

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

**NEIGHBOURHOODS O&S COMMITTEE – PUBLIC MEETING**

**1400 hours on Wednesday, 5 July 2023, Committee Room 6, Council House  
Minutes**

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**Present:**

Councillor Shabrana Hussain (Chair)

Councillors: Deirdre Alden, Marcus Bernasconi, Kerry Brewer, Marje Bridle, Ray Goodwin, and Izzy Knowles

**Also Present:**

Fiona Bottrill, Senior Overview and Scrutiny Manager

Pamela Powis, Acting Head of Partnership, Community Safety Team

Darren Share, Director for Street Scene

Amanda Simcox, Scrutiny Officer

**1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST**

The Chair advised that this meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Public-I microsite and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received on behalf of Cllr. Gurdial Singh Atwal.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Members were reminded they must declare all relevant pecuniary and other registerable interests arising from any business to be discussed at this meeting, and none were declared.

#### **4. MINUTES**

(See document No. 1)

##### **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the committee meeting held on 7 June 2023 were agreed.

#### **5. ACTION TRACKER**

(See document No. 2)

##### **RESOLVED:**

That the action tracker was noted.

#### **6. BIRMINGHAM COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (BCSP) LOCAL OFFER**

(See document No. 3)

The Chair informed the Committee that this item replaced the Youth Justice Plan item, which would be discussed under the work programme item.

Pamela Powis, Acting Head of Partnership, Community Safety Team, was in attendance and gave the presentation. She highlighted the background to the Local Partnership Delivery Groups (LPDGs), their purpose, outcomes and what is working well, and not working well, how they were reviewed, feedback from the review – including the groups being renamed as Local Community Safety Partnerships (LCSP), and the next steps.

The Committee discussed the development of the new localities approach, and how ward councillors who are not on the partnerships can become more involved and contribute towards identifying local priorities etc, and the main points included:

- An annual Delivery Plan will be produced with the first draft being available in September 2023. This will be sent to the local Councillors and reviewed quarterly.
- Officers should be reaching out to the ward Councillors if there are targets and work happening in their ward.
- Councillors will get a named local manager for each of the six locations, and Pamela will provide the list to the Committee. These local managers will be attending and contributing to Ward Forums.
- The partnerships cover large areas, so they have to prioritise, and rely on data and intelligence to do this.

- A dashboard is being produced and they are aware that there may be priorities for residents that do not meet the threshold for the partnerships. However, Intervention Officers will be put in place to provide support for these.
- Officers are working with the Cabinet Member for Social Justice, Community Safety and Equalities - Councillor Brennan, on the nominations process for the three councillors that will need to be appointed onto each LCSP.

**RESOLVED:**

That:

- The presentation was noted, and the Committee was informed on the development of the new localities approach.
- A list of the local managers for the six locations to be provided to the Committee.
- The Delivery Plans together with contact details to be shared with Ward Councillors (September 2023).

## **7. FLY TIPPING ENFORCEMENT**

(See document No. 4)

Darren Share, Director for Street Scene, was in attendance for this item and explained that the presentation provided a position statement and that further details will be provided when they attend again to discuss fly tipping and cleaner streets.

He gave the presentation and highlighted the national increase in fly tipping offences, the initiatives introduced to tackle fly tipping, the Love Your Streets and Love Your Environment initiatives, Keep Britain Tidy, statistics – including Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers statistics and the impact of their work, and the next steps.

During the discussion and in response to queries raised by Members, the main points included:

- They are creating networks as learning from other local authorities is critical and officers were collaborating with colleagues in London to gather information on what is being done in different parts of London, the issues faced by residents that live in flats, and they have assisted with developing the litter bins policy.
- Information was given on the sensor in the camera that can pick up what the 'camera thinks is fly tipping' which it can then highlight in real time, so someone does not have to be continually watching the screen.
- Moving the Six Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers that were introduced to the wards with the highest fly tipping numbers (initial focus on duty of care and trade waste licensing) to other wards if there had been improvement in fly

tipping, could lead to fly tipping increasing again. The officers should have contacted the Ward Councillors and Darren Share will ensure they are engaged.

