

Members are reminded that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests relating to any items of business to be discussed at this meeting

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

CITY COUNCIL

TUESDAY, 12 JULY 2016 AT 14:00 HOURS
IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL HOUSE, VICTORIA SQUARE,
BIRMINGHAM, B1 1BB

A G E N D A

1 NOTICE OF RECORDING

Lord Mayor to advise that this meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site (www.birminghamnewsroom.com) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs.

The whole of the meeting will be filmed except where there are confidential or exempt items.

2 MINUTES

To confirm and authorise the signing of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 14 June 2016.

3 LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive the Lord Mayor's announcements and such communications as the Lord Mayor may wish to place before the Council.

4 PETITIONS

(15 minutes allocated)

To receive and deal with petitions in accordance with Standing Order 8.

As agreed by Council Business Management Committee a schedule of outstanding petitions is available electronically with the published papers for the meeting and can be viewed or downloaded.

5 QUESTION TIME

(90 minutes allocated)

To deal with oral questions in accordance with Standing Order 9(B)

- A. Questions from Members of the Public to any Cabinet Member or District Committee Chairman (20 minutes)
- B. Questions from any Councillor to a Committee Chairman or Lead Member of a Joint Board (20 minutes)
- C. Questions from Councillors other than Cabinet Members to a Cabinet Member (25 minutes)
- D. Questions from Councillors other than Cabinet Members to the Leader or Deputy Leader (25 minutes)

57 - 58

6 **APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNCIL**

(5 Minutes allocated)

To make appointments to, or removal from, committees, outside bodies or other offices which fall to be determined by the Council as set out on the attached schedule.

7 **EXEMPTION FROM STANDING ORDERS**

Councillor Sharon Thompson to move an exemption from Standing Orders.

59 - 98

8 **PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION**

(5 Minutes)

To consider a report of the Council Business Management Committee.

Councillor John Clancy to move the following Motion:

'To approve the proposed changes to the constitution as set out in the report.

99 - 164

9 **BIRMINGHAM CHILD POVERTY COMMISSION REPORT**

(40 Minutes)

To consider a report of Councillor Waseem Zaffar and Peter Hay.

Councillor Waseem Zaffar to move the following Motion:

'The Council welcomes and notes the Independent Child Poverty Commission report and its recommendations.'

165 - 214

10 **EDUCATION SERVICES DELIVERY & IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2016/17**

(60 Minutes)

To consider a report of the Improvement Quartet: Councillor John Clancy, Councillor Brigid Jones, Mark Rogers and Peter Hay.

Councillor Brigid Jones to move the following Motion:

'The Council welcomes and notes the progress in education and proposed next

steps.'

215 - 224

11 **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2016/17**

(30 Minutes)

To consider a report of the Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Councillor Victoria Quinn to move the following Motion:

'That the City Council note the report and contribute ideas on scrutiny topics for 2016/17.'

225 - 228

12 **MOTIONS FOR DEBATE FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

(90 Minutes allocated)

To consider the attached Motions of which notice has been given in accordance with Standing Order 4(A).



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL HELD
ON TUESDAY 14 JUNE 2016 AT 1400 HOURS IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

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

Councillors

Muhammad Afzal	Des Flood	Majid Mahmood
Mohammed Aikhlaq	Jayne Francis	Karen McCarthy
Deirdre Alden	Matthew Gregson	James McKay
John Alden	Paulette Hamilton	Gareth Moore
Robert Alden	Andrew Hardie	Yvonne Mosquito
Nawaz Ali	Roger Harmer	Brett O'Reilly
Tahir Ali	Kath Hartley	John O'Shea
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Ray Hassall	David Pears
Mohammed Azim	Barry Henley	Eva Phillips
David Barrie	Penny Holbrook	Robert Pocock
Bob Beauchamp	Des Hughes	Victoria Quinn
Matt Bennett	Jon Hunt	Hendrina Quinnen
Kate Booth	Mahmood Hussain	Chauhdry Rashid
Barry Bowles	Shabrana Hussain	Habib Rehman
Randal Brew	Timothy Huxtable	Gary Sambrook
Marje Bridle	Mohammed Idrees	Rob Sealey
Mick Brown	Zafar Iqbal	Mike Sharpe
Alex Buchanan	Ziaul Islam	Claire Spencer
Sam Burden	Kerry Jenkins	Stewart Stacey
Andy Cartwright	Meirion Jenkins	Ron Storer
Tristan Chatfield	Simon Jevon	Martin Straker Welds
Zaker Choudhry	Brigid Jones	Sharon Thompson
Debbie Clancy	Nagina Kauser	Paul Tilsley
John Clancy	Tony Kennedy	Karen Trench
Lynda Clinton	Ansar Ali Khan	Lisa Trickett
Lyn Collin	Changeese Khan	Anne Underwood
Maureen Cornish	Mariam Khan	Margaret Waddington
John Cotton	Narinder Kaur Kooner	Ian Ward
Ian Cruise	Chaman Lal	Mike Ward
Peter Douglas Osborn	Mike Leddy	Fiona Williams
Barbara Dring	Bruce Lines	Alex Yip
Neil Eustace	Mary Locke	Waseem Zaffar

Mohammed Fazal

Ewan Mackey

NOTICE OF RECORDING

- 18694 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.

The whole of the meeting would be filmed except where they were confidential or exempt items.

MINUTES

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and –

- 18695 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the City Council held on 24 May 2016, having been printed and a copy sent to each Member of the Council, be taken as read and confirmed and signed.

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and –

- 18696 **RESOLVED:-**

That Subject to the above amendment, the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the City Council held on 24 May 2016, having been printed and a copy sent to each Member of the Council, be taken as read and confirmed and signed.

LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1 St Joseph's Catholic School

- 18697 The Lord Mayor indicated that in the public gallery today were staff and pupils of St Joseph's Catholic School who have had a tour of the Council House and are now joining us to watch the debate.

The Lord Mayor asked all in the Chamber to join him in welcoming them all to the Council meeting.

2 Death of former Councillor John Trojnacki

The Lord Mayor referred to the recent death of former Councillor John Trojnacki who served as a Councillor from May 1991 to May 1995. The Lord Mayor continued that Richard served on a number of Committees and Sub-Committees of the Council as well as outside bodies.

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

18686 **RESOLVED:-**

That this Council places on record its sorrow at the death of former Councillor John Trojnacki and its appreciation of his devoted service to the residents of Birmingham; it extends its deepest sympathy to members of his family in their sad bereavement.

3 Terrorist Attack in Orlando

The Lord Mayor made reference to the terrorist atrocity in Orlando on Sunday in which 49 people were killed.

He continued that on behalf of the citizens of Birmingham he would be attending a vigil this Saturday afternoon (18 June) that Birmingham LGBT will be holding to honour the lives of the victims of this attack starting at 1pm at the Birmingham LGBT Centre and weather permitting head to the Pagoda Island.

The Lord Mayor indicated that he had written to President Obama and the Mayor of Orlando, Buddy Dyer to express his deep shock and sorrow at the appalling loss of life and asked that all in the Chamber join him in those sentiments.

18687 **RESOLVED:-**

That this Council places on record its sorrow for the loss life in the recent terrorist atrocity in Orlando Florida and it extends its deepest sympathy and condolences to members of the families affected and to the American people.

4 Queens Birthday Honours

18688 The Lord Mayor said that he had pleasure in congratulating those below mentioned in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for services to Birmingham or who live in Birmingham:-

Commander of the British Empire
Colin James Diamond

Order of the British Empire
Joel Blake
Adil Ray
Mrs Shaista Gohir
Sewa Singh Mandla
Professor Celia Moss

Member of the British Empire
Mohammed Ali
Mrs Deloris Collett

Mrs Sally Anne Evans
Lucan Gray
Simon Griffiths
Stephen Michael Harris
Mrs Jasprit Jeetly
Robert Pedley
John Dixon Phillips
Francis Edward Ursell

British Empire Medal

Ms Rehana Khan
Alan Charles Murdoch
Shaminder Singh Rai
Councillor Michael John Sharpe

The Lord mayor asked all those in the Chamber to join me in congratulating those honoured on their marvelous achievements.

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 -

18689 **RESOLVED:-**

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

Petitions Update

The following Petitions Update was submitted:-

(See document No 2)

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and -

18690 **RESOLVED:-**

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

QUESTION TIME

18691 The Council proceeded to consider Oral Questions in accordance with Standing Order 9 (B). Page 8 of 228

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

EXTENSION OF TIME LIMIT

It was moved by Councillor Anne Underwood and seconded –

“That the time limit for part B of Question Time be extended by 15 minutes.”

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

It was accordingly –

18692 **RESOLVED:-**

That the time limit for part B of Question Time be extended by 15 minutes.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

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

(See document No 3)

18693 **RESOLVED:-**

That New Frankley in Birmingham Parish Council Member Cllr Ian Bruckshaw and Sutton Coldfield Parish Council Member Cllr Derrick Griffin be appointed to the Standards Committee.

EXEMPTION FROM STANDING ORDERS

It was moved by Councillor Sharon Thompson:-

“That, pursuant to a CBM discussion, Standing Orders be waived as follows:

- Allocate 60 Minutes for item 8 (Children’s Social Care)
- Allocate 55 Minutes for item 9 (Birmingham Cultural Strategy)

CBM is also recommending that the meeting finish at 1940 hours”

Councillor Robert Alden indicated that he understood CBM had allocated 90 Minutes to item 8 and proposed that amendment.

The Motion having been amended was seconded and it was-

18694 **RESOLVED:-**

That, pursuant to a CBM discussion and the amendments proposed, Standing Orders be waived as follows:

That, pursuant to a CBM discussion, Standing Orders be waived as follows:

- Allocate 90 Minutes for item 8 (Children's Social Care)
- Allocate 55 Minutes for item 9 (Birmingham Cultural Strategy)

and that it be recommended that the meeting finish at 2010 hours

LENGTH OF MEETING

Councillor Robert Alden proposed and Councillor John Clancy seconded and it was-

18695

RESOLVED:-

That Standing Order 13 (Length of Council Meetings) be suspended and the meeting be extended by 70 minutes to 2010 hours.

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE: IMPROVEMENT & CHALLENGES

The following report of the Improvement Quartet was submitted:-

(See document No 4)

Councillor Brigid Jones moved the motion which was seconded by Councillor John Clancy.

In accordance with Council Standing Orders, Councillors Jon Hunt and Roger Harmer gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No 5)

Councillor Jon Hunt moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Roger Harmer.

In accordance with Council Standing Orders, Councillors Matt Bennett and Debbie Clancy gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No 6)

Councillor Matt Bennett moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Debbie Clancy.

A debate ensued.

Councillor Brigid replied to the debate.

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

The second 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 7)

Councillor Kate Booth indicated that they wished to be included as having voted against the amendment.

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

Yes – 30 (For the Amendment);

No – 65 (Against the Amendment);

Abstain – 0 (Abstentions).

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

It was therefore -

18696 **RESOLVED:-**

The Council welcomes and notes the progress in children's social care and proposed next steps, including the intention to explore and develop a voluntary trust arrangement for children's services.

This Council believes the level of accountability of the Trust to Council should be defined broadly so that all Councillors continue to exercise their corporate parenting responsibilities. Accountability should ensure that senior managers report to the relevant Scrutiny Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and

18697 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Council be adjourned until 1735 hours on this day.

The Council then adjourned at 1715 hours.

At 1735 hours the Council resumed at the point where the meeting had been adjourned.

BIRMINGHAM CULTURAL STRATEGY

The following report of the Deputy Leader was submitted:-

(See document No 8)

Councillor Ian Ward moved the motion which was seconded .

A debate ensued.

Councillor Ian Ward 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 –

18698 **RESOLVED:-**

That the City Council adopts the attached partnership strategy for Culture, and undertakes to integrate its principles and actions into service planning for the period, leading the process where indicated.

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 Neil Eustace and Paul Tilsley have given notice of the following Motion:-

(See document No 9)

Councillor Neil Eustace in moving the Motion indicated that he wished to remove the words ‘ - and of other forms of anti-social behaviour on the highways -’. The amended motion was seconded by Councillor Paul Tilsley.

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

(See document No 10)

Councillor Gareth Moore moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Anne Underwood.

A debate ensued.

Councillor Neil Eustace replied to the debate.

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

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

It was therefore -

18699 **RESOLVED:-**

This Council

- notes concerns about damage to grass verges raised by residents and Councillors of all parties;
- notes initiatives taken by the Executive to test new ways of tackling the problem;
- believes there needs to be a thorough investigation of the scope of the Council's powers to prevent parking on grass verges;
- calls for an examination of a range of solutions to the problem;
- calls for a full assessment of the costs of damage caused by verge parking and of the level of public concern.
- Calls for the current criteria for grass verge protection schemes to be reviewed so that more roads can be considered suitable.

This Council proposes that a scrutiny review of the subject would assist the Executive in devising a way forward; such a review should include examination of the impact of delays in dropped kerb installation and charges for this service.

The meeting ended at 1915 hours.

APPENDIX

Questions and replies in accordance with Standing Order 12(A).

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR GARETH MOORE

A1 Ward Committees

Question:

Does the Leader agree that Ward/Forum meetings are vital for local residents to engage with and should continue to be held?

Answer:

I believe that regular engagement meetings with citizens in wards and neighbourhoods are vital to democracy in the city, and different wards will call them different things. I know the new devolution cabinet committee will address and explore these matters and look forward to the discussion and debate there and elsewhere.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR KEN WOOD

A2 You still keep me Hanging On

Question:

In response to my written question in April enquiring how long one should expect to wait on a response to a written query to a Cabinet Member, you replied that it depended on the nature of the enquiry, but that I should forward copies of the letters to yourself and you would make enquiries.

Copies of the letters were sent to you on the 22nd April 2016 and to date, I have received neither a response nor even an acknowledgment. My question is therefore what is the maximum amount of time a Councillor should have to wait for an answer to queries sent to the Leader of the Council?

Answer:

I have received copies of two letters that you sent to the former Cabinet Member for Development, Transport and the Economy, in relation to Transport matters.

I understand that Cllr Ali had responded to you, to his satisfaction, on the matter concerning Victoria Square, and that officers in Transportation Projects responded to you about Perhsore Road, offering you the opportunity of a site visit. This offer is still available if you would like officers to arrange it.

If you are not content, I suggest you put your questions to Cllr Stewart Stacey, the Cabinet Member for Transport & Roads.

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

A3 Meetings

Question:

How many meetings (including dates) has the Leader held with staff from channel 4 since becoming leader of the council?

Answer:

None.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR GARY SAMBROOK

A4 In/Out

Question:

Given the recent announcement about postal votes being sent to ineligible people for the European referendum, how many people have wrongly been sent a postal vote in Birmingham?

Answer:

The responsibility for planning and delivering the referendum (and all other polls) lies with the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) and the Counting Officer and not the City Council. Whilst the posts of ERO and CO are currently held by the Chief Executive, Mark Rogers, these are statutory appointments and are independent of the Council.

As such I passed the question to the ERO/CO to respond directly to you, which I believe he did on Friday 10 June 2016.

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

A5 Reduce Number of Play Areas

Question:

Could the Leader indicate what steps are being taken to implement item SN13 of the budget and business plan (Reduce number of play areas)?

Answer:

SN13 is being reviewed, and consultation will be held over the summer with local Members prior to any final decision being taken.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT ALDEN

A6 Children's Services

Question:

Please list all meetings, e-mail correspondence, phone calls or letters the Council has had with the Department for Education or Number 10 since the Leader took control which relates to the establishment of a trust for children's service, including who attended such meetings or received correspondence?

Answer:

The report on this matter to full Council details the history of such discussions. More recently there was:

- A stocktake with DfE on 24 February 2016 and again on 12 April 2016
- A meeting with DfE on 23 May 2016
- A stocktake with DfE on 8 June 2016.

Attendees at some or all of these meetings included the Children's Commissioner, DfE officials, the Chief Executive, myself as Cabinet Member, the Leader of the Council, the Strategic Director for People, senior BCC managers, our Improvement Partner, Essex Children's Services and staff from Deloitte.

There have also been several informal conversations since Trusts were first suggested in the Le Grande review in 2014.

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

B Permanent Recognition - Distinguished heroes

Question:

The Council has honoured Brummies who gained the Victoria Cross or George Cross in the First World War at a recent event at the Hall of Memory.

What arrangements are to be made for permanent recognition of the City's other holders of these two awards for our most distinguished heroes?

Answer:

The commemorative paving stones for the Victoria Cross recipients during the First World War was a national initiative by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) last year and the city received 10 names of those who were born in Birmingham.

I am not aware of any Government plans to similarly recognise the city's other Victoria Cross recipients.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN,
FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR LYN COLLIN**

C1 Response

Question:

At the last City Council a written question was submitted (Q PRU) and you advised that officers would be providing me with the detailed figures required for a full response. Despite my chasing you on this no response has been received. There has now been more than sufficient time to provide this information. Could you please do so now for the public record?

Answer:

The total number of pupils currently in the PRU is 500.

- 125 have been in between 0 to 6 months
- 130, 6 to 12 months
- 167, 13 to 24 months
- 59, 25 to 36 months
- 19, 37months or greater.

There are currently 26 pupils with statements or EHC plans. Of those

- 7 pupils had a statement or EHC plan before arrival at the setting
- 21 had a statement or EHC issued whilst on roll at COBS

Of the 21 statements/EHC plans issued

- 9 were requested by the PRU
- 8 by the parent
- 4 by the previous school they had attended prior to exclusion.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN,
FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR ALEX YIP**

C2 Response

Question:

At the last City Council a written question was submitted (Q Young People) and you advised that officers would be providing me with the detailed figures required for a full response. Despite my chasing you on this no response has been received. There has now been more than sufficient time to provide this information. Could you please do so now for the public record?

Answer:

Officers are already engaging with elected members, schools and key partners to discuss the development of a strategic approach to how Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs can be met in **all** educational settings across Birmingham City.

There are 780 children and young people with statements or EHC plans whose primary needs related to social, emotional, mental health issues. Of those 78-

- 75 are in mainstream schools
- 6 in resource bases
- 438 in special schools
- 30 in the PRU
- 241 in independent/non-maintained special schools
- 4 in elective home education and
- 13 without a school place

The number of pupils in attending Birmingham Special schools are as follows

- 119 in hunters Hill Technology College
- 110 in Lindsworth School
- 31 in Selly Oak Trust School
- 83 in Skilts School
- 70 in Springfield House School and
- 16 in other LA specials

(Please note

The data provided is based upon figures as at November 2015 which was undertaken in preparation for the Sufficiency forecast. This included pupils identified with a primary need of SEMH (BESD) during the full 14/15 academic year.)

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN,
FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR RANDAL BREW**

C3 Response

Question:

At the last City Council a written question was submitted (Q External Support) and you advised that officers would be providing me with the detailed figures required for a full response. Despite my chasing you on this no response has been received. There has now been more than sufficient time to provide this information. Could you please do so now for the public record?

Answer:

Associates to support Improvement Plans 2016/17

Total paid £28296.12 Gross (Net of VAT £23580.10)

The purpose of the Improvement Plans and Associates is to support the Local Authority to become one of the best performing for SEND in the country; that addresses the needs of children quickly, provides suitable education and ensures the right children have access to the most specialist support. We want to avoid stressful and expensive processes to resolve disputes between parents and the Local Authority when less formal procedures such as mediation could be used.

This requires a whole system approach, with a realistic and sustainable way forward. There is a need for stronger partnership working in this area and generalising good practice to achieve better outcomes for all.

The Service requires strengthening to improve performance, particularly with regard to completion of Transfers from SEN Statements to Education Health and Care Plans, Appeals to Tribunals, children without a school place as well as improving quality assurance and customer service.

The Associates are from a private company and are specialists in the area of delivering SEN improvements in Local Government. They are supporting SENAR focusing on performance management and quality assurance.

They are also supporting the delivery of the Education Plan via a number of other connected priority SEND projects linked to current challenges. These are Information Sharing Strategy for SENAR & SENDIASS, Pathways to Specialist Provision, Refreshing the Special Education Development Plan and High Needs Funding Allocation System for Pupils with SEND.

Independent investigation of complaint and follow up 2015/16

Total paid £5,204.88 Gross (Net of VAT £4,337.40)

The purpose was to investigate allegations against Birmingham City Council regarding inappropriate changes to statutory assessment timescales relating to Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans. Four complaints were investigated (3 relating to EHC process and 1 to Transfer Review process).

No evidence of deliberate manipulation of dates and timelines within the statutory assessment process was found. There was some evidence confusion between the two teams (SENAR and PSS) responsible for the new EHC and transfer review processes and evidence that statutory timelines had not been met with unacceptable delays in receiving an EHC Plan.

Learning from each complaint was acted on and capacity issues have been addressed with additional staff in post funded by the SEN Reforms Grant to support the process.

Performance in timeliness of new EHC Plans has improved since the allegations were made, and since December 2015 has been consistently above 90% on time. A significant number of transfer reviews remain outstanding, and recommendations from the investigation have been included in Improvement Plans.

Consultant Support re Sustainable approach to commissioning Alternative Provision 2015/16 Total paid £13,692.18 Gross (Net of VAT £11,410.15)

This work is part of our approach to Sustaining Inclusion, to promote inclusion positively alongside our other equal opportunities work to protect and champion our vulnerable children. The work of the consultant has contributed to developing the strategic partnership and leadership across the system and developing a shared understanding of the complex factors impacting on this.

Over the past 2 years exclusions have been rising in Birmingham and they have been higher than average across England and higher than our statistical neighbours for a number of years. This has resulted in a reactive response to growing need with equity issues and increased spend on alternative provision that is not sustainable.

The realities for schools are that pupils with better behaviour tend to have better academic outcomes and some pupils are difficult to engage/re-engage. External pressures on schools include curriculum changes, OfSTED inspections and the market place.

The realities for pupils who are excluded include alienation, further disengagement and poorer outcomes. There are risks of negative peer grouping and wider safeguarding and community risks.

The Consultant is a specialist who has worked for national and local government for over 17 years, focusing on policy and provision for children and young people with SEND with a particular interest in the area of social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. He has carried out reviews of behaviour support and provision in a broad range of Local Authorities across the UK.

The Consultant support in Birmingham has resulted in a feasibility study, options appraisal and engagement with partners and stakeholders to develop a sustainable approach to commissioning of Alternative Provision.

Information on High Needs spending on children with behaviour, emotional and social difficulties in each Secondary Network and Primary Consortia Group has been identified and shared with Head Teachers. Secondary Head Teachers are now substantially involved in planning the use of this resource. The work has contributed to a reduction in secondary exclusions in Spring Term 2016.

Additional support for development of Post 16 provision

2015/16 Total paid £11,040.00 Gross (Net of VAT £9,200.00)

This work was part of the Post 16 Opportunities partnership which has been established to develop Post 16 SEN provision. This is a new additional responsibility for Local Authorities, following national policy changes. We want young people to have access to a good range of mainstream and specialist post 16 provision, so they can participate and achieve meaningful occupation in the future

The Interim manager provided additional capacity to lead 4 projects including supporting and improving the offer from General and Further Education Colleges and extending the work of SEN Support Services to this group. Access to Education now include support for colleges as part of their service. This work also contributed to the development of a Post 16 booklet for young people, providing information about opportunities and pathways to support the transition process.

External consultant to Review Complex Cases Panel arrangements

Total Paid £10,324.20 Gross (Net of VAT £8,603.50)

Jointly funded with NHS

There are a small number of children and young people with the most complex needs who require placements jointly funded across the Local Authority (education and social care) and Health. We want these children to be placed in suitable provision quickly. This requires good understanding of the pathways for children, including the resources available to prevent crises and placement breakdown. The range of suitable provision is limited, and providers often demand high costs. The Local Authority has to work together with the NHS to ensure we get the best value for money and that provision is monitored to improve progress and outcomes for children.

The current complex case panel meets fortnightly and includes education, social care and health commissioners. The panel also includes education officers, health clinicians and social care senior managers. The purpose of the panel is to approve and review placements for children and young people with complex needs where placements are funded jointly across EHC.

The purpose of work of the Consultant was to review the current arrangements to support improvements in the operation of the panel including the pathway for cases coming to panel and greater integration of processes.

The Review report has been completed and shared with key stakeholder with recommendations picked up in Service Plans. The recommendations supported the development of more transparent and efficient funding arrangements and a Joint Funding Agreement has been drawn up for 2016/17 allowing passing of

money from NHS to the Council on an annual pooled basis rather than for each individual child.

External Consultant to review funding of complex cases

2014/15 Total Paid £8692

There are a small number of children and young people with the most complex needs who require jointly funded placements across the Local Authority (education and social care) and Health. These placements are often very costly and we want to make sure that the arrangements are suitable and provide value for money. This external consultant was already working for the Children's commissioning team to support work on permanency planning and extended this activity to review and audit the 10 most expensive placements. The product included a resource allocation system for the social care contribution to joint funding for placements. Recommendations also fed into the wider review of the Complex Cases panel arrangements outlined above.

Additional Information

The services for children with complex needs have had access to external support available across the Education Service, People Directorate or the whole Council. For example support via Future Council from model savings in Travel Assist and Continuing Professional Development such as 360 degree feedback and coaching.

In addition specialist external support has been commissioned to support engagement and co-production with families such as a specialist private company commissioned to develop videos with young people and families to promote and engage stakeholders in the Local Offer (£2750 in 2014/15) and Parent Trainers to deliver workshops for parents (£3337 in 2014/15, £10,757 in 2015/16). This has been funded by the SEN Reforms Additional Burdens Grant from the DfE. Services for Children with Complex Needs deliver traded services, to build capacity for early intervention and SEN Support in schools for example. This includes the use of Associate Educational Psychologists commissioned via Services for Education and Associate Teachers via Schools. This allows the services to be flexible in the offer they provide. There is no cost to the council for this, as it is funded from traded income.

The Virtual School for Children in Care and LACES commission a range of projects and tutors to support children in care with their education, funded from Pupil Premium Plus funding.

Disabled Children's Social Care commission interpreters and escorts in order to carry out their social work assessments and contact with family members for children in care for example.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN,
FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR ROB SEALEY**

C4 Response

Question:

What is the council's policy on charging for home to school transport for the following ages:

**16-17 years old
18 years old and upwards?**

Answer:

Service users who access Post 16 education provision are assessed for transport assistance in-line with the Council's current Post 16 Transport Policy. To be eligible for assistance applicants must meet the following minimum criteria:

- (1) You must be a resident of Birmingham
- (2) You must be attending a course at a school, further education college or institution or 16-19 Academy consisting of at least 450 guided learning hours per year
- (3) You must have a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education Health and Care Plan
- (4) You must be aged 16-18 years, or have started the relevant course before you turned 19 and continuing to attend it.

Applicants who are awarded specialised transport, i.e. on a vehicle commissioned by the Council are required to make either a £300 or £600 annual contribution towards costs. The reduced annual rate of £300 is applied if the family of the applicant is in receipt of maximum working tax credits.

For those 'adults' who are neither children nor of sixth form age (therefore 19 or over), section 508F Education Act 1996 deals with the matter of provision of transport. Under that section the Council is not obliged to make any arrangements for the provision of transport for adult learners except where it considers necessary, however if the Council does make such provision it must be free of charge.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN,
FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR TIMOTHY HUXTABLE**

C5 Complaint

Question:

What are the figures regarding the work of the Disabled Children's Social Care team for each year in the period 2013-2016 and could this information be provided?

Requests for assessment

Assessments carried out within statutory timescales (45 days)

Stage 1 complaints upheld/dismissed

Stage 2 complaints upheld/dismissed

Stage 3 complaints upheld/ dismissed

Answer:

Requests for assessment and assessment timescales

The information about assessments for the Disabled Children's Services for the period 2013/2016 has been provided in the table below. It uses information which relates to the current assessment model, a Single Assessment, because the data is consistent and available since October 2013.

In terms of requests for assessment these are logged in line with the assessment information which is tabulated below.

- The row which gives *the total number of single assessments* is the number of assessments requested in the period.
- The row which gives *the single assessments within timescale* is the number that were completed within the timescale.
- There is a row which gives the indicator for *percentages within timescale*. The operational target is 85% within timescale.

DCSC	13/14	14/15	15/16
Single Assessments within Timescale	101	371	271
Total Number of Single Assessments for the year/period¹	119	434	338
Percentage in timescale	84%	85%	80%

In terms of Complaints

The response for Complaints for the Disabled Children's Social Care Service within the period identified is as follows:

Stage 1 – Locally investigated

There have been 87 complainants with 126 aspects of complaint. Of the 126 aspects there have been 40 aspects upheld; 69 not upheld and 17 partially upheld.

Stage 2 – Independently Investigated

There have been 16 complainants with 114 aspects of complaint. Of the 114 there have been 19 aspects upheld; 59 not upheld; 17 partially upheld and 19 inconclusive.

Stage 3 – Independently Reviewed

There have been 2 complainants with 18 elements of complaint. Of the 18 there have 2 aspects upheld; 13 not upheld; 1 partially upheld and 2 inconclusive

Please note: the period 13/14 is October 2013 – March 2014 . This is because Single Assessments were introduced in October 2013.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN,
FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR MEIRION JENKINS**

C6 Criteria

Question:

What criteria is used to allocate referrals related to children with SEND or other CiN to the Disabled Children's SC Service rather than Area SW teams?

Answer:

The Disabled Children's Social Care Eligibility Criteria is the key document which informs any decision about the level of social care packages or direct payments for disabled children and young people following an assessment (S.17 Children Act 1989).

The criteria for Disabled Children's Social Care is used to inform whether a disabled child's level of need is such that they should be within the DCSC rather than an Area Social Work team. Essentially, where a child has a significant and long-lasting disability and this is the primary reason for their needs, they will be supported through the Disabled Children's social care teams.

A) When a child is referred to the Child Information & Advice Service (CIAS) or to MASH information about that child's needs and any disability will inform whether the child should be allocated to an Area SW team or to the DCSC. This can involve discussion with managers for each service and a decision is made swiftly.

B) It is possible that a child's case can be allocated to one team for an assessment, and at the end of the assessment it is understood that the child's needs will be better met by being allocated within a different team. If that is decided the case is then transferred by discussion between team managers..

Referrals into Disabled Children's Social Care can come from a variety of sources including SENAR, Early Help, Early Support, Schools, Nursing or Health visiting or numerous other professionals.

Children with particular SEND needs who have an assessment for an EHC Plan can request advice from Social Care. This can be provided from either an Area Social Work Team or DCSC as appropriate.

The DCSC eligibility criteria are reviewed periodically with Area SW teams, SENAR and a range of other professionals. Children and families allocated to DCSC or area teams can also access Information Advice and Guidance and early help/ community support, including carers support, from Universal and targeted Services provided or commissioned by the Council.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN,
FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID BARRIE**

C7 Criteria 2

Question:

What criteria are used when deciding the level of Direct Payments or other social care packages for disabled children?

Answer:

The Disabled Children's Social Care Eligibility Criteria is the key document which informs any decision about the level of social care packages or direct payments for disabled children and young people.

The Eligibility Criteria when it was originally produced was widely consulted upon and included an appropriate Impact Assessment.

The process is as follows: A Social worker will complete an assessment of social care need in consultation with the child, family and with reference to the professionals who are involved with the child and family. If the social worker and the manager identify an appropriate unmet need the child's assessment along with the carers "Carers Assessment" papers are presented to a Multi-Agency Community Resources Panel which reviews the needs against the Eligibility Criteria.

At the Community Resources Panel a decision is made as to eligibility and the level of need against specific "exemplars". This process gives rise to a score which informs the level of need and the possible resources available to meet that need.

A range of resources are available for disabled children who meet the criteria or the family can request to receive a Direct Payment to meet the identified unmet social care needs.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN,
FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN LINES**

C8 Nonsuch

Question:

What were the number of exclusions at Nonsuch School both limited and permanent before 3rd January 2016, including how many were disabled?

Answer:

	Fixed term	Permanent	SEND
2013-14	3	1	4
2014-14	10	2	11
2015-16		2*	1

*1 overturned and child came back

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN,
FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR ANNE UNDERWOOD**

C9 Too Old for School

Question:

How many unaccompanied immigrants placed in Birmingham schools since 2012 have turned out to have been too old for school at the time of placing?

Answer:

“These immigrants” are asylum seekers and refugees, highly vulnerable children fleeing war and persecution and separated from their families. We do not hold this data. However, the Head of Service who has managed the Citywide UASC service in the main since 2012 can only recall one recent case of a school raising concerns regarding the age of young person and their ‘willingness/concern’ to offer a school place.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN,
FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE ALDEN**

C10 School Places

Question:

How many unaccompanied immigrants have been placed in Birmingham Schools since 2012?

Answer:

“These immigrants” are asylum seekers and refugees, highly vulnerable children fleeing war and persecution and separated from their families.

77 unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) have been placed in Birmingham schools since 2012. This number is based on the child stating/ conveying/having evidence of a date of birth as being aged under 16 at the time the child was referred to children’s service, i.e. of school age.

Any UASC claiming to be a child and having no documentary evidence to support this, but appears to be aged between 16-18, a college rather than school place will be pursued for that young person. This will then be subject to the completion of the age assessment.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN,
FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR BOB BEAUCHAMP**

C11 Audit – Children In Need Cases

Question:

How many case file audits have been carried out on Children in Need cases in the last 12 months, broken down by month and tier of management undertaking audit?

Answer:

In January 2016 a new practice evaluation system was introduced to bring consistency to how we audit case work. 141 cases were audited between January and May. In addition the Principal social worker team undertook an in-depth Child in Need evaluation of cases across the three areas (March-May, 2016). 85 cases were reviewed.

The findings of this have been used to inform changes to practice.
More detailed data about the case audits will be available by 22nd June.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN,
FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR RON STORER**

C12 Audits

Question:

Of the case file audits carried out, how many identified cases where management oversight\supervision did not comply with standards set out in BCC policies and procedures?

Answer:

Between January and May 2016 there were 141 case evaluations completed and this included feedback from 77 parents. Of the 141 cases evaluated, 67 cases were judged to “require improvement”; 61 judged to be “good” and 13 judged to be “inadequate”.

Based on the practice evaluations completed to date:

- Thresholds are being applied appropriately in the majority of cases.
- Supervision is taking place and, in the main, at the required frequency, the quality of supervision and management oversight still needs to improve.
- The cases selected are Child In Need, children receiving child protection interventions and children in care

More detail about the number of cases with deficits in management oversight will be available by June 22nd.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN,
FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN ALDEN**

C13 Audits 2

Question:

Of these audits (referred to in the question from Councillor Bob Beauchamp) how many identified cases where management oversight/supervision did not comply with standards set out in BCC policies and procedures?

Answer:

Between January and May 2016 there were 141 case evaluations completed and this included feedback from 77 parents. Of the 141 cases evaluated, 67 cases were judged to “require improvement”; 61 judged to be “good” and 13 judged to be “inadequate”.

Based on the practice evaluations completed to date:

- Thresholds are being applied appropriately in the majority of cases.
- Supervision is taking place and, in the main, at the required frequency, the quality of supervision and management oversight still needs to improve.
- The cases selected are Child In Need, children receiving child protection interventions and children in care

More detail about the number of cases with deficits in management oversight will be available by June 22nd.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN,
FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR GARY SAMBROOK**

C14 S47

Question:

Out of the children in need cases that have been opened, how many have become S47 cases?

Answer:

All referrals to Children's Social Care that result in an assessment are Child In Need cases initially. The number of Children in Need cases opened in the last year from June 2015 to June 2016 is 12,753.

Of those, there were 3389 that were S47 assessments initiated (26.5%) in the same period. Both figures have been checked against the DfE CIN census return.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN,
FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY**

C15 Thresholds

Question:

**Of these audits (referred to in the question from Councillor Matt Bennett),
how many identified cases where thresholds have been incorrectly applied?**

Answer:

Between January and May 2016 there were 141 case evaluations completed and this included feedback from 77 parents. Of the 141 cases evaluated, 67 cases were judged to “require improvement”; 61 judged to be “good” and 13 judged to be “inadequate”.

Based on the practice evaluations completed to date:

- Thresholds are being applied appropriately in the majority of cases.
- Supervision is taking place and, in the main, at the required frequency, the quality of supervision and management oversight still needs to improve.
- The cases selected are Child In Need, children receiving child protection interventions and children in care

More detail about the number of cases where thresholds were not judged to be correct will be available by June 22nd.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN,
FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR MATT BENNETT**

C16 Mash referrals

Question:

How many case file audits have been carried out on MASH referral cases in the last 12 months, broken down by month and tier of management undertaking audit?

