

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

TUESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 14:00 HOURS
IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL HOUSE, VICTORIA SQUARE,
BIRMINGHAM, B1 1BB

A G E N D A

1 NOTICE OF RECORDING

Lord Mayor to advise that this meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Public-I microsite ([please click this link](#)) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Members are reminded they must declare all relevant pecuniary and other registerable interests arising from any business to be discussed at this meeting.

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

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

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

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

3 **MINUTES**

To confirm and authorise the signing of the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2025.

4 **LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(20 minutes allocated) (1400-1420)

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) (1420-1430)

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) (1430-1540)

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)

57 - 66

7 **CITY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS 2025/26**

(5 minutes allocated) (1540-1545)

8 **APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNCIL**

(5 minutes allocated) (1545-1550)

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

67 - 70

9 **APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY RECORDER**

Councillor John Cotton to move the following recommendation:

"That Council resolves:

1. To invite His Honour Judge Andrew Smith KC to accept the appointment as Honorary Recorder of Birmingham during his tenure as Senior Circuit Judge (Resident Judge) at Birmingham Crown Court, in accordance with the Courts Act 1971.

2. That the Lord Mayor make appropriate arrangements to mark the appointment.

71 - 100

10 **EXECUTIVE BUSINESS REPORT - HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE & PUBLIC HEALTH AND TRANSFORMATION, GOVERNANCE & HR**

(45 minutes allocated) (1550-1635)

Councillor Mariam Khan to move the following recommendation:

"That the report be noted by the City Council".

(Break 1635-1705)

101 - 122

11 **SCRUTINY BUSINESS REPORT**

(40 minutes allocated) (1705-1745)

Councillor Sir Albert Bore to move the following recommendation:

"That City Council note the report".

12 **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, TUESDAY,
8 JULY 2025**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL HELD
ON TUESDAY, 8 JULY 2025 AT 1400 HOURS IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT:- Lord Mayor (Councillor Zafar Iqbal) in the Chair.

Councillors

| | | |
|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Akhlaq Ahmed | Deirdre Alden | Robert Alden |
| Raqeeb Aziz | David Barker | Baber Baz |
| Matt Bennett | Jilly Bermingham | Marcus Bernasconi |
| Bushra Bi | Sir Albert Bore | Nicky Brennan |
| Kerry Brewer | Marje Bridle | Martin Brooks |
| Mick Brown | Zaker Choudhry | Maureen Cornish |
| Carmel Corrigan | John Cotton | Phil Davis |
| Adrian Delaney | Diane Donaldson | Barbara Dring |
| Jayne Francis | Sam Forsyth | Ray Goodwin |
| Rob Grant | Colin Green | Fred Grindrod |
| Roger Harmer | Deborah Harries | Kath Hartley |
| Adam Higgs | Des Hughes | Jon Hunt |
| Mumtaz Hussain | Mahmood Hussain | Shabrina Hussain Timothy |
| Huxtable | Mohammed Idrees | Katherine Iroh |
| Ziaul Islam | Morriam Jan | Meirion Jenkins |
| Jane Jones | Mariam Khan | Izzy Knowles |
| Chaman Lal | Bruce Lines | Mary Locke |
| Ewan Mackey | Basharat Mahmood | Majid Mahmood |
| Rashad Mahmood | Lee Marsham | Karen McCarthy |
| Saddak Miah | Gareth Moore | Simon Morrall |
| Richard Parkin | David Pears | Rob Pocock |
| Julien Pritchard | Esher Rai | Lauren Rainbow |
| Darius Sandhu | Jamie Scott | Shafique Shah |
| Rinkal Shergill | Ron Storer | Saima Suleman |
| Jamie Tennant | Sharon Thompson | Paul Tilsley |
| Penny Wagg | Ian Ward | Clifton Welch |
| Alex Yip | Waseem Zaffar | |

NOTICE OF RECORDING

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

16. The Lord Mayor reminded Members that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests relating to any items of business to be discussed at the meeting.
- There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.
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MINUTES

17. It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and –

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2025 be taken as read and confirmed and signed.

LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

18. The Lord Mayor indicated that he had no announcements to make at the meeting.
-

PETITIONS

Petitions Relating to City Council Functions Presented at the Meeting

19. The following petitions were presented:-

(See document No. 1, ‘Additional Meeting Documents’)

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

RESOLVED:-

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

PETITIONS UPDATE

20. A Petitions Update had been made available electronically:-

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

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and

RESOLVED:-

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

QUESTION TIME

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

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

APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

22. The Lord Mayor invited Groups to address the Council to advise of any changes to appointments.

There were no changes to appointments at this meeting.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

23. The Lord Mayor informed City Council that agenda item 10 would be considered at this point of the meeting.

A report of the Independent Chair of the Standards Committee was submitted (See document No. 3, agenda item 10).

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

The Lord Mayor invited Peter Wiseman, Chair of the Standards Committee, to address Council.

A debate ensued.

Councillor Deirdre Alden, spoke during the debate.

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor John Cotton to sum up.

RESOLVED:-

That City Council:

1. Approved the Annual Report of the Standards Committee.

ROUTE TO NET ZERO REPORT 2024

24. A report of the Principle Portfolio Officer, Place, Prosperity and Sustainability Strategy Insight was submitted:- (See document No. 4, agenda item 8).

Councillor Majid Mahmood moved the recommendations which were seconded from the floor

There was one amendment to be debated with the report.

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

Councillor Timothy Huxtable declared a non-pecuniary interest, which was that he was Member of the Conservative Environment Network and of the West Midlands Combined Authority.

A debate ensued.

Councillors Roger Harmer, Julien Pritchard and Mariam Khan spoke during the debate.

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor Majid Mahmood to sum up.

The amendment proposed by Councillor Robert Alden and seconded by Councillor Timothy Huxtable was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be lost.

RESOLVED:-

That City Council:

1. Noted the progress and achievements made in the last 12 months both on the Route to Zero Carbon and City of Nature programmes set out in Appendix 1, alongside wider Council and city decarbonisation activities.
2. Noted the level of Council's greenhouse gas emissions, calculated in accordance with the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol reporting standards set out in para 4.2.
3. Noted the Birmingham's City's greenhouse gas territorial emissions using the UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics set out in para 4.3.
4. Noted that the the Route to Net Zero team would continue

submitted:-

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

Councillor Katherine Iroh moved the recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Jon Hunt.

A debate ensued.

Councillors Sharon Thompson, Simon Morrall and Adam Higgs, spoke during the debate.

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor Katherine Iroh to sum up.

RESOLVED:-

That the Council:

1. Considered the Inquiry's key findings and requested the Executive implements the Inquiry's recommendations;
2. Confirmed the timeframe for when long term workforce planning for each directorate would be completed;
3. Analysed key findings from exit interviews with leavers aged 24 and under to understand why approximately 50% were leaving within their first 12 months;
4. Provided both a corporate and directorate summary of how these workforce plans would deliver on corporate objectives, with a specific focus on how they would increase numbers of staff aged 24 and under and informed by exit interviews;
5. Advised how this would be monitored in the future to ensure workforce plans were on track and remained focused on delivering corporate objectives;
6. Ensured there was a corporate list setting out the number and directorate/ service for all early entrants including apprentices and graduates;
7. Advised when the review of the Attraction Policy would be completed and the timescale for the implementation of a new policy;
8. Implemented a new Attraction Policy including refreshed careers content on the Council website, information to schools, colleges and universities; attendance at Job Fairs, and with a focus on how local government careers could deliver social impact;
9. Reviewed how work experience opportunities were accessed to ensure it was fair and equitable to all young people in Birmingham, and set out timeframes for how any improvements would be delivered;

10. Delivered a refreshed work experience programme;
11. Provided a timeframe for when Council would be able to guarantee interviews for care leavers and have appropriate support in place. This should include wraparound support for new starters;
12. Refreshed the application process for roles at the Council including:
 - a. Resetting the different roles in recruitment and in particular, the role of HR, OD and Transformation as Subject Matter Experts in support of individual hiring managers;
 - b. Reviewing the time taken from advert to onboarding to enable joiners to start quicker;
 - c. All future job adverts and job descriptions to be reviewed by HR, OD and Transformation in line with directorate workforce plans;
 - d. All future job adverts and job descriptions were inclusive by ensuring any qualifications listed were necessary and all language used realistically sets out the role;
 - e. The introduction of wider application tools including phone based applications;
 - f. Reviewing managers' unconscious bias training to ensure age and care experience as protective characteristics were recognised;
 - g. Ensured applicant data was available and used to baseline current recruitment of young people and monitor any future impact;
13. Mapped out the current employment programmes delivered through the Council or partners and work with partners to adapt or design courses which create a talent pipeline to meet our corporate needs;
14. Considered options for how a corporately led approach for early entrant programmes could be implemented; and if this was not possible, advise what mitigations could be put in place to enable these programmes to contribute more effectively towards corporate objectives;
15. Considered introducing a challenge that all future recruitments should clearly state why this role could not be undertaken through an apprenticeship or other early entrant programme. This should be considered once the Workforce Strategy and Early Career Strategy have been completed;

16. Explored how further apprenticeship levy could be transferred to SMEs as part of new procurement arrangements;

17. Set out clearly future career pathways supported by accredited training in the Council long term workforce plans to create a talent pipeline; and

18. Confirmed a manager package was in place to support staff on early entrant programmes. This should include (but not exclusively):

a. Ensuring all managers promoted the Early Careers Network and provided time for staff to participate in network activities;

b. Surveying all early entrants to confirm how they were being supported by their managers and whether there were opportunities to improve this; and

c. Reviewing working at home practices to ensure all staff had access to regular in-person working to support wellbeing and professional development.

19. Agreed that the Executive reports on its progress on these recommendations to the Economy, Skills and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee every 6 months and with the first report in January 2026.

DECISIONS NOT ON THE FORWARD PLAN AND THOSE AUTHORISED FOR IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION

29. A report of the Interim Head of Scrutiny and Committee Services was submitted:-

(See document No. 7, agenda item 12).

Councillor John Cotton moved the recommendation which was seconded from the floor.

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor John Cotton to sum up.

RESOLVED:-

1. That the Council noted the report.

MOTIONS FOR DEBATE FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

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

A. Councillors Matt Bennett and Timothy Huxtable had given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

(See document No. 8, agenda item 13)

Councillor Matt Bennett moved the Motion which was seconded by Councillor Timothy Huxtable.

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

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

Councillor Colin Green moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Zaker Choudhry.

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

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

Councillor Majid Mahmood moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Lauren Rainbow.

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

(See document No. 11, 'Amendments – City Council').

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

A debate ensued.

Councillors David Barker, Richard Parkin, Clifton Welch, Karen McCarthy and Ewan Mackey spoke during the debate.

The Lord Mayor called upon Councillor Matt Bennett to reply.

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

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

Names were called and the Chamber doors were locked.

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

For the amendment (42)

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Katherine Iroh | Ray Goodwin | Diane Donaldson |
| Carmel Corrigan | Karen McCarthy | Sharon Thompson |
| Saima Suleman | Nicky Brennan | Shafique Shah |
| Saddak Miah | Rob Pocock | Ziaul Islam |
| Jamie Tennant | John Cotton | Shabrina Hussain |
| Basharat Mahmood | Marje Bridle | Mahmood Hussain |
| Lauren Rainbow | Mohammed Idrees | Waseem Zaffar |
| Rashad Mahmood | Phil Davis | Majid Mahmood |
| Mick Brown | Jamie Scott | Rinkal Shergill |
| Kath Hartley | Raqeeb Aziz | Sir Albert Bore |
| Chaman Lal | Jane Jones | Akhlaq Ahmed |
| Mary Locke | David Barker | Jilly Birmingham |
| Esther Rai | Barbara Dring | Fred Grindrod |
| Lee Marsham | Marcus Bernasconi | Bushra Bi |

Against the amendment (29)

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Matt Bennett | Paul Tisley | Deirdre Alden |
| Gareth Moore | Alex Yip | Ewan Mackey |
| Roger Harmer | Jon Hunt | Baber Baz |
| Martin Brooks | Timothy Huxtable | Adrian Delaney |
| Adam Higgs | Bruce Lines | Penny Wagg |
| Simon Morrall | Julien Pritchard | Colin Green |
| Deborah Harries | Clifton Welch | Robert Alden |
| David Pears | Richard Parkin | Morriam Jan |
| Izzy Knowles | Zaker Choudhry | Darius Sandhu |
| Kerry Brewer | Rob Grant | |

Abstentions (0)

The proposed amendment was carried.

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

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

RESOLVED:-

“Council calls on the Executive to consider the release of additional Highways PFI reserves to fund increased pothole repairs and road resurfacing across the local authority area during the current financial year, as well as committing to efficiently spending the full allocation of 2025/26 PFI funding (including credits and local indexed linked contribution).

Council notes that an additional £25 million of funding from the PFI contract funds, including £10 million for road repairs and £5 million for pavement repairs, is programmed for delivery this financial year, and that the PFI reserve available to the council is dependent on a number of factors and the total reserve amount is variable and is there to protect the council against unexpected risk and expenditure on the highway network.

Council believes that the release of funding will enable more of this work to take place sooner, reducing long-term costs and improving safety.

Council also calls on the Executive to speed up the promised upgrades to street lighting using Clean Air Zone funds allocated in the budget, noting that the report green-lighting £5.5 million of investment in upgraded street lighting is set to approved in the coming weeks”

B. Councillors Deborah Harries and Jon Hunt had given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

(See document No. 12, agenda item 13)

Councillor Deborah Harries moved the Motion which was seconded by Councillor Jon Hunt.

Councillor Jon Hunt declared an interest which was that he was an officer of the 3 Bs Neighbourhood Planning Forum.

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure, Councillors Paul Tilsley and Baber Baz gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

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

Councillor Paul Tilsley moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Baber Baz.

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure, Councillors Rob Pocock and Jamie Tennant gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No. 14, ‘Amendments – City Council’).

Councillor Rob Pocock moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Jamie Tennant.

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure, Councillors Gareth Moore and Richard Parkin gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No. 15, 'Amendments – City Council').

Councillor Gareth Moore moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Richard Parkin.

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

(See document No. 16, 'Amendments – City Council').

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

Due to time constraints there was no time for debate.

The Lord Mayor invited Councillor Deborah Harries to sum up.

The amendment to the Motion in the names of Councillors Paul Tilsley and Baber Baz having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

The amendment to the Motion in the names of Councillors Rob Pocock and Jamie Tennant having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

The amendment to the Motion in the names of Councillors Gareth Moore and Richard Parkin having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be lost.

Names were called and the Chamber doors were locked.

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

For the amendment (32)

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Matt Bennett | Paul Tilsley | Deirdre Alden |
| Gareth Moore | Ewan Mackey | Roger Harmer |
| Jon Hunt | Baber Baz | Martin Brooks |
| Timothy Huxtable | Adrian Delaney | Adam Higgs |
| Bruce Lines | Penny Wagg | Simon Morrall |
| Julien Pritchard | Kath Hartley | Colin Green |
| Sir Albert Bore | Deborah Harries | Clifton Welch |
| Robert Alden | David Pears | Richard Parkin |
| Morriam Jan | Jane Jones | Izzy Knowles |
| Zaker Choudhry | Darius Sandhu | Kerry Brewer |
| Rob Grant | Bushra Bi | |

Against the amendment (37)

Katherine Iroh
Diane Donaldson
Saima Suleman
Saddak Miah
Jamie Tennant
Basharat Mahmood
Lauren Rainbow
Rashad Mahmood
Jamie Scott
Chaman Lal
David Barker
Barbara Dring
Marcus Bernasconi

Ray Goodwin
Karen McCarthy
Nicky Brennan
Rob Pocock
John Cotton
Marje Bridle
Mohammed Idrees
Phil Davis
Rinkal Shergill
Akhlaj Ahmed
Jilly Brmingham
Fred Grindrod

Carmel Corrigan
Sharon Thompson
Shafique Shah
Ziaul Islam
Shabrana Hussain
Mahmood Hussain
Waseem Zaffar
Majid Mahmood
Raqeeb Aziz
Mary Locke
Esther Rai
Lee Marsham

Abstentions (1)

Sam Forsyth

The proposed amendment was lost.

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

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

RESOLVED:-

“The Council notes that on 17 June 2025 the corporate plan was approved which included The Birmingham Promise. The commitments are:

1. Be a reliable, visible partner, true to our word. Explain what we can and cannot do.
2. Ensure everything we deliver is of the highest standards and for the benefit of local people.
3. Commit to tackling inequality and publish data on the extent to which what we do is helping to close the gap.
4. Put Brummies at the heart of what we do, co-producing solutions and working in true partnership with organisations and citizens.
5. Listen to the people of Birmingham, act on what they say and be held accountable.

Council believes that, to fulfil these commitments, councillors and front-line council officers need to be visible in communities and be well briefed on strategic and local matters

Council notes with regret that cutting ward meetings back to just 1 meeting per year is counterintuitive to the delivery of the Birmingham promise and good local democracy. Council welcomes the announcement by Home Secretary Yvette Cooper on 10th April 2025, to re-energise neighbourhood policing including extra resources and a Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee providing for a named local contact and active local presence of local community officers. Council recognises the West Midlands Police's work towards this model after years of austerity, and will support in implementing this approach at greater speed within all communities across Birmingham

Council expresses its concern about the lack of priority given to neighbourhood policing.

The Police be encouraged to re-engage with local communities and Councillors through regular meetings and communications. Additionally, that the Police are asked to provide all Councillors with a named chain of command with email addresses within Birmingham.

Council further regrets the lack of progress on rethinking the shape of city council; the absence of a plan to devolve accountability to communities and the general lack of support for developing community and parish councils.

Council commits to:

1. Request an annual report from the Mayor of the WMCA, the Chief Constable and Police Crime Commissioner, and extend an invitation to attend 1 full council meeting per annum to report and take questions. These should be scheduled to take place before the pre-election period.
2. Reinstating 4 ward meetings per annum as statutory for all wards when budget pressures allow and ensuring that these meetings include the councillors, local WM Police representatives and council officers and community representatives as appropriate.

Council calls on the executive to act swiftly to bring in interim arrangements using funding sources already identified to ensure formal ward meetings continue and that the formal Neighbourhood Action Coordinator (NAC) Programme is transformed into a Local Partnership Officer Role to take forward the learning from the NAC Programme in line with the aims of Shaping Birmingham's Future Together (SBFT).

In addition, council calls for swift action in setting out radical proposals for a new 'Local Leadership, Local Governance, Local Action Programme' to re-energise the city's progress towards localisation.

This will include proposals to shape and deliver local council services such as street cleansing, tackling parking enforcement and anti-littering campaigns through decentralisation and accountability to local communities, providing genuine and meaningful opportunities for citizens to be informed, consulted and engaged in service development and delivery".

The meeting ended at 1920 hours.



