

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

HOUSING AND HOMES O&S COMMITTEE – PUBLIC MEETING

1400 hours on Tuesday 11 April 2017, Committee Room 2

Present:

Councillor Matthew Gregson in the Chair

Councillors Andy Cartwright, Des Hughes, Mahmood Hussain, Mary Locke, Gary Sambrook, Sybil Spence and Ron Storer

Also Present:

Councillor Peter Griffiths, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homes

John Hardy, Commissioning Manager

Rob James, Service Director, Housing Transformation

Chief Superintendent Chris Johnson, West Midlands Police

Jacqui Kennedy, Corporate Director, Place

Kalvinder Kohli, Service Lead, Commissioning Centre of Excellence

Pat Merrick, AD, Universal, Prevention and Early Intervention

Jayne Power, Research & Policy Officer, Scrutiny Office

Emma Williamson, Head of Scrutiny Services

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chairman advised the meeting to note that this meeting will be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site (www.birminghamnewsroom.com) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Victoria Quinn, Gurdial Singh Atwal, Roger Harmer and Margaret Waddington.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4. ACTION NOTES – 14 FEBRUARY 2017

(See document No 1)

RESOLVED:-

- The Action Notes were noted.

5. BIRMINGHAM COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

(See document No 2)

Chief Superintendent Chris Johnson (West Midlands Police) and Jacqui Kennedy (Corporate Director, Place) presented the report.

During the course of the discussion, and in response to Members' questions, the following were among the main points raised:

- The report had been produced before the end of the year and an outturn report will be produced in due course;
- This is a pan-Birmingham partnership plus 4 local partnerships, with work being delivered at the most local level through to pan-level, working closely across the West Midlands footprint with heads of community safety in other areas;
- The partnership is overseen by the Birmingham Community Safety, Police and Crime Board (known as the Executive Board);
- From 1 April 2016, the Executive Board adopted four central thematic priorities, which were set following consultation with partners and members of the community, with a two year approach to delivery;
- From a structural point of view, it was felt that partnership working had been aided by policing areas being aligned to ward boundaries and a piece of work will be undertaken in due course to look at the new ward boundaries;
- With regard to ensuring there are enough officers to cope with the changing demographics across the city, there had been an evidence based assessment of each of the wards in order to allocate adequate resources and this will be reviewed as things change;
- The partnership is funded through passported money from the Police and Crime Commissioner.

RESOLVED:-

- The report was noted.

6. CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMES – UPDATE REPORT

(See document No 3)

Councillor Peter Griffiths, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homes, introduced his update report highlighting progress made since July 2016 when he attended Committee to set out his portfolio priorities for the year.

In response to Members' questions, the following were among the points raised:

- New Allocations Policy – The re-registration process will inform what type of housing is required; There is help available for people re-registering and home visits for vulnerable people and any support or training that can be provided to voluntary agencies to assist with this will be pursued; As at 4th April, 12,085 applications had been started. There will still be an opportunity for people to register after the deadline of 20th April but they will not keep their original date.
- Housing Liaison Boards – The structure needs to be reviewed to move HLBs into the 21st century and they need to mirror ward boundary changes; in terms of openness and transparency, the possibility of livestreaming the City Housing Liaison Board is being investigated.
- Housing Strategy – It is important to note that this will be a Birmingham strategy not just a BCC strategy. A draft is currently being prepared and will go out to partners in the first instance and then to Cabinet in June. There was a discussion about when this should be brought to Scrutiny.
- North Worcestershire Golf Club – This is a planning matter and it was confirmed that the site had been excluded from the Birmingham Development Plan.

RESOLVED:-

- Members to be provided with updated allocations re-registration statistics.
- Housing Strategy to be brought to Scrutiny (timing to be agreed).

7. PROGRESS REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION: WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES TO PREVENT RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE

(See document No 4)

Pat Merrick (AD, Universal, Prevention and Early Intervention) and Kalvinder Kohli (Service Lead, Commissioning Centre of Excellence) presented the report.

The Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy will now go to Cabinet in June and an offer was made to Members for a joint read through of the strategy in advance of this.

Members considered the Cabinet Member assessment against each of the recommendations within the report.

RESOLVED:-

- R01 – Cabinet Member assessment (2) was agreed.
- R02 – Cabinet Member assessment (2) was not agreed. This to be kept open until the strategy is completed.
- R03 – Cabinet Member assessment (2) was agreed.

8. WORK PROGRAMME 2016-17

(See document No 5)

RESOLVED:-

- The Work Programme was noted.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted.

10. REQUEST(S) FOR CALL IN/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION/PETITIONS RECEIVED (IF ANY)

None.

11. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

- (a) Cllr Locke referred to a recent visit she had made to a homeless centre in her ward and how impressed she was with the help and support given to residents. Rob James said that he would pass on her comments to the staff and if other Members were interested in visiting any of these centres, either individually or in a group, he would be happy to facilitate this.
- (b) Cllr Cartwright highlighted concerns with regard to recent issues with fleet and waste collections. Cllr Gregson pointed out that this was not within the remit of the Housing and Homes O&S Committee and that his concerns would be referred to Cllr John Cotton as Chair of the Health, Wellbeing and Environment O&S Committee.

12. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

Agreed.

The meeting ended at 1555 hours.