Answer:

A new management team took over responsibility for MASH in January 2016; a quality assurance framework has been put in place which includes regular multi agency audits. These audits are carried out by Assistant Director and Head of Service for MASH, Detective Chief Inspector with responsibility for Public Protection Unit and Head of Service, Safeguarding Children for Birmingham Community Healthcare trust.

The framework took effect in May and 10 cases were audited in the first month. These audits will take place each month

There is also a Front Door Reference Group – this is an independent multi-agency audit group reviewing approximately 10 cases a month. Eighty eight cases were reviewed in 2015/16 highlighting a slight improvement in the quality of referrals.

An independent MASH review – commissioned by Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board took place in January 2016. Two independent reviewers reviewed 21 cases and attended a number of multi-agency focus groups to gain an insight into MASH.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN,
FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT ALDEN**

C17 Children in Care

Question:

How many children in need cases have been opened in the last 12 months?

Answer:

All referrals to Children's Social Care that result in an assessment are Child In Need cases initially. The number of Children in Need cases opened in the last year from June 2015 to June 2016 is 12,753.

Of those, there were 3389 that were S47 assessments initiated (26.5%) in the same period. Both figures have been checked against the DfE CIN census return.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN,
FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR KEN WOOD**

C18 Meetings

Question:

Please list all meetings the Cabinet Member has had internally/externally at which the establishment of trust for children's services was discussed.

Answer:

The report on this matter to full Council details the history of such discussions. More recently there was:

- A stocktake with DfE on 24 February 2016 and again on 12 April 2016
- A meeting with DfE on 23 May 2016
- A stocktake with DfE on 8 June 2016.

Attendees at some or all of these meetings included the Children's Commissioner, DfE officials, the Chief Executive, myself as Cabinet Member, the Leader of the Council, the Strategic Director for People, senior BCC managers, our Improvement Partner, Essex Children's Services and staff from Deloitte. There have also been several informal conversations since Trusts were first suggested in the Le Grande review in 2014.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN,
FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR MACKEY**

C19 Complaint

Question:

A Local Government Ombudsman Complaint ([13 010 519](#)) was upheld and published in March 2014 as follows:

"A woman complains that the council delayed in assessing her son's needs. The son, who is 16 years old has autistic spectrum disorder with severe learning and communication difficulties that need specialist support. He has a statement of Special Educational Needs and lives Monday to Friday in term time at a residential school. His mother complains the council repeatedly failed to carry out a proper assessment of his needs, despite apologising for not doing so. She complains the situation has continued for more than a year and is ongoing. She says professionals at his school are not able to cope with him on a two-to-one basis but that the council has left her to cope alone with his unpredictable violent outbursts at weekends and in the school holidays".

**The Ombudsman upheld the complaint and found fault causing injustice
One of the recommendations was that the Council:
"review its policies and procedures to ensure it**

- deals with cases like these holistically rather than seeing them as matters for one service area or another;**
- prioritises such serious cases where there is a risk of harm or danger to family members; and**
- Complies fully with legislative requirements."**

Can you please advise me of the details of this review ie when it took place, how long it took, who led the review, what information was considered and what the outcome was?

Answer:

A number of actions were taken as a result of the Ombudsman finding for this complaint and another published complaint. These are listed as follows:

- 1. The DCSC Eligibility Criteria was revised and updated in August 2014 as a result of the Ombudsman findings and other consultations. This was led by the Head of Service, Christopher Bush, supported by the Commissioning Team, PSS Administration Team and Multi Agency Colleagues. The updated document was issued to comply with new legislation at that time. The eligibility criteria takes account of the Child/Young Person's needs, the Parent/carers needs and the family and environment needs. It is by using these categories that we intend to address the whole family circumstances in decisions which are made.**

2. Prioritisation is a matter which is regularly addressed by the DCSC management team and the service has a requirement commitment to prioritise risk of harm or danger to family members.
3. An internal Audit by the long Arm Audit Service was commissioned during 2014 as a result of the Ombudsman (and one other complaint) findings. This led to a report and action plan which was reported within the fiscal year in March 2015. The action plan produced led to some follow up actions to improve the service response. BCC Audit Service completed a further review, reported in March 2016. Many of the actions identified in the report have been completed and progress has been made on actions where further work had been identified.
4. The work of the Disabled Children's Service was being developed in 2014 to take account of the Children and Families Act 2014. This required closer partnership working and the purpose of the Eligibility Criteria and the Short Break Criteria were each revised to offer support for disabled children within the context of their family. It is also now more commonly practised that partnership working with a range of services through Child in Need Plans will offer provision with responsibilities better shared and understood between agencies.

The intention of all of these actions listed was to ensure that the service was fully compliant with any relevant legislation.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN,
FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR MAUREEN CORNISH**

C20 Complaint

Question:

- **A Local Government Ombudsman Complaint ([13 002 902](#)) was upheld and published in March 2014 as follows:**

"Complaint from a mother about the support the council provides to enable her to care for her disabled daughter. She specially complains that the council:

- **failed to contact her for over four years;**
- **repeatedly failed to properly assess her daughter's needs;**
- **failed to properly assess her needs as her daughter's carer;**
- **delayed in investigating her complaints; and**
- **failed to carry out recommendations from the complaint process when it agreed to do so.**

The Ombudsman upheld the complaint and found fault causing injustice.

One of the recommendations was that the Council:

"review the way it assesses children with disabilities and their families and how these assessments relate to its Short Break and Eligibility Criteria."

Can you please advise me of the details of this review ie when it took place, how long it took, who led the review, what information was considered and what the outcome was?

Answer:

A number of actions were taken as a result of the Ombudsman finding for this Complaint. These are listed as follows:

5. An internal review of the Short Break Guidance was made. This was led by Senior Commissioning Officer and coordinated by the Commissioning Service with a contribution from the PSS Administration Service and the Disabled Children's Social Care Service. There is always a level of consultation annually for this document when it is reviewed. As a result of the learning from the Ombudsman complaint and other consultation information the document was revised and re-published in May 2014.
6. The DCSC Eligibility Criteria was revised and updated in August 2014 as a result of the Ombudsman findings and other consultations. This was led by the Head of Service, Head of Service Disabled Children's Social Care,

supported by the Commissioning Team, PSS Administration Team and Multi Agency Colleagues. The updated document was issued to comply with new legislation at that time.

7. An internal Audit by the long Arm Audit Service was commissioned during 2014 as a result of the Ombudsman (and one other complaint) findings. This led to a report and action plan which was reported within the fiscal year in March 2015. The action plan produced led to some follow up actions to improve the service response. BCC's Audit Service completed a further review, reported in March 2016. Many of the actions identified in the report have been completed and progress has been made on actions where further work had been identified.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN,
FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR GARETH MOORE**

C21 Audit – Children In Need Cases 2

Question:

Of these audits (referred to in the question from Councillor Bob Beauchamp) how many identified cases where thresholds have been incorrectly applied?

Answer:

Between January and May 2016 there were 141 case evaluations completed and this included feedback from 77 parents. Of the 141 cases evaluated, 67 cases were judged to “require improvement”; 61 judged to be “good” and 13 judged to be “inadequate”.

Based on the practice evaluations completed to date:

- Thresholds are being applied appropriately in the majority of cases.
- Supervision is taking place and, in the main, at the required frequency, the quality of supervision and management oversight still needs to improve.
- The cases selected are Child In Need, children receiving child protection interventions and children in care

More detail about the number of cases where thresholds were not judged to be correct will be available by June 22nd.

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

D1 Voluntary Community Clean-ups

Question:

The template questionnaire for councillors on "Local leadership - cleaner street plan" asks "what support" councillors need from waste service and other partners to tackle their top five cleaner streets issues.

The word "support" implies it will be supporting something else already in place.

Could the cabinet member inform the council if there is an implication that voluntary community clean-ups can replace the essential weekly street cleaning services that should be provided or the bulk collection services that used to be provided?

Answer:

Nothing is being implied.

The cleanliness of our city is something that we are **all** responsible for. The Council does not drop the litter that blights our parks, open spaces and streets. Community clean ups play a vital role in improving and maintaining the local environment of communities all over the city **but** they do so much more than that. They encourage local people and stakeholders to work together, form support networks and engage with the disadvantaged and marginalised. The end result is a local community that takes pride in its local environment and can make improvements that are sustainable.

So in answer to your question, no, voluntary community clean ups will not replace essential weekly street cleaning or bulky collection services but they are an essential part of a co-ordinated response to making and keeping our city clean.

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

D2 Reusable Bulky Item Reaching Reuse Shop

Question:

Can the Cabinet Member inform the Council how a resident can ensure that their reusable bulky item, collected by the Council, reaches the reuse shop in Sutton Coldfield?

Answer:

The Council currently operates a Bulky Waste collection disposal service, not a collection service for items for reuse.

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

D3 Flytipping - successful prosecutions

Question:

Could the cabinet member report, by ward, how many incidents of flytipping have been submitted for prosecution this year, and in 2015, indicating how many prosecutions have been successful, giving the level of penalties imposed?

Answer:

In the 2015/16 financial year cases involving 64 defendants were submitted into the City Council's criminal proceedings vetting process with recommendation for criminal proceedings. From these, cases against 39 defendants were concluded in the courts during the year, and all the cases resulted in criminal conviction of the defendants. The sanctions imposed by the courts are determined based against statutory sentencing guidelines and comprised:

- Fines imposed against 36 offenders totalling £37,437. [Ranging from £30 to £20,000 with fines paid to central Government]
- Conditional discharge imposed against 1 offender
- Custodial sentences imposed against 2 offenders.

The breakdown, by the Ward affected by the offending, for the cases finalised at court is as follows:

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

D4 Flytipping on private land - Prosecute

Question:

Thank you for your lengthy answer to my question about flytipping on private land last month. Can you confirm that the council will prosecute those caught flytipping on other people's land?

Answer:

Yes. Where evidence is available, perpetrators of fly tipping **will** be prosecuted. This is a criminal activity. It carries a significant custodial sentence. The burden of proof is beyond reasonable doubt and those charged with investigating and initiating proceedings can only do so on credible tangible evidence. In many instances, this means being caught in the act. They cannot prosecute on hearsay evidence and/or presumption.

We all agree that flytipping is not acceptable and where evidence is available the Council will take strong action.

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

D5 Improvement in levels of flytipping and clearance

Question:

Could the cabinet member inform the council whether there has been any improvement in levels of flytipping and of flytipping clearance by supplying details of monthly statistics for incidents and reports for the last 12 months?

Answer:

Fly-tipping incidents are reported to Defra under a statutory reporting scheme. The number of incidents reported to the council fluctuates and reporting of incidents is influenced by a range of factors; including the levels of tipping, but also factors such as the visibility of incidents which has a bearing on the likelihood of reporting.

However, improvements have been seen in the position with reductions over recent years in the numbers of incidents which have fallen from 16,186 in 2013/14 to 14,203 in 2014/15 and 12,348 in 2015/16. The monthly breakdown over the most recent twelve month Defra reporting period is as follows:

Defra reporting period	Incidents
May 2015	1059
June 2015	1192
July 2015	1202
August 2015	916
September 2015	834
October 2015	919
November 2015	973
December 2015	867
January 2016	1086
February 2016	1028
March 2016	1197
April 2016	1152
Total	10307

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMES
FROM COUNCILLOR KAREN TRENCH**

E Travellers - Council Transit Facilities and Support

Question:

A number of wards have had travellers visit over the last year. Several times it has been the same group moving from area to area. Each time there is disruption to the local community and costs incurred by the council. What transit facilities and support is the council providing for travellers who arrive in the city?

Answer:

There is a permanent travellers' site based at Tameside Drive, Castle Bromwich. The Place Directorate has responsibility for managing this housing site.

BCC has a dedicated Traveller Liaison Officer for all BCC-owned land. The officer advises travellers, on their arrival within the city, on a number of aspects including their position with regard to the legislation; schooling services and a number of welfare matters. Should the travellers request further assistance with schooling or welfare, the liaison officer has referral mechanisms in place to signpost to the relevant agencies.

In 2014 an assessment was undertaken to establish the level of need for permanent and transit provision which concluded that the city required 8 permanent pitches and 10-15 transit pitches. After an exhaustive search for suitable sites two were identified at Hubert Street/Aston Brook Street East, and at Rupert Street/Proctor Street.

The process for bringing these sites forward is to firstly allocate them in the Birmingham Development Plan and then obtain planning permission. The Birmingham Development Plan has been examined by an independent planning inspector who, following public consultation on the two sites, has recommended they be included in the plan. Adoption of the BDP is currently subject to a delay whilst DCLG consider an objection to an unrelated part of the plan.

Once the BDP is adopted (and the sites allocated) the process for bringing the sites forward for development will be to identify a development/site management partner with experience in this work area to work alongside the City Council in preparing the planning applications and delivering the sites and to prepare and submit a bid to the Homes and Communities Agency for funding to develop the sites.

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

F1 Children's Trust

Question:

In your new role for Cabinet Member for Transparency, Openness and Equality will you be ensuring all records relating to previous discussions about a Children's Trust in Birmingham are made public?

Answer:

The report on this matter to full Council details the history of such discussions.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPARENCY,
OPENNESS AND EQUALITY FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT ALDEN**

F2 Congestion Charges

Question:

The Council recently responded to a FOI saying they could not release paperwork in relation to congestion charges as it was still under consideration. In his role as Cabinet Member for Transparency, Openness and Equality, will he demand that the Council now release the paperwork?

Answer:

The issue of congestion charging was one of many options considered from an evaluation of appropriate measures to reduce reliance on car trips and improve air quality. These were identified through various processes of consultation such as online surveys, workshops, and public/business meetings. They were summarised in the executive summary of the Final Report on Council Business Plan and Budget 2016+ Consultation, dated 29th January 2016 and is accessible via <http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/budgetviews>.

It was an evaluation of congestion charging that was being proposed rather than suggesting the proposal was to implement the charge. Page 42 of the consultation booklet has a paragraph that mentions: “the congestion charge, one of the many options to be considered further under the proposal SN2 - ***The City Council will design and develop a modern transport network for the city in order to help develop attractive shopping areas, promote greener forms of transport and improve the environment*** - and was the subject of two questions during the first webcast. In response, the Leader said that while it was an option that was being considered, his view was that it would not work in Birmingham. Two online survey respondents suggested a congestion charge as an idea for saving money in this area.”

Subsequently the Leader later confirmed that there would be no proposals for a congestion charge. This continues to be the position at the current time. At the time of the original Freedom of Information request, the reason for withholding the paperwork was deemed consistent with the guidance set out in the Environmental Information Regulation Act. I am not in a position to demand the release of this paperwork, however, any further Freedom of Information requests would be considered on their merits in line with the relevant regulations.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

Set out below for approval is a recommendation of the Council Business Management Committee relating to appointments etc. to be made by the City Council.

RECOMMENDED:-

That the following persons be appointed to serve on the Bodies set out below:-

West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

Cllr Waseem Zaffar to replace Cllr John O'Shea as substitute Member

Birmingham to nominate to the West Midlands Joint Committee 1 Labour representative to serve on West Midlands Police and Crime Panel, along with a named substitute.

Member

Substitute

Cllr John O'Shea (Labour)

Cllr Jayne Francis (Labour)

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CITY COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

It is recommended that City Council approve the changes to the Constitution as indicated by the tracked changes in the appendix to the report now submitted.

MOTION

That approval be given to the necessary changes to the City Council's Constitution as indicated by the tracked changes in the appendix to the report and that the Director of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to implement the changes with immediate effect.

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**PUBLIC REPORT**

Report to:	COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Report of: Date of Decision:	City Solicitor of Legal Services
SUBJECT:	PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION
Wards Affected:	ALL

1. Purpose of report:
1.1 To advise Committee of proposed changes to the City Council's Constitution

2. Recommendations :
2.1 That the Committee notes the proposed changes to the City Council's Constitution set out in paragraph 3 and in the appendix to this report.
2.2 That the Committee notes and approves inclusion of this report and appendix in the full agenda for the full Council meeting on 16 th July 2016.

Contact Officers:	Stuart Evans
Telephone No:	0121 303 2151
E-mail address:	Stuart.J.Evans@birmingham.gov.uk

Signature:
Chief Officer(s):
Dated:

List of Appendices accompanying this Report (if any):	
1.	Minor in year changes to the Constitution

3. New Standards Requirements:	
3.1	At Appendix 1 I have annexed hereto minor track changes to the Constitution.
3.2	The track changes relate to minor changes to the Executive Report Process B12; changes to Article 7 Terms of Reference Overview & Scrutiny Committees to clarify the terms of reference; a change to the terms of reference for the Cabinet Member for Housing and Homes and the Cabinet Member for Clean Streets Recycling and Environment.

List of Background Documents used to compile this Report:	
NONE	



VOLUME A **THE CONSTITUTION**

**Website
Updated May 2016**

VOLUME A THE CONSTITUTION

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Article 7 – Overview and Scrutiny Committees

This Article sets out details with regard to the Overview and Scrutiny arrangements. These Committees will, normally, meet in public to discuss and make recommendations on the development of policies and on improving service performance, and to hold the Executive to account for their actions.

All Councillors, except Cabinet Members (and the Lord Mayor) can be members of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Chairs of these committees are appointed by the Full Council and Deputy Chairs are elected by each committee at its first meeting, for the purpose of substitution for the Chair if absent.

Good Overview and Scrutiny adds value to councils in many ways, for example it:

- Provides “critical friend” challenge to executive policy-makers and decision-makers;
- Enables the voice and concerns of the public and its communities to be heard;
- Is carried out by ‘independent minded members’ who lead and own the scrutiny process;
- Drives improvement in public services.

7.1 General role

Overview and Scrutiny Committees will:

- (a) make reports and/or recommendations to the full Council, the Executive and / or other organisations in connection with the discharge of the functions specified in their terms of reference;
- (b) consider any matter covered in their terms of reference that may affect or be likely to have an effect on the citizens of Birmingham; and
 - i. is relevant to the Council’s strategic objectives; and/or
 - ii. is relevant to major issues faced by officers in managing a function of the Council; and
 - iii. is likely to make a contribution to moving the Council forward and achieving key performance targets.
- (c) exercise the “request for call-in” and “call-in” any Executive decisions made but not yet implemented by the Executive.

Overview and Scrutiny Chairs should maintain regular engagement with Cabinet Members to enable flexibility to be built into the Overview and Scrutiny work programme, so as to respond to the council's policy priorities in a timely way.

7.2 **Specific functions**

(a) **Policy development and review**

Overview and Scrutiny Committees may:

- (i) assist the Council and / or the Executive in the development of its budget and Policy Framework by appropriate analysis of policy and budget issues;
- (ii) conduct appropriate research, community and other consultation in the analysis of policy and budget issues and possible options;
- (iii) consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options;
- (iv) question Members of the Executive and/or Chief Officers about their views on issues and proposals affecting their areas of responsibility; and
- (v) liaise with other external organisations operating in the city, whether national, regional or local to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working.

(b) **Scrutiny**

Overview and Scrutiny Committees may:

- (i) review and scrutinise the Executive decisions made by and performance of the Executive and/or Chief Officers in relation to decisions taken by them or in relation to their areas of responsibility / department;
- (ii) review and scrutinise the performance of the council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and / or particular service areas – including the areas of responsibility of the Regulatory and Non-Executive Committees, but not the actual decisions of the Regulatory and Non-Executive Committees;
- (iii) make recommendations to the Executive, Chairmen of Committees, Chief Officers and/or Council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process;

- (iv) review and scrutinise the performance of other relevant public bodies in Birmingham (including Health Authorities) and to invite reports from them by requesting them to address the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and local people about their activities and performance;
- (v) question and gather evidence from any person (with their consent)
- (vi) establish short life working groups to carry out specific time limited enquiries as agreed with the five Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairs and subject to available resources.

7.3 **Terms of Reference of Overview and Scrutiny Committees**

There shall be five Overview and Scrutiny Committees as set out in the terms of reference below, each to have a Chair (appointed by full Council) and Deputy Chair (to be elected by each committee at its first meeting).

CORPORATE RESOURCES AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

To fulfil the functions of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee as they relate to any policies, services and activities relating to governance, resources, performance (including customer services), finance, human resources, partnerships, transparency, regional working (including Combined Authority), inequality, public engagement, council wide efficiency, commissioning and procurement.

ECONOMY, SKILLS AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

To fulfil the functions of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee as they relate to any policies, services and activities relating principally economic, growth and jobs, inward investment, promotion of the city, ~~land use planning~~, transport strategy and highways, skills, libraries, arts, culture, sports and museums.

SCHOOLS, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee dealing with education matters shall include in its membership the following voting representatives:

- (a) Church of England diocese representative (one);
- (b) Roman Catholic diocese representative (one); and
- (c) Parent Governor representatives (two).

To fulfil the functions of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee as they relate to any policies, services and activities concerning the schools, vulnerable children and child safeguarding functions of the council.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

To fulfil the functions of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee as they relate to any policies, services and activities relating to ~~cleaner neighbourhoods~~, waste management, environment, safeguarding, social care and public health and to discharge the relevant overview and scrutiny role set out in the National Health Service Act 2006 as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012, including:

- The appointment of Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees with neighbouring authorities; and
- The exercise of the power to make referrals of contested service reconfigurations to the Secretary of State as previously delegated to the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee by the Council.

HOUSING AND HOMES COMMITTEE

To fulfil the functions of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee as they relate to any policies, services and activities relating to to housing, homes, land use planning, cleaner neighbourhoods, social cohesion and community safety (including domestic violence).

This Committee shall be the Crime and Disorder Committee (Police and Justice Act 2006).

This Committee shall also undertake the authority's statutory functions in relation to the scrutiny of flood risk management (Flood and Water Management Act 2010).

7.4 Conflicts of interest – Membership of Overview and Scrutiny Committees and District and Ward Forums

- (a) If an Overview and Scrutiny Committee is scrutinising specific decisions in relation to the business of the District Committee and / or Ward Forum of which an Overview and Scrutiny Committee Councillor is a Member, then that Councillor must withdraw from the meeting during the consideration of such matter.
- (b) Where, however, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is reviewing policy matters, generally, as opposed to a specific decision of the District and/or Ward Forum, the Member must declare his/her interest before the relevant agenda item is reached, but need not withdraw.

7.5 Overview and Scrutiny Work and Non-Executive Committees

- (a) Overview and Scrutiny Committees are only permitted by law to scrutinise the Executive decisions of the council – Cabinet, Cabinet Committees, Cabinet Members, District and Ward Committees, and officers.
- (b) In terms of the Regulatory Committees, these carry out quasi-judicial functions and, as such, appropriate appeal rights and procedures apply to the same, which do not involve the Overview and Scrutiny Committees arrangements.

7.6 Subject to the proportionality principles, relating to overall membership of the committee being complied with, the appointment of Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees shall be on such principles as are agreed by the Full Council.

7.7 Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees

The five Overview and Scrutiny Chairs shall monitor the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees so as to ensure that such work is properly planned, co-ordinated and progressed. In this connection, they shall have the power to:

- (a) give such guidance to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees in any cases of uncertainty, as to work which they should or should not be undertaking, as may be necessary to achieve such co-ordination, including the allocation of “call-in” to the appropriate Committee;
- (b) determine, in any cases of uncertainty, the allocation of responsibility for specific tasks between the Overview and Scrutiny Committees;
- (c) publish each year an Annual Programme of major Scrutiny Reviews as suggested by individual Overview and Scrutiny Committees following consideration of the annual Leader’s Policy Statement to the council; and
- (d) agree the establishment of any task & finish groups;
- (e) consider overview and scrutiny development, working practices and constitutional arrangements.

An observer from the Principal Opposition Group may attend meetings of the five committee Chairs when considering the above matters.

7.8 “Request for Call-In” and “Call-In”

- (a) When an Executive decision is taken by the Cabinet, Cabinet Member(s) or Chief Officer jointly with Cabinet Members, Cabinet Committee Local

Leadership, District Committees or Ward Forums, the decision shall be published by electronic means, and copies of it shall be available at the main offices of the Council, normally within three days of being made. All Members and Chief Officers will be sent a notification of all such decisions within the same timescale, by the Committee Services Officer responsible for publishing the decision.

- (b) The relevant notice will bear the date on which it is published and will specify that the Executive decision may be implemented, after the expiry of three working days after the publication of the decision, unless a "Request for call-in" is made of the Executive decision, by at least two Councillors (who are not members of the Cabinet) or by any two elected Members from a District Committee (who are not members of the Cabinet) where there is a specific local interest in the issues concerned. The "Request for Call In" should state the reason for call-in.
- (c) Once a "Request for Call In" has been received, the five Overview and Scrutiny Chairs will agree which Overview and Scrutiny Committee should hear the call-in. That Committee must meet to consider the request. The meeting should take place not later than 15 clear working days after the original publication of the decision.
- (d) It is for the Committee to decide whether to Call In a decision or not. The council does not expect an Overview and Scrutiny Committee to Call In an Executive decision unless one or more of the following criteria applies.

Call-In Criteria

	<i>(a) Is the Executive decision within existing policy?</i>
1	<i>the decision appears to be contrary to the Budget or one of the 'policy framework' plans or strategies;</i>
2	<i>the decision appears to be inconsistent with any other form of policy approved by the full Council, the Executive or the Regulatory Committees;</i>
3	<i>the decision appears to be inconsistent with recommendations previously made by an Overview and Scrutiny body (and accepted by the full Council or the Executive);</i>
	<i>(b) Is the Executive Decision well-founded?</i>
4	<i>the Executive appears to have failed to consult relevant stakeholders or other interested persons before arriving at its decision;</i>
5	<i>the Executive appears to have overlooked some relevant consideration in arriving at its decision;</i>

6	<i>the decision has already generated particular controversy amongst those likely to be affected by it or, in the opinion of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, it is likely so to do;</i>
7	<i>the decision appears to be particularly "novel" and therefore likely to set an important precedent;</i>
8	<i>there is a substantial lack of clarity, material inaccuracy or insufficient information provided in the report to allow the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to hold the Executive to account and/or add value to the work of the Council.</i>
	<i>(c) Has the Executive decision been properly taken?</i>
9	<i>the decision appears to give rise to significant legal, financial or propriety issues;</i>
10	<i>the notification of the decision does not appear to have been in accordance with council procedures;</i>
	<i>(d) Does the Executive decision particularly affect a district?</i>
11	<i>the decision appears to give rise to significant issues in relation to a particular District.</i>

B5 – Cabinet Portfolios

Cabinet comprises of ten Councillors, including the Leader and Deputy Leader:

- Leader
- Deputy Leader
- Cabinet Member – Children, Families and Schools
- Cabinet Member – Value for Money and Efficiency
- Cabinet Member –Transport and Roads
- Cabinet Member – Clean Streets, Recycling and Environment
- Cabinet Member – Health and Social Care
- Cabinet Member – Housing and Homes
- Cabinet Member – Jobs and Skills
- Cabinet Member – Transparency, Openness and Equality

LEADER’S PORTFOLIO

The Leader has ultimate political responsibility for the Council, and accountability for the following strategic functions:-

Strategic policies	Development and implementation of the Council Business Plan, Budget and Leader’s Policy Statement.
Financial strategy	The council’s strategic approach to financial resources and budget, including alignment between partners, the BCC General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and capital spending.
Policy and Partnerships	Where appropriate, leadership of city, regional, national, European and international policy, strategic partnerships and appropriate relations with the media.
Major projects	Major physical regeneration and infrastructure projects in the city.
Promotion of the city and Inward Investment	<p>Promotion of Birmingham regionally, nationally and internationally. This includes work with partners such as Marketing Birmingham, the universities and cultural organisations of citywide, regional or national significance.</p> <p>Marketing strategies to encourage investment in Birmingham.</p>
Structure and Governance of the Council	Overall organisational design of the council, including corporate governance arrangements.

Council land use and property assets	Oversight of the council's land use and property strategy and asset management plan including framework for reuse, disposal and requisition of land and property in the council's priorities – including assets of community value. Including oversight of council owned land and property facilities, amenities and services including markets.
Local Government Ombudsman	Appropriate action in response to local government ombudsman reports.
Emergency Planning	Arrangements for the council's response to emergencies.
Combined Authority and the West Midlands Mayoral Combined Authority	Appropriate arrangements for the Council's response and review to changes in the Constitution, consultation and devolution deals. Acting as the main representative for the City Council on the Combined Authority.
Economic growth and jobs	Strategic approach to economic growth and regeneration programmes and strategic planning policy in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Jobs and Skills.
Bereavement Services	Strategic leadership for the development of Cemeteries, Crematoria and Mortuary and Coroners Court Services.
Business Improvement Districts	Partnerships with the Business Improvement Districts, including city centre management opportunities.

DEPUTY LEADER'S PORTFOLIO

The Deputy Leader will act as Council Leader where the Leader is not available and has accountability for the review and improvement of all council services, management of all corporate resources of the council, and oversight of the management of services and delivery of outcomes on:

Finances	Overall financial direction within the Financial Strategy developed by the Leader, including Best Value and appropriate financial, accounting and audit controls and procedures.
Business Change	All major business change programmes.
Performance review and improvement for the council, including	Arrangements to review and improve the performance of services and the delivery of priority outcomes and services for Birmingham residents and businesses.

performance of externalised services	Trading Services, WOCs and Acivico (when Executive decisions needed).
Human Resources	<p>An effective organisational development function for shaping the future workforce of the council.</p> <p>Development of effective change/transformational programmes deployed corporately.</p> <p>Member development programmes.</p> <p>Processes and procedures to support good staff performance development and equality objectives.</p> <p>Staffing structures at JNC level and personnel procedures that comply with good practice and natural justice (in consultation with the Leader).</p> <p>[The Council Business Management Committee deals with issues around the employment of staff and their terms and conditions of employment].</p>
Communications	Internal and external stakeholder consultation on performance and use of resources.
Risk Management	Policy for risk management and holding officers to account on the management of risks.
Lord Mayor's office	Appropriate support to the Lord Mayor and other holders of civic office.
Revenues and Benefits Service	Effective management of the Revenues and Benefits service.
Sports and Events Development	Development, delivery and promotion of sports, events and festivals.
Arts and Culture	Sustaining and promoting events, including management of grants and the economic opportunities that derive from arts and culture.
The Library of Birmingham and Community Libraries	Oversight of the regional and city-wide role of the Library of Birmingham and the community library service, including both the vital part libraries play in communities, learning and skills.

Museums	Oversight of the provision and activity of the Birmingham Museums Trust.
Safer Communities	Strategic Leadership in relation to Prevent.
Land Use Planning	Local Development Plan, Neighbourhood Plans, Development Briefs and Supplementary Guidance; including advice to planning committee.
Whistleblowing and Corporate Complaints Procedure	To take a corporate lead in relation to Whistleblowing and complaints.

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS

The Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Schools has an integrated brief that extends across the educational, safeguarding, social and emotional needs of children and young people. Sustainable improvement of children's safeguarding will be a major focus of this portfolio.

The needs of all children and young people, especially the most disadvantaged and vulnerable children and their families and carers, will be realised through a partnership approach with schools, third sector educational providers and partner organisations.

The Cabinet Member has accountability for:

Children's Services	Needs of all children and young people, especially the most disadvantaged and vulnerable, and their families and carers. Political responsibility and accountability for the leadership, strategy and effectiveness of children's services. This includes all responsibilities of the statutory Lead Member for Children role.
Safeguarding Children and Young People	With statutory partners, the safety and wellbeing of all children.
Corporate Parenting	Political leadership on improving the lives of looked after children. Ensuring all council members, officers and services understand and actively promote the council's responsibilities to looked after children.
Education and Wellbeing	Political leadership on strategic and statutory duties,

of Children and Young People	including school improvement, special educational needs and disability, early years, school places and travel to and from school.
Domestic Violence	All council activity relating to domestic violence and developing a city-wide domestic violence strategy with partners including advice to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Homes on the provision of accommodation.

CABINET MEMBER VALUE FOR MONEY AND EFFICIENCY

The Cabinet Member will have accountability for the management of all commissioning, procurement, contract compliance and council wide efficiency.

Commissioning	Strategic approach to, and compliance with, the commissioning approach. Ensuring that council commissioning supports its wider social objectives such as employment provision, training, encouraging social enterprise and delivering social cohesion, internally and externally.
Procurement	Oversight of procurement management, including ensuring the development of appropriate approved lists of suppliers.
Contract Management	Strategic approach to and compliance with contract management policy to ensure value for money.
Internal Trading Operations	Effectiveness and holding to account the management of all internal trading operations.
Birmingham Business Charter for Social Responsibility	Application of the Birmingham Business Charter for Social Responsibility that requires contractors to offer, inter alia, local employment and training opportunities, and to adopt the Birmingham Living Wage policy.
Council Wide Efficiency	To take a strategic lead in relation to efficiency across all council services and to foster lean governance in all areas of council work and to promote working relationships with stakeholders and partners.

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CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ROADS

To be responsible for the transport infrastructure, the key highway networks and strategic highway policy, which are key to Birmingham establishing a well-founded reputation as a successful city.

The Cabinet Member has accountability for:

Transport Strategies	Sustainable transportation policy and strategy, programmes, projects and initiatives to improve connectivity and road safety for the city across all modes of travel.
Highways	Strategic highways matters. Maintenance of roads and streets, traffic management and car parks and enforcing rights of way.
Advice to Planning Committee (Highways)	Providing advice, where appropriate, including the effect of proposed developments in relation to roads and transport and working in cooperation with the West Midlands Combined Authority and Mayor in relation to the key route network.

CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS, RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT

The Cabinet Member will position Birmingham as a 'Green City' ready for the challenges of the future and with a sustainable infrastructure that supports these objectives through initiatives that are delivered by the city council and also by partner agencies, private and third sector organisations.

The Cabinet Member has accountability for:

Green City	Strategic leadership of the city's sustainability agenda, advising all Cabinet Members of initiatives that need to be taken and particularly in respect of employment, highways, transport, waste recycling and disposal matters, health and housing.
Climate Change	Strategic lead on policy and its implementation to address issues including climate change, carbon reduction, flood management, clean air zones, energy security, fuel poverty, food security and green spaces.

Waste Strategy and Services	<p>Development of a financially and environmentally sustainable waste strategy for the city.</p> <p>Collection and sustainable disposal of waste from residential and other properties within the city and street cleansing on operational matters.</p> <p>Promotion of recycling.</p>
Pest Control	Provision of the Pest Control Service
Cleaner Neighbourhoods	Street Cleaning, Litter prevention, fly tipping, graffiti, placarding.
Local Parks and Allotments	Provision, maintenance and usage of local facilities.

CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

The objective of this portfolio is to create a city – where people live long, healthy and independent lives in their own homes, making people responsible for their own care.

The development of the Health and Wellbeing Board, together with the transfer of public health functions from the NHS adds coherence to the policies and actions around the health and wellbeing needs of the residents of Birmingham, across all life stages from young children to older people.

The Cabinet Member has accountability for:

Adult Social Care and Health	<p>Development of the Health and Wellbeing Board and relationships with the NHS and private providers.</p> <p>Strategic leadership of social care services and safeguarding for adults.</p> <p>Development of an integrated health and social care economy in Birmingham and neighbouring local authorities around the STP.</p>
Public Health	Leadership on public health services, working with the Health and Wellbeing Board to reduce health inequalities.
Healthy Communities	Healthy living through sport and leisure services.

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CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMES

The building of enough houses of the highest quality, and the strong neighbourhoods to go with them, to meet population growth, and so also enable strong economic growth, is the big challenge for the city over the next decade.

Dramatic changes in the local government environment have given greater prominence to questions about the role of communities and, potentially, a radical form of devolution in which the experience of residents is harnessed to understand and drive better services.

The Cabinet Member has accountability for:

Council housing management services	Oversight and direction of estate management services and best use of housing stock (across all housing providers). Repairs and maintenance programmes.
Registered Social Landlords	Liaison with the Birmingham Social Housing Partnership on neighbourhood management initiatives and the housing growth agenda.
Private Rented Sector	Licensing and regulation. Private Tenancy Unit activities. Bond and deposit scheme initiatives.
Pre-tenancy Services / Housing Options	Assessing housing need, options for vulnerable adults, children and young people and offenders. Temporary accommodation provision / homelessness. Initiatives for rough sleepers.
Housing Supply	To review the supply of housing and tenure based on an analysis of housing need including responsibility for BMHT. The Cabinet member will advise the Deputy Leader in relation to housing supply and tenure.

Tenant engagement in social housing	Tenant engagement in the management and development of social housing and Housing Liaison Boards.
Neighbourhood Management	Wider council and public sector integration at the local level.

CABINET MEMBER FOR JOBS AND SKILLS

A successful city is one that has a highly skilled workforce, with access to quality skills and training, to ensure that the learning opportunities within Birmingham are providing for the present and future skills needs of the city, working with the Executive Members for Districts where appropriate.