CITY COUNCIL

8 JULY 2025

WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

CITY COUNCIL – 8 JULY 2025

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

A To the Leader of the Council

1. 2017 Cabinet Report

From Councillor Robert Alden

2. Standards complaint fees

From Councillor Shabina Bano

B To the Deputy Leader of the Council

1. Paradise

From Councillor Robert Alden

2. Paradise

From Councillor Ewan Mackey

C To the Cabinet Member for Children Young People and Families

Support to council-maintained schools

From Councillor Jon Hunt

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

Oracle Risks

From Councillor Darius Sandhu

E To the Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport

1. Tom White Waste Management

From Councillor Clifton Welch

2. Wards for targeted clean-ups

From Councillor Robert Alden

3. Schools Trade Waste contracts

From Councillor Alex Yip

4. **Schools' Trade Waste**
From Councillor Richard Parkin
5. **CAZ Funds**
From Councillor Ewan Mackey
6. **Centenary Square Fountain**
From Councillor Darius Sandhu
7. **Fixed penalty fines for littering**
From Councillor Roger Harmer
8. **Yardley West & Stechford MHWC visits**
From Councillor Baber Baz
9. **Glyphosate use**
From Councillor Izzy Knowles
10. **Phasing out of glyphosate in highways and parks**
From Councillor Zaker Choudhry
11. **Update on free bulk collections**
From Councillor Morriam Jan
12. **Status of the traffic camera enforcement trial**
From Councillor Shabina Bano
13. **Collisions on the junction of One Stop Shopping Centre and the A34**
From Councillor Jon Hunt
14. **Financial data for Canon Hill Park**
From Councillor Mumtaz Hussain

F To the Cabinet Member for Finance

1. **Serco**
From Councillor Ron Storer
2. **Spitfire**
From Councillor Gareth Moore

3. **MOVED TO E14**

G To the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

NONE SUBMITTED

H To the Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness

Property Acquisition

From Councillor Robert Alden

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

NONE SUBMITTED

J To the Cabinet Member for Transformation, Governance and HR

1. **Managers**

From Councillor Robert Alden

2. **Facility Time**

From Councillor Adrian Delaney

A1

CITY COUNCIL – 8 JULY 2025

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

“2017 Cabinet Report”

Question:

At the Full Council meeting in June you said that your role as Scrutiny Chair in 2017 was to agree that the report on the bin strike settlement should go forward to Cabinet as a late and urgent item. Please can you confirm if this meant you read the report you agreed should go forward, yes or no?

Answer:

My role was to agree the process, not the detail of the report. The decisions contained in the report were a matter for the then Cabinet.

CITY COUNCIL – 8 JULY 2025

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR SHABINA BANO

Standards complaint fees

Question:

The Standards complaint against Councillor Khan and Councillor Idrees cost the council over £30,000 excluding VAT and when factoring in officer time, the real cost likely exceeded £45,000. I was fully vindicated, yet taxpayers footed the bill for a case that could have been resolved internally, especially at a time when the Council is effectively bankrupt. Both Councillors were found in breach, and Cllr Idrees admitted to all charges. They spent three years denying wrongdoing, dragging out the process and wasting public money. Do you agree that it is only fair and responsible that both Councillors repay the funds spent on this case, to show accountability and protect taxpayers during this financial crisis?

Answer:

The Council is required under the Localism Act 2011("the Act") to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by its members and coopted members. As all councils must have in place arrangements:

- i. where allegations can be investigated; and
- ii. where decisions on allegations can be determined

There is no provision under the Act that allows a local authority to recover its costs from Members who have been found to have been in breach of the code.

CITY COUNCIL – 8 JULY 2025

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

“Paradise”

Question:

Last September, Cabinet provided a £1m cash injection into Paradise Circus Limited to maintain liquidity of the working capital fund up until July 2025. With July now upon us, has the new commercial/financial structure now been agreed, does the working capital fund have sufficient working capital until the approval of the phase 3 business case and can the Deputy Leader confirm there will not be any more draw on public funds to keep PCLP – or any other management vehicle related to Paradise - as a going concern?

Answer:

The restructure of Paradise Circus has not been completed. However, there is no further requirement for further working capital fund support. This is due to the imminent receipt of funds from the completion of the Octagon project. Work on the restructure continues and it has been made plain to BCC partners that no further EZ funding will be forthcoming until such a time that the restructure is agreed and approved between the parties.

CITY COUNCIL – 8 JULY 2025

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

“Paradise”

Question:

The forward plan now list phase 3 of Paradise regeneration for October’s Cabinet with a request for £72.006m of funding. That total (presuming both phase 3 and phase 2 remain on budget) will take total spend over £100m more than originally planned, a figure we said would be the total overspend in 2018 but which Cabinet denied. When ‘lessons’ on the Phase One overspend were presented to Audit, the committee were told it was hoped site plots would generate sufficient value to fund the infrastructure for phase 3. Does the Deputy Leader believe sufficient lessons were learned fell phase one and if so, why is there a need for a further £72m public money now?

Answer:

Yes, significant lessons have been learned from Phase One, and these have been applied to Phase Two with further learning being applied to Phase Three to fundamentally improve cost control and risk management.

The lessons from Phase One have been comprehensively learned and applied. The approach to Phase Three is taking this on board by adopting best practice for project delivery with mature design, fixed price contracts, and robust risk management. The additional funding request reflects the true cost of completing one of the city’s most significant regeneration projects.

CITY COUNCIL – 8 JULY 2025

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES FROM COUNCILLOR JON HUNT

Support to council-maintained schools

Question:

What support is being provided to council-maintained schools that are now required to use external providers for back-office services, e.g. ensuring that data and policies are correctly transferred to new providers?

Answer:

In October 2024, Cabinet approved the proposal that that BCC will cease to offer HR, Payroll and Pensions as a traded service, instead retaining some staff to provide an audit and compliance function in line with its statutory duties. BCC has subsequently been able to agree the continuation of Schools Financial Services as a traded offer and achieved a minimum viable number of schools to deliver the service for the coming year.

Since that time, all 250 schools have confirmed their departure dates and the new providers; 90% of these schools (224) have transitioned to their new providers. All schools are progressing towards the September deadline for offboarding.

During the offboarding process, schools receive comprehensive support to ensure their data is transferred accurately and securely to the new providers. In the week of initial data transfer, BCC hosts a webinar with all schools in that cohort to clarify what information will be received, key points to verify, and actions required. This session also provides an opportunity to address questions and share helpful tips, such as logging into Oracle to verify personal information and downloading payslips.

After the initial dummy pay run, which occurs one month into the offboarding process, BCC conducts a second webinar attended by both schools and providers. This session addresses any further questions related to the offboarding process or the dummy pay run.

BCC holds at least monthly meetings with providers to monitor the progress of school offboarding, ensuring schedules are maintained and providing support for queries on calculations, policies, or project updates. During this period of intensive

support, providers have direct access to BCC officers to assist with clarifications related to BCC's specific practices or requirements.

Additionally, BCC has designated a dedicated webpage, birmingham.gov.uk/info/20124/working_in_schools, for ongoing access to policies, templates, and guidance necessary for schools and providers. This webpage is being regularly updated to host all HR-related information essential for schools to operate independently of Schools HR. Policy updates will be communicated via this webpage to ensure continued compliance.

BCC has issued guidance clarifying the ongoing statutory duties of the council as the employer, including procedures for a range of processes such as dismissals, restructures, and pay awards. This guidance also details the contacts within BCC for schools to engage with. To support understanding, we have hosted drop-in sessions for schools and governors, explaining their roles and the collaborative steps required with BCC moving forward.

Furthermore, BCC offers a monthly drop-in session for Head Teachers and Business Managers, complemented by weekly updates shared via Noticeboard.

CITY COUNCIL – 8 JULY 2025

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR DIGITAL, CULTURE, HERITAGE AND TOURISM FROM COUNCILLOR DARIUS SANDHU

“Oracle Risks”

Question:

Please provide an update of the risk register presented to Cabinet on 24 June for the Oracle ‘Brindley’ Programme with any changes to risks or new risks since that was published

Answer:

The risk register at ‘Programme Board’ level was refreshed prior to publication and this latest version was included in the Cabinet Report. As at 3rd July 2025 there have been few changes to the risk register at this level.

Risks are tracked at a more detailed level through a risk register for each workstream (e.g. re-implementation, income management system) and the most important risks are then escalated up and included in the Programme Board level risk register. The strategic risks at the Programme Board level change less often than those at workstream which are regularly updated.

Since the Cabinet Report, one relevant change at Programme Board level is the escalation to Programme Board of Income Management System Risk Number 22 “SIT, UAT & Parallel Running delays without a fully deployed, end-to-end solution” where delays to integration delivery and resource availability have become an issue extending the time required to complete System Integration Testing. An exception plan has been prepared to cover this impact and is being taken to Programme Board on 3rd July.

This was not previously reported at the Programme Board risk level as it was expected, and still is anticipated, that the impact on the Income Management System implementation will remain in tolerance, i.e. go live will be expected slightly later but still within the month of September 2025. Income Management processes critically underpin the operation of the Council, and the testing of this key component will not be rushed or compromised in any way.

CITY COUNCIL – 8 JULY 2025

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND
TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR CLIFTON WELCH**

“Tom White Waste Management”

Question:

**How much has been paid to Tom White Waste Management since January
2025 and for what activity?**

Answer:

This information is commercially sensitive and therefore cannot be disclosed.

CITY COUNCIL – 8 JULY 2025

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

“Wards for targeted clean-ups”

Question:

Please provide a list of the 15 wards, mentioned at Cabinet on 24 June, that will receive a targeted clean-up, along with the data sets used to select these wards and when and how often these clean-ups will be?

Answer:

The wards chosen were informed by a range of evidence such as deprivation index data, level of fly tipping, prevalence of high-density housing and frontline experience.

- Alum Rock
- Aston
- Balsall Heath West
- Birchfield
- Bordesley & Highgate
- Bordesley Green
- Bromford & Hodge Hill
- Handsworth
- Holyhead
- Lozells
- Newtown
- North Edgbaston
- Soho & Jewellery Quarter
- Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East
- Ward End

CITY COUNCIL – 8 JULY 2025

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

“Schools Trade Waste contracts”

Question:

How many schools have cancelled – or not renewed – their trade waste contract in each year since 2017 and how many since the commencement of the industrial action in January 2025?

Answer:

The information is available as follows, for periods of years ending March 31st:

| Year | Number of schools that cancelled their trade waste contract with BCC | Number of schools that newly signed their trade waste contract with BCC |
|------|--|---|
| 2017 | 4 | 5 |
| 2018 | 13 | 9 |
| 2019 | 28 | 9 |
| 2020 | 13 | 15 |
| 2021 | 4 | 11 |
| 2022 | 8 | 3 |
| 2023 | 7 | 5 |
| 2024 | 23 | 4 |
| 2025 | 56 | 2 |

CITY COUNCIL – 8 JULY 2025

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

“Schools’ Trade Waste”

Question:

As of 1 July 2017 and 1 July 2025, how many contracts for trade waste did the council hold from:

- a. Schools**
- b. Other public sector organisations**
- c. VCS sector organisations**
- d. Private companies**

Answer:

Unfortunately, we cannot provide the information requested, as commercial waste implemented a new IT system in 2023.

As of 31st March 2025, the contract data base is currently 4300 with 336 school contracts.

CITY COUNCIL – 8 JULY 2025

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

“CAZ Funds”

Question:

How much has been requested by the combined authority - formally or informally - for funding from the council’s Clean Air Zone surplus and for what purposes?

Answer:

£3.400m - contribution towards University railway station upgrade

£5.218m - contribution towards Camp Hill Line railway stations

£4.225m - contribution towards Cross City Bus schemes

£1.500m - contribution towards Westside metro extension

CITY COUNCIL – 8 JULY 2025

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND
TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR DARIUS SANDHU**

“Centenary Square Fountain”

Question:

Since the end of the Commonwealth Games, on how many days has the fountain in Centenary Square been operational and how much has been spent on maintenance, including investigatory work to assess repairs needed

Answer:

The fountain was switched off and has not been operational since October 2023. No operational records are available to determine the length of time the fountain was in operation or what maintenance activities were carried out between the Commonwealth Games in 2022 and October 2023.

Officers have been working with specialist contractors to assess the condition of the fountain and associated infrastructure. This work is essential in understanding and costing the budget pressures and maintenance liabilities for the council in bringing this asset back into use. It is hoped this assessment work will conclude in the coming months.

CITY COUNCIL – 8 JULY 2025

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ROGER HARMER

Fixed penalty fines for littering

Question:

How many litter fixed penalty fines have been issued, by ward, over the past year?

Answer:

The data below is based on the geographical location of the Officer's handheld device when the fixed penalty notice was issued. The vast majority of fixed penalty notices are issued on the street at the time of the offence. It shows the number of fixed penalty notices issued between 1st July 2024 and 30th June 2025.

| Ward | Number of FPNs issued |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Ward not recorded | 2 |
| Acocks Green | 18 |
| Allens Cross | 1 |
| Alum Rock | 136 |
| Aston | 38 |
| Balsall Heath West | 5 |
| Billesley | 1 |
| Birchfield | 4 |
| Bordesley & Highgate | 1212 |
| Bordesley Green | 19 |
| Bournville | 1 |
| Bournville & Cotteridge | 15 |

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Brandwood & Kings Heath | 18 |
| Bromford & Hodge Hill | 21 |
| Castle Vale | 2 |
| Druids Heath & Monyhull | 3 |
| Edgbaston | 34 |
| Erdington | 296 |
| Glebe Farm & Tile Cross | 1 |
| Gravelly Hill | 12 |
| Handsworth | 202 |
| Handsworth Wood | 3 |
| Harborne | 2 |
| Heartlands | 2 |
| Highters Heath | 4 |
| Holyhead | 69 |
| Kingstanding | 4 |
| Ladywood | 10333 |
| Lozells | 112 |
| Moseley | 8 |
| Nechells | 385 |
| Newtown | 29 |
| Oscott | 4 |
| Perry Barr | 10 |
| Perry Common | 3 |
| Pype Hayes | 15 |
| Quinton | 1 |
| Shard End | 5 |
| Sheldon | 5 |

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Small Heath | 4 |
| Soho & Jewellery Quarter | 468 |
| South Yardley | 4 |
| Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East | 16 |
| Sparkhill | 11 |
| Stirchley | 3 |
| Stockland Green | 27 |
| Sutton Vesey | 7 |
| Tyseley & Hay Mills | 1 |
| Ward End | 127 |
| Weoley & Selly Oak | 1 |
| Yardley East | 6 |
| Yardley West & Stechford | 1 |
| TOTAL | 13711 |

CITY COUNCIL – 8 JULY 2025

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

Yardley West & Stechford MHWC visits

Question:

Following a very successful visit of the Mobile Household Waste Centre on the 22nd March at Faizan E Madina Mosque carpark in Stechford, I have tried on numerous occasions via email to book a revisit only to be told on the 22nd May that Faizan E Madina Mosque carpark would not be considered following operational issues that occurred at a previous visit.

I have copied you into emails dated 23/05/2025, 06/06/2025, and 25/06/2025 asking what these operational issues were. To which you or any of the management that were included in the email have failed to respond. Please can you provide further information as to what these operational issues were?

Answer:

The issues surrounding Faizan E Madina Mosque site are based upon the operational problems experienced during the initial visit like issues with getting vehicles on and off the mosque car park safely during the day, and traffic disruption outside. The mosque is located on the corner of a busy junction with traffic lights.

Officers have returned to the site since and still deem the site not suitable for a revisit at this current time.

We will continue to engage with Cllr Baz to look at alternative suitable options going forward.

CITY COUNCIL – 8 JULY 2025

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

Glyphosate use

Question:

How much glyphosate-based weedkiller has the council, or its contractors, used in each month since June 2024?

Answer:

Through services delivered under the Interim Services Contract the volumes of product containing glyphosate used monthly since June 2024 were:

| Date (Month/Year) | Volume Used (L) |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| June 2024 | 590 |
| July 2024 | 600 |
| August 2024 | 770 |
| September 2024 | 510 |
| October 2024 | 155 |
| | Total 2,625 |
| | |
| April 2025 | 560 |
| May 2025 | 760 |
| June 2025 | 505 |
| | Total 1,825 |

CITY COUNCIL – 8 JULY 2025

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ZAKER CHOUDHRY

Phasing out of glyphosate in highways and parks

Question:

Please provide an update on the progress of the steps being taken, as outlined in September 2023, to ensure that glyphosate is phased out for the use in highways and parks.

Answer:

Since the update in September 2023, progress has been made toward reducing glyphosate in highways and parks, despite ongoing operational and financial constraints. On the Highways Maintained at Public Expense (HMPE) glyphosate use continues due in part to safety, accessibility and drainage considerations. Though reviews of alternatives are ongoing in partnership with Kier there are currently no viable or licenced alternatives.

In parks and open spaces, the Grounds Maintenance Service has taken steps by ceasing spraying around grass edges and obstacles from 2024, following a 50% reduction in 2023. This visible change, alongside the A to Bee Roads programme, represents a major reduction in herbicide use.

The City Council's 2024 budget included further 30% reduction in annual treatment, cutting glyphosate use by an estimated 2 million square metres — a 13% reduction compared to 2023. As a result, only 7% of the city's parks and open spaces were treated in 2024, down from 8%. Further reductions are in place for 2025 in designated parks.

While some promising alternatives for invasive species are emerging, glyphosate still remains the most viable option within current resource limits. Regular review of alternative methods and practices for general weed control continues but where these show potential these remain unviable in terms of cost, resource or other knock on environmental implications.

Nonetheless, the Council remains committed to ongoing review and further reduction over time.

E11

CITY COUNCIL – 8 JULY 2025

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

Update on free bulk collections

Question:

The council was providing free bulk collection to households on assisted collections. Has that been maintained while the paid service has been suspended?

Answer:

All bulky waste collections have been suspended due to industrial action, which includes the first free collection each 12 month period to properties eligible and receiving an assisted collection.

CITY COUNCIL – 8 JULY 2025

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND
TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR SHABINA BANO**

Status of the traffic camera enforcement trial

Question:

Can you please provide an update on the status of the traffic camera enforcement trial?

Answer:

Following approval of the outline and full business cases for the trial, the latter in March this year, the enforcement cameras have been ordered from the supplier and are due to be delivered by the end of July.

The Council is in the process of awarding the civils works contract to install the cameras and necessary signage, with on-site activity forecast to commence within the next 6 weeks.

Upgrading of the back-office operating systems is on-going and should be completed by the time cameras are installed.

Commissioning and testing of the cameras and systems is planned for September/October.

CITY COUNCIL – 8 JULY 2025

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR JON HUNT

Collisions on the junction of One Stop Shopping Centre and the A34

Question:

How many recorded collisions have there been at the traffic light junction of One Stop Shopping Centre and the A34 in the last three years?

Answer:

It is assumed that the junction referred to is the signal-controlled junction of Harrier Way with A34 Walsall Road and the A453, immediately to the north-east of the One Stop Shopping Centre and adjacent to the Perry Barr Probation Office.

At this location, there has been one recorded Road Traffic Collision in the last three years, involving two vehicles. This collision took place on Saturday 25th November 2023 at 23:10 and resulted in four people receiving slight injuries. The causal factors listed were:

- Disobeyed automatic traffic signals
- Failed to look properly (driver)
- Careless or reckless behaviour, or in a hurry.

