

# Birmingham City Council

## City Council

11 January 2022



**Subject:** Motions for Debate from Individual Members

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:

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

**A. Councillors Jon Hunt and Paul Tilsley have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-**

“Council recognises there are multiple overlapping reasons for improving traffic management and road safety around schools.

These include:

Air quality

Child fitness and obesity

Pedestrian safety

Climate change action

Nuisance and antisocial behaviour caused by inconsiderate and illegal parking.

Council further notes there is uncontrolled traffic around too many schools, contributing to recent disturbing and tragic incidents.

Council welcomes some of the innovative ideas that have been tested in many parts of the country, including our city, to tackle this problem. These include exclusion zones, no idling zones, ten-minute walking zones and walking buses.

It calls for accelerated action to address these issues around schools.

Council therefore calls for the executive:

1/ to develop citywide policies and strategies that will support rapid, effective, innovative and flexible local action to improve traffic safety around all schools and will clearly identify obstacles to action.

2/ to identify resources that can be used to support effective measures, noting the pressure on the core budgets of both Council and of schools.

3/ to increase effectiveness of partnership work with West Midlands Police to ensure effective enforcement of existing rules around parking and around stationary vehicles with idling engines.

Council further proposes a joint piece of work by the transport and education scrutiny and overview committees to oversee the development of the council's response to this problem.

Council further resolves to lobby government and local MPs for changes to legislation on schools to place duties on schools to respond to the health and safety risks posed to pupils and pedestrians outside school gates. This should include placing a duty on schools to cooperate with councils in responding to problems."

**B. Councillors Ian Ward and Brigid Jones have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-**

"This council notes that:

- 2022 is a year of unprecedented opportunity for the people and communities of Birmingham.
- In attracting record levels of investment and successfully bidding for the 2022 Commonwealth Games, Birmingham is already making a significant contribution to the levelling-up agenda - delivering jobs, homes and opportunities to improve the lives and life chances of people and communities across the city.
- Prior to Covid, this city was seeing growth at almost twice the rate of London, and four times the national average. And, while the pandemic has had a profound impact, both economically and socially, the factors that made Birmingham such an attractive place to live, work and invest 18 months ago remain in place and will now help power our recovery.
- Even at a time of such upheaval, the council and its partners have continued to make progress on a significant number of major projects, which will stimulate growth across the city.
- Projects like the Smithfield Development, Paradise, the regeneration of our Digbeth creative sector and the imminent arrival of the HS2 high-speed rail link mean homes, jobs, and opportunities for the people of Birmingham.
- Like the Commonwealth Games, these projects will shape the lives and life chances of people growing up in Birmingham today.

However, this council further notes that after over a decade of austerity:

- Over 40% of Birmingham's children live in relative poverty

- Birmingham fares less well across many indicators such as education, skills, and the living environment
- 90% of wards are more deprived than national average
- The rate of unemployment is double the national average
- And there is a decade's gap in life expectancy between the poorest areas, such as East Birmingham and the most affluent areas

The Government must work with and support the council, combined authority and other stakeholders to address these and other challenges, if it is truly committed to levelling up for the people of Birmingham.

Prosperity and Opportunity for All: Birmingham's Levelling Up Strategy is an ambitious blueprint to work with partners at city, regional and national levels to ensure that, given the right funding and powers, our city can play a key role in levelling up the UK economy.

The approach looks to address poor health, poor educational attainment, low skills and incomes, congestion, and air pollution, while bringing forward new homes, employment sites and community assets.

This council resolves to:

- Continue to make a compelling case for Birmingham to be at the heart of national efforts to level up the UK economy.
- Ensure that a successful Commonwealth Games will act as a springboard for future inclusive growth and success.
- Continue attracting the vital investment that will create jobs and opportunities for people in neighbourhoods right across the city.
- And work with a wide range of partners - at community, regional and national level - to ensure that Birmingham citizens benefit from levelling up."