was a keen topic for the Committee alongside a winter vaccine campaign and the possibility of a potentially equally dangerous Covid strain to Delta, and members were able to speak to GPs to hear first-hand their accounts of front-line primary health care.
- 6.3 There are currently ongoing discussions around the introduction of the Integrated Care System and the move for West Birmingham to become part of the Birmingham footprint in July 2022. All of the above are examples of how this committee has provided “critical friend challenge” at a time of both significant systemic and individual emotional challenge for NHS staff.
- 6.4 Birmingham and Solihull Joint Health O&S Committee (HOSC) has heard how “long covid” can often have life changing implications for those who are still suffering complications almost two years on from first contracting the virus. The Committee also heard first-hand from GPs and Directors of Primary Care Networks about the challenges they faced in trying to continue to deliver essential services to patients during the pandemic.
- 6.5 At a further session, members of the Birmingham and Solihull Joint HOSC learned about the enhanced employee offer for NHS staff to support their wellbeing at a time when they are working under extreme conditions and pressure.
- 6.6 Constructive discussions also occurred around how scrutiny can effectively operate within the new Integrated Care System (ICS) and interact with other key bodies such as Healthwatch and the Health & Wellbeing Board, by providing a critical friend role.
- 6.7 Birmingham and Sandwell Joint HOSC has been focused on the impact of the West Birmingham locality move to the Birmingham and Solihull ICS, and a further update is planned in the new municipal year as the timescale for this transition has moved from April to July 2022. This Joint HOSC also reviewed the increasing role of the Primary Care Networks.
- 6.8 Birmingham and Sandwell Joint HOSC also receive ongoing updates on the progress of the Midland Metropolitan University Hospital and are anticipating a site visit in due course to view progress for themselves.

7 Key areas Carried Forward to 2022/23

- 7.1 Following recent discussions with Scrutiny chairs, a number of areas have been identified for carrying forward to the next municipal year to assist with the new Committees’ work programming. A selection of these are set out below.

- 7.2 There are a number of housing topics programmed for future meetings of the Housing & Neighbourhoods O&S Committee, including tenant engagement, housing repairs and maintenance including the capital investment programme, and voids (with members looking at void turnaround times and the standard of properties as referenced above). Members will also continue with their quarterly monitoring of performance measures within the Housing and Waste services.
- 7.3 Economy & Skills O&S Committee will be tracking and picking up recommendations captured in the Council-owned Assets inquiry report and following up on suggested future work around procurement and community capacity building that were not captured as specific recommendations but that the Committee felt merited additional investigation.
- 7.4 The Climate Change Emergency has been a key interest for the Sustainability & Transport O&S Committee following the motion agreed at City Council in June 2019. Following the establishment of the Route to Zero taskforce (R20) and subsequent work the Committee have been tasked with keeping a watchful eye and, further to the Climate Action Plan presented to Council in January 2022 and the appointment of a dedicated team in the coming months, the Committee will be looking to undertake an in-depth piece of work on this in the new municipal year.
- 7.5 Other areas across all committees which are to be carried over into the new municipal year could include:
- Long term debt strategy
 - Tenant engagement review
 - Health inequalities in Birmingham
 - Access to Primary Care
 - Mental Health & Wellbeing
 - Primary Care Networks and Integrated Care System
 - Transition of West Birmingham (with Sandwell JHOSC)
 - Long Covid review (with Solihull JHOSC)
 - Phase 2 Musculoskeletal Redesign Programme (with Solihull JHOSC)
 - Active Travel Fund
 - City of Nature delivery framework
 - Greening the public realm
 - Public Highways issues (parking/grass verges)
 - Commonwealth Games Sustainability pledge
 - Citizen engagement
 - City Council procedures and arrangements

- Covid-19 review

8 Other Scrutiny work

8.1 West Midlands Police & Crime Panel

- 8.2 The Council's Scrutiny team provides the officer support to the West Midlands Police & Crime Panel.
- 8.3 The Panel is a joint scrutiny body of the West Midland authorities with a dual role to 'support and challenge' the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).
- 8.4 The Council's current representatives on the panel are Cllr Alex Aitken, Cllr Brett O'Reilly and Cllr Saima Suleman.
- 8.5 The Panel acts as a critical friend to the PCC on behalf of West Midlands residents and must perform the following statutory functions:
- Review and comment on the PCC's draft Police and Crime Plan.
 - Review the PCC's Annual Reports.
 - Scrutinise decisions and actions by the PCC.
 - Review (with the power to veto) the PCC's proposed Council Tax precept.
 - Hold confirmation hearings before the PCC makes certain senior appointments (Chief Constable, Deputy PCC, Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer), with the power to veto the Chief Constable appointment.
 - Handle non-criminal complaints about the conduct of the PCC and Deputy PCC, referring serious complaints to the Independent Office for Police Conduct (task delegated to the Birmingham Monitoring Officer).
 - Appoint an acting PCC if required.
 - Suspend the PCC if charged.
- 8.6 The Panel's work programme consists of statutory tasks (listed above) and wider exploratory work to build knowledge and insight into the strategic policing and the wider community safety and criminal justice landscape to fulfil its role to hold the PCC to account.
- 8.7 The following work programme sets out upcoming priorities for the Panel at its next meetings:
- March 2022 - Rebuilding Neighbourhood Policing
 - July 2022 - Reducing Violence, Strategic Policing Requirement
 - September 2022 - Preventing and Reducing Crime (Substance misuse, violence against women and girls).

The Chairs of all Overview & Scrutiny committees would like to place on record their recognition of the dedication and contribution of Cllr Penny Holbrook to the work of overview and scrutiny.

Appendix 1

Commonwealth Games, Culture & Physical Activity O&S Committee – the role of Overview & Scrutiny in the run up to the Games



Preface

It has been a privilege to chair the Committee with overall 'overview & scrutiny' responsibility of the Commonwealth Games; initially as the Learning, Culture & Physical Activity Overview & Scrutiny Committee and latterly in its current form as the **Commonwealth Games, Culture & Physical Activity Overview & Scrutiny Committee**.



The Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games will put this fantastic city on a global stage and showcase our talent, skills and ability to organise a world class event. As Chair of this Committee, I have had the chance to work alongside officers ever since the Council first took the bold step to bid for the Games, right through to the Games now being less than 20 weeks away and I have ultimately watched ideas transform into reality.

Having had the insight into the inception of various Commonwealth Games-related programmes, such as the Youth Programme - 'Bring The Power', the Cultural Programme - 'Birmingham 2022 Festival', and the Volunteer Programme - 'The Commonwealth Collective', it has been exciting to find out more about the number of different ways for the citizens of Birmingham to get engaged with the Games, especially our young people - who have been presented with a once in a lifetime opportunity to be a part of something special.

Members of this Committee have had the chance to visit the Alexander Stadium on a number of occasions to witness the breath-taking structural progress for themselves as well visiting the official Volunteer Centre based at the Library of Birmingham and the Perry Barr Residential Scheme.

The work of this Committee has mainly focused on holding the Executive to account and inviting the different Directorates to inform us about what they are doing to prepare for the Games as well as answering our questions on what *legacy* benefits will be achieved through the work of the various service areas. I have been especially keen on exploring the legacy aspects as I see the Games as a catalyst for many more opportunities for both the city and ordinary Brummies and we must make the most out of every single opportunity offered to us by the Games.

Aside from raising the question about legacy through the O&S Committee, I am also a member of the Legacy and Benefits Committee of the Birmingham 2022 Organising Committee, representing Birmingham City Council and work alongside various external partners on the official Legacy Plans. I have also recently joined as the Vice Chair of the Community Stakeholder Panel which will provide oversight of the Commonwealth Games Legacy Programme.

In addition to this, I've had the exciting opportunity to support the team working on the Queen's Baton Relay (QBR) on behalf of the Council, providing advice and guidance on helping shape the events and locations for the QBR to maximise involvement for as many Birmingham residents as possible.

As Chair of the Commonwealth Games Culture & Physical Activity O&S Committee, it has been an absolute pleasure working alongside my Committee Members & officers, senior officers of the Council and the Organising Committee, playing a role in ensuring that Birmingham delivers the best Commonwealth Games ever. As a proud Brummie, I can't wait for the Games to begin!

Councillor Mariam Khan
Chair, Commonwealth Games, Culture and Physical Activity O&S Committee

1. The Focus of the Committee

- 1.2 The stated terms of reference of the Commonwealth Games, Culture & Physical Activity O&S Committee are 'to fulfil the functions of an O&S Committee as they relate to any policies, services and activities concerning the Commonwealth Games; arts and culture; libraries and museums; sport; events and physical activity'.
- 1.3 Before the onset of the pandemic, members of the Committee had received presentations from the Leader of the Council and the Programme Director of the Council's CWG Programme Team and some of the Council's teams delivering the major regeneration projects required to get the city "Games ready", as well as from other Games partners such as the Organising Committee.
- 1.4 Committee members were keen to play a proactive part in assisting with city readiness and embarked upon a community engagement programme. This would have taken us around the city, speaking to community groups and organisations made up of Birmingham residents from a variety of different backgrounds, had it not been for the national lockdown in March 2020. Due to the pandemic restrictions coming into force, the Committee's visits to community groups were cut short and we were only able to visit an Elders group in Birchfield before refocussing our ambitions.
- 1.5 What follows is the result of that refocusing, which has seen a consolidated programme of scrutiny where the Committee has held Cabinet Members and directorates from across the council to account by asking them two key questions:

What are you doing in your service area to ensure the successful delivery of the Games?

What are you doing above and beyond your business as usual to get the most value from the legacy for residents and businesses of Birmingham hosting the Games?

2. The Former Partnerships, Prevention and Insights Directorate

- 2.1 The then Assistant Chief Executive, who was the BCC Senior Responsible Officer for Legacy for the Games alongside senior officers from the former Partnerships, Prevention and Insights Directorate started the year of scrutinising the directorates, as they set out what they were doing to deliver the Games successfully and what additional opportunities they were seeking to secure as a legacy from hosting the event.
- 2.2 The BCC CWG Programme Team's Head of Community Partnerships took the Committee through the detailed proposals for a Legacy Plan for the Council. This was a theme which we returned to again early in 2022 following the publication of the official BCC Legacy Plan.
- 2.3 In April 2021 we were able to question the team on the ambitions stated around community cohesion, inclusion and pride in the city, alongside the details of the £6m Community Fund elements.

- 2.4 The Committee has always been keen to scrutinise the benefits of hosting the Games for the people of Birmingham and the BCC Legacy Plan sets out the ambition that Birmingham has never shied away from and is now encapsulated in our “Be Bold, Be Birmingham” initiative.
- 2.5 Committee Members were familiar with the Council’s “Everyone’s Battle, Everyone’s Business” plan and were interested to hear how it aligned the work of the Equalities division with the aims of the Games, particularly around challenging inequalities in every community and celebrating the city’s shared stories and heritage.
- 2.6 The Committee heard how the Stronger Communities aim is to build on existing work around tackling inequalities in Birmingham and how it is to use the Games as a springboard for change, with activities designed to develop and continue legacy work beyond the Games. We anticipate bringing this back to committee after the Games to scrutinise how successfully this has been done.
- 2.7 We also heard how press and PR activity in association with the Games partners had generated 653 media articles, of which 89% had been positive or neutral in tone and that the reach of these articles up to April 2021 was 104 million readers or viewers. No doubt that figure has increased massively since then as we are closer to approaching Games time.
- 2.8 Whilst West Midlands Police lead on the security programme, the Council is represented at each security governance level and there is an extensive programme to support these activities with significant oversight and assurance including training, testing, readiness and exercise programmes in place as well as safety management to provide major event safety oversight.
- 2.9 The Public Health team’s focus in terms of health protection has unsurprisingly been on Covid resilience and preparedness. Before Games time they will be working with Games partners and national bodies looking at outbreak response and Covid response planning. Post-Games/Legacy they will be ensuring the environmental sustainability approach is entrenched.
- 2.10 We also heard that Public Health are looking at Commonwealth projects linked to food and physical activity, volunteer and staff health literacy, developing health profiles, inputting into the Physical Activity Legacy Action Plan through Active City Forum, and giving Public Health specialist advice to local CWG grants programmes.
- 2.11 At Games time there will be increased Active Travel messaging, physical activity and a focus on inequalities and healthy eating messaging. Again, the Committee anticipates a review of how effective this messaging has been when we call Public Health back to provide an assessment after the Games.

