



**MEETING OF BIRMINGHAM  
CITY COUNCIL  
9 JANUARY 2018**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL HELD  
ON TUESDAY 9 JANUARY 2018 AT 1400 HOURS IN THE COUNCIL  
CHAMBER, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

**PRESENT**:- Lord Mayor (Councillor Anne Underwood) in the Chair

**Councillors**

Muhammed Afzal	Barbara Dring	Mary Locke
Uzma Ahmed	Des Flood	Ewan Mackey
Mohammed Aikhlaq	Jayne Francis	Majid Mahmood
Deirdre Alden	Matthew Gregson	Karen McCarthy
John Alden	Carole Griffiths	Gareth Moore
Robert Alden	Peter Griffiths	Yvonne Mosquito
Tahir Ali	Andrew Hardie	Brett O'Reilly
Sue Anderson	Roger Harmer	John O'Shea
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Kath Hartley	David Pears
Mohammed Azim	Des Hughes	Eva Phillips
David Barrie	Jon Hunt	Robert Pocock
Bob Beauchamp	Mahmood Hussain	Victoria Quinn
Matt Bennett	Shabrana Hussain	Hendrina Quinnen
Kate Booth	Timothy Huxtable	Chauhdry Rashid
Sir Albert Bore	Mohammed Idrees	Carl Rice
Barry Bowles	Zafar Iqbal	Fergus Robinson
Randal Brew	Morriam Jan	Gary Sambrook
Marje Bridle	Kerry Jenkins	Rob Sealey
Alex Buchanan	Meirion Jenkins	Shafique Shah
Andy Cartwright	Simon Jevon	Mike Sharpe
Tristan Chatfield	Julie Johnson	Sybil Spence
Zaker Choudhry	Brigid Jones	Claire Spencer
Debbie Clancy	Carol Jones	Stewart Stacey
John Clancy	Nagina Kauser	Ron Storer
Liz Clements	Tony Kennedy	Martin Straker Welds
Lynda Clinton	Ansar Ali Khan	Paul Tilsley
Lyn Collin	Changese Khan	Lisa Trickett
Maureen Cornish	Mariam Khan	Margaret Waddington
John Cotton	Narinder Kaur Kooner	Ian Ward
Ian Cruise	Chaman Lal	Mike Ward
Basharat Dad	Mike Leddy	Fiona Williams
Phil Davis	Bruce Lines	Ken Wood
Diane Donaldson	John Lines	Alex Yip
Peter Douglas Osborn	Keith Linnecor	Waseem Zaffar

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**NOTICE OF RECORDING**

18943 The Lord Mayor advised that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcasting via the Council's internet site and that members of the Press/Public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

The Lord Mayor reminded Members that they did not enjoy Parliamentary Privilege in relation to debates in the Chamber and Members should be careful in what they say during all debates that afternoon

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**MINUTES**

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and –

18944 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2017 having been printed and copies circulated to each Member of the Council, be taken as read and confirmed and signed.

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and –

18945 **RESOLVED:-**

That the public section of the Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 11 December 2017 be noted.

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**LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**A. Death of Honorary Alderman Sir Frank Price**

The Lord Mayor informed the Chamber of the death of Honorary Alderman Sir Frank Price on 29 December 2017 at the age of 95. He died peacefully at his home in Spain.

The Lord Mayor advised that Frank served as a Councillor for St Paul's Ward from 1949 to 1958 and then as an Alderman from 1958 to 1974. He served on numerous Committees of the Council and on boards and trusts of numerous outside bodies. He was elected Lord Mayor of Birmingham in 1964 and became an Honorary Alderman on 26 March 1974. In addition Frank had also been Leader of the Labour Group and Chairman of British Waterways.

18946 **RESOLVED:-**

That this Council places on record its sorrow at the death of Honorary Alderman Frank Price and its appreciation of his devoted service to the residents of Birmingham; it extends its deepest sympathy to members of Frank's family in their sad bereavement.

**B. New Year's Honours**

18947 The Lord Mayor asked those in the Chamber to join her in congratulating those mentioned in the New Year's Honours list for services to Birmingham or who lived in Birmingham as follows:-

**CBE**

Professor Richard James Lilford

**OBE**

Professor James Arthur  
Professor Hilary Joyce Grainger

**MBE**

Cindy Bonita Beckford  
Rosemary Jane Cadbury  
Paul Cobbing  
Jill Dudley-Toole  
Bernadette Peers  
Naeem Rabbani Qureshi  
Dr Robert Ramdhanie  
Andrew Ready  
Andrew Paul Watson

**Queen's Fire Service Medal**

Philip John Loach

**Queen's Ambulance Service Medal**

Diane Jessica Scott

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**EXEMPTION FROM STANDING ORDERS**

It was moved by Councillor Diane Donaldson, seconded and

18948 **RESOLVED:-**

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

- *Allow the agenda item relating to question time to be considered ahead of petitions*
  - *Allocate 15 minutes for item 8 (Review of Birmingham's Council Tax Support Scheme 2017/18)*
  - *Allocate 30 minutes for item 9 (Birmingham Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2017+)*
  - *Allocate 30 minutes for item 10 (Commonwealth Games 2022)*
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**QUESTION TIME**

18949 The Council proceeded to consider Oral Questions in accordance with Standing Order 9

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

During part C of Oral Questions Councillor Alex Yip rose on a point of order to ask if Councillor Lisa Trickett would be asked to retract her comment that the Conservatives were like dogs and apologise for it.

The Lord Mayor indicated that she had reprimanded Councillor Trickett at the time and would consult with the City Solicitor after the meeting and write to Councillor Trickett if it is necessary for her to apologise.

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**PETITIONS**

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

The following petitions were presented:-

(See document No 1)

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

18950 **RESOLVED:-**

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

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**Petitions Update**

The following Petitions Update was submitted:-

(See document No 2)

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and -

18951 **RESOLVED:-**

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

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**APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNCIL**

Following nominations it was -

18952

**RESOLVED:-**

That the following persons be appointed until the Annual Meeting of the City Council in 2018 as set below:-

<b><u>Body</u></b>	<b><u>Representative</u></b>
<b><u>Standards Committee</u></b>	New Frankley in Birmingham Parish Councillor Ian Bruckshaw and Sutton Coldfield Parish Councillor Derrick Griffin for the period 23 May 2017 to 22 May 2018
<b><u>Corporate Resources and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee</u></b>	Councillor Liz Clements (Lab) to replace former Councillor Valerie Seabright (Lab) and Councillor Debbie Clancy (Con) to replace Ewan Mackey (Con) for the remainder of the 2017/2018 Municipal Year.

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**REVIEW OF BIRMINGHAM'S COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2017/18**

The following report of the Leader of the Council was submitted:-

(See document No 3)

The Leader of the Council Councillor Ian Ward moved the motion which was seconded.

There being no 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 -

18953

**RESOLVED:-**

That approval be given to retain the current Council Tax Support Scheme for the next financial year (2018/19) notwithstanding any prescribed changes set by Government and/or annual uprating.

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**BIRMINGHAM HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION STRATEGY 2017+**

The following joint report from the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Homes was submitted:-

(See document No 4)

Councillor Peter Griffiths moved the motion which was seconded.

A debate ensued.

