

Birmingham City Council

City Council

18 April 2023



Subject: Motions for Debate from Individual Members
Report of: Janie Berry, City Solicitor (Monitoring Officer)
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Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential :

1 Recommendation(s)

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

2 Notices of Motion

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

“This Council notes:

1. The continued high level of public concern across Birmingham about dangerous driving including speeding. This risks the lives of those affected by resulting collisions and discourages residents from using forms of active travel, such as cycling.
2. The motion passed by this Council in September 2021 calling for urgent action to (a) complete the review to assess the expansion of Average Speed Cameras and (b) to bring forward an updated Comprehensive Road Safety Strategy with a comprehensive road safety plan.
3. That pledges were made in the Labour manifesto for the 2022 Birmingham City Council elections to treble the network of average speed cameras on key

routes across the city and invest 'at least £10m in making the roads outside schools amongst the safest in our city.'

This Council is therefore concerned about the lack of action to tackle this problem in the past year. The Road Safety Strategy, currently on the Council's website was last updated in 2016. No average speed camera schemes have been delivered since 2021, and no local safety schemes were installed in 2022. Indeed, the current criteria for local safety schemes seems designed to minimise the number eligible schemes. For example, a stretch of the Fox Hollies Road, that has had 11 injury collisions in the past 3 years, including tragic fatalities, is ruled out for action because the collisions have a variety of causes.

This Council acknowledges that work on improving road safety, requires co-operation between Birmingham City Council, West Midlands Police and the Combined Authority, but calls on the Council to be more proactive in working with these partners and delivering projects that will make our roads safer. It specifically requests for the Government to be lobbied to release findings of the national parking on pavements consultation and for the Executive to

- a. Undertake a review of the criteria that triggers safety work. As part of this to include a near miss strategy, which would enable criteria, such as records of non-injury accidents, proximity to schools and other community facilities with a high pedestrian and cyclist use, and recorded levels of speeding to be taken into account.
- b. Publish a clear plan for the promised development of the average speed camera network.
- c. Ensure road and pavement resurfacing programmes are aligned with any potential road safety work.
- d. Ensure use of all potential funding sources for road safety work is maximised, including community chest, town council and parish council funding and funding for other highways projects.
- e. Ensure greater alignment of work with road safety priorities in ward plans.”.

B. Councillors Sam Forsyth and Kerry Jenkins have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

“This Council notes that:

The Independent Review into Children's Social Care recommended that the “Government should make care experience a protected characteristic”. It asserted that this would provide greater authority to employers, businesses, public services and policy makers to put in place policies that promote better outcomes for care experienced people. Should this be widely adopted it would also make the UK the first country in the world to recognise care experienced people in this way.

Care experienced people face significant challenges, including discrimination and lack of security, when they begin their adult lives. They can struggle with housing, health, education, relationships and employment and are overrepresented within the criminal justice system.

Despite making up 1.4 per cent of the UK population, care experienced people account for 25% of both the homeless and the prison population in England. Nearly 50% of all under 21-year-olds in contact with the criminal justice system have been in care.

All Local Authorities have a statutory duty to support all care leavers up to the age of 21 and up to the age of 25 if the care experienced young person requests support beyond 21.

Our Birmingham Children's Trust is doing some incredible work in supporting our children and young people in care and supporting our care leavers in ensuring they are supported with housing and receive council tax exemptions. Our Birmingham Corporate Parenting board has been successful in ensuring that all our care experienced young people, who are part of the National Apprenticeship Scheme or are in employment, have access to free medication up to the age of 25. All care experienced young people are able to access a full package of Mental Health Support with specific focus on trauma and past harm.

Our care experienced young people have themselves asked the Birmingham Corporate Parenting Board to treat 'care experience' as an additional equality strand alongside the Protected Characteristics as set out in the Equality Act 2010

The Council believes that:

As corporate parents we have a duty to support and look after young people in our care as we would our own children, affording them the same life chances and providing them with appropriate support and guidance.

As corporate parents we are champions of our looked after children and it is our responsibility to challenge the negative attitudes and prejudice that exists in all aspects of society.

As corporate parents we need to lead by example and work with our partners so they also seek to treat care experience as a Protected Characteristic.

As corporate parents we need to proactively seek out and listen to, learn from and involve our care experienced young people in the shaping of all new policies and in improving service delivery.

The voices, needs, aspirations, priorities and rights of children and young people should be at the heart of everything we do, as part of our Birmingham Children and Young People's Plan and informing our work in becoming a UNICEF Child Friendly City.

Our policies and services should be assessed through Equality Impact Assessments to understand the impact on young people with care experience.

Seeking to increase the participation and pathways providing care experienced young people with meaningful and supported apprenticeships and career opportunities and mentors that can continue to support them,

The Council resolves to:

- formally support the Show Us You Care Too campaign and adopt 'care experience' as an additional equality strand alongside the protected characteristics as set out in the Equality Act 2010.
- formally call upon our partners to treat care experience as a Protected Characteristic.
- lobby Government to amend the Equality Act 2010 to include care experience as a protected characteristic.
- continue to build on the work of our Children's Trust and to continue to support the efforts of our Corporate Parenting Board".