3. City Operations Directorate

- 3.1 The Director of City Operations reassured the Committee of his personal commitment to the Games through his role as Vice Chair of the CWG Programme within BCC. In addition, the Committee were reassured that frequent meetings were held with the

BCC CWG Programme Director and Star Chambers to review overall delivery plans and specific progress meetings on the delivery of the Alexander Stadium.

- 3.2 On Street Scene, Members were relieved to learn about the enhanced cleansing programme which has been developed for the build up to the Games and during the Games itself, as well as a grounds maintenance programme, as this was an area which had caused great concern amongst Members.
- 3.3 Additional floral enhancements have been planned, and the Parks Service have been working closely with the development team to ensure the Games work has added benefits after Games activity takes place at Sutton Park and Perry Park. Discussions have also been held with the Council's Legacy Team to ensure there is commitment to support Friends of Parks groups to develop their local parks post-Games.
- 3.4 Street Scene are also working with the CWG volunteering team to keep as many local volunteers post-Games. Key partners and organisations have been developed and are working along Street Scene colleagues to tackle long term street scene issues including tackling graffiti.
- 3.5 The Committee heard that Delivery Plans had been prepared for Environmental Health, Trading Standards and Licensing, and that the Regulation and Enforcement Division is heavily involved in planning for and ensuring the Games operate in a manner which is safe for visitors, spectators, competitors, staff and volunteers at the Games. The Committee were reassured to learn that the legacy benefits they hope to achieve include capacity building through better trained officers able to deal with a wider scope of hazards; providing better joint working between other West Midlands local authorities to build on for the future; sharing best practice between venue authorities to raise standards; and trying out new methods of work to make a more effective enforcement regime for the City Council.
- 3.6 Members were informed that the Alexander Stadium works are progressing in line with the contractor programme and has been consistently reporting on budget and on time. The legacy for the stadium and wider Perry Park has been captured within the Perry Barr Masterplan being led by the Inclusive Growth Directorate. Members of this Committee, along with colleagues on the Sustainability & Transport, and Economy & Skills O&S committees, had the opportunity to visit the Alexander Stadium at the end of October 2021 to see for themselves the progress made and ask any questions or raise any concerns on the developments.
- 3.7 Members heard about the Major Sporting Events Strategy document which will set out the Council's vision for the next ten years. Amongst other things this will set out the outcomes we are seeking to deliver on the back of securing major events. This subsequently was approved by Cabinet on 27th July 2021.
- 3.8 The Council is bidding to host some key events in the next few years off the back of the Games, and these include the ITU World Paratriathlon & Triathlon Series 2024, 2025 & 2026, Invictus 2027, the World Road Race Championships 2023 and the Council has submitted a formal bid to host the World Athletics Road Running Championships 2023 or 2024. The Committee will be receiving an update on these in due course.

- 3.9 Within Neighbourhoods, the Neighbourhood Development and Support Unit were co-ordinating the ward-based CWG Celebrating Communities Fund of £2m. Working with Locality/Birmingham Community Matters, they have been providing community capacity building and support for groups wanting to apply for funding starting in April 2021 and worked with community anchor organisations who have been acting as the ward facilitators for the participative decision making on grant proposals from June 2021 onwards.
- 3.10 The Cultural Development Service commissioned and supported the feasibility of 20 community arts projects - some of which will reach full blown project delivery during 2022. In addition, Members learned that they were working with the CWG's Cultural Programme Team to coordinate cultural activity across the city from March – August 2022, and in February 2022 we had a further detailed update on progress on this project which is covered later in this report.
- 3.11 Some of the noticeable projects included: Coordinating a pilot community arts (refugee) project for CWG's Cultural Programme in Erdington in October 2021 – Amal International Puppet Tour, assisting the Council's CWG's team to deliver the Queen's Baton Relay (through Community Arts activity along route), and assisting the Council's Legacy Team in the allocation of Ward Community activity funding.
- 3.12 The Sports Development team have been working with the OC on engagement around sports club infrastructure and support during the period of the Games including the set-up of pop-up sports zones across the city, thus offering opportunities to local sports organisations to engage in delivery.

4. Housing Directorate

- 4.1 The Housing Directorate took the Committee through the major redevelopment in Perry Barr which has been unlocked through the Games activity, and this included the Perry Barr Residential Scheme, which will see almost 2,000 homes delivered in two phases and also how it will be part of the greater Birchfield Gateway proposals, enabling a total of 5,000 new homes across the area in the next 20 years.
- 4.2 Other legacies from this work include the remodelling of the One Stop Shopping centre and Birchfield Road development opportunities, a new school and transport improvements such as improvements to the bus interchange and railway station. Some of the detail arising from these is shared under the update from Inclusive Growth Directorate below.

5. HR & OD Directorate

- 5.1 Members were informed there are plenty of additional employment and development opportunities within the Council around the Games, such as additional workers to aid with the street scene cleansing programme and the floral/grounds maintenance work to improve the look of the city. As part of the legacy from the Games, options will be explored as to how these roles could lead to potential apprenticeship opportunities within the Council and Members anticipate a report post-Games on actual figures realised.

- 5.2 Officers talked about how the Games will create around 35,000 new jobs and skills opportunities, including volunteering roles and training opportunities. From those meeting and greeting on the frontline to backstage heroes and specialists like paramedics, the 12,500+ volunteers will be one of the largest workforce groups and HR is supporting Organisational Development colleagues with the development of a legacy-focussed Employee Volunteer Policy to capitalise on this momentum.
- 5.3 Members of the Committee were also keen to hear what the impact of having the Games will be on our own staff, and they heard that a staff engagement group was established in April 2021 which will review internal health and wellbeing survey data and engage with staff to identify how they can improve their physical health, through initiatives like staff games competitions and incentives.
- 5.4 HR supports the Games through its messaging to staff through regular updates, providing strategic HR support and preparing for staff to support or attend the Games, via the flexible working policy while maintaining essential Council services.
- 5.5 Other ways in which HR contributes to the successful delivery in its business as usual activity is by promoting health and wellbeing opportunities as part of the Council's employee rewards package. An Employee Volunteer Policy was being developed to support the lasting legacy of the Games, engaging with other local authorities involved in the Games to ensure a consistent approach across the region. OD were also exploring possibilities to develop apprenticeship opportunities as part of the legacy with a primary focus on care leavers and under-represented groups.
- 5.6 There were even some specific examples of legacy in action already, and this included a member of staff who had enrolled onto a Management apprenticeship with a focus on crowd safety / management with a completion date of May 2022, meaning they can apply their learning at the Games immediately, plus another member of staff also enrolled in September 2021.

6. Adult Social Care Directorate (ASC)

- 6.1 The Committee learned about the Adult Social Care Engagement Group, whose aim is to raise awareness, enthusiasm and engagement in all aspects of the Games (pre, during and post-Games legacy). It also enables the Directorate to deliver against the key corporate objective of 'Birmingham residents gaining the maximum benefit from hosting the Commonwealth Games' and supports the sharing of information, ideas and opportunities with relevant individuals and groups.
- 6.2 The Directorate is a member of the OC Accessibility Forum and promotes 'Accessibility' to Opportunities (Volunteering / Jobs) while also ensuring venues are accessible with appropriate wayfinding (Changing Places / AccessAble) both via the OC and the Council.
- 6.3 The Committee heard how the Directorate has developed an ASC Reach Group out of a contact list of around 400 community based organisations / individuals who work with ASC to support adults in the community including ASC Charities and Voluntary Sector Organisations (linked via Neighbourhood Networks), Groups supporting people with Disabilities, Pure Project employment organisations, Parents and Carers

Organisations supporting Preparation for Adulthood, Day Centres and Migration Forum members. It has been developed to enable ASC to share information quickly and directly and offer support to access the opportunities in the city associated with the Games such as CWG grants, volunteering and cultural activities.

- 6.4 In addition, an officer has been seconded to work with the Neighbourhood Network Service one day a week to help promote opportunities for ASC users to experience and join in the cultural festival and activities, as well as supporting community organisations to apply for grants under the Celebrating Communities and Creative Communities programmes.
- 6.5 The wellbeing of ASC users has been addressed by linking directly to venues to develop programmes to improve health and wellbeing of Adult Social Care Users (e.g. Edgbaston Cricket Ground) and by planning a range of activities with the Council's Day Centres & Care Centre users – utilising wider health promotion activities associated with the Games. At the time of the presentation to Committee they were considering whether they might be able to access a small amount of funding from the Legacy Programme to deliver an enhanced programme of activities for Council service users.
- 6.6 In addition to contributing suggestions for the Queen's Baton Relay (covered separately in this report), ASC have been able to connect organisations from their wider partnership links into the Games. For example, connecting the Canal and Rivers Trust to the 'Beneficial Activities workstream' (via Birmingham Autism and ADHD Partnership Board) and Accessible Cycling via Mencap.
- 6.7 The Director for Adult Social Care has also recently taken over as the Council's Strategic Lead for Legacy.

7. Birmingham Children's Trust

- 7.1 Members of the Committee have been keen on hearing about how Birmingham's children in care and care leavers will be involved in the Commonwealth Games and how they will benefit from the opportunities from the Games and had some searching questions when they came to present to us.
- 7.2 The Committee heard how Birmingham Children's Trust are seeking to unlock the Games opportunity for children in care in Birmingham, reaching at least 5,000 young people and families, as well as creating their own Games experience, complete with their own opening and closing ceremonies. They will also be creating access to key Games-time opportunities and assets.
- 7.3 All cohorts will include children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. Partners will include Evolve, Sport Birmingham, Aston Villa Foundation, The Active Wellbeing Society (TAWS), Teamwork's Karting and Sport4Life to design a programme to run during school and in half term – focused on physical activity and mental wellbeing. During the summer holiday, activity weeks will be developed and ran by 'Friends of the Children's Trust' and care leavers that are ready to take the next step into employment and volunteering.

- 7.4 The committee were delighted to learn of the various achievements for the service which included over 27 Care Leavers having applied to be a volunteer at the Games; four consultation events with Care Leavers including partners such as the CWG Volunteering Team, Sport4Life, West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), Stand Up project and Teamwork's Karting, hosting and organising a Commonwealth Games Participation Day with children in care, care leavers, young parents and young people with disabilities in attendance, CWG / Physical Activity Sensory Days for young people with disabilities; Being part of the Stand Up project with National Lottery Partners; Holiday Activity and Food Fund Project – which involved physical activity and CWG themed activities every morning in August 2021 for families in the local community, children in care and foster families. The holiday activity reached 4,000 young people.
- 7.5 Committee members were also pleased to hear that Birmingham Children's Trust received 5,000 tickets to the Commonwealth Games for children, young people and their families.