Councillor Peter Griffiths 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 -

18954

**RESOLVED:-**

That the draft Birmingham Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2017+ (Appendix1) is approved as the City Council's new Homelessness Strategy and that the Corporate Director of Place be authorised to publish and disseminate the document as appropriate.

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**COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022**

The following joint report of the Chief Executive and Corporate Director Finance and Governance was submitted:-

(See document No 5)

The Leader of the Council Councillor Ian Ward moved the motion which was seconded.

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

(See document No 6)

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

A debate ensued.

The Leader of the Council Councillor Ian Ward replied to the debate during which he indicated that the amendment was acceptable.

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

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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 -

18955 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Council:-

Notes the Cabinet decision of 8<sup>th</sup> December and welcomes the announcement of 21<sup>st</sup> December of the award of the Commonwealth Games 2022 to Birmingham

Notes the next steps set out in the report including the setting up of a Members Advisory Board

Congratulates Coventry on the award of the City of Culture 2021.

Council further re-affirms the principles agreed by Council in relation to the Commonwealth Games on 1 November 2016 including:-

- The commitment in paragraph 4.2.2 of today's report that there should be "no prejudice" to day-to-day services or to council taxpayers;
- A commitment to transparency around finances and planning, that will include regular updates to Council as well as to the wards directly affected by the event.

Council further agrees to work with the Commonwealth Games Federation and the Commonwealth itself to enable the development of new funding models for the Games, noting the huge significance of the event for the Commonwealth as a family of nations and peoples.

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### **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and

18956 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Council be adjourned until 1720 hours on this day.

The Council then adjourned at 1645 hours.

At 1720 hours the Council resumed at the point where the meeting had been adjourned.

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**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(1).

**A. Councillors Gareth Moore and Robert Alden have given notice of the following Motion:-**

(See document No 7)

Councillor Gareth Moore moved the Motion, which was seconded by Councillor Robert Alden.

In accordance with Council Standing Orders, Councillors Karen McCarthy and Peter Griffiths gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No 8)

Councillor Karen McCarthy moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Peter Griffiths.

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

(See document No 9)

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

A debate ensued during which Councillor Alex Yipp indicated that he was a HMSO licence holder.

Councillor Gareth Moore 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 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 lost.

It was therefore -

18957

**RESOLVED:-**

This Council believes that in any modern city, a diverse range of housing options are required to match the needs of the population. The Council also recognise that every community within Birmingham is unique and distinctive and it is important that we preserve the character of these areas. The Council also believes that the City has a shortage of quality family housing

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and the conversion of family dwellings to HMO properties exacerbates this problem.

This council regrets that the failure of the Government's housing policies evidenced by the growing homelessness crisis, combined with the impact of welfare reforms since 2010, mean that a growing number of citizens of all ages are increasingly reliant on the HMO market.

The Council recognises that there is a need to increase the housing supply, but believes that this must be balanced against the concerns there are about the proliferation of HMOs and about the impact this can have on established communities and neighbourhoods and how they can undermine the character of historical parts of Birmingham. The Council notes that the police have also often raised concerns through the planning process in relation to HMO conversions because of the impact they can have on community cohesion.

The Council also notes the importance of the provision of decent, high quality accommodation and that often HMOs are over intensive for the building they are put in, leaving rooms below adequate size.

The Council notes that there are already policies in place in parts of the City that seek to restrict the creation of new HMOs via an Article 4 Direction, however this is not City wide and even where it is in place has had limited impact in restricting the creation of new HMOs.

The Council also notes that under an Article 4 direction, planning fees cannot be charged meaning that any extension of such arrangements would create a cost pressure for the Council. However, under current planning laws this is the only way to remove permitted development rights for a change from C3 to C4.

The Council notes that Selective licensing has recently been extended to parts of the City but whilst this goes some way to promoting good management of HMOs after conversion it does not prevent their proliferation across the City.

Council therefore calls on the Council Leader to consider the options for further restricting HMO conversions as part of revised local planning policies, including further area-based Article 4 Directions where appropriate. Such a Direction should include a requirement for all conversions from C3 to C4 to require planning permission, and that this permission should be considered based on the existing character of the local area, the impact on communities and the wishes of local residents.

The Council will pursue policies contained within the Birmingham Development Plan preventing the loss of existing dwelling stock to other uses. Such loss will only be permitted where there are good planning reasons or social need for the proposed use.

As part of the emerging Development Management Document, the Council will produce a specific policy on HMOs to avoid their cumulative impacts in regard to ensuring that there is the right mix of housing types in an area but

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also in relation to impacts on residential character, appearance, amenity and parking.

The Council also calls for covenants to be placed on all future Council new builds or disposals (including Right to Buy) to prevent future conversion of these properties into flats or HMOs.

The Council also asks the Council Leader to write, jointly with the other Group Leaders, to the Minister of State for Housing and Planning urging him to look at the impacts of welfare reform and the growing national housing crisis on the HMO market. The Government must act now to ensure that everyone has access to a decent home.

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### **Councillors Roger Harmer and Morriam Jan have given notice of the following Motion:-**

(See document No 10)

Councillor Roger Harmer moved the Motion, which was seconded by Councillor Morriam Jan.

In accordance with Council Standing Orders, Councillors Lisa Trickett and John O'Shea gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No 11)

Councillor Karen McCarthy moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Peter Griffiths.

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

(See document No 12)

Councillor Deirdre Alden moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Gary Sambrook.

There was insufficient time for debate and Councillor Roger Harmer made some closing comments.

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

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

(See document No 13)

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The total results referred to in the interleave read:-

Yes – 52 (For the amendment);

No – 31 (Against the amendment);

Abstain – 0 (Abstentions).

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 14)

The total results referred to in the interleave read:-

Yes – 31 (For the amendment);

No – 50 (Against the amendment);

Abstain – 1 (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.

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

(See document No 15)

The total results referred to in the interleave read:-

Yes – 52 (For the amendment);

No – 31 (Against the amendment);

Abstain – 0 (Abstentions).

It was therefore –

18958

### **RESOLVED:-**

This Council notes that:

- 1) UK households were estimated to throw away 7 million tonnes of food each year in 2012
- 2) The total cost of the food wasted in the UK is equivalent to 6 meals per household per week or £470 per year
- 3) Food wasted in the UK has a major environmental impact. It takes 19,000km<sup>2</sup> of land to grow and produces Green House Gas emissions

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equivalent to 17million tonnes of CO2, equivalent to those produced by 1 in 4 UK cars

- 4) A two week survey in 2016 showed that food waste makes up 48% of the total waste collected in Birmingham
- 5) Collecting food waste has been shown to reduce the amount of food wasted, bringing environmental and cost benefits
- 6) A Parliamentary report into food waste in 2017 recommended that:  
“Local authorities must look at the opportunities to introduce separate food waste collections when new waste contracts are put in place.

The Council commits to:

- Focus on waste prevention, prioritising a city-wide programme to tackle the amount of food waste thrown away each week.
- Work closely with individual households, businesses, local community organisations and national campaigns to promote best practice in food waste prevention.
- Monitor future technological advances that may result in cost-effective community based food waste recycling solutions in the future.
- Finalise and approve the Waste Strategy 2017 - 40 and the Waste Prevention Plan in accordance with the delegation given by Cabinet in October 2017

Further the Council expresses its disappointment that the Waste Strategy has not come to Full Council for approval as previously promised and disagrees fundamentally with the version approved by Cabinet in October which is highly unlikely to address the numerous failures that residents have experienced with the waste service over the last year and the low recycling rates in the City which - from a previously improving trajectory - have, since Labour took control, seen the Council sink to become the worst performing metropolitan authority, with recycling rates 40% below average and two and a half times worse than the best performing authorities.