CITY COUNCIL – 8 JULY 2025

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR MUMTAZ HUSSAIN

Financial data for Canon Hill Park

Question:

Please provide the following financial data for Cannon Hill Park:

- **Gross revenue from car parking charges and enforcement including Russell Road and Queens Ride car parks in the financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25**
- **Total amounts spent on repayments of loans/ investment incurred to install the car parking charging equipment.**
- **Total amount spent on infrastructure in the car park, such as lighting, resurfacing, CCTV and itemise the expenditure.**
- **Total amount of car park revenue spent on other areas of the car park or the MAC (please itemise the expenditure)**
- **Total amount spent elsewhere, other than Cannon Hill Park or the MAC (please itemise the expenditure)**

Answer:

Response to follow.

CITY COUNCIL – 8 JULY 2025

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

“Serco”

Question:

Further to written question F7 from June Council, which was marked to follow, can you please provide here a response to that question, namely Please list all contracts the Council holds with Serco, including the purpose of the contract, total length and total value.

Answer:

Contract register entry details:

Supplier: Serco Leisure Operating Ltd

Purpose: Sport & Leisure Centres Lot 1&2 for the provision of design and build, and or to operate and manage services.

Estimated Total Value over the contract term: £114,000,000.00

Start Date: 01/06/2015

End Date: 31/05/2030

Details for lot 1 and 2:

Lot 1 – North East Contract

- Wyndley Leisure Centre – Operate & Manage (O&M)
- Beeches Pool – O&M
- Erdington Pool Replacement – Design, Build, Operate & Manage (DBOM)
- Stechford Cascades Replacement – DBOM
- Fox Hollies Leisure Centre - O&M

Lot 2 – South West Contract

- Icknield Port Loop New Facility – DBOM
- Billesley Tennis Centre – O&M
- Cocks Moor Woods Leisure Centre – O&M
- Northfield Pool Replacement – DBOM

There is also some spend against “Serco Limited” between 01/02/2022 and 10/09/2024 totalling £16,534.56, which is detailed below:

| Invoice Date | Supplier or Party | Invoice Amount |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 01-Feb-2022 | Serco Limited | 787.68 |
| 05-Apr-2022 | Serco Limited | 918.96 |
| 05-Apr-2022 | Serco Limited | 896.22 |
| 27-May-2022 | Serco Limited | 758.34 |
| 28-Jun-2022 | Serco Limited | 1,240.92 |
| 30-Aug-2022 | Serco Limited | 1,103.04 |
| 05-Oct-2022 | Serco Limited | 375.60 |
| 25-Jan-2023 | Serco Limited | 2,398.80 |
| 30-Dec-2022 | Serco Limited | 469.20 |
| 23-Jun-2023 | Serco Limited | 520.20 |
| 15-Jan-2024 | Serco Limited | 1,766.40 |
| 15-Jan-2024 | Serco Limited | 1,766.40 |
| 28-May-2024 | Serco Limited | 1,766.40 |
| 10-Sep-2024 | Serco Limited | 1,766.40 |

CITY COUNCIL – 8 JULY 2025

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

“Spitfire”

Question:

Further to your response to Question F8 at the June Council meeting, if no extension was offered to Spitfire for their contract, and the total value was £90k, why did the contract register covering that period show an extended value of £175k?

Answer:

Response to follow.

F3

PLEASE NOTE WRITTEN QUESTION F3 TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE – HAS NOW BEEN REDIRECTED TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT E14

G

CITY COUNCIL – 8 JULY 2025

No questions received for Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

CITY COUNCIL – 8 JULY 2025

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

“Property Acquisition”

Question:

Please provide the total number and a breakdown of the properties purchased under the council’s property acquisition strategy, including

- **General Fund or HRA**
- **Number of Bedrooms**
- **Bought as single dwelling or sub-divided**
- **Used as single dwelling or sub-divided**
- **Used as family temporary accommodation**
- **Used as supported exempt accommodation**

Answer:

366 acquisitions to date

54 via General Fund between October 2022 and March 2023

312 via HRA from April 2023

9 x 1-bedroom homes, 8 of which were acquired for use as settled housing for single, street homeless. The remaining 1-bedroom home was acquired via the Druids Heath Regeneration early acquisition strategy and will be used as TA for a family.

27 x 2-bedroom homes, 24 of which were acquired for use as TA for Ukrainian Refugee families, 2 for use as TA for Afghan Refugee families and 1 for use as general TA for families on the homeless register.

256 x 3-bedroom homes, 16 of which were acquired for use as TA for Ukrainian Refugee families, 13 for use as settled housing for Afghan Refugee families, and the remaining 227 for use as general TA for families on the homeless register.

61 x 4-bedroom homes, 13 of which were acquired for use as TA for Afghan Refugee families, 1 for use as settled housing for Afghan refugee family, and the remaining 47 for use as general TA for families on the homeless register.

10 x 5-bedroom homes, 3 of which were acquired for use as TA for Afghan Refugee families, and the remaining 7 for use as general TA for families on the homeless register.

1 x 6-bedroom home acquired for use as general TA for families on the homeless register.

1 x 7-bedroom home acquired for use as general TA for families on the homeless register.

1 x 101 room homeless centre (Washington Court) acquired for conversion to an 82-room homeless centre for use as general TA for families on the homeless register.

1. Ringfenced grant from the Single Homeless Accommodation Programme (SHAP) totalling £640k was used to acquire the homes for single, homeless rough sleepers.
2. Ringfenced grant from the Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) totalling £7.703m were used to acquire the homes for the Ukrainian and Afghan cohort in line with the terms of Rounds 1, 2 and 3 of the LAHF grant programme.
3. All acquisitions were acquired as single dwellings except for Washington Court which had 101 rooms, with shared services currently undertaking conversion to an 82-room centre for families.
4. No acquisitions have been acquired for use as supported exempt accommodation as this does not form part of the property acquisitions strategy or objectives.

CITY COUNCIL – 8 JULY 2025

**No questions received for Cabinet Member for Social
Justice, Community Safety and Equalities**

CITY COUNCIL – 8 JULY 2025

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSFORMATION, GOVERNANCE AND HR FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT ALDEN

“Managers”

Question:

Broken down by Directorate, how many council employees (headcount and FTE) hold line management responsibility, and what is the average number of direct reports for each?

Answer:

| Management responsibility by directorate and grade | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| Directorate | HC | FTE | Average |
| Adults Social Care | 334 | 326 | 5.4 |
| Children and Families | 173 | 166 | 6.3 |
| City Housing | 301 | 295 | 3.8 |
| City Operations | 242 | 238 | 7.8 |
| Council Management | 439 | 413 | 5.5 |
| Place, Prosperity & Sustainability | 77 | 76 | 4.6 |
| Strategy, Equalities & Partnerships | 65 | 64 | 2.4 |
| HR, OD & Transformation | 31 | 30 | 2.8 |
| Grand Total | 1662 | 1608 | 5.4 |

Source: Oracle

Date: 02/07/2025

Note: Overall directorates have not changed in Oracle, changes in progress

CITY COUNCIL – 8 JULY 2025

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSFORMATION,
GOVERNANCE AND HR FROM COUNCILLOR ADRIAN DELANEY**

“Facility Time”

Question:

Thank you for your response to Question J8 at June Council, however I did not ask about ‘additional’ facility time, but total facility time. Can you please confirm how much in facility time the council has provided to Unite since the commencement of industrial action in January 2025?

Answer:

Unite have taken 3,848 hours in Facility Time across the Council since the commencement of industrial action in January 2025. Facility time for Unite in Waste has been minimal since the start of the continuous strike action.

Birmingham City Council

Report to City Council

16 September 2025



| | |
|---|--|
| Title: | CITY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS 2025/26 |
| Report Author: | Elaine Newsome, Interim Head of Scrutiny and Committee Services Legal and Governance (Council Management) elaine.newsome@birmingham.gov.uk |
| Authorised by: | Tony Cox Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer Legal and Governance (Council Management) |
| Is this a Key Decision? | No this is a decision reserved for Council |
| Reason(s) why not included on the Forward Plan and confirm who has authorised it to be considered: | Not applicable |
| Is this a Late Report? | No |
| Reason(s) why Late and confirm who has authorised it to be considered: | Not applicable |
| Is this decision eligible for 'call in?' | Not applicable |
| If 'call-in' has been dis-applied, please provide reason(s) and confirm who has authorised: | Not applicable |
| Wards: | Not applicable |
| Does this report contain exempt or confidential information? | No |

Has this decision been included on the Notification of Intention to consider Matters in Private? Not applicable

Reasons why not included on the Notification and confirm who has authorised it to be considered: Not applicable

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 On 29th July 2025, the Council was notified of the resignation of Councillors Dring and J Jones from the Labour Group and their intention to sit as independent Members of the Council. In accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and Local Government and Housing Act 1989 Council is now required to undertake a political balance recalculation and any changes in proportionality are to be reflected in appointments to Committees.

2 COMMISSIONERS' REVIEW

2.1 Commissioners have no observations on the report

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That, following changes to the political proportionality of the Council:

3.2 The Conservative Group be invited to nominate a Member to the XXXX Committee replacing Councillor YYYY (Labour).

4 KEY INFORMATION

Context

4.1 Political Groups on the Council are formed in accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 when two or more Councillors notify the Chief Executive, as Proper Officer, of their wish to be treated as a Political Group.

4.2 For the political balance, a group is required to have at least two members in order to be formally constituted as a political group. By law, seats on committees must be allocated in proportion to the political composition of the Council.

4.3 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires that as far as reasonably practicable, the following principles must be adhered to when determining the allocation of seats on committees to political groups:

(a) The seats on a committee cannot be allocated to members of one political group.

(b) The largest group on the council must be allocated the majority of seats on any committee.

(c) Subject to (a) and (b) the total number of committee seats allocated to each political group must reflect the proportion of total members of the authority from each political group.

(d) Subject to (a) to (c) above, the number of the seats on a committee which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on the committee as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority.

4.4 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires local authorities to review committee membership and political representation annually and when notice is received of a change in the size of the political groups.

4.5 In determining the allocation of seats on ordinary committees, the proportion that each political group forms of the total membership of the Council is applied to the total number of elected Member seats on each committee. Generally, fractional entitlements of less than one half are rounded down and entitlements of one half or more are rounded up. So that this process of rounding does not result in advantage to one political group, the aggregate membership of all the ordinary committees must also be in line with the proportions on the Council.

4.6 The political proportionality as at the date of the Annual General Meeting on 20 May 2025 was as follows:

| Group | No of Cllrs that count toward PBC | As a % of 101 | Seats to be allocated | Seats Rounded Up / Down |
|-----------------|--|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Labour | 62 | 62.626% | 70.14 | 70 |
| Conservatives | 22 | 22.222% | 24.89 | 25 |
| Lib Dems | 13 | 13.131% | 14.71 | 15 |
| Greens | 2 | 2.020% | 2.26 | 2 |
| Non-aligned (2) | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0 |
| | 99 | 100% | 112 | 112 |

4.7 Following notification of the establishment of the Harborne and Quinton Independent Group, the political balance and seat allocations were recalculated in June 2025 and were confirmed as follows:

| Group | No of Cllrs that count toward PBC | As a % of 101 | Seats to be allocated | Seats Rounded Up / Down |
|--|--|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Labour | 62 | 61.39% | 68.75 | 69 |
| Conservatives | 22 | 21.78% | 24.40 | 24 |
| Lib Dems | 13 | 12.87% | 14.42 | 15 |
| Greens | 2 | 1.98% | 2.22 | 2 |
| Harborne and Quinton Independent Group | 2 | 1.98% | 2.22 | 2 |
| | 101 | 100% | 112 | 112 |

4.8 Following notification of the resignation of 2 members from the Labour Group, the political balance of the Council and associated seat allocations have been recalculated and confirmed as follows:

| Group | No of Cllrs that count toward PBC | As a % of 99 | Seats to be allocated | Seats Rounded Up / Down |
|--|--|---------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Labour | 60 | 60.61% | 67.88 | 68 |
| Conservatives | 22 | 22.22% | 24.89 | 25 |
| Lib Dems | 13 | 13.13% | 14.71 | 15 |
| Greens | 2 | 2.02% | 2.26 | 2 |
| Harborne and Quinton Independent Group | 2 | 2.02% | 2.26 | 2 |

| | | | | |
|-----------------|----|------|-----|-----|
| Non-aligned (2) | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0 |
| | 99 | 100% | 112 | 112 |

Proposal and Reasons for Recommendations

4.9 The recommendations ensure that the Council is compliant with legislation.

Other Options Considered

4.10 No other options can be considered.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

5.1 None associated with this report.

6 CONSULTATION

6.1 Council Business Management Committee were notified of the change in political proportionality at their meeting on 1 September 2025.

7 MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

Ward Councillor(s)

7.1 Not applicable

Overview and Scrutiny

7.2 Not applicable

Other

7.3 Not applicable

8 IMPACT AND IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Best Value

8.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Legal

8.2 As set out in the main body of the report.

Equalities

8.3 There are no equalities issues arising from this report.

Procurement

8.4 None associated with this report.

People Services

8.5 None associated with this report.

Climate Change, Nature and Net Zero

8.6 None associated with this report.

Corporate Parenting

8.7 None associated with this report.

Other

8.8 None associated with this report.

9 APPENDICES

9.1 Appendix A - Political Balance Calculation.

10 BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None

| | | LAB | | | CON | | | Lib Dem | | | Green | | | Independent Group | | | |
|---|------------------|--------|--------------------|----------------------------|--------|--------------------|----------------------------|---------|--------------------|----------------------------|-------|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--------|
| | Total Members | 60 | August Calculation | allocation at June Council | 22 | August Calculation | allocation at June Council | 13 | August Calculation | allocation at June Council | 2.00 | August Calculation | Allocation at June Council | 2.00 | August Calculation | Allocation at June Council | Total |
| | Overall % | 60.61% | 61.00 | | 22.22% | 22.00 | | 13.13% | 13.00 | | 2.02% | 2.00 | | 2.02% | 2.00 | | |
| | Places Available | 112 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 112 | 67.88 | 68.00 | 69.00 | 24.89 | 25.00 | 24.00 | 14.71 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 2.26 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.26 | 2.00 | 2.00 | |
| Corporate O&S | 11 | 6.67 | 7.00 | 7.00 | 2.44 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 1.44 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.22 | 0.00 | | 0.22 | 0.00 | | |
| Economy Skills & Culture O&S | 8 | 4.85 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 1.78 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 1.05 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.16 | 0.00 | | 0.16 | 0.00 | | |
| Health & Adult Social Care O&S | 8 | 4.85 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 1.78 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.05 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.16 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.16 | 0.00 | | |
| Education Children and Young People O&S | 8 | 4.85 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 1.78 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.05 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 0.16 | 0.00 | | 0.16 | 0.00 | | |
| Homes O&S | 8 | 4.85 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 1.78 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 1.05 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.16 | 0.00 | | 0.16 | 0.00 | | |
| Neighbourhoods O&S | 8 | 4.85 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 1.78 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 1.05 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.16 | 0.00 | | 0.16 | 0.00 | | |
| Sustainability & Transport O&S | 8 | 4.85 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 1.78 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 1.05 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.16 | 0.00 | | 0.16 | 0.00 | | |
| Planning Committee | 15 | 9.09 | 9.00 | 9.00 | 3.33 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 1.97 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 0.30 | 1.00 | | 0.30 | 1.00 | 1.00 | |
| Licensing Committee | 15 | 9.09 | 9.00 | 9.00 | 3.33 | 3.00 | 2.00 | 1.97 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 0.30 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.30 | 1.00 | 1.00 | |
| Employment | 7 | 4.24 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 1.56 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 0.92 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.14 | 0.00 | | 0.14 | 0.00 | | |
| Trust & Charities | 8 | 4.85 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 1.78 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 1.05 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.16 | 0.00 | | 0.16 | 0.00 | | |
| Audit | 8 | 4.85 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 1.78 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 1.05 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.16 | 0.00 | | 0.16 | 0.00 | | |
| Total allocation | | 67.88 | 69.00 | 69.00 | 24.89 | 25.00 | 24.00 | 14.71 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 2.26 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.26 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 113.00 |
| | round up/down to | 68.00 | | | 25.00 | | | 15.00 | | | 2.00 | | | 2.00 | | | 112.00 |
| Notes: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Notes: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No change to LD, Green, H&Q Independent Groups | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lab to relinquish 1 seat to Cons | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| At June Council - Lab relinquished 2 seats to Ind; Cons gave 1 seat to LD | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| seats apportioned by political agreement | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| change in political balance | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | Total Members | LAB | | | CON | | | Lib Dem | | | Green | | | Independent Group | | | Total |
|---|----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------|--------------------|---------------|
| | | Overall % | 60 | August Calculation | allocation at June Council | 22 | August Calculation | allocation at June Council | 13 | August Calculation | n at June Council | 2.00 | August Calculation | Allocation at June Council | 2.00 | August Calculation | |
| Overall % | 61.00 | 60.61% | | | 22.22% | | | 13.13% | | | 2.02% | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.02% | 2.00 | 2.00 | |
| Places Available | 112 | 67.88 | 69.00 | 69.00 | 24.89 | 25.00 | 24.00 | 14.71 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 2.26 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.26 | 2.00 | 2.00 | |
| Corporate O&S | 11 | 6.67 | 7.00 | 7.00 | 2.44 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 1.44 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.22 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.22 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Economy Skills & Culture O&S | 8 | 4.85 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 1.78 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 1.05 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.16 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.16 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Health & Adult Social Care O&S | 8 | 4.85 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 1.78 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.05 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.16 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.16 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Education Children and Young People O&S | 8 | 4.85 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 1.78 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.05 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 0.16 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.16 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Homes O&S | 8 | 4.85 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 1.78 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 1.05 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.16 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.16 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Neighbourhoods O&S | 8 | 4.85 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 1.78 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 1.05 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.16 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.16 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Sustainability & Transport O&S | 8 | 4.85 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 1.78 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 1.05 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.16 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.16 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Planning Committee | 15 | 9.09 | 9.00 | 9.00 | 3.33 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 1.97 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 0.30 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.30 | 1.00 | 1.00 | |
| Licensing Committee | 15 | 9.09 | 9.00 | 9.00 | 3.33 | 3.00 | 2.00 | 1.97 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 0.30 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.30 | 1.00 | 1.00 | |
| Employment | 7 | 4.24 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 1.56 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 0.92 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.14 | 0.00 | 1.00 | 0.14 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Trust & Charities | 8 | 4.85 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 1.78 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 1.05 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.16 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.16 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Audit | 8 | 4.85 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 1.78 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 1.05 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.16 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.16 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Total allocation | round up/down | 67.88 | 69.00 | 69.00 | 24.89 | 25.00 | 24.00 | 14.71 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 2.26 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.26 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 113.00 |
| | | 68.00 | | | 25.00 | | | 15.00 | | | 2.00 | | | 2.00 | | | 112.00 |

Notes:

Notes:

No change to LD, Green, Independent

Lab to relinquish 1 seat to Cons

At June Council - Lab gave 2seats to Ind, Cons gave 1 seat to LD

seats apportioned by political agreement

change in political balance

Birmingham City Council

Report to City Council

16 September 2025



| | |
|---|---|
| Title: | APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY RECORDER |
| Lead Member: | Councillor Rob Pocock, Cabinet Member for Transformation, Governance & HR |
| Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee: | Not applicable. |
| Has this report been shared with the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair? | Not applicable |
| Report Author: | Elaine Newsome, Interim Head of Scrutiny and Committee Services Law & Governance Elaine.newsome@birmingham.gov.uk |
| Authorised by: | Robert Connelly Assistant Director of Governance Law & Governance |
| Is this a Key Decision? | No – this is a matter for Council |
| Reason(s) why not included on the Forward Plan and confirm who has authorised it to be considered: | N/A |
| Is this a Late Report? | N/A |
| Reason(s) why Late and confirm who has authorised it to be considered: | N/A |
| Is this decision eligible for 'call in?' | No |
| If 'call-in' has been dis-applied, please provide reason(s) and confirm who has authorised: | N/A |
| Wards: | None |

Does this report contain exempt or confidential information?

