

**MEETING OF BIRMINGHAM  
CITY COUNCIL  
4 APRIL 2017**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL HELD  
ON TUESDAY 4 APRIL 2017 AT 1400 HOURS IN THE COUNCIL  
CHAMBER, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

**PRESENT**:- Lord Mayor (Councillor Carl Rice) in the Chair.

**Councillors**

Muhammad Afzal	Neil Eustace	Keith Linnecor
Uzma Ahmed	Mohammed Fazal	Mary Locke
Mohammed Aikhlaq	Des Flood	Ewan Mackey
Deirdre Alden	Jayne Francis	Majid Mahmood
John Alden	Matthew Gregson	Karen McCarthy
Robert Alden	Carole Griffiths	James McKay
Nawaz Ali	Peter Griffiths	Gareth Moore
Tahir Ali	Paulette Hamilton	Yvonne Mosquito
Sue Anderson	Andrew Hardie	Brett O'Reilly
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Roger Harmer	John O'Shea
Mohammed Azim	Kath Hartley	David Pears
Susan Barnett	Barry Henley	Robert Pocock
David Barrie	Des Hughes	Victoria Quinn
Bob Beauchamp	Jon Hunt	Hendrina Quinnen
Matt Bennett	Mahmood Hussain	Habib Rehman
Kate Booth	Shabrana Hussain	Fergus Robinson
Steve Booton	Timothy Huxtable	Gary Sambrook
Sir Albert Bore	Mohammed Idrees	Valerie Seabright
Barry Bowles	Zafar Iqbal	Rob Sealey
Randal Brew	Ziaul Islam	Shafique Shah
Marje Bridle	Kerry Jenkins	Mike Sharpe
Mick Brown	Meirion Jenkins	Sybil Spence
Alex Buchanan	Simon Jevon	Claire Spencer
Andy Cartwright	Julie Johnson	Stewart Stacey
Tristan Chatfield	Brigid Jones	Ron Storer
Zaker Choudhry	Carol Jones	Martin Straker-Welds
Debbie Clancy	Josh Jones	Paul Tilsley
John Clancy	Nagina Kauser	Karen Trench
Lynda Clinton	Tony Kennedy	Lisa Trickett
Lyn Collin	Changese Khan	Margaret Waddington
Maureen Cornish	Mariam Khan	Ian Ward

## **City Council – 4 April 2017**

John Cotton	Narinder Kaur Kooner	Mike Ward
Basharat Dad	Chaman Lal	Fiona Williams
Phil Davis	Mike Leddy	Ken Wood
Diane Donaldson	Bruce Lines	Alex Yip
Peter Douglas Osborn	John Lines	Waseem Zaffar
Barbara Dring		

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### **NOTICE OF RECORDING**

- 18808 The Lord Mayor advised that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcasting via the Council's internet site and that members of the Press/Public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

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### **MINUTES**

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and –

- 18809 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the City Council held on 28 February 2017, having been printed and a copy sent to each Member of the Council, be taken as read and confirmed and signed.

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### **LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **A. Death of Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Raymond Geoffrey Hassall**

The Lord Mayor referred to the recent death of the Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Raymond Geoffrey Hassall, known to all in the Chamber as Ray, who served as a Councillor for Perry Barr Ward since being elected on 3 May 1990. The Lord Mayor noted that during this period Ray served on numerous Committees and outside bodies and was most notably Cabinet Member for Leisure, Sport and Culture from 2006 to 2009.

The Lord Mayor highlighted that in May 2015 Ray was appointed unanimously by the Council to serve as Lord Mayor of Birmingham, following which he supported himself, serving as Deputy Lord Mayor from May 2016.

The Lord Mayor noted that Members would be aware that Ray underwent major surgery shortly before Christmas last year and appeared to be making a gradual recovery, intending to attend the meeting of City Council today.

After a number of tributes had been paid by Members, it was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and:-

- 18810 **RESOLVED:-**

That this Council places on record its sorrow at the death of Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Raymond Geoffrey Hassall and its appreciation of his devoted service to the residents of Birmingham; it extends its deepest sympathy to members of Ray's family in their sad bereavement.

**B. Appointment of Deputy Lord Mayor**

The Lord Mayor indicated that the Council now needed to appoint another Deputy Lord Mayor for the remainder of the Municipal Year and that in accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Liberal Democrat Group had nominated Councillor Paul Tilsley.

The Lord Mayor moved the appropriate Motion which was seconded by Councillor Mike Leddy and it was-

18811 **RESOLVED:-**

That Councillor Paul Tilsley be appointed Deputy Lord Mayor of this City for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2017.

The Lord Mayor asked Councillor Paul Tilsley to join him on the rostrum who signed the declaration accepting office.

The Lord Mayor thanked Councillor Shafique Shah who during Councillor Ray Hassall's ill health had loyally and ably supported him as Lord Mayor's Deputy.

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**PETITIONS**

**Petitions Relating to City Council Functions Presented at the Meeting**

The following petitions were presented:-

(See document No 1)

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

18812 **RESOLVED:-**

That the petitions be received and referred to the relevant Chief Officers.

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**Petitions Update**

The following Petitions Update was submitted:-

(See document No 2)

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and -

18813 **RESOLVED:-**

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

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**QUESTION TIME**

18814 The Council proceeded to consider Oral Questions in accordance with Standing Order 9 (B).

During a response given by Councillor Stewart Stacey to a question by Councillor Barry Bowles, Councillor Robert Alden raised a point of order in that the response made by Councillor Stacey was in breach of Purdah. The Lord Mayor indicated that he had allowed Councillor Stacey to continue as he had received legal advice that Purdah did not apply to verbal announcements only written communications.

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

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**APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNCIL**

The following report of the Council Business Management Committee was submitted:-

(See document No 3)

Councillor Mohammed Idrees proposed that Councillor Yvonne Mosquito replace Councillor Tristan Chatfield as Member and Councillor Diane Donaldson replace Councillor Sam Burden as Substitute Member on the WMCA Audit Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2016/2017.

18815 **RESOLVED:-**

That the following appointments be made for the period indicated:-

**Audit Committee**

Councillor Waseem Zaffar to replace Councillor Tristan Chatfield for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2016/2017.

**WMCA Audit Committee**

Councillor Yvonne Mosquito to replace Councillor Tristan Chatfield as Member and Councillor Diane Donaldson to replace Councillor Sam Burden as Substitute Member for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2016/2017.