8. Inclusive Growth Directorate

- 8.1 Most of the regeneration or development projects associated with the Games fall within the Inclusive Growth Directorate and one of the greatest benefits has been the ability to accelerate the delivery of and enhance the scope of planned projects. Perry Barr would have seen residential development on a much smaller scale, Sprint would have been delivered later, and there would not have been the coordination of projects on this scale or the critical mass which delivers additional benefits.
- 8.2 There has been more than £700m public sector investment in Perry Barr - £165m from Central Government, £20m from WMCA for land assembly – all of which would not have been possible without the Games. The new housing development was covered by colleagues in Housing Directorate at an earlier session, and members heard the associated jobs created in the construction, the new school for the development and the wider regeneration picking up the masterplan for Perry Barr 2040 would not have happened in the way it has had it not been for the Games.
- 8.3 Perry Barr is talked about at length in terms of investment and opportunities, but officers from the Inclusive Growth Directorate also shared proposals for the improved Southside public realm including a new public square, and the development of Digbeth High Street, Lower Temple Street, New Street and Victoria Square as well as Snow Hill in the city centre.
- 8.4 One of the most exciting current city centre developments is Smithfield, which is to be a Games-time venue and live site and then post-Games will be handed back to the Council for development to deliver a new home for the Birmingham markets, high quality public spaces, integrated public transport, retail and workspaces, 3,000 new homes and an improved leisure and culture offer – and of course thousands of new jobs.
- 8.5 Presentations from officers highlighted both an increase in business as usual in helping to deliver the Games on time, but also maximising the opportunities afforded by the Games in seeking to take advantage of synergies in other activities happening as a result, particularly in public transport, housing and public realm developments as

evidenced in Perry Barr and the city centre in particular, and by attracting inward investment opportunities and Members pressed them on benefits to be realised.

- 8.6 The Committee discovered that other benefits generated by the Directorate include learning best practice – the scale of activity has required an enhanced project management and governance approach and this learning has benefitted other projects and programmes. There has been a focus on developing Council officers to fulfil challenging roles and on enhancing partnerships and stakeholder relationships and community engagement approaches. The Council will benefit from community and small business engagement generated as a result of the Games and will be able to utilise those contacts and linkages post-Games.

9. Education & Skills Directorate (now known as the Children and Families Directorate)

- 9.1 The opportunities for children and young people in the city to reap the benefits of hosting the Games was one of the areas which the Committee was most interested to hear about. We were delighted to hear how by working together the OC and the Council are seeking to use the once-in-a-generation platform to inspire and engage thousands of children and young people and leave a lasting legacy.
- 9.2 The Games Learning Programme “Bring the Power” will use the assets of this major sporting and cultural event to connect Birmingham’s young people directly with opportunities to gain new skills, grow in confidence and become part of a stronger and more cohesive community.
- 9.3 The Council has contributed £500,000 of funding to support a targeted strand of activity called Bring to Power that seeks to ensure young people in every ward of the city have access to at least one Games opportunity either through schools or community participation, delivered in partnership with the OC.
- 9.4 The Games Learning Programme has established an Education Steering group to support the delivery of the “Bring the Power” programme. The programme has three key themes that underpin the planned activities - “Journey to the Games”, “Finding Common Ground” and “We can Change the World”. The Steering Group intend to ensure that Birmingham’s children and young people benefit from priority access to key Games opportunities by deepening engagement and impact to reach as many young people and schools as possible, particularly the disadvantaged, investing in resources and activity delivery that tackles the legacy of colonialism, prioritising work with young people who are NEET / at risk of becoming NEET, and by aligning with some of Birmingham’s bigger priorities for children and young people: Child-Friendly City, UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools, Violence Reduction.
- 9.5 The Committee were reassured of the progress to date in terms of the Employability and Skills agenda, with the Games currently impacting on construction opportunities especially at the Perry Barr Residential Scheme which has so far produced 312 jobs (78% of target of 400 jobs from construction); 57 apprenticeships; nearly 5,250 young people engaged through schools’ links; and over 1600 volunteer hours.

- 9.6 The Council's Children and Families Directorate are also linking schools to the Games work experience programme (Gen 2022) with a focus on 17-year olds (NEET peak) and supporting the Volunteers Programme through Birmingham Adult Education Service, community libraries and the Library of Birmingham.

10 Council Management Directorate

- 10.1 The Council Management Directorate has been looking after Games finances, legal, procurement and council governance matters.
- 10.2 One of the key projects that they have provided these services for include the construction of the Alexander Stadium project and where social value has been built into the contracts. This includes (but is not limited to) jobs safeguarded or new jobs created and ringfenced for local people, apprenticeships and work experience placements; 50% target spend within 30 miles to target local subcontractors, including SMEs and 3rd sector organisations; schools' engagement programmes to offer hundreds of hours of voluntary time by staff and commitment to 100% of all packaging waste being recycled via supplier takeback schemes for key packaging materials or components etc.
- 10.3 Similar targets apply to the A34 construction works and Perry Barr Residential Scheme with an increased emphasis on learning and a dedicated skills hub.
- 10.4 In order to exploit opportunities from hosting the Games, Members were informed that further work is now underway to assess how the Council can further target and maximise social value contributions. This can be realised in the form of wider benefits within our communities related to the legacy of the Games.
- 10.5 One example given to the Committee is that is work in progress is to use the Council's new <https://matchmyproject.org/birmingham> portal for community organisations in receipt of funding from the Council for Games-related projects to advertise for assistance from the Council's contracted supply chain to sustain projects for the Games legacy.
- 10.6 The Finance Team support the Games by providing in-depth financial advice and support to the Programme Director and team, participating in key governance meetings (such as the Capital Programme Board and Executive Board), and supporting capital projects such as the Alexander Stadium build, Sutton Park Wyndley Leisure Centre and Smithfield.
- 10.7 In addition, they have supported the BCC City Readiness Programme by reviewing and challenging budget proposals for additionality for Games time through detailed financial monitoring and reporting and secured and managed external funding including the £20m contribution from Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) and WMCA's £25m contribution.
- 10.8 The Legal Team have been playing a vital role before we even won the bid by inputting into the commissioning of a Games feasibility study. The Commercial Team played a significant part in preparing and submitting the Games Bid in collaboration with Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) including advising on State Aid

(now Subsidy Control) Matters and assisted with taking the matter from successful bid to negotiating the Host City Contract with the Commonwealth Games Federation.

- 10.9 Since 2017 the Legal Team has completed a contract for the redevelopment of Alexander Stadium, advised regarding construction of the Athletes' Village which later became the Perry Barr Regeneration Scheme (PBRs), and played a significant role in taking the Birmingham Commonwealth Games Bill through to becoming an Act of Parliament.
- 10.10 Future opportunities identified by the Directorate include the use of assets, knowledge transfer, commercial engagement, social value, career pathways for young people, apprenticeships and support for care leavers etc.
- 10.11 Digital and Customer Services outlined the level of IT and Digital (IT&D) support they provide to the CWG Programme Team to manage their work, and also specialised IT&D support to the Alexander Stadium at all the stages from build through to the Games and into post-Games time when the stadium returns to Council ownership.
- 10.12 Committee members were given reassurance that the other main area of work focuses on the Customer Services contact centre and the close collaboration with the Programme Team's engagement lead to ensure all contact centre support is appropriate for Games time and that staff are sufficiently trained and equipped to take on calls and enquiries from residents and potentially visitors to the city during Games time.

11. CWG Programme Team – Engagement & Legacy

- 11.1 As Chair of the Commonwealth Games, Culture and Physical Activity O&S Committee, I have been engaged with the team working on the Queen's Baton Relay activity on behalf of the Council for many months, providing advice, guidance and an insight from the perspective of councillors as community leaders on how to make the best use of the two days we have the Queen's Baton in Birmingham and how to reach as many people as possible. The Committee participated in a workshop earlier this year with the team and provided some useful observations from our unique position within our own wards.
- 11.2 When the Director of Adult Social Care attended a Committee meeting in his new role as BCC's Corporate Leadership Team Legacy Lead it was encouraging for Members to hear his enthusiasm for what he called "a fantastic opportunity to not only host a successful Games but to build the legacy for generations to come". From his experience of the Olympics in 2012, when he worked in Newham in London, he is aware that legacy benefits are achieved in different ways, such as improved infrastructure, culture and economic benefits and welcomed the approach of this Committee in having such questions at the forefront of our minds, such as "how can we use this opportunity to improve outcomes for citizens, how can we increase engagement, and how can we use the Games as an accelerant to sustainable improvements?"
- 11.3 He gave a brief overview of the Council's Legacy Plan "Delivering a Bold Legacy for Birmingham" which explains how we are using the opportunity of hosting the Games

to help address the main challenges that the city faces. He then explained how the Legacy Programme is addressing the challenge that this is a 'Games for Everyone', with the plan on the page providing a lot of detail and setting out the connectivity with our priorities and those of our partners. A second cross-partner legacy plan is due in June 2022 and the Council's post-Games report is due in Spring 2023. The final post-Games Legacy Evaluation report will be delivered by Government in 2023.

- 11.4 The Head of Community Partnerships provided details of the Council's £6m Community Fund and the Cabinet paper set out the eight key points and principles, and the split of this £6m fund is: £2m for Creative City Grants; £2m Celebrating Communities, which is the ward funding programme; £1m to support physical activity initiatives; £500,000 to support Stronger Communities programmes and £500,000 to support learning and youth engagement.
- 11.5 Members learned about the Creative City Fund grants, including the programme aims and the grants process. There are 107 projects being part of the Birmingham 2022 Festival which was launched on 28th February 2022. The next steps include identifying gaps and opportunities, so that more residents are engaged.
- 11.6 Members of the Committee were encouraged to share with the CWG team specific projects that community organisations have approached them about in their areas, and opportunities for organisations to get involved via the £6m Community Fund.
- 11.7 As part of the Legacy and Community Engagement update, Members also were interested to receive an update on progress with the Bring the Power Youth Programme (referred to in the Children and Families directorate update above). Covid restrictions impacted on the way the programme was initially delivered but the design of the programme has been youth-led. Early successes of the programme include 78 young people being part of the launch of the Queen's Baton Relay at Buckingham Palace. Work includes running more school festival days, amplifying athlete and mascot visits to schools, and on the 7th March 2022, they ran a headteachers' conference.
- 11.8 Details of the Common Ground Grant, whereby £80,000 has been allocated, enabling every secondary school to apply for a grant of £1,000 to participate in the project, was provided. A launch celebration event at the Lighthouse youth hub took place on the 24th February 2022 which was well attended by local young people and their families. Details of Games-related projects being delivered by the Youth Service were highlighted, including six weeks intensive Commonwealth Games themed activities focussing on sport, music and learning about the wider Commonwealth. The Youth City Board Panel has very much shaped the programme.
- 11.9 Members had the opportunity to delve deeper into specific areas and sought reassurances on the inclusion of all children such as those in alternative provision like the Pupil Referral Unit or the Virtual School for Children in Care and were reassured to learn that they are also working with the Children's Trust who are keen to link in with the programmes for children and young people known to the Trust.
- 11.10 Especially since the advent of the pandemic, Members have been concerned about the mental health and wellbeing of young people, so were pleased to hear this is a

priority and they are working with a local boxing organisation to deliver workshops on mental wellbeing.