No

Has this decision been included on the Notification of Intention to consider Matters in Private?

No

Reasons why not included on the Notification and confirm who has authorised it to be considered:

No

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Honorary Recorder of Birmingham has traditionally been offered to the Senior Circuit Judge at Birmingham Crown Court.
- 1.2 The Council has recently been notified that His Honour Judge Andrew Smith KC has been appointed as the Senior Circuit Judge.
- 1.3 Council is requested to consider the extension of an invitation to His Honour Judge Andrew Smith KC to accept the appointment as Honorary Recorder of Birmingham during his tenure as Senior Circuit Judge at Birmingham Crown Court in accordance with the Courts Act 1971.

2 COMMISSIONERS' REVIEW

- 2.1 Commissioners have no observations in relation to this report.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council resolves:

1. To invite His Honour Judge Andrew Smith KC to accept the appointment as Honorary Recorder of Birmingham during his tenure as Senior Circuit Judge (Resident Judge) at Birmingham Crown Court, in accordance with the Courts Act 1971.
2. That the Lord Mayor make appropriate arrangements to mark the appointment.

4 KEY INFORMATION

Context

- 4.1 The Courts Act 1971 empowers the City to appoint an Honorary Recorder for Birmingham.
- 4.2 It has been the practice in Birmingham to offer the position of Honorary Recorder to the Senior Circuit Judge (Resident Judge) at Birmingham Crown Court.

- 4.3 The Lady Chief Justice has appointed His Honour Judge Andrew Smith KC as the Senior Circuit Judge (Resident Judge) at Birmingham Crown Court Centre with effect from 1st July.
- 4.4 His Honour Judge Andrew Smith was called to the Bar in 1997 and took Silk in 2012. He was appointed as a Recorder in 2009 and as a Circuit Judge in 2022.
- 4.5 His Honour Judge Smith KC replaces His Honour Judge Inman KC, who retired as Honorary Recorder of Birmingham with effect from the same date.

Proposal and Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.6 In accordance with established practice, Council is requested to consider extending an invitation to the Senior Circuit Judge to accept the appointment of Honorary Recorder for Birmingham.

Other Options Considered

- 4.7 None.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 None associated with this report.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Council Business Management Committee have considered and are supportive of the Council extending the invitation.

7 MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

Ward Councillor(s)

- 7.1 N/A

Overview and Scrutiny

- 7.2 N/A

Other

- 7.3 N/A

8 IMPACT AND IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Best Value

- 8.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Legal

- 8.2 The proposal is in line with the provisions established in the Courts Act 1971.

Equalities

8.3 None associated with this report.

Procurement

8.4 None associated with this report.

People Services

8.5 None associated with this report.

Climate Change, Nature and Net Zero

8.6 None associated with this report.

Corporate Parenting

8.7 None associated with this report.

Other

8.8 None associated with this report.

9 APPENDICES

9.1 None

10 BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None

Birmingham City Council

Report to City Council

16 September 2025



| | |
|---|--|
| Title: | EXECUTIVE BUSINESS REPORT |
| Lead Member: | Councillor Mariam Khan, Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care Councillor Rob Pocock, Cabinet Member for Transformation, Governance & HR |
| Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee: | N/A |
| Has this report been shared with the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair? | N/A |
| Report Author: | Councillor Mariam Khan, Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care Councillor Rob Pocock, Cabinet Member for Transformation, Governance & HR |
| Authorised by: | Joanne Roney, Managing Director |
| Is this a Key Decision? | No |
| Reason(s) why not included on the Forward Plan and confirm who has authorised it to be considered: | N/A |
| Is this a Late Report? | No |
| Reason(s) why Late and confirm who has authorised it to be considered: | N/A |
| Is this decision eligible for 'call in?' | N/A |
| If 'call-in' has been dis-applied, please provide reason(s) and confirm who has authorised: | N/A |
| Wards: | All |

Does this report contain exempt or confidential information?

No

Has this decision been included on the Notification of Intention to consider Matters in Private?

No

Reasons why not included on the Notification and confirm who has authorised it to be considered:

N/A

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This Executive Business Report will provide an update of the ongoing work in two Cabinet Member portfolios over the past year:

1.1.1 Health and Social Care

1.1.2 Transformation, Governance and Human Resources

2 COMMISSIONERS' REVIEW

2.1 Commissioners note the report, and appreciate the progress and priorities reported by the portfolio holders. Regarding the sections on Transformation and Governance, we note the portfolio actions of the Cabinet Member, but emphasise also that the programme of governance and transformation change in response to the government intervention needs to be understood and owned by the whole council, including its leadership but also its wider membership. It is a vital part of the journey of improvement for Birmingham City Council.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That the report be noted by the City Council.

4 KEY INFORMATION

Context

4.1 On 10 September 2019, Full Council accepted the recommendations of the Coordinating O&S Committee review in respect of changes to the Full Council agenda.

4.2 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). It was agreed that EBRs would 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.

5 APPENDICES

5.1 None.

6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 N/A

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

7 Introduction

- 7.1 The timing of this Executive Business Report could not be more apt as the Adult Social Care and Health service finds itself at a point of new beginnings. The Cabinet Member has returned to post following a period of maternity leave during which there was a great deal of corporate change - Interim Cabinet Members shared responsibility for the service, and at Executive Director level there were interims in place for both ASC and Public Health.
- 7.2 The service now has a new Executive Director for Adult Social Care & Health, a new Director of Public Health, and the amalgamation of Public Health within the Adult Social Care Directorate. A restructure of the service is imminent, further embedding rigour and accountability.
- 7.3 The time is then right, jointly as the most senior members and officers responsible for the health and care of the people of Birmingham, to take stock and re-evaluate to a revised direction for adult social care and public health.
- 7.4 Set out below is the vision for the Directorate. It is aligned to a mission which commits the Council to working collaboratively across health, care and community systems to enable every person in Birmingham to live a healthy, independent and fulfilling life. This mission underlines our commitment to reduce health inequalities, promote prevention and deliver integrated, person-centred support that responds to the diverse needs of our population. We intend to do this through data-driven decision-making, inclusive engagement and strong partnerships, enabling us to build a resilient, equitable city where wellbeing is a shared responsibility and every resident can thrive.
- 7.5 This Executive Business Report sets out how we intend to do that, what challenges and risks we face, and illustrates using real examples of work undertaken how we are meeting our strategic objectives.

Vision

To create a healthier, fairer Birmingham where every child, young person and adult, regardless of background or circumstance, can start well, live well, age well, and access the right care at the right time.

We will achieve this through integrated services that are person-centred, preventative, and rooted in community partnerships.

Our vision is to empower individuals, reduce inequalities, and build resilient systems that support wellbeing, independence, and dignity across all stages of life.

8 Corporate Plan – Health, Equity and Inclusion

- 8.1 Mission 4 within the Council's Corporate Plan concentrates on health, equity and inclusion, with particular focus on giving children a healthy start in life, people living and ageing well and being helped to make healthy choices. Our aim to achieve that looks at ensuring the services we offer are inclusive and focused on citizens, and that they feel safe and listened to. We will co-produce not just

consult – listening to citizens and carers and embedding lived experience into service design and delivery.

- 8.2 The city continues to face stark health inequalities, with a ten-year gap in life expectancy between some of the most deprived and most affluent areas. Tackling these inequalities is central to the Corporate Plan, which also focuses on the wider factors that influence wellbeing - including education, housing, employment and community safety.
- 8.3 The key health inequality areas highlighted in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy include inequalities linked to deprivation, those affecting disabled communities, those affecting inclusion health groups (such as people experiencing homelessness, vulnerable migrants, veterans), those affecting ethnic communities and inequalities of locality. It is therefore imperative that we work together across directorates and Cabinet portfolios to tackle these obstacles and identify where we can see issues arising.
- 8.4 For example, Birmingham is a young city, but it has a growing number of older adults traditionally defined as those above 65 years of age. In 2011 there were 138,213 people aged 65 and over, rising to 150,489 in 2021. The Director of Public Health Annual Report 2023 to 24 indicated that the cohort of people aged 65 is expected to rise by approximately 30% by 2031 (based on 2021 numbers).
- 8.5 It may seem obvious, but access to healthy food and undertaking physical activity are fundamental to improving a person's health outcomes. However, many families who experience poverty and deprivation face huge challenges accessing affordable, healthy food or staying physically active.
- 8.6 Research also shows having a low income affects a child's outcomes in life, such as in education and health. Through working in partnership to improve access to good jobs, fair wages, reduce inequalities and ensure skills and training are accessible to all, outcomes for families in Birmingham will be improved.
- 8.7 To ensure that the health inequalities across Birmingham are recognised and addressed, we are refreshing and renewing our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, Local Area profiles and health inequality profiles. These will provide the starting point for ensuring that the support and investment we provide to our communities is aligned to local needs and priorities.
- 8.8 The Council is committed to ensuring services and support are available in the places where people live and will support the place-based efforts in the Integrated Care Strategy and initiatives such as the Neighbourhood Networks. A neighbourhood approach will also be taken to Warm Welcome spaces to help tackle poverty, reduce social isolation, and improve wellbeing and physical health. A new, integrated Connected Communities service will be introduced. This will provide safe spaces in the city's neighbourhoods ensuring citizens can access early help across a range of services, in their local area.

9 Achievements in the Health & Social Care portfolio over the past 12 months

9.1 Successful consolidation of our day centres down from 9 to 5, enabling us to transform the remaining centres.

9.1.1 The consolidation of our day centres has been the catalyst for transformation of the service into a vibrant and viable offer for citizens.

9.1.2 The Council and Adult Social Care Directorate have adopted a comprehensive and compassionate approach to implementing changes to the day opportunities offer, with a strong emphasis on safeguarding the wellbeing of citizens and their families. A dedicated weekly Project Group, comprising professionals from various departments, has overseen the transition, ensuring that all actions are carried out with sensitivity and robust support. Central to this process has been the commitment to person-centred reviews by social workers, guaranteeing that care packages remain unchanged and that citizens' preferences for relocation were fully respected.

9.1.3 To facilitate a smooth transition, citizens were offered multiple opportunities to visit and experience their preferred centres through open days and tailored induction visits. These visits allowed individuals to explore the facilities, meet other citizens, and participate in activities, with transport and information provided to support informed decision-making. Bespoke equipment and personal items were transferred on behalf of citizens, and efforts were made to maintain friendship groups, all contributing to a positive and reassuring relocation experience. Feedback indicates that the support from social workers was well-received and described as kind and empathetic.

9.1.4 In addition to citizen support, the Directorate extended wraparound services to 90 identified carers, including assessments, advocacy, and wellbeing reviews. While a small number expressed concerns, the majority appreciated the compassionate and informative approach. Carers were also provided with guidance on financial and peer support options. To mark the transition, the Directorate organized farewell and welcome events, reinforcing its commitment to a respectful and inclusive process for all those affected by the Cabinet decision.

9.2 Reshaped model for our 3 Care Centres

9.2.1 A paper setting out the strategy for reshaping the model for our three Care Centres has just been taken to Cabinet setting out how the proposed approach enables us to retain all three Care Centres through a programme of change. ASC leadership has listened to feedback from the phase 1 and phase 2 consultations and has taken the opportunity to work with partners and take forward a different approach that aligns with the national policy on integration.

9.2.2 This option is expected to deliver a minimum revenue savings of £4.9m, with further savings to be realised within the service.

9.2.3 Residential and respite services will be delivered at the Kenrick Centre, while integrated intermediate care at Ann Marie Howes and Perry Tree Centres will be provided in partnership with Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (BCHC), under an integrated Health and Social Care Model. With this revised proposal, the Council aims to mitigate the need for redundancies by retaining skilled staff to support future service delivery. A phased approach through 2026/2027 will align both Council and NHS workforces to match the needs of citizens accessing the two centres.

9.2.4 The quality of care provided by the Council will remain a focus for Adult Social Care, with the aim that services provided will be rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by the CQC at the next inspection and achieve high satisfaction rates from residents and families.

9.3 Significant progress on Enablement

9.3.1 The first thing the new Executive Director did on arrival in May 2025, working with the Cabinet Member, was to revisit the proposals to reshape the internal provider services which include Day Centres, Care Centres and Home Care Enablement service and explore ways to create a joined-up workforce that can respond to demand across the services whilst making us more efficient. This has progressed significantly over the summer with reprovisioning of the internal Homecare service to the external market whilst retaining the skills and experience of the workforce within the remaining provider services.

9.4 CQC (Care Quality Commission) Assessment Outcome

9.4.1 BCC is subject to Care Quality Commission Local Authority Assessments of its Adult Social Care Services.

9.4.2 The Care Quality Commission assess how local authorities deliver against key aspects of their duties under Part 1 of the Care Act 2014. Birmingham City Council was part of a pilot to test out how CQC would be working in the future and was given an indicative rating of "Good: evidence shows a good standard" in November 2023.

9.4.3 Work has continued over 2024/2025 to respond to areas where CQC indicated improvements are required.

9.4.4 The Directorate is now starting preparations for the formal re-assessment process.

9.5 Emerging evidence of joined up service delivery – SEND/Transitions

9.5.1 There has been a focus on identifying and dealing with the service backlog to enable appropriate allocation of resources in Transitions and Preparation for Adulthood (PFA). There is now a new classification to identify younger people waiting to move from Education facilities and leaving dates, so there will be a more accurate waiting list moving forward.

- 9.5.2 The backlog is now counted as younger people who have waited over 1 day beyond their 18th birthday (as opposed to the previous 3 month timescale) and there is a significant reduction. There are good links between the Children's Trust and Transitions service, which will ensure data is available earlier to enable us to plan workload and forecast expenditure. There are moves to begin Transitions from 14 years' old and 17 years' old as 'business as usual' and commissioning colleagues are supporting in this area.
- 9.5.3 There is a process to manage complaints which are currently at a reduced level and there are agreed business cases to recruit to vacant positions within the team and it is important to note that there has been team stability for 12 months.
- 9.5.4 The Transitions transformation plan feeds into both the PFA (SENAR) audit and the life course board, as well as the Programme board and savings are monitored within these meetings.

9.6 Carers' Partnership Strategy

- 9.6.1 Over the past year, there have been many successes celebrated in relation to support for Carers. The launch of the Carers Partnership Strategy was accompanied by the largest Carers Week celebration in Birmingham to date, with events held across the city and strong representation from Adult Social Care.
- 9.6.2 Carers' Rights Day attracted over 250 carers and featured health checks, flu jabs, and the dementia bus. Forward Carers, the Council's commissioned provider, received national recognition at the Asian Business Chamber of Commerce Awards and at the UK Social Enterprise Awards and for their innovative digital support for carers.
- 9.6.3 The Hub is recognised as one of the UK's Top 100 Social Enterprises (2025) and was a finalist in the Diversity Pioneer category, celebrating its commitment to inclusive, values-led leadership. This recognition highlights Forward Carers' impact in advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion while delivering meaningful support to communities across Birmingham.

9.7 Public Health

- 9.7.1 Many of the excellent projects and programmes Public Health lead on or fund are covered within section 14, however it is worth stating that we significantly invest in health visiting, public health school nursing and children's centres and perform well on KPIs. In 2026/27 we will build on the review of those services to enable a strengthened offer for children and young people.
- 9.7.2 We have also reviewed and remodelled the drug and alcohol treatment system for adults and children and young people. We have a high performing treatment and recovery services with increasing resources focusing on prevention of problematic use.

9.8 Sports and wellbeing achievements

9.9 There are also a number of achievements from the sports and wellbeing services, which sit within the City Operations Directorate. These include:

9.9.1 Having completed the final stage of £100m rebuild/refurbishment of Alexander Stadium, on time and to budget.

9.9.2 Delivered a sporting legacy programme, working with National Governing Bodies to improve almost 50 facilities including 17 Basketball courts, 25 Tennis courts and 6 Multi Use Sports facilities.

9.10 Upcoming priorities within the Sports and Wellbeing Service over the next 12 months include:

- Complete new Sports Strategy aligned to Public Health's Creating an Active Birmingham Strategy.
- Continue transformation of Wellbeing Service to deliver savings and meet public health outcomes.
- Construction of phase 1 of the redevelopment and refurbishment of Moseley Road Baths (including Balsall Heath Library) to commence regeneration of Balsall Heath high street.
- Implement a new management and operating model at Alexander Stadium.
- Commence the future planning for sport and leisure contracts post 2030.
- Through the Alexander Stadium plan for major sports events: European Athletics Championship in 2026 (this will be the largest athletics event ever in UK); the Invictus Games in 2027 (with no direct BCC funding); host city for the European Football Championships in 2028.
- Deliver a £1m investment programme under Shared Prosperity Fund, investing in both Wellbeing Facilities and in increased participation.

9.11 Strategic goals for Health & Social Care for the next 12 months:

- Deliver outstanding Adult Social Care across Birmingham that provides better outcomes at a more efficient cost.
- Integrated service delivery between the Council and health partners at a locality and neighbourhood level which reduces demand for services whilst improving outcomes for citizens.
- Seamless service delivery between Council services particularly with SEND, Children's Trust and housing.
- Strengthened Safeguarding Adults partnership which collaborates with Safeguarding Children's arrangements and CSP to support the most vulnerable children, young people and adults in our communities.
- Strengthened Health and Wellbeing Board that drives improvements in population health and health and health inequalities.
- Enhanced strategy that supports people with Mental Health, learning disabilities and Autism to be healthy, safe and well.

- Strengthen delivery of prevention priorities at locality and neighbourhood level – via ICB system clinical boards and community care collaborative – across Adults and Children/Families.
- Support the development of a joint corporate strategic commissioning strategy with partners to deliver outcomes set out in the Corporate Plan, HWBB strategy, 10-year plan. Building on established areas of collaboration eg City Operations.
- Maximise the use of the JSNA, City Observatory, and related tools, support an evidence-led decision culture, sharing examples of what works well and how it can be used to support system level change and service design and delivery to more effectively and efficiently meet the need of the population.
- Health in all policies, embedding equity lens, developing culture and workforce.
- Strengthen corporate approach to community consultation, engagement, and co-production.