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**CHANGE TO THE CABINET**

- 18816 The Lord Mayor invited the Leader, Councillor John Clancy, to advise the Council of a change to the Cabinet. Councillor Clancy indicated that he had appointed Councillor Tristan Chatfield as Cabinet Member for Transparency, Openness and Equality in place of Councillor Waseem Zaffar.
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**EXEMPTION FROM STANDING ORDERS**

It was moved by Councillor Mohammed Idrees, seconded and:-

- 18817 **RESOLVED:-**

That, pursuant to CBM Committee discussions, Standing Orders be waived as follows:

- Reduce the time for item 9 (Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees) from 60 minutes to 30 minutes
  - Allocate 15 minutes for item 12 (Appointment of the Interim Chief Executive)
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**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL**

The following report of the Council Business Management Committee was submitted:-

(See document No 4)

The Leader, Councillor John Clancy, moved the motion which was seconded.

Councillor Deirdre Alden commented on the fact that the Chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel was not in attendance.

The Leader, Councillor John Clancy, responded appropriately.

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

It was therefore -

- 18818 **RESOLVED:-**

The recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel on Page 4 of its Annual Report be accepted and implemented with effect from 23 May 2017.

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**FREEDOM OF THE CITY – ROYAL MARINES**

The following report of the Council Business Management Committee was submitted:-

(See document No 5)

The Leader, Councillor John Clancy, moved the motion which was seconded.

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

It was therefore -

18819

**RESOLVED:-**

- A. That the Lord Mayor and Citizens of the City of Birmingham being deeply conscious and appreciative of the close relationship of our people with the Royal Marines, are desirous of recognising, perpetuating and fostering still further the bonds of friendship and goodwill which has resulted therefrom by conferring by this resolution the Freedom of Entry into the City upon the Royal Marines and the right in perpetuity on all occasions of honouring The City of Birmingham by exercising the privilege of marching through the streets of the City with drums beating, bands playing, colours flying and bayonets fixed on all ceremonial occasions.
- B. That the City Solicitor be authorised to attach the common seal to the Freedom of the City Scroll.

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**REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

**CORPORATE PARENTING**

The following report of the Schools, Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee, together with a response from the Executive, was submitted:-

(See document No 6)

Councillor Susan Barnett moved the motion which was seconded by Councillor Sue Anderson.

A debate ensued.

Councillor Susan Barnett replied to the debate.

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

It was therefore -

18820 **RESOLVED:-**

That the recommendations R01 to R07 be approved and that the Executive be requested to pursue their implementation.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and

18821 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Council be adjourned until 1710 hours on this day.

The Council then adjourned at 1635 hours.

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At 1712 hours the Council resumed at the point where the meeting had been adjourned.

**MOTIONS FOR DEBATE FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

The Council proceeded to consider the Motions of which notice had been given in accordance with Standing Order 4(A).

**Councillors Deidre Alden and Gary Sambrook have given notice of the following Motion:-**

(See document No 7)

Councillor Deidre Alden moved the Motion, which was seconded by Councillor Gary Sambrook.

In accordance with Council Standing Orders, Councillors Lisa Trickett and Rob Pocock gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No 8)

Councillor Lisa Trickett moved the amendment, which was seconded by Councillor Rob Pocock.

A debate ensued.

Councillor Deidre Alden replied to the debate.

The amendment was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

Here upon a poll being demanded the voting, with names listed in seat number order, was as follows:-

(See document No 9)

NB The documents have been amended to show that Councillor Shafique Shah voted for the amendment.

Therefore, the total results referred to in the interleave should read:-

Yes – 62 (For the Amendment);

No – 31 (Against the Amendment);

Abstain – 0 (Abstentions).

The Motion as amended was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

Here upon a poll being demanded the voting, with names listed in seat number order, was as follows:-

(See document No 10)

NB The documents have been amended to show that Councillor Shafique Shah voted for the Motion as amended.

Therefore, the total results referred to in the interleave should read:-

Yes – 67 (For the Motion);

No – 24 (Against the Motion);

Abstain – 2 (Abstentions).

It was therefore –

18822 **RESOLVED:-**

This Council commits to keeping weekly household waste collections across the whole of the City in line with our financial plans to 2020/21 as set out at City Council on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

Council notes the intention of the service to secure an efficient and effective household waste and collection service for the residents of Birmingham.

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**B. Councillors Karen Trench and Fiona Williams have given notice of the following Motion:-**

(See document No 11)

Councillor Karen Trench moved the Motion, which was seconded by Councillor Fiona Williams.



## **City Council – 4 April 2017**

In accordance with Council Standing Orders, Councillors Gary Sambrook and Gareth Moore gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No 12)

Councillor Gary Sambrook moved the amendment, which was seconded by Councillor Gareth Moore.

A debate ensued.

Councillor Karen Trench replied to the debate.

The amendment having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be lost.

Here upon a poll being demanded the voting, with names listed in seat number order, was as follows:-

(See document No 13)

NB The documents have been amended to show that Councillor Shafique Shah voted against the amendment and Councillor Kerry Jenkins voted against the amendment and did not abstain from voting.

Therefore, the total results referred to in the interleave should read:-

Yes – 30 (For the amendment);

No – 60 (Against the amendment);

Abstain – 0 (Abstentions).

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

It was therefore –

18823

### **RESOLVED:-**

Council notes that:

- Birmingham is recognised as a Green City and that the quality of its green spaces and trees has been used over a long period to attract inward investment.
- The City is part of the Global Biophilic Cities Network - a group of Cities that aspire to integrate green infrastructure into everyday life.
- Trees provide health and wellbeing benefits along with a positive contribution to the ecosystem in the form of flood alleviation, air cooling etc.

- Its policy on trees was last updated in 2009 but dates back to 2002.

Council notes the work already under way to develop a new tree policy for the City and in particular the intention to develop a more sophisticated method of valuing trees that might replace the current 2 for 1 policy.

Council also recognises that opposition party representatives will be engaged in the process of developing the new tree policy along with a task and finish scrutiny.

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**C. Councillors Tristan Chatfield and Majid Mahmood have given notice of the following Motion:-**

(See document No 14)

Councillor Tristan Chatfield moved the Motion, which was seconded by Councillor Majid Mahmood.

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

(See document No 15)

In moving the motion Councillor Robert Alden indicated that he wished to declare an interest as his wife worked for the Museum Trust and that he wished to add the word 'introduction' before and the words 'at the Museum and Art Gallery' after the word 'charges' in the final sentence of the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph. In seconding the amended amendment Councillor Randal Brew declared an interest as Trustee of Birmingham Museum Trust.

In accordance with Council Standing Orders, Councillor Jon Hunt rose to move the following amendment:-

Add at the end of the motion the words

"It is essential that this work is undertaken on a cross party basis."

