

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

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

1400 hours on Tuesday 3 July 2018, Committee Room 6

Present:

Councillor Penny Holbrook (Chair)

Councillors Deirdre Alden, Marje Bridle, Mahmood Hussain, Eddie Freeman and Roger Harmer

Also Present:

Councillor Tristan Chatfield, Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, Community Safety and Equalities

Councillor Sharon Thompson, Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods

Mark Croxford, Head of Environmental Health

Steve Harris, Operations Commander, West Midlands Fire Service (Chair of the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership)

Chief Superintendent Danny Long, Commander, Birmingham West NPU, West Midlands Police

Suwinder Bains, Cohesion and Partnerships Manager

Julie Griffin, Service Integration Head - Homelessness

Chris Jordan, Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods and Communities

Baseema Begum, Scrutiny Officer, Scrutiny Office

Emma Williamson, Head of Scrutiny Services

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chairman advised that this meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site (www.civico.net/birmingham) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Gurdial Singh Atwal.

3. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE AND CHAIR

- (i) Noted the resolution of City Council appointing the Committee, Chair and Members to serve on the Committee for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the City Council in 2019:

Labour (5): Councillors Penny Holbrook (Chair), Akhlaq Ahmed, Gurdial Singh Atwal, Marje Bridle and Mahmood Hussain.

Conservative (2): Councillors Deirdre Alden and Eddie Freeman.

Liberal Democrat (1): Councillor Roger Harmer.

- (ii) Elected Cllr Mahmood Hussain as Deputy Chair for the purposes of substitution for the Chair, if absent, for the period ending with the Annual General Meeting of the City Council in 2019.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Although not a pecuniary interest, the Chair advised that she does some work for Thrive, an organisation which delivers two of the projects referred to in the Community Cohesion paper under agenda item 7, but that she had not been involved in the consultation or either of those projects.

5. HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – TERMS OF REFERENCE 2018/19

The Terms of Reference were noted.

6. BIRMINGHAM COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

(see document No 1)

Councillor Tristan Chatfield (Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, Community Safety & Equalities), Steve Harris (Operations Commander, West Midlands Fire Service – Chair of the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership) and Chief Superintendent Danny Long (Commander, Birmingham West NPU, West Midlands Police) attended for this item, together with Mark Croxford, Environmental Health Officer.

Steve Harris formally thanked the previous Chair, Chief Superintendent Chris Johnson, for taking the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) forward and went on to give a brief summary of the annual report.

Cllr Chatfield drew Members' attention to a couple of points within the report which he felt should be highlighted:

- The report indicates that Birmingham remains the safest of the core cities, which is a significant achievement for all agencies involved;
- Partner agencies have recognised the importance of "hidden crimes" (eg forced marriage, FGM, domestic violence) and the impact these have on residents of the city and have acted accordingly and put a lot of time, effort and funding into this area of work.

In response to questions from Members, the following were among the main points raised:

- In addition to local grants which come about through the CSP, there is an Active Citizen Fund held by the PCC, designed to mobilise communities against crime and help with community safety;

- This year, quarterly reports will be requested on how allocated funding has been spent;
- This is a transitional year, with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner setting up a shadow West Midlands CSP, and it is not yet clear how funding will be allocated going forward;
- With regard to unauthorised encampments, Members were advised that the Council is looking into taking out injunctions on additional parks within the city. It is not possible to take injunctions out on all parks as we do not currently have transit site provision, although this is being looked at;
- It was suggested that a briefing session be arranged for all councillors on the work of the CSP, to include how local partnerships work with local councillors;
- A mechanism needs to be found to feed priorities coming out of ward plans into the CSP;
- The importance of ward neighbourhood tasking meetings was raised;
- Members expressed concern that, whilst the report contains a lot of detail, there is insufficient focus on what is working and what is not working, what the challenges are and lack of information around outcomes, e.g. numbers of prosecutions as a result of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs);
- With regard to PSPOs, this is fairly new legislation and is a joint partnership with the local authority, neighbourhood policing and the community. To get a PSPO in place there has to be local consultation, driven by the community and led by the local authority. One of the issues is around enforcement. PSPOs do not necessarily have powers; this is something that needs to be designated and discussions are being held with the Chief Constable around this;
- The Chair suggested, and it was agreed, that the Committee writes a letter to the Chief Constable regarding the enforcement of PSPOs;
- In response to concerns around anti-social behaviour, Members were advised that a conversation would be had with the Police about how intelligence around anti-social behaviour is fed through to the Council; the key issue here is that Environmental Services, Housing and the Police need to be meeting and working together and this comes back to the importance of neighbourhood tasking meetings;
- Chief Superintendent Danny Long undertook to get back to Cllr Hussain with regard to his specific concerns around anti-social behaviour;
- The Chair requested a breakdown of the percentage of budget spent on (i) posts and (ii) projects, together with data available on crime detection and outcomes;
- There is a drive at the moment to recruit community members to the CSP;
- There was some discussion about the creation of a city centre Local Community Safety Partnership and the resource implications;