10 Marmot

- 10.1 Birmingham City Council is seeking to join 52 other local authorities and places in becoming a Marmot City. This programme is led by Prof Sir Michael Marmot and his team at the Institute of Health Equity. Its aim is to reduce inequalities with a focus on wider social determinants.
- 10.2 It will build on the foundation of work already in place across the authority and further embedding an evidence-informed framework with a focus right across the organization and with wider City Partners. The framework has already delivered measurable impact on other authorities.
- 10.3 The current specification (subject to negotiation) will ask Professor Marmot and his team to assist us in:
- Using data and evidence, agree with partners evidence- based priorities for action on the social determinants of health that will have a transformative and sustainable impact on health equity indicators for Birmingham residents and align to the City vision.
 - Establishing and maintaining the structures and governance to deliver this programme of work.
 - Undertaking an assessment of the City’s current achievements and capability to deliver on the agreed priorities.
 - Developing of a roadmap including clear recommendations for delivery on agreed priorities which demonstrates short, medium and long-term outcomes and a theory of change for reduced demand and return on investment.
 - Fostering system wide collective ownership for a health equity and proportionate universalism approach.
 - Facilitating collective action on the agreed priorities and provide opportunities to share progress and achievements.

- Underpin the agreed priorities with the development and delivery of tangible actions to support the ambition to be an anti-racist city.

10.4 This will contribute significantly to the achievement of our City Vision developed through Shaping Birmingham's Future Together and will underpin our transformation and recovery. The Cabinet Member and Director of Public Health have already met with Professor Marmot this summer to begin these conversations.

11 10 Year Plan

11.1 Following the government's announcement of the 10 year plan, a strong focus has been put on a neighbourhood health model which we are already delivering to some extent in East Birmingham.

11.2 Washwood Heath Health and Wellbeing Hub is a brilliant example of what integrated care can look like in practice. It brings together GPs, community health teams, social care, voluntary and faith sector partners all in one space.

11.3 It is part of the broader Community Care Collaborative model, which aligns with the priorities of the Integrated Care System and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

11.4 The idea is simple but powerful – no more passing between service delivery providers, no silos but instead coordinated care around the person, in their community. This is the direction we must pursue if we are serious about shifting from crisis to prevention.

12 Health and Wellbeing Board

12.1 The Birmingham Health and Wellbeing Board has continued to deliver on its ethos of joint strategic thinking and partnership working within the local health and social care system. To better enable this work, the Board has started a series of discussions on neighbourhood working and how this might look in practice. At the July HWB meeting, the Executive Director for Adult Social Care and Health (at BCC) and the Chief Executive of Birmingham Community Healthcare Trust delivered a presentation on their model of locality and neighbourhood health services and the potential issues that the system may have with the transition.

12.2 This will be further developed at a Health and Wellbeing Board workshop on 18th September 2025 where members and wider partners will have an opportunity to consider the issues raised in detail and develop solutions together. This will build on the presentation from July and also be informed by the intention for greater neighbourhood working and planning expressed in the NHS' 10-Year-Plan. The workshop will conclude with members and partners agreeing on the model for neighbourhood health services as well as any actions that need to be accomplished to facilitate this.

13 Director of Public Health Annual Report 2024-25

13.1 The Director of Public Health Annual Report for 2024-25 has also been developed extensively over the past year. The focus of the report is on understanding and measuring wellbeing more effectively within Birmingham. The report draws on global, regional and national frameworks for measuring wellbeing that consider wider determinants, such as social relationships, quality of local environment, deprivation, and civic participation. The report explores how these can act as drivers of our individual wellbeing as well as that of the population as a whole. It proposes a local framework that could be used in Birmingham, although it highlights that there continues to be inconsistency at what is measured and at what level (e.g. the whole city or wards). The report also suggests opportunities for action that could help to improve local wellbeing measurement and aligns with wider system-level work, such as the Creating a Mentally Healthy City Strategy.

14 Health & Social Care's 10 Strategic Objectives and Examples in Practice

14.1 1. Promote independence and wellbeing

14.1.1 Birmingham's Neighbourhood Network Schemes (NNS)

14.1.2 Birmingham's Neighbourhood Network Schemes (NNS) are a vital part of the city's preventative adult social care strategy, offering free or low-cost community-based support to help citizens live healthier, more independent lives. Delivered in partnership with the Prevention & Communities (P&C) Grants Programme, NNS focuses on building local networks of activities and services that reduce isolation, promote wellbeing, and delay the need for formal care.

14.1.3 These schemes are rooted in community assets and are designed to be accessible through self-referral, ensuring that support is available to all who need it. A key strength of the NNS model is its emphasis on co-production and community development. Citizens are actively involved in shaping services through panels, steering groups, and grant decision-making processes.

14.1.4 The NNS programme is also committed to continuous improvement and strategic alignment. Feedback from citizens, staff, and stakeholders is regularly gathered and used to refine services. Recent improvements include enhanced data collection processes, increased funding flexibility, and the introduction of validated impact measures. These changes have strengthened the programme's ability to demonstrate outcomes and respond to emerging needs, such as digital inclusion and support for underrepresented groups like the Deaf, LGBTQ+, and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.

14.1.5 Celebrating success is central to the NNS ethos. Quarterly impact reports and annual events highlight achievements and share learning across the system. Case studies, such as the support provided by Arts in the Yard to a citizen facing homelessness and complex health challenges, illustrate the life-changing impact of the programme. Through strong partnerships, responsive commissioning and

a commitment to equity, NNS continues to play a crucial role in supporting Birmingham's citizens to thrive within their communities.

14.1.6 **Occupational Therapy Front-door diversion Success**

14.1.7 Occupational Therapy (OT) colleagues have seen great success with their drop-in sessions diverting people away from their front door statutory assessments, seeing quicker outcomes from citizens.

14.1.8 From September 2024 people phoning the contact centre about OT-related issues have been offered information about the OT drop-in sessions that run across the city. This is part of the contact centre automation programme that offers information and advice for people with low level needs instead of referring everything routinely through to formal assessment processes.

14.1.9 Since its launch, contact centre over 20,000 callers have asked for this information to be sent to them, and a corresponding 85% increase in hits on the OT's drop-in clinics webpage, as well as an increase of 40% at OT drop-in clinics.

14.1.10 This has benefited citizens, who can resolve lower-level needs quicker and more conveniently and reduced the number of people waiting for statutory OT assessment – ultimately keeping more people independent at home and in the community for longer.

14.2 **2. Reduce health inequalities**

14.2.1 There are a great many examples of how we address the reduction of health inequalities.

14.2.2 On 8th July 2025, the Assistant Director for Healthy Behaviours and Communities in the Public Health Division, together with LSE Consulting were invited to speak at the House of Lords. They discussed the evaluation of the Community Health Profiles, developed by our Public Health Communities Team. The event, hosted by the Midlands Health and Care Inequalities Policy Commission (chaired by Lord Victor Adebawale CBE) and Midlands Innovation Health, was a fantastic opportunity to highlight how local work is informing national conversations. Huge thanks to everyone involved – it was recognition well deserved.

14.2.3 To learn more about the CHP visit [Community health profiles](#)

14.2.4 To watch the CHP evaluation findings webinar visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=escBD9fZxZQ>

14.2.5 In addition, the BLACHIR programme has been shortlisted in two categories for the National BAME Health and Care Awards 2025: **Excellence in Community Partnership** award for our work with the two excellent co-chairs of the previous BLACHIR Implementation Board (Dr Nike Arowobusoye and Sola Afuape MBE) and the evolution into the Communities of Identity Partnership, and **Inclusive Organisation/Trust of the Year** award for our Cultural Humility and Safety training programme.

14.2.6 **Food Systems**

- 14.2.7 The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) is a European partnership for action on creating healthy food environments in cities and towns. The partnership enables connection with a network of 250 cities across the world to share learning on approaches to food in urban environments. During this next term, Birmingham is leading on topics related to food justice, cultural diversity and governance. We applied for MUFPP awards in May 2025 for our work on the local food legends, the full of beans campaign and the surplus food hub. The [leadership plan](#) has been published, and we have supported with achieving one of the aims which was to submit a collaborative proposal to Horizon Europe. Our proposal was successful and led to the Bauhaus Bites initiative.
- 14.2.8 Birmingham, as a Trailblazer city for Bauhaus Bites, is leading the charge to transform urban food environments in East Birmingham by celebrating cultural diversity, inclusivity, and access to healthy, sustainable food. This three-year pilot project, funded by the EU Horizon 2030, will leverage cross-sector collaboration to empower local communities, promote sustainable diets, and strengthen social spaces. Aligned with Birmingham's Food System Strategy, the project aims to unite a diverse community, increase food literacy, support nature-based solutions, and create locally tailored, culturally relevant food initiatives that improve health, wellbeing, and sustainability. Our Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has now been approved. Given that this is a three-year project with ongoing development, EIA reviews will be conducted every six months.
- 14.2.9 The Birmingham Food Revolution is the movement that underpins the Birmingham Food System Strategy and is the driving force behind our city-wide citizen-led food system transformation. The revolution has been building for years and is being led by Birmingham citizens making a difference. This approach is key to empowering and energising more than 1.1 million citizens. As part of the Birmingham Food Revolution, we have now run two rounds of the Birmingham Food Legends Fund – once in 2023-24 to celebrate the launch of the Food System Strategy and again in 2025-26 to celebrate the ongoing work of the strategy.
- 14.2.10 We are still supporting the Cost of Living response in a strategic and occasionally operational role. We operationalised a top-up grant to food aid providers such as foodbanks, food pantries, community cafés, and on-street feeding in February 2025. This grant provided up to £4,000 to 140 organisations for the food provision service which directly benefits citizens. The money could be spent on food and consumables (including baby food, hygiene supplies and pet food), infrastructure (including shelving, storage, white goods, furniture and equipment etc.), memberships including Fareshare, Your Local Pantry, Feeding Britain and training (including food safety and hygiene, allergen awareness). As a monitoring requirement of the grant, we also ran a second round of the City-Wide Food Aid Count in March 2025, where we asked all food projects to provide numbers of users during a week in March in order to provide a snapshot of food aid use in the city. The count found that over the two weeks 22,875 visits were made to a

foodbank or other food project, feeding at least 31,158 people (155 people per project on average). These findings seem to show a considerable increase since March 2023, where 13,604 people visited a foodbank or other food project, feeding at least 19,013 people (95 people per project on average). We are currently finalising this and considering how to share this information.

14.2.11 Through the Cost of Living response and Household Support Fund we have also funded The Active Wellbeing Society to run a surplus food hub at the Birmingham Wholesale Market, which redirects edible food away from the bins and onto people's plates. In May 2025 they captured 4.6 tonnes of food which was redistributed to community groups in Birmingham; the provision of a new kitchen at the wholesale market has meant that the produce can be cooked into meals which are provided to community groups.

14.3 3. Strengthen integrated neighbourhood working

14.3.1 A review of the Social Work Teams has begun with a 'One team, one service' approach continuing across the 10 Constituency Teams to address issues around equity, consistency, standardisation, and parity in decision making.

14.3.2 There is a new Principal Social Worker in post who will support the continuous improvement of practice. Work is on-going on the development of a Performance Framework and there is continued close monitoring of budgets.

14.3.3 In addition, the Directorate is continuing to take a leading role in developing Integrated Care System arrangements.

14.3.4 Adult Social Care is a key partner in the Integrated Care System Community Care Collaborative which is responsible for the integration of health and social care services within the community. The directorate is actively engaged with a number of workstreams including Integrated Neighbourhood Teams and Locality Partnerships.

14.3.5 A Birmingham Pathway 1 Board has been established reporting to the BSol Intermediate Care Board. The Board co-ordinates a number of workstreams to make improvements to the Early Intervention Community Teams (EICT) who deliver Pathway 1 ("Home-first" discharges from hospital and avoiding admission into acute hospital care). Key objectives for the board are to increase the proportion of citizens who are supported to achieve their reablement goals and are discharged within 42 days.

14.4 4. Enhance prevention and early intervention

14.4.1 As at the end of quarter 1 this year significant progress had been reported across the EI&P workstreams. During the quarter, the progress made across the digital workstream moved from a position of zero records being processed to >6,000,000. This level of data ingestion means that BCC will have a growing ability to use the data that we hold across multiple systems to get a true "single view" of a citizen.

- 14.4.2 Residents will only have to tell us their story once when they interact with us, and we will be in a better position to help people before they fall into crisis and require costly or resource-intensive intervention or assistance. The changes which have begun to go live in the Connected Communities service will further support residents and act as one of the platforms through which this new data offer can provide an enhanced service to citizens over the coming months. We are engaging services across BCC to seek opportunities to move to an early intervention and prevention outcomes focused approach across the Council.
- 14.4.3 The Cost of Living programme continues to deliver immediate and direct support for vulnerable citizens, supporting an estimated 50,000 people per week through our blended approach. This approach also continues to develop the community organisation sector and build resilience across organisations, creating a more impactful ecosystem which is capable of managing demand away from core BCC service areas.
- 14.4.4 The combined approach builds foundational capability across the VCS, BCC and our internal data landscape, whilst still maintaining a laser focus on delivering improved day-to-day services and developing services to support our residents now and into the future.

14.5 5. Improve access and experience

14.5.1 Navigating Adult Social Care Animations

A new series of eight animations have been added to the BCC website providing a visual and engaging way to understand how ASC works. The animations were created through the co-production of a number of local authorities. They highlight the various services offered, such as providing information and advice, commissioning services to tackle issues early, supporting carers, and offering both short-term and long-term support. The animations also explain the importance of safeguarding vulnerable adults from abuse or neglect. By watching these short animations, viewers gain a clearer understanding of how ASC operates and the support available to them.

- 14.5.2 Whether it's through reablement, supported housing, or care homes, ASC aims to ensure that everyone has the choice and control to live good quality lives and enjoy good health and wellbeing. [How to get help from ASC | How Adult Social Care Works covers a vast array of solutions available to citizens.](#)

14.6 6. Build a resilient and skilled workforce

14.6.1 Reset 2025: Reducing Agency Reliance and Building a Sustainable Workforce

- 14.6.2 Adult Social Care is currently operating with 188 agency-filled roles, of which 119 have existed for over five years and a further 69 for more than two years.

- 14.6.3 This level of agency usage presents not only a significant financial risk but also impacts service continuity, team stability, and long-term outcomes for the

individuals and families we support. High turnover, reduced accountability, and limited organisational knowledge are all critical challenges we must address.

- 14.6.4 To tackle this, we are launching 'Reset 2025' - A strategic workforce programme designed to reduce agency reliance, strengthen our permanent workforce, and improve recruitment outcomes. A key part of this involves engaging with our agency staff to explore conversion opportunities and reshaping how we hire moving forward.
- 14.6.5 Mandatory engagement sessions for all Grade 6 and 7 Hiring Managers will take place from July, this will be led by HR, Finance, and Operational Leadership. These workshops will outline our current position, explore the risks, and set out the pathway to a more stable, cost-effective model of delivery.

14.7 7. Safeguarding adults at risk

14.7.1 Safeguarding

- 14.7.2 There have been significant improvements in responding to referrals in the city-wide Safeguarding Team, although referral rates continue to be challenging.
- 14.7.3 Most vacancies have been recruited to or covered by temporary staff and practice and processes have been streamlined. Conversion rates have increased, and response times have reduced.
- 14.7.4 Referral rates have remained challenging, and there had been several staff who have left the triage safeguarding team which has meant that there has been an increased waiting time for some safeguarding concerns to be triaged.
- 14.7.5 There is ongoing recruitment and several agency social workers have just been appointed which should supporting reducing the waiting time whilst there is ongoing permanent recruitment.
- 14.7.6 There is an action plan in place, which is being reviewed and monitored at the Safeguarding and Directors' Performance Board.

14.8 8. Foster Community Engagement and co-production

14.8.1 Autism and ADHD Summit

- 14.8.2 One of the most impactful initiatives has been the Birmingham Autism and ADHD Summit, held in 2024. Co-designed and co-delivered with citizens and community groups, the summit brought together families, professionals, and individuals with lived experience to share insights, challenge stigma, and shape future services. The event fostered meaningful dialogue and led to tangible changes within host communities, including increased awareness, sensory-friendly religious services, and plans for more accessible community spaces. The 2025 summit, themed "Aspirations, Opportunities and Employment," is already in development, with strong community involvement and cross-sector collaboration.

14.8.3 Community Wellbeing: 'Beyond the Fade' Black Barbershop Project

- 14.8.4 'Beyond the Fade' is a new Public Health initiative commissioned by the Mental Health and Wellbeing Team and delivered by Melanin Moods and Capella Chaplaincy. The project taps into the unique role Black barbershops play as trusted community spaces, where supportive and meaningful conversations often take place.
- 14.8.5 The aim is to build a network of Black barbers across Birmingham, exploring the kinds of conversations they have with clients and identifying what training or support could strengthen their role as community leaders.
- 14.8.6 The first session was held on 25 June 2025 at Alpha Barbers in Lozells and saw fantastic attendance, with powerful conversations and community energy.
- 14.8.7 Watch the video from the event [here](#): Beyond the Fade at Alpha Barbers. For more information, please contact: mentalwellbeing@birmingham.gov.uk.
- 14.8.8 **Creating a Mentally Healthy City Strategy**
- 14.8.9 In addition, work has been ongoing this year to develop the Creating a Mentally Healthy City Strategy, with in-depth public consultation and work with the Mental Health Provider Collaborative to demonstrate how the strategy aligns with their Mental Health Services Strategy.
- 14.8.10 Overall feedback of the Strategy was extremely positive. People complimented the approach to promote good mental health outside of clinical spaces and there were positive comments about addressing these through people, family, community factors as well as in key spaces such as schools, universities and workplaces. People really felt that this was a citizen-focused strategy and outlined how it had felt co-created with citizens.
- 14.8.11 **Suicide Prevention Strategy**
- 14.8.12 The Suicide Prevention Strategy was embedded into the Creating a Mentally Healthy City Strategy and therefore consultation information above is pertinent to the Suicide Prevention Strategy. A draft Suicide Action Plan has been developed and has been presented at the Suicide Prevention Advisory Group (SPAG) for comment, including how we can more greatly measure the impact of each priority area.
- 14.8.13 Suicide Prevention work led by the team will be embedded into the Suicide Prevention Action Plan however some areas to note include a focus on Suicide Prevention Awareness Week 7th-13th September, suicide prevention training for primary care practitioners, work to better support children, and work with ICB data teams to examine NHS touchpoints for those we have lost by suicide to help see where we might be able to intervene and ensure people are well supported.
- 14.9 9. Ensure financial sustainability and system efficiency**
- 14.9.1 £23.4m Savings delivery in 2024/25 and £27.8m underspend in 2024/25 including early savings delivery.

14.9.2 While not originally included in the government’s intervention, ASC has continued to improve service delivery while implementing significant savings measures. Some 2024/25 savings have exceeded targets, reducing overall council expenditure.

14.9.3 The directorate is embedding strict financial controls, resulting in a current revenue underspend. Collaborative working with partners continues to drive digital efficiencies, with ASC’s ‘Rapid Review’ showcased across the council as a best practice model.