Councillor Mike Ward formally seconded the amendment.

A short debate ensued.

Councillor Tristan Chatfield replied to the debate.

The first amendment was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

The second amendment was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

The Motion as amended was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

It was therefore –

18824

**RESOLVED:-**

That this City Council notes the speculation that Channel 4 may move its headquarters out of London and believes that Birmingham would be the ideal host city.

This Council welcomes the launch of the Midlands Engine and the significant investment in infrastructure and skills it represents, this would be complimented by the relocation of Channel 4 to Birmingham. The Midlands Engine commits to £392m in additional Local Growth funding (on top of the £1.5bn that has already been invested in the Midlands through LGF) including the largest single deal for any City Region with £151m invested in the Greater Birmingham area.

The Council commits to work on a cross party basis within the City and across the region, and in particular with the newly elected West Midlands Mayor after May 4<sup>th</sup> to ensure that the opportunities the Midlands Engine presents are fully grasped for the inclusive benefit of all Birmingham residents and businesses.

As well as the significant investment in infrastructure and skills, the Council also welcomes the recognition within the strategy of the importance of Arts and Culture as a driver for growth and the exciting potential opportunity to house the Government's extensive Art Collection in Birmingham which would be a major boost to tourism. The relocation of Channel 4 would further compliment the multimedia offer of the City.

The Council commits to make the strongest possible case to Government that it is both ready and willing to house the Art Collection, both through the direct representations it makes to Government and through the actions it take in the City, to display a demonstrable commitment to Art and Culture. It also calls on the Council to therefore review proposed budget savings from the Museum for 2018 onwards. Any reduction in service or introduction of charges at the Museum and Art Gallery would no doubt ruin our chances of securing the Government Art Collection.

That this City Council supports the principle of decentralising government functions away from London and believes Birmingham can make a strong contribution towards that objective.

Birmingham has a proven track record of successful international trading dating back to the industrial revolution. The City is therefore best placed to house the Department for International Trade and Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy going forward. This would help enable Birmingham to become the free trade capital of the world.

Therefore this Council also calls on the Chief Executive to establish a cross party group of the three Group Leaders to lobby Government for the relocation of Channel 4, relocation of the Government Art Collection, the

relocation of Government Departments, especially the Department for International Trade and Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and to campaign for the possibility of relocating Parliament to the City during ongoing repair works to the Westminster estate.

It is essential that this work is undertaken on a cross party basis.

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**EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

18825

**RESOLVED:-**

That, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, which includes exempt information, the public be now excluded from the meeting.

Agenda Item etc.

Relevant Paragraph of  
Exempt Information Under  
Revised Schedule 12A of  
The Local Government Act  
1972

Appointment of  
Interim Chief Executive

3 and 4

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## **APPENDIX**

### **WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR KAREN TRENCH**

**A1     Tucker Fasteners - Money from WMCA - spend on poor vehicle  
access**

#### **Question:**

**It was announced in the media recently that some £5.5 million of West Midlands Combined Authority is to be spent on the former Tucker Fastener site in Perry Barr to support the creation of 75 warehousing jobs. Can the Leader tell me if any of this will be spent on improving the very poor vehicle access to the site from A34 northbound?**

#### **Answer:**

The funding announced was a £2.9m loan from the West Midlands Combined Authority Combined Investment Fund, not a grant. This is intended to support the proposed £5.5m development of phase 2 of the redevelopment of the Tuckers Fasteners site.

It should be noted that phase 2 does not yet have planning permission. A planning application has been submitted to the City Council, however it is on hold as further information is required before it can be validated. This invalid application does not currently propose to make any alterations to vehicular access from the A34 northbound.

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

**A2      Millions from WMCA on 75 jobs - Tucker Fasteners**

**Question:**

**It was announced in the media recently that some £5.5 million of West Midlands Combined Authority is to be spent on the former Tucker Fastener site in Perry Barr to support the creation of 75 warehousing jobs. The conversion of the site was contested at Planning by myself, and also large numbers of residents, because no provision was made to tackle problems of rat-running that arise from the poor access to this site from the A34 northbound. Can the leader tell me if this proposed grant was known about before the development went to the Planning Committee?**

**Answer:**

The funding announced was a £2.9m loan from the West Midlands Combined Authority Combined Investment Fund, not a grant. This is intended to support the proposed £5.5m development of phase 2 of the redevelopment of the Tuckers Fasteners site.

This is a different proposal to the scheme for phase 1, which was granted planning permission in January. Officers from the Planning & Regeneration department only became aware of the proposed loan for phase 2 when it was announced publically on March 15<sup>th</sup> 2017, and were not aware of the loan when the planning application for phase 1 was approved by Planning Committee.

It should be noted that phase 1 is anticipated to create a further 130 jobs on top of the potential 75 jobs that phase 2 is forecasted to support.

Finally, a planning application for phase 2 has been submitted to the City Council, but it is currently invalid as further information is required.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR ZAKER CHOUDHRY**

**A3     Senior Management Changes - Money from where?**

**Question:**

**At the Council's budget meeting I asked how the senior management changes would be funded and where the money would be found, given the Council's difficult financial situation. I did not get an answer so I wonder if the Leader could supply it now.**

**Answer:**

The senior management post changes are being funded from the existing budget. These form part of the changes outlined in the City Council's Future Operating Model to create a sustainable senior leadership team.

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

**A4     Recruitment**

**Question:**

**What involvement did Elected Members have in the recruitment of the posts of the Leader's Chief of Staff and Press Secretary, including a list of all involvement with dates?**

**Answer:**

I confirm that elected members have had no involvement in the recruitment decision of the posts of the Leader's Chief of Staff and Press Secretary, as this grade of post is an officer appointment only.

There was an opportunity in the recruitment process for myself as the Leader of the Council to have an informal meet and greet with potential appointees, however, as confirmed above, no elected members had any involvement in the recruitment decision for these posts.

There were 12 applications for the post of Press Secretary. Five candidates were shortlisted/interviewed.

There were 16 applications for the post of Chief of Staff. Seven candidates were shortlisted/interviewed.



**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR GARY  
SAMBROOK**

**A5     Benefits**

**Question:**

**Excluding Facility Time what is the total value of benefits provided to Trade Unions over the last four years (e.g. office space, discounted room hire\catering, printing, officer time\advice and support, etc.)?**

**Answer:**

In line with the ACAS Code of Practice (3) Time off for trade union duties and activities the Council make available to union representatives the facilities necessary for them to perform their duties efficiently and communicate effectively with their members, colleague union representatives and full-time officers.