- 11.11 The second round of applications for the Celebrating Communities fund concludes at the end of March 2022 and Members of the Committee were encouraged to feed back to the team on experiences of applying to aid the evaluation process. It was acknowledged the approach had been inconsistent on the initial round and lessons learnt is to be picked up in a full process evaluation. More information and clarity were requested, especially in relation to Members' responsibilities and Members were informed that their responsibilities are to champion the fact that the fund was there and to encourage local organisations to apply.
- 11.12 Members also received an update on the delivery of commissioned activity from the Commonwealth Games Community Fund encouraging residents to become more active. The Active Wellbeing Society (TAWS) had been commissioned to deliver 70 active streets across Birmingham and Sport Birmingham in partnership with Inspire Activity will be delivering 8 Community Games across the city this summer, as well as working to support local community sports groups through the 'Club Together' initiative. In addition to this, funding will also be used to support the development of the City of Nature Alliance and help them to deliver a pilot project focusing on delivering the Birmingham Fair Standard in parks across the city. This ties in with the City of Nature report which was recently approved at Cabinet. Members were keen to help to disseminate information amongst colleagues on this and the Celebrating Communities Fund.
- 11.13 The Birmingham Voluntary Service Council (BVSC) has been secured as the lead anchor organisation to oversee the distribution of £500,000 under the Stronger Communities Fund, and they have a Community Investment Framework for inclusive commissioning. Initiatives include heritage trails, a digital record and story project looking at heritage, migration and community activism, regenerating the Peace Garden, inspiring future leaders from under-represented groups, and Getting Communities Talking through a range of activities.

12. Conclusion

- 12.1 This has been a fascinating Committee for all the members who have been privileged to sit on it over the past four years and we have been proud to play our part in championing the city as the Proud Host City for the 2022 Commonwealth Games, but also in holding the Executive and Leadership Team to account in ensuring they deliver the best Games for the city but also derive the strongest and longest-lasting legacies they can across all Directorates for all communities.
- 12.2 We share the same aims and have contributed to its delivery by bringing information transparently into the public arena, by being bold and asking questions and by committing to revisit and review the evaluation of the success of the legacy that comes out of such an opportunity.
- 12.3 There are 135 days to go to the opening ceremony – let's Be Bold Birmingham!



Council-owned Assets



A report from Overview & Scrutiny





Contents

Preface	3
Summary of Recommendations	4
1 Introduction and Purpose of Inquiry	5
1.2 Our Approach	6
1.3 Key Question	6
2 Contributions to the Inquiry	8
2.1 Birmingham Property Services (BPS)	8
2.2 A National Perspective on Good Practice	8
2.3 Evidential experience of tenants and prospective buyers	9
2.4 Key Findings	9
3 Conclusion and Next Steps	10
Appendix 1: Contributions to the Inquiry	14
1.1 Communication from Birmingham Property Services (BPS)	14
1.2 Partnership working with wards and councillors	17
1.3 Maintenance of assets and procurement	17
1.4 Joined up approach with other Council services and treatment of community buyers	19
1.5 Value and how it is defined (level playing field)	20
1.6 Role of community organisations in economic recovery	23
Appendix 2: Birmingham Property Services (BPS)	26
1.1 Property Strategy	26
1.2 Presentation by BPS to the inquiry	27
1.3 Conclusion	29
Reference materials	30

Further information regarding this report can be obtained from:

Lead Review Officer: Ceri Saunders

tel: 0121 303 2786



e-mail: ceri.saunders@birmingham.gov.uk

Reports that have been submitted to Council can be downloaded from www.birmingham.gov.uk/scrutiny.



Preface

By Councillor Saima Suleman

Chair, Economy & Skills Overview & Scrutiny Committee



Let me start by first paying tribute to former Councillor Lou Robson who, as Chair of this committee, initiated this inquiry and led the evidence-gathering sessions before she left the Council last year. It seems fitting that, having stepped into her shoes as the new councillor in her ward of Hall Green North I am also following in her footsteps as chair of the Economy & Skills Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

I came into Chairing this committee following completion of evidence gathering but it was clear that Lou's passion for the community champions who are often operating against the odds was partly behind her drive to pursue this inquiry and ensure social value was uppermost in everyone's minds, above profit as the sole objective.

I would like to place on record my thanks to the committee members and specifically the cross-party working group who strived to get this report to where we are now because they wanted to improve the service together. My thanks on behalf of the committee also to everyone who gave their time and input – individuals, community groups and supporting organisations. Thank you for your contributions – it was your lived experiences and views that helped the committee understand the issues of those that let, buy or enquire about the Council's estate.

I hope it is not an isolated piece of work but one on which we can collectively build and continue to improve the service for all who use it. There are a number of issues raised as suggestions for further work which were not part of the final recommendations, but which would merit a closer look, such as procurement restrictions and community capacity-building. I would welcome an opportunity to explore these and other ways of working with local members and their communities with the Executive and fellow Scrutiny Chairs for optimal collaboration.

The pandemic has really demonstrated the value of smaller businesses and community organisations – from those little corner shops in communities that kept people going when the supermarket shelves were empty to the community centres adapting and opening their premises for food delivery hubs and pop up vaccination centres. We need to show them that we recognise them and their value to society.

Councillor Saima Suleman

Chair, Economy & Skills Overview & Scrutiny Committee



Summary of Recommendations

Ref	Recommendation	Responsibility	Completion Date
R01	As part of a health check on the Property Strategy, the Leader is asked to review the progress made on the analysis and development of the community portfolio.	Leader of the Council	September 2022
R02	Recognising the key role many community organisations played in response to the Covid-19 crisis, and the impact the pandemic had on so many local centres and high streets, the Leader is asked to ensure that the Chief Executive and Director of Strategy, Equalities and Partnerships develop a clear strategic framework for community wealth building and inclusive growth, based on the Levelling Up strategy.	Leader of the Council	September 2022
R03	The Leader is asked to explore and implement transparent, open and consultative ways in which communities and ward councillors can be better involved in decisions around assets in the community portfolio. The Executive is also asked to think about how it can actively support communities to have a say in the future of their neighbourhood and report back to Committee in September 2022.	Leader of the Council Cabinet Member for Homes & Neighbourhoods	September 2022
R04	The Leader to ensure Birmingham Property Services (BPS) improve the channels of communication and engagement with existing tenants and prospective buyers, by creating a portal on their website with access to information and deadlines, signposting to "how to" guides and help with navigating the process from start to finish.	Leader of the Council	June 2022
R05	The Leader to ask BPS to streamline the process for bidding and improve communications with those involved in the bidding process, providing clear timelines for response and full disclosure of appropriate information required by tenants and buyers to submit a bid, and provide feedback on unsuccessful bids.	Leader of the Council	June 2022
R06	That an assessment of progress against the recommendations in this report be presented to the appropriate Overview & Scrutiny Committee by no later than 30 September 2022.	Leader of the Council	September 2022



1 Introduction and Purpose of Inquiry

- 1.1.1 The City Council owns 26,000 acres, including 40% of all land within the municipal boundary, and around 6,500 property assets (excluding housing, infrastructure and schools). The property portfolio has an asset value of over £2.4 billion and generates £32 million in revenue and £30 million in capital receipts. Of those 6,500 property assets, 330 have historic interest and value.
- 1.1.2 In the foreword to the Property Strategy taken to Cabinet on 13 November 2018, the Leader and then Assistant Director for Inclusive Growth stated
- “By launching this Property Strategy we are taking a long-term strategic approach to how we utilise our unique asset base ensuring we maximise commercial and social returns by re-aligning the City Council’s property to act as a catalyst for development and underpin the social fabric of communities across the city.”
- 1.1.3 This inquiry came about following cases raised amongst members of the Committee and their colleagues about the experiences of people or organisations seeking to buy or rent from the Council. The Committee considered what strategies form the basis of decisions taken by Birmingham Property Services (BPS) in managing the Council’s assets and asked what improvements could be made to the service for the benefit of the Council, its tenants and prospective buyers.
- 1.1.4 Furthermore, the inquiry sought to ask what more could the Council do, through the use and management of its property estate, to ensure small and medium-sized businesses, community organisations and enterprises can play a full part in the city’s economic development and regeneration.
- 1.1.5 In particular it sought to explore the weighting of social value as against financial gain applied by the Council in decisions taken regarding the Council’s assets and estate management, both historically and in a post-Covid-19 economy.
- 1.1.6 Two years on from the launch of the Property Strategy, this inquiry additionally sought to scrutinise progress made against the objectives set out for its delivery.
- 1.1.7 The Terms of Reference of the Inquiry set out to:
- Establish the extent and status of BCC-owned assets as a baseline;
 - Compare progress made on 2018-22 Property Strategy against the aims set out in 2019, to include rationalisation of stock; and the work of the Property & Assets Board and sub-boards;
 - Explore experiences of tenants and prospective purchasers (including SMEs and community organisations) around the entire estate management process to include negotiating and maintaining tenancies, the sale process, and Assets of Community Value listing;



- Explore, by comparison with other local authorities and reviewing research including into community wealth-building, how the Council, the city's businesses and community organisations can get the most out of its property assets, with particular reference to economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and inclusion in local regeneration programmes;
- Explore how Council management of property assets could contribute to wider economic strategies, such as the East Birmingham Inclusive Growth; job retention schemes; job creation; skills and training, looking explicitly at how property contributes to supporting communities and local economies; and
- Explore any equalities considerations.

1.2 Our Approach

- 1.2.1 Before the evidence gathering sessions in November and December 2020, the Committee put out a call for evidence that included an e-mail to all elected members, information on social media and the Council's website. As a result, there were three online livestreamed evidence sessions featuring presentations from the Leader of the Council, the interim Chief Executive, the Assistant Director of Birmingham Property Services and representatives of national, regional and local organisations, as well as individuals and businesses. In addition, 20 pieces of written evidence were submitted to the Committee for consideration.
- 1.2.2 At the Committee's meeting on 27th January 2021, members heard again from the Leader of the Council and had the opportunity to pose questions to him following the previous evidence gathering sessions. A thought-provoking presentation from the Interim Chief Executive, Chris Naylor, on a new approach to property, assets and investment and Jamie Ounan from Innercircle Consulting, exploring national examples of good practice in property development and asset management coupled with social value objectives was also given.
- 1.2.3 Members would like to thank those who provided evidence to the Committee both in writing and in person at an evidence gathering session.

1.3 Key Question

- 1.3.1 Through the call for evidence the inquiry sought to answer the key question "What more could the Council do, through the use and management of its property estate, to ensure small and medium-sized businesses and community organisations and enterprises can play a full part in the city's economic development and regeneration?"
- 1.3.2 Members acknowledged that a balance was needed between generating income for the Council and the need to invest in local communities and build on social value in particular by many of the smaller community organisations and others carrying out vital work in supporting local people. The latter



has been critically apparent during the Covid-19 pandemic where community organisations have proved to be the vital link between local residents and the Council.

- 1.3.3 Furthermore, the Council needs to think about how it can actively support communities to have a say in the future of their neighbourhoods and for smaller enterprises to have a fair chance to engage in property development opportunities.
- 1.3.4 The Property Strategy is structured around four key themes: Investment; Growth and Development; Community; and Operational which set out an approach to guide how assets will be utilised efficiently and effectively to achieve the identified objectives and outputs. The examples cited in Appendix 1 cross multiple categories, which has been acknowledged by Cabinet.



2 Contributions to the Inquiry

2.1 Birmingham Property Services (BPS)

- 2.1.1 Members heard from the Leader of the Council and from the Assistant Director of Birmingham Property Services twice during the evidence gathering sessions and received a substantial amount of supporting information detailing assets contained within the community portfolio, sales figures and Cabinet reports pertaining to the inquiry. An analysis of the evidence and commentary from BPS can be found in more detail in Appendix 2.
- 2.1.2 Members appreciated that the experiences of organisations, businesses and individuals vary greatly and acknowledged that responses to a public call for evidence will invariably highlight more negative than positive experiences. BPS deal with thousands of properties, assets, tenants and developers on a daily basis, and the Committee recognised the excellent work being done to protect and gain best value for the city from its assets. Members wanted to identify what is good practice, as a landlord and a property manager, and where improvements might be made to maximise economic and social value, where appropriate, whilst acknowledging the good practice in existence already within the Council.