The Council therefore believes a revised version of the Waste Strategy should be brought to Full Council at the earliest opportunity to include proposals to trial a free combined food and green waste collection, a commitment to retain weekly bin collections and an incentive scheme for recycling.

This Council is concerned by the huge levels of complaints residents have rightly made about the standard of collection service this winter which that has seen some roads have even more waste uncollected than during the strike. Therefore the Council thinks the standard of collection and recycling service offered to residents over the last few years has been of an unacceptable standard and well short of what residents have a right to expect.

**EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

The Lord Mayor moved the following Motion which was seconded and it was-

18959

**RESOLVED:-**

That, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, which includes the following exempt information under paragraph 1 of the Revised Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be now excluded from the meeting.

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**PRIVATE**

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING**

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and –

18960

**RESOLVED:-**

That the private section of the Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 11 December 2017 be noted and having been printed and copies circulated to each Member of the Council, the minutes as a whole be taken as read and confirmed and signed..

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The meeting ended at 1900 hours.

# **APPENDIX**

Questions and replies in accordance with Standing Order 9(B).

## **WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR MORRIAM JAN**

### **A1 Commonwealth Games**

#### **Question:**

**Could the Leader inform us how the Commonwealth Games will be paid for?**

#### **Answer:**

A separate report to this Council meeting provides an update on the Commonwealth Games, but this does not include financial details. A full update will be provided to Council later in the cycle as there are ongoing discussions with various partners about these issues. In the meantime there will be detailed briefings provided to Members.

As reported to Cabinet on 8<sup>th</sup> December, the Government will fund 75% of the delivery cost of the Games, which would be an investment of several hundred million pounds into the city and region. The remaining 25% of the cost will be funded by the City Council in conjunction with regional public and private bodies. The funding for the Commonwealth Games is divided between revenue (day to day operational spending) and capital (money which is for assets, plant, buildings). The Council has made clear that the funding required to support the Organising Committee for the Games will not impact on Council's Revenue Budget.

The Games Village will be funded separately by the Council. This will mean that the Council incurs all the construction costs and would fund these from prudential borrowing (after any external grant funding obtained). After the Games, the Council would convert the village to residential housing with the intention that the borrowing would be partly repaid from housing sales proceeds, with the cost of the remaining borrowing met from rental income.

The Council will be introducing robust cost control and reporting mechanisms for every aspect of the Games and will be doing so in conjunction with its partners on the Organising Committee, the Commonwealth Games Federation, Commonwealth Games England and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

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

**A2     Efficiency Measures**

**Question:**

**The current budget consultation has a line headed “Efficiency” stating that “services will be required to adopt a range of efficiency measures in order to deliver services at a reduced cost”. This is indicated as a saving of £5.665m annually. Given that a full year saving is proposed for 2018-19, what work has been done to identify how these efficiencies can be achieved, without double counting in-house savings?**

**Answer:**

Each Directorate is continuing to develop specific deliverable proposals to address this saving requirement for inclusion in the budget report to be considered by the City Council on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

The adoption of these saving initiatives, which are over and above items already set out in the proposed savings programme, will be subject to validation that the necessary processes are in place for their deliverability, and this will be reported to Cabinet on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018 before City Council on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE ALDEN**

**A3 Can't Pay, We'll Take it Away**

**Question**

**On the 19 December 2017, staff working in the council house were informed that High Court Enforcement Officers were in the building taking an inventory of items to settle an outstanding debt apparently owed by the Council. What did this debt relate to and what was the value, including any court fees or bailiff costs?**

Answer:

It was disgraceful that before the facts of the matter could be ascertained, the leader of the Conservative group rushed out a series of inaccurate social media messages.

- He claimed incorrectly that the High Court Enforcement Officers were acting on behalf of a supplier regarding an unpaid bill.
- He claimed incorrectly that the council would have been contacted at least five times before the arrival of the bailiffs.
- He claimed incorrectly that the events of 19 December only became public as a consequence of press enquiries. In fact the issue became public because Cllr Alden irresponsibly chose to broadcast a factually incorrect version of events in a bid to make political gain.

His ill-judged actions inferred that council officers had failed to pay a supplier on time at a time of year when cashflow can be difficult for many businesses. He also inferred that legal officers had not adequately carried out their duties.

I note that the ill-judged tweets are still online and would urge Cllr Alden to delete them.

I would also urge him to apologise to council officers for the inaccuracies found in those tweets.

On Tuesday 19 December 2017, two enforcement agents attended the Council House, acting under a Writ of Control issued against Birmingham City Council. The Council received no notice of the Writ, or the action in the County Court to which it related, prior to the attendance of these enforcement agents.

It was only subsequent to the 19 December, that the Council was able to ascertain that a private claim had been issued against the Council in Northampton County Court and later transferred to Manchester District Registry, where the Writ had been issued.

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It appears that the Courts had sent all notices of the claim to 1 Victoria Square which, as you will be aware, is the building opposite the Council House and which is not owned or controlled by the Council.

Therefore, the Council had no notice of the claim and was denied the opportunity to defend itself prior to the attendance of the enforcement agents. The Council made an urgent application to the Court on 19 December and the Writ of Control was stayed by a Judge in Birmingham approximately 2.5 hours after the Enforcement agents first arrived.

This was not a claim for an unpaid debt owed by the Council. The private individual was seeking the sum of £5,000, which appears to be speculative. The claim is wholly denied by the Council which is currently taking appropriate legal steps to challenge the allegations. The enforcement agents requested fees for themselves of circa £2,200 on 19 December, which the Council avoided because the Writ of Control was stayed.

Unfortunately, before the stay was granted, some equipment had already been seized. The Council is taking steps to recover the seized assets.

This matter is subject to on-going legal proceedings.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR JOHN ALDEN**

**A4     The Sheriffs are coming**

**Question**

**What equipment (and what total value) was taken by High Court Enforcement Officers when they came to the Council House on 19 December to settle an outstanding debt?**

Answer:

It was disgraceful that before the facts of the matter could be ascertained, the leader of the Conservative group rushed out a series of inaccurate social media messages.

- He claimed incorrectly that the High Court Enforcement Officers were acting on behalf of a supplier regarding an unpaid bill.
- He claimed incorrectly that the council would have been contacted at least five times before the arrival of the bailiffs.
- He claimed incorrectly that the events of 19 December only became public as a consequence of press enquiries. In fact the issue became public because Cllr Alden irresponsibly chose to broadcast a factually incorrect version of events in a bid to make political gain.

His ill-judged actions inferred that council officers had failed to pay a supplier on time at a time of year when cashflow can be difficult for many businesses. He also inferred that legal officers had not adequately carried out their duties.

I note that the ill-judged tweets are still online and would urge Cllr Alden to delete them.

I would also urge him to apologise to council officers for the inaccuracies found in those tweets.

The Council does not agree or accept that any debt is owed.