14.10 10. Harness data and digital innovation and monitor impact to drive improvement

14.10.1 Over 1000 residents now connected by the council’s Digital Inclusion programme

14.10.2 Since starting in October 2024, the Digital Inclusion programme has supported 1,151 residents across the city by offering much-needed advice, connectivity and help in using technology effectively. These numbers have smashed the original target of reaching 1000 people by August 2025. With adequate digital skills and owning technology becoming more crucial than ever, it is important that the council addresses the digital divide within Birmingham. Tasks like applying for jobs and using the NHS app and online services require the public to be digitally literate, which can be limiting for many underprivileged members of the community. Read the full story here: [Over 1000 residents now connected by the council’s Digital Inclusion programme.](#)

15 Risks and Challenges

15.1 Discharge to Assess (D2A Service)

15.1.1 D2A encompasses Acute Hospitals, Pathways 1 and 2 (Early Intervention Community Teams and Bed-Based Settings), and the Integrated Hub. It plays a critical role in addressing system pressures by enabling timely discharge without waiting for in-hospital assessments, prioritising a ‘Home First’ approach.

15.1.2 Commissioning has also felt the impact of ongoing NHS pressures. Officers have developed joint strategies to support NHS operations, including the implementation of the Single Transfer of Care (STOC) model at UHB hospitals since May 2024. BCC staff have aligned with the STOC hub and D2A teams, managing out-of-area admissions for Birmingham citizens. This has improved equity of service and freed up community resources, with additional support provided to Pathways 1 and 2 as needed.

15.1.3 Temporary capacity—both staffing and beds—is activated during peak demand to maintain hospital discharge flow. The system is currently reviewing future models for Pathway 2.

15.1.4 Integrated Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) working has strengthened the system response. However, aligning with national and local agendas such as Urgent Care Response (UCR) and the Integrated Care System (ICS) remains a

challenge. While addressing immediate pressures, the focus also remains on long-term strategic transformation.

- 15.1.5 Commissioning continues to lead innovation within the ICS, using evidence-based approaches to guide funding decisions and improve out-of-hospital flow. Within Pathway 1, benchmarking is underway to develop a new model that supports independence and aligns with the Home First ethos.
- 15.1.6 A one-year review of STOC is in progress, analysing data, identifying successful elements, and highlighting areas for improvement.

15.2 Approved Mental Health Professional Service (AMHP)

- 15.2.1 AMHP is identified as a critical role for BCC and there is a 5-year workforce plan under way with HR to identify numbers and plan for recruitment and training. This has identified an aging workforce and skills gap which we are working to address.
- 15.2.2 We have 7 AMHP trainees and are actively training 7 per year to increase numbers and create stability over the next 5 years.

16 Conclusion

- 16.1 We are still working in an extremely tough context — facing significant financial pressures, increasing demand, an ageing population, and a system still recovering from the impact of COVID-19 – particularly in relation to how some of our services have historically been delivered, but we've needed to rethink our approach. It's not easy, and we don't want to pretend otherwise.
- 16.2 We have never shied away from taking difficult choices when we have needed to and we are taking this opportunity, through the IRP to transform the way we operate, enhancing the quality and accessibility of the services we offer, ensuring we perform better and build a better performing workforce with a culture to match.

TRANSFORMATION, GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

17 Introduction

- 17.1 The City Vision and the associated Missions set out within the Corporate Plan articulate a clear and ambitious long-term direction for Birmingham. The Council is committed to actively contributing to this vision while fundamentally transforming its operational approach. By adopting a new model of working—characterised by strong partnerships, a neighbourhood-focused lens, and alignment with citizen priorities—the Council aims to realise its commitment to a fairer, more inclusive, and prosperous city for all.
- 17.2 More fundamentally, the current evolution of the Commissioners' Intervention is setting the City Council onto a fresh direction where the City Council is taking firm ownership of the need for improvement. The consequential radical overhaul of the Council's culture and work practices, and the need to build the internal

discipline and rigour in driving through change, is to be generated within the Council itself.

- 17.3 This shift in internal governance and culture ensures the City Council will embrace the route to recovery and take responsibility for the journey of improvement. In a nutshell, we own the problem, and we own the solution. Increasingly it will not need external inputs to prompt the need for change, it will be driven from within our own organisation.
- 17.4 The Cabinet Member for Transformation, Governance and HR holds overall responsibility for taking this forward through the recently revised Improvement and Recovery Plan (IRP).
- 17.5 So, in order to embed this new approach within the Council's formal management architecture, in parallel to the five citywide missions set out within its Corporate Plan, the Council has established a sixth Mission: **Improvement and Recovery**. This Mission seeks to enhance the Council's internal operations - not only in response to government intervention, but also to embed a culture of continuous improvement within its planning and delivery processes by:
1. Strengthening and stabilising the Council's financial position.
 2. Developing our workforce and building a culture of trust and learning.
 3. Fostering a better performing organisation with stronger governance.
 4. Enhancing the quality and accessibility of our services.
 5. Transforming the way we operate.
- 17.6 The Improvement and Recovery Plan (IRP) forms the foundation of this Plan, providing the essential reforms and capabilities that will enable the Council to deliver on its wider ambitions, outlining the Council's strategic pathway towards recovery and transformation. Central to this is the development of a new Target Operating Model, which will integrate key change programmes to establish a more streamlined, efficient, and effective organisation. This model is designed to support the Council in delivering its strategic priorities, fulfilling financial and statutory responsibilities, and rebuilding trust with residents and partners.
- 17.7 The Cabinet Member for Transformation, Governance and Human Resources is responsible for oversight of delivery of this mission and the associated tenets of improvement and transformation programmes and culture change within the workforce. This report sets out some of the activity that has taken place over the intervening period since last reporting twelve months ago and what is planned for the coming year.

18 Role of the Transformation, Governance and Human Resources portfolio

- 18.1 The Transformation, Governance and Human Resources portfolio is still relatively new, having been created in May 2024. The prime purpose of this role is to lead and drive forward the radical and far-reaching changes needed across the

Council, to recognise, own and commit to remedy historic failings in culture and governance, and to rebuild a City Council fit for the future. Key to this will be:

- ensuring delivery of the Improvement and Recovery Plan (IRP);
- improving performance management, accountability and risk management across the authority amongst both officers and the Executive;
- challenging Directorates in making truly transformational changes to the way services are designed and delivered;
- rebuilding citizens' trust and confidence in their local services;
- improving productivity, stripping out duplication, modernising processes, improving digitisation and new automation technology;
- and to support the cross-cutting work required to reverse the Council's historic over-siloed approach, create a one-Council culture, and support the Council in its improvement journey.

18.2 What we have achieved in 24/25 since the last report to Council:

- a) Development of the Corporate Performance Management Framework and strengthened Corporate KPI set and reporting approach to substantially strengthen accountability and transparency, and development of the Annual Business Plan.
- b) Redevelopment of the City Observatory and data and insight support on key initiatives including the BCC Staff Survey
- c) Led upon the development of a new Corporate Plan and refreshed Improvement and Recovery Plan (IRP)
- d) Resetting governance structures including an independent Audit Committee, re-energising and refocusing the Group Company Governance Committee, and review of Member-Officer Protocol.
- e) Ensuring stronger financial scrutiny, with a Budget Scrutiny Task and Finish Group playing a key role in challenging plans

18.3 What is planned for 25/26

- a) Improve the performance and efficiency of Strategy, Insight and Governance (SIG) services via the Council's new Target Operating Model (Strategic Core & Enabling Servicing)
- b) Finalisation of the Corporate Plan, Improvement & Recovery Plan (IRP) and Corporate Performance Management Framework and beginning the development of the process relating to refreshing the IRP for 26/27, working in collaboration with the Commissioners and taking ownership of improvement in line with the Council's commitment to continuous improvement.
- c) Development and delivery of a programme of improved citizen engagement led by the Public Participation team (including a citizen survey)

- d) Further strengthened CPMO oversight, assurance, and reporting of IRP portfolio including single quarterly performance report
- e) Maintain and improve the City Observatory and widen its contribution to service improvement across Directorates to increase impact on policy, strategy, service improvement and wider evidence-based transformation of services.
- f) Delivery of improvements through IRP Programmes:
 - a) **Governance:** Ensure tight discipline within the newly established Council leadership of the Governance Board in partnership with the Commissioners; review the constitution; improve culture and effectiveness of decision-making; improve the impact and centrality of Scrutiny within the Council's Governance framework; and continue to support development of elected members
 - b) **Corporate Portfolio Management Office (CMO):** Continue to optimise the CPMO function and embed continuous improvement across the council (set out in detail below)
 - c) **Performance Management:** Further strengthen performance management framework, and strengthen accountability of service Directorates for performance improvement, and support consistent council application

19 Strategy, Insight and Governance

19.1 Corporate Portfolio Management Office

- 19.1.1 Following recognition of the need to develop a Portfolio management approach across the transformation agenda of BCC, with particular focus on the Improvement and Recovery Plan (IRP), over the last year the Corporate Portfolio Management Office (CPMO) has worked collaboratively to establish and embed the requisite governance and reporting processes for the IRP.
- 19.1.2 This approach has embedded clear accountability and transparency and demonstrated a grip on progress with visibility established across key governance forums.
- 19.1.3 The CPMO continues to work in partnership with finance colleagues to ensure that there is robust monitoring and assurance across the savings, on a prioritised basis.
- 19.1.4 The CPMO team is now fully resourced with permanent staff. This enables the dedicated portfolio function to monitor progress, enhance performance and ensure effective corporate governance across the BCC portfolio.
- 19.1.5 The CPMO led the development of the refreshed IRP as part of the Corporate Plan and have refined and improved the delivery assurance and reporting processes for 25/26.
- 19.1.6 The following refinements have been made for 25/26:

- **Revised governance:** Clearer, streamlined governance with one version of the truth and stronger cross-Council grip via Transformation and Improvement Board (TIB).
- **Reduced time lag:** Reporting now aligned to a tighter 4.5-week cycle, significantly reducing data delays.
- **Prioritisation:** Targeted, regularly reviewed assurance focuses effort on critical delivery phases and dependencies.
- **A single, integrated performance, portfolio delivery and savings report:** IRP and Corporate Plan reporting merged into one quarterly product for Cabinet and OSC.
- **Transition to BCC-led arrangements for IRP:** Transfer underway from Commissioner-led to Council-led governance as sustainable improvement embeds.

19.1.7 The CPMO has launched a Portfolio Community across BCC to foster a greater understanding of Portfolio, Programme and Project Management and greater alignment across the portfolio. This is intended to advance the sharing of best practice and create the right ecosystem for delivery of change with the CPMO developing its role as a Centre of Excellence across the community.

19.1.8 Over the next 12 months, the CPMO will continue to drive forward the Portfolio optimisation plan, which builds on the strong foundation delivered to date but will focus efforts on developing delivery enablement and organisational alignment functions.

19.1.9 The Portfolio optimisation plan sets out how we will strengthen and optimise the CPMO to ensure that a culture of continuous improvement is embedded council-wide, driven by a dedicated Portfolio function that monitors progress, enhances performance, and ensures effective corporate governance.

19.2 Corporate Performance – last 12 months

19.2.1 2024/25 has been foundational for getting the key parts of an organisational Performance Management Framework in place, as well as introducing strengthened performance reports corporately.

19.2.2 During Quarter 1, a simplified quarterly corporate performance report was introduced. This made expected performance levels clear via numerical targets, alongside clarity of accountability for performance and benchmarking data wherever available. Over the course of the year, this report was refined and strengthened to include directorate commentary to address areas of underperformance.

19.2.3 An Internal Audit of Corporate Performance has taken place and an action plan to address their recommendations is being delivered. The key recommendations are also reflected in the Improvement and Recovery Plan programme for Performance Management.

- 19.2.4 A reorganisation of the Corporate Performance service has been completed, delivering a leaner function focussed on a core purpose of strengthening the performance management arrangements in place across the council.
- 19.2.5 Additionally, during the last 12 months, a [Corporate Plan](#) (2025-28) has been developed, which encompasses our Improvement and Recovery Plan into a single, coherent, plan for the Council. This was approved in June 2025, alongside a suite of important documents that provide the main pillars for our ongoing Performance Management arrangements. The full suite of documents included a [City Vision \(2025-2035\)](#) (and a baseline dataset within the “[State of the City 2025](#)” report), an Annual Corporate Business Plan and a Performance Management Framework.
- 19.2.6 **Corporate Performance - Next 12 months**
- 19.2.7 Further improvements have been made to the quarterly corporate performance report. This will now be presented alongside IRP Programmes and Savings delivery activity to provide a single, integrated, comprehensive view of performance for 2025/26, against our new Corporate Plan (and component IRP). There is also a greater focus on performance trends over time and specific actions to be taken to return performance to acceptable levels for both red and amber indicators.
- 19.2.8 To embed the Performance Management Framework throughout the council, a corporate approach to business planning has been introduced and will be rolled out to support directorates with the process over the next quarter, in readiness for 2026/27 delivery. This will ensure all areas of the council are aligning their activity and performance management to the Corporate Plan.
- 19.2.9 Further, a performance diagnostic tool is being developed and will be piloted during the next year. The purpose of this is to identify areas of strength in performance management across the organisation and identify further areas for improvement.

19.3 Governance & Performance

- 19.4 The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) review highlighted longstanding, deep-seated, fundamental shortfalls in governance within the Council, prompting the council to develop the 6-month stabilisation plan in December 2023 which was delivered through to the summer of 2024 when it was further taken forward through the IRP.
- 19.5 Key governance reforms achieved over this period include:
- Strengthening leadership and accountability, with the City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer overseeing Stabilisation Plan delivery.
 - Refreshing corporate KPIs to enhance performance monitoring, aligning with the IRP Programme Management, Performance, and Risk framework.

- Resetting governance structures, including an independent Audit Committee, a revised Member-Officer Protocol, and a modernised scrutiny and committee system with improved training and processes.
- Establishing new risk management systems and implementing a Risk Management IT solution to provide clearer insights for decision-making.
- Ensuring stronger financial scrutiny, with a Budget Scrutiny Task and Finish Group playing a key role in challenging financial plans.

19.6 The council is also focused on strengthening partnerships and engagement, with initiatives such as The Stakeholder Sentiment Tracker, a new Stakeholder Relationship Management system, and the Succeeding in Partnership project. The Stabilisation Plan's success has laid the foundation for sustained improvement, with clearer accountability, stronger working relationships, and more effective decision-making now embedded in the council's approach.

19.7 Legal Services

19.7.1 The service now forms part of the new SIG directorate. Legal Services is continuing its transformation journey which started in 2024 and has implemented a new structure which will improve productivity and effectiveness of this enabling service. An important part of this process is dealing with the recruitment crisis which is affecting the whole sector. Consequently, it has run a successful recruitment process to employ 6 trainee solicitors and apprentices to help "grow our own" lawyers of the future and provide career opportunities in local government. This will hopefully provide further resilience for the service going forward.

19.7.2 Performance management data is being improved to ensure Legal Services is a responsive service that meets the needs of the council going forward in supporting the council plan. This will help by creating a culture of continuous improvement, excellence and accountability. The information will also assist the service in reviewing the savings it needs to make in forthcoming years. Legal Services are on course to deliver identified savings for 25/26 and are developing proposals for achieving savings in 26/27.

19.7.3 The service introduced service level agreements (SLA) in April 2025 to improve service quality and clarify expectations around service delivery. In modernising our practice we are moving our case management system to a cloud-based platform and are using tools such as Sharepoint and Power Automative and Lists to streamline internal processes. We are also looking at the possibilities of using AI to deliver further efficiencies.

19.7.4 The service is still pivotal in delivering in respect of the IRP in relation to governance and relationships. The four workstreams are:

- the review of the operation of the constitution;
- culture and decision making;
- member development; and
- scrutiny improvement.

19.7.5 A number of actions to support the governance improvement plan are currently in the process of being delivered including new guidance for the members in relation to the Councillor Code of Conduct; a review of the Officer/Member Protocol; creation of a new Member Development Programme; and a new Executive/Scrutiny Protocol which is being developed to improve the effectiveness of relationships between Executive and Scrutiny, reaffirming the 'parity of esteem' between these functions and ensure Scrutiny adds value to the overall good governance of the Council.

19.7.6 The service is continuing to provide legal support to major projects across the council including the industrial dispute in waste and equal pay. In addition, the service will be involved in ensuring that the all-out elections in May 2026 are managed successfully.

19.7.7 A challenge that remains for the service is having sufficient resource to deliver an excellent service, and to meet that challenge we are developing new ways of working and continue to review the demands of the work.

20 Human Resources

20.1 Workforce & Culture

20.1.1 The council is addressing past challenges and ensuring fairness for all staff. A Commissioner-endorsed equal pay settlement with GMB and Unison, reached in December 2024, marks a pivotal step in rebuilding trust and improving industrial relations.

20.1.2 This settlement is within the Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) package agreed with the government. The next phase includes a reshaped Pay & Grading structure using the NJC Job Evaluation scheme. A top-tier restructure and permanent senior appointments are creating a smaller, more cost-effective and more agile organisation with strengthened leadership and direct line of accountability for performance at senior level.

20.1.3 Corporate activities such as customer contact and business support functions are being centralised to eliminate duplication and drive efficiency, with further rationalisation planned aligned to the implementation of Oracle.

20.1.4 Cultural change has been a key priority. The "Way We Work" programme reinforces essential behaviours, built around three core principles introduced in October 2024. In addition, the new appraisal framework for 2025/26 focuses on performance, behaviours, and regular feedback, ensuring accountability at all levels. Progress will be measured through Staff Survey engagement scores,

improved participation in appraisals, and stronger collaboration with Staff 'Colleague Community' Networks and the recognised Trade Unions.

20.1.5 The Council's commitment to ensuring equality and inclusion within the workforce has been reinforced by the work of the EDI&B team who have further developed the former 'Everybody's Battle, Everybody's Business' project and have embedded the principles of that approach within the permanent business model within the HR Directorate.

20.1.6 The Council has also begun developing a new workforce strategy, underpinned by a refreshed HR function to ensure the organisation has the skills and capacity needed to deliver high-quality services and the Birmingham vision. Particular note has been taken of the recent Scrutiny Report (reported to Council in July 2025) on recruiting a younger workforce; the recommendations of that report have been accepted, and implementation is being progressed – an illustration of the effectiveness of Scrutiny in helping shape strategic improvements in the way the Council works.

20.2 Equal Pay

20.2.1 The Equal Pay Programme has been significantly affected by industrial action by Unite in waste collection. This has resulted in changes to the programme timeline:

20.3 Pay & grading

20.3.1 BCC Employment Committee approved the reshaped Pay and Grading system in October 2024 which was on track to be implemented by 1 April 2025

20.3.2 Due to the impact of the Waste dispute, the introduction of the reshaped Pay and Grading system was rescheduled from 1 April 2025 to 1 October 2025

20.3.3 All three Trade Unions have now put the reshaped Pay and Grading system to their members via ballot.

20.3.4 The programme is carefully managing any interdependencies with other programmes and expanded the scope of its technical workstream to ensure that any dependencies to Oracle Brindley re-implementation are proactively managed. The two programmes are closely collaborating and there are currently no technical issues that would prevent the introduction of the reshaped Pay & Grading structure.

20.3.5 In parallel to the Grade 1 to 5 Pay and Grading activities, the programme has now commenced the planning of JNC Gr 6 / 7 activities, with a successful proof of concept completed. Further planning is under way for proposed implementation in 2026.

