

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

TUESDAY, 13 APRIL 2021 AT 14:00 HOURS
IN ON-LINE MEETING, MICROSOFT TEAMS

A G E N D A

1 **NOTICE OF RECORDING**

Lord Mayor to advise that this meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site (www.civico.net/birmingham) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Members are reminded that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non pecuniary interests arising from any business to be discussed at this meeting. If a disclosable pecuniary interest is declared a Member must not speak or take part in that agenda item. Any declarations will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

3 **MINUTES**

To confirm and authorise the signing of the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 23 February 2021.

4 **LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(1400-1410)

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

5 **PETITIONS**

(10 minutes allocated) (1410-1420)

To receive and deal with petitions in accordance with Council Rules of Procedure (B4.4 E of the Constitution)

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

6 **QUESTION TIME**

(80 minutes allocated) (1420-1540)

To deal with oral questions in accordance with Council Rules of Procedure (B4.4 F of the Constitution).

- A. Questions from Members of the Public to any Cabinet Member or Ward Forum Chair (10 minutes)
- B. Questions from any Councillor to a Committee Chair, Lead Member of a Joint Board or Ward Forum Chair (up to 10 minutes)
- C. Questions from Councillors other than Cabinet Members to a Cabinet Member (up to 30 minutes)
- D. Questions from Councillors other than Cabinet Member to the Leader or Deputy Leader (up to 30 minutes)

97 - 114

7 **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL 2020/21**

(10 minutes allocated) (1540-1550)

To consider a report of the Council Business Management Committee.

The Leader, Councillor Ian Ward, to move the following Motion:-

"The Recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel on page 5 of its Annual Report be accepted and implemented with effect from 25 May 2021."

115 - 126

8 **SCRUTINY BUSINESS REPORT (APRIL 2021)**

(45 minutes allocated) (1550-1635)

To consider a report from the Co-ordinating O&S Committee.

Councillor Carl Rice to move the following Recommendation:-

"That Full Council endorses the Scrutiny Framework set out in Appendix 1."

A 15 minute break will be taken.

127 - 148

9 **SCRUTINY REVIEW: INFANT MORTALITY**

(40 minutes allocated) (1650-1730)

To consider a report of the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee together with an Executive Commentary.

Councillor Rob Pocock to move the following motion:-

"That recommendations R01 to R05 be approved, and that the Executive be

requested to pursue their implementation."

149 - 150

10 **APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

(15 minutes allocated) (1730-1745)

To consider a report of the Council Business Management Committee (Chief Officers and Deputy Chief Officers Appointments Dismissals and Service Conditions Sub-Committee).

The Leader, Councillor Ian Ward, to move the following Motion:-

That the City Council as required by Part C7.4 of the Constitution:

1. Approves the appointment of Deborah Cadman as Interim Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service for a fixed term period of 18 months initially; and
2. Notes that the period of notice on either side will be three months; and
3. Approves that until commencement, Graeme Betts will act as Acting Chief Executive.

151 - 154

11 **URGENT BUSINESS - THE BIRMINGHAM & MIDLAND INSTITUTE -
DISPOSITION OF 93-95 CORNWALL STREET**

(30 minutes allocated) (1745-1815)

To consider a report of the Leader.

The Leader Councillor Ian Ward to move the following Motion:-

" 1 That the consent of the Council to the disposal of 93-95 Cornwall Street be confirmed and that the restriction on the title be removed.

2 authorises the City Solicitor to negotiate, seal, execute and complete all legal documentation to give effect to the above recommendations."

12 **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

Lord Mayor to Move:-

"That, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, which includes the following exempt information, the public be now excluded from the meeting:-

Paragraph 1 of Exempt Information Under Revised Schedule 12A of the Government Act 1972 in respect of agenda item 13 (Appointment of Interim Chief Executive)

PRIVATE AGENDA

13 **APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

- Information relating to any individual;



**MEETING OF BIRMINGHAM
CITY COUNCIL
23 FEBRUARY 2021**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL HELD
ON TUESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2021 AT 1400 AS AN ON-LINE MEETING**

PRESENT:- Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Yvonne Mosquito) in the Chair.

