

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

**PUBLIC REPORT**

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>CABINET COMMITTEE LOCAL LEADERSHIP</b>	
<b>Date of Decision:</b>	<b>31 JANUARY 2017</b>	
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>STRATEGIC DIRECTOR - PLACE</b>	
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>UPDATE ON LEARNING FROM OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES</b>	
<b>Key Decision: No</b>	<b>Relevant Forward Plan Ref: N/A</b>	
<b>If not in the Forward Plan: (please "X" box)</b>	<b>Chief Executive approved O&amp;S Chairman approved</b>	
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member(s) or Relevant Executive Member:</b>	<b>ALL ALL</b>	
<b>Relevant O&amp;S Chairman:</b>	<b>Cllr Aikhlaq, Chair of the Corporate Resources and Governance O&amp;S Committee</b>	
<b>Wards affected:</b>	<b>ALL</b>	

<b>1. Purpose of report:</b>
<p>1.1. This report presents an examples of good practice from the Assistant Leaders' visits to other local authorities and seeks approval to further work intended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish the benefits of implementing some of these examples in Birmingham, through pilot projects with local areas, with the emphasis on the practical benefits for people and communities in Birmingham.</li> <li>• Develop a systematic approach to learning from other places</li> </ul>

<b>2. Decisions recommended:</b>
<p>2.1. Authorise the Assistant Leaders and relevant officers to carry out further work on some of the initiatives referred to in Appendices 1 and to report back to the Committee on their applicability to Birmingham.</p> <p>2.2. Authorise the Assistant Leaders and relevant officers to carry out further work to establish the costs and benefits of participating in the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network and to report back to the Committee with recommendations (see Appendix 3).</p>

<b>Lead Contact Officer(s):</b>	Tony Smith Policy Executive, Strategic Policy Team
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### **3. Consultation**

#### **3.1 Internal**

Consultation with appropriate councillors and officers on the options set out in this report will be undertaken as part of the further work to be carried out, should the recommendations be accepted.

#### **3.2 External**

Where appropriate public engagement and consultation will take place on any initiatives outlined in this report that are eventually approved by the Committee.

### **4. Compliance Issues:**

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

The recommendations are fully consistent with the Council's policies. The Business Plan and Budget adopted by Full Council in March 2016 committed the Council to "to develop a new approach to devolution within the city, with a focus on empowering people and giving them influence over local services". The work of the Cabinet Committee is taking forward the next stage of an evolutionary process which began in 2015/16 with initial changes to the role of districts and the creation of Sutton Coldfield Town Council. This stage will conclude in 2018 with the switch to all out elections and new ward boundaries.

#### **4.2 Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications of this report. Full financial implications of the initiatives referred to will be identified in the next phase of work, subject to approval of this report.

#### **4.3 Legal Implications**

There are no direct legal implications of this report. The constitutional and legal implications of the initiatives referred to will be identified in full in the next phase of work, subject to approval of this report.

#### **4.4 Public Sector Equality Duty**

Policies developed by the Committee are subject to the public sector Equality Duty and impact assessments will be carried out as appropriate.

**5. Relevant background/chronology of key events:**

- 5.1. As set out in the work programme and role description for the Assistant Leaders, a number of visits to other local authorities have taken place in recent months, with a view to improving the City Council's learning from others, becoming more open to ideas from elsewhere and identifying specific initiatives that could be taken forward to the benefit of Birmingham. Recent visits have focused on authorities that are members of the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network and this report focuses on Oldham Borough.
- 5.2. This report presents some of the learning from Oldham, with an emphasis on the practical benefits to local residents of the policies concerned. If the recommendations in this report are approved, further work on these will be carried out and reported back to the Committee at its March meeting. This will enable implementation of approved initiatives during 2017/18.
- 5.3. Appendix 1 summarises a range of initiatives in Oldham which may be particularly relevant to Birmingham. Appendix 2 outlines the activities of the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network which provide a framework for learning from other councils and developing our approach to local leadership in a supported manner.

**6. Evaluation of alternative option(s):**

- 6.1. Alternatives to the examples of good practice summarised in this report will be assessed during the next stage of the work. At this stage the Assistant Leaders have identified them as having a strong potential to bring benefits to local leadership in Birmingham.

**7. Reasons for Decision(s):**

- 7.1 To give authority to the Assistant Leaders and relevant officers to proceed with further work on the initiatives described in this report.

**Signatures**

**Date**

Strategic Director – Place

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**List of Background Documents used to compile this Report:**

[Information on Oldham Co-operative Council](#) Documents consulted: Building a Co-operative Oldham – Devolution to Districts and Next Steps for District Working; Oldham Local Leaders Programme 2013-14; Green Schemes Oldham; presentation on evaluation model.

Further information on Cardiff, Plymouth and [Bristol Neighbourhood Charter](#) is available online.

<b>Report Version</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>Dated</b>	<b>23/1/17</b>
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