2.2 A National Perspective on Good Practice

- 2.2.1 The inquiry was fortunate to also receive written submissions from several national and regional specialist organisations focusing on communities and asset management, ranging from the National Trust and Localise West Midlands through to Localise West Midlands and West Midlands Urban Community Homes.
- 2.2.2 Interim Chief Executive, Chris Naylor, was joined by Jamie Ounan from Innercircle Consulting for a thought-provoking presentation and subsequent discussion on how the Council might “invest in our future” for the purpose of economic growth. Mr Naylor said:

“To raise the living standards of all citizens: So, we are talking about an impactful approach to understanding and accelerating practical ways to make the city more economically prosperous, particularly for those at the bottom of the income distribution.

A just city must also be a liveable city. Hence, we are also talking about decarbonising, halting and reversing ecological impacts for the good of people, the place and the planet.”



- 2.2.3 They reflected on the current position of the Council and the city in terms of the impact of austerity and how local government has had to react to that over the past decade, set against the backdrop of huge city growth that has not translated into wealth which has been retained by the city. They highlighted the opportunities afforded by HS2 and the 2022 Commonwealth Games, and how important it will be to make sure that the prosperity generated by such opportunities is shared equally across the city, geographically and socially.
- 2.2.4 Members were encouraged by the approach proposed to use Council-owned land and assets to achieve goals ranging from home building, tackling carbon emissions, social reinvestment and income generation whilst also reconsidering what we mean by “value for money” and “return on investment”. This is a theme we will return to in section 1.5 of Appendix 1.

2.3 Evidential experience of tenants and prospective buyers

- 2.3.1 Evidence was received in writing from individuals acting in a personal capacity, from community groups interested in local assets for community use, from developers, heritage groups, local members, national charities and organisations as well as existing Council tenants. A list of those who submitted evidence can be found on page 14.
- 2.3.2 Oral evidence was presented through virtual evidence gathering sessions utilising the Microsoft Teams platform and livestreamed via the Council's web-streaming service on 11th November and 9th December 2020 and 27th January 2021.

2.4 Key Findings

- 2.4.1 Evidence received in advance and in person at the sessions largely reflected negative or frustrated experiences, which is perhaps not unexpected in terms of the motivation behind people contributing to an inquiry of this nature.
- 2.4.2 The issues highlighted have been grouped into the following themes as there was distinct crossover among the evidence collected from contributors:
- Communications from BPS
 - Partnership working with wards and councillors
 - Maintenance of assets and procurement
 - Joined up approach with other Council services and treatment of community buyers
 - Value and how it is defined
 - Role of community organisations in economic recovery
- 2.4.3 These are set out in detail in Appendix 1 and contributed to the recommendations identified.



3 Conclusion and Next Steps

- 3.1.1 The Committee will add the recommendations as set out at the beginning of this report and below to its work programme and commit to tracking them to the deadlines agreed with the Executive.
- 3.1.2 Whilst there is evidence of good practice within the Council and a commitment to address issues identified, there are also examples of good practice in other local authorities, such as Preston and Manchester, as well as other organisations that Birmingham can learn from closer to home, like Witton Lodge Community Association. A joined-up approach with a strong asset transfer policy is imperative to successful community asset transfers and this includes good principles based on long term partnership collaboration and commissioning. This is something which the Committee would encourage the Executive to explore in more depth.
- 3.1.3 The Committee found issues with compliance and governance in particular with the overall Property Strategy and disposal reports to Cabinet, in that they were not aligned with other key drivers such as the Community Cohesion Strategy, Birmingham Development Plan, East Birmingham Growth Strategy or localism and neighbourhood work. We suggest that this needs to be revised in line with the Cabinet report on 'Investing In Our Future' as part of a health check part way through the strategy lifecycle (R01) and ensure that surplus property procedures do not remain opaque and unscrutinised.

R01	As part of a health check on the Property Strategy, the Leader is asked to review the progress made on the analysis and development of the community portfolio.	Leader of the Council	September 2022
------------	---	-----------------------	----------------

- 3.1.4 The Committee would wish to see the Property Strategy more fully aligned to the Council's holistic agenda, not being seen simply as having a sole, revenue-generation function. These assets are part of how the Council can deliver for the people of Birmingham and should be seen (and assessed) as such. Assets often 'sit' within directorates and therefore risk being silo-ed rather than joining up to support multiple Council agendas. In addition, the Committee wishes to see more collaboration with elected members in making local decisions around local assets and in developing neighbourhood plans post Covid (R02 & R03).

Ref	Recommendation	Responsibility	Completion Date
R02	Recognising the key role many community organisations played in response to the Covid-19 crisis, and the impact the pandemic had on so many local centres and high streets, the Leader is asked to ensure that the Chief Executive and Director of Strategy, Equalities and Partnerships develop a clear strategic framework for community wealth building and	Leader of the Council	September 2022



Ref	Recommendation	Responsibility	Completion Date
	inclusive growth, based on the Levelling Up strategy.		
R03	The Leader is asked to explore and implement transparent, open and consultative ways in which communities and ward councillors can be better involved in decisions around assets in the community portfolio. The Executive is also asked to think about how it can actively support communities to have a say in the future of their neighbourhood and report back to Committee in September 2022.	Leader of the Council Cabinet Member for Homes & Neighbourhoods	September 2022

3.1.5 Communication is clearly key to relationships with tenants and prospective buyers, as well as with elected members, and the Committee welcomes the commitment made in the 27th January 2021 meeting by the Assistant Director of Property to address existing identified communications issues and seek ways in which the Council can be more open, transparent and inclusive in its dealings (R04).

R04	The Leader to ensure Birmingham Property Services (BPS) improve the channels of communication and engagement with existing tenants and prospective buyers, by creating a portal on their website with access to information and deadlines, signposting to "how to" guides and help with navigating the process from start to finish.	Leader of the Council	June 2022
------------	--	-----------------------	-----------

3.1.6 In addition, the Committee requested the Leader explore streamlining the process for bidding and improving communications with those involved in the bidding process, to include feedback on unsuccessful bids. Clear timelines for response and full disclosure of appropriate information required by tenants and buyers was also cited as a needed improvement to the service as evidence was presented that suggested this was not consistent and could have led to more favourable outcomes for bidders and the Council had it been received at the time (R05).

Ref	Recommendation	Responsibility	Completion Date
R05	The Leader to ask BPS to streamline the process for bidding and improve communications with those involved in the bidding process, providing clear timelines for response and full disclosure of appropriate information required by tenants and buyers to submit a bid, and provide feedback on unsuccessful bids.	Leader of the Council	June 2022
R06	That an assessment of progress against the recommendations in this report be presented to the appropriate Overview & Scrutiny	Leader of the Council	September 2022



Ref	Recommendation	Responsibility	Completion Date
	Committee by no later than 30 September 2022.		

Motion

That the recommendations R01 to R06 be approved, and that the Executive be requested to pursue their implementation with an initial assessment brought to Overview & Scrutiny no later than 30 September 2022.



Members of the Committee would like to thank all those who gave their time and contributed to this report with verbal or written evidence:

- Cllr Ian Ward, Leader of the Council
- Cllr Phil Davis as Jewellery Quarter Development Trust chair and Heritage Champion
- Cllr Shabrana Hussain, Sparkbrook ward
- Cllr Zhor Malik, Balsall Heath West ward
- Cllr Karen McCarthy, Bournbook and Selly Park ward
- Chris Naylor, Interim Chief Executive
- Kathryn James, Assistant Director, Property Services, Birmingham City Council
- Karen Cheney, Integrated Head of Services for the Neighbourhood Support and Development Unit
- Jamie Ounan, Innercircle consulting
- John Newson, Balsall Heath is our Planet
- Birmingham Friends of the Earth (BFOE)
- Aylesford Hall Committee
- Patricia Hollinshead, Manningford Hall
- Stuart Holt, Javelin Block
- Barry Toon & Richard Batley, Community Partnership 4 Selly Oak (CP4SO)
- Janet Down, Stechford Baptist Church
- Mohammed Shafique, Ashiana
- Alex McDonagh, Montgomery Street Cooperative
- Sue Fownes, Friends Institute
- Lois Maguire, Northfield Neighbourhood Network Scheme
- Abigail Ryan, West Midlands Urban Community Homes
- Meena Bharadwa, Locality
- John Morris, Localise West Midlands
- Matt Doran, Lucy Reid – National Trust
- Joe Holyoak, Friends of Moseley Road Baths and Birmingham and West Midlands Group of the Victorian Society



Appendix 1: Contributions to the Inquiry

The experiences witnessed by the inquiry are in large part reflective of cases raised with members locally and can be grouped into the broad categories set out below.

1.1 Communication from Birmingham Property Services (BPS)

- 1.1.1 Much of the evidence presented suggested that communication with the service is clearly a key issue. Organisations, individuals and councillors repeatedly raised the frustration they experienced in obtaining consistent and helpful information from the service in respect of assets for sale or rental or in progressing maintenance issues.
- 1.1.2 Those giving evidence emphasised that a lack of communication and feedback on failed bids was also of major concern, especially when compared to their dealings with other core cities.
- 1.1.3 Members heard that those interested in acquiring a building for charitable and community benefit would find it helpful if a list of available assets and buildings were published ahead of being put up for sale. This would enable those interested (such as community groups, SMEs, entrepreneurs and others) to make an informed choice with advanced notice. This was a point reiterated by Matt Doran and Lucy Reid from the National Trust in their written submission. They also observed that providing clear signposting for organisations to know who to approach within the Council would be of great benefit. It would also help transparency as it was felt that currently there was no community or tenant consultation before buildings appear on an auction site.
- 1.1.4 Wide-ranging evidence was presented by community organisations and tenants that back this up:
 - Written evidence submitted by tenants of the Friends' Institute outlined a plethora of issues exacerbated by poor communication with them as tenants and then prospective buyers, ranging from lack of notice of closure of the building due to Covid-19 (when tenants could have provided much needed emergency help for the community from there if they had been permitted to access the building) through to not having been informed about the changes being brought about by disposal of the building through the "submission of interest" process, despite having made an initial submission, and exclusion of tenants from promotion of council-organised events highlighting the venue. Other issues are highlighted under the Maintenance of Assets section below from 1.3 onwards.
 - Montgomery Street Co-operative is a diverse group of around 25 enterprises employing up to 80 people. They rent small affordable units from Birmingham City Council (BCC) at the Montgomery Street Business Centre on the Grand Union Canal at Sparkbrook. The site is Birmingham's last remaining business start-up hub. Members heard from Alex McDonagh on behalf of the Co-operative about some of the issues in relation to the future of their premises



that has led to uncertainty and anxiety, such as attempts to sell the site without consultation with them as sitting tenants.

- Communication failures, including no acknowledgement of a letter from the local MP in support of the Co-operative to Birmingham Property Services (BPS) and the Assistant Director of Inclusive Growth as well as a lack of consultation with members of the cooperative around the sale of the site were cited.

1.1.5 More generally, lack of a “golden thread” of two-way communication with BPS through application processes was also raised by many submissions, with applicants unclear about where their proposal had stalled or failed and the reasons why, and sometimes never finding out the final result.