Equipment taken included 7 Monitors, 4 Desktops, 1 Laptop and 1 Printer with a replacement cost of new devices in the region of £2,652.49.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR BRUCE LINES**

**A5     Bailiffs**

**Question**

**How many hours of productivity were lost by the confiscation of IT equipment by High Court Enforcement Officers when they visited the Council House on 19 December to settle the outstanding debt?**

Answer:

It was disgraceful that before the facts of the matter could be ascertained, the leader of the Conservative group rushed out a series of inaccurate social media messages.

- He claimed incorrectly that the High Court Enforcement Officers were acting on behalf of a supplier regarding an unpaid bill.
- He claimed incorrectly that the council would have been contacted at least five times before the arrival of the bailiffs.
- He claimed incorrectly that the events of 19 December only became public as a consequence of press enquiries. In fact the issue became public because Cllr Alden irresponsibly chose to broadcast a factually incorrect version of events in a bid to make political gain.

His ill-judged actions inferred that council officers had failed to pay a supplier on time at a time of year when cashflow can be difficult for many businesses. He also inferred that legal officers had not adequately carried out their duties.

I note that the ill-judged tweets are still online and would urge Cllr Alden to delete them.

I would also urge him to apologise to council officers for the inaccuracies found in those tweets.

No more than 2 hours of productivity was lost on the day as staff were able to continue with reception duties or find alternative equipment.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR DAVID BARRIE**

**A6     Empty Desks**

**Question:**

**How long did it take for the IT equipment confiscated by High Court Enforcement Officers on 19 December to be returned?**

Answer:

It was disgraceful that before the facts of the matter could be ascertained, the leader of the Conservative group rushed out a series of inaccurate social media messages.

- He claimed incorrectly that the High Court Enforcement Officers were acting on behalf of a supplier regarding an unpaid bill.
- He claimed incorrectly that the council would have been contacted at least five times before the arrival of the bailiffs.
- He claimed incorrectly that the events of 19 December only became public as a consequence of press enquiries. In fact the issue became public because Cllr Alden irresponsibly chose to broadcast a factually incorrect version of events in a bid to make political gain.

His ill-judged actions inferred that council officers had failed to pay a supplier on time at a time of year when cashflow can be difficult for many businesses. He also inferred that legal officers had not adequately carried out their duties.

I note that the ill-judged tweets are still online and would urge Cllr Alden to delete them.

I would also urge him to apologise to council officers for the inaccuracies found in those tweets.

The seized items have not yet been returned.

The Enforcement agency has declined to release them, as the Writ of Control was live at the time when the equipment was seized. However, now that the Writ has been stayed by the Courts, the Enforcement agency is required by law to take care of the equipment and cannot continue with any further action while the stay remains in place.

In the meantime, the Council is now engaged in legal proceedings to resolve the matter.

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

**A7     The Sheriffs are coming**

**Question:**

**How much notice did the Council receive that High Court Enforcement Officers would be attending the council to seek to settle the debt?**

**Answer:**

It was disgraceful that before the facts of the matter could be ascertained, the leader of the Conservative group rushed out a series of inaccurate social media messages.

- He claimed incorrectly that the High Court Enforcement Officers were acting on behalf of a supplier regarding an unpaid bill.
- He claimed incorrectly that the council would have been contacted at least five times before the arrival of the bailiffs.
- He claimed incorrectly that the events of 19 December only became public as a consequence of press enquiries. In fact the issue became public because Cllr Alden irresponsibly chose to broadcast a factually incorrect version of events in a bid to make political gain.

His ill-judged actions inferred that council officers had failed to pay a supplier on time at a time of year when cashflow can be difficult for many businesses. He also inferred that legal officers had not adequately carried out their duties.

I note that the ill-judged tweets are still online and would urge Cllr Alden to delete them.

I would also urge him to apologise to council officers for the inaccuracies found in those tweets.

The Council received no notice. It appears that the claim against the Council and any subsequent notices, were sent to 1 Victoria Square, which is not a building owned or occupied by the Council. The Council was denied the opportunity to defend itself against this action.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR MATT BENNETT**

**A8 Who owns IT**

**Question:**

**Does the IT equipment confiscated by High Court Enforcement Officers belong to the Council or to Service Birmingham and if Service Birmingham, does the confiscation comply with the SB contract?**

Answer:

The equipment belongs to the Council.

Regarding the incident on 19 December, it was disgraceful that before the facts of the matter could be ascertained, the leader of the Conservative group rushed out a series of inaccurate social media messages.

- He claimed incorrectly that the High Court Enforcement Officers were acting on behalf of a supplier regarding an unpaid bill.
- He claimed incorrectly that the council would have been contacted at least five times before the arrival of the bailiffs.
- He claimed incorrectly that the events of 19 December only became public as a consequence of press enquiries. In fact the issue became public because Cllr Alden irresponsibly chose to broadcast a factually incorrect version of events in a bid to make political gain.

His ill-judged actions inferred that council officers had failed to pay a supplier on time at a time of year when cashflow can be difficult for many businesses. He also inferred that legal officers had not adequately carried out their duties.

I note that the ill-judged tweets are still online and would urge Cllr Alden to delete them.

I would also urge him to apologise to council officers for the inaccuracies found in those tweets.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR RANDAL BREW**

**A9     The cheque's in the post**

**Question**

**How many court actions have been taken against the council for non-payment of debt in the last 12 months?**

Answer:

None as far as I am aware.

Regarding the incident on 19 December, it was disgraceful that before the facts of the matter could be ascertained, the leader of the Conservative group rushed out a series of inaccurate social media messages.

- He claimed incorrectly that the High Court Enforcement Officers were acting on behalf of a supplier regarding an unpaid bill.
- He claimed incorrectly that the council would have been contacted at least five times before the arrival of the bailiffs.
- He claimed incorrectly that the events of 19 December only became public as a consequence of press enquiries. In fact the issue became public because Cllr Alden irresponsibly chose to broadcast a factually incorrect version of events in a bid to make political gain.

His ill-judged actions inferred that council officers had failed to pay a supplier on time at a time of year when cashflow can be difficult for many businesses. He also inferred that legal officers had not adequately carried out their duties.

I note that the ill-judged tweets are still online and would urge Cllr Alden to delete them.

I would also urge him to apologise to council officers for the inaccuracies found in those tweets.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY**

**A10 Data Protection**

**Question:**

**As a result of the action taken by the bailiffs in removing IT equipment was there any data protection breach or loss or compromised confidential and/or sensitive information?**

Answer:

It was disgraceful that before the facts of the matter could be ascertained, the leader of the Conservative group rushed out a series of inaccurate social media messages.

- He claimed incorrectly that the High Court Enforcement Officers were acting on behalf of a supplier regarding an unpaid bill.
- He claimed incorrectly that the council would have been contacted at least five times before the arrival of the bailiffs.
- He claimed incorrectly that the events of 19 December only became public as a consequence of press enquiries. In fact the issue became public because Cllr Alden irresponsibly chose to broadcast a factually incorrect version of events in a bid to make political gain.

His ill-judged actions inferred that council officers had failed to pay a supplier on time at a time of year when cashflow can be difficult for many businesses. He also inferred that legal officers had not adequately carried out their duties.

I note that the ill-judged tweets are still online and would urge Cllr Alden to delete them.