- In response to a question around the street intervention team, Cllr Thompson undertook to provide some case studies to demonstrate how the team has worked;

RESOLVED:-

- Briefing session on the Community Safety Partnership to be arranged for all councillors;
- Letter to be sent to Chief Constable expressing Committee's concerns and offer of support with regard to enforcement of PSPOs;
- Breakdown to be provided of the percentage of budget spent on posts and projects;
- Data on crime detection rates and outcomes to be provided;
- Cllr Thompson to provide case studies of how the street intervention team has worked.

7. CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT: COMMUNITY COHESION STRATEGY/LOCALISATION

(See document No 2)

Members heard from Councillor Tristan Chatfield, Councillor Sharon Thompson (Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods), Chris Jordan (Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods and Communities) and Suwinder Bains (Cohesion and Partnerships Manager) about the consultation and engagement taking place on the Community Cohesion Strategy and Localisation.

The following points were raised:

- This is about how the Council works better with local communities and other partners/agencies involved, including parish councils;
- The two pieces of work are running in parallel and will overlap in some areas;
- With regard to Localisation, there will be a particular emphasis on governance but will also cover wider localisation aspects, e.g. ward planning;
- With regard to the Community Cohesion Strategy, a youth summit and wider cohesion summit have been held and one of the key themes to come out of these is the necessity for on-going engagement after the Strategy is produced;
- There will be a series of conversations with community groups who will be hosting focus groups across the city and there will also be a Twitter launch;
- The importance of reaching groups which might not usually engage or might be difficult to engage with was stressed, to ensure views are obtained from both young and older people and groups reflective of the make-up of the city;
- Members were advised that some complex stakeholder analysis has been undertaken to ensure those harder to reach groups are included in the

consultation and work is being done with colleagues across the Council to identify contacts;

- It was suggested that a briefing be arranged for all councillors on the consultation taking place over the summer and how they can help play a part in the process;
- A cross-party working group has been set up for the localisation consultation and other organisations will be co-opted in;
- The Chair stressed the importance of clarity around the two distinct elements of the consultation and engagement so one does not cloud the other;
- It was agreed that the results of the consultation should be brought back to this Committee so that Members have a chance to provide input before the Community Cohesion Strategy goes to Full Council;

RESOLVED:-

- Community Cohesion Strategy to go on work programme again;
- Localisation White Paper to come back – to be agreed whether this comes back to Housing and Neighbourhoods or to Co-ordinating;
- Briefing to be arranged for all councillors on the consultation and engagement taking place during the summer.

8. HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS O&S COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2018-19

(See document No 3)

Members discussed the work programme and the following points were raised:

- It was agreed that the Community Cohesion Strategy and Localisation White Paper should be brought back to Committee before going to Full Council;
- The major piece of work on PRS would be carried out over the next few months through to February with a view to concluding the work by the end of the municipal year;
- Concern was expressed that Clean Streets, Waste and Recycling is not on the work programme until November and the Chair suggested that maybe the opportunity could be taken to look at this in September under the Performance Reporting item;

RESOLVED:-

- Community Cohesion Strategy and Localisation White Paper to be programmed for a future meeting.

9. HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS 2018/19

The dates were noted.

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

None.

11. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Councillor Eddie Freeman raised a matter concerning a number of complaints he had received relating to the relocation of the ambulance station from Selly Oak to Frankley and the high volume of ambulances with lights and sirens as a result of this.

It was agreed that this would be referred to colleagues in Transportation for clarity around agreed routes.

12. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

Agreed.

The meeting ended at 1609 hours.