1.1.6 There was strong acknowledgement across the board that there are good officers who are working hard, and of the impact that Covid-19 has made to day-to-day work, but balanced against that is the frustration that they perceive that BPS does not recognise that community cohesion is a priority for the Council, and that community proposals could have contributed towards that goal and helped to build strong communities in many cases.

1.1.7 Examples of this were provided by a number of witnesses, including Javelin Block, the Jewellery Quarter Development Trust and the community groups attempting to purchase the Stechford Cascades site and the library in Selly Oak:

- Giving evidence on 9th December 2020, Stuart Holt of Javelin Block expressed his disappointment over his bid for a property in the Jewellery Quarter to build a contemporary art gallery whilst retaining existing tenants and restoring the building. While he accepted his bid had not been successful, he was frustrated at the lack of engagement with his company by the Council to identify alternative properties for such a high-profile venture, or an exploration of why the bid had been unsuccessful in the first place. He was left with the impression that there was no appetite to invest in young people in the city and felt that his interactions with BPS had been “amateurish”.
- Representing the Jewellery Quarter Development Trust, Cllr Philip Davis also attended the inquiry session on 9th December 2020 and shared a similar story of frustration about efforts by a joint venture partnership which included ward councillors and the local Business Improvement District (and subsequently a commercial partner) to acquire for development a site at Vyse Street Triangle for a design and skills centre focusing on the heritage of the Jewellery Quarter and the concentration of associated businesses there.
- There were some concerns from the applicants that the Council's sales prospectus misrepresented the local planning regime and the Jewellery Quarter Conservation Area requirements. When the application proved unsuccessful, no response to their proposal seeking dialogue on a partnership alternative to a purely “highest bidder” sale was received. Furthermore, Cllr Davis stated,



“While we have seen improvements at Birmingham Property Services in the last few years concerning transparency and communications with local organisations, there appears to be no effective mechanism at BPS allowing them to consider property deals, sales and partnerships that, in a limited number of cases, recognise both the commercial and community value of particular sites.”

- Janet Down is a management consultant who has been working with Stechford Baptist Church and others in the local community in bidding for the site of the former Stechford Cascades Leisure Centre. In her evidence to the Committee on 9th December 2020, Ms Down echoed the disappointment expressed by other contributors at a perceived lack of pace and ability to envision the opportunities they could see for community ventures in a deprived ward. Poor communication was again listed as a contributory factor to the frustration in failing to make progress, with applicants finding out second-hand about proposals to use the site for housing. They detected a lack of joined-up working/coordination amongst different departments and officers within BCC (see section 1.4 for further information).
- Mohammed Shafique from Sparkbrook-based community organisation Ashiana gave several examples at the 9th December 2020 session of poor communication from BPS when the organisation was trying to acquire buildings, including some in poor state of repair which they offered to improve. In these examples Mr Shafique again expressed frustration at requests being ignored, alleged false information was given about the provenance of buildings and he questioned the consistency of BPS’s decision-making process where some properties appeared to be sold below market value or without being openly advertised. He had worked closely with ward councillors in pursuing some of these applications. In her evidence to the session, Meena Bharadwa from Locality praised the work of Ashiana as a beacon of best practice as a community anchor organisation helping with a rapid response to the current crisis.

- 1.1.8 BPS Officers acknowledged that communication is an area which needs improvement, both in terms of promotion of properties for disposal but also with ward councillors and tenants. The response from BPS is presented in more detail in Appendix 2.
- 1.1.9 In his contribution Interim Chief Executive Chris Naylor shared a vision for how the Council could address the disconnect between how it has historically operated and how it should, by suggesting the Council seeks to increase the size and skills of Capital Delivery, Property Management and Building Development teams; develop creative minds who can identify the opportunities; and harness collaborative minds to work with communities to realise opportunities. He further advocated for persuasive communicators who can ensure the Government continues to invest in our infrastructure; commercial minds that can negotiate the deals that fit with the Inclusive Growth ethos; tenacious minds who are outstanding at execution – ensuring schemes are built to high standards; and creative asset managers who can manage with the inclusive growth ethos: meanwhile blending commercial rents for those that can afford it with alternative models that bring social and community benefits.



1.2 Partnership working with wards and councillors

- 1.2.1 Good ward councillors know their wards, businesses and community groups, hopefully better than anyone. Evidence received by the inquiry from a number of ward councillors from all parties suggested that it is not routine that they are informed in any detail about property or land in their wards owned by the Council or being made available for sale apart from a very brief tick-box exercise shortly before disposals are approved.
- 1.2.2 John Newson representing community group “Balsall Heath is our Planet” worked with local ward member Councillor Shabrana Hussain to object about the sale of a small plot of land which provides access to a park in the ward. No one had been aware the plot of land was available for sale, and even the new owner has subsequently discovered it is impossible to develop it, since it is shown as part of the park in the Neighbourhood Plan, hence planning permission to build on it has been refused. If it had been flagged prior to sale, these issues might have come to light and its sale avoided. As a result, it has now been left unused.
- 1.2.3 Selly Oak and Bournbrook ward Councillor Karen McCarthy presented written evidence to the inquiry about the uneven experiences with well-loved buildings in her ward, since the disposal process does not always connect well with covenants and the planning process. For example, local residents are unhappy that the Selly Oak Institute has ended up as a furniture warehouse, despite understanding that the disposal limited future use to educational or community uses.
- 1.2.4 Royal British Legion Kings Norton is a local landmark in Druids Heath. The land is owned by the Council on a long-term lease. The Legion and Social Club have been closed for a number of years, and the site has lain derelict. Plans for a Chinese restaurant have fallen through due to Covid. The site is the subject of much local interest. However, getting information about the status of the site, and the leaseholder's plans from BPS, has not always proven straightforward. This has improved recently but is still reliant on a proactive approach from the local councillor, Councillor Julien Pritchard, rather than having a system for keeping councillors and the local community updated.

1.3 Maintenance of assets and procurement

- 1.3.1 In its early days in the 1980s, Montgomery Street Business Centre was managed by what was then the Council's Economic Development Department. The site was well maintained and managed with picnic tables, planted areas and a patrolled security presence. Later, in the 2010s, management was transferred to BPS. The submission asserted that this change in management brought with it a decline in the material condition of the site and a lack of transparency and accountability. Tenants were repeatedly told by the estate manager that there was ‘no money in the budget to carry out repairs on site’, and that the rationale for the disposal of the site was based on the fact that the costs of managing it outweighed the revenue generated. Many tenants chose to rent units from the Council



on the basis that they assumed a public and civic landlord would have more integrity than private landlords and it would be a “safe bet for us to grow our enterprises there”.¹

- 1.3.2 Evidence presented to the Committee detailed a number of issues including a broken security gate which has resulted in the site being plagued by anti-social behaviour, theft and fly-tipping. Tenants were contacted by the estate manager shortly after the gate was broken and asked to raise £20,000 themselves to pay for the cost of the replacement but they were not permitted to source repairs themselves due to the Council’s procurement procedures. The security gate remains broken and unlockable five years later and the alternative security measures are inadequate. In addition, tenants have had to undertake essential urgent repairs to roofs and windows themselves rather than wait for the Council to act.
- 1.3.3 Hollymoor Community Centre in south Birmingham faces a similar issue with the Council’s procurement rules making it difficult to carry out affordable repairs. It is currently used as a nursery and local community centre, however it is being underutilised due to a broken boiler system and major outstanding roof repairs. Staff at the centre obtained three separate quotations from the private sector for repair of the boiler, which ranged from £60,000 to £90,000. However, the Council’s contracted supplier quoted £425,000 for the same repair. Through this inquiry it has become apparent that this isn’t an isolated example but could be a significant reason for many Council assets being neglected across the City Council’s extensive property portfolio. The centre has much potential to be a real asset for the community and the local councillor felt it would be beneficial to allow them to apply for funding directly from the Council to pay for repair costs, thereby saving the Council significant costs, creating social value and generating a healthy return on investment for the Council in the long term. Unfortunately, legal restrictions mean that this approach is not permitted where the Council is the landlord of a property and is bound within our legal obligations around procurement and the use of approved specific contractors.
- 1.3.4 Tenants at the Friends Institute in Highgate (Love Light Healing Trust) also highlighted various issues as tenants in their written submission and noted their constant fear of the premises being sold for development whilst they were undertaking many repairs and improvements at their own cost, as well as not being allowed to repair the heating and hot water system themselves due to the aforementioned procurement restrictions that Montgomery Street and Hollymoor tenants faced, which resulted in some members leaving the project.
 - They discovered essential repairs were necessary throughout the entire building to make it a safe and accommodating space for the community, from the bad state of walls, doors and floors in each room, to no electricity in some rooms (or dangerous electrics, if present).
 - Upon further investigation one of the Trust’s founding members (a professional builder and roofer) assessed that the “Caretaker’s Flat” part of the property in particular was in a seriously dilapidated state, having been empty for five years. The Trust had plans to refurbish the

¹ Written submission by Montgomery Street Co-Operative



house to its original era as a heritage project, with a functioning educational community kitchen with a low carbon retro-refit; re-instate the original fireplace/range and use the kitchen to serve the tenants of the Friends Institute as it had done and enable them to revive the cafe.

- The Grade II listed status required careful considerate work on an already very abandoned property, and the Trust had not anticipated the amount of problems that needed remedy. They were unable to secure the financial resources to relieve some of the financial burden which was compounded by the Council not allowing them to replace the heating system themselves. On top of these issues was the ever-present fear of the termination of the lease and the property being sold.

- 1.3.5 There are multiple examples of Council-owned buildings not in use due to health and safety-related issues and so community groups cannot use these assets. However, the Committee were told that the costs associated with repair and maintenance are prohibitive to local groups if they are obliged to use the Council's procured provider (Acivico), and this has proved to be too expensive in comparison to the market price for the same service. In addition to this, submissions referred to continuing maintenance problems on assets leased from the Council. With the Council under severe financial pressure, there is an unavoidable tension between revenue savings and capital receipts through the sale of Council assets. With assets sold it relieves the ongoing costs of maintenance associated with ownership and it was felt that this was an option that was favoured by the Council in most cases.
- 1.3.6 Members were concerned that where assets have been neglected and sold off at a lower value it ultimately costs the Council money in lost potential revenue. This is of particular concern with historic and landmark buildings and those where repair costs are affected by a conservation deficit.

1.4 Joined up approach with other Council services and treatment of community buyers

- 1.4.1 Examples provided by Northfield Neighbourhood Network Scheme indicated that the constituency has numerous empty or underused venues while those in use save the public sector purse thousands of pounds by offering local services and keeping people in their own homes longer, supporting mental health as well as physical health.
- 1.4.2 Community buyers told the inquiry that they feel undervalued by the Council when they are outbid or expected to "jump through hoops" to no avail when trying to find a venue. Further, they report that communication with Housing and Property Services teams is difficult and costs are high, or groups are expected to take on responsibility for full building maintenance, rent, bills, utilities and then try and get funding for staffing, which can result in projects failing to get off the ground.
- 1.4.3 There is also a perception that corporate purchasers get better treatment from BPS. For example, Tiverton Baths was disposed of speedily to University of Birmingham, who have reopened it as a gym.



It is taking far longer to get agreement for local community groups in the same area to take on the old Selly Oak library building, despite the conditions and covenants ruling out most other uses.