I would also urge him to apologise to council officers for the inaccuracies found in those tweets.

All of the equipment seized is fully password protected and is data encrypted, so that no information belonging to BCC could be accessed, even if someone attempted to use these machines.

We are however confident this would not happen, because the Enforcement agents are required by law to take care of the equipment while it is under their control.

The act of having equipment seized by persons acting under a Writ is not in itself a breach of data protection law.

In any event, the Council is undertaking necessary steps, through the courts, to recover its equipment.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR LYN COLLIN**

**A11 Reminders**

**Question:**

**How many requests, reminders or notices did the Council receive in relation to the unpaid debt that brought the High Court Enforcement Officers to the Council House before the High Court notice was issued?**

**Answer:**

It was disgraceful that before the facts of the matter could be ascertained, the leader of the Conservative group rushed out a series of inaccurate social media messages.

- He claimed incorrectly that the High Court Enforcement Officers were acting on behalf of a supplier regarding an unpaid bill.
- He claimed incorrectly that the council would have been contacted at least five times before the arrival of the bailiffs.
- He claimed incorrectly that the events of 19 December only became public as a consequence of press enquiries. In fact the issue became public because Cllr Alden irresponsibly chose to broadcast a factually incorrect version of events in a bid to make political gain.

His ill-judged actions inferred that council officers had failed to pay a supplier on time at a time of year when cashflow can be difficult for many businesses. He also inferred that legal officers had not adequately carried out their duties.

I note that the ill-judged tweets are still online and would urge Cllr Alden to delete them.

I would also urge him to apologise to council officers for the inaccuracies found in those tweets.

The Council received no notices in relation to the claim for unpaid debt as notices were sent to 1 Victoria Square and not to the Council House.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR MAUREEN CORNISH**

**A12 Beat the Bailiffs**

**Question**

**From first receiving the claim for payment to the moment High Court Enforcement Officers attended the Council House to confiscate equipment, what steps did the Council take to either settle or dispute the money owed?**

Answer:

It was disgraceful that before the facts of the matter could be ascertained, the leader of the Conservative group rushed out a series of inaccurate social media messages.

- He claimed incorrectly that the High Court Enforcement Officers were acting on behalf of a supplier regarding an unpaid bill.
- He claimed incorrectly that the council would have been contacted at least five times before the arrival of the bailiffs.
- He claimed incorrectly that the events of 19 December only became public as a consequence of press enquiries. In fact the issue became public because Cllr Alden irresponsibly chose to broadcast a factually incorrect version of events in a bid to make political gain.

His ill-judged actions inferred that council officers had failed to pay a supplier on time at a time of year when cashflow can be difficult for many businesses. He also inferred that legal officers had not adequately carried out their duties.

I note that the ill-judged tweets are still online and would urge Cllr Alden to delete them.

I would also urge him to apologise to council officers for the inaccuracies found in those tweets.

The Council received no notice of the claim prior to the attendance of the enforcement agents on Tuesday 19 December 2017. It therefore had no opportunity to dispute the claim.

On the attendance date, the Council acted swiftly and obtained a stay of the Writ of Control within approximately 2.5 hours.

The Council is currently undertaking steps to challenge the claim, which it denies and the matter remains subject to on-going proceedings.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR PETER DOUGLAS OSBORN**

**A13    Credit Rating**

**Question:**

**Will the presence of High Court Enforcement Officers taking an inventory of assets of the Council for debt purposes affect our credit rating as a Council?**

**Answer:**

The actions of High Court Enforcement Officers will not impact upon the credit rating of the Council.

It was disgraceful that before the facts of the matter could be ascertained, the leader of the Conservative group rushed out a series of inaccurate social media messages.

- He claimed incorrectly that the High Court Enforcement Officers were acting on behalf of a supplier regarding an unpaid bill.
- He claimed incorrectly that the council would have been contacted at least five times before the arrival of the bailiffs.
- He claimed incorrectly that the events of 19 December only became public as a consequence of press enquiries. In fact the issue became public because Cllr Alden irresponsibly chose to broadcast a factually incorrect version of events in a bid to make political gain.

His ill-judged actions inferred that council officers had failed to pay a supplier on time at a time of year when cashflow can be difficult for many businesses. He also inferred that legal officers had not adequately carried out their duties.

I note that the ill-judged tweets are still online and would urge Cllr Alden to delete them.

I would also urge him to apologise to council officers for the inaccuracies found in those tweets.

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

**A14 Immediate Implementation**

**Question:**

**Listed by each month since 2012 how many Key Decisions including the title and CMIS reference number of the decision have been made for immediate implementation (i.e. not subject to call-in)**

**Answer:**

The attached schedule sets out the information requested from June 2015. It has not been possible to provide the full information requested as far back as 2012.

The information is accessible through email notifications of decisions sent to all Members and also the Committee Management Information System (CMIS).

However, CMIS has only been in existence since June 2015 and emails over three months old can only be accessed through archives.

Decisions prior to June 2015 were transferred to CMIS from the old Democracy in Birmingham system and have to be opened individually. It would be possible for Councillor Robert Alden to undertake his own research for the period prior to June 2015 records on CMIS on his own computer. However, that would take considerable time to complete.

<b>Title</b>	<b>CMIS ref. number</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Public/ Private</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>	<b>Date of Meeting</b>
Service Birmingham B1 Accommodation Move  (Emergency Executive Report)	000258/ 2015  000058/ 2015	Cabinet	Public  and  Private	Nigel Kletz	24/06/2015
Supplier Excellence Programme (SEP) – Full Business Case	002671/ 2016	Cabinet	Public	Mohammed Zahir	15/11/2016

**City Council – 9 January 2018**

Waste Management Services	004515/2017  004516/2017	Cabinet –  Special Meeting	Public  and  Private	Jacqui Kennedy	24/11/2017
Commonwealth Games 2022	004633/2017  004634/2017	Cabinet	Public  and  Private	Steve Hollingworth	08/12/2017
Budget 2018 + Consultation	004430/2017	Cabinet	Public	Mike O'Donnell	12/12/2017

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR PAUL TILSLEY**

**B Suspended Employees**

**Question:**

**It is noted that the Council has suspended 330 employees over the last 5 years. Could Cllr Brigid Jones advise the Council of the total cost of these suspensions, the longest suspension, and total financial cost including settlement agreements and days lost?**

**Answer:**

Unfortunately the level of detail required to respond to the question regarding costs has not been recorded.

The longest suspension was 581 days.

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

**C      SEND Tribunals**

**Question:**

**How much did the Council spend on unsuccessful SEND tribunals in 2016/17 (i.e. appeals won by the parents at appeal or conceded by the Council ahead of tribunal) including legal costs, management and staff time, mediation services, specialist professional time and administration costs.**

**Answer:**      Estimated associated costs of 155 upheld, withdrawn or LA conceded appeals during 2016/17 is £426,250.

**Rationale:**      During the performance year 2016/17, **175** Appeals were registered with SENDIST.

Out of the appeals registered:

- 15                      appeals were upheld by SENDIST
- 91                      appeals were withdrawn by parents
- 49                      appeals were conceded by the LA
  
- **155**                      appeals upheld, withdrawn or conceded

In terms of applying associated average costs to **each appeal (in any event)**, the following involvement of Officers and partners has been taking into account:

- |            |   |              |
|------------|---|--------------|
| • 4 days   | Dispute Resolution/Tribunal Lead          | £650         |
| • 1.5 days | Strategic Lead                            | £325         |
| • 2.5 days | Professional Witness (average 2 per case) | £1250        |
| • 1 day    | Principal Officer                         | £165         |
| • 0.5 day  | Area Team Manager                         | £105         |
| • 1 day    | Administrative Officer                    | £75          |
|            | Estimated associated cost per appeal      | <b>£2570</b> |

**Answer:**              Estimated associated costs of 30 mediation sessions during 2016/17 is £37,500.

**Rationale:**              For each appeal registered consideration must be given by the appellant to the Mediation process (with the exception of solely Part 4 and Section I appeals).