The direct costs of these arrangements are met from an annual budget of £24,500.

We provide a bespoke rental contribution to the trade union with the largest proportion of members the contribution is as follows:

2013/14 £20,000  
2014/15 £20,000  
2015/16 £15,000

The other trades unions, including those representing schools staff, have various arrangements for accommodation across the Council estate. This can vary from a desk with a locked drawer to access to meeting rooms, telephones, computers, printing and access to kitchen facilities. Any direct costs associated with these arrangements are met from the above budget.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR RON STORER**

**A6     Discussions**

**Question:**

**What discussions have the Council held with Trade Unions with regard to the use of Facility Time and how this can be reduced in order to ensure fair value for the tax payer?**

**Answer:**

A full review of the Trade Union Facilities agreement was completed in 2014. Within the agreement is the requirement to review trade union numbers twice a year and as appropriate to adjust facilities time if/as numbers decrease.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR GARETH MOORE**

**A7     Monitoring**

**Question:**

**What systems does the Council have in place for monitoring the use of Trade Union facility time to ensure it is being used only for the statutory purpose and not, for example, for political campaigning?**

**Answer:**

The Council has a written Facilities Agreement with the trades unions. Paid time off is not provided for Trade Union activities such as political campaigning.

As is the case for all employees, there is an expectation that trade union representatives operating under paid release record their time and, as appropriate, their work activities. In the case of any concerns being identified, the matter would be escalated to the Trade Union Branch Secretary who is accountable for ensuring adherence with the agreement.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR BOB  
BEAUCHAMP**

**A8      Payments**

**Question:**

**What payments have been made to Trade Unions in each of the last four years?**

**Answer:**

Consistent comparable record keeping of **pay costs** for trade unions facilities have been maintained since 2013/14 and are provided below.

<u>FINANCIAL YEAR</u>	<u>A basic estimate of spending on unions (calculated as the number of full time equivalent days spent on union duties multiplied by the average salary)*</u>	<u>A basic estimate of spending on unions as a percentage of the total pay bill (calculated as the number of full time equivalent days spent on union duties multiplied by the average salary divided by the total pay bill).</u>
2013/14	£1,124,924	0.126%
2014/15	£983,782	0.114%
2015/16	£984,567	0.116%

In addition the Council contributes £24,500 pa towards the costs associated with providing access to meeting rooms, telephones, computers, printing and access to kitchen facilities.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE ASSISTANT LEADER CLLR MARJE BRIDLE  
FROM COUNCILLOR MIKE WARD**

**B      Assistant Leader - Cabinet 21st March - Which one?**

**Question:**

**Which of the four Assistant Leaders was meant to attend Cabinet on Tuesday, March 21st as not one was present and only you sent apologies?**

**Answer:**

Cllr Tony Kennedy and I gave our apologies. Cllr Ansar Ali Khan was on annual leave, while Cllr Narinder Kaur Kooner was unwell that week.

It should be noted that, while Assistant Leaders are invited to attend Cabinet, they are not members of the Cabinet Committee. But we will ensure that apologies are sent for any future absences.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JON HUNT**

**C      Swimming lessons**

**Question:**

**When the framework for leisure was introduced for swimming pools, swimming clubs were assured they would be able to continue with their activities. I understand they have now been told by Serco that they cannot do swimming lessons. Could the deputy leader state what has been done to resolve this issue?**

**Answer:**

Swimming Clubs were consulted prior to the Framework Contract being awarded that their swimming times and lessons would be maintained for the first year of the contract. However, from year 2 agreement would need to be reached on how to create a smooth swimming lesson pathway for beginners from the swimming pool operators to the clubs to stop the on-going duplication.

The council, together with operators and the clubs, have worked with the Amateur Swimming Association and followed their guidance and recommendations, i.e. that the swimming pool operator teach the beginners to swim up to one length, and then pass them on the clubs who can progress them further and ultimately on to competitive swimming.

This is the accepted national model.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,  
RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR KAREN TRENCH**

**D      Flytipping by month last 2 years**

**Question:**

**Could the Cabinet Member set out the numbers of reported and recorded flytipping incidents by month for the last two years?**

**Answer:**

The table below shows the service enquiries recorded in the Council's waste management and regulatory teams' databases that reference involvement of or that were categorised at the initial reporting stage as relating to waste/rubbish, and the incidents reportable under DEFRA's Waste Data Flow 'fly-tipping' arrangements. [Data for January and February 2017 are not reported as they have yet to be collated].

The total number of service enquiries/reports does not equate to the number of reportable incidents, which is due to a number of reasons which includes, but that is not limited to: duplicate enquiries/incidents being reported more than once, by different reporters or on multiple dates or to different council teams; enquiries for which linked records are created in the electronic database for the purpose of assisting with job management; and enquiries where waste/rubbish may not subsequently be identified as the route cause or primary element of a multi-issue referral.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Number of enquiries into the Council referencing waste/rubbish and recorded on waste management or regulatory teams database</b>	<b>Number of Incidents of fly-tipping. [Reportable under DEFRA's Waste Data Flow arrangements]</b>
02/2015	1930	1016
03/2015	2330	1002
04/2015	2152	1075
05/2015	1719	1059
06/2015	2131	1192
07/2015	2155	1202
08/2015	1860	916
09/2015	1846	834
10/2015	1705	919
11/2015	1633	973
12/2015	1486	867
01/2016	1931	1086
02/2016	1652	1028
03/2016	1722	1197
04/2016	1792	1152
05/2016	1606	1151

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06/2016	1856	1209
07/2016	1785	1365
08/2016	1670	1352
09/2016	1449	1342
10/2016	1283	1279
11/2016	1182	1229
12/2016	1011	1146
01/2017	1111	-
02/2017	945	-



**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND  
SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR LYN COLLIN**

**E      STP Plan**

**Question:**

Who will now be leading for the Council on the STP plan for Birmingham and Solihull?

**Answer:**

The Leader, Cllr John Clancy, will continue to lead for Birmingham alongside the Interim Chief Executive, Stella Manzie, on the STP plan for Birmingham.  
I also attend Board meetings; although I do not have voting rights, I am present to influence and shape discussions. I am also able to share progress in my role as Chair of Birmingham's Health and Wellbeing Board and Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND  
HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR JON HUNT**

**F      Selective licensing of landlords**

**Question:**

**Could the cabinet member provide an update on my request to include Perry Barr ward as an area for selective licensing of landlords, with particular respect to Oscott and Wellhead roads?**

**Answer:**

Many ward members have approached me and my predecessor over the impact of the growth of the Private Rented Sector in their areas. The Council's current enforcement powers and resources are not sufficient in my opinion to tackle the irresponsible behaviour of some landlords and tenants in the city. The use of selective licensing powers therefore will be to target the worst landlords in the worst areas and support responsible renting where possible.