- It was confirmed that the Grime Watch videos went through a number of stages before they were released on social media, and Pamela Powis provided reassurance that they share the videos with restricted partners before they are released. Darren Share suggested he provide an update on Grime Watch as part of an update on the two outstanding recommendations for the Committee's fly tipping work when he updates the Committee on cleaner streets at the September committee meeting, and this was agreed.
- Trade waste: there are restrictions on vans using the Council's Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) as these are for residential waste. Every legitimate business should have a suitable and appropriate waste contract (duty of care). Officers are concentrating on some of the main high streets and are averaging between 50 and 60 duty of care inspections, with these needing to be increased.
- Licences for waste contractors were managed through the Environment Agency, and it was suggested that the Council could assist with the provision of information about the waste contractors.
- The Council's enforcement approach:
  - There are a number of ongoing cases, and they are concentrating on the professional fly tipper, whilst still trying to do the low level monitoring.
  - Barking and Dagenham has a different risk matrix to Birmingham City Council. The advice from legal services was not to name and shame, so as to not jeopardise future prosecutions. It was suggested that further details are provided as part of the update on the two outstanding recommendations from the Committee's fly tipping work at the next committee meeting, and this was agreed.
  - The difference in the evidence needed for letters of concern and prosecutions was discussed. This included the prosecution being against the person and not a household, and therefore an individual would need to see the crime taking place.
  - The Committee would like to look at Fixed Penalty Notices for commercial and residential.
- There is a need for an analysis of the information to ascertain what is happening across the city with the aim of producing a prevention strategy for fly tipping.
  - The impact of the initiatives: they struggle to get data when fly tipping is picked up as part of the crew's routine work. However, they can provide the Committee with data and the Keep Britain Tidy impact analysis etc.

- Ward maps with cleanliness and fly tipping data and confirmation as to whether the fly tipping data included non-council owned land to be provided.
- A screenshot of the Land Audit Management System Surveys (LAMS) data could be provided and the Committee to agree what information they would want after the committee meeting.
- Darren Share would confirm whether the ward information is, or if not, whether it can be, shared with the City Observatory.

It was suggested that a Task & Finish Group could be set-up for this piece of work and Fiona Bottrill suggested the key points from the detailed discussion could be developed into recommendations and agreed by the Committee following the committee meeting. The Committee agreed that the information and data requested is provided for discussion at the next committee meeting rather than have a separate Task & Finish Group.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Committee:

- Considered the information within the report.
- The key points from the discussion will be developed into recommendations by Fiona Bottrill and agreed by the Committee following the committee meeting.
- The requested data and information to be provided for discussion at the next committee meeting.
- Darren Share to confirm whether the ward information is, or if not, whether it can be, shared with the City Observatory.

## **8. WORK PROGRAMME**

(See document No. 5)

### **August 2023**

The Chair informed Members that the draft Youth Justice Plan had not been ready in time for this committee meeting and proposed a hybrid briefing takes place on 9 August 2023 at 2-3pm in Committee Room 2. Members of the Education, Children and Young People O&S Committee would also be invited to attend. The Committee agreed to this.

### **September 2023 Committee Meeting**

- Cleaner Streets - implementation of the recommendations.

- Fly Tipping - the requested information and data to be provided to assist with the identification of causes of fly tipping.

Localisation - it was agreed that following the recent announcements, the Leader's priorities would be confirmed, and he would be invited to a committee meeting to ascertain how he plans to take the localisation agenda forward, with his attendance being delayed until October 2023 if necessary.

#### **October 2023 Committee Meeting**

- Delays in births and deaths registrations was currently an item for the October committee meeting.
- Bereavement Services - the Co-ordinating O&S Committee are discussing this item at their July committee meeting and following this Members may want to consider this further.

#### **December 2023 Committee Meeting**

- The Chair highlighted that the Domestic Abuse Item was currently proposed for the December 2023 committee meeting. However, this may be brought forward to allow for the Committee to input in the early stages of the proposed Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That:

- The work programme was agreed.
- Noted the information set out in Appendix 1 and identified if any further topics need to be added to the menu of topics for the Committee to explore over the coming year.
- Agreed, subject to further input from the Chair and Deputy Chair, the issues that the Committee will consider during August – October 2023, the proposed aims and objectives and the preferred method of scrutiny.
  - A Youth Justice Plan hybrid briefing on 9 August 2023 at 2pm in Committee Room 2.
  - Darren Share to report back on fly tipping as well as cleaner streets at the September committee meeting.
  - The Leader to be invited to attend either the September or October 2023 committee meeting to ascertain how he proposes to take the localisation agenda forward.
  - Delays in Births and Deaths Registrations is currently scheduled for October 2023.
  - Bereavement Services may become an item following the discussion at the Co-ordinating O&S Committee in July 2023.

- The Domestic Abuse Item may be brought forward from December 2023 to allow the Committee to inform the proposed Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy.
- Noted, subject to further input from the Chair and Deputy Chair outside of the meeting, that the Committee's proposed work programme will be submitted to Co-ordinating O&S to enable work to be planned and co-ordinated throughout the year.

## **9. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

### **RESOLVED:**

The Committee noted that the next formal meeting will be held on 6 September 2023 at 1400 hours in Committee Room 6.

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

None.

## **11. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

Cllr. Izzy Knowles asked whether she could raise the issue of BBQs in parks. Fiona Bottrill commented that for anything to be formally considered there needed to be a report. Cllr. Izzy Knowles agreed to discuss this with Darren Share outside the committee meeting.

## **12. AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS**

### **RESOLVED:**

In an urgent situation between meetings, the Chair jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee.

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The meeting ended at 15.43 hours.