The Cabinet Member has accountability for:

Skills, expansion for key growth sectors enterprise and innovation	Throughout the council and the city of Birmingham and with local, regional and national partners, develop the skills and employability of Birmingham's workforce, enabling each citizen to realise their potential.
Youth Engagement and Youth Service, along with Lifelong Learning (post 14 skills and adult education)	Clear progression and vocational pathways from education into further and higher education and employment. Provision of all-age guidance, skills development, training and work experience to meet the economic needs of the city now and in the future.
Employment Opportunities	Access to employment, local employment plans.
Skills and Entrepreneurship in Schools	Development of 14-19 career pathways, enterprise and entrepreneurship in Birmingham schools.

CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPARENCY, OPENNESS AND EQUALITY

The Cabinet Member will have accountability for ensuring that wherever possible (within the restrictions provided by Statute and Law) all actions taken and services provided by the council are fully transparent to the citizens of Birmingham.

A cohesive society is one which offers opportunities to all its members within a framework of accepted values, removing barriers to access and challenging inequalities. The challenge is to ensure that every Birmingham citizen has access to opportunity across the social and economic life of the city, within a safe city - including in education, employment, housing, health and social care, civil society and political participation – whether these are delivered by the city council itself, partner agencies, or by private or third sector organisations.

The Cabinet Member will also have responsibility for the following:

Smart City	<p>Provide strategic leadership and advising all Cabinet Members of initiatives that need to be taken in relation to the development of world class technological capability and connectivity in Birmingham.</p> <p>In particular extending use of intelligent transport systems and digital technologies for “open access” to support “green and smart” actions.</p>
The services provided to the citizens of Birmingham as the customer	To take a strategic lead in the provision of customer focused City services.
To take a lead on information law and data protection matters	Overall organisation for the Council including Corporate governance arrangement.
To challenge any lack of transparency in all work carried out by the Council.	To ensure transparency in all areas of Council work.
Social Cohesion and Inclusion	<p>Approaches to ensure that all Birmingham citizens have increasing access to opportunity across the social and economic life of the city.</p> <p>Holding to account other relevant Cabinet Members and officers for the delivery of those functions that impact on social cohesion and inclusion.</p>
Tackling Inequality	<p>Strategic approaches to reduce inequalities including around health, education and employment outcomes; ‘access to services’; and participation in civic life.</p> <p>Neighbourhood advice and information services.</p>

	Holding to account other relevant Cabinet Members and officers for the delivery of those functions that impact on inequalities and inclusion.
Equalities within the Community	<p>Development and promotion of shared values and mutual respect across the diverse communities of Birmingham.</p> <p>Ensuring that community and cultural events promote social cohesion and inclusion</p>
External Challenge	Ensuring that partner agencies, private or third sector organisations are challenged on their contribution to improving social cohesion and inequalities.
Safer Communities	<p>Strategic citywide leadership to community safety in Birmingham, including anti-social behaviour, fear of crime and road safety and ensuring effective support for victims of crime.</p> <p>Effective relationships and clear shared priorities with the Police and Crime Commissioner and West Midlands Police.</p> <p>Leadership on youth offending issues.</p> <p>CCTV and liaison with Police.</p>
Third Sector Partnership and Engagement	Working with and coordination of third sector and partner agencies around equalities, cohesion and inclusivity.

B12 –Executive Reports Process

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE REPORTS PROCESS

(applies to Cabinet, Cabinet Committee, District Committee and Ward Forums and Cabinet Member with Chief Officer Joint Reports)

June 2016

EXECUTIVE REPORTS PROCESS

Context

-
- This process applies to all Executive Reports – Cabinet Reports, Cabinet Member/Chief Officer Joint Reports, Cabinet and Committee District and Ward Forums Reports.

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Immediate Changes

1. The following process will apply to late reports
 - (a) Committee Services must be advised that a Report is likely to be submitted late before the usual dispatch date for agenda and reports so that these reports can at least be included in the Cabinet/Committee Agenda.
 - (b) **ALL late reports MUST start at the beginning of the report with two separate headings:-**
 - (i) REASON FOR LATENESS; and
 - (ii) REASON FOR URGENCY

Unless the reasons given demonstrate “special circumstances”, i.e. the special circumstances should be of a financial or legal nature, Cabinet/Committee may postpone consideration of the report as is required by law. Please specifically note that a Reason for Lateness suggesting that there simply has not been enough time to finalise the report for a particular Cabinet is NOT a special circumstance. The Chair of the meeting will decide if special circumstances for lateness do exist as outlined in the heading to the report and proceed if appropriate or otherwise postpone consideration of the report to the next meeting. All late reports must be agreed and authorised by the Leader or the Deputy Leader of the Council as advised by the Monitoring Officer/City Solicitor.

2. The Report Checklist (as amended) should be fully completed for all Cabinet, District and Ward Committee Reports. This also applies for Cabinet Member/Chief Officer Joint Reports recording Decisions by them (£200k to £500k (Revenue) or up to £1M (Capital)).

Please note that if the checklist is not submitted, fully completed with names and dates, the report will not go forward.

3. Cabinet reports and Cabinet Member/Chief Officer Joint reports, need to be signed by the relevant Cabinet Member(s) and the Chief Officer. District Committee and Ward Forum Reports need to be signed by the relevant

Executive Member or Ward Forum Chairman, Cabinet Committee Chairman and the relevant Chief Officer.

4. All reports are to be presented in Arial script and font size 12. Spacing between lines should be 1.5 and 3.0 between paragraphs. The report should preferably not exceed 4 pages for the main text.
5. The assumption should be that reports are public and only private if expressly agreed by the Monitoring Officer/City Solicitor.
6. There will be greater emphasis on compliance with deadlines. Colleagues are reminded of the importance of instilling good discipline amongst authors and avoiding late reports. Please send cleared reports with the completed Checklist to Committee Services.
7. Decisions over £200k are only effective and actionable when posted on the Council's website by Committee Services and following the call-in process.
8. Annexed to the Executive Report Process is the Decision Agenda Management Protocol which should be applied by all officers in the writing of Executive Reports.

REVISED REPORT TEMPLATE for ALL EXECUTIVE REPORTS

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

PUBLIC OR PRIVATE REPORT (not for publication)

Report to:	CABINET or DISTRICT COMMITTEE or WARD COMMITTEE or JOINT CABINET MEMBER AND CHIEF OFFICER or JOINT EXECUTIVE MEMBER AND CHIEF OFFICER	<i>Exempt information paragraph number – if private report:</i>
Report of:		
Date of Decision:		
SUBJECT:		
Key Decision: Yes / No	Relevant Forward Plan Ref:	
If not in the Forward Plan: (please "X" box)	Chief Executive approved <input type="checkbox"/> O&S Chairman approved <input type="checkbox"/>	
Relevant Cabinet Member(s) or Relevant Executive Member:		
Relevant O&S Chairman:		
Wards affected:		

(for late reports insert reason for lateness and reason for urgency)

1.	Purpose of report:
<div style="margin-bottom: 10px;">1.1</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;">1.2</div> <div>1.3* This matter was not included in the Forward Plan because ... [<i>insert reasons</i>] <i>* To be completed where a key decision was not included in the Forward Plan</i></div>	

2.	Decision(s) recommended:
<div style="margin-bottom: 10px;">That the xxxxxxxx (insert decision maker):-</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;">2.1</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;">2.2</div> <div>2.3</div>	

2.4

Lead Contact Officer(s):	
Telephone No: E-mail address:	
3. Consultation	
Consultation should include those that have an interest in the decisions recommended	
3.1	<u>Internal</u>
3.2	<u>External</u>
4. Compliance Issues:	
4.1	<u>Are the recommended decisions consistent with the Council's policies, plans and strategies?</u>
4.2	<u>Financial Implications</u> <u>(Will decisions be carried out within existing finances and Resources?)</u>
4.3	<u>Legal Implications</u>
4.4	<u>Public Sector Equality Duty (see separate guidance note)</u>

5. Relevant background/chronology of key events:
5.1
5.2

6. Evaluation of alternative option(s):
6.1
6.2

7. Reasons for Decision(s):
7.1
7.2

Signatures		<u>Date</u>
Cabinet Member or Executive Member or Ward Committee Chairman
Chief Officer:

List of Background Documents used to compile this Report:

List of Appendices accompanying this Report (if any):
1.
2.
3.
4.

Report Version		Dated	
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PROTOCOL PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

- 1 The public sector equality duty drives the need for equality assessments (Initial and Full). An initial assessment should, be prepared from the outset based upon available knowledge and information.
- 2 If there is no adverse impact then that fact should be stated within the Report at section 4.4 and the initial assessment document appended to the Report duly signed and dated. A summary of the statutory duty is annexed to this Protocol and should be referred to in the standard section (4.4) of executive reports for decision and then attached in an appendix; the term 'adverse impact' refers to any decision-making by the Council which can be judged as likely to be contrary in whole or in part to the equality duty.
- 3 A full assessment should be prepared where necessary and consultation should then take place.
- 4 Consultation should address any possible adverse impact upon service users, providers and those within the scope of the report; questions need to assist to identify adverse impact which might be contrary to the equality duty and engage all such persons in a dialogue which might identify ways in which any adverse impact might be avoided or, if avoidance is not possible, reduced.
- 5 Responses to the consultation should be analysed in order to identify:
 - (a) whether there is adverse impact upon persons within the protected categories
 - (b) what is the nature of this adverse impact
 - (c) whether the adverse impact can be avoided and at what cost – and if not –
 - (d) what mitigating actions can be taken and at what cost
- 6 The impact assessment carried out at the outset will need to be amended to have due regard to the matters in (4) above.
- 7 Where there is adverse impact the final Report should contain:
 - a summary of the adverse impact and any possible mitigating actions (in section 4.4 or an appendix if necessary)
 - the full equality impact assessment (as an appendix)
 - the equality duty – see page 9 (as an appendix).

Equality Act 2010

The Executive must have due regard to the public sector equality duty when considering Council reports for decision.

The public sector equality duty is as follows:

1	<p>The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act; (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
2	<p>Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic; (b) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it; (c) encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
3	<p>The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.</p>
4	<p>Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) tackle prejudice, and (b) promote understanding.
5	<p>The relevant protected characteristics are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) age (b) disability (c) gender reassignment (d) pregnancy and maternity (e) race (f) religion or belief (g) sex (h) sexual orientation

PUBLIC OR PRIVATE REPORT
(not for publication)

Report to:		Exempt information paragraph number – if private report:
Report of:		
Date of Decision:		
SUBJECT:		
Key Decision: Yes / No	Relevant Forward Plan Ref:	
If not in the Forward Plan: (please "X" box)	Chief Executive approved <input type="checkbox"/> O&S Chairman approved <input type="checkbox"/>	
Relevant Cabinet Member(s) or Relevant Executive Member:		
Relevant O&S Chairman:		
Wards affected:		

LATE REPORT
* To be completed for all late reports, ie. which cannot be despatched with the agenda papers ie. 5 clear working days notice before meeting.
<p>Reasons for Lateness [insert reasons]</p> <p>Reasons for Urgency [insert reasons]</p>

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE REPORTS CHECKLIST

Report Title:

Report version:

Cabinet/District/Ward/Joint Cabinet Member and Chief Officer/Joint Executive Member and Chief Officer Report:

Report Author:

To be completed in respect of all Cabinet, District and Ward Committee Reports. This also applies for Joint Cabinet Member and Chief Officer Reports.

Committee Services have been instructed to return any Report which does not have a fully completed Checklist attached. The purpose is for the author to indicate who has been consulted in the preparation and clearance of the report and when.

CONSULTATION	Names and dates to be inserted
Has the report been discussed and cleared with:	
(a) Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	
OR	
(b) Relevant District/Ward Committee Chairman	
COMPLIANCE ISSUES	
(c) Has the report been cleared with relevant Strategic Director?	Cleared by: Date:
(d) Has report been cleared with the relevant Finance Officer? (see over page)	Cleared by: Date:
(e) Has report been cleared with the relevant Directorate Legal Officer? (see over page)	Cleared by: Date:
(f) Has the report been cleared with the relevant Corporate Procurement Officer? (see over page)	Cleared by: Date:
MEDIA CONSIDERATIONS	
(f) Has relevant Media officer been made aware of report and agreed draft press release/statement?	

Any significant comments for the attention of the Leader / Chief Executive?	
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RELEVANT FINANCE OFFICERS

PEOPLE DIRECTORATE	David Waller
PLACE DIRECTORATE	Sukvinder Kalsi
ECONOMY DIRECTORATE	Alison Jarrett
CORPORATE COUNCIL WIDE	Jon Warlow, Steve Powell, Sarah Dunlavey

RELEVANT DIRECTORATE LEGAL OFFICERS

People Directorate (Adults)	Charmaine Murray
People Directorate (Children)	Sukhwinder Singh
People Directorate (Education)	Ian Burgess
Place Directorate	Lisa Morgan
Economy Directorate (Regeneration)	Stuart Evans
Economy Directorate (Corporate Employment/Corporate HR)	Kate Charlton
Economy Directorate (Commissioning / Procurement)	Rob Barker
Corporate Council Wide (or if above unavailable)	Kate Charlton/Stuart Evans/Wendy Taylor

RELEVANT PROCUREMENT OFFICERS – any can clear reports

AD – Procurement	Nigel Kletz
Head of Procurement Team	Debbie Husler
Head of Strategy & Development	Haydn Brown
Head of Contract Management	Richard Tibbatts
Head of Commissioning Team	Mike Smith

PROTOCOL – CABINET MEMBER/CHIEF OFFICER JOINT REPORTS

These reports will cover more strategic matters and will be completed either at the request of, or in agreement with, the relevant Cabinet Member(s).

Consultation with the Cabinet Member should be continuous from the outset to completion of the final Report.

The process for completion of the Report will usually be as follows but a degree of flexibility is essential to ensure efficiency and effectiveness:

- no Report should be signed off without the Report checklist attached and fully completed (see Executive Reports Protocol)
- all Reports should be from a JNC officer to the Chief Officer and the lead Cabinet Member
- if other Cabinet Members are interested then they should be consulted and their names listed in the relevant 'consultation' section of the Report
- the relevant Overview & Scrutiny Chair should be briefed on the report.
- the lead Cabinet Member should usually sign the report first; no Report will proceed without the signature of the lead Cabinet Member and the Chief Officer
- no one needs to be present when the Cabinet Member / Chief Officer sign the Report but if signatures are such that the name is not clear then the name must be added clearly underneath the signature
- the signed Report with the completed Checklist should then be sent to Committee Services – see Executive Reports Protocol
- the Report will be placed on DiB and is subject to the Call-in procedure *before* the decision(s) can be implemented

If the Checklist is not fully and properly completed then the Report will proceed no further and will be returned to the lead contact officer for correction. This is the clear Governance arrangement to ensure probity and lawful decision-making and should protect the report writer, the Chief Officer, the Cabinet Member(s) and therefore the Council.

Monitoring Officer of Birmingham City Council

REPORT OF THE: COUNCILLOR WASEEM ZAFFAR AND PETER HAY
BIRMINGHAM CHILD POVERTY COMMISSION REPORT

The motion: The Council welcomes and notes the independent Child Poverty Commission report and its recommendations.

1. Introduction

1.1 The attached independent report of the Birmingham Child Poverty Commission launched on 30th June 2016 makes 24 recommendations (see appendix 1) aimed at reducing child poverty in Birmingham. The report has been developed by an independent non-partisan Commission chaired by Matthew Reed, CEO, The Children's Society. The Commission includes experts from the public, private and voluntary sectors.

2. Background

2.1 Reducing child poverty is a key priority for the City Council. Estimates of child poverty for Birmingham show that 37% of children in Birmingham were living below the poverty line in 2013 after housing costs (AHC).¹

2.2 The City Council made a commitment to establish a Commission to: examine the extent and impact of child poverty and inequality across Birmingham; identify the key challenges and issues; and report on causes and solutions. The Birmingham Child Poverty Commission was set up by Birmingham City Council in May 2015 to explore the circumstances that create child poverty; the impact it has on children and families and crucially, to identify solutions that mitigate against the effects of child poverty in Birmingham.

2.3 The role of the Commission was to:

- Establish clear future targets for child poverty
- Set out the child poverty challenge for Birmingham: update the needs assessment to understand the scale of the challenge
- Produce a Birmingham child poverty strategy/framework for action, building on local and national practice and exploring new approaches.
- Establish a coordinated approach to reducing child poverty by bringing together fora that address child poverty
- Identify and determine the impact of poverty on different groups, communities and geographical areas most at risk
- Make policy recommendations on integrated approaches that mitigate the effects of child poverty

¹ <https://brumchildpoverty.files.wordpress.com/2015/07/child-poverty-needs-assessment-for-birmingham-summer-20155.pdf>

2.4 The composition of the commission includes the following organisations and experts:

- Chair: Matthew Reed, CEO, The Children's Society
- Vice Chair : Sam Monaghan, Executive Director of Children's Services, Barnardo's
- Expert Commissioner: Prof Peter Alcock, University of Birmingham
- Private Sector: Dr Jason Wouhra, Regional Chair of Institute of Directors
- Voluntary and Community Sector: Alison Moore, Third Sector Assembly
- Birmingham City Council: Cllr Waseem Zaffar (Labour), Cabinet Member for Openness, Transparency and Equality
- Birmingham City Council: Councillor Robert Alden (Conservative)
- Birmingham City Council: Councillor Roger Harmer (Liberal Democrat)
- Public Health: Dr Dennis Wilkes Specialist Public Health lead for Children's Health & Wellbeing
- Birmingham City Council: Children and young People: Peter Hay, Strategic Director of People

3. Targeted themes

3.1 Given the diversity and complexity of child poverty the Commission published a Child Poverty Needs Assessment in 2015 setting out the child poverty landscape in Birmingham. This assessment of need helped the Commission to focus their research on five broad themes against which they developed an understanding of the cause and effect of poverty and what needs to happen to alleviate child poverty, these include:

- Health
- Housing
- In work poverty
- Economy and worklessness
- Education and lifelong learning

4. Citywide insights and experiences that helped shape the recommendations

4.1 To help formulate and design proposals to reduce child poverty, the Commission took evidence from children, young people and parents to get a better understanding of the lived experience of poverty; as well as expert opinion from community and voluntary organisations, statutory service providers and private sector. Listening to those who experience or have experienced hardships gave

invaluable insights into the narratives that play out across the city, while at the same time, allowing participants to suggest solutions.

4.2 The report is based on a series of focus group sessions, surveys and workshops. Including:

Over 200 participants shared their experiences, views and ideas in the following sessions:

- Focus groups with young people from Aspire and Succeed, Lozells, The Light House Young People Centre, Aston and The Factory Young People's Centre, Longbridge .
- Big conversations with parents from Balsall Heath Children's centre and Summerfield Children's Centre, Ladywood.
- Interactive discussions with pupils from Future First Independent School (alternative education provider) based in Hockley.
- Meetings with voluntary and community organisations and forums working with children and families including: Supporting People Domestic Violence Forum, KIKIT CIC, Aspire and Succeed, Gateway Family Services.
- Neighbourhood visits to meet with voluntary and faith based organisations supporting vulnerable children and families including Oasis Academy based in the Winson Green.
- A funding event with voluntary and community organisations working with children and families from Ladywood hosted by Big Lottery and Equalities, Community Safety and Cohesion Service.
- A Business leaders meeting hosted by Aston University.
- Meeting with Birmingham Faith Network

Further research was commissioned with The Children's Society to build on the qualitative research already undertaken. This included:

- A survey of 200 parents of children aged under 18 living in Birmingham
- Focus group session with Primary schools: Somerville Primary, Benson Community Primary, Kings Heath Primary and Secondary Schools: Holte Academy ,City of Birmingham school, Millpool Centre PRU,Perry Beeches Secondary, Queensbridge school and Washwood Heath Academy
- In depth interview with families

4.3 The qualitative and quantitative research outlined above provided strong evidence that shaped the recommendations included in the report.

Appendix 1

Birmingham Child Poverty Commission Recommendations

The Commission makes the following 24 recommendations:

1. By September 2017, the Birmingham Secondary Schools Forum working with Birmingham City Council, Birmingham Education Partnership and Business leaders should develop a specific offer for disadvantaged pupils at KS4 to provide intensive support to narrow the attainment gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged children at this level.

There is the potential that this could be funded through the pupil premium. It is proposed that a mentoring scheme with local businesses could be run alongside or be part of this specific offer for KS4 pupils.

The roll out of this scheme should focus initially on the lowest performing groups at KS4.

2. An annual or biennial 'Best of Birmingham' event should be introduced by July 2017 to showcase and celebrate outstanding children, young people and the adults that support them.
3. Birmingham City Council and Birmingham Education Partnership should assist schools to establish formal partnerships with universities, both in the UK and abroad. The purposes of so doing include: raising students' awareness and aspirations of the opportunities for higher education; enhancing partnerships between schools and universities for professional development; and influencing standards of teaching and learning.

This recommendation should be carried out by June 2017.

4. By September 2016, there should be a named Cabinet Member with responsibility for poverty.
5. By January 2017, adult education providers to provide data for all Birmingham City Council courses so that the reach and impact of adult education in the city can be appropriately analysed.
6. Through existing resources and by January 2017, the DWP, working closely with schools, Birmingham City Council and voluntary sector, should rotate benefits and other financial advisers around those schools/children's centres with high levels of need offering an outreach financial inclusion service.
7. Where required, parents should be encouraged to take up ESOL classes, particularly for groups whose language is a barrier to the labour market. These should be scheduled in schools around pick up/drop off times for children. This system should be in place by Spring Term 2017 and led by the ESOL providers in the city.

8. By January 2018, Birmingham City Council should adopt a undertake a formal review of their housing standards enforcement, with a view to introducing a landlord accreditation scheme such as that in operation in Newham.
9. By January 2018, there should be a planning restriction in place preventing new fast food outlets within 250 metres of schools.
10. By April 2017, Birmingham City Council should adopt a local 'breathing space' placing council tax accounts on hold for 21 days when a family gets in touch with them so as to enable the family time to seek independent debt advice. The Council should also adopt an explicit policy of not engaging bailiffs for families in receipt of Council Tax Support.
11. By July 2017, all schools should adapt their school uniform policy to ensure affordability is a primary consideration.
12. By December 2016 Birmingham City Council should establish the School Food Trust to provide free school meals for all school pupils whose families are in receipt of working tax credits, child tax credits and universal credit (when rolled out), with the ultimate aim of providing universal free school meals.
13. By December 2016, Birmingham City Council should work with JobCentrePlus and employment support providers to ensure that parents of two year olds taking up funded early education are specifically targeted with employment and skills support that encourages starting work or training, and that wrap-around childcare is sufficiently affordable and flexible to enable those parents to sustain and increase their employment opportunities.
14. Birmingham City Council should use its powers as a commissioner and champion of Birmingham to work with local businesses and the Living Wage Foundation to make Birmingham the first Living Wage City where all employers pay this minimum amount, by January 2019.
15. By June 2017, Registered Social Landlords should commit to introducing a minimum of 3-year tenancies, allowing for greater stability for tenants and landlords. By September 2017 this information should be made available for families on Birmingham City Council's website.
16. By March 2017, an audit should be completed on the number of schools that have access to counselling support and do a cost analysis of providing outreach counselling service to schools with the highest proportion of pupils in receipt of pupil premium.
17. The new city centre hub Pause should be advertised in services accessed by children and families, including the School Health Advisory Services and Children's Centres.

18. A targeted obesity programme in primary school to reduce the rise in childhood obesity should be in place by September 2017.
19. By June 2017, the tendering process should be used to ensure that new projects over £500,000 encourage greater numbers of quality apprenticeships offered to young people from low-income families in Birmingham and the wider West Midlands.
20. By January 2017, all Birmingham City Council-approved strategies should include a mandatory section on the public health and health inequality implications of the issue under consideration.
21. By April 2017, Birmingham City Council should exempt care leavers from Council Tax up to, and including, the age of 25.
22. By April 2019, Birmingham City Council should adopt a policy that no low-income family with children can be declared intentionally homeless.
23. By April 2017, Birmingham City Council should explore potential for subsidised transport for young people within city localities, using Merseytravel's 'My ticket' scheme as a model.
24. By June 2017, Birmingham City Council should have reviewed how improved data sharing processes could be used to automatically enrol children for free school meals in order to increase take up.

Birmingham **Child Poverty** Commission

A fairer start for all our children and young people

An independent report

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Foreword

In the spring of 2015, Birmingham City Council invited me to chair the independent Birmingham Child Poverty Commission. We have been privileged to undertake this enormously ambitious task of looking at the causes of child poverty in the city and what can be done to reduce and, ultimately, reverse them.

More than 1.1 million people call Birmingham home and the city contains huge potential. With almost 250,000 of Birmingham's residents under the age of 15 and more than 500,000 are under the age of 30, it is clear that the future of the city depends on what we do now. The youth and diversity of Birmingham is widely envied but with significant deprivation and fettered aspiration this potential runs the risk of going to waste. The children and young people of Birmingham deserve better.

The City Council, in setting up this Commission, have made their ambitions and their priorities clear: they recognise the potential in the city and that that potential is bound in its children and young people. However, more needs to be done. Too often the challenges children and young people face is considered to be the sole purview of the Council's Children, Young People and Families Service. It is undeniable that the service has a huge role to play, but the vast array of statutory and non-statutory services also need to recognise and respond to their responsibilities to children and young people.

There is some fantastic work being done across Birmingham to support and develop children and young people to get out of poverty and to get on. But too often these services are disparate and lacking a co-ordinated approach. The private, voluntary, educational and wider public sector within Birmingham all need to demonstrate their determination and commitment to play their part in addressing these challenges.

With 37% of the city's children and young people living in poverty, this report is not intended as a 'how to' guide to solving child poverty in the city: the recommendations do not contain a silver bullet. The recommendations we have made provide tangible starting points for the city in its long-term task to reduce levels of child poverty and increase prosperity and aspiration amongst our young people. We propose a clear strategy of raising aspiration, mitigating the impact of existing poverty, shared responsibility across the city, and breaking the cycle of poverty.

Our recommendations are certainly ambitious, but they are eminently achievable and all will have a significant and positive impact on the children and young people in the city who are currently living in poverty.

I am hugely grateful to the Commissioners for their expertise and commitment to the this work, and collectively we are immensely appreciative to the people, young and less young, of Birmingham who have generously shared their stories, enriched our insights and shaped our recommendations. Thank you.

Herein the Commission presents its findings and recommendations: the hard work to implement them must now begin. It is in everyone's interests to consign child poverty in Birmingham to the past.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a large initial 'M'.

Matthew Reed

Independent Chair of Birmingham Child Poverty Commission
and Chief Executive of The Children's Society

Methodology and Themes

There are many contributing factors that result in a child growing up in poverty. These range from the income in the family home – either through low paid employment or entitlements to benefits – to educational outcomes and housing. Some of these drivers sit at the level of central Government, namely entitlement to benefits and Tax Credits. Some are able to be addressed at the local level, such as access to safe and suitable accommodation, support with employment and skills and raising aspiration through education and lifelong learning for parents.

This report seeks to develop local policy recommendations for change that can be adopted by Birmingham City Council and partners across the city to tackle the level of child poverty in the city. The Commission therefore chose to focus on five themes, around which this report is structured:

1. Health
2. Housing
3. In-work poverty
4. Economy and worklessness
5. Education and lifelong learning

This report is based on:

- A survey of 200 parents of children aged under 18 living in Birmingham.
- Evidence and consultation sessions held across the city (see appendix A).
- Fair Schoolsⁱⁱ consultation sessions in local schools – 3 primary schools, 2 secondary schools and 1 Pupil Referral unit – hearing the views of 336 young people in group discussions with further small group interviews with 72 children and young people.
- In-depth interviews with families living in Birmingham.

Child poverty: definition

The causes and impacts of child poverty are complex. Throughout this report we have used the accepted measurement of child poverty, namely that children are said to live in relative income poverty if they live in households with income below 60% of the household median. This relative child poverty measure recognises that it is not enough that children's basic needs are met, but they also have the resources necessary for them to participate in the same activities as their peers. While this measurement relates to absolute poverty, we have included substantial commentary throughout the report on the impact of subjective poverty.

Ethics: Protecting participant identities

Some biographical details of the families and children who have contributed to this report have been changed to ensure anonymity. The case studies presented in this report are based on the data collected from in depth interviews with our case study families. However, certain biographical information has been altered in order to protect participant identities.

The Birmingham Context

Birmingham is England's second city; home to more than 1.1 million people.

It is a diverse, vibrant and young city with more than 22% of its residents aged under 15 and 46% of residents under the age of 30. Over 4 in 10 residents are from an ethnic group other than White British.

This diversity brings with it rich language skills where school-age pupils speak more than 100 languages, in addition to English. Birmingham has huge strengths and huge potential. The city's young people – its future leaders - need to be supported out of poverty and encouraged to raise their aspirations to meet this potential.

Recommendation

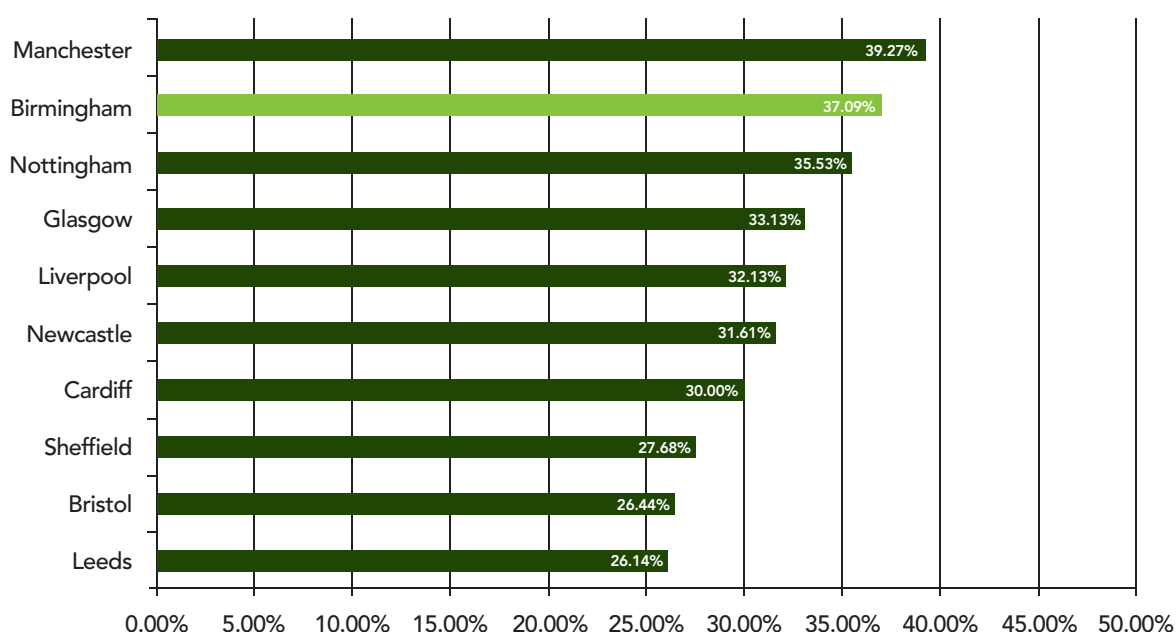
An annual or biennial 'Best of Birmingham' event should be introduced by July 2017 to showcase and celebrate outstanding children, young people and the adults that support them.

While there is a more equal distribution across the income scale in Birmingham than exists nationally, average earnings are still more than 10% below the national average.

Child poverty in the city is too high. In Birmingham there are over 100,000 children living in poverty, the equivalent of 37% of all children in the city (after housing costs). This is the second highest rate of child poverty across the UK's core cities.

In Birmingham there are over 100,000 children living in poverty

Percentage of children living in poverty



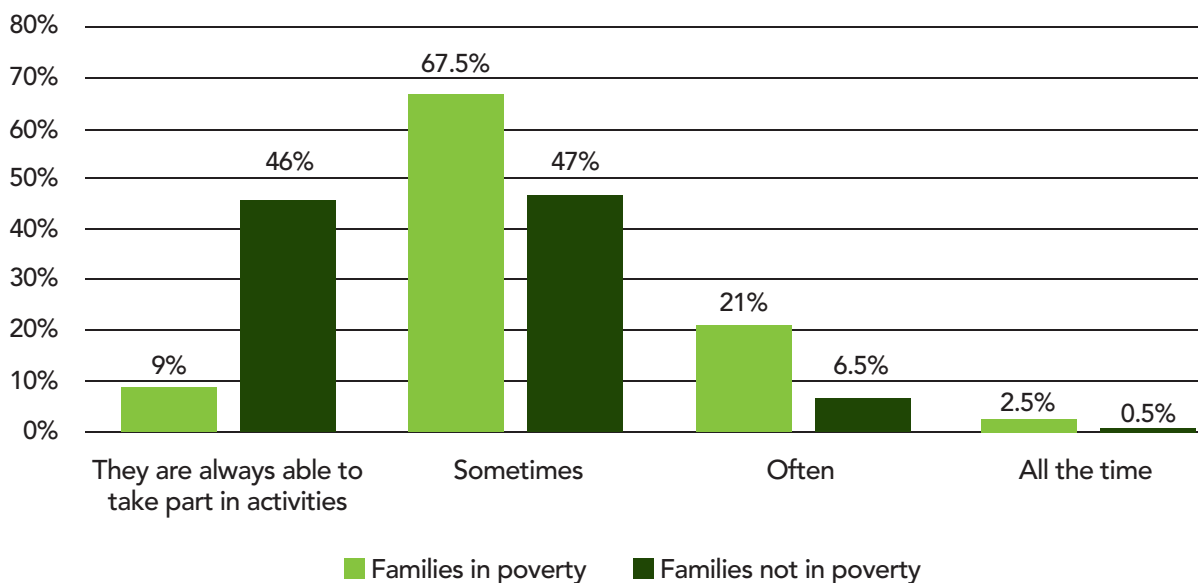
Source: **End Child Poverty, October 2014**

The challenges of tackling child poverty in the city and making a difference to children growing up with the disadvantages that life in poverty brings are varied and complex.

- Nearly half of Birmingham's children live in the 10% most deprived areas in the country – with nearly 8,000 living in the 1% most deprived areas.
- Almost 3 in 10 (29.8%) households with children in Birmingham are living in lone parent households, against an England and Wales average of 25%.
- Birmingham Ladywood Constituency has the third highest level of child poverty in the UK among parliamentary constituencies with 47% of children living in poverty after housing costsⁱⁱⁱ.

Children living in poverty struggle to make the most of the city they call home – prohibited by the cost of transport, the financial means of their parents and the cost of family activities. A survey we conducted of Birmingham families found that almost half of parents (46%) not in poverty (as defined by the Government's relative low income line^{iv}) say their children are always able to take part in activities irrespective of costs, compared to less than one in ten (9%) of families in poverty.

How often are your children unable to take part in activities because of cost?



Source: Survey of Birmingham parents n=200, p value = 0.000

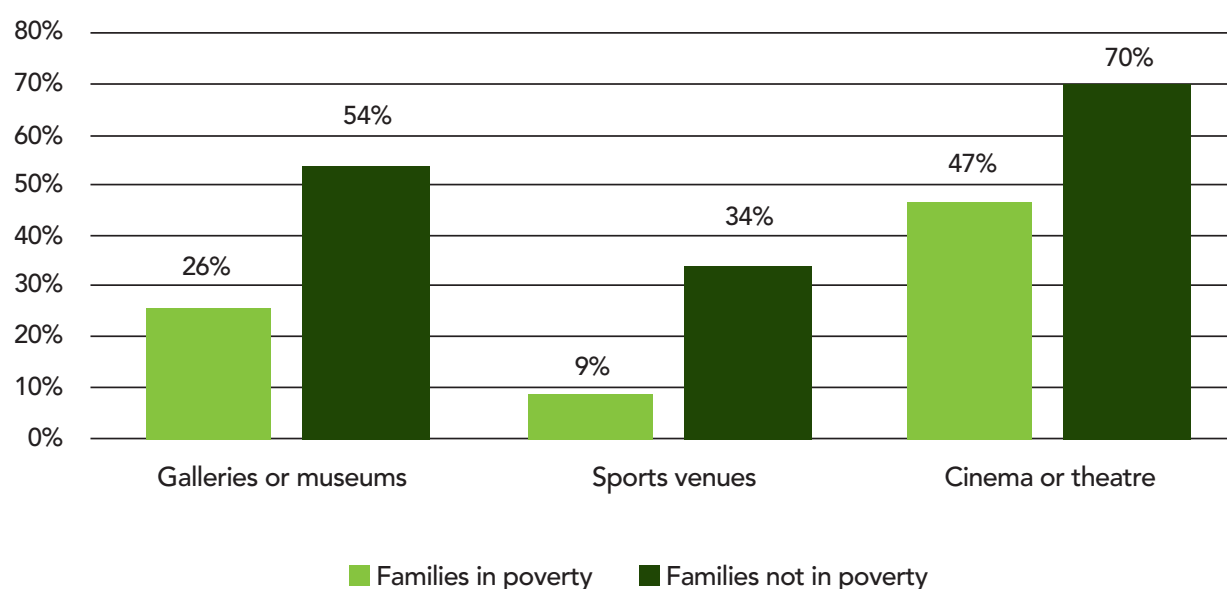
Accessing the assets of the city is challenging for parents in poverty – survey results indicated that over half of families (55%) who are not in poverty have accessed the city's galleries and museums, compared to just a quarter (25%) of families in poverty. 72% of those families in poverty find the cost of public transport in Birmingham affects how often they travel, compared to just 38% of those not in poverty. This means families in poverty are almost twice as likely to have difficulties in accessing public transport than those not in poverty.