Councillors

Muhammad Afzal	Fred Grindrod	Zhor Malik
Akhlaq Ahmed	Paulette Hamilton	Karen McCarthy
Mohammed Aikhlaq	Roger Harmer	Saddak Miah
Alex Aitken	Kath Hartley	Gareth Moore
Safia Akhtar	Adam Higgs	Simon Morrall
Deirdre Alden	Charlotte Hodivala	Brett O'Reilly
Robert Alden	Penny Holbrook	John O'Shea
Tahir Ali	Jon Hunt	David Pears
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Mahmood Hussain	Robert Pocock
David Barrie	Shabrana Hussain	Julien Pritchard
Baber Baz	Timothy Huxtable	Hendrina Quinnen
Bob Beauchamp	Mohammed Idrees	Chauhdry Rashid
Matt Bennett	Zafar Iqbal	Carl Rice
Kate Booth	Ziaul Islam	Lou Robson
Sir Albert Bore	Morriam Jan	Gary Sambrook
Marje Bridle	Kerry Jenkins	Kath Scott
Mick Brown	Meirion Jenkins	Lucy Seymour-Smith
Tristan Chatfield	Julie Johnson	Shafique Shah
Zaker Choudhry	Brigid Jones	Mike Sharpe
Debbie Clancy	Josh Jones	Sybil Spence
Liz Clements	Nagina Kauser	Ron Storer
Maureen Cornish	Mariam Khan	Martin Straker Welds
John Cotton	Zaheer Khan	Sharon Thompson
Phil Davis	Narinder Kaur Kooner	Paul Tilsley
Adrian Delaney	Chaman Lal	Lisa Trickett
Diane Donaldson	Mike Leddy	Ian Ward
Barbara Dring	Bruce Lines	Mike Ward
Neil Eustace	John Lines	Suzanne Webb
Mohammed Fazal	Mary Locke	Ken Wood
Peter Fowler	Ewan Mackey	Alex Yip
Jayne Francis	Majid Mahmood	Waseem Zaffar
Eddie Freeman		

NOTICE OF RECORDING

19446 The Deputy 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 Deputy 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.

The Deputy Lord Mayor requested that Members ensure that their video cameras are switched off unless called to speak and that their microphone is switched off when they are not speaking.

The Deputy Lord Mayor advised Members that If they wished to speak, to indicate in the chat function and wait to be invited to speak and to state their name at the start of every contribution.

The Deputy Lord Mayor requested Members not to use the chat function unless they were having technical difficulties.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

19447 The Deputy Lord Mayor reminded Members that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests relating to any items of business to be discussed at this meeting"

Any declarations would be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

The Deputy Lord Mayor noted that if a disclosable pecuniary interest is declared a Member must normally not speak or take part in that agenda item. However, where a member has requested a dispensation to speak and vote on the Financial Plan 2021 -2025, the Independent Chair of Standards Committee, Peter Wiseman, has considered such requests and has agreed to grant the appropriate dispensation. The Deputy Lord Mayor noted that this would allow the Member to take part and vote in the debate provided they have made a disclosable pecuniary interest.

The Deputy Lord Mayor requested Members to please note that If a Member would like to speak on a matter where a pecuniary interest has been disclosed, then the Member will need to say BEFORE speaking on the substantive issue, that he/she has a pecuniary interest and that the details have already been disclosed to the Monitoring Officer before the start of the Meeting.

Councillor Tahir Ali declared a non-pecuniary interest in that he was a member of the Communication Workers Union

MINUTES

It was moved by the Deputy Lord Mayor, seconded and –

19448 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2021 having been circulated to each Member of the Council, be taken as read and confirmed and signed.

LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

19449 The Deputy Lord Mayor indicated that she did not have any announcements.

EXTENTION OF TIME FOR CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 - FINANCIAL PLAN 2021 - 2025

19450 Councillor Gareth Moore proposed that the time for consideration of agenda item No.6 - Financial Plan 2021 – 2025 be extended by 80 minutes and the meeting be extended by the same amount. The motion was seconded.

The Motion having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and, by the recorded vote set out below, was declared to be lost.

