

Birmingham City Council
Coordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date 14 October 2022

Subject: Deputy Leader's Priorities
Report of: Cllr. Brigid Jones, Deputy Leader
Report author: Mary Crofton, Cabinet Support Officer

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To update the Committee on the Deputy Leader's Priorities

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members note the presentation and agree any comments / recommendations.

3 Appendices

- 3.1 Appendix 1 – Deputy Leader Portfolio Priorities

Deputy Leader Portfolio Priorities

Co-ordinating Overview & Scrutiny Committee

14th October 2022



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Changes to Deputy Leader Portfolio

- Following May 2022 elections, changes have been made to the Deputy Leader portfolio
- Addition of new portfolio responsibilities to bring increased prominence and focus to key strategic priorities for the Council
 - Levelling Up – including negotiations around the Trailblazer Devolution Deal (TDD)
 - Strategic Partnerships – including the WMCA and Birmingham City Partnership Board
 - Employment and Skills – including delivery of the recommendations from the Breaking Down Barriers youth unemployment report

Deputy Leader Portfolio Mapped Against Co-Ordinating Appendix 1

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- Business change
- Efficiency and improvement - including governance and performance of third parties
- Risk management
- Customer services
- Emergency planning
- External scrutiny and local government ombudsman
- Whistleblowing and corporate complaints procedure
- Strategic partnerships and relationship with WMCA
- Levelling up and devolution, including Trailblazer Devolution Deal

Performance – Refreshed Performance Framework

- A review/refresh of current corporate performance reporting, including:
 - Reducing number of KPIs and increasing focus on what matters
 - Alignment with the new Corporate Plan 2022-2026, agreed at Full Council on 11th October
 - Increased use of benchmarking and comparative data
 - More customer experience/perception/satisfaction measures
 - New State of the City outcomes

- Strengthening forums for performance discussions, including:
 - More oversight of 'vital signs' at CLT and Cabinet Member CMBs
 - Quarterly Performance Meetings (previously Star Chambers) with directorates
 - Embedding performance into CEX and Director 121s
 - Directorate Management Team performance meetings

- A new Programmes, Performance and Improvement Division:
 - Bringing together the CPMO, Corporate Performance, and Service Improvement capacity

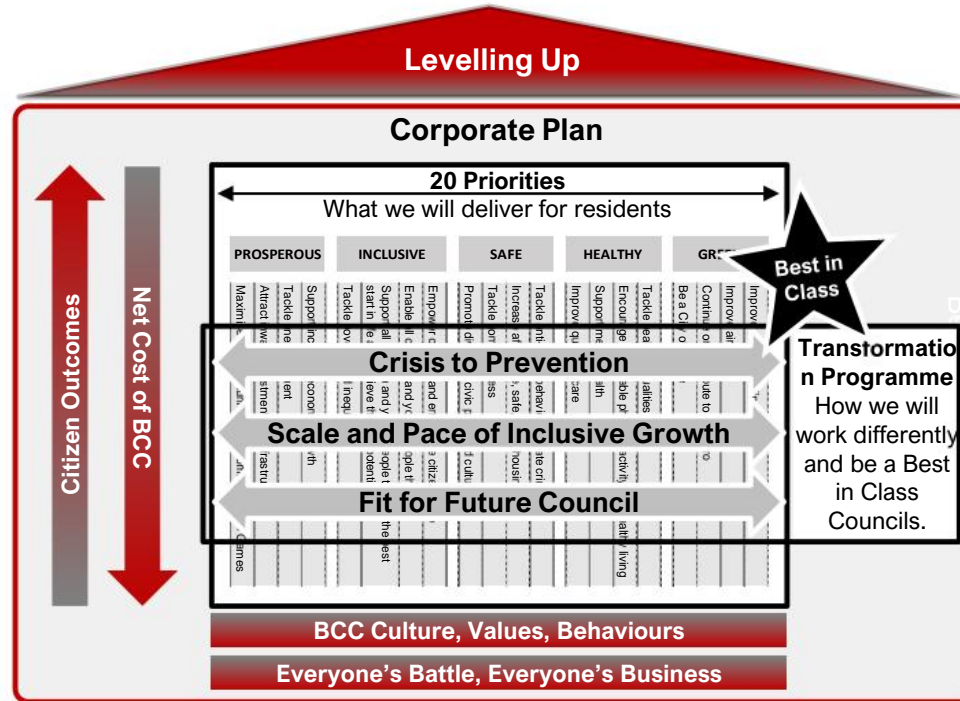
Business Change – Transformation Programme