During Commission engagement sessions with young people, an overwhelming issue being fed back to Commissioners was the lack of social and leisure activities available to young people, they emphasised the importance of having youth centres and affordable transport so they could visit different parts of the city. They stated that not being able to visit places outside their immediate areas limited their opportunities and experiences while also hindering development and social networks. It was suggested that young people should be involved in the design of solutions and make them aware of opportunities to help improve social mobility.

Recommendation

By April 2017, Birmingham City Council should explore the potential for subsidised transport for young people within city localities, using Merseytravel's 'My ticket' scheme as a model.

Places families are able to access in the city



Source: Survey of Birmingham parents n=200, p value = 0.004

Over half (54%) of parents in poverty believe their children will have a worse life than their own

The Birmingham Child Poverty Commission want to ensure children growing up in Birmingham feel positive about their future and are able to achieve in the city. Unfortunately, many parents and children today feel their economic circumstances and the daily poverty they face holds them back and disadvantages them. Parents living in poverty are more pessimistic about their children's future; with over half (54%) of parents in poverty believing their children will have a worse life than their own, compared to just 30% of those parents not in poverty. Young people are aware of the limitations poverty places on them and their peers – speaking of how not being able to visit places outside their immediate area limits their opportunities and experiences.

“There’s lots of gangs around where I live and it’s easy to get into a gang if you have nothing to do”

Secondary age school girl

Birmingham City Council and its partners have told us they want to go further in tackling child poverty in the city and highlighting the assets the city has to offer its young people. The drivers and causes of child poverty are complex and preventing child poverty cannot be tackled by one organisation alone. The task must be shared by the city as a whole, working with central Government, to improve the life chances of children in Birmingham. As the elected representative body, Birmingham City Council must continue to provide the coordination and leadership – demonstrated by the instigation of this Commission – to meet this challenge.

Recommendation

By September 2016, there should be a named Cabinet Member with responsibility for poverty.

Theme One: Health

The health and wellbeing of children in Birmingham is vital to supporting them out of poverty, having healthy lifestyles and actively contributing to the life of the city. Unfortunately, infant and child mortality rates in Birmingham are poorer than the England average and life expectancy across the city is extremely variable.

Since the Health and Social Care Act 2012 local areas have a statutory duty through their local Health and Wellbeing Board to collectively tackle health inequalities across the local area. The primary mechanism for this is through a joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, informed by a local profile of need – the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. This strategy in turn informs local authority, clinical commissioning groups and NHS England commissioning plans. The Commission would recommend this commitment to public health is further integrated into decisions taken by Birmingham City Council through a proactive assessment of public health implications.

Supporting children to have active and healthy lives will improve their wellbeing and health outcomes when they become an adult.

Recommendation

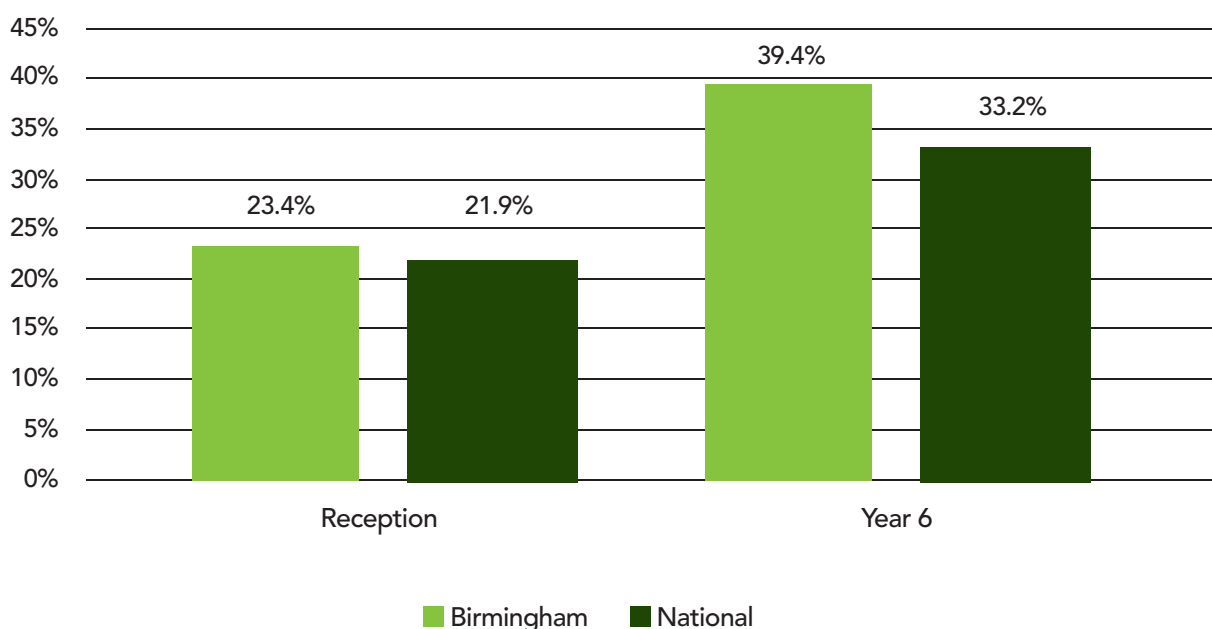
By January 2017, all Birmingham City Council approved strategies should include a mandatory section on the public health and health inequality implications of the issue under consideration.

Childhood obesity

In 2014/15 almost a quarter of reception-aged children in Birmingham were either overweight or obese, slightly above the national average. This difference between Birmingham and the national average increases further by the time children reach Year 6 (age 11), with 4 in 10 children of this age measured as either overweight or obese – remaining stubbornly high over the years. The 2014/15 figure is an increase on previous years and approaching the high of 2011/12^v.

This suggests tackling obesity at primary school is a critical time to intervene to encourage healthy lifestyles in the city's children.

Percentage of obese children in Birmingham



Source: 2014/15 figures taken from the Birmingham Child Poverty Needs Assessment 2015

It is welcomed that the current Birmingham Health and Wellbeing Strategy has set targets to reduce childhood obesity, seeking to reduce the proportion of children overweight in Reception to 22.6% and those overweight in Year 6 to 33.9%^{vi}. The Commission endorses this focus on childhood obesity.

Obesity prevalence for children living in the most deprived areas is more acute than for their peers living in least deprived areas, with obesity prevalence among reception year children in deprived areas reaching 12%, compared to 5.7% among those living in the least deprived areas. In Year 6 these figures were 26.8% and 11.2% respectively.

Obesity prevalence for children living in the most deprived areas is more acute than for their peers living in least deprived areas

Recommendations

By January 2018, there should be a planning restriction in place preventing new fast food outlets within 250 metres of schools.

A targeted obesity programme in primary school to reduce the rise in childhood obesity should be in place by September 2017.

Child and adolescent mental health

There is evidence that being born into poverty can increase the risk of mental health problems in children and young people, which in turn can have long-term consequences for their educational outcomes and social relationships.

The Children and Young People's Mental Health Coalition highlighted that 'being born into poverty puts children at greater risk of mental health problems and, for many, this will lead to negative consequences through their lives' ^{vii}.

The most recent assessment of mental health of children and young people across the country dates back to 2004 estimates that 1 in 10 children and young people aged 5 – 16 had a clinically diagnosed mental disorder ^{viii}. If this data was applied to the Birmingham population this would mean 28,000 children were in need of mental health support, although the prevalence is likely to be much higher due to a range of factors including improvements in diagnoses.

Based on data The Children's Society collected from Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, 3,270 Tier 3 referrals were received by the Trust in 2014-15. This equates to 3.4% of the Trust's local population if we equate one referral per child aged 10 to 17 ^{ix}. The same study of 34 providers across England estimates the national average to be 4%.

There has been welcome investment in child and adolescent mental health services in recent years, tailored to local need through Transformation Plans, however waiting times for referrals into Birmingham's CAMHS (Children's & Adolescent Mental Health Services) community service over the past years have unfortunately increased.

Period	Waiting time (weeks)
2013	
Average of Referral to Assessment	6.0
Average of Assessment to Treatment	3.4
Average of Referral to Treatment	9.2
2014	
Average of Referral to Assessment	5.8
Average of Assessment to Treatment	6.4
Average of Referral to Treatment	11.8
2015	
Average of Referral to Assessment	7.8
Average of Assessment to Treatment	7.8
Average of Referral to Treatment	15.3

Source: Birmingham City Council, March 2016

Supporting children who do not meet the threshold for CAMHS but do need support to cope with their mental health needs is an increasing challenge. Evidence gathered through a visit to Oasis Academy highlighted that whilst the school did not have a high number of students with formal SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disability) status, many pupils without a formal Educational Healthcare Plan had severe needs. The school had employed a private Education Psychologist to work with these children, although these assessments of need were not recognised by Birmingham City Council and so did not contribute towards the development of a formal statement for the children.

Forward Thinking Birmingham

A new 0-25 mental health service was launched in Birmingham in April 2016. This service has been jointly provided between Birmingham Children's Hospital, Worcestershire Health and Care Trust, Beacon UK, The Children's Society, and the Priory Group. This new service will ensure consistent support for children and young people between 0-25, without the need for patients to move to a new team when they reach 16 or 18. There is also a brand new city centre hub to provide advice and support.

Recommendations

By March 2017, an audit should be completed on the number of schools that have access to counselling support and do a cost analysis of providing outreach counselling service to schools with the highest proportion of pupils in receipt of pupil premium.

The new city centre hub Pause should be advertised in services accessed by children and families, including the School Health Advisory Services and children's centres.

Theme Two: Housing

Access to appropriate housing that is high quality, affordable and adequately sized for families is of the utmost importance to children, as is living in a home that is warm and safe. Living in a home that is cold and damp can have serious consequences for the health and wellbeing of children and young people^x.

Overcrowded accommodation and entitlement to support

The number of people in the household can have a direct impact on the experiences of children and young people growing up in poverty, meaning children are unable to sleep and do not have a quiet place to do their homework. Young people described the effects of living in overcrowded housing, which ranged from sharing bedrooms with siblings, not having any privacy and being unable to invite friends round.

Birmingham has been identified as having the highest concentration of overcrowded properties in the West Midlands. As of March 2016, there were 8,330 applicants on the housing register in overcrowded accommodation. The quality of housing has an impact on a number of outcomes for children and young people, particularly their physical and mental health^{xi}. This is shown to be a result of the number of people living in the accommodation, the ability to adequately heat it, and the type of accommodation itself^{xii}.

Research by the Chartered Institute of Housing^{xiii} in 2013, which looked at tenure and access to accommodation, found that 655,000 households in England are overcrowded with half being in London and the West Midlands.

The housing situation in Birmingham will be further complicated by the changes in the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016. The measures as set out in the Act will see the Benefit Cap outside of London reduced from £26,000 to £20,000. This reduction, which will primarily affect low-income households with higher rents (particularly those renting in the private rented sector), comes from reductions in Housing Benefit making it more difficult for families with children to afford appropriate housing solutions. Analysis undertaken by Birmingham City Council's Benefits Service has identified that households with children will be significantly impacted by the changes.

Case study: Michelle

Michelle is 38 years old and lives with her husband and four children in a four bedroom house in a deprived area of Birmingham. Her husband works full time as a caretaker, money is tight but they just about manage.

Michelle has recently been diagnosed with a debilitating condition that affects her mental and physical health – which she sees as inextricably linked. As a result, she finds it difficult to carry out household chores and childcare duties and instead relies on her children and husband to do these things. She finds it difficult to leave the house and mostly stays at home.

As a result of her ill health, Michelle has not been able to work for the past four years. Before she worked as a support worker and she loved her job. Now her family have to rely on her husband's small wage. In order to cope Michelle has to count every last penny; she is meticulous with her budget and rarely deviates from it. If her husband accidentally buys branded food, instead of the supermarket's own brand, she has to account for the extra few pounds and take it off some other expenditure. They manage, but only just. Michelle knows that going back to work would relieve their financial difficulties, however her mental and physical ill health currently make this impossible.

Michelle finds it difficult to get a same day appointment at her GP surgery as she is rarely considered an emergency, and is instead offered an appointment for the following week. Michelle finds this frustrating as her illness is unpredictable, she doesn't know how she will feel from one day to next and just wishes she could speak to someone on the days she reaches out. It would make a huge difference to Michelle if she could see the same doctor at each appointment; having to explain her problems over and over again gets her down. She finds navigating GP surgery appointments stressful and would appreciate the opportunity to speak on the phone with the doctor, or for there to be a local support group that she could attend, to speak to other people in similar situations. Despite being offered counselling when she first became depressed seven years ago, Michelle has not been any offered anything since.

Percentage of households by number of children in Birmingham affected by the Benefit Cap

Capped Household	Number of Children in Household				
	0	1 or 2	3	4	5 or more
Couples Household	1%	19%	34%	26%	20%
Single Household	19%	12%	38%	20%	11%

The freezing of Housing Benefit for the next four years further compounds this. Research by Shelter predicts that 80% of working households in England claiming support to help meet rental costs in the private sector will be affected by the four-year housing benefit freeze. The cash shortfall will affect families living in places not traditionally associated with high rents, such as Birmingham, as well as expensive postcodes in London and the South East. The study shows that the monthly gap between private rents and Local Housing Allowance on two-bed homes in the cheapest areas of each local area will be significant in growth areas such as Manchester (£240), Bristol (£236), and Birmingham (£107).

The city has seen an increase in the number of households seeking help for issues to do with homelessness in the last year. This is a situation that can be seen across the country, and can in many instances affect vulnerable young people who are on their own. There are also over a 6,500 families placed in temporary accommodation, which can be insecure and expensive.

As of March 2016 there were 8,330 applicants on the housing register in overcrowded accommodation. Some of these families may have presented to the local authority as homeless and have received temporary accommodation and others may need a larger home due to their family growing or children getting older and being unable to share a bedroom.

As of March 2016 there were 8,330 applicants on the housing register in overcrowded accommodation.

Number of families in overcrowded accommodation in Birmingham

Register Type	Overcrowded
General Needs	5,214
Transfer	2,109
Homeless	1,007
Total	8,330

Source: Birmingham City Council, March 2016

There are a high number of people registered as homeless who are in employment and should be supported by the council to find a stable solution to their housing needs. The latest data from Birmingham City Council shows that 20% of those in temporary accommodation or change homes during one year are in employment. This means that these families are in periods of fluctuating stability with regards to their accommodation, which can make it harder to maintain employment. It can also mean that children have to change schools, which has the potential to disrupt their education.

Main applicant for housing by employment status

Employment status	Total
In Employment	263
Not in Employment	1,049
Total	1,312

Source: Birmingham City Council, March 2016

Recommendation

By June 2017, Registered Social Landlords should commit to introducing a minimum of three-year tenancies, allowing for greater stability for tenants and landlords. By September 2017 this information should be made available for families on Birmingham City Council's website.

Recommendations

By April 2019, Birmingham City Council should adopt a policy that no low-income family with children under 18 can be declared intentionally homeless.

By January 2018, Birmingham City Council should undertake a formal review of their housing standards enforcement, with a view to introducing a landlord accreditation scheme such as that in operation in Newham.

Case study: Anna

Anna is 13 years old and lives with her mum, dad and sister in a three bedroom house in a deprived area of Birmingham. Her mum works part time as a care worker and looks after the children and home, and her dad does shift work in a factory. Anna thinks of herself as 'not posh' but not really hard up either. With the bargains that her dad finds second hand online, she can just about afford to have the things that allow her to join in – and fit in – with her peers.

At home, Anna and her sister have a small bedroom each, and her parents share a room. On the whole she is content where she lives. She is happy to have a bedroom of her own and she appreciates having the privacy and space, however small. She likes her local area – she has lots of friends nearby and there are family members living just round the corner. They know everyone on their road and enjoy welcoming new residents and helping them settle in. This really matters; perhaps without quite knowing it, Anna is busy creating and expanding her social networks and through these, her social capital, both widely recognised as important protective factors in mitigating against the effects of poverty.

A couple of weeks ago Anna's mum was told she would have to pay 'bedroom tax' on one of the rooms in the house. Apparently it has been deemed an extra room, although to Anna its necessity is clear, as her sister needs her own space to study for school exams and in Anna's bedroom space is already tight. Household finances are managed with total precision and there is currently no room for manoeuvre in the budget.

No-one in the family knows what is going to happen with the payment for the 'extra' room. What is clear is that their options are severely limited, and that they will struggle immensely to do what it takes to keep their modest home, where they are settled and supported and managing – despite the odds – to contribute to their local community.

Theme Three: In-work poverty

Worklessness is unquestionably a key driver of child poverty. However, the most recent Households Below Average Income (HBAI) statistics outlines how almost a two-thirds of children (62%) nationally live in households where at least one parent is in work. This suggests that while families are moving into work, they aren't moving out of poverty, with the UK currently having one of the highest rates of low pay in the developed world: over 20% of full-time employees earn less than two-thirds of the pay of the median full-time worker compared to 16% in the OECD as a whole.

One of the key ways that families are able to return to work is through the availability of affordable childcare. This has been recognised by the Government who have recently extended free childcare to 30 hours a week, in an effort to make it easier for these parents to work and fulfil their commitment to make work pay.

There has been a substantial rise in the numbers of 3 and 4 year olds benefitting from funded early education places in Birmingham since 2010, with take-up increasing from 85% in 2010 to 94% in 2014.

While the take-up of the disadvantaged 2 year old offer has significantly improved from 49% in the summer term of 2015 to 57% in the spring term of 2016, learning from increasing the 3 and 4 year old offer should be applied to improve this figure further. Birmingham still remains below the England average of 58%, but is now performing better than the West Midlands average of 56%^{xv}.

The most recent Childcare Sufficiency Strategy for Birmingham sets out that issues with childcare are causing some problems in relation to work or study but overall these are manageable. Satisfaction rates with childcare are very high and very few parents/carers highlight specific improvement suggestions for the childcare that they use. This suggests that there are few structural gaps in the childcare market. The main issue that has prevented families from taking up childcare arrangements has been the cost, with a third of parents (32%) stating that this was a barrier to access for them. The focus group with the Big Lottery Fund found that jobs do not fit with families due to the lack of flexible hours – but that if parents do not take the job they could find their benefits sanctioned.

The cost of childcare can mean that if parents return to work that they are not always significantly better off. This is further complicated by the rates of pay that are available in the city. Average earnings in Birmingham are more than 10% below the national average. However, there is a more equal distribution across the income scale than exists nationally.

There has been a substantial rise in the numbers of 3 and 4 year olds benefitting from funded early education places in Birmingham since 2010

The Living Wage Commission, chaired by the former Bishop of Birmingham, Dr John Sentamu, has found that almost a quarter of workers in the West Midlands are not paid enough to live on, whereas one in five workers in Birmingham (18%) are paid below the living wage. This is the agreed amount for a socially acceptable standard of living and quality of life for residents, and Birmingham City Council is one of 75 local employers in the city that have formally committed to paying the living wage. This figure, it should be noted, is broadly comparable to figures in the rest of the country, apart from London and the South East where rates of low pay are considerably better than the national average.

In 2012, the council introduced the Birmingham Living Wage. This saw 3,000 council employees paid the Birmingham Living Wage that July, at the rate set independently by the Living Wage Foundation. Following the annual review of the Living Wage rate, a further 400 employees became eligible in 2013/14 along with another 400 agency workers, meaning that approximately 2,800 staff have benefited. The Birmingham Business Charter for Social Responsibility also introduced a requirement for contractors to pay the Living Wage to those employees working on Birmingham contracts. This is a situation that will be further improved by the recent announcement that local authority employees will be paid at least the Birmingham Living Wage of £8.25 from April 2016. It is also important to note this rate is significantly better than other local authorities in the West Midlands.

At the beginning of April 2016, the Government introduced the National Minimum Wage (NMW). This means that if you are working, aged 25 or over and not in the first year of an apprenticeship, you are legally entitled to at least £7.20 per hour. The regions with the largest number of minimum wage jobs are the North West, which has 184,000, and the West Midlands, with 140,000. The introduction of the NMW in 2016 will see 220,000 people in the West Midlands receive this new, higher wage^{xvi}. The introduction of the new higher minimum wage however needs to consider alongside reductions to in-work support, as deductions from benefits mean that low-income families with children will keep very little gains in earnings. Birmingham City Council and its partners therefore needs to continue to make the case to Government to retain in-work support for families, alongside becoming the first Living Wage City.

**Birmingham City Council is one of 75
local employers in the city that have
formally committed to paying the
living wage**

Recommendations

Birmingham City Council should use its powers as a commissioner and champion of Birmingham to work with local businesses and the Living Wage Foundation to make Birmingham the first Living Wage City where all employers pay this minimum amount, by January 2019.

By December 2016, Birmingham City Council should work with JobCentrePlus and employment support providers to ensure that parents of two year olds taking up funded early education are specifically targeted with employment and skills support that encourages starting work or training, and that wrap-around childcare is sufficiently affordable and flexible to enable those parents to sustain and increase their employment opportunities.

It is interesting to note that the Social Mobility Index that has been published by the Child Poverty and Social Mobility Commission has found that Birmingham has levels of social mobility that are close to the national average, whereas other cities such as Norwich, Nottingham and Derby are performing significantly worse. The city is also doing better than many other local authorities in the region.

Case study: Karen

Karen is 42 years old and lives in a deprived area of Birmingham in a housing association property where she has lived for the past six years. Karen is a single parent and has three children, two girls aged ten and sixteen and a twelve year old boy. She works part time as a cleaner, money is scarce and at the moment she is struggling to make ends meet.

Five years ago Karen was diagnosed with a debilitating condition that causes widespread pain all over her body. Due to her ill health Karen found it difficult to carry out even the smallest of everyday activities, and to fulfil her duties in her job as a cleaner. As a result she was unable to work for three years. Over time she was able to return to work and for the past two years she has been working part time.

Karen enjoys working, and although the extra monthly income is modest, it does give her family a bit more financial security. However, she has recently suffered a series of financial setbacks. Each month Karen receives working tax credit, child tax credits and child benefit. A few months ago she was told that her working tax credit had been overpaid and that in order to repay it would be reduced by £50 each week, totalling £200 a month. Karen cannot spare this money as she needs it to buy food for her children, and so she applied to have her repayments reduced or staggered. Despite explaining her situation her application was declined.

Furthermore, Karen used to receive Disability Living Allowance but during the transition to Personal Independence Payments, her rate was reduced and she now receives around £60 a month less.

In total, Karen has £260 less each month to cover all her bills and to provide for her children. As a result she has had to make some adjustments, including cancelling her TV and internet and having water and electricity meters fitted. Money was tight before, but now it is even tighter. Despite returning to work Karen struggles to pay for even the basics, and it doesn't look like it will get any easier soon.

Council tax debt

One of the primary and priority debts that families can face is when they have fallen behind on paying their council tax. For many families, council tax arrears are the result of several factors combined – driven principally by demands for full annual payment just seven days after a first reminder following a missed payment, which can be hundreds of pounds. Council tax arrears can be a particular problem for families already struggling to maintain the everyday costs of supporting children.

In Birmingham, an estimated 21,000 children are living in 11,800 families that are in council tax debt. The council, of course, has a duty to reclaim council tax payments. However, our research has found that although the city council employ other methods of collecting council tax arrears, such as attachment of earnings, they have a particularly high use of bailiffs compared to other authorities. Further, Birmingham's official policy states that the city council only uses bailiffs if 'alternative ways of collecting the amounts owed, such as deduction from benefit or attachment of earnings is not appropriate'. The council should also be willing to recall the debt following a referral to bailiffs and negotiate a repayment plan with families, at any point along the enforcement journey. Islington Council has an explicit policy of not engaging bailiffs for families in receipt of Council Tax Support and maintained higher than average collection rates in doing so.

In addition, several councils across the country, including Cornwall and Stockport, have instituted a local 'breathing space' scheme which places accounts on hold for 21 days when a family gets in touch with the council to enable the family time to seek independent debt advice. Birmingham City Council does not appear to have an explicit policy on this, and whilst there is some signposting to debt advice, this is for a council run service and is not independent.

Recommendation

By April 2017, Birmingham City Council should adopt a local 'breathing space' placing council tax accounts on hold for 21 days when a family gets in touch with them so as to enable the family time to seek independent debt advice. The council should also adopt an explicit policy of not engaging bailiffs for families in receipt of Council Tax Support.

One particularly vulnerable group for council tax debt is care leavers. Often, when care leavers move into independent accommodation they begin to manage their own budget fully for the first time. Evidence from The Children's Society's services shows how challenging care leavers can find managing their own budgets and how scary they found falling behind on their council tax.

Cheshire East has introduced an exemption for council tax for care leavers until the age of 25, including those placed out of borough. This was based on research by The Children's Society, which showed how quickly care leavers could fall into financial difficulty. It is expected that this proposal will result in a decrease in emergency payments made to care leavers in crisis such as well as further reducing the dependency of these young people on other services. The council costed this at £17k per annum^{xvii}, with £11k for those placed in Cheshire East and £6k for those placed out of borough.

Our interviews with young people in this situation have told us that managing and understanding council tax bills for the first time is frequently a challenge, and that they aren't aware of their entitlements around exemption or support. Many expressed concern as to how quickly bailiffs are sent round and felt the council should not send bailiffs to these young people so quickly, with bailiff visits being the cause of stress and sleepless nights for some of the young people we spoke to.

Recommendation

By April 2017, Birmingham City Council should exempt care leavers from council tax up to and including the age of 25.

Theme Four: Economy and worklessness

The most recent Local Economic Assessment for Birmingham outlined how the city has the largest concentration of businesses outside London, with over 30,000 companies including almost 900 international firms such as Jaguar Land Rover, Cadbury, Amey and Deutsche Bank being based there.

This means that the city is doing well to attract private investment and jobs, and has seen rapid growth in high value added sectors such as financial and professional services. However, where the city has struggled compared to the other core cities in the UK is having the necessary skills to match the opportunities that are available, and as a consequence fully realise the potential economic benefits of this. This is expressed through the number of low skilled residents, gender employment rates, and overall worklessness.

The city fares poorly when compared to the national indicators for male, female and overall employment rates, with Birmingham performing worst on female employment rates which stand at just 52%, compared to 67% nationally. The city has sought to address this in a number of ways, including through the Creative Future Strategy^{xviii}. This strategy sets out the intention of Birmingham City Council to support young people in the city to develop an interest in arts and culture, but also see this as a possible route to future employment and training. The strategy states that Birmingham City Council will honour their commitment by ensuring:

- Support for programmes and initiatives which enable greater understanding among young people and teaching professionals of employment (including self-employment and entrepreneurialism), training and development opportunities within the cultural and creative industries, including more effective provision of high quality, impartial and creative careers advice.
- A co-ordinated approach to engaging higher education and creative businesses which supports young people's access to and understanding of placement, apprenticeship and sustainable employment opportunities within the cultural and creative sector

However, no action plan has yet been developed for implementing the strategy.

The importance of family income is noted in the recent research by the Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission^{xix} which highlights that *"Children from less advantaged family backgrounds who were high attaining in early cognitive skills assessments are found to be less able or at least less successful at converting this early high potential into career success."* The report goes on to explain, *"Families with greater means at their disposal, financial and otherwise, are assisting their children to accumulate skills, particularly those which are valued in the labour market."*

The number of children in Birmingham who live in workless households is considerably higher than the figure nationally, with almost one third of children in Birmingham (29%) compared to fewer than one in five nationally (19%) in this regard. Birmingham also has higher rates of worklessness than other local authorities in the West Midlands, who have an average of 11.2% of households without work, compared to 15.4% in Birmingham. However, it is worth noting that there are several wards with high concentrations of worklessness and others with low concentrations, with the four Sutton wards having rates of less than 10%, compared to Kingstanding, Lozells, Shard End and Sparkbrook which have rates of over 22%^{xx}.

Recommendation

Through existing resources and by January 2017, the Department for Work and Pensions, working closely with schools, Birmingham City Council and voluntary sector, should rotate benefits and other financial advisers around those schools/children's centres with high levels of need offering an outreach financial inclusion service.

This can be seen to be a reflection, in part, of the proportion of the city that has high level qualifications. Only 1 in 4 working age residents (26%) have a degree level or higher qualification, which is well below the national average. While this has increased over the past four years, this has happened at a slower rate than that of the other core cities, meaning that there is a widening gap in terms of skills between Birmingham and the other major economic contributors in the UK. As with the rates of worklessness discussed above, there are large disparities across the city in terms of particular wards that have higher or lower skilled residents.

Low levels of education qualification may be reflected in families not feeling confident supporting their children with their schoolwork. Our research revealed that parents in poverty are four times (11.5% compared to 3%) more likely to not feel confident at all in supporting their children with their education and schoolwork. This could be further compounded by parents' views of what the future holds for their children. Parents living in poverty are more pessimistic about their children's future; with over half of parents (53.5%), believing their children will have a worse life than their own, compared to just 30% of those parents not in poverty.

Our research revealed that parents in poverty are four times more likely to not feel confident at all in supporting their children with their education and schoolwork

Related, many residents that have low skills or no formal qualifications (currently almost one in five – or 17% - of residents hold no formal qualifications). This compares poorly against other core cities in the UK, with Bristol being the best performer with a rate better than the national average.

Recommendation

By June 2017, the tendering process should be used to ensure that new projects over £500,000 encourage greater numbers of quality apprenticeships offered to young people from low-income families in Birmingham and the wider West Midlands.

There is a discrepancy amongst worklessness single male and female parents. The most recent available data shows that 45% of male lone parents are not in work, and 50% of lone female parents are not in work. Both of these figures are above the national average, but this is particularly pronounced for male lone parents.

Case study: Elaine

Elaine is a single parent and lives with her children in a three bedroom house in a deprived area of Birmingham, where they have lived for a number of years. Elaine hasn't worked for the past fifteen years and struggles to afford the basics for herself and her children.

Despite being entitled to a number of benefits, over the past two years Elaine has experienced several benefit sanctions and these have affected her capacity to balance the household budget. There is more money going out than there is coming in and she struggles to buy food, clothe her children and keep her house warm. The only way she has been able to keep the family afloat has been to rely on various forms of informal support but these have proved precarious, for example as funding to charitable organisations has been cut and contact with her outreach worker proved inconsistent.

Elaine has suffered from mental health problems for a number of years. She finds it difficult to leave the house, especially alone, and mostly stays at home. When she does venture out she has to rely on one of her children or friends to go with her, but this is rare. She has been taking medication for the past ten years, but only offered counselling once. She found this useful and felt a positive effect but because she had to rely on a volunteer to escort her to the sessions, they stopped when the volunteer left, as she could not make her own way there.

Elaine would like to work – she has thought about becoming a teaching assistant or perhaps setting up a small business. She feels that going to work would not only help her financial situation but her mental health as well. However, but she doesn't feel confident, well supported or informed enough to re-enter the world of work.

When she had children under the age of five Elaine had a volunteer come to her house to help her out with the children and with accessing local services, and she found this really helpful. She wishes a similar form of support was available for parents with older children, and thinks that if she had the right support, it could help her navigate her future.

Money was tight before, but now it is even tighter. Despite returning to work Karen struggles to pay for even the basics, and it doesn't look like it will get any easier soon.

Economic activity in Birmingham

Birmingham is a city of industry and commerce, yet it struggles to translate this into high levels of employment for its residents. In 2011, 69% of working age residents in the city were economically active, against the national figure of 77%. This may in part be due to the lower levels of educational attainment in Birmingham compared to other core cities.

Just over one quarter of the working age population in Birmingham have a degree or a higher-level qualification (NVQ 4+), compared to 35% in other core cities and 32% nationally, and there are large disparities in the skill levels between different ethnic groups. 35% of (16-74 year old) Pakistani and Bangladeshi residents have no qualifications, compared to White Other (15%) and Chinese (16%) residents in the city. By way of comparison, 30% of White British residents aged between 16-74 have no qualifications^{xxii}.

Lone parent households find it particularly difficult to move into employment, due to a variety of factors including childcare availability and costs. Only 50% of lone parent households in Birmingham are in some form of employment, compared with 59% across England and Wales. Of these households, 55% are in part-time employment with 45% in full-time employment, which is in line with national averages.

There are also wide variations in economic activity between different ethnic groups and genders, for example, 74% of Pakistani males are economically active but only 34% of females (against a national figure of 67% of women).

Improving access to adult education and English as a Second Language (ESOL) courses would help to support lone parents and groups struggling to access the labour market across the city. The focus group we held with voluntary sector groups and the Big Lottery Fund recognised the need to support adult learning for parents, suggested the use of literacy classes and ESOL classes to empower parents.

Recommendations

By December 2016, Birmingham City Council should partner with JobCentrePlus and employment support providers to ensure that parents of two year olds taking up funded early education are specifically targeted with employment and skills support that encourages starting work or training.

Where required, parents should be encouraged to take up ESOL classes, particularly for groups whose language is a barrier to the labour market. These should be scheduled in schools around pick up/drop off times for children. This system should be in place by Spring Term 2017 and led by the ESOL providers in the city.

Theme Five: Education and lifelong learning

Children in poverty have lower educational outcomes than their peers, leading to disadvantage in later life, a greater struggle to achieve good GCSEs and a challenging entry into the labour market.

The education profile in Birmingham

Results from 2014 indicate progress with the gap between disadvantaged children and their peers narrowing. However, this positive trend is crucially not the case at Key Stage 4 where the gap at GCSE A* - C including English and Maths widened from 21% in 2013 to 24% in 2014. This suggests that there should be specialist support services considered for the most disadvantaged children at KS4.

This enhanced support at this age would build on the work done to date, with data showing that despite the attainment gap widening, 43% of disadvantaged children in Birmingham are achieving at least 5 A*-C grades at GCSE level compared to 41% of disadvantaged children nationally. Building on this through targeted interventions would further improve outcomes for disadvantaged pupils compared to their peers.

While girls continue to outperform boys, there is some indication that this gap is closing. At Key Stage 2 in 2011 the gap between the proportion of girls achieving level 4+ in reading, writing and maths and the proportion of boys was 10%, by 2014 this figure had fallen to 6%.

The ethnic diversity in Birmingham's schools leads to a large number of languages spoken in schools across the city – with almost 40% of secondary age pupils having a first language that is known or believed to be other than English. The national average is just 14%.

There is a significant gap in performance at GCSE level according to the ethnic group of pupils, their gender and whether or not they are eligible for free school meals. 82% of Indian girls achieve five or more A* - C GCSEs, including English and Maths, compared to just 29% of White British boys eligible for free school meals^{xxiii}.

The number of young people aged 16-18 not in employment, education or training is higher in Birmingham when compared to the West Midlands, particularly for young people aged 17 and 18.

Young people spoken to as part of the Commission's research themselves spoke of their limited aspiration, with education seen as an important route to improve social and economic mobility. They however felt held back by high university fees and a perception of employers recruiting only from elite universities.