- 1.4.4 Community Partnership 4 Selly Oak (CP4SO) wanted to revive a cluster of Grade II listed buildings including the abandoned Selly Oak Library as an Asset of Community Value. They stated that there had been no upkeep, care or maintenance by the Council and the site had been vandalised. There remain outstanding issues around the status of the site and the Charity Commission and Trust which are yet to be fully resolved and communications between various parts of the Council and CP4SO have been patchy and not joined up. Once again, the question raised by a community organisation was whether the market price counts for more than the social value of an asset.
- 1.4.5 Locality were commissioned by the Neighbourhood Development and Support Unit (NDSU) to carry out research with a sample of small and medium-sized community organisations and key stakeholders across Birmingham in June 2020. Two of the key aims of the work were to understand relationship changes between community organisations and the Council brought about by the Covid-19 crisis and to identify the roles community organisations can play in city-wide recovery, in tandem with relevant agendas such as inclusive growth.²
- 1.4.6 The report referenced responses which indicated how they had experienced a “commercial” approach to Community Asset Transfer rather than one focused on a long-term investment in a community organisation. One stakeholder observed a difference in relationships between the “social” and “economic” side of the Council, and others said they struggled to build relationships with the Council.
- 1.4.7 Community organisations were keen to highlight learning from this crisis period to support a changing relationship with the Council. They spoke about the need for more investment for and recognition of local infrastructure. Some of the organisations had been the local connector for many years; supporting the development of resident-led and smaller community organisations and questioned the logic of not starting with the community when deciding Council strategy.

1.5 Value and how it is defined (level playing field)

- 1.5.1 In her evidence the Integrated Head of Services for the Neighbourhood Support and Development Unit (NSDU) Karen Cheney, told the inquiry about the development of a bespoke toolkit to measure the social value of an organisation and impact of a proposed Community Asset Transfer which valued and measured activities previously not valued or undervalued against the Council’s current priorities. Whilst by no means perfect, the tool does emphasise the need to take account of the contribution and value of organisations and their tangible worth in the delivery of desired outcomes in the community or neighbourhoods.

² Locality (2020) “Birmingham’s Collaborative Neighbourhoods: A snapshot of the community-led response to coronavirus and what this means for resetting the civic and community relationship”



- 1.5.2 Inequalities in relation to ownership of assets was highlighted as part of the inquiry. The Council's priorities and objectives include improving inequality and encouraging growth in deprived areas such as East Birmingham and it was suggested that the city could use Community Asset Transfer (CAT) as a way of addressing this and improving local regeneration, as well as requiring consideration of wider social value in commercial disposals.
- 1.5.3 National Trust's written submission recommended the Council seek to actively engage partners and stakeholders in Birmingham and beyond, to look – actively – at how the whole portfolio can deliver for the people of Birmingham and not just in terms of monetary value:
- “Opportunities for different types of revenue generation and public benefit are being missed, where some collective and creative thinking could transform these assets for the benefit of communities, for different forms of revenue generation, and for the betterment of the city's significant heritage estate – e.g. assets in parks such as Cannon Hill which are currently liabilities, but could easily be transformed to generate income to support the park.”
- 1.5.4 Moseley Road Baths (MRB) is a case in point. It is a local resource highly valued by the community, which has contributed greatly for over one hundred years to community cohesion and community health in Balsall Heath but for many years was threatened with closure by the Council as the costs of repairing and maintaining it became untenable. A successful campaign was mounted to save the baths and has created a community asset run by the community for the community with the Council as a partner in the coalition. As Trustee for the Moseley Road Baths CIO, Joe Holyoak, said
- “In Balsall Heath, a deprived district in many ways, MRB has become an element of local pride, and a promise for a better future. Although there is yet a long way to go, it is a remarkable case study of what can be achieved when the Council replaces a negative approach with a positive and cooperative approach and works creatively together with other ambitious partners towards a shared target of community benefit and environmental improvement.”
- 1.5.5 Aylesford Hall is a volunteer-run community hall in Shard End. As a non-profit organisation, it can offer lower hire rates, in keeping with the needs of the local community. It is an essential and invaluable beacon of the local community and has been for many years. It is exceptionally well-managed and maintained, with minimal intervention from the Council, and at virtually no cost to the city of Birmingham. In these unprecedented times, communities need hope and support, which can be found through community venues like this. They hope that Birmingham City Council recognises that the ever-changing needs of society does not always mean the need for change. Sometimes it needs things to stay as they are, to offer familiarity and reliability.



“What would there be to gain if Aylesford Hall were to be sold off? A relatively small sum of money for a tiny piece of land, where a couple of shoe-box houses could be built, not ideally suited to the family requirements in the area”.³

- 1.5.6 Similarly, at Manningford Hall in Druids Heath there is a fear among community users that the property's future is not safe. There is no evidence that this is the case. However, the reliance on these community venues that are often run by volunteers from within the community has become even more apparent during the response to the pandemic. People are therefore naturally protective of these long-standing and familiar assets that are often the only free or low-cost and community-based source of support, education and public activities.
- 1.5.7 Montgomery Street Co-operative told the Committee that they not only provide resources and mutual support for economic resilience in the deprived area of Sparkbrook, but opportunities for community wealth generation that extends and multiplies social value to their local community. They believed that purchase of the site by the Montgomery Street Co-operative would add value to the community in ways that cannot be solely graded on the monetary market value of the site. They did not seek to develop the site as a commercial developer would do but manage the site as the economic hub it was originally intended as, improve it and extend the services available to the local community in a not-for-profit manner. In terms of building back better around Covid-19 recovery and regeneration, Committee members consider the Council should be promoting community-based, collectively-owned and democratically accountable groups such as this.
- 1.5.8 According to an article by the Birmingham Chambers of Commerce⁴, there is now an acute shortage of small affordable units in our city. The costs of relocating their enterprises elsewhere or outside of the city would be prohibitive and result in the break-up of a group of businesses with strong local connections. As a result of this they haven't been able to plan or invest in their businesses to expand or to take on new people to train and employ. In the face of this uncertainty and the absence of assurances, some tenant members have had to leave, and some businesses have unfortunately folded. The impact of the pandemic has further exacerbated this.
- 1.5.9 Birmingham Friends of the Earth (BFOE) have operated out of premises in Digbeth for decades and first started to develop an adjacent patch of derelict land in the 1990s, holding events and doing some wildlife gardening. This has now become Digbeth Community Garden, which is open to the public and contains a variety of ecological projects from beekeeping and composting to a community space for people to sit and enjoy their surroundings in the heart of the city. Ten years ago, a consortium of local organisations including BFOE were interested in setting up a Community Land Trust (CLT) on this land to incorporate affordable housing, workspace and still keep much of the community garden developed from former derelict land. BFOE supported this despite the reduction in garden space because it was an ecological design and incorporated a lot of other social good.

³ Written submission on behalf of Aylesford Hall

⁴ <https://www.greaterbirminghamchambers.com/latest-news/news/2020/2/5/smes-struggling-to-find-new-space-warns-kwb/>



- 1.5.10 While BCC was initially positive about and willing to discuss this pioneering initiative (CLTs are still considered a much-overlooked housing solution in the UK), it always stated that “disposal of this small piece of land could only go to the highest bidder, and the social and environmental benefits could not be taken into consideration”.⁵ The consortium found this frustrating, but then the Council eventually ceased all discussions about the future of this land when HS2 was confirmed as going ahead. Since then, the submission from BFOE contends, positive and small-scale developments all across Digbeth have been blighted, as have many existing businesses as the area has felt as if it was waiting in semi-dereliction.
- 1.5.11 BFOE would like to see a more positive attitude within the Council about social and environmental impacts of land use within its asset strategy. They said:

“Smaller scale land disposal, and allowing community groups access to land, allows for a finer grain of development with a much greater local multiplier and the flourishing of local distinctiveness.”

1.6 Role of community organisations in economic recovery

- 1.6.1 As referenced above, Manningford Hall in Druids Heath is a well-used local community venue run by volunteers. It has been used during the Covid-19 pandemic for emergency community response, with food parcels and hot meals being prepared there to help the vulnerable. As referred to in 1.5.6 above, the local community fear it may be sold off in the future as being of little value in terms of income generation to the city, but its loss would be keenly felt by the many local groups that regularly make use of its low-cost facilities to provide affordable or free services and classes for the neighbourhood.
- 1.6.2 Meena Bharadwa from national membership network Locality gave the inquiry some background on the national policy landscape around community asset ownership and the value of community spaces in good times and in bad. Financial pressures on local authorities in the wake of austerity measures over the last decade combined with cuts to non-statutory services have contributed to the sale and closure of many buildings and spaces in communities across the country.
- 1.6.3 In the face of these threats, Community Asset Transfer (CAT) is an alternative to sale which retains valued local spaces for community benefit. In her report to the inquiry, Ms Bharadwa stated:
- “Having a Community Asset Transfer policy which is strategically embedded within the local authority, alongside council leadership which values the role of community ownership in delivering positive place outcomes, are important factors in securing the long-term local benefits of community ownership.

⁵ Written submission by BFOE



For these councils, asset transfer is more than an ad-hoc solution for individual spaces; it is part of a holistic strategy encompassing benefits to the local economy, community wellbeing, local democracy and service transformation. Indeed, the benefits of community ownership are best realised when it is centred on creating a long-term partnership between enterprising communities and a supportive public sector.”

- 1.6.4 In fact, community ownership could play a pivotal role in local economic regeneration and recovery. It is estimated that community-owned assets contribute £220million⁶ to the economy per annum and offer opportunities for local job creation and training⁷.

“In the context of an economic downturn and potential risk this might bring for existing local spaces, amenities and businesses, community ownership could be a powerful tool for local regeneration and recovery. For example, in the context of the impact of business closures on high streets, community owners can bring innovation, local expertise and accountable governance models, to transform local shops or derelict spaces.”⁸

- 1.6.5 In his presentation to the inquiry, Interim Chief Executive, Chris Naylor, outlined his vision of the Council’s assets and estate as a “means to an end”. He maintained that there remains untapped opportunity in the city that can benefit those who need it, and that as one of the largest landowners in the country the Council can use that land and asset base to help achieve the Council’s aims, such as helping our Route to Zero Carbon objective, supporting culture and the creative and digital industry and building more homes that people need. Moreover, he maintained that more of the financial gains from public sector regeneration investments can be captured and recycled for social reinvestment and that we have an opportunity to reconsider what we mean by “value for money” and “return on investment”, citing East Birmingham Growth Strategy as a good local example, and the Youth Zone in Barking and Dagenham.
- 1.6.6 Presenting alongside Mr Naylor, Jamie Ounan shared examples of good practice in taking a different view of “value”, such as North Somerset Council & Weston General Stores, who sought to reverse the decline in a traditional retail setting by reusing units as workspaces. This approach was rooted in the community and tapped into the existing creative energy to transform an underutilised asset through new ways of working and community wealth building. The Committee were told that this leaves North Somerset Council well-positioned for the world post-Covid when people are looking at

⁶ From submission by Locality, Archer, T. et al. 2019. ‘Our assets, our future.’ Available at: <https://www.powertochange.org.uk/research/assets-future-economicsoutcomes-sustainability-assets-community-ownership/>

⁷ From submission by Locality, Crisp, R. et al. 2016. ‘Community-led approaches to reviewing poverty in neighbourhoods.’ Available at: <https://www4.shu.ac.uk/research/cresr/sites/shu.ac.uk/files/community-led-approaches-to-reducing-poverty-in-neighbourhoods.pdf>

⁸ Written submission by Locality



alternative working environments and patterns and could help boost the local economy whilst also transitioning to a low carbon economy. In this way it addresses multiple council priorities for North Somerset from environmental to economic and social priorities.