During this same period (performance year 2016/17) **30** mediation sessions were requested by parents who were considering formal appeal to SENDIST.

Out of the mediation sessions held:

- 14 sessions resolved issues of dispute without the need to progress to formal appeal to SENDIST

In terms of applying associated average costs to **each mediation session (in any event)**, the following involvement of Officers and partners has been taking into account:

• 1 day	Dispute Resolution/Tribunal Lead	£165
• 0.5	Principal Officer	£80
• 0.25 day	Area Team Manager	£55
• 1 day	Mediation Session (West Midlands Framework)	£950
	Estimated associated cost per mediation	<b>£1250</b>

The Inclusion Commission which had independent partnership representation as well as parental representation reported to Cabinet in December 2017 and has proposed a new way forward for SEND. I will be monitoring progress very closely.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,  
RECYLCING AND THE ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR KEN WOOD**

**D1 Confusion Rules Supreme**

**Question:**

**At full council you stated that in some instances where it was known whole streets had missed more than 3 green waste collections, then an offer of a free service for a year has been offered.**

**Can you please provide us with a list of the streets that have received this offer and can you also provide us with a list of all other locations where residents/individuals have been offered a "free year"?**

**Answer:**

There are no records of reports where a whole street has been missed on 3 consecutive occasions. Individual customers have received the offer of a free service in 2018, where they have reported 3 or more consecutive missed garden collections as per the terms and conditions.

Due to data protection legislation I am unable to provide a list of where residents / individuals have been offered a 'free year'. However for information, of the 65,525 customers who subscribed to the 2017 season, approximately 2495 customers will be offered the service for free in 2018.

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

**D2 Waste Contractors**

**Question:**

**What was the start and end date of each of the contracts entered into with waste contractors to provide collection services as part of the mitigation for this summer's bin strike?**

**Answer:**

- 1. Clearabee**  
Started: 15 August 2017  
Ended: 17 November 2017
- 2. FCC**  
Started: 15 August 2017  
Ended: 27 October 2017
- 3. Suez**  
Started: 15 August 2017  
Ended: 6 October 2017
- 4. Urbaser**  
Started: 7 August 2017  
Ended: 6 October 2017
- 5. Waste Collection.com**  
Started: 15 August 2017  
Ended: 14 December 2017
- 6. Ricketts**  
Already a contractor used by the service however resource increased 28 July and reduced on the 22 September.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,  
RECYLCING AND THE ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN ALDEN**

**D3 Waste Contractors Cost**

**Question:**

**What was the total cost of each of the contracts entered into with waste contractors to provide collection services as part of the mitigation for this summer's bin strike?**

**Answer:**

The Council has made provision within the existing corporate resources and reserves to fund the expenditure that was incurred on the contingency plans for collecting the waste during the summer industrial action. The cost of those contracts is set out below:

	£'000
1. Clearabee	380
2. FCC	184
3. Suez	68
4. Urbaser	600
5. Waste Collection.com	1,100
6. GM Spriggs	60

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,  
RECYLCING AND THE ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR BOB  
BEAUCHAMP**

**D4 Waste Prevention Officers**

**Question:**

**What formal consultation took place and when with the waste prevention officers whose roles are being merged with those of the Leading Hands to create the new Grade 3 roles within the waste collection service?**

**Answer:**

Cabinet approved the 2018 Budget consultation report on 12 December 2017. Consultation will commence with those affected as part of that Budget consultation and formal consultation will commence once the budget has been approved by City Council in February.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,  
RECYLCING AND THE ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID BARRIE**

**D5     Fly Tipping**

**Question:**

**For each year since 2012 what percentage of total waste arising has come from fly tipped waste?**

**Answer:**

The tonnage of “fly-tipped” waste is shown in the table below.

YEAR	MUNICIPAL WASTE (TONNES)	FLY-TIPPED WASTE (TONNES)	% OF MUNICIPAL WASTE THAT WAS FLY-TIPPED
2011-12	484,099	5,194	1.07%
2012-13	488,868	7,127	1.46%
2013-14	493,554	5,683	1.15%
2014-15	485,505	2,284	0.47%
2015-16	491,199	2,070	0.42%
2016-17	496,167	623	0.13%

**Please note:** From 2014-15 the method of recording fly tipped waste changed from depots estimating how much of the total waste collected was fly tipped waste. To a different system which used designated vehicles / crews to collect fly tipped waste so that weights of the waste could be accurately reported.

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

**D6 Contracted waste collectors**

**Question:**

**For each contractor engaged as part of the bin strike contingency plan, for each week they have been under contract, how many hours were worked and how much rubbish was collected?**

**Answer:**

1. Clearabee – Contract was per load rather than hours worked
2. FCC – 180 hours per week
3. Ricketts – Contract was a day rate rather than hours worked
4. Suez – Contract was per load rather than hours worked
5. Urbaser – 280 hours per week
6. Waste Collection.com – 504 hours per week

The table below shows the tonnage of waste collected and disposed of by each of the contractors. The individual loads disposed of were assigned to each of the contractors based on the registration of the vehicle tipping the waste.

WEEK STARTING	CLEARABEE	FCC CLEARUP	RICKETTS	SUEZ	URBASER	WASTECOLLECTION	TOTAL
24/07/2017			4.78				4.78
31/07/2017			2.12		256.82		258.94
07/08/2017			26.4	18.36	279.98		324.74
14/08/2017	167.63	143.72	10.86	93.08	378.76	322.06	1116.11
21/08/2017	138.4	109.52	8.04	44.42	315.08	397.12	1012.58
28/08/2017	96.58	105.04	2.58	36.28	215.02	397.74	853.24
04/09/2017	76.42	127.12	11.36	80.36	220.56	592.46	1108.28
11/09/2017	99.48	96.98	7.02	95.76	295.68	984.22	1579.14
18/09/2017	105.34	45.24	7.22	57.38	264.24	903.36	1382.78
25/09/2017	83.02	106.04		48.78	509.64	713.38	1460.86
02/10/2017	59.12	101.24				413.86	574.22
09/10/2017	49.62	35.56				402.26	487.44
16/10/2017	38.36	4.76				611.24	654.36
23/10/2017	23.1	3.92				431.1	458.12
30/10/2017	23.57					422.94	446.51
06/11/2017	31.3					443.98	475.28
13/11/2017	21.5					327.16	348.66
20/11/2017						314.7	314.7
27/11/2017						260.78	260.78
04/12/2017						223.66	223.66
11/12/2017						2.24	2.24
Grand Total	1013.44	879.14	80.38	474.42	2735.78	8164.26	13347.42

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

**D7     Extra Resource**

**Question:**

**What extra resource/support was provided to depots for waste collections on 1 January 2017 to mitigate for the increased workload resulting from the collection of additional side waste (allowed for due to there being no Christmas Day collections) and to allow for the predictable higher rate of absenteeism that normally occurs on this particular bank holiday?**

**Answer:**

All the resources provided for this period were pre-planned and accounted for within the existing budget. No additional resources were required.

