

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 12 APRIL 2016
--

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW
AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY, 12 APRIL 2016 AT
1400 HOURS IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 3 AND 4, COUNCIL HOUSE,
BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT:-

Councillor Zaffar in the Chair;

Councillors Brew, Bridle, Chatfield, Finnegan, Hunt, C Khan, Kooner, Lal, Mosquito and Wood.

ALSO PRESENT

Councillor Clancy – Leader of the Council
Councillor I Ward – Deputy Leader of the Council

Ms K Creavin – Head of Birmingham Wellbeing Services
Mr J Hunt – Operations Manager, Service Birmingham
Mr A Lubman – Chief Executive, Service Birmingham
Ms J Power – Scrutiny Officer
Miss V Williams – Committee Manager
Miss E Williamson – Head of Scrutiny Services
Ms J Woollam – Head of Strategy and Governance, Change and Support Services

NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

92

The Chairman advised, and the Committee noted, that this meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site (www.birminghamnewsroom.com) and members of the press/public could record and take photographs. The whole of the meeting would be filmed except where there were confidential or exempt items.

APOLOGIES

- 93 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillor Sambrook, who served on the Committee, and Councillor Iqbal, who had been invited to attend for agenda item 4a regarding the District and Ward arrangements.
-

MINUTES

- 94 The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2016, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed.
-

LEADER – DISTRICT AND WARD ARRANGEMENTS

The following letter entitled ‘District and Ward Arrangements and Neighbourhood Challenge’ sent to Councillor Clancy, Leader of the Council, was submitted:-

(See document No 1)

Councillor J Clancy, Leader of the Council, thanked Members for the letter regarding the District and Ward arrangements and neighbourhood challenge which he had found very helpful and informative.

He briefly outlined the future proposals including the appointment of four Assistant Leaders and establishment of a Cabinet Committee, membership of which would comprise himself, the Opposition Leaders and District Chairs.

Councillor Clancy responded to questions and the following were amongst the points made:-

1. The future role of District Chairs was crucial and would evolve including developing a relationship with the Assistant Leaders. He considered that District Chairs might be more locally based in the future and it was important to identify what pattern or style would suit a particular part of the city.
2. It was important to begin the process of change, identify how services would be shaped by people in local areas and to fully utilise the potential of the future role of local citizens of Birmingham.
3. The ‘road map’ presumed subsidiarity at a Ward level.
4. It was important to move away from parliamentary boundaries and towards working within neighbourhoods.
5. Devolution was evolving at different levels such as the establishment of parish councils and the combined authority.

The need to engage with the recently formed Sutton Coldfield Parish Council and ensure that it was incorporated within the future structure was recognised.

6. One size did not fit all and areas of the city would evolve in different ways.
7. He noted that a report produced some years ago concerning transforming neighbourhoods might contain useful information regarding taking forward changes in the future.
8. The Assistant Leaders would cover geographical areas. Consideration would need to be given as to what constituted a quadrant.

They would not form part of the Cabinet and would not be delivering services. They would be 'leaders' of the process of devolution and would require a particular skill set. The quadrant model would engage with leadership in different parts of the city.

9. It was important to be agile and move forward at an appropriate pace.
10. The Local Innovation Fund was still 'work in progress' and would be brought forward as soon as possible.
11. He hoped that all political groups would work together and that any future proposals would receive cross party support.
12. He anticipated that District Committees would take on a different role, considered that membership thereof should be flexible and supported the view that meetings should be held locally. District Committees were unlikely to disappear this year but would probably recede over a longer period.
13. It was important to work with contractors, such as Amey, to get the best deal possible for the delivery of services.
14. Capacities and capabilities across the city were different. Costs would require leadership and the Cabinet Committee would need to address the matter at an early stage in the process.

95

RESOLVED:-

That the letter be noted.

LEADER – THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

96

Councillor Clancy, Leader of the Council, referred to the debate at City Council held on 5 April 2016 regarding the possible structure and style of future meetings.

He noted that there had been a lot of contrary thinking regarding future meetings and considered that the City Council needed to be agile, flexible and adaptable.

He stressed the importance of engaging with Members and members of the public and pointed out that consideration needed to be given as to when and where future meetings should take place including the length and frequency thereof.

It was important to use Council meetings to adapt structures etc not just at the Annual Meeting but during the course of the year.

There was a need for clarity between the roles and responsibilities of the Council and the Executive.

A discussion ensued and the following were amongst the points made:-

1. Time should be used more wisely with debates confined to issues that affected Birmingham and over which the Council had some influence.
2. The agenda should be relevant to Birmingham.
3. Holding scrutiny inquiries within Council meetings would enable more Members to participate.
4. The Lord Mayor had the discretion to ensure that appropriate Members were given the opportunity to speak at Council meetings.
5. There were pros and cons to holding evening meetings. Whilst it would give those who worked during the daytime the opportunity to attend, others might be reluctant or unable to come out in the evening, due to other commitments such as childcare.