At present the Government has restricted the use of these powers and the Council only has discretion to target areas where there is over 19% of PRS stock. The Council has data from the 2011 Census which shows overall the city has 17% PRS stock but there are 11 wards where it is over the 19% threshold. Unfortunately Perry Barr is not one of them. I am satisfied that the Council should begin the consultation in the target wards where they fit the other essential criteria set out by Government, namely the communities are affected by one or more of ASB, crime, poor conditions, deprivation and migration.

I am keen however for other wards to bring forward evidence of the impact of the growth of PRS in the context of the criteria so we can bring these areas into the scheme at a later date or build a case for a wider scheme to present to the Secretary of State. I will ask my officers to liaise with the Perry Barr ward members to consider building a case for inclusion.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR JOBS AND SKILLS  
FROM COUNCILLOR SUE ANDERSON**

**G1     Youth Promise Plus - Young People with Learning Disabilities**

**Question:**

**The offer from Youth Promise Plus should apply to all young people. Could the Cabinet Member tell us what is the offer for young people with learning disabilities?**

**Answer:**

During 2015 the Youth Promise Plus Project was developed jointly by a group of stakeholders, including public, voluntary and private sector organisations.

Whilst the project sets out to support all young people (school leaving age to 29 years) who are not in education, employment and training (NEET), four cohorts of young people were identified as being particularly in need of intensive support into employment education and training:

- Young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness
- Young people who are ex-offenders or at risk of offending
- Young people who are vulnerable including Care Leavers
- Young people who with Mental Health or Learning Difficulties or Disability (LDD) barriers.

The project includes provision by partners, including The Prince's Trust, which is renowned for intensively supporting young people who face barriers. The project also includes: contracts for supporting young people across the Birmingham and Solihull; and contracts for each of the particular cohorts identified above.

Within the project there is a spectrum of support for young people with Mental Health and LDD barriers. There is specialist intensive mentoring support in all the contracts, to offer a degree of appropriate help that may be suitable for some young people with LDD without referral to the specialist contracts.

The original contract pertaining to Mental Health support and Learning Difficulties and Disabilities could not be awarded when it was first advertised in 2016, due to no bid meeting the quality threshold. Post-tender review led to changes, including splitting the contract to separate the support for Mental Health from that for Learning Difficulties and

Disabilities. The two contracts were re-let in 2016 and were contracted with two different providers in March 2017.

The selected provider for Learning Difficulties and Disabilities support is Queen Alexandra College (QAC). QAC, based in Birmingham, is a leading national college for people with disabilities, who through this project will intensively support 120 young

people with LDD towards employment, education and training with the aim of achieving outcomes with 102 of those young people, which would be a very strong success rate.

QAC has significant experience in supporting socially excluded and disadvantage groups, particularly adults and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities. This includes groups who are more likely to become NEET, e.g. young people who suffer from mental ill health, visual impairment and those on the Autistic Spectrum or who have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

QAC has significant local knowledge and good working relationships with local stakeholders and community groups, including Autism West Midlands, Focus Birmingham, MENCAP, Mind and British Institute of Learning Disabilities, specialist schools & colleges and Jobcentre Plus. Using these links, we can establish more targeted engagement events, utilising group sessions, 1-2-1 drop-in centres, and specialist events.

QAC has already established a very successful work experience offer, which has seen 100% student participation on work placements, with a significantly improved college-wide promotion of employability of our students. Employers such as Hobbycraft, Willmott Dixon, National Grid and Interserve provide real placement opportunities to engage with NEETs.

QAC are at present running a pilot project alongside SENAR, where we are engaging NEETs within their own homes, which can be replicated within this provision. Young people can also be referred by other providers, or self-refer. There will be a level of 'triage' to ensure this provision is the best fit for the young person, if not other support will be provided through the project. QAC workers funded through this project will spend at least 80% of their time in outreach across Birmingham and Solihull.

Each individual will be offered a programme that is carefully tailored to meet their particular needs, which is delivered through a combination of one to one and group work. It will be based on the achievement of personal goals and provide bespoke support to assist their entry in to education, training or employment.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR JOBS AND SKILLS  
FROM COUNCILLOR JON HUNT**

**G2      Facilities for motor mechanic training in the city**

**Question:**

**Quoted in the media, the cabinet member said that the now-closed Ladywood Skills Centre, the SRB6 legacy project, stated that "enrolment at this centre has always been low."**

**Noting that the centre specialised in motor mechanics, could the cabinet member provide information about what facilities for motor mechanic training there are in the city and the level of demand for that training at post-16 level?**

**Answer:**

There are around 514,000 people employed in the UK's automotive retail sector, which is just under 2% of the UK workforce, and this is growing. With more and more cars on the road, the number of vehicle maintenance and repair businesses is increasing, and over the last ten years they have already increased by almost 50%. Here in the West Midlands there are around 18,745 jobs in the industry.

The Birmingham and Solihull Area Based Review of Post-16 provision was published in November 2016. The purpose of the Review was to assess Post-16 FE/Sixth Form provision and by its nature also carried a fairly strong imperative to assess current usage, including the usage of FE estate, as a means of reducing costs. As part of this process, the Economy Directorate contacted all College Principals and Sixth Form Heads in March 2016, inviting them to share any planned or potential proposals for asset disposal with the Council.

The site in question was originally part of the City College estate, and would have been part of the merger of South Birmingham College and City College, resulting in the establishment of South and City College Birmingham.

Decisions around site closures are not taken by the City Council, as colleges are independent and autonomous organisations. However, the Council does have duties to ensure there a suitable and sufficient places in education and training for 16-19 year olds and to ensure all young people aged 16-18 in our area are participating in education or training. My understanding is that the Stour Street Training Centre offered a range of provision, including operating as the main site for College back-office services.

We are aware that demand for courses at this site, originally under City College and more recently following merger, despite the best endeavours of the college to market and promote courses here has been disappointing and therefore unsustainable. The campus has not been used for a year. Prior to that, the number of learners for the motor vehicle provision for the previous 3 years was 38, 15, and finally 10 in the last year of delivery.