20.4 Job evaluation

20.4.1 The first two stages of the overall Job Evaluation process (Job Information & Job Evaluations) are running ahead of schedule with recruitment and training of Job Evaluators being on track to ensure that the Programme Job Evaluation commitment will be met.

- 20.4.2 The programme has experienced some delays in the last stage of the Job Evaluation process (Moderation). Mitigation plans have been put in place to ensure that the moderation delays do not compromise the 'Outcome release' timeline.
- 20.4.3 Additional engagement from the Job Evaluation Team is in place to support Directorates on re-design Job Evaluations as part of their ongoing transformation projects.

21 Conclusion

- 21.1 In summary, the work overseen by the Cabinet Member for Transformation, Governance and HR in collaboration with the Director of HR has been pivotal in bringing about a fundamental realignment of the Council's strategic approach to improved governance and performance.
- 21.2 While the input from Commissioners has been welcome and key in our improvement journey in ensuring the Council has responded effectively to the longstanding and deep-seated problems in governance, culture, performance and accountability and their continued support is further valued – the Council is now at a stage where we are effectively implementing plans and are in position whereby the Council is owning responsibility for where things need to be improved and is committed to pursuing an internally driven programme of fundamental and radical change.

The work reported above provides demonstrable compelling evidence of the paradigm shift and justifies confidence that the Council possesses the capability and commitment to move forward with our improvement journey.

Birmingham City Council

Report to City Council

16 September 2025



| | |
|---|--|
| Title: | SCRUTINY BUSINESS REPORT |
| Lead Member: | Councillor Sir Albert Bore |
| Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee: | Not Applicable |
| Has this report been shared with the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair? | Not Applicable |
| Report Author: | Fiona Bottrill, Senior Overview and Scrutiny Manager Legal and Governance fiona.bottrill@birmingham.gov.uk |
| Authorised by: | Rob Connelly, Deputy Monitoring Officer |
| Is this a Key Decision? | Not Applicable |
| Reason(s) why not included on the Forward Plan and confirm who has authorised it to be considered: | Not Applicable |
| Is this a Late Report? | No |
| Reason(s) why Late and confirm who has authorised it to be considered: | Not Applicable |
| Is this decision eligible for 'call in?' | Not Applicable |
| If 'call-in' has been dis-applied, please provide reason(s) and confirm who has authorised: | Not Applicable |
| Wards: | Not Applicable |
| Does this report contain exempt or confidential information? | No |

Has this decision been included on the Notification of Intention to consider Matters in Private? Not Applicable

Reasons why not included on the Notification and confirm who has authorised it to be considered: Not Applicable

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update City Council on the work of Overview and Scrutiny Committees and how this contributes to the Council's improvement journey and delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan. This includes the work of the seven Overview and Scrutiny Committees, two Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel since April 2025 and identifying the priorities for 2025/26 that include:

- Developing an Executive / Scrutiny Protocol
- Improving monitoring implementation of Scrutiny recommendations and outcomes
- Implementation of the Scrutiny Information Hub to provide timely information on performance, delivery and risk to inform Scrutiny Committee work programmes
- Ensuring work of Overview and Scrutiny Committees adds value through a balanced work programme including policy development, pre-decision scrutiny, Call-In, and scrutiny of policy implementation.

1.2 It has been 25 years since the introduction of local government scrutiny. This report reflects on some of the issues that Scrutiny in Birmingham has addressed during this time and how the development of the Executive / Scrutiny Protocol will support the role of Overview and Scrutiny going forward.

2 COMMISSIONERS' REVIEW

2.1 Commissioners have no observations in relation to this report.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That City Council note the report.

4 KEY INFORMATION

Context

4.1 During 2024/25, work was undertaken to deliver the Overview and Scrutiny Development Plan. An update report was provided to Corporate and Finance Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 2 May 2025 which confirmed the following priorities for scrutiny:

- Issues relating to Improvement and Recovery Plan Priorities (this is now included in the Corporate Plan 2025-2028)
- Statutory scrutiny functions relating to external organisations e.g. Health Scrutiny, Crime and Disorder Scrutiny, Scrutiny of Education matters. Scrutiny of key strategic partners, plans and strategies e.g. Birmingham Children's Trust, Youth Justice Plan, West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Annual Report.

- Issues identified by O&S Committee Information Working Groups based on corporate risk, performance and delivery information.
- Pre-Decision Scrutiny of the budget and Executive decisions and policy development.
- Safe and effective key services for vulnerable people including Annual Reports of Children and Adult Safeguarding Partnerships.
- Monitoring the implementation of Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommendations.
- Issues agreed with the Executive where Scrutiny can add value by undertaking task and finish group work.
- Issues referred to Scrutiny for consideration under the Audit / Scrutiny Memorandum of Understanding.
- Issues referred by City Council.

Scrutiny Highlights 2000 - 2025

- 4.2 July this year marked 25 years since the Local Government Act 2000 gained Royal Assent bringing in the Leader / Cabinet system and the requirement for overview and scrutiny. The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny will be marking this significant event later in the year and it is an opportunity to reflect on the work of overview and scrutiny during this period. The case studies below set out work carried out in Birmingham that has been recognised nationally highlighting the award winning inquiries and where work has informed national policy and legislation:
- 4.3 The Children and Education OSC undertook its [Scrutiny Review: Education on Relationships and Sexual Health](#) in 2009. The original idea for the review came from the young people who were members of the scrutiny committee. They felt that young people did not always receive the highest quality Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) within their schools, and they wanted to see how this could be improved.
- 4.4 This piece of work gained national recognition for involving young people, other groups including the faith communities, young parents and the voluntary sector by winning the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) Good Scrutiny Award for 'Community Engagement'. The award judges strongly felt that the involvement of young people in the planning and delivery of the project was a key factor in its success. In addition, a leaflet was developed that shared the findings of the review and this is available [here](#).
- 4.5 The Health & Social Care OSC's [Living Life to the Full With Dementia Scrutiny Inquiry](#) won the Good Scrutiny Awards in 2015 for 'Involvement'. This Inquiry was undertaken at the suggestion of the Service Director for Health and Wellbeing, and the impact includes: working towards making Birmingham a dementia-friendly city beginning at the district level by ensuring the public services reflect the needs of people with dementia, expenditure on dementia service being reprioritised towards early assessment and interventions, Birmingham GPs would identify vulnerable patients and make referrals to the West Midlands Fire Service

for their homes to receive a fire safety check, and increased information and awareness about dementia within the community.

- 4.6 The Education and Vulnerable Children OSC's [We Need to Get it Right Health Check in Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation \(CSE\) Scrutiny Inquiry](#) won the Good Scrutiny Awards in 2015 for 'Raising the Profile'. The impact includes the Inquiry succeeding in raising awareness of CSE with both practitioners and communities, putting forward a wide range of recommendations across the Council, Community and other key partners to improve training and resources concerning CSE, an agreement was obtained by partners to be named as 'responsible parties' regarding the issues, a DVD and resource pack for schools was launched, and the CSE strategy was redrafted.
- 4.7 The [Exempt Accommodation Scrutiny Inquiry](#) reported to City Council in December 2021 and was an important piece of work that raised the profile of the issue in the city and nationally. The report informed the evidence that was presented to the Government's national inquiry on exempt accommodation and subsequently the Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023 received royal assent in August 2023. The Homes Overview and Scrutiny Committee has continued to monitor the implementation of the inquiry recommendations to understand the ongoing impact of this work.

Developing an Executive Scrutiny Protocol

- 4.8 In order to continue to develop Overview and Scrutiny at the Council it was agreed at the Governance Board held in June 2025 that an Executive / Scrutiny Protocol will be developed that will reset the Council's political and organisational culture, ensuring a 'parity of esteem' between the Executive and Overview and Scrutiny. The protocol will contribute to demonstrating how the Council is delivering the Improvement and Recovery Priority to 'foster a better performing organisation with stronger governance'. The draft protocol will be considered by the Governance Board in September and will go to Corporate and Finance OSC on 26 September and to Cabinet for endorsement. The Protocol will then go to the Governance Board to consider the wider governance arrangements.

Demonstrating Outcomes: Corporate Plan Priorities 2025

- 4.9 The Council's Corporate Plan 2025-2028 was agreed at Cabinet on 3 June 2025. In planning the work programmes Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSCs) have considered how they can contribute to the delivery of the Corporate Priorities as set out below:

Growth and Prosperity: Birmingham is a vibrant and inclusive City

- 4.10 The Economy, Skills and Culture OSC carried out pre-decision scrutiny on the Cultural Compact Strategy 2025-35 and made nine recommendations that were considered as part of the Cabinet report on 24 June 2025. The Committee's recommendations included use of Section 106 and Community Infrastructure

Levy in supporting future arts and cultural activities, engagement with the City's education sector to deliver more arts and culture in support of its educational aims and recommending a joined up approach with the Council's asset disposal programme and under-utilisation of the Council's cultural assets.

Knowledge and Opportunity: Birmingham is a City where every person can learn and develop the skills they need to thrive

- 4.11 The Education, Children and Young People's OSC held a workshop to consider school attainment and improvement on 14 May 2025. The Committee explored how it could add value and how local ward councillors could assist as part of their role of being community leaders.

Safety and sustainability: Birmingham is a safe, clean and green place to live

- 4.12 The Homes OSC continues to consider the progress on Regulatory Compliance including compliance with the Consumer Standards, the reporting provided to the Regulator of Social Housing and the position on Disrepair and Litigation.
- 4.13 The Education, Children and Young People OSC held a pre-decision workshop on 23 July 2025 with the Health and Adult Social Care OSC and commented on the draft youth strategy and consultation plans.
- 4.14 The Education, Children and Young People OSC on 8 August 2025 considered the call-in request for the Cabinet decision made on 22 July 2025 for the Youth Service Redesign – Estate.
- 4.15 The Neighbourhoods OSC received a report on the Review of Parks and Green spaces at the Committee meeting on 14 May 2025. The report included delivery of savings, the new operating model, strategic governance, finance, capital projects, service improvement project update and the Nursery Reduction Programme.
- 4.16 The Neighbourhoods OSC visited the City Operations Hub on 14 May 2025 to see the CCTV operation control room, learn about the transformation plans, and discuss how the Committee and Ward Members can help shape this transformation.
- 4.17 The Neighbourhoods OSC received a short statement from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport at the meeting on 16 July 2025 on the Leader's statement regarding the Waste Service industrial action and future arrangements for scrutiny involvement in the Waste Transformation Programme.
- 4.18 The Neighbourhoods OSC held a training session on 18 June 2025 to ensure the Committee will fulfil its role as the designated Crime and Disorder Committee to scrutinise the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and ensure it fulfils its statutory duties.
- 4.19 The Neighbourhoods OSC considered a Request for Call-In at the Committee meeting on 2 June on the Cabinet decision taken on 13 May 2025 on the

Outcome from Informal Consultations on Proposed Parking Charges in Parks and Proposal to Progress Formal Traffic Regulation Orders (Off Street Parking Places Orders). The decision was not referred to Cabinet for reconsideration and the Committee agreed a letter should be sent to the Cabinet Member setting out the points raised by the Committee so that these could be taken into consideration in the implementation of the decision. The issues identified included: improved consultation on service re-designs, assurance regarding the Equality Impact Assessment as the project progresses and requested information on the phasing of parking charges.

Health, Equity and Inclusion: Birmingham is a place where everyone can live, work and age well

- 4.20 The Neighbourhoods OSC received a report on 14 May 2025 on the Implementation plan for the delivery of the Early Intervention and Prevention Transformation of Libraries and Neighbourhood and Advice and Information Services including an update on the recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee as part of the pre-decision scrutiny of the Cabinet decision. A further update was provided on the draft engagement plan at an informal meeting on 16 July 2025, in line with the recommendations made by the Committee in February 2025.
- 4.21 The Birmingham and Sandwell Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered reports from the Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Board (ICB) at the meeting on 16 July 2025 on Performance and Finance, the ICB Model Update in line with the NHS 10 year plan and also an update report on Birmingham & Solihull ICB's Urgent Treatment Care Review.
- 4.22 The Health and Adult Social Care OSC carried out pre-decision scrutiny on Care Centres at an informal meeting on 31 July 2025. The Committee agreed 10 recommendations that will be considered as part of the Cabinet report.

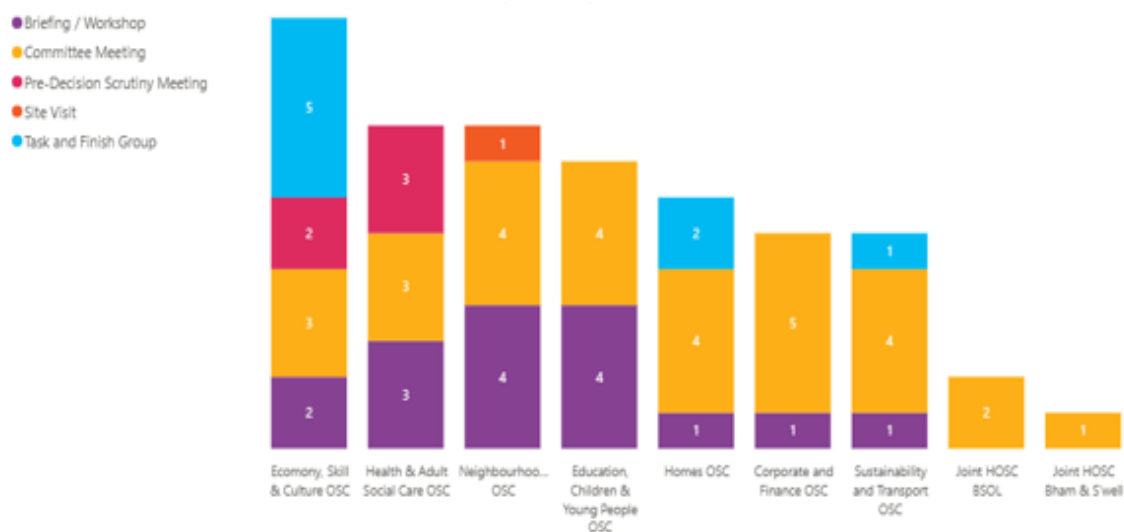
Connected Birmingham: Birmingham is a well-connected City

- 4.23 The Sustainability and Transport OSC considered reports on the HS2 Transport Delivery Programme and the Transport for West Midlands Schemes: Camphill Line Stations in South Birmingham, Metro in Birmingham, Sprint and Cross City Bus Programme at the meeting on 17 April 2025.
- 4.24 The West Midlands Mayoral Commissioners for Active Travel and Road Safety and the West Midlands Police attended the committee meeting on 15 May 2025 to provide an update on their work to inform the future work of the Committee on Road Safety and Active Travel. Update reports on the Road Safety and Active Travel Inquiries were reported to the committee meetings in June and July 2025.

Improvement and Recovery: Birmingham City Council is financially sustainable and operates effectively as a smaller, leaner and more efficient Council.

- 4.25 During March and April each OSC received reports on the delivery of savings and IRP programmes within the Committees Terms of reference.
- 4.26 The Lead Commissioner attended the Corporate and Finance OSC meeting on 29 April 2025 to discuss the Commissioners' Second Report to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.
- 4.27 The Corporate and Finance OSC considered the request for Call-In of the Planned Procurement Activities Report to Cabinet Report on the Professional Services Residential Property Acquisition Programme (PAP) Phase 2 at the committee meeting on 19 May 2025. The decision was referred back to Cabinet for reconsideration on the basis that there was a substantial lack of clarity, material inaccuracy or insufficient information provided in the report to allow the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to hold the Executive to account and/or add value to the work of the Council. The report was reconsidered by Cabinet on 24 June 2025 providing a response setting out the information requested, and Cabinet approved the decision to proceed.
- 4.28 Corporate and Finance OSC at the committee meeting on 2 May 2025 agreed that each Overview and Scrutiny Committee will establish an Information Working Group to consider the performance, delivery and risk information that is relevant to the Committee's terms of reference to inform the Committee's work programme.
- 4.29 Economy and Skills OSC received an update report at the meeting on 7 May 2025 on the Corporate Landlord Programme, including community facing assets that have been recommended as surplus and approved for disposal, having responded to community interest and opportunity to transfer on standard terms to appropriate community Groups.
- 4.30 The Economy and Skills OSC reported to City Council on 8 July 2025 on the scrutiny inquiry on Attracting and Retaining a Younger Workforce. The Inquiry made 11 recommendations, and the committee will receive a report on the implementation of the recommendations in October 2025.
- 4.31 The Corporate and Finance OSC considered the Financial Outturn 2024/25, Capital Governance, the 2026/27 General Fund Medium Terms Financial Plan Refresh Update to Cabinet at Quarter 1 of the 2025/26 Financial Year, and the Quarter One Financial Monitoring Report – General Fund budget, Housing Revenue Account Budget, Dedicated Schools Grant Budget and the Capital Programme on 25 July. These reports will support the committee's continued work on the development of the Medium Term Financial Plan and the 2026/27 Budget proposals.
- 4.32 Between April and September 2025, the Overview and Scrutiny Committees held 61 meetings. The charts below illustrate the range of methods that OSCs have used to undertake their work:

Chart 1: Scrutiny Method by Overview and Scrutiny Committee
April – September 2025



From: Scrutiny Dashboard developed with City Observatory (Information correct as of 19 March 2025)

Note: Where a committee carried out pre-decision scrutiny at a committee meeting or a task finish group meeting this has been shown as a 'pre-decision scrutiny meeting'.

Scrutiny Information Hub

- 4.33 Following the work of the Scrutiny Information Task and Finish Group during 2024/25 a SharePoint site has been developed to enable scrutiny members to access information on the Council's performance, delivery and risk. From September this will allow scrutiny members access to a more regular, appropriate, and timely set of information to inform their work programmes. Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee has established an Information Working Group that will meet during September, and then quarterly, to consider this information and identify areas that require deeper investigation. These Working Group meetings are in addition to the meetings shown in Chart 1 above.

Monitoring Outcomes of Scrutiny Recommendations

- 4.34 There are robust systems in place to monitor the recommendations of Scrutiny Inquiries. However, it has been recognised that the systems to monitor the recommendations from pre-decision scrutiny and Task and Finish Groups are not as well developed. Work has taken place to pull together all the Scrutiny recommendations since April 2023 and agree arrangements to report on their implementation.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee and West Midland Police and Crime Panel Work Programmes

- 4.35 The work programme for the OSCs and the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel from April - September 2025 are included as Appendix A.

5 MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

Ward Councillor(s)

- 5.1 Not Applicable

Overview and Scrutiny

- 5.2 Not applicable

Other

- 5.3 Not Applicable

6 IMPACT AND IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Best Value

- 6.1 There are no financial implications resulting from the recommendations in this report. Overview and Scrutiny Committees will continue to scrutinise the delivery of savings as a key element of the Council's financial recovery through the Scrutiny Information Hub.