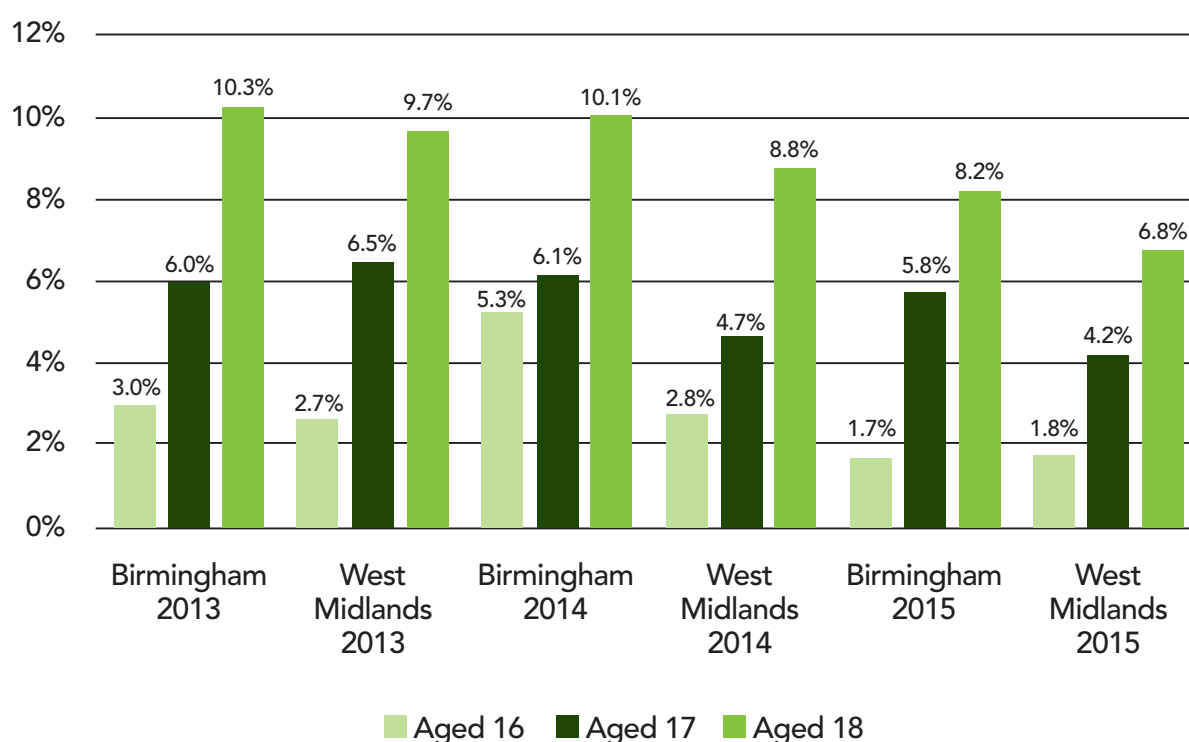
Almost 40% of secondary age pupils have a first language that is known or believed to be other than English.

"Schools should give free one to one tuition to help with grades" Ahmed, young person, Aspire & Succeed

"Some parents can't afford to pay for tuition and the Government should help them" Darnish, young person, Aspire & Succeed

Engagement with the business community across the city found that businesses have an appetite and a crucial role to play in career advice and development. Members of the business community can make a valuable input not only in advising pupils on the range of career opportunities available but also drive the direction of schools through for example, sitting on their governing bodies.

Young people not in education, employment or training



Source: NEET data by local authority, Department for Education

Engagement with the business community across the city found that businesses have an appetite and a crucial role to play in career advice and development.

Recommendations

By September 2017, the Birmingham Secondary Schools Forum working with Birmingham City Council, Birmingham Education Partnership and Business leaders should develop a specific offer for disadvantaged pupils at KS4 to provide intensive support to narrow the attainment gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged children at this level.

There is the potential that this could be funded through the pupil premium. It is proposed that a mentoring scheme with local businesses could be run alongside or be part of this specific offer for KS4 pupils.

The roll out of this scheme should focus initially on the lowest performing groups at KS4.

Birmingham City Council and Birmingham Education Partnership should assist schools to establish formal partnerships with universities, both in the UK and abroad. The purposes of so doing include: raising students' awareness and aspirations of the opportunities for higher education; enhancing partnerships between schools and universities for professional development; and influencing standards of teaching and learning.

This recommendation should be carried out by June 2017.

Case study: Niall

Niall is twelve years old and lives with his dad, grandmother and two older siblings in a housing estate in Birmingham. Neither his dad nor his grandmother is currently working, and his dad hasn't worked since before Niall was born. Niall spends a lot of time at home; no-one in the family goes out very much as there is not a lot of money around at the moment and his siblings both suffer from debilitating health conditions.

Niall started secondary school last year and to him it feels big. The move from primary went ok; his older siblings attend the same school and a few friends from his old school moved with him. On the whole secondary school is stricter than primary, there are some nice teachers and some really strict ones, and some nice and not-so-nice children. Niall's favourite subject is Geography. He's doing okay in his lessons, although he gets into trouble quite a lot for talking. It's important to him that he knows exactly who he would go to if he needs support, for learning and for help dealing with problems amongst his peers.

Niall has big dreams for his future: he would really like to be an ambulance man when he's older. He doesn't know what he would have to do turn this dream into reality, apart from study hard at school and learn about science, but he says that being an ambulance man is what he would really like to do most.

Niall has also resigned himself to the idea that his big dream will remain just that – something he once aspired to but never fulfilled. He says 'I don't think that's what I will be but that's just what I would like to be'. We ask why he thinks he won't become an ambulance man and he says: 'I would think it's because, like dad wanted to be that when he was younger, he wanted to be that as well. I don't know. I just think because dad didn't, I won't either'.

Poverty in the school day

Education is accessible to all children irrespective of costs – yet there are often hidden costs to the school day, which alienate and further disenfranchise children living in poverty. Children in poverty often miss out on a nutritious meal during the day – and in some cases face stigmatisation if they take up support on offer – they can also miss out on school trips in term time and during the holidays. These trips present not only an educational and development opportunity but a chance to form relationships with their peers and build friendships. Schools we visited had a range of different policies related to trips, with some schools paying for all trips, some subsidising them and some expecting families to pay the whole cost.

"In this school, you know the people who can't afford it, I don't think they'll reduce money or nothing, if they can't afford they just can't afford and they won't be able to come" Secondary age schoolboy

When paying for trips most schools that we spoke to operate systems that allow parents to pay in instalments. This eases the financial burden on families with low incomes.

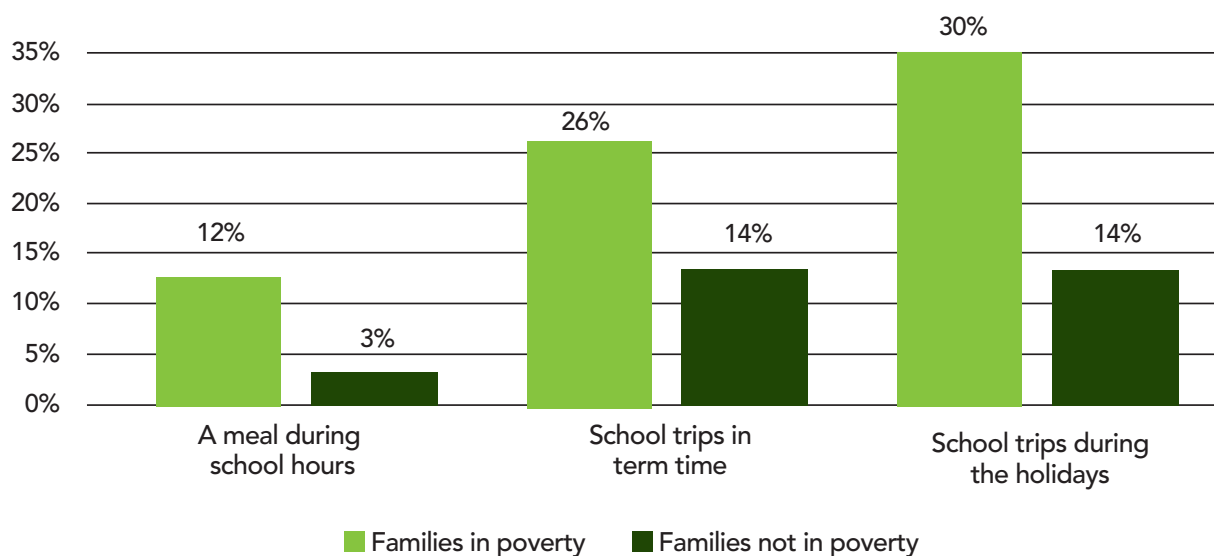
"We have to pay in money or instalments or online" Secondary age school girl

How schools communicate with home regarding money related queries or issues can cause significant challenges for children from low income families. Examples were given of parents being contacted directly about payments, avoiding children having to give a financial account on behalf of their parents. However children also spoke of names being called out in front of their peers regarding late payments or money owed, which the children find very embarrassing and upsetting, both for themselves and for their friends.

"I got this big red letter and then the teacher read it out in front of the whole class. It said 'urgent, dinner money needed' but we had paid it all, and she read it to the whole class. It was upsetting, they were all kind of like laughing."

Primary age school girl

Support or activities children miss out on because of cost



Source: Survey of Birmingham parents n=200, p value = 0.000

Under current guidance schools are expected to take cost into account when deciding their school uniform policy, however it does not need to be a primary consideration and the current guidance is not binding for schools. In November 2015 the Government announced that they will be placing this guidance on a statutory footing, after a Department for Education survey revealed that nearly one-fifth of parents and carers reported that they had suffered financial hardship as a result of purchasing their child's uniform. Until such a time as this guidance is statutory cost should still be a primary consideration of any school's uniform policy.

There are a wide range of styles employed by schools, and these range from very formal, such as a full blazer, jumper and tie, to a more informal polo shirt and jacket. The result of this is that the price parents pay for school uniform varies greatly, with the cumulative cost when there are several children in the family proving particularly challenging. A recent report by The Children's Society found that on average parents overspend on school uniforms by £170 per child each year, a significant cost for families^{xxvi}.

One young person that the Commission consulted with said:

"I think it's expensive, especially the jumpers; they're too expensive. They're like ten pounds or sometimes fifteen pounds from some shops"

Secondary age school girl

At secondary school the impact of uniform requirements continues and in most cases the cost and scrutiny increases. Secondary pupils we have spoken to highlight that there are a range of uniform requirements across Birmingham schools, with some requiring extensive specific items that have to carry a logo whilst others require a more simple uniform with one item that carries a specific logo. Young people also told us how this is more of a financial burden when there are siblings who also require school uniform. Shoes and PE kit were as demanding as the more obvious elements of school uniform and add considerable costs to the overall uniform, especially when they are branded or items with a school logo.

“When we first started having PE my mom had to pay like £24.00 just for the tee-shirt and shorts.”

Secondary age school boy

Some schools have a designated uniform supplier and often that supplier is based out of town.

“It can be really far away, and the car might not work. They would have to walk it here and it would be really hard for them.” Secondary age school girl

One of the secondary schools we went into has a very simple uniform. The young people here reported being under less scrutiny as well as facing less expense for their families.

Too often parents are facing higher costs as a result of limited options to choose where to buy their uniforms. The current guidance is clear that cost should be the top priority in determining school uniform supplier. The Commission believes schools in Birmingham can take a proactive role in supporting their children on low incomes by reviewing their school uniform policy to make cost a primary consideration.

At secondary school the impact of uniform requirements continues and in most cases the cost and scrutiny increases

Recommendation

By July 2017, all schools should adapt their school uniform policy to ensure affordability is a primary consideration.

Adult education

The council have sought to invest in adult education to increase the overall number of working age adults who have higher levels of qualifications. Our survey has found that the take up of adult learning was impacted by whether or not parents in poverty lived with their spouse or partner the majority of the time. For those who lived with a partner the majority of the time 63% went on to access adult learning, dropping to 36% for those who live alone with their children.

There are a number of adult education opportunities available across the city which could go some way to addressing this issue. BCC's Adult Education is one provider in Birmingham running ESOL classes at 13 venues and in this academic year 1,270 learners have accessed courses. This is important for families with children in poverty, as our research has found that over half of parents (53.4%) living in poverty have investigated adult learning compared to 3 in 10 (32%) families not in poverty. There are also a number of other institutions that provide similar support, as well as family learning classes that are available at children's centres and family support hubs. However, there is not the data available to adequately analyse the reach and impact of these courses.

This commitment to adult education has been matched at a national level, with the Government making £2.5bn available nationally for a mixture of apprenticeship and non-apprenticeship adult learning. The Skills Funding Agency (SFA) has announced that contract values for the forthcoming year have been maintained at the same level as the previous year. In his letter to the Chief Executive of the SFA, Nick Boles MP set out how *'funding for adult non apprenticeship core education has been protected in cash terms, in recognition of the contribution that adult further education can make^{xxvii}'*. Importantly, there has been a 19% increase nationally on delivery over the 12 months from December 2014 to November 2015 for 19+ apprenticeships allocations. There is no data available for specific cities, but the decision of the SFA to enable grant funded providers to use their adult education budget more freely and flexibly in line with local priorities by allocating these funds as a block grant offers Birmingham the opportunity to respond better to their specific needs.

By continuing to invest in adult education, the council has an opportunity to upskill its working age population, leading to more residents being in a position to take on better paid work. This, in turn, has the potential to reduce the overall number of children living in poverty or suffering material deprivation in the city. This has important consequences for the long term economic outlook of the city, and the region more broadly. Birmingham is the dominant economic force in the region, with research demonstrating that the city accounts for over a fifth of regional output^{xxviii}.

Recommendation

By January 2017, adult education providers to provide data for all Birmingham City Council courses so that the reach and impact of adult education in the city can be appropriately analysed.

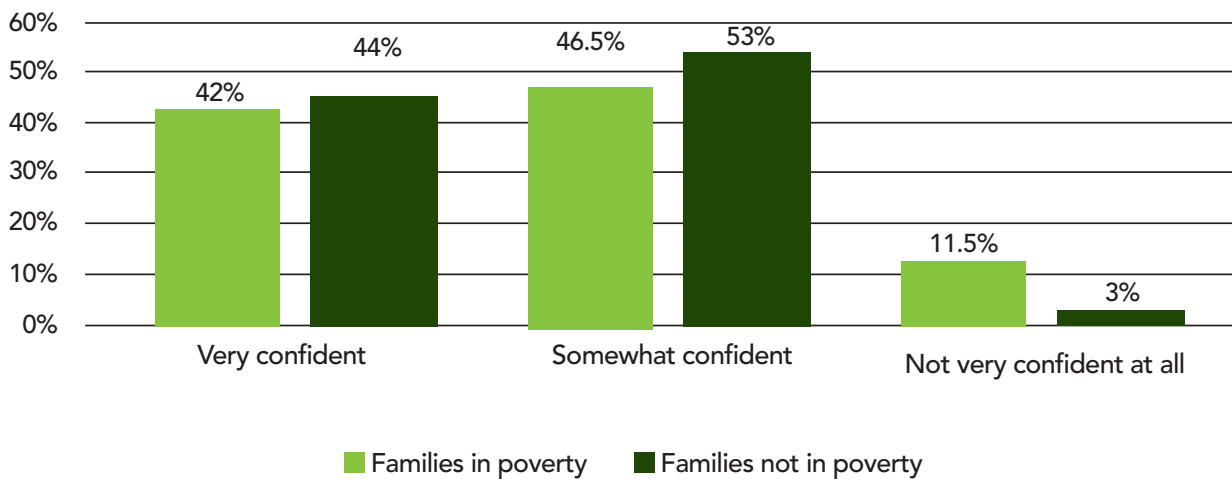
Learning in the home

Supporting children outside of school with their education has an impact on their ability to learn in school and progress with their learning, with children in our engagement work describing how parental support with school work being a key factor to educational success. Parents need to be supported to feel confident in helping their children with their homework and learning, particularly so where they may not have received high academic outcomes themselves or may be not be able to speak English themselves.

“My mum doesn’t speak English so she can’t come to my parents evening.” Secondary age school boy

The survey of Birmingham parents found that parents in poverty are four times more likely not to feel confident at all in supporting their children with their education and schoolwork.

How confident do families feel in supporting their children with their education



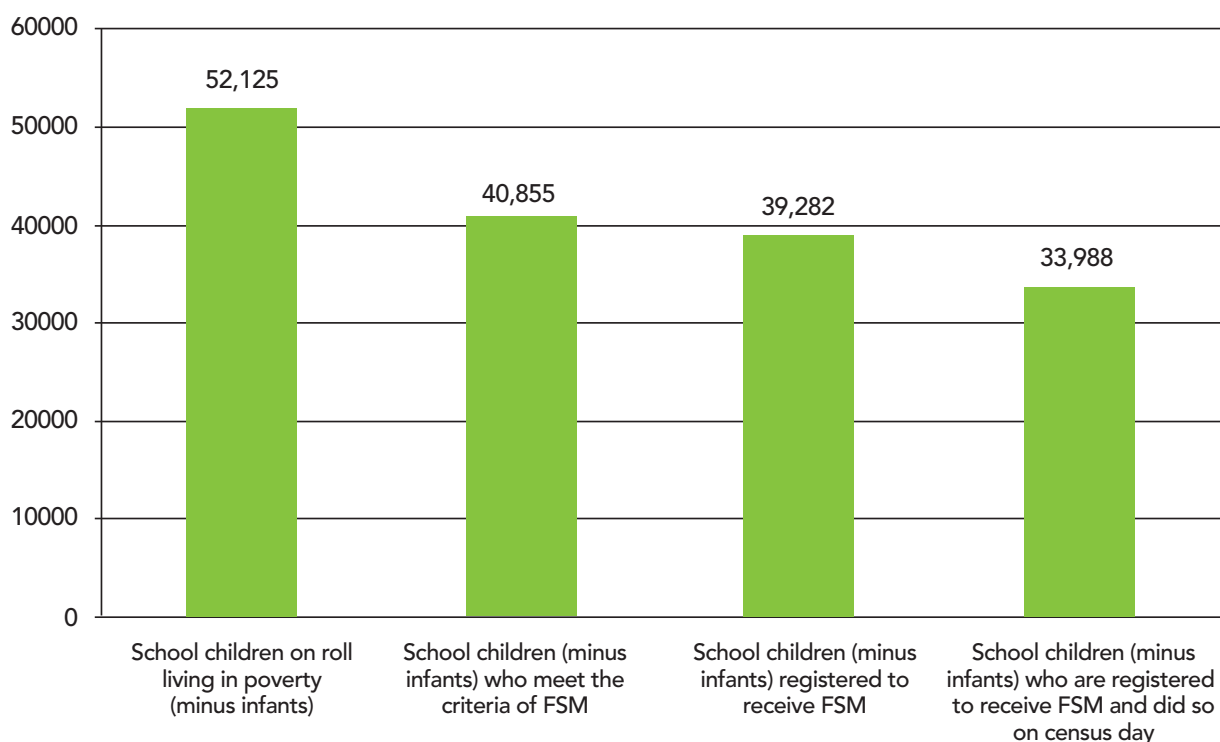
Source: Survey of Birmingham parents n=200, p value = 0.078

Free school meals

Access to healthy food and nutritional snacks is not an equal experience in school when they have to be purchased and even small costs can limit equal access. Having access to a healthy and nutritious school meal during the day is particularly beneficial for children in poverty. Young people themselves consulted with as part of the Commission's work were themselves aware of the importance of free school meals, as it might be a child's only healthy meal in a day.

The latest data available shows that there are 40,000 children on the school roll who meet the criteria for free school meals, with 37,000 (91%) registered to receive it.

There are 40,000 children on the school roll who meet the criteria for free school meals



Source: **Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics data**, Department for Education

In 2014, the Government announced it would be providing free school meals for all infant pupils. This is a welcome step in ensuring all children have access to a warm and nutritious meal during school hours.

Although each school's system is different in terms of administration and recording, schools often strive to maintain anonymity for their free school meals pupils. However, pupils often become aware of the circumstances of others, leaving some children feeling embarrassed and stigmatised.

"It's your biggest secret if you are on free school meals." Primary age school girl

When staff are particularly sensitive to the issues of free school meals pupils very much appreciate it.

"Last time when we went on a trip...they made it creative and they had these boxes and it was like a pirate box for boys (like a McDonald's Happy Meal box). It's still visible, like you can see that you're free school meals but it's kind of cool."

Primary age school boy

"The teacher marks off, on a computer, whether you're school dinners or packed lunch when you go into the hall. You can't see it's just a computer." Primary age school boy

The young people we spoke to noted that there was often greater choice at meal and snack times in secondary schools compared to primary schools. These options do increase the likelihood of poorer pupils having less food than others and the cost of snacks and meals is something pupils were acutely aware of. Most exposing is the ticket system, where the young people who get free school meals have to queue twice at lunchtime, whereas their peers only queue once.

Young people noted that free school meal underspend is removed from their account daily. This situation is not unique to Birmingham schools but it remains unclear why this is the case and where the money goes. Having any underspend rolled over would help young people to have more choice of what to eat.

One of the schools consulted, operates a system similar to primary school whereby all pupils received the same amount of food at no cost. These pupils had little negative to say about the food and were appreciative about the lack of cost.

Some local authorities have made substantial efforts to ensure those children and young people eligible are able to access free school meals. Bolton and Liverpool local authorities proactively identify children entitled to free school meals from the benefit data they hold, with the latter claiming that 1,000 additional children claim free school meals each year as a result of this proactive approach. In Liverpool, if families claiming benefits have school age children, the children are automatically deemed eligible for free school meals, even if parents haven't applied. If parents do not want their children to be listed as receiving free school meals, they are given the opportunity to opt out. Bolton, as a much smaller local authority, has a different approach. It is using specifically designed benefits application forms and software that is able to identify children eligible for free school meals. This data is then shared with schools through a regularly updated website that is available for head teachers to view^{xxx}. Proposals to set up a school food trust with the aim of introducing universal free school meals in primary schools is a promising start. In a city the size of Birmingham, Birmingham City Council has understandably undertaken to introduce this policy incrementally^{xxx}.

Recommendations

By December 2016 Birmingham City Council should establish the School Food Trust to provide free school meals for all school pupils whose families are in receipt of working tax credits, child tax credits and universal credit (when rolled out), with the ultimate aim of providing universal free school meals.

By June 2017, Birmingham City Council should have reviewed how improved data sharing processes could be used to automatically enrol children for free school meals in order to increase take up.

Recommendations and conclusion

There is no easy way to prevent or mitigate the impact of poverty in childhood: it is not within the gift of a single organisation or body; the solutions are not simple; and it manifests itself in many different ways. However, over the course of the Commission we have kept returning to five broad themes that, if appropriately tackled at the local level, can have a significant and positive impact on reducing and mitigating child poverty in Birmingham. Under each of these broad themes, we have made a range of recommendations. Based on the evidence we have collected, the people and organisations we have spoken to, and the best practice we have looked at, we have arrived at a set of recommendations.

The need to support families and their children out of poverty is a task which sits across all levels of the statutory sector, the voluntary sector, private business and other partners. Without safe and suitable accommodation, the ability to access the city you call home and the unfettered aspiration that should characterise all children's lives, Birmingham's children will be disadvantaged by poverty, and continue to be so. In concluding the Commission has sought to not only mitigate the impact of existing poverty, but also look to the future, to raise aspirations amongst our children and young people and tackle the cycle of inter-generational poverty. It is a shared responsibility, but one which the council as the civic heart of the city must lead.

A. Raising aspirations

Children we have spoken to have told us about their aspirations to be nurses, computer engineers and teachers, before immediately rebuking themselves with "But it will never happen". Childhood should be a time when aspirations are limitless.

Birmingham is England's second city. The city is home to more than 1.1 million people, with almost 22% of residents being under 15 and 46% of residents being under the age of 30. The city needs to raise its aspirations and those of its residents. Birmingham should be challenging the economic heft of London and competing with the creativity of Manchester.

1. By September 2017, the Birmingham Secondary Schools Forum working with Birmingham City Council, Birmingham Education Partnership and Business leaders should develop a specific offer for disadvantaged pupils at KS4 to provide intensive support to narrow the attainment gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged children at this level.

There is the potential that this could be funded through the pupil premium. It is proposed that a mentoring scheme with local businesses could be run alongside or be part of this specific offer for KS4 pupils.

The roll out of this scheme should focus initially on the lowest performing groups at KS4.

2. An annual or biennial 'Best of Birmingham' event should be introduced by July 2017 to showcase and celebrate outstanding children, young people and the adults that support them.

3. Birmingham City Council and Birmingham Education Partnership should assist schools to establish formal partnerships with universities, both in the UK and abroad. The purposes of doing so include: raising students' awareness and aspirations of the opportunities for higher education; enhancing partnerships between schools and universities for professional development; and influencing standards of teaching and learning.

This recommendation should be carried out by June 2017.

B. Mitigate the impact of existing poverty

While we can seek to reduce child poverty and even, ultimately, eradicate it, we must also support those currently facing it. With an average of almost 30% of children and young people in Birmingham living in poverty, families need to be supported with the day-to-day challenges poverty brings.

4. By September 2016, there should be a named Cabinet Member with responsibility for poverty.
5. By January 2017, adult education providers to provide data for all Birmingham City Council courses so that the reach and impact of adult education in the city can be appropriately analysed.
6. Through existing resources and by January 2017, the DWP (Department for Work & Pensions), working closely with schools, Birmingham City Council and the voluntary sector, should rotate benefits and other financial advisers around those schools/children's centres with high levels of need offering an outreach financial inclusion service.
7. Where required, parents should be encouraged to take up ESOL classes, particularly for groups whose language is a barrier to the labour market. These should be scheduled in schools around pick up/drop off times for children. This system should be in place by Spring Term 2017 and led by the ESOL providers in the city.
8. By January 2018, Birmingham City Council should adopt to undertake a formal review of their housing standards enforcement, with a view to introducing a landlord accreditation scheme such as that in operation in Newham.
9. By January 2018, there should be a planning restriction in place preventing new fast food outlets within 250 metres of schools.
10. By April 2017, Birmingham City Council should adopt a local 'breathing space' placing council tax accounts on hold for 21 days when a family gets in touch with them so as to enable the family time to seek independent debt advice. The Council should also adopt an explicit policy of not engaging bailiffs for families in receipt of Council Tax Support.

11. By July 2017, all schools should adapt their school uniform policy to ensure affordability is a primary consideration.
12. By December 2016 Birmingham City Council should establish the School Food Trust to provide free school meals for all school pupils whose families are in receipt of working tax credits, child tax credits and universal credit (when rolled out), with the ultimate aim of providing universal free school meals.

C. Share responsibility

Improving the lives of children and young people is not the sole responsibility of the City Council's Children, Young People and Families Service: it is the responsibility of all of Birmingham.

The impacts of poverty can be felt across the city and so require a city-wide approach to addressing them. Tackling child poverty isn't just a job for the City Council and voluntary sector: education providers, business groups and employers all need to accept responsibility and share the role of improving the outcomes and experiences of children and young people in Birmingham.

13. By December 2016, Birmingham City Council should work with JobCentrePlus and employment support providers to ensure that parents of two year olds taking up funded early education are specifically targeted with employment and skills support that encourages starting work or training, and that wrap-around childcare is sufficiently affordable and flexible to enable those parents to sustain and increase their employment opportunities.
14. Birmingham City Council should use its powers as a commissioner and champion of Birmingham to work with local businesses and the Living Wage Foundation to make Birmingham the first Living Wage City where all employers pay this minimum amount, by January 2019.
15. By June 2017, Registered Social Landlords should commit to introducing a minimum of 3-year tenancies, allowing for greater stability for tenants and landlords. By September 2017 this information should be made available for families on Birmingham City Council's website.
16. By March 2017, an audit should be completed on the number of schools that have access to counselling support and do a cost analysis of providing outreach counselling service to schools with the highest proportion of pupils in receipt of pupil premium.
17. The new city centre hub Pause should be advertised in services accessed by children and families, including the School Health Advisory Services and Children's Centres.
18. A targeted obesity programme in primary school to reduce the rise in childhood obesity should be in place by September 2017.

D. Break the cycle of poverty

Poverty perpetuates poverty

Child poverty leads to poor education attainment, which leads to fewer job opportunities, which leads to fewer better-paying jobs, which creates more poverty. This cycle can only be broken with concerted effort at each stage of the cycle. So many of the parents we spoke to who were in poverty grew up in poverty, with many of their children expecting their lives to reflect their parents'.

19. By June 2017, the tendering process should be used to ensure that new projects over £500,000 encourage greater numbers of quality apprenticeships offered to young people from low-income families in Birmingham and the wider West Midlands.
20. By January 2017, all Birmingham City Council-approved strategies should include a mandatory section on the public health and health inequality implications of the issue under consideration.
21. By April 2017, Birmingham City Council should exempt care leavers from Council Tax up to, and including, the age of 25.
22. By April 2019, Birmingham City Council should adopt a policy that no low-income family with children can be declared intentionally homeless.
23. By April 2017, Birmingham City Council should explore potential for subsidised transport for young people within city localities, using Merseytravel's 'My ticket' scheme as a model.
24. By June 2017, Birmingham City Council should have reviewed how improved data sharing processes could be used to automatically enrol children for free school meals in order to increase take up.

Appendix A

COMMISSIONER BIOGRAPHIES

Matthew Reed: Chair

Matthew is passionate about social justice, opportunity and inclusion. Since 2012 he has been Chief Executive of The Children's Society and is leading the charity to develop its work with many of the most disadvantaged children in the UK through further tackling the effects and causes of child poverty and neglect. Matthew was previously Chief Executive of The Cystic Fibrosis Trust and Marketing Director at Christian Aid.

Matthew has a degree in Theology from the University of Oxford, a degree in Engineering and Management from the University of Nottingham, and a Masters in Management from the University of Surrey.

He is a Member of the Chartered Institute of Marketing, a Fellow of the RSA, and a trustee of Children England.

Sam Monaghan: Vice Chair

Sam originally qualified as a graphic designer, but re-trained as a social worker in 1988. Over the first 15 years he worked as a child care practitioner, manager and senior manager in three Midlands local authorities. Whilst gaining his MBA, Sam moved to work in the voluntary sector, joining children's charity NCHJ as Deputy Director in 2003.

In 2006 he moved to take up the post of Director with Barnardo's in the Midlands. Sam took up the position of Interim Director of Children's Services UK in January 2013. He was appointed to the position of Executive Director of Children's Services on 1 September 2014.

Prof Pete Alcock

Pete has been teaching and researching in social policy for forty years. He joined the University of Birmingham in 1998. From 2003-2008 he was Head of the School of Social Sciences at Birmingham, from 2008-2014 he was Director of the Third Sector Research Centre (TSRC), and since 2013 he has been Director of the University's ESRC Doctoral Training Centre.

He is author and editor of a number of leading books on social policy including *Social Policy in Britain 4e* (2014), *The Student's Companion to Social Policy 4e* (2012), *Understanding Poverty 3e* (2006), *International Social Policy 2e* (2009) and *Why we need welfare* (2016). His research has covered the fields of poverty and anti-poverty policy, social security, and the role of the UK third sector.

Dr Jason Wouhra

Jason is Director and Company Secretary of East End Foods plc; the UK's premier producer of ethnic food ingredients and Cash and Carry wholesaler.

Having worked for the family business since 1998, he is currently Operations Director of its flagship £11 million Cash and Carry facility on the site of the ex HP Sauce factory in Aston and the company's Digbeth depot. Jason is also responsible for the East End Foods Group HR, Legal, Intellectual property and company Secretarial functions.

He holds a BA in Law with Business Studies, Masters in Commercial Law and is the youngest IoD Chartered Director and fellow of the Institute of Directors in the UK. Jason was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Aston University in July 2014 for services to Business and Charitable causes both regionally and nationally.

Jason is currently Chairman of the Institute of Directors West Midlands and also Non-Executive Director of University Hospitals Birmingham Foundation Trust. This is Queen Elizabeth hospital, which is Europe's largest hospital.

Previously Jason has been Vice Chairman of the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership and also Chairman of the Library of Birmingham Advisory Board.

Alison Moore

Alison has been working for St Paul's Community Development Trust for fourteen years, establishing one of the first Sure Start Local Programmes in Birmingham and her role has evolved over that time into her current position of Head of Children's Services managing a group of children's centres in Balsall Heath. The organisation achieved 'outstanding' from Ofsted, under the new framework, in September 2014.

Alison's career spans 34 years with strong roots embedded in early years and family support roles that have enabled her to make significant impact on the lives of children, young people and their families. Her current position has enabled her to draw upon her accumulated knowledge, skills and experiences and enabled her to develop as a strong voluntary sector and community advocate.

Her current PhD study at the University of Wolverhampton is to research: 'How can the voice of the child be effectively heard and used to facilitate change in children's centres in a locality?'

Peter Hay

Peter is one of a team of strategic directors working within the city council to transform outcomes for Birmingham's residents. Peter's responsibilities include Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care and Safeguarding, Education and Schools and coordinating the Health and Wellbeing Partnership.

Other responsibilities include housing needs and hosting Public Health functions. The city council has been transforming care to meet the demands of personalised care. It is also driving through improvements in children's safeguarding and school governance and working with Government appointed commissioners. With reduction in budgets more effective use of scarce resources and better outcomes are demanded.

From joining Birmingham in 2003, Peter has overseen major changes in residential and community provision of care. The council now offers individual budgets for all citizens receiving public funding alongside a growing emphasis on universal information, prevention and enablement.

In June 2012, Peter was awarded a CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours - the citation is for services to social and health care, and his role as president of ADASS.

Dr Dennis Wilkes

Dennis is a full time Consultant in Public Health for Children, Young People and families in Birmingham. He has also been a General Practitioner (North West England, West Midlands, and New Zealand), a Consultant in Public Health (Solihull, Coventry, and South Staffordshire), and Solihull's Director of Public Health (2002-2007).

His concern about the impact poverty has upon families has been formed through the experience of serving communities in Liverpool, Oldham, Stockport and North Solihull as a General Practitioner. In addition, having five children and serving in Solihull MBC at the time of the development of Every Child Matters, has aroused concerns about the limitation of educational and training opportunities for families, particularly in disadvantaged communities.

Cllr Robert Alden (Con)

Robert was elected as Leader of the Conservative Group in 2014 having previously been the deputy of the group since 2011. Robert was first elected to the council in Erdington Ward in 2006, where he lives and remains one of the Councillors for the Ward. In his time on the city council Robert has previously been Chairman of the Equalities and Human Resources Committee and a member of the Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) since 2007.

As a member of the ITA, Robert had been the Lead Member for the Environment and subsequently Finance until Conservatives lost control in 2012.

Prior to being elected as a councillor, Robert worked at Aston Villa Football Club Catering Company. Robert has a degree in Geography and a Post Grad Diploma in Air Pollution and Control and Management from the University of Birmingham (Edgbaston).

Cllr Roger Harmer (Lib Dem)

Roger has represented Acocks Green in three spells; from 1995-2001, 2008-12 and 2014 onwards. He is Deputy Leader of the Lib Dem Group on the council. He is currently a member of the Housing and Homes Overview Scrutiny Committee.

He lives in Acocks Green where he is also a School Governor and a Trustee of the Charles Lane Trust.

Roger studied Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Oxford University. He then came to Birmingham and after starting as a sales manager for an international chemicals company, switched to the voluntary sector. He has since worked for Business in the Community, the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit in what is now DCLG (as a secondee) and Groundwork UK. He is currently Head of Income Generation at Garden Organic.

Cllr Waseem Zaffar (Lab)

Cllr Waseem Zaffar MBE is the Birmingham City Council Cabinet Member for Transparency, Openness and Equality and has represented the people of Lozells and East Handsworth, where he was born and brought up, since 2011. Previously Chair of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee and a CEO of a not-for-profit organisation, Waseem was awarded an MBE in recognition of his services to the voluntary sector in June 2012.

Waseem's Transparency, Openness and Equality portfolio is the first of its kind in the country. His role will see a massive transformation of how both citizens and corporate citizens interact with Birmingham City Council. Waseem will be delivering the Council's commitment to open data and publishing information used to make decisions ensuring citizens cannot just judge value for money for themselves, but will be encouraged to co-design services.

In 2015, Waseem was proud to be re-elected Councillor for Lozells and East Handsworth, with an increased majority. He lives in the ward with his family, is a Governor of the primary school he attended, member of Unite the Union, a lifelong (yet still optimistic) Aston Villa fan and enjoys spending Summer weekends playing cricket.

Appendix B

Terms of Reference

2015

Purpose

No child growing up in Birmingham should have their childhood or future life chances scarred by living in poverty. The Leader's Policy Statement 2014 makes a commitment to reduce child poverty. One of the key recommendations is to set up a Birmingham Child Poverty Commission that will work with schools, social care, health services, voluntary and community sector and employers to tackle poverty across the city.

Overall Aim of Commission

Examine the extent and impact of poverty and inequality across Birmingham, identify the key challenges and issues; and report on causes and possible solutions.