**DEPUTY LEADER – TRACKING: PROGRESS REPORT ON
IMPLEMENTATION: REFRESHING THE PARTNERSHIP – SERVICE
BIRMINGHAM**

The following tracking report was submitted:-

(See document No 2)

Mr A Lubman, Chief Executive – Service Birmingham, and Councillor I Ward, Deputy Leader, introduced the report.

A brief discussion ensued regarding each recommendation.

The Committee agreed with the Cabinet Member's assessment in respect of all the recommendations except 5 which it was agreed should be amended to 2 – achieved late.

Recommendation 2

In response to questions by Members the following were amongst the points made:-

1. Mr Lubman gave details of the savings achieved following the recent move to offices in Woodcock Street. He explained the role of Service Birmingham and its relationship with the Council and Capita.
2. Service Birmingham and the Council were continually trying to improve their working relationship. It was important to understand each other better.
3. Work had been undertaken and security was constantly being updated to try to protect data from being infiltrated by hackers.
4. In line with the future needs of the Council, an annual plan had been put in place.
5. The £140m saving referred to in the appendix to the report was due to be 'signed off' in the near future.
6. Councillor I Ward undertook to circulate a briefing note informing Members of the number of cyber attacks etc the Council had received.

Recommendation 3

In response to a comment by Councillor Kooner, Councillor I Ward undertook to investigate how Members wishing to access information regarding cases via their mobile phones etc, especially when out and about, might be improved.

Recommendation 4

In response to a question by Councillor Chatfield, Councillor I Ward stressed the importance of having robust IT security in place and briefly outlined the steps taken to achieve that goal.

Recommendation 5

Councillor I Ward thanked Councillor Brew for his help in setting up an ICT user group.

Councillor Brew advised that the group had held its first meeting on 2 March 2016 and undertook to circulate the Minutes to Members for information.

The Chairman suggested and it was agreed that the Cabinet Member's Assessment should be 2 – achieved late.

Recommendation 6

Councillor Kooner briefly explained the reason for the recommendation and stressed the importance of transparency of costs.

Recommendation 8

In response to questions by Members, Mr Lubman explained the difficulties encountered in sharing services between authorities and the steps taken to try to improve the situation.

Councillor I Ward stressed the importance of capitalising on the opportunities that a combined authority would offer.

With regard to offering an expanded set of services to educational customers, Councillor Kooner pointed out that this should include pupils with special educational needs.

97 **RESOLVED:-**

That the report be noted.

**DEPUTY LEADER – TRACKING: PROGRESS REPORT ON
IMPLEMENTATION: A MEANS TO AN END – INCREASING
PARTICIPATION IN SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**

The following tracking report was submitted:-

(See document No 3)

Ms K Creavin, Head of Birmingham Wellbeing Service, introduced the report and advised that the Cabinet Member's Assessment for recommendation 11, which had been omitted from the report, should be 1 – achieved fully.

A brief discussion ensued regarding each recommendation.

The Committee agreed with the Cabinet Member's assessment in respect of all recommendations.

Members congratulated Ms Creavin in her work to ensure that all recommendations were fully achieved.

In response to a question by Councillor Brew, Councillor I Ward briefly outlined the tracking mechanism put in place to monitor targets in the future.

In response to a question by Councillor Lal, Ms Creavin explained how the information collected from the mapping exercise could be broken down into specific postcodes to identify, for example, areas where physical activity was most popular and where it needed to be encouraged.

She explained how global positioning system (GPS) devices had been fitted to bicycles taking part in a project to collect information including tracking how often and how far people cycled and which were the most popular routes.

98 **RESOLVED:-**

That the report be noted.

**CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WORK PROGRAMME 2015-16**

The following work programme was submitted:-

(See document No 4)

The Chairman introduced the document and updated Members on the progress of the working groups set up to consider the performance of the property portfolio and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

The Chairman requested that members receive an update on the Council's website project – design concepts considered at the last meeting.

99 **RESOLVED:-**

That the work programme be noted.

SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS 2016/17 – PROVISIONAL

The Chairman proposed and it was:-

100 **RESOLVED:-**

That approval be given to a provisional schedule of meetings of the Committee for the Municipal Year 2016/17 to be held on Tuesdays commencing at 1400 hours on the dates set out below:-

<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
28 June	17 January
19 July	14 February
6 September	7 March
25 October	11 April
8 November	
20 December	

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

- 101 The Chairman advised that there had been no requests for call in/councillor call for action/petitions received.
-

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

- 102 No other urgent business was raised.
-

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

- 103 **RESOLVED:-**

That in an urgent situation between meetings the Chair, jointly with the relevant Chief Officer, has authority to act on behalf of the Committee.

THANKS TO CHAIRMAN

- 104 Councillor Brew thanked Councillor Zaffar for the efficient manner in which he had conducted meetings during the Municipal Year. The Chairman thanked Members and officers for all their help and contributions to the work of the Committee throughout the year.
-

The meeting ended at 1648 hours.

.....
CHAIRMAN