Appendix 2: Birmingham Property Services (BPS)

1.1 Property Strategy

- 1.1.1 As part of the inquiry, members expressed their support for the aims and objectives set out in the Property Strategy 2018/2019-2023/24 approved by Cabinet on 13 November 2018 and they acknowledged the twin principles to:

“Utilise property to support the growth agenda, working in partnership with public and private sector partners by reducing constraints and risk, providing confidence, stimulating investment and creating a positive environment for growth...”; and

“Where there is need – enable third parties (non-governmental, not for personal profit, social value-driven partners) to independently deliver the Council’s core objectives, enabling service delivery, developing neighbourhoods, encouraging social cohesion, building capacity, and leveraging external funding through sport, culture and community activities”.

- 1.1.2 Members also had the opportunity to consider the Avison Young report of July 2020 as part of the Council’s own review of the Property Strategy approved in 2018 and the Investment Strategy approved in 2019. The Avison Young report analysed the Council’s asset portfolio and identified recommendations for future direction in terms of asset management, retention or disposal. It was timely in terms of acknowledging the impact of Covid-19 on the market and how that might influence the Council’s approach to managing its portfolio and assets.
- 1.1.3 However, members felt the Avison Young report did not address the two principles of the 2018 Property Strategy cited above. While the Avison Young report’s recommendations are clear about the commercial acumen needed to deal with the Council’s immense asset holdings, members were concerned that the revenue and returns-based approach to the commercial portfolio, as recommended in this report, created a real danger that it excludes the commercial portfolio from considerations of social value and the Council’s core objectives as set out in 1.6.5. They maintained that it should not just be the community, regeneration and operational portfolios that are guided by social value but the entire asset stock and its management.



1.2 Presentation by BPS to the inquiry

- 1.2.1 In a presentation shared with the Committee which accompanied the Property Strategy Cabinet report from November 2018, Assistant Director of Birmingham Property Services, Kathryn James, outlined some of the challenges BPS face in delivering this, namely:
- Property decisions are made locally in the Council, resulting in disjointed delivery
 - Decisions that are based on short-term financial lead rather than long-term strategic and value capture
 - Meeting the City's growth aspirations by addressing the housing shortage
 - Many of the assets are in very poor condition due to budget cuts over the years
 - 80% of the revenue comes from 20% of the 5,900 property interests in the investment portfolio
 - Need to expand commercial experience internally
 - Operational and community stock is not consolidated to strategic advantage
 - 78% of the land owned by the Council is not formally registered
- 1.2.2 The stated aim of the strategy at the time of launch in 2018 was
- “To maximise commercial and social returns through the City Council’s property assets, ensuring they act as a catalyst for development and regeneration initiatives to underpin the social fabric of communities across the city.”
- 1.2.3 Alongside commercial aims such as driving greater returns by developing an investment property portfolio to deliver medium growth in gross income, and utilising land and buildings to unlock development and regeneration aligned with the city’s key growth areas, “Supporting communities by encouraging a ‘Sharing Economy’ and ‘Capacity Building’ through the support of third party organisations to deliver culture, sport, community and neighbourhood activities” was also a stated objective.
- 1.2.4 At the inquiry’s final evidence session on 27th January 2021, the Assistant Director of Birmingham Property Services gave a presentation that demonstrated a reflection and acknowledgement of the criticism that had been levelled at the service by submissions to the inquiry in November and December 2020 and offered some hope that they would be or were already being addressed.
- 1.2.5 In the presentation and during questioning Ms James acknowledged that better partnership working between the Council and communities, including collaboration and consultation on community assets was needed.
- 1.2.6 Furthermore, she spoke passionately about the role of community organisations and assets in supporting economic recovery and in responding to the pandemic. Echoing the testimony of others’ submissions about the key role community halls and buildings had played in the Covid-19 response, Ms James recounted her personal experience in coordinating the food support response for the city



utilising these networks and venues, as well as their use as testing centres, and for providing PPE to our frontline workers, as well as for a variety of other health and wellbeing activities linked to Covid.

- 1.2.7 A key point clarified by Ms James was what was a community asset within the property strategy and how this was not the same as the commercial property portfolio, highlighting how people often confuse the distinction. In addition, she outlined the high levels of SMEs within the commercial portfolio and the work that will be done to support entrepreneurs through reaching out to them and marketing more of what is on offer and what BPS can do to help them.
- 1.2.8 In response to criticism about not knowing who to speak to in the Council around Assets of Community Value (ACV) decisions she was able to identify the creation of a single responsible post within the new Neighbourhood Directorate and promised a more joined-up approach across Council service areas, which will also prevent delays in the process.
- 1.2.9 Work is also underway on developing a 'lighter' Community Asset Transfer (CAT) process that is less time intensive for both the Council and community groups and will be co-ordinated by the Neighbourhoods directorate.
- 1.2.10 Ms James agreed that better engagement was needed for operation and community assets and that decision-making for these would sit with the Cabinet, and that the opportunity for the community to be involved would be via their ward members on surplus declarations.
- 1.2.11 Vitally, she acknowledged that communication had historically been poor and noted the need for improved communication and feedback for unsuccessful bidders. Feedback needs to be improved and streamlined to ensure bidders receive a constructive response on why a bid has been unsuccessful. However, one of the challenges with this is that an asset selected for disposal needs to be reported on to Cabinet to decide on before discussions can take place with bidders. The Cabinet reporting process therefore had implications for commercial confidentiality. BPS are streamlining their reporting process and feedback accordingly and will report back to the Committee on progress.
- 1.2.12 Prior to auctions, a marketing flyer is to be sent to ward members and groups on their mailing list, and improvements to the Property Services website are in train, with links to Council open data to be embedded within it. The website will be used to try and achieve a more level playing field for disposals of assets; however, this does require more resource as it is time consuming and a balance needs to be achieved that also gives the Council best value. This includes looking at the whole of the Council's assets, including land that can be better utilised for community and other use.
- 1.2.13 In addition, the team is working on a joined-up approach with colleagues and partners to tackle wider economic issues and objectives of the Council including the Economic Recovery strategy and East Birmingham Inclusive Growth strategy.
- 1.2.14 Encouraging and supporting under-represented groups or those excluded from getting access to purchasing Council assets can be improved through better communication and advertising of opportunities and will be picked up through the property services update to its website.



- 1.2.15 Ensuring information is digitally accessible will ensure that a wider audience is reached. In addition, tenants' surveys will be reintroduced through the website to collect valuable data on tenant experience and feedback on what people are looking for from the Council.
- 1.2.16 The Leader stressed when he attended the November 2020 meeting that members and officers are keen to learn from best practice elsewhere on both community and commercial property portfolios and reminded the Committee that the Council needs to protect its assets for benefit of the city.

1.3 Conclusion

- 1.3.1 Whilst the Committee welcomed the proposals outlined by the Leader and BPS to address some of the concerns raised during the inquiry, they were disappointed that some of the issues raised by people giving evidence and members were not fully reconciled.
- 1.3.2 They are keen to ensure that the tracking of recommendations set out in this report, together with suggestions made in the spirit of open-mindedness, such as that referred to by the Leader in 1.1.16 above, will be given full consideration outside of this inquiry and genuine attempts made to learn from good practice elsewhere.
- 1.3.3 Finally, as referenced in 1.2.6 above, the recognition by the Assistant Director of Property of the vital role played by community organisations in the pandemic was welcomed by committee members, who share her appreciation of such organisations, who often operate under restricted funds and rely on volunteers and the goodwill of others. As such, the committee would be keen to explore outside of this inquiry ways in which the Council might be better able to support them.



Reference materials

The following information was considered as part of the Inquiry and has been used to compile this report: -

Birmingham City Council Cabinet Report – Property Strategy 2018/2019-2023/24 approved by Cabinet on 13 November 2018

Birmingham City Council Investment Property Portfolio Strategy approved by Cabinet on 30 July 2019

Birmingham City Council Strategic Review Investment Portfolio July 2020 – Avison Young

Birmingham's Collaborative Neighbourhoods: a snapshot of the community-led response to coronavirus and what this means for resetting the civic and community relationship (2020) – report by Locality, commissioned by the Neighbourhood Support and Development Unit at Birmingham City Council

Better Services, Stronger Economy: A keep it local guide for community organisations (2018) – Locality

West Midlands Urban Community Homes (wMUCH) written submission by Abigail Ryan (2020)

Localise West Midlands written submission by Jon Morris, Chair (2020)

National Trust written submission by Matt Doran and Lucy Reid, also referencing the Protecting Community Assets Inquiry: <http://www.protecting-community-assets.org.uk/> which is a useful inquiry into exactly this sort of question that National Trust participated in.

Executive Commentary

Council- Owned Assets

A Report of the Economy and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee

I would like to thank the current Chair and Members of the Economy and Skills Overview & Scrutiny Committee for carrying out this extremely important inquiry. I would also like to thank previous Chairs and Members who have also contributed.

Thanks also to the many members of the public, community organisations and businesses for contributing evidence and thoughts to this important review.

Birmingham City Council owns numerous assets and it is important to distinguish between the investment portfolio and the community portfolio. This report has rightly focussed on the community assets portfolio. I welcome the recommendations to develop more transparent, open and consultative ways in which communities and Ward Councillors can be better involved in decisions around assets in the community portfolio.

Community organisations played an important role in Birmingham's collective response to the Covid-19 crisis and I will ensure that going forward they continue to have a significant role in shaping our neighbourhoods of the future.

Ian Ward

Leader Birmingham City Council

Birmingham City Council

City Council

15 March 2022



Subject: Motions for Debate from Individual Members

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

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

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

A. Councillors Mariam Khan and Liz Clements have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

“This council notes that:

- Birmingham is experiencing a dramatic growth in exempt supported accommodation.
- There are now more than 21,000 exempt units in the city - representing a 20 per cent increase in the last 12 months.
- When delivered well, exempt supported accommodation can play a vital role in supporting people at risk of homelessness and other vulnerable groups, such as those with support needs or disabilities.
- However, in recent years there has been a worrying rise in unscrupulous agencies exploiting gaps in the national regulatory regime to claim higher Housing Benefit levels while providing minimal or no levels of support.
- This has led to a worrying growth of poorly managed, unsafe exempt accommodation, delivering inadequate support, and safeguarding, particularly for people who experience homelessness and have multiple support needs. This often has extremely serious consequences for vulnerable people (including care leavers, victims of domestic abuse and ex-offenders), communities, neighbourhoods, policing, and Local Authority services.
- Currently, local authorities have limited powers to enforce standards where homes are unsafe or poorly managed because registered providers are not subject to houses in multiple occupation (HMO) licensing rules, while the Regulator is constrained by the current reactive focus of consumer regulation.

- Together with Birmingham communities, MPs and responsible providers, this council has led national calls for a tougher regulatory framework to ensure that all homes funded in this way are safe, well-managed, and provide good quality and effective support.
- Further the council welcomes and supports the Birmingham Mail campaign calling on the Government to take urgent action on exempt housing.

Council now resolves to continue lobbying Government, alongside partners at community, local government, and parliamentary level, to secure:

- A review of the current funding model for locally delivered supported housing.
- A government national accreditation requirement supported with additional regulation.
- Greater powers for local authorities to control provision and growth based on each council's Needs assessment.
- Alignment of existing planning and HMO licencing powers to capture supported housing provision.
- Strengthened definitions within current regulations relating to provision of care, support, and supervision.
- Greater enforcement powers to tackle providers who do not effectively manage ASB.

The current system is in urgent need of reform and we believe the Government must act now to ensure that all homes funded in this way are safe, well-managed, and provide good quality and effective support.”

B. Councillors Deirdre Alden and Debbie Clancy have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

“This Council has no confidence in the Executive’s ability to maintain a safe and satisfactory street scene.”