Role of Commission

- Establish clear future targets for child poverty
- Update the child poverty needs assessment to understand the scale of the challenge
- Produce a Birmingham child poverty strategy/framework for action, building on local and national practice and exploring new approaches.
- Establish a coordinated approach to reducing child poverty by bringing together fora that address child poverty
- Identify and determine the impact of poverty on different groups, communities and geographical areas most at risk
- Make policy recommendations on integrated approaches that mitigate the effects of child poverty

Proposed Membership of the Commission

The Commission brings together experts and practitioners to identify solutions that mitigate against the effects of child poverty. Members of the Commission are individuals with the expertise, knowledge and experience that will help meet the objectives of the Commission. The composition of the Commission includes the following organisations and experts:

Chair	Matthew Reed , Chief Executive, The Children's Society
Vice Chair	Sam Monaghan , Executive Director of Children's Services, Barnardo's
Public Health	Dr Dennis Wilkes , Specialist Public Health lead for Children's Health & Wellbeing
Children and Families, Birmingham City Council	Peter Hay , Strategic Director of People
Voluntary and Community Sector	Alison Moore , Third Sector Assembly
Birmingham City Council	Cllr Waseem Zaffar , Cabinet Member for Transparency, Openness and Equality
Expert Commissioner	Prof Peter Alcock , Birmingham University
Private Sector	Dr Jason Wouhra , Regional Chair of Institute of Directors
Birmingham City Council	Cllr Robert Alden (Conservative)
Birmingham City Council	Cllr Roger Harmer (Liberal Democrat)

Governance

Chair: An independent chair will be appointed for the lifetime of the Commission.

The Child Poverty Commission is commissioned by Birmingham City Council. Findings and recommendations will be reported to Birmingham City Council (BCC).

The Commission will gather evidence from research, expert witnesses and children and families to draw up recommendations accordingly.

The accountable officer for delivering the Commission's recommendations will be the CEO of BCC, Mark Rogers, and the accountable Elected Member will be the leader of BCC, Cllr John Clancy.

Duration of Commission: Time limited for 10 months. However, timescales will be reviewed by the commission.

Work Strands

1. Develop a communications strategy to promote the work of the commission
2. Research and Review
 - Undertake desktop research to understand and examine successful approaches and policy interventions that look to address child poverty locally, nationally and internationally
 - Undertake a needs assessment that will help to identify the extent of the challenge and the causes of child poverty in Birmingham
 - Include the work already taking place under the national social inclusion declaration that makes recommendations to support families out of poverty.

3. Activities to support evidence gathering

Organise a series of focus sessions to explore:

- Symptoms and causes
- What action is needed?
- Identify existing activity and what works

Invite policy makers, practitioners, Councillors, communities from a range of sectors with knowledge, expertise and experience to explore the challenges and identify solutions that will help reduce child poverty.

Undertake a series of dialogues with children, young people and families to ensure the lived experience of poverty is reflected in the recommendations.

Secretariat: The Commission will be supported by Equalities, Community Safety and Cohesion Service, BCC:

Dr Mashuq Ally, Assistant Director, Equalities, Community Safety and Cohesion Service, BCC

Suwinder Bains, Partnership and Community Engagement Manager, BCC

Appendix B – Organisations and individuals consulted with as part of the Commission

The Commission would like to thank all the individuals and organisations that contributed their time and expertise to this report, including:

Contributors who offered their support and expert advice

Caroline Wolhuter, Head of Social Inclusion Ashram Moseley Housing Association
Ashram Housing Association

Professor Diane Kemp, Birmingham City University

Doddington Green Children's Centre

Gordon Lee, Chief Executive, Malachi

Helen Davies, Senior Economic Development Officer, West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority

Immy Kaur, Impact Hub, Birmingham

Jean Templeton, St Basils

John Short, Chief Executive, Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Trust

Rt Hon Liam Byrne MP

Marcia Lewison, W.A.I.T.S

Nilmini Perara, Attwood Green Children's Centre

Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP

Pauline Harrison, South and City College

Dr Simon Pemberton, University of Birmingham

Fred Rattley, The Church of England Birmingham

Shaz Manir, Amirah Foundation

Tim Evans, Chief Executive of Worth Unlimited

Revd Janet Knox, St Boniface Church

Birmingham Business Leaders focus group

Professor Helen Higson, Aston University

Birmingham Health and Wellbeing Board

Birmingham Faith Network

Focused discussions facilitated by **Suwinder Bains** and supported by **Samantha Tinsley Hunt**, Equalities, Community Safety & Cohesion Team, Birmingham City Council including:

Big Lottery roundtable with the Ladywood voluntary and community sector organisations hosted by **Manisha Patel**, Big Lottery

Birmingham Financial Inclusion Partnership hosted by BCC

Allen's Croft Project parents focus group session hosted by **Jacky Mulveen**

The Factory Youth Centre young people's focus session hosted by **Jan Collymore**, Senior Youth Worker and **Becky Crampton**, Youth Worker

Gateway Family Services: Katherine Hewitt CEO, **Jane Piggot Smith**, Departmental Manager and **Pregnancy Outreach Workers: Blossom Smith, Kadijah Irving, Jacqueline Smith**.

Kikit Pathways to Recovery CIC: Mohammed Ashraf, CEO and young people,

Future First School, young people workshop hosted by **Mohammed Majid**, Head Teacher

Aspire and Succeed, young people's event hosted by **Shale Ahmed**, Senior Youth Worker

'Big Conversations' with parents, Balsall Health Children's Centre hosted by **Alison Moore** and **Melanie Tovey**

Neighbourhood project visits to **Oasis Academy, Amirah Foundation** and **St Boniface Church** hosted by **Tim Evans**, Chief Executive of Worth Unlimited

Summerfield children's Centre, Focus group session with parents hosted by **Tracey Dickens**, Service Manager,

Supporting People Domestic Violence Forum hosted by **Maureen Connolly**, CEO, Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid

Young people's focus group, The Light House Youth Centre, Aston hosted by **Darnish Amraz**, Youth Worker

Young People's CPC group: Luke Holland, Alia Khan, Samira Ali, Billie Power, Hasan Zeb, Ciara O'Donoghue, Faizah Jamil, Harun Saleh

Written Submissions:

Peter Richmond, CEO and **Lisa Martinali**, Community Regeneration Director Castle Vale Community Housing Association

Jude Deakin, Project Manager: Gateway to Birmingham Advice Services

Project workers who led the participation work with schools across the city

Angharad Lewis – The Children's Society

Cath Morris – The Children's Society

Claudia Moynihan – The Children's Society

Esther Elliott – The Children's Society

Helen Maitland – The Children's Society

Jim Davis – The Children's Society

Joanna Petty – The Children's Society

Nicole Fassihi – The Children’s Society
Sorcha Mahony – The Children’s Society
Yvonne Bacon – Barnardo’s

Birmingham City Councillors and Council Officers who provided support

Councillor Sir Albert Bore, Former Leader of the Council
Richard Browne, Intelligence Manager
Kevin Caulfield, Childcare Quality and Sufficiency Manager
Parminder Garcha, Education Commissioning
Councillor John Clancy, Leader of the Council
Peter Hay, Director of People
Councillor Paulette Hamilton, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Brigid Jones, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Schools
Councillor James McKay
Mark Rogers, Chief Executive Birmingham City Council
Natasha Bhandal, Communications Manager, Equalities, Community Safety and Cohesion
Councillor Shafique Shah
Samantha Tinsley-Hunt, Partnership and Engagement Officer
Dr Dennis Wilkes, Public Health Lead for Children’s Health and Wellbeing
Parminder Garcha, Education, Employment & Skills, Birmingham City Council
Richard Shewring, Homeless & Pre-Tenancy Services, Birmingham City Council
Liz Stearn, Birmingham Adult Education Service, Birmingham City Council - ESOL
Commission Secretariat: Mashuq Ally, Assistant Director for Equalities, Community Safety and Cohesion
Suwinder Bains, Partnership & Community Engagement Manager, Equalities, Community Safety & Cohesion

Thank you also to **Tom Redfearn**, **David Ayre** and **Lucy Capron** of The Children’s Society who undertook significant research for the Commission and drafted this report.

References

- i We have used statistical tests to check whether differences between groups within the survey are statistically significant. Where we have said that a difference is statistically significant this means that there is less than a 1% likelihood of the difference happening purely by chance. This is a standard threshold used by researchers for surveys of this type.
- ii For a copy of the full Fair Schools report please contact The Children's Society's Community Participation team via wellbeing@childrenssociety.org.uk
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REPORT OF THE IMPROVEMENT QUARTET: COUNCILLOR JOHN CLANCY, COUNCILLOR BRIGID JONES, MARK ROGERS AND PETER HAY**EDUCATION SERVICES DELIVERY & IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2016/17**

The motion: The Council welcomes and notes the progress in education and proposed next steps.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Following Trojan Horse, BCC was required to produce an improvement plan.
- 1.2 The Education Quartet (including the Education Commissioner) approved the Education and Schools Strategy & Improvement Plan on 1 December 2014 and it was subsequently approved by Cabinet in March 2015.
- 1.3 A key workstream of the 2015/16 plan was to strengthen BCC's duties to vulnerable schools as set out in the statutory Schools Causing Concern guidance. The Education Commissioner supported the proposal that the delivery of these duties should be commissioned from the Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP). Twenty years of international evidence supports the view that the best, most sustainable form of school improvement is where strong schools support weaker schools. BCC officers, the Deputy Education Commissioner and BEP representatives worked from late 2014 to get the contract in place to commence on 1 September 2015. The early signs are that BEP has started its work strongly for BCC, having visited 87% of maintained schools as at May 2016. The formal contract monitoring is now in place and by the end of the school year in July 2016 BCC will have a full picture of BEP's first year in operation.
- 1.4 The November 2015 LGA Peer Review confirmed strong progress across all areas of the 2015/16 plan, with particular endorsements for the major achievements regarding progress for Safeguarding and Resilience, Strengthening Governance, the Education Data Dashboard (EDD) and School Improvement (SI). Overall the direction of travel and political and officer leadership were validated, whilst recognising the long journey ahead to consolidate the improvements.

- 1.5 The OfSTED monitoring visit in June 2016 revealed some weaknesses in relation to the safeguarding of children in education. It was found that significant numbers of pupils with Statements of SEND/Education, Health and Care Plans and those permanently excluded from schools were not provided with their educational entitlement and had not been “safe and well” checked. Plus, some children where there is Elective Home Education had not been seen by a City Council officer for too long. Our education planning has now been re-visited to take account of these matters and remedy them urgently – see Appendix A.

2. Improvement Planning

- 2.1 The Education Services Delivery & Improvement Plan 2016/17 is attached at Appendix B.
- 2.2 This plan will ensure that the outcomes expected are carried forward and work is undertaken to ensure they are achieved.
- 2.3 The Plan drives improvement across all education services and is designed to ensure that all of the progress and change to date is sustained, while continuing to meet new challenges.

This will be achieved via the delivery of improvements across 22 service plans covering all education services. The service plans are explained in more detail in Appendix 4 of the 2016/17 plan – The 22 Service Plans are available at: www.birmingham.gov.uk/educationimprovement

- 2.4 Appendix 1 of the plan provides a summary of key progress to date and Appendix 2 provides an update against each of the LGA Peer Review recommendations.

3. Progress

In terms of a mini self-assessment of progress to date, the following table provides a current state of play for the 2015/16 plan as we move into the new 2016/17 plan. The self-assessment test covers:

1. Are more or fewer schools going into category this year?
2. How is BCC getting on with ensuring it knows all its schools?
3. How do we know Safeguarding and Resilience has improved and children in education are safer?
4. How are we ensuring children are safer in any educational context?
5. Could something like Trojan Horse happen again?
6. How do we know the outcomes from the Year 1 plan are being achieved?

TEST	RESPONSE
<p>1. Are more or fewer schools going into category this year?</p>	<p>The general trend this year has been an improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the past 12 months there has been an improvement in the overall inspection outcomes of many schools in Birmingham • At the beginning of April 2015, there were 32 schools in special measures. As of February 2016 this has reduced to 30 • There has been a rise in schools rated as Good or Outstanding (from 335 as of March 2015, to 344 as of March 2016) • As of March 2016, 83% of LA maintained schools are rated as Good or Outstanding (up from 81% a year ago) – with 69% of academies and Free Schools rated as Good/Outstanding (although these may refer to ratings before academisation) • In terms of national comparisons, the latest available position is from the start of the 2015/16 academic year. At this point, Birmingham had a lower proportion of schools classed as good or outstanding - at both primary and secondary level – when compared to core city and national averages • Birmingham also has the second largest proportion of schools classed as inadequate out of all core cities.
<p>2. How is BCC getting on with ensuring it knows all its schools?</p>	<p>BCC has improved communication and engagement with schools through the Communications Theme of our improvement plan. The weekly School Noticeboard communications are published and communication channels are available to gather feedback from schools, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A generic email address • Routes for raising complaints and also for whistleblowing • An education Twitter account is available and used: @BCCEducation • Feedback of progress, including an invite for comment has been implemented via a Schools Survey channel. Later in the year we will be publishing a “You Said, We Did” document. <p>BCC also engages schools through publications such as the Core Offer and Traded Offer documents. In terms of engagement, The Core Offer includes a section on engagement which shows the channels used, this includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools Forum • The BCC HTs Consultative Group • Primary Forum • Special Forum

TEST	RESPONSE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary Forum • Nursery Forum. <p>So, schools know that they have a voice via these fora.</p> <p>In addition to this, there is engagement work via our Strategic Partners, for example, S4E and BEP.</p> <p>In particular, with effect from September 2015, BEP has been contracted to take over the SI work, previously undertaken by BCC. BEP has therefore undertaken many engagement events (e.g. the District Strategy Groups) and also visits from the District Leads working on SI to ensure BEP knows all schools and none are isolated. BEP has reported that¹:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For maintained schools, 87% have been visited by BEP and 66% of academy schools • District Strategy Groups are in place providing 82% coverage for maintained schools • The BEP staffing and Organisational structure are in place, enabling delivery of the contract • BEP has developed a framework for packages of support and work with schools • BEP now chairs the cross cutting group, which enables a focus (drive) on SI and also fosters close working between BCC and BEP for SI • BEP is engaged in the design authority meetings for the Education Dashboard (EDD) and there are discussions about collecting progress data. There will need to be detailed discussions about what BEP data will be shared with BCC for inclusion in EDD. <p>As part of the contract, information about schools is shared between BCC and BEP via the EDD. BEP chairs the cross cutting group where BEP and service leads from within BCC discuss schools that are potentially vulnerable and may require support. This captures potential issues from all service areas, such as safeguarding, governance, finance and HR, not just from the BEP/SI perspective.</p> <p>Finally, the other vehicle used to ensure BCC knows all its schools is via the Education Improvement Group (EIG), a meeting attended by BCC, Ofsted, BEP and the RSC which discusses and also identifies schools potentially requiring school improvement support.</p>

¹ All data as at 11 April 2016

TEST	RESPONSE
<p>3. How do we know Safeguarding and Resilience has improved and children in education are safer?</p>	<p>The Safeguarding and Resilience Theme is 99% complete (as at February 2016, with any delays simply around ensuring all schools receive the necessary guidance and training).</p> <p>The LGA Peer Review confirmed strong progress in this area (a few highlights are below):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Safeguarding training and development for staff across the system is strong, embedded and of high quality. The Council differentiates between a universal, targeted and specialist offer drawing on Home Office training products and more local resources. Targeted responses follow identification either by schools, Ofsted or through s175 (Safeguarding) audits, and the Council has created a bespoke support where serious weaknesses have been identified, including case management, CSE, FGM and forced marriage. There are robust plans to develop the function with a proactive focus on engaging schools with the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award, supporting schools to pro-actively weave the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child through the life of the school, and to adopt a train the trainer approach to ensure business continuity with 60 schools and multi-agency partners trained to deliver Prevent training</i> <i>Key officers are making a huge difference. The Resilience Advisor and the Safeguarding Advisor work together very effectively to bridge and broker support for schools and blend skill sets to ensure that bespoke support is available across universal, targeted and specialist responses. They are held in very high regard by everyone we spoke with.</i> <p>The LGA Peer Review also highlighted some areas for improvement, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>There are significant concerns across the system about children missing from home or care, from education, or because they are unknown to the authorities. This was expressed by all of the stakeholder groups to the peer team. Linked to this is a concern about growth in the unregistered, unregulated and supplementary school providers exacerbating on-going risks, for example around Prevent, CSE and FGM. There is an expectation amongst partners that the Council will provide strong leadership in establishing a city wide risk assessment of all settings, but acknowledge that this must be a shared responsibility</i> <i>The ‘fuzzy space’ between Children’s Social Care and Education was highlighted by internal and external stakeholders. This concerns the inevitable lack of clear demarcation between Education and Children’s Services. Filling this space will require practitioners from both services to develop better knowledge of each other’s policies and practice, and to develop a shared understanding. Managers have an important role to facilitate this process</i> <i>There is a gap in a systematic roll out of Council Safeguarding training and risk assessment across the Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) sector. This is an area of concern that needs to be addressed.</i>

TEST	RESPONSE
	This work has been carried forward into the 2016/17 education plan.
<p>4. How are we ensuring children are safer in any educational context?</p>	<p>BCC has worked closely with Ofsted resulting in the closure of four unregistered independent schools. The ongoing collaboration between Ofsted and BCC has fostered a joint approach in addressing emerging issues in alternative and independent provision.</p> <p>On 7 December 2015 a meeting was held with a group of independent schools and included a representative of the Muslim Liaison Committee. Sir Mike Tomlinson spoke at the meeting and there were presentations on the requirements for registration as an independent school, safeguarding, governance and community cohesion. An Independent schools forum is being established alongside the regular nursery, primary, secondary and special forums.</p> <p>A suite of new policies have been written, including a Quality Assurance framework for Alternative Provision, which is being adopted and implemented. Key officers have been trained to level two safeguarding with further training in the pipeline. A significant number of quality assurance visits to providers have been scheduled. BCC has also drawn up a new framework to monitor Elective Home Education. BCC has been working with Faith Associates to launch a new safeguarding toolkit for supplementary schools and wider faith based establishments.</p> <p>Recruitment is underway for a new Head of Service post for alternative provision/children missing education. This will be line managed by an Education Services Assistant Director. It is expected that this post will be filled by Autumn 2016.</p> <p>A development programme has been delivered to the current team, who have all participated in training on visits to premises, health & safety, safeguarding, behaviour and attendance.</p>
<p>5. Could something like Trojan Horse happen again?</p>	<p>There is always a residual risk, but this is now considered by the Improvement Quartet to be extremely unlikely. There continues to be effort to manage issues as they arise concerned with extremism and issues of governance.</p> <p>In summary, the key steps put in place over 2015 to reduce this risk have been:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BCC knows more about all schools through improved data, information and intelligence, via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The EIG, where BCC, Ofsted, BEP and RSC meet to discuss risks and issues monthly ○ BEP working as a strategic partner with BCC for school improvement and fundamentally as part of the contract to ensure we know all schools and ensure that none are isolated ○ Positive and two-way engagement between BCC and schools has improved (covered in the How is BCC getting on with ensuring it knows all its schools? row 2 above)

TEST	RESPONSE
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The channels for complaints and for whistleblowing have been improved and put in place to ensure anyone working with schools can report issues for investigation 3. Improvements have been made in the area of Strengthening School Governance – in particular, roles for oversight and intervention are now active in order for BCC to monitor and assess the quality, impact, strengths and weaknesses of governance. BCC is now more active in issuing warning notices and making interventions (i.e. IEBs) when issues are identified 4. The positive work BCC has undertaken on Safeguarding and Resilience and also Equality and Community Cohesion (see row 3 above on How do we know Safeguarding and Resilience has improved and children in education are safer?).
<p>6. How do we know the outcomes from the Year 1 plan are being achieved?</p>	<p>BCC has been testing outcomes on an ongoing basis via audits and the schools survey to ensure changes are embedded, sustainable and viewed in a positive way by schools. The ultimate test over time will be improved Ofsted judgements overall and no repeat of a Trojan Horse or similar event. An appropriate time to judge this and (for example) the performance of BEP for School Improvement will be at the end of school year 2015/16.</p> <p>In addition, BCC commissioned an LGA Peer Review (in Oct/Nov 2015) of the Education and Schools Strategy & Improvement Plan 2015/16 (programme) to test independently progress and outcomes. This involved the LGA Peer Review team talking to schools, our partners and to BCC members and officers. The report was generally positive, with some recommended areas for improvement.</p> <p>Scope and focus of the peer challenge</p> <p>BCC asked the peer team to challenge progress with implementing five of the workstreams:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build confidence in BCC's ability to lead the overall system of education through a relentless focus on core duties 2. Ensure that there are robust and effective governance arrangements in place and working effectively in schools 3. Work with schools to ensure that all children and young people in Birmingham learn in an environment that is safe and promotes their overall wellbeing 4. Work with partners to deliver improvements in schools 5. Drive innovation and improvement through new district structures that promote collaborative leadership and enhance accountability. <p>In challenging these, the LGA Peer Review team was asked to focus on progress, outcomes and, where possible, impact of actions.</p>

TEST	RESPONSE
	<p>Key Messages from the LGA Peer Review</p> <p><i>The Council has made good progress in progressing work across all of the five work streams and there is confidence amongst members, officers and partners that the basics are being put in place for a strong and effective city-wide system of school improvement. Stronger professional leadership of the service is making a significant impact and is seen by many as crucial. Governance is now high on the agenda and has a higher profile with schools and other stakeholders. The Council provides good training and support on safeguarding and practice in data management and audits have improved.</i></p> <p><i>The Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP) is widely regarded as the right vehicle for school improvement with good buy-in from schools. These are robust foundations for an education system that will transform the lives of children and young people. In addition to our feedback on each of the five work streams, there are some corporate reflections for you to consider:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Following the leadership election, Birmingham needs to demonstrate the political will and corporate capacity to ensure its resources are focused in shaping and delivering a shared vision which reflects its ambitions for 'the youngest city in Europe'</i> <i>• The political and managerial leadership of the City need to rigorously pursue the delivery of a shared ambition and vision for Education</i> <i>• Organisational transparency needs to be developed so that members, managers and partners can see the implementation of decisions and support growing self-awareness</i> <i>• Birmingham needs to develop a relationship with its schools that reflects its ambitions for the City and which ensures the delivery of its core responsibilities.</i>

1. BACKGROUND

The monitoring visit from HMI, on the 1st and 2nd June, was the third visit since BCC's Children's Social Care was judged inadequate in May 2014. The June 2016 HMI visit was different, as it included a focus on safeguarding arrangements in schools and the Council's response to children missing education and those who are educated at home as well as the Council's response to Prevent in schools. HMI's decision to include safeguarding in education within the monitoring visit programme was unusual, as the inspection framework is designed for local authorities in intervention for children's social care.

Even though significant improvements have been made and the Education Services Delivery and Improvement Plan 2016/17 addresses points raised in the feedback, it was clear that some current practice did not stand up to scrutiny.

HMI's feedback can be summarised into three areas of improvement:

- leadership of safeguarding within education services
- children with Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs)
- children out of school and not receiving education.

2. LEADERSHIP of SAFEGUARDING within EDUCATION SERVICES

When considering HMI's concerns, about strategic leadership of safeguarding children in schools as being 'weak and lacking rigour' and the local authority's safeguarding responsibilities, as outlined in the White Paper, it is acknowledged that there is a need to build capacity both at operational and senior level.

The gap at operational level has already been addressed, with a new Head of Service post for alternative provision/children missing education being established and interim arrangements in place from the 1st August 2016. These arrangements will provide robust management oversight and improve the quality of practice, for children currently out of mainstream education.

Swift action has also been taken to remedy the strategic leadership of the SEND agenda, with the responsibility being transferred immediately, on a temporary basis, to an experienced senior officer leading Access to Education. This officer is currently reviewing the SEND service plans, to ensure all areas needing to improve are being address.

This still leaves a gap around the strategic leadership of safeguarding within education services. In line with the requirements of the White paper, the recommendation would be to create a fourth Assistant Director post, taking responsibility for Education Safeguarding. This newly created post would also ensure stronger join up with children's social care as many of the children at the heart of these policies are shared between education and children's social care. Pending that, the interim Assistant Director – Education will drive forward the required improvements, in order to secure good service delivery to our most vulnerable children.

3. CHILDREN WITH EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE PLANS (EHCPs)

HMI highlighted that too many children with a statement of education need or EHCP are not receiving appropriate education which meets their needs and that vulnerable children who have been excluded from education do not have their needs catered for well enough, including checks to ensure the child is safe.

The initial action taken was to ensure that the out of school list for children with EHCPs was up-to-date and secure home visits for those that had not been seen for some time. We have identified 81 children out of school. In order to address the capacity to undertake the required home visits we intend to involve Educational Psychologists, so they can be completed before the Summer break.

Additionally, we have secured immediate school placements through directing schools to take children and being firmer with parents, following up with non-attendance procedures if necessary. Of the 81 children 29 placements have been resolved for September start and 52 remain outstanding. The acting Assistant Director and Head of Service are fully engaged and monitoring progress via weekly meetings.

The children who have been excluded from school and do not have an educational placement are currently being supported by home visits to check on their welfare. The Exclusion Team has been temporarily enhanced by two part-time posts to introduce and develop a pupil tuition programme. This programme is being delivered in educational settings close to each pupils home. These arrangements are in place until an educational placement is identified.

The dialogue around 'sustaining inclusion' has supported colleagues in Secondary Head Teachers Forum to reach agreement in developing a delegated responsibility and processes for managing exclusions across educational collaborations for April 2017. In the primary phase there are currently discussions being held with five consortiums around the introduction and development of a 'sharing panels' approach to managing exclusions.

The process for supporting looked after children with no school place has been enhanced by the introduction of a weekly meeting between management lead from the Virtual School and SENAR.

4. CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL AND NOT RECEIVING EDUCATION

HMI stated that the individual teams holding responsibility for safeguarding children in schools are not working together effectively. This will be addressed through the three new policies (Elective Home Education, Alternative Provision and Children Missing Education), which have been written since January 2016, and endorsed by the Education Safeguarding Board. They will be implemented by schools, including academies and free schools, from September 2016. These policies provide greater clarity and establish a new set of procedures, minimum standards and timeframes for the delivery of quality service.

The next phase is the implementation of the new policies. A skills audit has already been completed and a training plan put in place to ensure the workforce implementing the new policies are highly skilled and understand their role in delivering a good service. Performance monitoring has been strengthened, both at service and Assistant Director level, to ensure there is compliance in the delivery of the policies leading to a greater quality in service delivery.

The other strand is the communication plan. The plan will include information for Headteachers and senior leaders, governors, parents and children. Training events will be organised, including a Headteacher seminar, to further raise schools' awareness and understanding of the importance of their duties in delivering these policies.

The final issue relating to this area was the lack of oversight of vulnerable children. There are many teams working with vulnerable children, who generate lists containing concerns, actions and outcomes for these children. There is a need for a single database, which is currently being developed, which will provide an accurate overview of the numbers of children being educated out of school or missing education, the ability to determine how we best meet their needs and the impact of this work.

EDUCATION SERVICES DELIVERY & IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2016 /17



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1. INTRODUCTION FROM THE LEADER OF BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

In introducing this plan I want to say a few words about my commitment to children and the challenge to all of us to do better for our children and young people.

As a teacher, it is something I feel very personally. It is more important to me than anything else I could ever do as Leader of this City Council.

This Council will put children front and centre in terms of priorities.

Safeguarding children remains our number one priority. But a good education, starting at the earliest stages of learning and care, is the best route to improving the lives of our citizens. Every child who lives in the city deserves to be educated in a good or outstanding school. Schools that are properly regulated and where children and young people are given the protections they deserve and the opportunity to learn in an atmosphere of curiosity, freedom and equality.

I have coined the phrase: 'Every Child, Every Citizen, Every Place Matters'. This is not just a slogan. It is a promise that every school matters, and everyone in those schools matter.

So, we will challenge provision where outcomes for our children are not good enough and we will ensure that the right support is put in place to see that swift improvements are made.

I want to see Birmingham recognised as the leading city for young people, for learning and for skills, in a city in which active citizenship and cohesive communities are a given. In a city where no young person is left behind, and education and employment is used to address inequality and introduce fairness. In a city in which we give our children and young people the best opportunities of any city, whether that is about learning, leisure, travel, connectivity or any other aspect of their lives.

I will work with other civic leaders including those who can be found in all our schools: certainly our governors, teachers and support staff; and, yes, civic leaders can be found amongst our children and young people.

Through this plan the Council will be an advocate for children and citizens, regardless of the future local authority role in education or the category of a school. This is at the core of our shared education vision and strategy.

Councillor John Clancy
Leader of Birmingham City Council

2. THE EDUCATION SERVICES DELIVERY & IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2016/17

2.1 The Future Landscape

Education has the power to transform lives; that is why in Birmingham we are continuing to improve learning across the City to drive positive outcomes for all Birmingham children.

This Education Services Delivery & Improvement Plan 2016/17 (the Plan) recognises Birmingham City Council's (BCC's) role as a champion for all of Birmingham's children, young people and their families. BCC will provide leadership by influencing, shaping and partnering. It is a one-year plan, focussing on the quality of learning provision, the safeguarding of children, extending opportunities for vulnerable children and harnessing exceptional leadership across and beyond the educational system. Underpinning the Plan is our aim to narrow the gap in achievement between those groups performing highly, above national average, and those groups that underperformed for a long time. This aim is hard wired into Birmingham Education Partnership's (BEP's) approach to school improvement.

The recently published White Paper, 'Educational Excellence Everywhere (March 2016)' outlines a future vision for education which builds on previous reforms. Nothing stays the same which means the role of BCC is ever changing. In the drive for consistently high quality education across Birmingham, there is a need for us to work with all educational leaders in order to secure improvement.

Whilst delivering these priorities, we will be working on a more radical, transformative plan for 2017/18 onwards in the light of imminent changes at national education policy level. This will be achieved by refreshing and updating the Plan as the future picture becomes clearer. The Adoption and Education Act has increased the powers of the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) and mandated that all schools found to require special measures will become academies. The new version of Schools Causing Concern guidance (March 2016) sets out the new arrangements for school improvement between local authorities and the RSCs. The Department for Education (DfE) is also consulting on ending Local Authority (LA) school improvement duties and the removal of almost all of the Education Support Grant (ESG) by September 2017. The new Act and the anticipated outcome of the consultation, combined with the debate generated by the White Paper will have a profound impact on BCC's role and relationship with schools.

BCC, like all other local authorities, will no longer be running schools in the traditional way but instead will be working in partnership with all education providers to achieve its aims.

2.2 Summary of the Plan

Birmingham Education Services are organised into core statutory and traded services delivered by BCC and its strategic partners (e.g. Services for Education (S4E) and BEP).

The Plan drives improvement across all education services and is designed to ensure that all of the progress and change to date is sustained, while continuing to meet new challenges.

The four key actions of the Plan are:

1. To work with strategic partners to build a great education offer for all in a changing landscape
2. To improve safeguarding and resilience for all to keep all children safe from harm
3. To champion fair opportunities for vulnerable children and young people
4. To ensure exceptional leadership across and beyond the education system.

This will be achieved via the delivery of actions across 22 service plans covering all education services. The service plans are explained in more detail in **Appendix 4 – The 22 Service Plans** are available at:

➤ www.birmingham.gov.uk/educationimprovement

To take account of the future landscape, these service plans will be refreshed at least annually to support the overall delivery of the single plan and keep it on track to achieve the required outcomes.

The service plans pull together all services' key activities to support the delivery of the priorities, vision and principles detailed in this paper.

The service plans are structured around each service within Education, as described in the Core Offer and Traded Offer to Schools documents. These documents can be found at:

- www.birmingham.gov.uk/education-coreoffer
- www.birmingham.gov.uk/tradingforeducation

Each service plan details:

- Activities and deliverables to be completed
- Performance indicators that will measure progress
- Outcome and impact to be achieved through completing the activity
- Officers leading the activities and timeframes for completion
- The headline service budget and number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff dedicated to that service.

The plans also include core schools-facing services outside of the Education Services management structure such as Schools HR, Schools Financial Services and Stakeholder Engagement.

In outline, the Plan includes:

- The to-be-completed activities remaining from the Education and Schools Strategy & Improvement Plan 2015/16 (where the service agrees this action is still relevant)
- Actions to address the recommendations from the Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Review (November 2015), including the shape of the Education Improvement Group (EIG)

- The actions needed to secure the radical, sustained improvement of Birmingham's Education Services that:
 - Perform better
 - Are more efficient and effective
 - Are client-focused
 - Are commercially agile and responsive to the changing education landscape
- Deliverables to develop the relationship and structure of Education Services within the Directorate for People, including defining support service relationships with the Commissioning Centre of Excellence and Business Change
- Actions to:
 - Ensure closer working links between Education Services and Children's Social Care (CSC) services and with Health and other key stakeholders, to ensure joined up working on supporting children, their families and their schools. In particular, ensure there are links between the CSC 13 priorities 2016/17 and the 22 education service plans (and vice versa)
 - Link Social and Community Cohesion to the 14+ Pathways economic well-being work and key target outcomes (e.g. No Children NEET¹)
 - Build on the Ladywood Pathfinder project and the Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP) work in Districts to establish full links with BCC District structures
- Actions to ensure we are in line with Future BCC vision and value to support:
 - i. Protecting the most vulnerable children and young people
 - ii. Understanding service demand to do less directly and within smaller budgets
 - iii. Cross-organisational working
 - iv. Partnership working within BCC, across the city and regionally.

Appendix 3 (Co-ordination of the Plan), provides an outline of how delivery of the plan will be co-ordinated and managed.

In terms of closure of the 2015/16 Education Plan, **Appendix 1 (Self-Assessment of the 2015/16 Education Plan)**, provides a summary of key progress to date and **Appendix 2 (LGA Peer Review recommendations)**, provides an update against each of the LGA Peer Review recommendations.

¹ Not in Education, Employment or Training

3. BIRMINGHAM FACTS

Population

- In terms of population Birmingham is the largest UK city outside of London with an estimated population of over 1.1million² as of 2014. The city has also grown at a faster rate than the national average. It is estimated to have grown by 3% between 2011 and 2014 alone³
- This growth brings with it many challenges; Birmingham already has a larger than average household size and a higher proportion of overcrowded households than the country as a whole. Birmingham's population is expected to grow by a further 150,000 people by 2031, and it is estimated that the city will need a further 80,000 houses by this time⁴. This will have significant impact on our schools and education services
- Birmingham is one of the youngest cities in Europe with just under 46% of the population aged under 30. Within the next 5 years the population aged between 0 to 4 is due to grow by 1.1% to 87,753 children; the 5 to 9 population is expected to grow by 5.0% to 84,588 but the largest growth in Birmingham's children will be the 10 to 14 age group – increasing by 7.7% to 78,876⁵.

² ONS Mid Year Estimates 2014 (1,101,360)

³ Difference between 2014 MYE and 2011 Census population

⁴ Based on the 2012 Strategic Housing Market Assessment, as used for the Birmingham Development Plan 2031 - <http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/plan2031>

⁵ ONS Population Projects 2012

Diversity

- Birmingham is a welcoming place and is proud of its “super-diversity”. Academic research suggests that there are people from nearly 200 countries who have made Birmingham their home⁶. The 2011 Census revealed that just over two in five people (42.1%) classified themselves within an ethnic group other than white British, compared to 30% in 2001, a rise of 12%
- The demographic makeup of Birmingham's young people has also changed significantly over recent years and is becoming increasingly diverse. For example, according to the 2011 census over 60% of the under 18 population is now from a non-white British background, compared to around 44% in 2001.

Language

- Some 7.5% of households in Birmingham do not have/use English as their main language
- Two-fifths (43%) of Birmingham's school children have a first language that is known or believed to be other than English. This equates to 38,089 pupils, which is 1.3% more than in 2014.

Deprivation

- Birmingham has significant pockets of deprivation across the city. According to the 2015 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), Birmingham is ranked the 6th most deprived local authority district in relative rankings⁷. The income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI) ranks Birmingham 15th nationally, with over 30% of children living in a deprived household.