There is availability of provision across the city for motor vehicle training, offered by colleges and private training providers and is driven by take up/demand from learners. South and City College is the lead provider for motor-vehicle studies at their Bordesley Green and Bournville campuses, offering programmes of study from Level 1 to Level 3. NOVA Training offer motor-vehicle from their Stechford site and Platinum Training offer motor-vehicle training from their Winson Green site, which is a short distance from Stour Street

In addition, Solihull College offer motor- vehicle from their Woodlands Campus in Chelmsley Wood and Sandwell College deliver from their West Bromwich campus. Significant numbers of Birmingham learners are enrolled at these two colleges. Following the Area based review, colleges are continuing to review areas of provision where there are small class sizes to determine whether it is possible to improve efficiency. Officers from the Education Service have been actively involved in the Steering Group and Over-sight Group to ensure that the rationalisation of sites and courses doesn't lead to gaps in provision.

The need for all colleges to secure greater financial resilience to enable ongoing flexible responses to meet the needs of the local economy and improve productivity, may impact on level and location of delivery across the City. Merger discussions between South and City College and Bournville College may lead to further rationalisation dependant on demand.

The College is undertaking discussions with the City Council to identify potential partners to secure the future of the site for education and training purposes.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPARENCY,  
OPENNESS AND EQUALITY FROM COUNCILLOR RON STORER**

**H1     Annual Updates**

**Question:**

**By what date each year does the Council aim to update the information on its open data on Trade Union Facility time in order to comply with the Local Government Transparency Code for annual updates?**

**Answer:**

The information is ordinarily updated and made available at the beginning of each financial year. The latest information (15/16) is prepared and about to be uploaded.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPARENCY,  
OPENNESS AND EQUALITY FROM COUNCILLOR GARETH MOORE**

**H2     Information**

**Question:**

**What are the latest figures for the Council on the Trade Union Facility Time covering the information required by Part 2 paragraph 45 of the Local Government Transparency Code?**

**Answer:**

**Trade Union (TU) facility time data for the period 2015/16**

Total number of staff who are TU reps, headcount & FTE		TU reps who spend 50% and above on TU duties		A basic estimate of spending on unions (calculated as the number of full time equivalent days spent on union duties multiplied by the average salary)*	A basic estimate of spending on unions as a percentage of the total pay bill (calculated as the number of full time equivalent days spent on union duties multiplied by the average salary divided by the total pay bill).
H/C	FTE	H/C	FTE	£984,567	0.116%
70	45.73	51	40.13		



**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPARENCY,  
OPENNESS AND EQUALITY FROM COUNCILLOR BOB BEAUCHAMP**

**H3      Dress Code**

**Question:**

**Can the Cabinet Member for Transparency, Openness and Equality please publish a copy of the letter\* from Dame Louise Casey to Birmingham City Council regarding the issue of the dress code at St Clare's Catholic School in Handsworth and the actions of the local ward councillor along with a copy of the City Council's response to Dame Casey?**

**\*please redact any personal information regarding the child involved.**

**Answer:**

**Please find both letters attached, as requested.**

**H3 - APPENDIX 1**



Department  
for Communities  
& Local Government

**Dame Louise Casey DBE CB**  
Fry Building, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, NW Quarter  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

15<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Cllr John Clancy  
The Leader  
Birmingham City Council  
Council House  
Victoria Square  
Birmingham  
B1 1BB

*Dear John,*

It is with a heavy heart that I write to you having seen the BBC West Midlands coverage of the situation regarding Cllr Waseem Zaffar and the school uniform policy in St Clare's Catholic Primary School in Birmingham. After careful consideration, I don't think I can just let it go and have decided to write primarily because I dearly want Birmingham City Council to succeed in all ways possible and for it to be able to serve all members of the public in its jurisdiction well. But also because of my fear that it is continually failing to do so, particularly, but not exclusively, in this case.

The coverage of the story outlined that not only did the lead member for community cohesion visit the school to discuss the issue of a four-year-old child being able to wear a headscarf but that he took to social media to say "I'm insisting this matter is addressed asap with a change of policy". And that "senior education officers from Birmingham City Council will also discuss this matter with the concerned school next week whilst the head and governors discuss their next action". He also misquoted the use of equalities legislation to support his position.

Leaving aside that the school already has a clear uniform policy; that the parents had made a clear choice to send their children to this school; and – as has been regularly pointed out to me in the last 18 months – that there is no religious requirement within Islam that children aged four must wear a scarf, I am very concerned (given that I have no reason to believe that this is not an accurate outline of the events) about the wisdom and legitimacy of Cllr Zaffar using his influence in this misguided way.

Two major reports into Birmingham schools both established that some headteachers and governors in Birmingham were already feeling pressurised by people from outside the school community. I have since seen and heard this for myself many times during the course of my recent work in Birmingham and elsewhere, as well as the tremendous work that heads and schools are doing to carefully manage these issues in the midst of this grossly unfair and undue pressure.

In the light of all this I do question whether sufficient lessons have been learned from the Trojan Horse affair. I am keen to know what support the Council has given to this particular school and other schools who are facing similar pressure? Why Cllr Zaffar thought that his actions were an appropriate use of his office? What action the Council leadership has taken to address this? And why you think this won't happen again?

As I wrote in the foreword to my review in December: "Time and time again I found it was women and children who were the targets of these [kind of] regressive practices. And too often, leaders and institutions were not doing enough to stand up against them and protect those who were vulnerable."

I am in Birmingham on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February if you wanted to discuss this further. And as ever I am available at all times on the phone. I stand ready, as I have said on many occasions, to try and help Birmingham in any way I can.

*With all best wishes,*



LOUISE CASEY



**H3 - APPENDIX 2**

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**COUNCILLOR JOHN CLANCY  
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

THE COUNCIL HOUSE  
VICTORIA SQUARE  
BIRMINGHAM  
B1 1BB

Tel : 0121 464 4000  
Fax : 0121 303 5098  
Email : [John.Clancy@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:John.Clancy@birmingham.gov.uk)

Our Ref: JC/GC-DLC

24 February 2017

Dame Louise Casey DBE CB  
Fry Building, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, NW Quarter  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Dear Louise

Thank you for your letter of 15 February.

In response to your questions, may I assure you that as soon as Birmingham City Council officers became aware of the concerns in relation to St Clare's, the school was offered immediate support. This was provided initially by a Resilience Officer who is vastly experienced in such matters and the school was also supported by our press team. The headteacher was grateful for the support which helped her and the governors work effectively with the community of parents in what is a multi-faith part of the city.

We have also worked with the RC Archdiocese and DfE officials in light of the events at St Clare's to consider issues facing a Roman Catholic school that serves a multi-faith community.

Looking at the wider picture, schools in Birmingham are highly experienced at dealing with such issues and most schools are able to accommodate the wishes of both parents and children by adopting a pragmatic and sensible approach.

