

**NEIGHBOURHOOD AND COMMUNITY SAFETY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE 19 NOVEMBER 2015**

PRIORITY REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER FOR INCLUSION & COMMUNITY SAFETY

REPORT BY: COUNCILLOR SHAFIQUE SHAH

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report sets out my portfolio priorities for 2015/16 and updates Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on future issues.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES

I have accountability for:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 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> <p>Holding to account other relevant Cabinet Members and officers for the delivery of those functions that impact on inequalities and inclusion.</p> |
| 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 | <p>Ensuring that partner agencies, private or third sector organisations are challenged on their contribution to improving social cohesion and inequalities.</p> |
| 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</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| | Police. Leadership on youth offending issues. |
| 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 Neighbourhood Management and Homes on the provision of accommodation. |
| Third Sector Partnership and Engagement | Working with and coordination of third sector and partner agencies around equalities, cohesion and inclusivity. |

I will be working with Executive Members for Districts around:

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Safer and inclusive Neighbourhoods | Community safety, including local CCTV and local partnership agreements with the police. Local highways services, school crossing patrols. Active citizenship and community empowerment. Community development. |
|------------------------------------|--|

3. PRIORITIES

The Executive remains committed to working together for a fairer, more prosperous and more democratic city, with a clear focus on priorities and outcomes.

This includes the opportunity for everyone to make the most of their talents and abilities, regardless of their background. Where communities value and respect one another and are able to make a contribution to public life and where people are safe, especially the most vulnerable – from crime, violence and abuse.

My key portfolio priorities for this year are to:

- Work with partners to develop a set of actions to be taken forward by the Council and its partners to address child poverty across the city, to ensure that every child has the opportunity to fulfil their potential.
- Adopt the Road Safety Strategy to make the city's roads safer.
- Support the development of a city-wider advice offer through the establishment of a coherent advice strategy and integration of advice services across the council and partners.
- Develop a city-wide comprehensive and sustainable approach to keeping victims and children safe from domestic violence.

4. OTHER KEY PROGRAMMES

In addition to the priorities outlined above, there are a number of other key programmes that that will be progressed during 2015/16 including:

- Provide an effective response to the refugee crisis, including a shared city-wide approach to housing fifty Syrian refugees through a nationally-organised and nationally-supported resettlement scheme
- Developing a new affordable model for CCTV in the city.
- Completing the review of school crossing sites, to increase the safety of children travelling to and from schools.

5. KEY BUDGET ISSUES

I am responsible as the Cabinet Member for a net revenue budget of £3.4m (representing gross expenditure of £8.4m funded partly from grant/other income of £5m). These resources are utilised to provide a significant range of services including the Council's Equalities Team, our work on the Preventing Violent Extremism, CCTV, Birmingham Police and Crime Partnership, Neighbourhood Advice Services and Third Sector Advice Services.

There is considerable pressure to deliver savings within the existing resources and in particular all these services were required to make savings of almost £1.9m in 2015/16 and this will increase by a further £0.6m by 2017/18 as approved by the City Council.

6. EMERGING ISSUES/CHALLENGES

Welfare Reform

There has been much debate recently regarding future Welfare Reforms, in particular Tax Credits and the effects this will have on working families, many of whom are on a low wage.

While we await the Chancellor's Autumn statement, we have already started working with a wide range of partners, through the Welfare Reform Multi-Agency Committee, to start assessing the impacts of the next wave of welfare reforms on Birmingham citizens.

Councillor Cotton, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Management and Homes has already informed this Committee of his concerns and we will be working closely together to ensure that, with our partners, we can provide appropriate support.

PREVENT

The Counter Terrorism and Security (CTS) ACT 2015 places a duty on specified authorities including the police, local authorities, prisons, schools and universities, to prevent people being drawn into terrorism. By introducing the duty the Government intends to increase the consistency of Prevent delivery across England, Wales and Scotland.

The current situation in Syria presents many risks and we are aware that people who travel to Syria and Iraq are at risk of serious harm and of being drawn into terrorism.

We are working closely with our communities and families to provide Safeguarding support to ensure people do not travel to Syria and Islamic State.

Councillor Shafique Shah

Cabinet Member for Inclusion and Community Safety