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

**D8 Continuity Plan**

**Question:**

**What is the Council’s business continuity plan for severe weather disruption to the waste collection service and when was this last updated?**

**Answer:**

The Waste Management Business Continuity Plan (Version 5) covers disruption to the service caused by severe weather. The document follows the corporate template and the related section “Disruption to public transport, e.g. snow/extreme cold weather, heavy rain / flooding” contains the following information:

Disruption to public transport, e.g. snow/extreme cold weather, heavy rain / flooding	1. Alternative options / workaround solutions: a. Immediate (first 24 hours) b. short term (a week) c. long term (2 weeks)	This will affect staff getting to Depots: Relocation of staff to alternative Depots/locations to cover as required. Only 'accessible' collections to be made e.g. on Main roads. Snow chains to be issued on request. Suitable PPE to be issued.
	2. Impact on critical function	To ensure all domestic collections are completed as scheduled, each day. However, this will be dependent on the vehicle availability and risk assessments of road. Link to SWP.
	3. Where to access more info if the scenario materialises, e.g. HR, <a href="http://www.birminghamprepared.gov.uk">www.birminghamprepared.gov.uk</a> , <a href="http://www.metoffice.gov.uk">www.metoffice.gov.uk</a> , local TV and radio, transport providers' websites, etc.	Contact Met Office/Internet for weather updates. Contact National Express for travel updates. Contact Amey to ensure all main roads are gritted, liaise if any in particular in need of re-gritting.
	4. Teleconference options for management team?	Group emails via Outlook, telephone conversations.
	5. Communications Plan for (internal staff and colleagues, external suppliers / stakeholders and public).	Group emails via Outlook Regular communication to staff – staff to contact the Depot to update Managers. Inform Contact centre to advise public Website to be updated. Inform Strategic Director & WM Senior Management Team

The whole 42 page document can be provided digitally on request, should it be required.

This Continuity plan was revised in November 2017 and is due to be reviewed in May 2018, however in light of the impact on service delivery of the severe weather in December it is proposed to bring forward that review to the end of January 2018 as part of the service review and service improvement process.

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

**D9 No Snow - Why Missed Refuse and Recycling Collections?**

**Question:**

**During the week of December 17th to 21st there was no snow, no significant ice, no bank holidays and no industrial action. Could the Cabinet Member explain why large numbers of roads throughout the city appear to have missed their refuse or recycling collections on every day of the week?**

**Answer:**

During December we have had a number of significant disruptions due to the bad weather. Snow impacted on collections during the 8<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> with ice continuing to be an issue for the remainder of that week.

The size of a collection vehicle is 26 tonnes, snow and particularly ice is a major concern. There have been many examples with disastrous consequences when a collection vehicle has lost control. Our Drivers have been fully trained to assess and evaluate each road before entering. This along with people being off over the holidays (cars parked up on narrow roads) has meant access has been difficult to some roads. Although the main roads were gritted many side roads and access to flats had not been gritted and therefore our vehicles were not able to access or accessed very slowly, again causing delays

The impact of being unable to make a large proportion of the 528 000 collections (recycling & domestic) in the week commencing 11 December, had a knock on impact into the following week. Whilst we attempted to catch up and had crews working over the weekend. Where a missed collection wasn't rectified collections during the week commencing 17 December involved taking two weeks' worth of refuse. This severely impacted on the efficiency of each collection crews, each day during this week, which unfortunately resulted in many of the rounds not completing.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,  
RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT FROM CLLR MORRIAM JAN**

**D10 Recycling - Roads Missed in December**

**Question:**

**How many roads have missed at least one recycling collection in the course of December 2017?**

**Answer:**

2315 roads in Birmingham had at least one missed recycling collection in December 2017.

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

**D11 Refuse Collections Behind**

**Question:**

**Was it wise to allow the service to fall behind on refuse collections in the week from December 17th to 21st, knowing that there were two bank holidays the following week (and the risk of severe weather disruption)?**

**Answer:**

During December we have had a number of significant disruptions due to the bad weather. Snow impacted on collections during the 8<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> with ice continuing to be an issue for the remainder of that week.

The size of a collection vehicle is 26 tonnes, snow and particularly ice is a major concern. There have been many examples with disastrous consequences when a collection vehicle has lost control. Our Drivers have been fully trained to assess and evaluate each road before entering. This along with people being off over the holidays (cars parked up on narrow roads) has meant access has been difficult to some roads. Although the main roads were gritted many side roads and access to flats had not been gritted and therefore our vehicles were not able to access or accessed very slowly, again causing delays

We tried not to allow the service to fall behind but the impact of not being able to make all of the 528 000 collections (recycling & domestic) in the week commencing 11 December, had a knock on impact into the following week. Whilst we attempted to catch up and had crews working over the weekend, in most cases this involved taking two weeks' worth of refuse which severely impacted on the efficiency of the collection crews during week commencing 17 December 2017.

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

**E      Costs**

**Question:**

**What will the cost be to put in place mitigation related to the strike action taken by the City Council enablement workers to safeguard our older adults who need their care?**

**Answer:**

The Council's primary concern has always been to not only safeguard our older residents but to improve the service and support they receive to remain living independently in the community. Therefore, in the current discussions and negotiations between officers and UNISON, officers are doing everything possible to avoid strike action being taken. However, if it is then it is difficult to place a figure on the cost until the precise nature of the strike action is known.

It is important to acknowledge that there is a historic agreement that industrial action is taken in a way so that service users' care is not disrupted. UNISON has verbally indicated an intention that action will be taken in downtime (i.e. outside of face-to-face care time). Therefore, it is not expected that direct care will be affected.

However, if this situation changes and care were to be affected, officers will commission care from external organisations to safeguard older adults in Birmingham. While there would be a cost to providing this care, BCC has a policy of deducting pay for time taken for industrial action. Further, care can be secured at a lower unit cost than the current Enablement Service, and therefore officers would not be predicting to fund costs outside of the service budget at this time.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND  
ROADS FROM COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY**

**F1     Grit 1**

**Question:**

**On any day in the last 3 months has the Council not had enough grit to cover all roads listed within the winter maintenance plan?**

**Answer:**

**No.**

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND  
ROADS FROM COUNCILLOR LYN COLLIN**

**F2     Grit 2**

**Question**

**On any day in the last 3 months has the Council's grit supply fallen below the amount required to grit all routes on the winter maintenance programme at least twice?**

Answer:

No.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND  
ROADS FROM COUNCILLOR MAUREEN CORNISH**

**F3     Grit 3**

**Question**

**How many deliveries of grit has the council taken in the last 6 months, and on what dates?**

Answer:

In the last six months we have received 132 deliveries (individual lorry loads) of rock salt for use in road gritting. These deliveries have been made on 25 different days as follows:

22/09/17

25/09/17

26/09/17

27/09/17

29/09/17

02/10/17

03/10/17

04/10/17

05/10/17

06/10/17

09/10/17

10/10/17

11/10/17

12/10/17

13/10/17

16/10/17

17/10/17

13/12/17

14/12/17

15/12/17

18/12/17

20/12/17

21/12/17

02/01/18

03/01/18

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND  
ROADS FROM COUNCILLOR PETER DOUGLAS OSBORN**

**F4     Grit 4**

**Question**

**How many times can the Council grit all routes on the Winter Maintenance programme when the council owned grit store is full?**

Answer:

When the grit store is full, based on spread rates between 8g/m<sup>2</sup> and 20g/m<sup>2</sup>, all routes could be gritted between 57 and 143 times.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND  
ROADS FROM COUNCILLOR DES FLOOD**

**F5     Grit 5**

**Question:**

**How many additional grit bin locations, listed individually, have been added to the City in the last 5 years?**

**Answer:**

Over the last 5 years we have added 11 grit bins to the network, at the following locations:

- Laburnum Drive, Sutton New Hall
- Amanda Drive, Stechford & Yardley North
- Booths Lane, Oscott
- Leabrook, Stechford & Yardley North
- Old Farm Road, Stechford & Yardley North
- Seven Acres Road, Northfield
- Westacre, Stechford & Yardley North
- Yardley Fields Road, Stechford & Yardley North
- Brooklands Road, Hall Green
- Kirkwood Avenue, Erdington
- Colesbourne Avenue, Brandwood

Grit bin locations are assessed against the pre-defined criteria, set-out in the Winter Maintenance Plan. This is in line with the Winter Maintenance Policy adopted by the Council in 2010.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND  
ROADS FROM COUNCILLOR ANDREW HARDIE**

**F6      Grit 6**

**Question:**

**How many additional roads, listed individually, have been added to the City's routine gritting list in the last 5 years?**

**Answer:**

Over the last 5 years we have added 29 roads, listed below:

- Spitfire Island Sliproad (Fort Parkway to Chester Road)
- Spitfire Island Sliproad (Chester Road to Fort Parkway)
- Haden Circus Sliproad (Belgrave Middleway to Highgate Middleway)
- Paradise/Summer Row (Into City Only)
- Upper Sutton Street (Park Lane to Victoria Road)
- George Street
- Paradise Circus (Great Charles Street to Suffolk Street Queensway)
- Bull Street (Temple Row to Corporation Street)
- Bordesley Circus Centre
- Aston Bridge
- High Street, Erdington (Wood End Lane to York Road)
- Barnabus Road
- Whitecroft Road (Shepherd Road to Cranes Park Road)
- Temple Row (Needless Alley to Bull Street)
- Wellington Street (Franklin Street to Winson Green Road)
- Dogpool Lane (Cecil Road to Dad's Lane)
- Water Street (Old Snow Hill to Livery Street)
- Bell Barn Road (Colbrand Grove to Alfred Knight Way)
- Alfred Knight Way (Bell Barn Road to Longleat Avenue)
- Longleat Avenue (Alfred Knight Way to Wheeley's Lane)
- Harvest Fields Way (Scarecrow Lane to Worcester Lane)
- Mole Street
- Preston Avenue (Sir Alfreds Way to Sir Alfreds Way)
- Alderflat Place
- Mainstream Way (Alderflat Place to Saltley Road Island)
- Ashurst Road
- Orton Avenue (Ashurst Road to Plants Brook Road)
- Plants Brook Road (Orton Avenue to Westlands Road)
- Westlands Road

Additions and removals to or from the priority treated network are considered annually to respond to changes in road layout or traffic conditions (including reintroductions following temporary closures) using the criteria set-out in the Winter Maintenance Plan, adopted by the Council in 2010.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND  
ROADS FROM COUNCILLOR TIMOTHY HUXTABLE**

**F7     Grit 7**

**Question:**

**How many grit bin locations, listed individually, have been removed from the City in the last 5 years?**

**Answer:**

Over the last 5 years we have removed 7 Grit Bins from the network, listed below:

- St. Phillips Churchyard x4 (Removed in agreement with BCC City Centre Manager as Cathedral paths are gritted by quad bike gritters)
- Lordswood Road x 2 (Removed due to closure of subway)
- Old Horns Crescent (Removed due to Old Horns Crescent being on the priority treated network - Route 17)

Grit bin locations are assessed against the pre-defined criteria, set-out in the Winter Maintenance Plan. This is in line with the Winter Maintenance Policy adopted by the Council in 2010.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND  
ROADS FROM COUNCILLOR SIMON JEVON**

**F8     Grit 8**

**Question:**

**How many roads, listed individually, have been removed from the City's routine gritting list in the last 5 years?**

**Answer:**

Over the last 5 years we have removed 13 roads, listed below:

- Bull Street (Colmore Circus Queensway to End of Platform) (Metro only, No Vehicles)
- Hurst Street (Thorp Street to Smallbrook Queensway) (BCC Closure)
- Parade (Paradise Circus works)
- Paradise Circus Queensway (Great Charles Street to Great Charles Street) (Paradise Circus works)
- Paradise Circus Queensway (Great Charles Street to Paradise Street) (Paradise Circus works)
- Metchley Park Road (Permanent closure)
- Mindelsohn Way (Metchley Park Road to Metchley Lane) (Private - QE Hospital)
- Holford Drive (Gavin Way to Holford Way) (Private Road)
- Holford Way (Holford Drive to Brookvale Road) (Private Road)
- Sir Alfreds Way (Preston Avenue to Preston Avenue) (Bus Route 108 – altered service)

Additions and removals to or from the priority treated network are considered annually to respond to changed circumstances, using criteria set-out in the Winter Maintenance Plan, adopted by the Council in 2010.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF ERDINGTON DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
FROM COUNCILLOR JON HUNT**

**G Attendance at cabinet committee and local leadership (3)**

**Question:**

**Could the Chair report their attendance at cabinet committee and cabinet committee local leadership in the current municipal year, including meetings for which they have sent apologies?**

**Answer:**

I have put in apologies to the last few Cabinet Committee Local leadership meetings, having attended one on 28 June 2017.

I have not been attending Cabinet, since, in my opinion, the role of a District Chair now is to primarily work with community organisations, so working with community organisations to bring extra value to Erdington is where I focus my attention.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF HODGE HILL DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
FROM COUNCILLOR ZAKER CHOUDHRY**

H **Attendance at cabinet committee and local leadership (2)**

**Question:**

**Could the Chair report their attendance at cabinet committee and cabinet committee local leadership in the current municipal year, including meetings for which they have sent apologies?**

**Answer:**

Unfortunately due to ward commitments and ill health I have not found it possible to attend any Cabinet or Cabinet Committee Local Leadership meetings this municipal year.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF LADYWOOD DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
FROM COUNCILLOR MORRIAM JAN**

**I Attendance at cabinet committee and local leadership (1)**

**Question:**

**Could the Chair report their attendance at cabinet committee and cabinet committee local leadership in the current municipal year, including meetings for which they have sent apologies?**

**Answer:**

I have attended all 5 Local Leadership Cabinet Committee meetings, and 2 out of the 8 Cabinet meetings held in 2017.