- Council-wide Transformation Programme, led by the Corporate CPMO, working to align activity across the Council along three main themes:
 - Crisis to prevention
 - Scale and pace of inclusive growth
 - Fit for Future Council
- Using established and rigorous programme assurance mechanisms and reporting to track:
 - Programme delivery to agreed time/cost/quality standards
 - Savings delivery
 - Dependencies across directorates and programmes
- Ensuring improved governance and assurance to CLT and Members

Transformation Programme (cont.)



Transformation Programme (cont.)



Customer Services Programme

- Delivery of the Customer Services Programme, launched in January 2022, and the new Council Complaints Process, launched in April 2021.
- Embedding change and improvement in how the Council delivers in services to citizens, and how we communicate with service users and citizens.
- Increasing the use of digital (data, insight and the customer journey) and technology (better processes, automation, and online capability) to maximise the use of resources.

Manifesto Commitment

Make it easy to access all the Council's services online and by phone.

Customer Services Programme – Web Content Review

- Review of the Council's website to remove old content, audit links and improve information and signposting
 - 166 PDF forms and out of date documents removed
 - Web Content Strategy and Governance developed
 - Web Content Audits completed for Highways, Housing, Waste and Bereavement
 - Content creation and improvements for Bereavement, Waste, Elections and Voting

Strategic Partnerships

- For the first time, a specific Cabinet Member responsibility for building, improving and maintaining the Council's key Strategic Partnerships
- Recognising the value that Strategic Partnerships have to play in enhancing the Council's reputation, achieving our strategic goals, and improving the lives of Birmingham citizens
- Covering:
 - Local/city partnerships – review of City Partnership Board, including new governance, goals and membership
 - Regional – West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) and 3 Cities programme with Coventry and Wolverhampton (initially focusing on large-scale retrofit programme)
 - National – Local Government Association (LGA), thinktanks and national networks including Core Cities
 - International – conserving our status as a European city, with continued investment into the Brussels Office and maintaining our international networks

Levelling up, devolution and WMCA

- A strengthened focus on building our relationship with the WMCA, recognising the relationship as a lever to:
 - Achieve shared goals in key areas e.g. employment and skills
 - Deliver our levelling up strategy for Birmingham 'Prosperity and Opportunity For All'
 - Push forward the devolution agenda, advocating for enhanced powers and funding to local government through a 'double devolution' model

- Current focus on the Trailblazer Devolution Deal (TDD) being negotiated with national government

Delivering Levelling Up

Birmingham's five 'Levelling Up Accelerators' that government should support



1. Support a long-term, single pot funding and devolved powers for the city to deliver greater levelling up outcomes and enable invest-to-save investment to be deployed alongside



2. Back our integrated local place delivery model demonstrator, the East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Strategy covering 250,000 people to tackle deep levels of deprivation



3. Harness our early intervention and prevention model to assist the most disadvantaged citizens and move from dealing with crises to co-designed support and services to stop these arising



4. Deliver green and digital infrastructure including a comprehensive green, reliable, frequent and affordable transport network



5. Back an at scale social housing retrofit across the cities of Birmingham, Coventry and Wolverhampton to tackle carbon emissions and create jobs in areas that need it most

Employment and skills

- New addition to Deputy Leader portfolio, recognising the scale of the challenge (and the potential prize!)
- Key to levelling up - If we can level up Birmingham so that economic activity, unemployment and skills reach the England average, this could add an estimated £9bn to Birmingham's economy each year, as well as 74,928 more residents obtaining employment.
- Fragmented landscape with a variety of funders, commissioners, support services and strategic relationships – how do we make it easier for young people, jobseekers and employers to navigate?

‘Breaking Down Barriers’

- Report focusing on youth unemployment in the context of Covid-19.
- Has already been used as the basis of a successful bid to DLUHC, leveraging in £300k of funding into East Birmingham to deliver a locally designed employment support scheme.
- Renewed political focus on delivery of the ten ‘Breaking Down Barriers’ recommendations – with the current cost-of-living crisis, an even greater imperative to deliver for our young people.



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