The legal issues around school uniform (including PE kit, leg coverings, head coverings) are informed by guidance from the DfE based on equalities legislation and education law. The guidance does not cover every single contingency and there are of course some grey areas.

We will be issuing further guidance on uniform policy to all schools after half-term. This will be based on DfE's own guidance following consultation with senior officials.

Birmingham has learnt many lessons from Trojan Horse and its Improvement plans were approved by the Secretary of State. Heads and governors now have access to much stronger support systems.

We know that there will always be pressure from some sections of the community that question the curriculum, dress codes and social behaviours in our schools. The vast



majority of these cases are dealt with positively and headteachers know that the council is there to support any who feel they are under unacceptable pressure.

In this case, Cllr Zaffar was approached by the parents of more than one child in his role as a ward councillor. These children ranged in ages from four to eleven.

Prior to taking any action he consulted both the Cabinet Member and Director of Education, where he was open and transparent about his relationship with one of the children.

He met with the headteacher and again he was open and transparent about his relationship with one of the children. The meeting was amicable and Cllr Zaffar discussed a range of ward issues with the headteacher.

Cllr Zaffar was subsequently challenged about the matter on social media and, in an attempt to defuse the issue, he now accepts he may have used the wrong language to convey that the school was aware of and was looking into the issue.

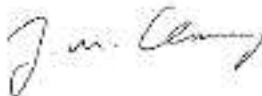
The only other public statement Cllr Zaffar has made about this issue was to praise the school for its excellent work with children of all backgrounds.

Cllr Zaffar has now asked that his actions in this matter are independently reviewed and if there are any lessons to be learned he will take them on board.

Cllr Zaffar is a strong supporter of the education improvement plans put in place to address the Trojan Horse incident. He is a strong supporter of Prevent and his work is recognised by the Home Office.

I am pleased you are meeting the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Executive Director of Education next week and I hope the meeting goes well. Tuesday is our budget setting day but I would be happy to meet at a later date.

Best wishes



Councillor John Clancy  
Leader of the Council

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPARENCY,  
OPENNESS AND EQUALITY FROM COUNCILLOR GARY SAMBROOK**

**H4      Freedom of Interest**

**Question:**

**In a Council response to a Freedom of Information request from a Member of the Public sent on the 27 January 2017 regarding the cost of consultants, the Council said that it was not possible to provide information prior to 2012/13 due to the cost of retrieving the information. However, in Full Council a little over a week later, the Portfolio Holder for Value for Money quoted figures to the Chamber for consultancy spend in 2010 and 2011. Can the Portfolio Holder for Transparency explain why a different threshold for cost and effort should apply to a question from a member of the public using the legislative framework verses a planted question from a Cabinet Member's colleague at Full Council?**

**Answer:**

The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 set out the circumstances in which a public authority may refuse a request on cost grounds.

Currently, the cost limit for complying with a request or a linked series of requests from the same person or group is set at £600 for central government, Parliament and the armed forces and £450 for all other public authorities. A local authority can refuse a request if it estimates that the cost of compliance would exceed this limit. This provision is found at section 12 of the Act.

The appropriate limit specified in the regulations for local government is £450.00. When estimating the cost of compliance, a local authority can only take into account the cost of the following activities:

- determining whether you hold the information;
- finding the requested information, or records containing the information;
- retrieving the information or records; and
- extracting the requested information from records.

Consequently, the Council is not obliged by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to respond to a request.

In respect of the specific request referred to in this question, this was as follows:

*Please provide a breakdown of the cost of employing Consultants for the period 2008 - 2016 and the detail of savings made as a direct result of the reports provided.*

The fees regulations in the case of this request were calculated for the cost of providing information held by the Council for each year from 2008 onwards. It is appropriate, therefore, for the Council to apply the regulations set out in the Act.

Where a requestor is dissatisfied with a request, they are entitled to an internal appeal of the request and, if still unsatisfied, an appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office who regulate the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The fees regulations clearly do not apply to information that an Elected Member may require in the course of carrying out their duties and it would be unrealistic to suggest that the cost and effort threshold should be the same for an individual exercising their legal right to access information under the Freedom of Information Act and an Elected Member carrying out their public duties.

In the interests of accountability all executive members are required to reply to questions from elected members in the city irrespective of political affiliation of the questioner.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPARENCY,  
OPENNESS AND EQUALITY FROM COUNCILLOR ZAKER CHOUDHRY**

**H5      Reduced external responsibilities**

**Question:**

**The Cabinet Member has declared a number of financial interests on his declaration of interests, including employment in the office of Khalid Mahmood MP. Could he report on how he has reduced his external responsibilities in order to devote time to his new post?**

**Answer:**

Matters personal to me and outside my role and responsibilities as a Councillor and Cabinet Member are private matters. However I am confident that an arrangement is in place that will give me ample time to perform my role as Cabinet Member for Transparency, Openness and Equality.



**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND  
ROADS FROM COUNCILLOR SUE ANDERSON**

**I      Badger Centre Out-of-Hours GP Centre- Solutions?**

**Question:**

**Could the Cabinet Member provide an update on what solutions have been found to the problems posed to the Badger Out-of-Hours GP Centre by the proposed Digbeth parking plan?**

**Answer:**

The Badger Centre on Glover Street is an Out-Of-Hours (OOHs) GP service which covers Birmingham and Solihull, operating 6.30pm to 8am Monday to Friday, and all day Saturday, Sunday and public holidays.

Representatives from the Badger Centre attended a drop in session on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February to discuss the on-street parking in Digbeth proposals with officers. Following that discussion, officers arranged a further meeting on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March with the Badger Group management to look at their concerns in more detail and to consider their requirements and how these can be best accommodated within the proposals.

This was a very informative meeting, where the need for controls was recognised and different possible solutions were discussed. These included:

- changing the proposed parking controls hours/days of operation, so that the OOHs service is not impacted for visitors;
- providing permit bays that can be used by either resident or business permit holders
- reviewing the cost of permits and the permit management system

Badger Group have thanked the officers involved for taking the time to meet with them in order to understand in more detail the nature of the organisation, the service that they provide and impacts of the proposals.