Legal

- 6.2 There are no legal implications resulting from the recommendations in this report. The work of the O&S Committees meets the Council's statutory duties regarding local government and health scrutiny as set out in the Statutory Guidance: [Overview and scrutiny: statutory guidance for councils, combined authorities and combined county authorities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) and Health Scrutiny Regulations: [Local authority health scrutiny - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Equalities

- 6.3 The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:
- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
 - advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

- 6.4 The protected characteristics and groups outlined in the Equality Act are: Age; Disability; Gender Reassignment; Marriage and Civil Partnership; Pregnancy and Maternity; Race; Religion and Belief; Sex, and Sexual Orientation.
- 6.5 Overview and Scrutiny should ensure that it addresses these duties by considering them during work programme development, the scoping of work, evidence gathering and making recommendations. This should include considering: How policy issues impact on different groups within the community, particularly those that share a relevant protected characteristic; Whether the impact on particular groups is fair and proportionate; Whether there is equality of access to services and fair representation of all groups within Birmingham; Whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people are being realised.
- 6.6 Overview and Scrutiny should ensure that equalities comments, and any recommendations, are based on evidence. This should include demographic and service level data and evidence of residents/service-users views gathered through consultation.

Procurement

- 6.7 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

People Services

- 6.8 There are no staffing implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Climate Change, Nature and Net Zero

- 6.9 Overview and Scrutiny Committees will consider climate change, nature and Net Zero issues relevant to the work programme items.

Corporate Parenting

- 6.10 Overview and Scrutiny Committees will consider corporate parenting responsibilities and opportunities relevant to the work programme.

Other

- 6.11 There are no other implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

7 APPENDICES

- 7.1 Appendix A - the work programme for the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel from April - September 2025.

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 None

Overview and Scrutiny Committees and West Midlands Police and Crime Panel Work Programmes

April – September 2025

| Corporate and Finance OSC | | | | | |
|--|---|-------------|--|---------------|---|
| April | May | June | July | August | September |
| Committee Meeting 29 April: Commissioners Second Report | Committee Meeting 19 May: Call-In: Planned Procurement Activities Report, Professional Services Residential Property Acquisitions Programme (PAP) Phase 2 | | Workshop 4 July Work programme planning | | Committee Meeting 26 Sept: Transformation Programmes Executive/ Scrutiny Protocol Work Programme Report including MTFP / 2026/27 Budget Scrutiny Terms of Reference |
| Committee Meeting 2 May: Delivery of savings and IRP Programmes Scrutiny Development Plan Work Programme Report | | | Committee Meeting 25 July: End of Year Outturn 24/25 Capital Programme Governance / Budget MTFP Assumptions, pressures and initial progress on savings Work Programme Report | | Information Working Group |
| Economy, Skills and Culture OSC | | | | | |
| Corporate Plan 2025 - 28: Mission: Growth and Prosperity Birmingham is a vibrant and inclusive city where: Priorities: | | | | | |

| <p>Investment and economic growth benefit all people and places in the city. There is equal opportunity for people to get, and keep, good jobs. Birmingham is promoted as a great place to live, visit and do business.</p> <p>Mission: Knowledge and opportunity Birmingham is a City where every person can learn and develop the skills they need to thrive where: Priorities: Lifelong learning is accessible to all. Skills shortages in key sectors are addressed.</p> <p>Mission: Birmingham Council is financial sustainable and operates effectively as a smaller, leaner and more efficient council Priorities: Transform the way we operate.</p> | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--------|---|
| April | May | June | July | August | September |
| <p>Committee Meeting: 2 April</p> <p>IRP and Savings Progress Report</p> <p>Quarterly Asset Disposal Programme Update</p> | <p>Committee Meeting: 7 May</p> <p>Corporate Landlord Programme</p> | <p>Informal Meeting 11 June:</p> <p>Economic and Place Strategy and Integrated Settlement – Briefing</p> <p>Work Programme Discussion</p> | <p>Committee meeting 16 July:</p> <p>Asset Disposal/ Corporate Landlord Programme including Pre Decision: 'Surplus Property - Recommended Disposal Route'</p> <p>Work Programme –confirm Inquiry objectives and methodology</p> | | <p>Evidence gathering for Jobs and Skills Inquiry</p> |
| | | | | | Information Working Group |
| <p>Education, Children and Young People OSC</p> <p>Corporate Plan 2025 - 28</p> <p>Mission: Knowledge & Opportunity Birmingham is a City where every person can learn and develop the skills they need to thrive where:</p> | | | | | |

| <p>Priorities: Children and young people have a good start in life and a great education.</p> <p>Mission: Health, Equity and Inclusion Birmingham is a place where everyone can live, work and age well where: Priorities: Children and young people have a healthy start in life. People are empowered to make healthy choices to improve wellbeing. Everyone feels safe, heard and can grow.</p> <p>Mission: Safety & Sustainability Birmingham is a safe, clean and green place to live where: Priorities: People are safeguarded and protected from harm.</p> | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| April | May | June | July | August | September |
| <p>Committee Meeting 9 April:</p> <p>Developing the Governance around School Exclusions, Elective Home Education (EHE) and part time timetables.</p> <p>Delivery of IRP and Savings Progress</p> | <p>Workshop 14 May: School Attainment and Improvement</p> | <p>Informal Meeting 11 June: Work Programme Discussion</p> | <p>23 July 2025: Joint Pre-Decision Scrutiny workshop on draft Youth Strategy with HASC OSC</p> | <p>Call-In Meeting 8 August 2025: Youth Service Redesign - Estate</p> | <p>Committee meeting 17 September: Birmingham children's Trust (BCT) Update / Annual Report</p> <p>Workshop 17 September: Birmingham Families First</p> |
| | | | | | Information Working Group |
| Health and Adult Social Care OSC | | | | | |
| <p>Corporate Plan</p> <p>Mission: Health, Equity and Inclusion Birmingham is a place where everyone can live, work and age well where: Priorities: People are empowered to make healthy choices to improve wellbeing. Everyone can live and age well.</p> | | | | | |

| <p>Everyone feels safe, heard and can grow.</p> <p>Mission: Safety & Sustainability Birmingham is a safe, clean and green place to live where: Priorities: People are safeguarded and protected from harm.</p> <p>Health Scrutiny</p> | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--------|--|
| April | May | June | July | August | September |
| <p>Committee Meeting 9 April: Delivery of savings and IRP Programme Work Programme</p> | <p>Work Programme Planning workshop</p> | <p>Committee Meeting 18 June: Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Board Quality Report Tracking recommendations: Scrutiny Inquiry on Promoting Health and Wellbeing – A Commonwealth Games Legacy Work Programme</p> | <p>16 July ICB workshop – work programme planning</p> | | <p>Committee Meeting 24 Sept: Procurement and Contract Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Social Care • Public Health /Health Inequalities • Sport and Wellbeing |
| | | | <p>31 July Pre-Decision Scrutiny: Care Centres</p> | | <p>Information Working Group</p> |
| | | | | | <p>Pre-Decision Scrutiny Workshop: Public Health</p> |
| Birmingham and Sandwell Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee | | | | | |
| April | May | June | July | August | September |
| | <p>Committee Meeting 6 May: Midlands Metropolitan</p> | | | | <p>Workshop to agree KPIs to report Midlands Metropolitan University</p> |

| | | | | | |
|---|--|-------------|---|---------------|---|
| | University Hospital – Benefits Realisation | | | | Hospital benefits realisation to JHOSC |
| Birmingham and Solihull (BSoL) Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee | | | | | |
| April | May | June | July | August | September |
| Committee Meeting 15 April: Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care System Headline Finance Report (M11 2024/25) and 2025/26 Financial Plan Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Board Performance and Delivery Plan Update on Neurodevelopmental Assessment Pathways for Children and Young People in Birmingham and Solihull | | | JHOSC Committee Meeting: 16 th July: Terms of reference Performance and Finance Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Board Model update Birmingham and Solihull Urgent Treatment Centre Review update | | Birmingham and Solihull Urgent Treatment Centre Review update (TBC) |
| Homes OSC | | | | | |
| Corporate Plan Mission: Safety and Sustainability Birmingham is a safe, clean and green place to live where: More affordable homes are built Housing standards are improved, and homelessness prevented wherever possible | | | | | |
| April | May | June | July | August | September |

| | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|
| <p>Committee Meeting 10 April:</p> <p>Regulatory Compliance</p> <p>IRP and Savings Progress Report</p> | <p>Committee Meeting 8 May:</p> <p>Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Prevention Strategy 2024-29 Annual Review</p> <p>Temporary Accommodation Delivery Approach</p> <p>Supported (Regulatory) Oversight Act 2023 Consultation</p> | <p>Informal Meeting 12 June:</p> <p>Regulatory Compliance Briefing</p> <p>Work Programme Discussion</p> | <p>Committee 17 July:</p> <p>Regulatory Compliance Quarterly Report</p> <p>Inquiry Tracking Report: Exempt Accommodation</p> | | <p>Committee Meeting 11 Sept:</p> <p>Ladywood Regeneration Scheme</p> <p>Work Programme</p> |
| | | | <p>Informal Session: Work Programme Planning</p> | | <p>Information Working Group</p> |

Neighbourhoods OSC

Corporate Plan 2025 - 2028:

Mission: Safety and Sustainability Birmingham is a safe, clean and green place to live where:

Priorities:

Street cleanliness and waste services are improved.

Mission: Growth and Prosperity Birmingham is a vibrant and inclusive city where:

Priorities:

Businesses are supported to succeed; and illegal or unsafe business practices are addressed through effective regulation and enforcement.

Mission: Health, Equity and Inclusion Birmingham is a place where everyone can live, work and age well where:

| <p>Priorities: Council services are citizen-focussed and inclusive.</p> <p>Scrutiny of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CSP)</p> | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--------|---|
| April | May | June | July | August | September |
| <p>Committee Meeting 2 April:</p> <p>Delivery of IRP and Savings Progress</p> <p>Waste Major Incident</p> | <p>Committee Meeting 14 May:</p> <p>Early Intervention and Prevention – Transformation of Community Libraries and Neighbourhoods Advice & Information Services Update</p> <p>Review of Parks</p> | <p>Committee Meeting 2 June:</p> <p>Requests For Call-In Received: Findings from Informal Consultations on Proposed Parking Charges in Parks and Proposal to Progress Formal Traffic Regulation Orders (Off-Street Parking Places Orders)</p> | <p>Workshop 16 July:</p> <p>Pre-decision: Libraries and Neighbourhood Advice and Information Service (NAIS) Transformation Draft Engagement Plan</p> | | <p>10 September 2025:</p> <p>Street Services Transformation Task and Finish Group</p> <p>Briefing on Localisation / Ward Support Transformation</p> |
| | <p>Visit 14 May: City Operations Hub</p> | <p>Training 18 June 2025: Crime and Disorder</p> <p>Workshop 18 June 2025: Work Programme</p> | | | <p>Information Working Group</p> |
| <p>Sustainability and Transport OSC</p> <p>Corporate Plan: Mission: Safety and Sustainability Birmingham is a safe, clean and green place to live where:</p> | | | | | |

| <p>Priorities: Everyone benefits from reduced carbon emissions, cleaner air, and a greener city prepared for climate change.</p> <p>Mission: Connected Birmingham, Birmingham is a well-connected city with: Priorities: A safe and sustainable transport network.</p> | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--------|---|
| April | May | June | July | August | September |
| <p>Committee Meeting: 17 April</p> <p>Road Harm Reduction and Active Travel Update: West Midlands Mayoral Commissioners (Active Travel and Road Safety) and West Midlands Police</p> | <p>Committee Meeting: 15 May</p> <p>IRP and Savings Progress Report</p> <p>Transport Delivery Programme: HS2</p> <p>Transport Delivery Programme: Transport for West Midlands Schemes</p> | <p>Committee Meeting: 26 June: Inquiry Tracking Report – Road Safety</p> | <p>Committee Meeting 31 July: Inquiry Tracking Report – Active Travel</p> <p>Work Programme – decide on topics and methodology</p> | | <p>Informal Meeting: 18 September: Inquiry Evidence gathering (Issue / scope TBC)</p> |
| | | | | | Information Working Group |
| <p>West Midlands Police and Crime Panel</p> <p>Regional body that looks to scrutinise the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands.</p> <p>Member authorities: Birmingham City Council Coventry City Council Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council Walsall Metropolitan Council</p> | | | | | |

| City of Wolverhampton Council 3 x Independent Panel Members | | | | | |
|--|-----|------|---|--------|--|
| April | May | June | July | August | September |
| | | | <p>Committee Meeting 28 July: Annual General Meeting of the Panel – Items: Election of Chair of the Police and Crime Panel 2025/26</p> <p>Election of Vice - Chair of the Police and Crime Panel 2025/26</p> <p>Panel arrangements and rules of procedure</p> <p>Police and Crime Commissioner Introduction and Performance Update – To receive an introduction from the Police and Crime Commissioner and update on their performance.</p> | | <p>Committee Meeting 8 September: Neighbourhood Policing – To receive a report from the Commissioner on Neighbourhood Policing</p> |

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| | | | <p>Victims' Advocate – to receive an introduction from the newly appoint Victims' Advocate and the work they had completed.</p> <p>Work programme – to agree the items for the Panel.</p> | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|

Birmingham City Council

Report to City Council

16 September 2025



| | |
|---|--|
| Title: | MOTIONS FOR DEBATE FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS |
| Lead Member: | Not applicable |
| Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee: | Not applicable |
| Has this report been shared with the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair? | Not applicable |
| Report Author: | Ben Patel-Sadler, Senior Committee Manager Legal and Governance (Council Management) Ben.Patel-Sadler@birmingham.gov.uk |
| Authorised by: | Anthony Cox, Director of Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) Legal and Governance (Council Management) |
| Is this a Key Decision? | No |
| Reason(s) why not included on the Forward Plan and confirm who has authorised it to be considered: | Not applicable |
| Is this a Late Report? | No |
| Reason(s) why Late and confirm who has authorised it to be considered: | Not applicable |
| Is this decision eligible for 'call in?' | Not applicable |
| If 'call-in' has been dis-applied, please provide reason(s) and confirm who has authorised: | Not applicable |
| Wards: | Not applicable |

Does this report contain exempt or confidential information?

No

1 COMMISSIONERS' REVIEW

- 1.1 Commissioners do not provide comments in relation to the City Council Motions reports.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

That City Council:

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

3 NOTICES OF MOTION

A. Councillors Colin Green and Izzy Knowles have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

Council notes that in February 2022, the Department for Transport (DfT) enabled Local Authorities to apply for Moving Traffic Enforcement (MTE) powers.

Ten months later in December 2022, a report was approved by Cabinet outlining the recommended approach for Birmingham in applying for these powers. A pilot was outlined, and a recommendation of penalty charge notices of £70 for contraventions at the six locations was agreed. West Midlands Police would still be able to enforce such offences, and enforcement would be complementary to existing Police enforcement activities.

Para 4.2 of this Cabinet Report stated:

"It is recommended that the City Council applies for MTE powers now, in Tranche 2 to meet the deadline of 13th January 2023, recognising that poor compliance with Traffic Regulation Orders in some parts of the city's highway network is causing significant deterioration in user safety. Application to take on these powers now would provide the City Council with an effective tool to tackle these areas of concern at the earliest possible opportunity."

The trial was strongly endorsed by the members of public, which was confirmed by the Be Heard public consultation, with 82% percent of the public agreeing or strongly agreeing that the trial should go ahead.

Council also notes that in an answer to a written question by Cllr Jon Hunt (J1) in November 2023 the following statement was made regarding the MTE camera trial, reducing the trial to 4 locations with a delayed implementation:

"...It is proposed to submit the Full Business Case by the end of December 2023. Subject to approval the contractor will be appointed by February 2024.

The first two sites will then be installed in March 2024, the remaining two locations would then be implemented over the following months depending on the success of the first two. The trial is expected to last for 12 months from the go-live for each scheme."

Numerous Councils are now introducing Moving Traffic Enforcements cameras, including Solihull, North Somerset, Harrow, Derby, and others.

Council further notes that a Road Safety Emergency was declared on 1st August 2024 "to specifically tackle dangerous, careless and inconsiderate driving."

Council agrees with Cabinet that MTE cameras have the potential to play a significant role in addressing dangerous, careless and inconsiderate driving and therefore:

- 1) expresses its strong concern about the failure to implement the MTE camera trial, despite the declaration of a Road Safety Emergency, and
- 2) requests that the trials are completed as soon as is practical, to enable MTE cameras to be rolled out across the City to other suitable locations as quickly as possible.

B. Councillors John Cotton and Sharon Thompson have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

This Council notes that:

As Birmingham prepares to host the Regional Investment Summit – West Midlands 2025, the Labour Government's determination to place regional growth at the heart of the national agenda offers a unique opportunity to showcase this city as a powerhouse for investment and opportunity.

Birmingham has attracted record levels of investment since 2012 and over the last two years (2023-24) has been the UK's top city for FDI outside of London.

As the country's second largest city economy, Birmingham is a place buzzing with entrepreneurship, and creativity.

The recently signed West Midlands Growth Plan aims to create 100,000 good jobs in fast-growing industries, getting tens of thousands of

residents into work, improving public transport, and building 120,000 homes.

And a growing list of major regeneration projects across the city will significantly benefit the lives and life chances of Birmingham citizens for many years to come.

These include:

- Birmingham City Football Club's £3bn Sports Quarter regeneration project, which will create 8,400 new jobs annually in Birmingham, generating £370 million in growth each year.
- Birmingham Knowledge Quarter - a world-class, city-centre innovation cluster focused on science, technology, and enterprise that will deliver an estimated 20,000 jobs and a 4,000 home 'eco-town'.
- and Birmingham Health Innovation Campus - a £210 million project providing state-of-the-art lab, office, and innovation space, and up to 10,000 new jobs.
- Our creative quarter in Digbeth is flourishing, the East Birmingham North Solihull growth area will transform lives, while major projects like Ladywood, Druids Heath and Sutton Langley will create homes, jobs, and opportunities for our young and growing population.

The Council resolves to:

- Maximise the significant opportunities presented by the summit, utilising this national platform to promote investment in Birmingham and the wider region, shining a spotlight on our talent, innovation and potential.
- Continue working with Government, West Midlands Mayor Richard Parker, businesses, investors, trades unions, and our education sector to deliver more growth and jobs, while ensuring that the people of

Birmingham have the necessary skills to take advantage of the opportunities being created.

- Ensure that the impact of investment and development spreads beyond the city centre, creating inclusive economic growth, increased productivity and employment opportunities for the whole city.
- Continue working with a broad range of partners to maximise the growth and employment potential for our citizens in growth sectors, including the creative and cultural economy.
- Build on our strengths of entrepreneurship, diversity and a thriving arts and cultural scene to make the city a more prosperous city of choice for people and businesses, where more wealth is retained in local communities.
- Ensure that our schools, colleges, and universities work in partnership with businesses and communities, to help our young people realise their academic and personal potential, empowering the next generation to drive the city forward.

IMPACT AND IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Best Value

3.1 There are none arising from this report.

Legal

3.2 There are none arising from this report.

Equalities

3.3 There are none arising from this report.

Procurement

3.4 There are none arising from this report.

People Services

3.5 There are none arising from this report.

Climate Change, Nature and Net Zero

3.6 There are none arising from this report.

Corporate Parenting

3.7 There are none arising from this report.

Other

3.8 There are none arising from this report.

4 APPENDICES

4.1 None.

5 BACKGROUND PAPERS

5.1 None.