⁶ Institute for Research into Superdiversity (IRiS) University of Birmingham 2013

⁷ IMD 2015 for Birmingham data: <https://researchbcc.wordpress.com/2015/09/30/index-of-multiple-deprivation-2015-national-and-birmingham/>

Birmingham Education Overview

Source: EdSI Schools Database April 2016

446

Schools

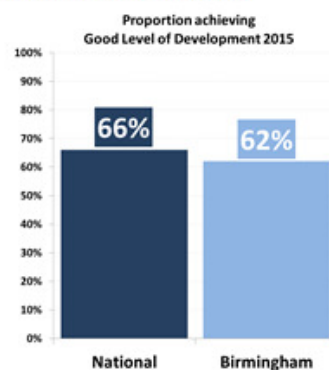
	LA	Academy	Free	Total
Nursery	27			27
Primary	207	90	1	298
Secondary	30	45	7	82
All Through	2	1	2	5
Special	24	3		27
Alternative			6	6
PRU	1			1
Total	291	139	16	446

Early Years and Children Centres

Nursery School	27
Nursery Class	174
PVIs	1,542
(of which Childminders)	620
EEE-Registered PVIs	707
(of which Childminders)	308
Children Centres	60

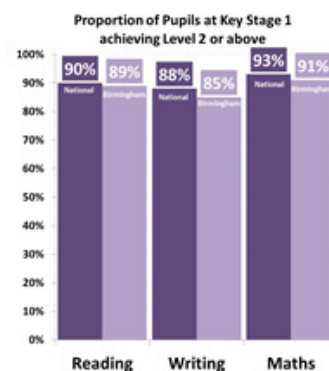
Early Years

In 2015 62% of pupils achieved a Good Level of Development



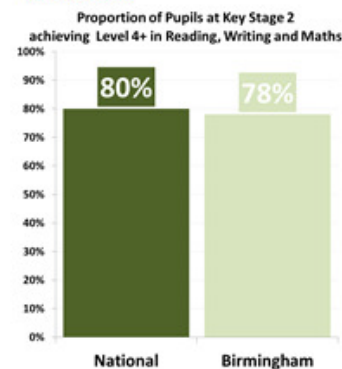
Key Stage 1

Birmingham is slightly below national average across reading, writing and maths



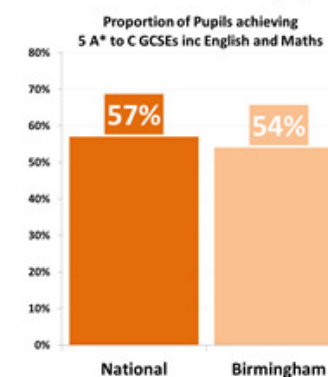
Key Stage 2

In 2015 78% achieved Level 4+ in RWM at Key Stage 2 (80% nationally)



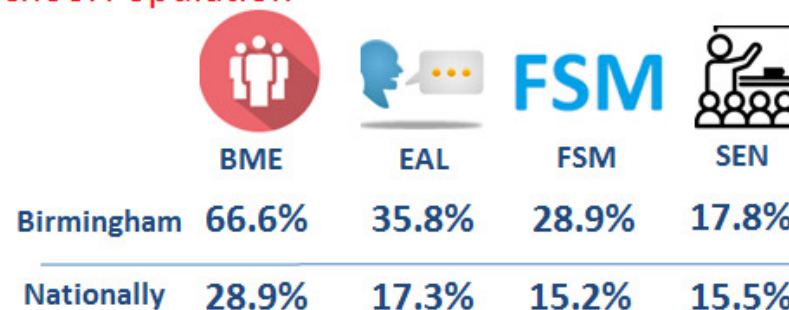
GCSE

In 2015 54% of pupils achieved 5 A* to C inc English and Maths below the national average (57%)



School Population

Census Jan 2015



Ofsted Ratings

February 2016



4. EDUCATION SERVICE PERFORMANCE MEASURES

4.1 The Education Performance Measures

The nine education measures included in the BCC Corporate Business Plan are:

1. Proportion of Pupils in Good/Outstanding Schools
2. Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)
3. Key Stage 2 Attainment
4. GCSE Attainment
5. Children in Care at GCSE
6. Percentage of Year 12-14 pupils Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)
7. School Places for Excluded Children
8. Special Education Needs (SEN) – Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP)
9. School Attendance.

The table below provides baseline data, comparators and targets for the nine performance measures, which will be used to determine the impact of the Plan and the effectiveness of the partnership with BEP. Due to changes in the way progress and attainment outcomes are to be measured, it has not been possible to provide numerical targets against some of the performance measures.

4.2 Performance Summary

- The proportion of good and outstanding schools has improved slightly and the number of schools in special measures has reduced slightly
- EYFS performance has improved in Birmingham across all subjects and areas. Birmingham is in line with statistical neighbours and core cities but below national average
- Key Stage 2 performance has improved in all areas and across subjects, however Birmingham is still slightly below national average and statistical neighbours
- GCSE performance has declined over the past 3 years and is now below national averages, however GCSE performance from Children in Care is above national comparators
- The proportion of 16 to 18 year olds classed as NEET decreased between 2014 and 2015; however, there is still a significantly above average proportion of the cohort whose situation is unknown.

Key Performance Measure	Baseline 2015/16	DOT	National Average	Statistical Group Average	Core City Average	2016/17 Target
Proportion of Schools Inspected as Good or Outstanding	78% (Feb 2016)	↑	81.8% (July 2015)	80.9% (July 2015)	78.2% (July 2015)	90%
Early Years Foundation Stage (Good Level of Development)	62% (2015)	↑	66%	62%	62%	70%
Key Stage 2 Attainment¹ (2015: Level 4 or above in Reading, Writing and Maths, 2016: TBC)	78% (2015)	↑	80%	79%	78%	In line with national average
GCSE Attainment² (2015: 5 A* to C inc English and Maths, 2016: TBC)	54.3% (2015)	↓	57.3%	51.9%	52.4%	In line with national average
Children in Care GCSE² (2015: 5 A* to C inc English and Maths, 2016: TBC)	16.7% (2015)	↑	13.8%	N/A	N/A	Above national average
Persistent Absence³ (2015 data: State-funded Pri, Sec and Special Schools - six half terms, 2016 - TBC)	4.0% (2014/15)	N/A	3.7%	3.9%	4.4%	In line with national average
Percentage of Pupils Not in Education Employment or Training	5.2% (2015/16)	↑	4.2%	4.8%	5.9%	4%
Excluded Children without a school place for more than 6 days	61 (March 2016)	TBC	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Special Education Needs - Education Health and Care Plans Percentage of EHCPs completed within 20 weeks	71% (Mar 2016)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%

N/A – Comparator Data not available

¹Key Stage 2 Assessment processes due to change in 2016

²GCSE Assessment process due to change in 2016

³Persistent absence definition changing for 2015/16 academic year

Statistical Group: Derby, Enfield, Luton, Manchester, Nottingham, Sandwell, Slough, Walsall, Waltham Forest, Wolverhampton

The above measures are the high level performance targets embedded in the Council wide Business Plan and this Plan.

However, these will be underpinned by a more detailed performance management framework – covering the whole of the Education and Skills landscape. This framework will contain more detailed measures around school attainment, attendance, and exclusions, along with destination measures for students at 16, 17 and 18 - for example the proportion gaining a Level 2 and 3 qualification.

It is also crucial that performance monitoring is disaggregated to ensure that support and interventions are targeted at the groups and places most in need. Therefore the wider performance management framework will embed “closing the gap” at its heart – with disaggregated analysis and information not just across schools, but also by districts and wards, disadvantaged and vulnerable children, and those community groups where performance has historically been below average.

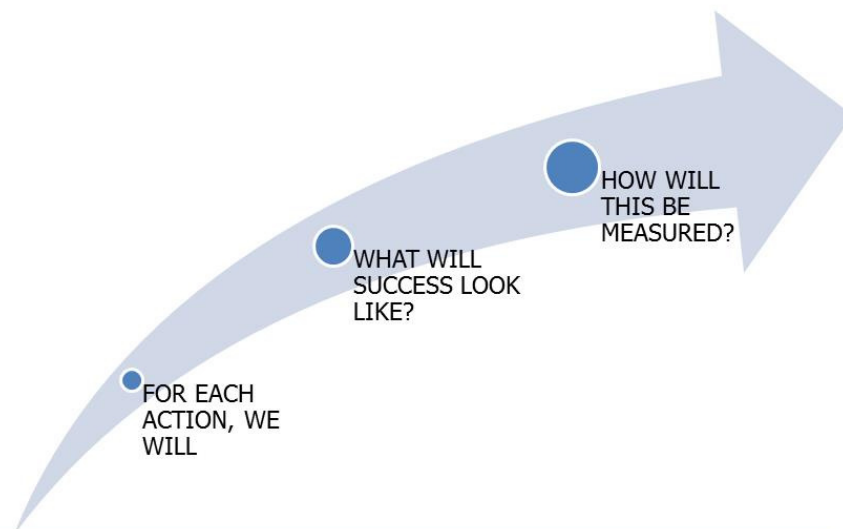
5. THE PLAN AND KEY ACTIONS

5.1 The Service Map

WE WANT TO GET TO....	BUT WE NEED TO KNOW WHERE WE ARE NOW?	IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE....	WHICH WE WILL DO BY.....	KEEPING TO SOME PRINCIPLES.....	DELIVERED VIA.....	WHILST TAKING ACCOUNT OF.....	
Achieving the Leader's Vision What success looks like	Baseline Data	Improved Outcomes	Delivering some key actions	Goals and Design Principles	22 Service Plans	Embedding and Sustaining Improvements from the 2015/16 Plan	The need to manage effectively and deal with changes and risks
WHERE IN THE PLAN WILL I FIND THIS?							
S1 Introduction from the Leader of the Council S5.2 The Key Actions - What Will Success Look Like?	S3 Birmingham Facts S3 Birmingham Facts - Birmingham Education Overview S4.2 Performance Summary	S4.1 The Education Performance Measures S4.2 Performance Summary (Targets) S5.2 The Key Actions - How Will This Be Measured?	S2.2 Summary of the Plan S5.2 The Key Actions	S2.2 Summary of the Plan App 4 The 22 Service Plans	S2.2 Summary of the Plan S5.2 The Key Actions - We Will App 4 The 22 Service Plans	App 1 Self-Assessment of the 2016/16 Education Plan App 2 LGA Peer Review Recommendations	S2.1 The Future Landscape S6 The Financial Landscape App 3 Co-Ordination of the Plan

5.2 The Key Actions

The tables below describe for each of the four actions:



The 4 key actions of the plan are:

1. To work with strategic partners to build a great education offer for all in a changing landscape
2. To improve safeguarding and resilience for all to keep all children safe from harm
3. To champion fair opportunities for vulnerable children and young people
4. To ensure exceptional leadership across and beyond the education system.

ACTION 1: TO WORK WITH STRATEGIC PARTNERS TO BUILD A GREAT EDUCATION OFFER FOR ALL IN A CHANGING LANDSCAPE		
WE WILL:	WHAT WILL SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?	HOW WILL THIS BE MEASURED?
Create a learning culture across the city that expects high levels of attainment for all children, starting from early years	Every family should be able to send their child to a good or outstanding early years setting, school or post 16 provider	Proportion of Good/Outstanding schools
	Wide range of settings positively engage all children and young people in quality education and learning pathways	Excluded children without a school place after 6 days Percentage of YR12-14 pupils NEET
Shape school organisational proposals in order to ensure all Birmingham's children and young people are in receipt of a suitable education	All children and young people make good educational progress and reach high levels of attainment, regardless of their background	Early Years - Proportion of children achieving a Good Level of Development Percentage of pupils reaching the expected standard at the end of KS2 KS4 - GCSE Attainment Average Progress 8 Score Percentage achieving threshold in English and maths
Sustain Inclusion through early intervention and collaboration		Post 16 - Percentage of YR12-14 pupils NEET
Influence the 16-19 reforms	A successful traded programme which supports schools and academies in ensuring standards and training are of the highest quality	Proportion of Good/Outstanding schools
Secure a traded offer that provides professional support and advice to subscribing schools and academies	High quality learning provision and progression pathways for all learners, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Children in Care, in order to secure economic prosperity	Percentage of YR12-14 pupils NEET Children in Care at GCSE
Engage with partners in reviewing and shaping a highly effective Early Years offer	The Early Years sector delivering improved outcomes through a period of system change	Early Years - Proportion of children achieving a Good Level of Development

ACTION 2: TO IMPROVE SAFEGUARDING AND RESILIENCE TO KEEP ALL CHILDREN SAFE FROM HARM		
WE WILL:	WHAT WILL SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?	HOW WILL THIS BE MEASURED?
<p>Continue to work with schools and settings to ensure that all children and young people in Birmingham learn in an environment that is safe and promotes their overall well being</p> <p>Ensure closer working links with the police, social care, health and other agencies to ensure a partnership approach in protecting children, their families and schools</p> <p>Secure high quality Alternative Provision, Elective Home Education and Independent schools with focussed pathways for children who require non mainstream education</p> <p>Develop an integrated approach in the delivery of school attendance and children missing education</p>	Every pupil in alternative provision receives the same quality of education and care that they would get in a school classroom	Proportion of Good/Outstanding schools Excluded children without a school place after 6 days
	All children and young people have excellent school attendance records which enhances their ability to achieve well in education	School Attendance
	Robust tracking mechanisms that ensures all children are in suitable education, with swift safeguarding interventions for vulnerable children out of school	Children in Care at GCSE Percentage of Year 12-14 pupils NEET School Places for Excluded Children Special Education Needs - Education Health and Care Plans
	All children, young people and their families have access to early help and prevention support	School Attendance School Places for Excluded Children Special Education Needs - Education Health and Care Plans Children in Care at GCSE

ACTION 3: TO CHAMPION FAIR OPPORTUNITIES FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE		
WE WILL:	WHAT WILL SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?	HOW WILL THIS BE MEASURED?
Develop a new approach to SEND with shared outcomes across education, health and care for 0-25 year olds Embed the SEN Reforms Raise educational outcomes and narrow the gap for vulnerable groups	A co-produced future which offers education, health and care opportunities for young people and adults to reach their potential and to actively participate in community life throughout their lives	Percentage of Year 12-14 pupils NEET
	Access to high quality educational provision and effective support in place for children and young people with SEN	Percentage of EHCPs completed within 20 weeks
	Disadvantaged children and young people will perform at the same level as their peers	KS4 Progress 8 for Children in Care
	Deliver fair and sustainable funding	Proportion of Pupils in Good/Outstanding schools
	Parents/carers and children are empowered to improve educational outcomes	Early Years - Proportion of children achieving a Good Level of Development Percentage of pupils reaching the expected standard at the end of KS2 KS4 - GCSE Attainment Average Progress 8 Score Including Percentage achieving threshold in English and maths Percentage of YR12-14 pupils NEET

ACTION 4: TO ENSURE EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP ACROSS AND BEYOND THE EDUCATION SYSTEM		
WE WILL:	WHAT SUCCESS WILL LOOK LIKE?	HOW WILL THIS BE MEASURED?
Continue to strengthen system leadership and school governance across Birmingham Review the commissioning agreement with BEP to lead sustainable school improvement Establish rigorous monitoring and use of data at all key stages to identify areas that need improvement Champion the needs of children and young people by strengthening networks, developing strategic partnerships and securing intelligent commissioning	Greater collaboration and effective partnerships taking collective responsibility for pupil outcomes and progress	Pupils in Good/Outstanding schools
	A school-led system with strong leadership at the heart of Birmingham's education system	Pupils in Good/Outstanding schools
	There is a detailed local intelligence about the quality and performance of Birmingham's education provision, starting from early years	Percentage of pupils reaching the expected standard at the end of KS2 KS4- GCSE Attainment Average Progress 8 Score Including Percentage achieving threshold in English and maths Percentage of YR12-14 pupils NEET
	Parents and carers state that their child has had the opportunity to attend great local provision and reach their full potential in a Birmingham school	Pupils in Good/Outstanding schools Special Education Needs - Education Health and Care Plans

6. THE FINANCIAL LANDSCAPE

The Dedicated School Grant (DSG) is the primary source of funding for schools and other eligible educational providers. It is a ring- fenced grant which is allocated to Local Authorities (LAs) in 3 blocks:

- **Early Years block** covering 2, 3 and 4 year olds for 15 hours provision a week in either nursery schools or primary schools with nursery classes or Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) registered providers
- **Schools block** covering pupils from Reception to Year 11 in primary and secondary schools
- **High Needs block** covering pupils and students from age 0 - 25 with high cost Special Educational Needs and Alternative Provision. As such funding will be allocated to special schools, primary and secondary schools with specialist resource bases, Further Education and Independent sectors.

The funding allocation received by LAs includes funding for academies and free schools. LAs apply their local formula (in line with prescribed statutory regulations) to calculate each school's delegated budget for the following financial year. In the case of academies and free schools, the budgets calculated by the LA are recouped by the DfE from the DSG and the DfE will fund them directly. It is therefore the case that as schools convert to academies during the year the LA's DSG will reduce as more recoupment is undertaken by the DfE.

The current DSG regulations allow for some centrally funded services and commitments to be funded from DSG but this is heavily prescribed and accounts for less than 10% of the overall DSG allocation in Birmingham's case. In many cases, approval will be required from Schools Forum, which is a statutory body in each LA that oversees the DSG funding arrangements and acts as both a body which we must consult with in certain areas and from which we must seek approval in other defined areas.

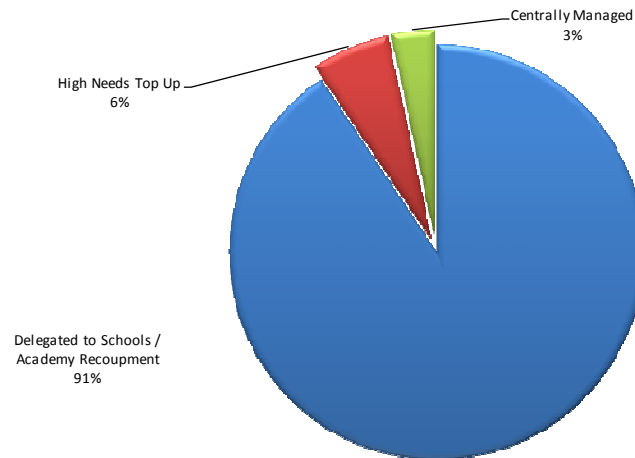
The following page contains two pie charts:

- One breaking down the School Funding sources
- The other breaking down the non school funding.

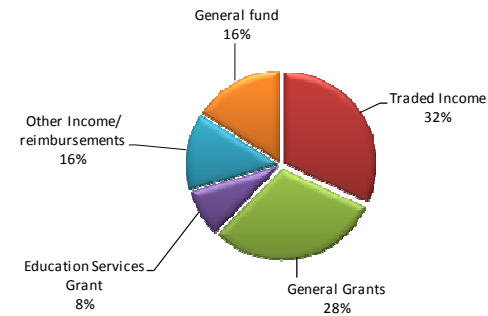
**Directorate For People
Funding Analysis 2016/17**

Direct School Funding

(Including Academy Schools - Includes DSG, PPG, Post 16, UIFSM & PE Sports Premium)



Non School Funding



	£'m
Dedicated Schools Grant	1,096.0
Pupil Premium Grant (Estimated)	93.1
EFA Post 16 Grant (Estimated)	12.6
Universal Infant FSM	13.3
PE & Sports Premium Grant	3.0
Total Schools Funding - as at 1 March 16	1,218.0

	£'m
Traded Income	46.7
General Grants	41.3
Education Services Grant	12.1
Other Income/ Reimbursements	22.7
General Fund	23.4
Total Non Schools Funding	146.2

Notes

DSG allocation does not include the use of 2014/15 carry forward balance in 2016/17.

To Prevent Double Counting - The EFA Post 16 does not include post 16 high needs places, as this is originally allocated in the DSG and subsequently recouped to be allocated back to schools, through the EFA Post 16 grant.

7. APPENDIX 1 – SELF-ASSESSMENT OF THE 2015/16 EDUCATION PLAN

Following Trojan Horse, BCC was required to produce an improvement plan to address the serious weaknesses exposed in its custodianship of education.

The Education Quartet (including the Education Commissioner) approved the Education and Schools Strategy & Improvement Plan on 1 December 2014 and it was subsequently approved by Cabinet in March 2015.

A key workstream of the 2015/16 plan was to strengthen BCC's duties to vulnerable schools as set out in the statutory Schools Causing Concern guidance. The Education Commissioner supported the proposal that the delivery of these duties should be commissioned from BEP. Twenty years of international evidence supports the view that the best, most sustainable form of school improvement is where strong schools support weaker ones. BCC officers, the Deputy Education Commissioner and BEP representatives worked from late 2014 to get the contract in place to commence on 1 September 2015. The early signs are that BEP has started its work strongly for BCC, having visited 87% of maintained schools. The formal contract monitoring is now in place and by the end of the school year in July 2016 BCC will have a full picture of BEP's first year in operation.

In terms of the overall plan, it is over 92% completed (as at end of April 2016). Any outstanding work has been carried forward into this Plan.

The Plan will ensure that the outcomes expected are carried forward and work is undertaken to ensure they are achieved (e.g. to ensure that the recommendations from the LGA Peer Review (November 2015) are addressed. This work is covered at **Appendix 2 - LGA Peer Review recommendations**).

The LGA Peer Review confirmed strong progress across all areas of the 2015/16 plan, with particular endorsements for the major achievements regarding progress for Safeguarding and Resilience, Strengthening Governance, the Education Data Dashboard (EDD) and School Improvement. Overall the direction of travel and political and officer leadership was validated, recognising the long journey ahead to consolidate the improvements.

In terms of a mini self-assessment of progress to date, the following table provides a current state of play for the 2015/16 plan as we move into the new 2016/17 plan. The self-assessment test covers:

1. Are more or fewer schools going into category this year?
2. How is BCC getting on with ensuring it knows all its schools?
3. How do we know Safeguarding and Resilience has improved and children in education are safer?
4. How are we ensuring children are safer in any educational context?
5. Could something like Trojan Horse happen again?
6. How do we know the outcomes from the Year 1 plan are being achieved?

TEST	RESPONSE
1. Are more or fewer schools going into category this year?	<p>The general trend this year has been an improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the past 12 months there has been an improvement in the overall inspection outcomes of many schools in Birmingham • At the beginning of April 2015, there were 32 schools in special measures. As of February 2016 this has reduced to 30 • There has been a rise in schools rated as Good or Outstanding (from 335 as of March 2015, to 344 as of March 2016) • As of March 2016, 83% of LA maintained schools are rated as Good or Outstanding (up from 81% a year ago) – with 69% of academies and Free Schools rated as Good/Outstanding (although these may refer to ratings before academisation) • In terms of national comparisons, the latest available position is from the start of the 2015/16 academic year. At this point, Birmingham had a lower proportion of schools classed as good or outstanding - at both primary and secondary level – when compared to core city and national averages • Birmingham also has the second largest proportion of schools classed as inadequate out of all core cities.
2. How is BCC getting on with ensuring it knows all its schools?	<p>BCC has improved communication and engagement with schools through the Communications Theme. The weekly School Noticeboard communications are published and communication channels are available to gather feedback from schools, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A generic email address • Routes for raising complaints and also for whistleblowing • An education twitter account is available and used • Feedback of progress, including an invite for comment has been implemented via a Schools Survey channel. Later in the year we will be publishing a “You Said, We Did” document. <p>BCC also engages schools through publications such as the Core Offer and Traded Offer documents. In terms of engagement, The Core Offer includes a section on engagement which shows the channels used, this includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools Forum • The BCC HTs Consultative Group • Primary Forum • Special Forum

TEST	RESPONSE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary Forum • Nursery Forum. <p>So, schools know that they have a voice via these forums.</p> <p>In addition to this, there is engagement work via our Strategic Partners, for example, S4E and BEP.</p> <p>In particular, with effect from September 2015, BEP has been contracted to take over the SI work, previously undertaken by BCC. BEP has therefore undertaken many engagement events (e.g. the District Strategy Groups) and also visits from the District Leads working on SI to ensure BEP knows all schools and none are isolated. BEP has reported that⁸:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For maintained schools, 87% have been visited by BEP and 66% of academy schools • District Strategy Groups are in place providing 82% coverage for maintained schools • The BEP staffing and Organisational structure are in place, enabling delivery of the contract • BEP has developed a framework for packages of support and work with schools • BEP now chairs the cross cutting group, which enables a focus (drive) on SI and also fosters close working between BCC and BEP for SI • BEP is engaged in the design authority meetings for the Education Data Board and there are discussions about collecting progress data. There will need to be detailed discussions about what BEP data will be shared with BCC for inclusion in EDD. <p>As part of the contract, information about schools is shared between BCC and BEP via the EDD. BEP chairs the cross cutting group where BEP and service leads from within BCC discuss schools that are potentially vulnerable and may require support. This captures potential issues from all service areas, such as safeguarding, governance, finance and HR, not just from the BEP/SI perspective.</p> <p>Finally, the other vehicle used to ensure BCC knows all its schools is via the EIG, a meeting attended by BCC, Ofsted, BEP and the RSC which discusses and also identifies schools potentially requiring school improvement support.</p>

⁸ All data as at 11 April 2016

TEST	RESPONSE
<p>3. How do we know Safeguarding and Resilience has improved and children in education are safer?</p>	<p>The Safeguarding and Resilience Theme is 99% complete (as at February 2016, with any delays simply around ensuring all schools receive the necessary guidance and training).</p> <p>The LGA Peer Review confirmed strong progress in this area (a few highlights are below):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Safeguarding training and development for staff across the system is strong, embedded and of high quality. The Council differentiates between a universal, targeted and specialist offer drawing on Home Office training products and more local resources. Targeted responses follow identification either by schools, Ofsted or through s175 (Safeguarding) audits, and the Council has created a bespoke support where serious weaknesses have been identified, including case management, CSE, FGM and forced marriage. There are robust plans to develop the function with a proactive focus on engaging schools with the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award, supporting schools to pro-actively weave the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child through the life of the school, and to adopt a train the trainer approach to ensure business continuity with 60 schools and multi-agency partners trained to deliver Prevent training</i> <i>Key officers are making a huge difference. The Resilience Advisor and the Safeguarding Advisor work together very effectively to bridge and broker support for schools and blend skill sets to ensure that bespoke support is available across universal, targeted and specialist responses. They are held in very high regard by everyone we spoke with.</i> <p>The LGA Peer Review also highlighted some areas for improvement, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>There are significant concerns across the system about children missing from home or care, from education, or because they are unknown to the authorities. This was expressed by all of the stakeholder groups to the peer team. Linked to this is a concern about growth in the unregistered, unregulated and supplementary school providers exacerbating on-going risks, for example around Prevent, CSE and FGM. There is an expectation amongst partners that the Council will provide strong leadership in establishing a city wide risk assessment of all settings, but acknowledge that this must be a shared responsibility</i> <i>The 'fuzzy space' between Children's Social Care and Education was highlighted by internal and external stakeholders. This concerns the inevitable lack of clear demarcation between Education and Children's Services. Filling this space will require practitioners from both services to develop better knowledge of each other's policies and practice, and to develop a shared understanding. Managers have an important role to facilitate this process</i>

TEST	RESPONSE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>There is a gap in a systematic roll out of Council Safeguarding training and risk assessment across the Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) sector. , This is an area of concern that needs to be addressed.</i> <p>This work has been carried forward into this Plan.</p>
4. How are we ensuring children are safer in any educational context?	<p>BCC has worked closely with Ofsted resulting in the closure of four unregistered independent schools. The ongoing collaboration between Ofsted and BCC has fostered a joint approach in addressing emerging issues in alternative and independent provision.</p> <p>On 7 December 2015 a meeting was held with a group of independent schools and included a representative of the Muslim Liaison Committee. Sir Mike Tomlinson spoke at the meeting and there were presentations on the requirements for registration as an independent school, safeguarding, governance and community cohesion. An Independent schools forum is being established alongside the regular nursery, primary, secondary and special forums.</p> <p>A suite of new policies have been written, including a Quality Assurance framework for Alternative Provision, which is being adopted and implemented. Key officers have been trained to level two safeguarding with further training in the pipeline. A significant number of quality assurance visits to providers have been scheduled. BCC has also drawn up a new framework to monitor Elective Home Education. BCC has been working with Faith Associates to launch a new safeguarding toolkit for supplementary schools and wider faith based establishments.</p> <p>Recruitment is underway for a new Head of Service post that will be line managed by an Education Services Assistant Director. It is expected that this post will be filled by Autumn 2016.</p> <p>A development programme has been delivered to the current team, who have all participated in training on visits to premises, health & safety, safeguarding, behaviour and attendance.</p>
5. Could something like Trojan Horse happen again?	<p>There is always a residual risk, but this is now considered by the Improvement Quartet to be extremely unlikely. There continues to be effort to manage issues as they arise concerned with extremism.</p> <p>In summary, the key steps put in place over 2015 to reduce this risk have been:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> BCC knows more about all schools through improved data, information and intelligence, via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EIG, where BCC, Ofsted, BEP and RSC meet to discuss risks and issues monthly

TEST	RESPONSE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BEP working as a strategic partner with BCC for school improvement and fundamentally as part of the contract to ensure we know all schools and ensure that none are isolated ○ Positive and two-way engagement between BCC and schools has improved (covered in the How is BCC getting on with ensuring it knows all its schools? row 2 above) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The channels for complaints and for whistleblowing have been improved and put in place to ensure anyone working with schools can report issues for investigation 3. Improvements have been made in the area of Strengthening School Governance – in particular, roles for oversight and intervention are now active in order for BCC to monitor and assess the quality, impact, strengths and weaknesses of governance. BCC is now more active in issuing warning notices and making interventions (i.e. IEBs) when issues are identified 4. The positive work BCC has undertaken on Safeguarding and Resilience and also Equality and Community Cohesion (see row 3 above on How do we know Safeguarding and Resilience has improved and children in education are safer?).
6. How do we know the outcomes from the Year 1 plan are being achieved?	<p>BCC has been testing outcomes on an ongoing basis via audits and the schools survey to ensure changes are embedded, sustainable and viewed in a positive way by schools. The ultimate test over time will be improved Ofsted judgements overall and no repeat of a Trojan Horse or similar event. An appropriate time to judge this and (for example) the performance of BEP for School Improvement will be at the end of school year 2015/16.</p> <p>In addition, BCC commissioned an LGA Peer Review (in Oct/Nov 2015) of the Education and Schools Strategy & Improvement Plan 2015/16 (programme) to test independently progress and outcomes. This involved the LGA Peer Review team talking to schools, our partners and to BCC members and officers. The report was generally positive, with some recommended areas for improvement.</p> <p>Scope and focus of the peer challenge</p> <p>BCC asked the peer team to challenge progress with implementing five of the workstreams:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build confidence in BCC's ability to lead the overall system of education through a relentless focus on core duties 2. Ensure that there are robust and effective governance arrangements in place and working effectively in schools 3. Work with schools to ensure that all children and young people in Birmingham learn in an environment that is safe

TEST	RESPONSE
	<p>and promotes their overall wellbeing</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Work with partners to deliver improvements in schools 5. Drive innovation and improvement through new district structures that promote collaborative leadership and enhance accountability. <p>In challenging these, the LGA Peer Review team was asked to focus on progress, outcomes and, where possible, impact of actions.</p> <p>Key Messages from the LGA Peer Review</p> <p><i>The Council has made good progress in progressing work across all of the five work streams and there is confidence amongst members, officers and partners that the basics are being put in place for a strong and effective city-wide system of school improvement. Stronger professional leadership of the service is making a significant impact and is seen by many as crucial. Governance is now high on the agenda and has a higher profile with schools and other stakeholders. The Council provides good training and support on safeguarding and practice in data management and audits have improved.</i></p> <p><i>The Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP) is widely regarded as the right vehicle for school improvement with good buy-in from schools. These are robust foundations for an education system that will transform the lives of children and young people. In addition to our feedback on each of the five work streams, there are some corporate reflections for you to consider:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Following the leadership election, Birmingham needs to demonstrate the political will and corporate capacity to ensure its resources are focused in shaping and delivering a shared vision which reflects its ambitions for 'the youngest city in Europe'</i> • <i>The political and managerial leadership of the City need to rigorously pursue the delivery of a shared ambition and vision for Education</i> • <i>Organisational transparency needs to be developed so that members, managers and partners can see the implementation of decisions and support growing self-awareness</i> • <i>Birmingham needs to develop a relationship with its schools that reflects its ambitions for the City and which ensures the delivery of its core responsibilities.</i> <p>Appendix 2 provides an update against each of the LGA Peer Review recommendations.</p>

8. APPENDIX 2 – LGA PEER REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

BCC commissioned an LGA Peer Review (in Oct/Nov 2015) for the Education and Schools Strategy & Improvement Plan 2015/16 (programme) to independently test progress and outcomes. This involved the LGA Peer Review team talking to schools, our partners and to BCC members and officers. The report was generally positive, with some recommended areas for improvement.

The LGA Peer Review team was asked to focus on progress, outcomes and where possible the impact of actions.

The LGA Peer Review team suggested that the Council considers the following actions. These are things the team thought would build on our main strengths and maximise our effectiveness and capacity to deliver future ambitions and plans for school improvement:

1. *Develop a clear education vision and strategy that aligns BCC's ambition, resources and desired outcomes for the City's children with its wider objectives*
2. *Provide training and development for all members involved in scrutinising education with clear line of sight from district level to the Council leadership*
3. *Develop a comprehensive risk assessment for Birmingham as a whole that incorporates all settings, including information relevant to the phase and sector, and this is a shared responsibility with partners*
4. *Develop the intelligent client role of BCC in relation to BEP and ensure that resources and ambitions are aligned*
5. *Determine an effective accountability model for BEP*

6. *Using learning from the Ladywood pathfinder, further develop the partnership role of BEP to enable schools to better meet the needs of young people within the City*
7. *Ensure that the Education Improvement Group provides effective and timely challenge where there is evidence of poor governance in schools*
8. *Ensure that the Education Improvement Group facilitates clarity about respective roles and responsibilities of partners to ensure that its positive impact is sustained*
9. *Encourage BEP to prioritise school improvement based on a single definitive process for identification of schools and their performance*
10. *Ensure that BCC staff undertaking visits to settings where there are concerns have the skills and authority to take necessary action*

The table below provides a progress update against each of these actions.