These discussions will inform the consultation analysis and final proposals, which will be subject to approval by the Cabinet Member for Transport and Roads. The consultation report and final proposals are expected in May 2017.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VALUE FOR MONEY  
AND EFFICIENCY FROM COUNCILLOR ROGER HARMER**

**J1      Employment/training offered**

**Question:**

**Can the Cabinet Member inform us how many Birmingham residents with learning and physical disabilities in the months May 2016 to March 2017 have been offered employment or training by the contractors signed up to the Birmingham Business Charter for Social Responsibility?**

**Answer:**

Within the Birmingham Business Charter for Social Responsibility, we ask for the following commitments concerning employment and training for people with disabilities:

How many people will you support into employment who face challenges, e.g. ex-offenders, people with learning and physical disabilities?

And

Are you signed up to the Disability Confident employer scheme?

The commitments to these, as with the rest of the Action Plan, are monitored through the contract management process by the Contract Manager; however this is on a contract by contract basis. With the systemisation of the Charter onto the e-tendering portal (In-tend) we will in the future be able to record and report more easily on the delivery of specific outcomes.

The Council's Employment and Skills Team also use the Charter Action Plans to work with the Charter Signatories to support them in delivering the commitments around jobs and skills including those commitments to support people with learning and physical disabilities.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VALUE FOR MONEY  
AND EFFICIENCY FROM COUNCILLOR SUE ANDERSON**

**J2      Residential Care Homes - opportunities**

**Question:**

**Placements in residential care for people with learning disabilities are commissioned by the Council. Are the lives of residents within those homes enriched with opportunities to be involved in sport, travel and local social activities within the commissioned contract?**

**Answer:**

**Residential Care for Adults with Learning Disabilities**

Residential care for adults with Learning Disabilities is spot purchased which means there is no overarching contractual agreement. The Support Plan, developed by the social worker alongside the service users and their carer, usually identifies how the individual should be supported in terms of community activities. This is then reflected in the individual agreement with the care provider and in the fee paid to the provider.

**Residential Care for Children with Learning Disabilities**

There are five children's homes run by BCC for disabled children - 2 long term, 2 providing residential respite for children with a range of disabilities including autism, learning disabilities and complex needs and 1 unit providing a mix of both long term and respite care. The homes have good arrangement to engage with young people, enabling them to make choices about their care. Young people are supported to access a range of indoor, outdoor, recreational and leisure activities within their local community.

Spot purchased care is arranged through the Regional Framework for Children's Residential Care, and individual support needs to access community-based activities will be set out in the Individual Placement Agreement for the young person.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VALUE FOR MONEY  
AND EFFICIENCY FROM COUNCILLOR ZAKER CHOUDHRY**

**J3      Increase Advertising Budget for Pavements - Progress**

**Question:**

**As Cabinet Member for Value for Money and Efficiency Councillor Mahmood has been given one task to oversee in the coming year's savings programme - to ensure the advertising budget from pavements is increased. Could he report on progress?**

**Answer:**

The advertising market has generally been buoyant with the portfolio and revenue showing growth year on year

Negotiations for delivery of pavement advertising concluded on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017 and the agreement was signed on 1<sup>st</sup> February.

Mobilisation of the contract has started and assets are being manufactured with a delivery date of May 2017. Core City Centre build is scheduled to start on 14th April with a go-live date of June 2017. Work is in progress to identify prime asset locations to maximise income to align with the delivery of assets for the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase development.

Performance does however, remain subject to market forces and in particular the recent uncertainty around Brexit

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VALUE FOR MONEY  
AND EFFICIENCY FROM COUNCILLOR FROM COUNCILLOR MEIRION  
JENKINS**

**J4      Foreign Currency**

**Question:**

**In response to Written question G1 at Full Council on 28 February, the Cabinet Member detailed transactions on purchase cards totalling £18,307.87 for foreign currency in 2016. Why was it necessary to withdraw an average of £871.80 per transaction in foreign currency cash given the use of purchase cards whilst abroad for travel and subsistence costs?**

**Answer:**

The transactions are not for cash withdrawals. The expenditure (£18,307.87) relates to foreign currency purchased from the Post Office and Eurochange to be advanced to Members and Officers as subsistence for use whilst undertaking official overseas visits.

Currency is provided to Members and officers for the payment of incidental expenditure such as taxis and light refreshments etc. It is provided on the basis of £50 per day. The total amount provided is dependent upon the destination and duration of the visit.

All currency has to be accounted for through the provision of receipts. Unspent currency is returned.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VALUE FOR MONEY  
AND EFFICIENCY FROM COUNCILLOR MATT BENNETT**

**J5      Contracts**

**Question:**

**What are the contracts for each financial year from 2014 onwards exceeding the value of £10,000 that were let without a competitive tendering exercise, specifying the successful organisation, value of the contract, reasons for not putting the contract out to tender and the decision making officer/member?**

**Answer:**

230 Single Contractor Negotiations have been approved since 2014 by following the Standing Orders for Contracts within the Constitution. This part of the constitution permits SCNs where a) there is an urgent or unforeseen requirement that means there is no time to conduct a procurement process or b) where having tested the market there is only one provider able to satisfactorily provide the services required.

Approval for an SCN is granted by the Director of Commissioning & Procurement after consulting Finance and Legal Services and is signed off by the relevant Chief Officer.

SCNs of high value (over £200k) are required to follow the Council's Procurement Governance Arrangements and are approved in advance through the Planned Procurement Activity Report and the outcome reported quarterly via that month's report. The financial details are included in the private report only.

The list of SCNs is maintained on an on-going basis and given that it runs to some 35 pages I will forward it separately and electronically to all City Councillors. Please note that given the confidential nature of the values awarded to each provider, which should not be in the public domain contains, the financial information has been redacted.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VALUE FOR MONEY  
AND EFFICIENCY FROM COUNCILLOR GARY SAMBROOK**

**J6      Processes**

**Question:**

**Can the Cabinet Member please explain the process for accounting for foreign currency advances, including what happens to any unspent foreign currency?**

**Answer:**

All foreign currency advances are recorded on an Overseas Travel Statement of Expenditure form (copy attached) and any unspent foreign currency is returned with the completed expenditure form.

J6 – APPENDIX

**SHANGHAI CITY OFFICE**

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**City Council – 4 April 2017**

Accounting Procedures Manual

Section 39.04

Foreign Diagnostic Terminal

### SECTION 3 Reconciliation of Expenditures

AMOUNT

Total Cash Advances and Travellers Cheques  
Encashed (see overhead)

Less: Expenditures Incurred (see below)

CASH RETURNED

## SECTION 4 Details of Expenses Incurred During the Visit (on a daily basis)

[illegible]

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Officer, understanding the contents

Date.....

Certified as reasonable .....  
 Line Manager

Date.....

Any accompanying notes to support the expenditure incurred should be appended to the statement of expenditure accordingly.

### Finance Experiment

Printed: 2/06/2014