RECOMMENDATION	CURRENT STATUS
1. <i>Develop a clear education vision and strategy that align BCC's ambition, resources and desired outcomes for the City's children with its wider objectives</i>	A plan on a page has been drafted and is being shared with partners; children's partners are to be invited to an event (May/June) where the vision and the plan on a page will be tested.
2. <i>Provide training and development for all members involved in scrutinising education with clear line of sight from district level to the Council leadership</i>	<p>BCC and the LGA have agreed the core elements of the programme. Members from each of the main parties have agreed to help shape the programme and this is planned for late May.</p> <p>There are two work streams planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sessions for all members, for example, understanding education landscape, how members can help, how to deal with education appeals • "Specialist" sessions, especially for districts and Scrutiny.
3. <i>Develop a comprehensive risk assessment for Birmingham as a whole that incorporates all settings, including information relevant to the phase and sector, and this is a shared responsibility with partners</i>	<p>With effect from September 2015, BEP has been contracted to take over the SI work, previously undertaken by BCC. BEP has therefore undertaken many engagement events (e.g. the District Strategy Groups) and also visits from the District Leads working on SI to ensure BEP knows all schools and none are isolated. BEP has reported (as a highlight⁹) that 87% of maintained schools have been visited and 66% of academies.</p> <p>In addition to school visits, BEP has also been analysing schools which potentially require support by virtue of data (e.g. attainment, coasting schools) and has identified (currently) 78 schools requiring various levels of support¹⁰. Some of these data events have been joint BCC/BEP workshops looking at information and agreeing which schools should require appropriate levels of support.</p> <p>The risk assessment approach has been jointly agreed between BCC and BEP and is being documented as set of procedures and templates. This is also part of the work being undertaken to prepare for an inspection of the school improvement arrangements (LASI) between BCC and BEP.</p>

⁹ As at 11 April 2016

¹⁰ As at 6 May 2016

RECOMMENDATION	CURRENT STATUS
	<p>As part of the contract, information about schools is shared between BCC and BEP via the EDD. BEP chairs the cross cutting group where BEP and BCC service leads discuss schools who are potentially vulnerable and may require support. This captures potential issues from all service areas, such as, safeguarding, governance, finance and HR, not just from the BEP/ school improvement perspective.</p> <p>Another vehicle to ensure BCC knows all its schools is via the EIG, a meeting attended by BCC, Ofsted, BEP and the RSC at which the group discuss and identify schools potentially requiring support.</p>
<p>4. <i>Develop the intelligent client role of BCC in relation to the BEP and ensure that resources and ambitions are aligned</i></p>	<p>BCC is working with BEP to establish the Intelligent Client Function (ICF) and Quality Assurance framework and to ensure compliance with LASI framework.</p> <p>There was a joint LASI workshop with BCC and BEP on 3 February 2016 which identified clear actions and steps to prepare for an inspection (expected anytime from the summer term 2016).</p> <p>The early ICF work has already started by BEP sharing with BCC details of the work undertaken to date (for the first school term) and a business case detailing the overall demand for school improvement and their capacity to deliver. This work was shared with the Improvement Quartet in February 2016. Detailed work started during April 2016, with a Quality Assurance (QA) pilot of BEP activity (with most of the QA work to take place with all BEP District leads during June 2016). The first Contract Management Group (CMG) meeting took place on 10 May 2016.</p> <p>The CMG is the formal group and meeting by which BEP will be held to account for compliance with the contract and deliver of the outcomes.</p>

RECOMMENDATION	CURRENT STATUS
<p>5. <i>Determine an effective accountability model for BEP</i></p>	<p>As outlined in 4 above, this is being achieved via the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intelligent Client Function • Contract Management Group • Quality Assurance of BEP activity and work. <p>In the contract there are a broad range of indicators that when considered together give a view of the performance of the School Improvement contract. These include measures of compliance with the contract, of improvement of outcomes and output measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contractual Compliance - measures such as the recruitment of the required workforce, attendance at performance contract management meetings. • Outcomes - measures that capture the impact on the quality of education and improvement in education outcomes. • Outputs – these are the products of the activities undertaken by BEP in school improvement. These products are evidence of the activity of the BEP – so justify the expenditure and give assurance of the improvement in outcomes which will lag behind the activity. <p>Outcomes are the most important – the other measures provide context. The intention is that by considering these Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) the BEP and BCC partnership can understand and respond to changes in outcomes. These will form part of the contract and therefore define performance</p> <p>The early signs are that BEP has started its work strongly for BCC, having visited 87% of maintained schools. The formal contract monitoring is now in place and by the end of the school year in July 2016 BCC will have a full picture of BEP's first year in operation.</p>

RECOMMENDATION	CURRENT STATUS
<p>6. <i>Using learning from the Ladywood Pathfinder, further develop the partnership role of BEP to enable schools to better meet the needs of young people within the City</i></p>	<p>The Ladywood Pathfinder project (LDP) is now complete, a full lessons learned report has been produced and the work has been handed over to BEP.</p> <p>The final LDP Board meeting took place on 24 February 2016 and the Improvement Quartet endorsed its close down on 21 March 2016.</p> <p>The BEP report to Quartet on 8th February 2016, included a BEP view and update on LDP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>There is no question that this common thread of 'District' approaches has already gone a long way towards achieving the 'local face of education' requirement within the contract. 'Co-construction of services' is a much trickier aim. Ladywood was therefore chosen as a pathfinder district to see how far schools might actually start to work on a more localised approach to commissioned services. A series of workshops were held, looking at areas that included mental health provision, early intervention, school nursing, and recruitment. A number of key themes emerged:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>'Commissioning' is still an idea that requires a lot of explanation and unpicking for schools.</i> ○ <i>The extent to which BCC services understand the implications and practices of partnership working with schools is still variable and potentially problematic.</i> ○ <i>The model that was piloted in Ladywood, of schools suggesting a more localised approach, generated a host of new ideas and collaborative thinking that schools found both exciting and empowering but that only drew on a small proportion of vocal schools and is not necessarily scalable.</i> • <i>The next step is a more detailed research project, led by the University of Birmingham Education Department, to look in detail at processes and barriers around early intervention referral. More broadly there is a great deal for BEP to do in progressing partnership working across all districts in ways that are strategic, sustainable and effective. BEP's place at the Strategic Leaders Group, the Joint Commissioning Group and the Health and Wellbeing Board mean we are approaching this process at the top as well as the ground level of schools in districts.</i>

RECOMMENDATION	CURRENT STATUS
<p>7. <i>Ensure that the Education Improvement Group provides effective and timely challenge where there is evidence of poor governance in schools</i></p>	<p>In addition to work outlined below for Action 8.</p> <p>A dedicated EIG dedicated a session has been held to discuss governance and how the governance service could be more effective and improved, including EIG's role in identifying risks and supporting interventions. This happened at EIG on 13 April 2016.</p> <p>Improvements have been made in the area of Strengthening School Governance – in particular, roles for oversight and intervention are now active in order for BCC to monitor and assess the quality, impact, strengths and weaknesses of governance</p> <p>BCC is now more active in issuing warning notices and making interventions (i.e. IEBs) when issues are identified.</p>
<p>8. <i>Ensure that the Education Improvement Group facilitates clarity about respective roles and responsibilities of partners to ensure that its positive impact is sustained</i></p>	<p>Based on the LGA Peer Review, EIG decided to re-model its meetings.</p> <p>Part A focusses on a key issue of concern to all parties. The first issue looked at was permanent exclusions. This led to real time data sharing of exclusions data between BCC/BEP/Ofsted and the RSC office. There was an immediate impact as Ofsted and RSC had previously relied on historic Raise data. Governance was included in discussions in April 2016.</p> <p>Part B continues to look at vulnerable academies and maintained schools with the addition of independent schools. DfE Independent Schools Division reps are now invited and have participated.</p>
<p>9. <i>Encourage BEP to prioritise school improvement based on a single definitive process for identification of schools and their performance</i></p>	<p>This is covered by actions 3, 4 and 5 above.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 3 relates to risk assessments based on “knowing schools” and data sharing (between BCC/BEP) • Actions 5 and 6 relate to the Intelligent Client Function and the Contract Management Group, which also includes a BCC Quality Assurance of BEP work, to hold BEP to account for delivery of the contract and its outcomes.

RECOMMENDATION	CURRENT STATUS
<i>10. Ensure that BCC staff undertaking visits to settings where there are concerns have the skills and authority to take necessary action</i>	<p><i>A suite of new policies have been written, including a Quality Assurance framework for Alternative Provision, which is being adopted and implemented. Key officers have been trained to level two safeguarding with further training in the pipeline. A significant number of quality assurance visits to providers have been scheduled. BCC has also drawn up a new framework to monitor Elective Home Education. BCC has been working with Faith Associates to launch a new safeguarding toolkit for supplementary schools and wider faith based establishments.</i></p> <p><i>A new Head of Service post is being recruited and will be line managed by an Education Services Assistant Director.</i></p> <p><i>A development programme has been delivered to the current team, who have all participated in training on visits to premises, health & safety, safeguarding, behaviour and attendance.</i></p>

9. APPENDIX 3 - CO-ORDINATION OF THE PLAN AND GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Outlined here are the principles of governance for managing the delivery of the Plan. A detailed governance map will be produced, which will be agreed with all service areas, in order to provide a framework for the management of delivery and the review of progress/outcomes:

- **Organisation** - the Plan will be governed by the Education Senior Leadership Team (SLT) chaired by the Executive Director for Education, and including all Education Assistant Directors (AD).
There will be a monthly dashboard to review progress at SLT and provide more detail into AD management teams every month (part of service performance, linked to AD portfolios)
- **Stakeholder engagement** – Heads Consultative group and all the school forums and networks/consortia
- **Plans** - Single plan that is reviewed every quarter and fully revised once per year (continuous improvement)
- **Quality** –will be driven by service improvement and by understanding the performance measures and the work needed to “bridge the gap”
There will need to be a synchronisation of objectives within the Plan into team My Appraisal objectives (i.e. the link between service performance and operational (staff) performance)
- **Risk** - Single risk register reviewed monthly (e.g. categorised into education, programme, individual services)
- **Control** - Progress against budgets reviewed once each month (programme and operational budgets).

At this stage a few high level risks have been identified. A full risk and issue log will be maintained for the Plan.

DESCRIPTION	RISK/ISSUE	COUNTER MEASURES
Move to all schools becoming Academies by 2022 (Education Excellence Everywhere)	The White Paper, Educational Excellence Everywhere, which, if implemented by statute and subject to any amendments, is likely to compel or encourage all schools to have an academy plan in place by 2020 or be committed to converting by 2022, would have major consequences for the role of the Local Authority in the education of Birmingham children. Consequences that are understood at the moment include the administrative effort and cost to BCC when a school converts, and the loss of BCC assets on conversion which are transferred to the Academy (land etc.). Implementing this agenda will create resource pressures for BCC and may make some parts of the current business unsustainable or in need of fundamental re modelling. Other legislative changes may come in before 2020 in support of this agenda which could have further effects on BCC, all of which are unknown.	Good stakeholder engagement needs to be maintained between BCC, DfE, RSC and Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs) to ensure all parties are sharing information and are empowered to collaborate on the implementation of the academies agenda. Efforts need to be made to ensure that the transition to academies is staggered or phased and not all taking place at once. Further effort needs to be made to ensure schools join, or create, effective and high performing MATs. Horizon scanning and robust forward planning must take place to model the service in anticipation of the possibility of a full academy school estate to ensure Education Services are positioned to be sustainable and able to meet its statutory duties.
Embedding and operationalising recent Improvement Work and moving to a Continuous Improvement Model	There is a risk that the recent improvements made as a consequence of implementing the Education and Schools Strategy & Improvement Plan 2015/16 may not fully embed or be fully operationalised. This means that we are at risk of returning to previous modes of working, viewed as weak and not fit for purpose by the DfE and Ofsted, and letting Birmingham children down.	<p>We are moving to a model of Continuous Improvement with annual plans building upon the successes of the previous year. Each area will have ownership of detailed plans for improving their services and these will feed upwards to a strategic plan owned by the Executive Director. Regular Peer Review from partners will be conducted.</p> <p>At the same time there will be a strong push to ensure outstanding actions from the current plan are completed and actions from the LGA Peer Review are completed (which will ensure outcomes are fully realised).</p>

DESCRIPTION	RISK/ISSUE	COUNTER MEASURES
Financial consequences for BCC arising from legislative changes to education funding.	BCC Education Services are currently not in a position to produce long-term budgetary plans. This is as a consequence of recent legislative announcements about Education in England. The conversion of all schools to academy status will result in the end of most funding from DfE to LAs. This may also mean that some of our internal and traded services are no longer sustainable as schools will exercise further choice and purchase services from other providers. The level of uncertainty means we are unable to produce long term budgets.	Traded services are being positioned to be of high quality and good value for money to be competitive on the open market. Services are to be modelled to ensure they are agile and can adapt over time to the changing economic landscape. Stakeholder engagement will take place with the DfE, RSC and MATs to ensure BCC has high visibility on impending changes as we move forward.

Glossary of Terms

AP	Alternative Provision
BCC	Birmingham City Council
BAME	Black, Asian, and minority ethnic
BEP	Birmingham Education Partnership
CSC	Children's Social Care
CMG	Contract Management Group (part of ICF)
DfE	Department for Education
DOT	Direction of Travel
DSG	Dedicated School Grant
EAL	English as an additional language
EDD	Education Data Dashboard
EHCP	Education Health and Care Plan
EEE	Early Education Entitlement
EHE	Elective Home Education
EIG	Education Improvement Group
ESG	Education Support Grant
EYFS	Early Years Foundation Stage
FSM	Free School Meals
HR	Human Resources
ICF	Intelligent Client Function
IEB	Interim Executive Board

KS	Key Stage
LA	Local Authority
LASI	Local Authority School Improvement
LDP	Ladywood Pathfinder
LEAN	LEAN management is an approach to running an organization that supports the concept of continuous improvement, a long-term approach to work that systematically seeks to achieve small, incremental changes in processes in order to improve efficiency and quality
LGA	Local Government Association
MAT	Multi Academy Trust
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
Ofsted	Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills
PRU	Pupil Referral Unit
PVI	Private, Voluntary and Independent
QA	Quality Assurance
RSC	Regional Schools Commissioner
S4E	Services for Education
SEN	Special Education Needs

10. APPENDIX 4 – THE 22 SERVICE PLANS

The Plan and delivery of key priorities are supported by 22 service plans, across all of education services (listed to the right).

The Plan includes the “Leadership and Education Business Unit”, which is about the overall strategic leadership of the system and comprises some cross-cutting functions needed for the overall delivery of Education Services (e.g. the LGA Peer Review and closer working between Education and CSC).

In creating the service plans BCC applied some overall design principles (service characteristics) as follows:

- Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of existing education services
- Using data intelligently to underpin service delivery, improvement and inform impact
- Ensuring education services are customer focused and LEAN, with heads of service empowered to develop the highest quality services
- Establishing positive customer relationships
- Having a fit for purpose workforce with the right people in the right jobs and the organisation making best use of its most important resources
- Having streamlined/integrated services in operation
- Having streamlined/LEAN processes across all service areas.

The 22 Service Plans are available at:

- www.birmingham.gov.uk/educationimprovement

List of the 22 service improvement plans:

1. Leadership and Education Business Unit
2. Safeguarding and Resilience
3. Alternative Provision and Independent Education
4. School Improvement and Intelligent Client Function (ICF)
5. Education Infrastructure
6. School Admissions and Pupil Placements
7. Early Years
8. Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice & Support Service (SENDIASS)
9. School and Governor Support
10. Early Years Inclusion Support
11. Access 2 Education
12. Special Educational Needs Assessment and Review (SENAR)
13. Travel Assist
14. Virtual School for Looked after Children
15. Sustaining Inclusion
16. Disabled Children’s Social Care (DCSC)
17. Full Participation
18. Cityserve
19. Schools Financial Services
20. School HR and Employee Relations
21. Legal Services
22. Communication and Stakeholder Engagement

REPORT OF THE CHAIRS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2016/17****1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) is an essential part of our local democracy, playing a vital role in the governance of Birmingham, influencing improvements in services and shaping plans to enhance conditions for our citizens.
- 1.2 The Constitution sets out the ways in which good Overview and Scrutiny adds value to the council:
- Drives improvement in public services;
 - Provides “critical friend” challenge to executive policy-makers and decision-makers;
 - Enables the voice and concerns of the public and its communities to be heard;
- 1.3 It also reminds us that scrutiny is carried out by ‘independent minded members’ who lead and own the scrutiny process. **This report, and the discussion that will follow at City Council, is one way in which members of the City Council can support that member-led process.**
- 1.4 For many years, Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny Committees have presented a report on the forthcoming work programme annually in the autumn or later, setting out the emerging work programmes, as well as reflecting on the achievements of the past year. Following feedback from members last year, the chairs of the committees agreed to bring this report at this earlier stage to encourage involvement from all members in shaping the work programme for the forthcoming year.

2. OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR

- 2.1 In May 2015, the City Council agreed changes to the Constitution that reduced the number of O&S Committees from nine to five. The move to five O&S Committees took into account the statutory responsibilities, workloads and demands on members, whilst acknowledging the need to reduce the number of committees as resources reduce.
- 2.2 The work programmes therefore had to encompass a wide range of policy and service areas – the number of scrutiny committees may have reduced, but the breadth and depth of work they were expected to cover did not. The following section summarises the year’s work.

3. WHAT WE DID

- 3.1 The 2015/16 work programme was influenced by a number of factors, including the need to address key corporate themes, to reflect areas of public concern and to support the Executive effectively.
- 3.2 The key themes set in the 2015 Council Plan were prosperity, fairness and democracy. The **“Prosperity”** theme encompassed economy, skills, enterprise, infrastructure and sustainability. The Economy, Skills & Sustainability O&S Committee held the main brief on those areas and tackled a number of issues including supporting the development of the Skills Investment Plan and Youth Promise; and working with Business Improvement Districts and Cabinet Members to foster better relations and communications with the aim of ensuring vibrant local centres. With regards to transport, the Committee considered the consultation on Movement for Growth – the West Midlands Strategic Transport Plan with the Integrated Transport Authority; Birmingham Cycle Revolution and the significant impact of the Scrutiny Changing Gear Report; parking issues, given the pressure of parking in many parts of the city the Committee looked at the steps being taken to develop a strategy for the city centre; and a discussion with Virgin Trains about the West Coast Main Line Franchise, training for the new customer advisors at New Street and complaints resolution.
- 3.3 The Council Plan’s **“Fairness”** theme related to safety, health and wellbeing, children and young people and tackling poverty.
- 3.4 Two Scrutiny committees had specific statutory duties with regards to these areas. The Health and Social Care O&S Committee has responsibility for scrutinising health services and engaged with a wide variety of topics and organisations, including Birmingham Healthwatch, the Care Quality Commission, the West Midlands Ambulance Service and other provider trusts, including for example, Birmingham Community Healthcare, in relation to an issue with the new telephone triage system to access unscheduled dental care appointments at the Birmingham Dental Hospital.
- 3.5 Work included checking on the implementation of the new contracts around Sexual Health Services in Birmingham and Solihull and the Birmingham Substance Misuse Recovery System, to establish how they were progressing and their effectiveness six months after their introduction. Monitoring the performance of adult social care services including the budget and savings plans and the Safeguarding Adults Annual Report was another important strand of work. Members also worked with their West Midlands colleagues on two joint committees, with Sandwell and Solihull.
- 3.6 The Neighbourhood & Community Services O&S Committee was the designated “crime and disorder committee” and in that role the Committee scrutinised the work of the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership (BCSP) and examined the three strategic outcome measures for the partnership. The Committee also looked at the shortage of housing supply, the additional housing needs over the past ten years and the changing balance of housing in terms of declining home ownership and the increasing growth of the private rented sector and the need to work with the private rented sector and housing associations to produce a more comprehensive housing offer to deal with this. The committee discussed licensing and regulation in licensing of houses in multiple occupation and the possibility of additional/discretionary licensing schemes within the private rented sector, the enforcement of tenancy conditions and housing services to older people.

- 3.7 The Education & Vulnerable Children O&S Committee continued to keep a sharp eye on the wide range of issues affecting children and young people. Topics last year included the Education and Schools Improvement Plan, school attainment, permanent school exclusions, unregistered schools and the work of the Birmingham Education Partnership. The Committee had an early input into the early years consultation (June 2016) and then received interim feedback on the outcome of the consultation in March 2016 for the Health & Wellbeing offer.
- 3.8 Focusing on the more vulnerable children in our city, the Committee carried out the inquiry into Children Missing from Home and Care which followed on from concerns raised in the Child Sexual Exploitation inquiry. The Committee also looked at children missing from education.
- 3.9 The Corporate Resources O&S Committee considered the Council's approach to zero hours contracts, and made recommendations that the City Council and partners work towards implementing improved rights for zero-hours contract workers and others on casual contracts.
- 3.10 Under the **"Democracy"** theme, there was a focus on the new governance models, engagement and modern customer services. The Corporate Resources O&S Committee covered a number of areas in relation to these matters including the Combined Authority, Boundary Commission and devolution. With regard to the latter, an inquiry was undertaken to support the strengthening of governance arrangements at a time of major change: District and Ward Arrangements following the changes to the Constitution in 2015. This was supported by a short inquiry on the implementation of the new duty on District Committees to undertake a "Neighbourhood Challenge" undertaken by the Neighbourhood & Community Services O&S Committee.
- 3.11 In addition, a "task and finish" group focusing on the developing Future Council programme considered each of the sub-programmes, particularly focusing on shaping member and public interaction with the programme.
- 3.12 As always, O&S Committees sought to address **topical issues of public concern**, including:
- A review of Super September by the Economy, Skills & Sustainability O&S Committee: in advance of the Birmingham Weekender weekend which coincided with the opening of Grand Central and the Rugby World Cup. The Committee questioned various officers about how movement around the city would be maintained. Subsequently the weekend was a great success and was credited with helping ensure half a million more visitors visited the city in Autumn 2015 compared to the previous year.
 - Waste management and cleaner streets were also very much at the forefront, and a number of committees contributed here. The Neighbourhood & Community Services O&S Committee looked at the operational roll out of wheeled bins. The Economy, Skills & Sustainability O&S Committee tracked the recommendations of the Waste to Resource and Household Recycling Centres inquiries; it also examined the consultation on the Waste Strategy following the early termination of the initial questionnaire. The Corporate Resources O&S Committee members also conducted a short inquiry into the procurement of fleet and waste vehicles following a question at City Council in January.
 - Customer Services continued to be a major focus of the former Corporate Resources O&S Committee. The Committee undertook an inquiry to support maximum

improvement in customer services. In particular, the Committee focused on customer satisfaction with the main routes that citizens use for contacting the City Council and to identify how that satisfaction could be increased. They found that customer satisfaction rates had risen to a level comparable with other local authorities; however there is still much to be done to offer a consistently excellent service, and the Committee made a series of recommendations to support further improvement.

- The Education & Vulnerable Children O&S Committee picked up on concerns in relation to Special Educational Needs (SEN) and the slow transfer of children from statements to the new statutory framework of Education and Health Care Plans, which better integrate children's needs into one plan. Education Awards Appeals (Home to School transport) was also covered.
- The Health and Social Care O&S Committee responded to a petition on budget cuts to supporting people with mental health and disabilities, consideration of the 3 year City-wide Transforming Care Plan which was due to be submitted to NHS England in April 2016 as well as enquiring into the current position regarding support provided in relation to housing and employment to enable independent living.
- Severn Trent are undertaking the Birmingham Resilience project, which brings huge investment into their infrastructure, in order to ensure there is a backup water supply for when repairs need to be made to the Elan Valley reservoir, or if the existing infrastructure fails. This will require on-going engagement with the citizens of Birmingham, and the Economy, Skills & Sustainability O&S Committee explored the approach with Severn Trent.

3.13 Other pieces of work were undertaken following direct requests from the Executive, including two short inquiries by the Corporate Resources O&S Committee (on Golden Square and zero hours contracts) and work undertaken by the Economy, Skills & Sustainability O&S Committee on Public Realm.

3.14 Members also welcomed the attendance of Cabinet Members at many meetings, reinforcing the important role of O&S in holding the Executive to account. In addition, the call-in procedure was used four times in the last municipal year.

4. 2016/17 Work Programme

4.1 In May 2016, City Council agreed further changes to the remits of O&S Committees. The new remits of the five committees are summarised below. As this report is being written, Committees are engaged in discussions to determine the priorities for the year. Each has recognised the importance of leaving room within work programmes for policy development work as it arises. However, emerging themes are also set out below.

- **Corporate Resources and Governance O&S Committee** – chaired by Cllr Mohammed Aikhlaq; the committee's remit encompasses those corporate matters that involve the governance, financing and performance of the council. In doing so, the remit mirrors some or all of the portfolios of four Cabinet Members: the Leader (for governance, finance, partnerships and regional working); Deputy Leader (resources, performance, finance and human resources); the Cabinet Member for Value for Money and Efficiency (council wide efficiency, commissioning and procurement); and the Cabinet Member for Transparency, Openness and Equality (customer services, transparency, inequality and public engagement).

Emerging Priorities for the Corporate Resources and Governance O&S Committee

Further discussion will take place at the July meeting of the Committee, but initial discussions indicate that the following issues will be priorities:

- Governance issues, including how scrutiny can support and work with the new Cabinet Committee Local Leadership; the Committee is also considering work examining how districts work with a parish/town council.
- Contracting and procurement issues, including scoping out work around the new Commissioning and Procurement Strategy, and contributing to the review of the Birmingham Business Charter for Social Responsibility; with a focus on how the City Council engages local suppliers and businesses through our contractors.
- Continuing the former committee's work on customer services, to see maximum improvement in customer services and in end-to-end service delivery, i.e. not just the quality of the call but whether the request was completed to the citizen's satisfaction.
- A programme of finance reports, to be presented at key points in the year; the Committee also intends to explore how scrutiny can play a greater role in the budget setting process.

- **Economy, Skills and Transport O&S Committee** – chaired by Cllr Zafar Iqbal: the committee's remit focuses on economic growth and jobs, transport strategy and highways, skills, and culture (including libraries, arts, sports and museums). Therefore the Committee largely reflects the portfolios of four Cabinet Members, including for Transport and Roads; for Jobs and Skills; the Leader (on economic growth and inward investment) and the Deputy Leader (on arts, culture and libraries).

Emerging Priorities for the Economy, Skills and Transport O&S Committee

The main strands of work that have been identified as a priority for this year include:-

- Development of an East Birmingham and North Solihull Strategy A study has been commissioned to understand the key challenges and needs of the East Birmingham corridor which has historically suffered from multiple deprivation, high unemployment and low skills levels amongst its population. Once the initial results are available there is an opportunity to see how scrutiny can be involved in and contribute to the development of a comprehensive strategy to tackle these challenges.
- Maximising the benefits of the impact of/value to the city from HS2 in particular in relation to maximising the HS2 connectivity package and maximising long-term job opportunities and ensuring that local communities are facilitated to access the employment opportunities that will be generated.
- Review of delivery of Metro project, lessons learned and how these will be applied to the delivery of the Metro extension
- The impact of Highways England works on motorways connected to the city especially in relation to the A38M Expressway works.

- **Health, Wellbeing and the Environment O&S Committee** – chaired by Cllr John Cotton: the Committee has the statutory responsibility to review and scrutinise matters relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services as provided for by the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (the 2012 Act), including the power to hold all relevant health service providers to account (i.e. public, private or voluntary organisations that deliver services commissioned by Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), NHS England or local authorities themselves in relation to public health). In addition, the Committee has responsibility for environmental matters.

Emerging Priorities for the Health, Wellbeing and the Environment O&S Committee

- The Birmingham and Solihull Sustainability and Transformation Plan and the integration of health and social care including pooled budgets and a spending plan on how to use the money. The committee will want to look at the aims and objectives of the plan and the implications for adult social care and, in particular, focus on the proposed savings which the integration is projected to produce. This will also encompass the challenges faced by the urgent and emergency care system which are complex and link to a number of other issues including access to and utilisation of primary care, how to reduce avoidable A&E attendances and avoidable emergency admissions and improving the effectiveness of the discharge process.
- Personalisation and Independence – How the health sector including the NHS and social care are enabling people to take control of their care with particular reference to the use of technology and digitalisation and the implementation of digital shift to achieve this.
- The West Midlands Mental Health Commission – The Commission has been established by the West Midlands Combined Authority and the Committee will be seeking to understand how all key partners will work together to implement the recommendations of the Commission's final report, due to be published later in 2016.
- The impact of air pollution on health – What is the health and social care sector doing on sustainability including use of vehicles and the resulting links to air pollution and the impact on health.
- From Waste to Resource Strategy for Birmingham – What is the vision and what are the aims, objectives and targets? The Committee will be involved in contributing to the development of the proposed new waste management strategy for the city and in monitoring and evaluating its implementation.

- **Housing and Homes O&S Committee** – chaired by Cllr Victoria Quinn; this Committee's work will focus on all matters relating to housing and homes, and in addition cover social cohesion and community safety. In doing so, this Committee will be working with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Homes and three other cabinet members to ensure appropriate cross portfolio communication: Deputy Leader (with regards to land use planning); Cabinet Member for Transparency, Openness and Equality (on social cohesion and community safety); and the Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling and the Environment (relating to cleaner neighbourhoods).

In addition, this Committee has the statutory responsibility for community safety partnerships, as the Council's designated Crime and Disorder Committee; and (subject to agreement at City Council today) the flood risk scrutiny responsibilities.

Emerging Priorities for the Housing and Homes O&S Committee

Further discussion will take place at the July meeting of the Committee, but initial discussions indicate that the following issues will be priorities:

- The Housing and Planning Act 2016 has signalled significant changes to the ability of local authorities to provide and meet housing demand. The Committee will look at supply, tenure and demand. This will involve challenging how each of the three directorates of the City Council are working together to deliver the housing and homes agenda in all its dimensions and with all its repercussions on other services in terms of economic, health and growth agendas. The Committee will take a close look at issues such as pay to stay, mandatory use of fixed term tenancies and the extended right to buy for RSLs and its impact on the city council's housing revenue account.
- The private rented sector is an integral part of the housing offer of this city. The Committee will challenge the private sector and all strategic directorates in order to ensure rogue landlords are tackled and join up our offer as a respected agency for private landlords..
- The city needs a further 80,000 homes to be built before 2031. The Committee will be looking at how the availability of land impacts on the city's ability to do this within the timescale and examine creative land disposal options. Alongside this, what work is being undertaken to bring empty homes back into use and mitigate against environmental challenges, including flooding?
- Homelessness and the need for temporary accommodation has increased exponentially in the city. The Committee will consider the City Council's role in tackling homelessness, looking at the impact of the move to a single housing advice centre within its first three months.
- The new allocation policy for council housing and nominations to registered social landlords will be implemented in the autumn. Committee will seek to assess how effective this transition has been within the first six months.
- Good housing management and maintenance is important to tenants and leaseholders. The new repairs contracts started on 1 April 2016 and Members will be interested in how this beds in and the role of the City Council's call centre.
- The Committee's work on housing will also inform its statutory role as the crime and disorder committee. The Committee will also examine community safety and equalities issues with a particular focus on the emerging domestic violence strategy, hate crime, anti-social behaviour and housing for asylum seekers and people with no recourse to public funds (NRPF).

- **Schools, Children and Families O&S Committee** – chaired by Cllr Susan Barnett: the Committee has a remit covering policies, services and activities concerning the schools, vulnerable children and child safeguarding functions of the council. In doing so, it largely reflects the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Schools.

Emerging Priorities for the Schools, Children and Families O&S Committee

- Permanent School Exclusions – whether these have reduced and what more can be done to ensure Birmingham School Children receive an appropriate education.
- School improvement and the role of the Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP), commissioned in September 2015 by the City Council to support schools causing concern.
- Social Care Improvement Journey – ongoing oversight of the Early Help & Children's Social Care Services Improvement Plan 2015 – 2017.
- Voluntary Trust (governance vehicle) – it was announced in June 2016 that the Council will be taking the Trust development forward and the Committee will want to be involved in the development of this.
- Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs) / Looked After Children (LAC) / Corporate Parenting – the committee will continue to assist with helping to ensure the City's most vulnerable children are protected. All Councillors have an important role to play in fulfilling their corporate parent responsibility.
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Children Missing from Home and Care – the committee will want to know how improvements have been made following the two scrutiny inquiries.
- Early Years Review: The committee are considering setting up a working group to contribute to the Early Education and Childcare Offer part of the Early Years review currently being undertaken by the City Council.
- Special Educational Needs (SEN) – the Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Families will be setting up a Commission and the Committee will align its work programme alongside this.

- 4.2 Regular meetings of all the O&S Chairs will continue to take place to discuss the overall work programme with an emphasis on potential or actual areas of overlap. As part of the work planning, Scrutiny Chairs will also explore the opportunities for joint scrutiny working and the use of “task and finish” groups.

5. Reports to City Council

- 5.1 A new approach to reports to city council was trialled, with the presentation of the former Corporate Resources O&S Committee's 'City Council Meeting Agenda report' in April. The report did not put forward 'recommendations' but rather proposed 'suggested actions' which were debated in the Chamber. The outcomes from the debate, alongside the evidence in the report, were fed back to the Executive. This approach was welcomed by members, and will be used again where the subject matter is suitable.

- 5.2 In addition, it is proposed to bring short reports introducing potential inquiry work for scrutiny to get early member input into direction, key questions and potential witnesses; the debate would inform the terms of reference and form part of the evidence base for the inquiry, rather than getting that wider member input at the end of the process.
- 5.3 There will therefore be three types of scrutiny reports in the future: inquiry reports, debate reports and short reports introducing potential inquiry work.

6. FINALLY, OUR THANKS

- 6.1 Finally, we would like to thank all those who have been involved in and have supported scrutiny over the past year. We are indebted to the many witnesses that have contributed to scrutiny's work. Their participation, bringing knowledge, ideas and enthusiasm to our work, has been vital and we would like to express our thanks to them all.

MOTION

That the City Council note the report and contribute ideas on scrutiny topics for 2016/17.

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Appendix 1: Scrutiny Reports

A. Reports to City Council 2015-16

Month	Inquiry	Committee
Jun 2015	Inquiry: Service Birmingham	Corporate Resources O&S Committee
Jul 2015	Inquiry: Homelessness	Health and Social Care O&S Committee
Oct 2015	O&S Work Programme	All
Jan 2016	Inquiry: Children Missing from Home & Care	Education & Vulnerable Children O&S Committee
Feb 2016	Inquiry: Customer Journey	Corporate Resources O&S Committee
Apr 2016	Inquiry: City Council Agenda	Corporate Resources O&S Committee

B. Reports/Letters to Cabinet Members 2015-16

Month	Topic	Committee
Oct 2015	Golden Square (private report)	Corporate Resources O&S Committee
Oct 2015	Zero Hours Contracts	Corporate Resources O&S Committee
Apr 2016	Inquiry: Neighbourhood Challenge	Neighbourhood & Community Services O&S Committee
Apr 2016	Inquiry: District and Neighbourhood arrangements	Corporate Resources O&S Committee

MOTIONS FOR DEBATE FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

To consider the following Motions of which notice has been given in accordance with Standing Order 4(A)

A. Councillors Alex Yip and John Alden have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

‘The Council notes the Tax Justice campaign led by Christian Aid.

The Council notes that

- Corporate tax evasion is having a damaging impact on the world’s poorest countries, to such a level that it is costing them far more than they receive in aid;
- this is costing the UK as much as £30bn a year; and that
- this practice also has a negative effect on small and medium-sized companies who pay more tax proportionately.

Council further notes that the UK Government has:

- taken steps to tackle the issue of tax evasion by issuing Procurement Policy Note 03/14, applying to all central government contracts worth more than £5m;
- hosted the world’s first international anti-corruption summit to build a consensus on the exchange and publishing of information;
- Closed loopholes with 40 tax changes and are legislating to close a further 25, raising an additional £28 billion;
- made clear its support for forcing multinationals to publish country-specific breakdown of the profits they make and the taxes they pay;
- Introduced the Social Value Act 2013 making provisions for ensuring the public procurement has wider public benefit; and
- Introduced the International Development Act 2015, putting onto a statutory footing the commitment to the UN target for Foreign Aid and a requirement for the Secretary of State to report on the effectiveness of this Aid.

Birmingham City Council currently requires companies to have ethical and social policies as expressed in the Business Charter for Social Responsibility which includes a requirement for companies to pay their ‘fair share of tax.’

Council believes that it should also require bidders for Council contracts to account for their past tax record, using the higher standards used by central government in PPN 03/14, rather than the lower standards in the recent regulations that relate only to the disclosure of breaches of tax law. This should also include explicit reference to business rates which will become increasingly important for the funding of local services.

Council asks Officers to investigate whether and how this policy could be effectively included in the Council's Procurement Procedures at a threshold which does not detrimentally impact on SMEs and Third Sector Organisations or otherwise impact on wider social value considerations including the drive to 'buy local'. The Government threshold is for contracts worth over £5m, this level should be considered.

Furthermore, the Council resolves to use its position of influence to encourage other local authorities and public sector organisations with which it works in partnership to adopt similar practices in their procurement policies.'

B. Councillors John Hunt and Roger Harmer have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

'Council notes with concern the implications for Birmingham of the referendum vote to leave the EU.

It notes EU funded projects that are at risk, including the 254 million Euros currently committed to the Birmingham and Solihull LEP for up to seven years, making a significant contribution to programmes such as:

- The Birmingham and Solihull Youth Promise (£50m – two thirds from the European Social Fund);
- The Midlands Engine Investment Fund of £250 million;
- The Birmingham Business Support Programme (£20 million with £10 million from the EU).

It also notes that our universities attract significant research funding from Europe, currently worth more than 300 million Euros across the West Midlands.

Council condemns the use by some campaigners of dog whistle slogans, such as "Take our country back." These have caused confusion, stirred up racism and legitimised an upsurge in racist assaults.

It calls for:

The government to commit to replace EU structural and investment funding currently available to the Birmingham area;

Brexit negotiations to ensure that the city can retain as close ties as possible with Europe.

Council resolves:

to lead and support partnership working in the city aimed at supporting and restoring community cohesion, involving a wide range of partners including business and faith groups;

that an all-party delegation should meet the relevant Westminster cabinet ministers, as soon as a new cabinet is appointed, to press the city's concerns.'

C. Councillors Waseem Zaffar and Lisa Trickett have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

'Following the EU referendum, Birmingham community networks are reporting a perceived rise in hate attacks and reports of inflammatory articles and words on social media; an EDL demonstration outside a Birmingham Mosque; and anti-Islam leaflets being delivered in the Aston and Perry Barr areas of the city.

This Council notes the prompt action taken to address this through calling an urgent meeting of the Birmingham Hate Crime Partnership with the Cabinet Member for Openness, Transparency and Equality, to consider issues emerging post the referendum, and various community led campaigns across Birmingham including "Love your Neighbour".

Given the perceived rise in reported hate incidents post the EU referendum, this Council urges West Midlands Police to raise visibility of policing to ensure confidence within communities.

Council also acknowledge that the language of anti-Semitism, racism and Islamophobia all change on the basis of news issues and national and international incidents. This fluidity and changing nature of language should be understood on a continuing basis.

Council notes that yesterday, 11th July, Srebrenica Memorial Day was commemorated in accordance with the European Parliament's 2009 Resolution calling on all Member states to commemorate this day and learn the lessons of Srebrenica and tackling hatred and intolerance.

Council resolves to mark Srebrenica Memorial Day each year during remembering Srebrenica Memorial Week in July and bring all communities together to raise awareness and learn about the consequences of hatred and intolerance.

Council resolves to continue to work closely with partners and communities to tackle hate crime in all its forms, and in particular online hate incidents.

Council calls upon key social media providers such as Facebook, Twitter and search engine aggregators like Google, to meet with hate crime officers from local authorities and West Midlands Police on a regional basis every six months.'

It further requests that local hate crime officers within the West Midlands Police force are provided with ongoing training on social media platforms; and reinvigorates support to hate crime centres in the city, ensuring they are capable of dealing with spikes in reporting that follow national and international events.