For the Motion (30)

Deirdre Alden	Peter Fowler	Gareth Moore
Robert Alden	Eddie Freeman	Simon Morrall
David Barrie	Roger Harmer	David Pears
Baber Baz	Adam Higgs	Julien Pritchard
Bob Beauchamp	Charlotte Hodivala	Gary Sambrook
Zaker Choudhry	Timothy Huxtable	Shafique Shah
Debbie Clancy	Meirion Jenkins	Ron Storer
Maureen Cornish	Bruce Lines	Mike Ward
Adrian Delaney	John Lines	Ken Wood
Neil Eustace	Ewan Mackey	Alex Yip

Against the Motion (54)

MuhammadAfzal	Paulette Hamilton	Mary Locke
Akhlaq Ahmed	Kath Hartley	Majid Mahmood
Mohammed Aikhlaq	Penny Holbrook	Zhor Malik
Alex Aitken	Mahmood Hussain	Karen McCarthy
Safia Akhtar	Shabrana Hussain	Saddak Miah
Tahir Ali	Mohammed Idrees	Brett O'Reilly
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Zafar Iqbal	John O'Shea
Kate Booth	Ziaul Islam	Robert Pocock
Sir Albert Bore	Morriam Jan	Hendrina Quinnen
Marje Bridle	Kerry Jenkins	Chauhdry Rashid
Mick Brown	Julie Johnson	Carl Rice

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Tristan Chatfield	Brigid Jones	Lou Robson
Liz Clements	Josh Jones	Kath Scott
John Cotton	Nagina Kauser	Sybil Spence
Diane Donaldson	Mariam Khan	Martin Straker Welds
Phil Davis	Zaheer Khan	Lisa Trickett
Jayne Francis	Narinder Kaur Kooner	Ian Ward
Fred Grindrod	Mike Leddy	Waseem Zaffar

Abstentions (0)

PETITIONS

Petition Relating to City Council Functions Presented prior to the Meeting

The following petition were presented:-

(See document No. 1)

In accordance with the proposals by the persons presenting the petition, it was moved by the Deputy Lord Mayor, seconded and -

19451 **RESOLVED:-**

That the petition be received and referred to the relevant Chief Officer to examine and report as appropriate.

Petitions Relating to City Council Functions Presented at the Meeting

The following petitions were presented:-

(See document No 2)

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

19452 **RESOLVED:-**

That the petitions be received and referred to the relevant Chief Officers (s) to examine and report as appropriate.

Petitions Update

The following Petitions Update was submitted:-

(See document No 3)

It was moved by the Deputy Lord Mayor, seconded and -

19453

RESOLVED:-

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

FINANCIAL PLAN 2021 - 2025

The Financial Plan 2021 - 2025 was submitted:-

(See document No 4)

The Leader Councillor Ian Ward declared a pecuniary interest for which he had received dispensation from the Chair of the Standards Committee and moved the motion which was seconded.

In accordance with Council Standing Orders, Councillors Robert Alden and Ewan Mackey gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No 5)

Councillor Robert Alden noted his wife worked at a Museum and he had applied for and been given a dispensation. He moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Ewan Mackey who reserved his right to speak.

In accordance with Council Standing Orders, Councillors Meirion Jenkins and Bruce Lines gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No 6)

Councillor Meirion Jenkins moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Bruce Lines.

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

(See document No 7)

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

In accordance with Council Standing Orders, Councillors Julien Pritchard and Mike Ward gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No 8)

Councillor Julien Pritchard moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Mike Ward.

A debate ensued.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by the Deputy Lord Mayor, seconded and

19454

RESOLVED:-

That the Council be adjourned until 1630 hours on this day.

The Council then adjourned at 1617 hours.

At 1631 hours the meeting resumed at the point it had been adjourned.

A debate continued during which Councillor Brigid Jones declared a pecuniary interest in that her partner worked for the City Council which had been disclosed to the Monitoring Officer and was on her register of interests. Councillor Jones confirmed she had received dispensation; Councillor Waseem Zaffar declared a pecuniary interest which had been disclosed to the Monitoring Officer and had received dispensation from the Chair of the Standards Committee; Councillor Paulette Hamilton indicated that she had a pecuniary interest which she had already declared; Councillor John Cotton indicated that he had a pecuniary interest as set out in his register of interests and had received dispensation from the Chair of the Standards Committee.

Following a speech by Councillor Deirdre Alden, the Deputy Leader, Councillor Brigid Jones, as a point of order, requested that Councillor Alden withdrawn the allegation that the Labour Group will have to increase Council Tax by 27% after the next election which was untrue and had no basis in the documentation before Council. The Deputy Lord Mayor indicated that the point had been noted.

The Leader, Councillor Ian Ward replied to the debate.

The first amendment to the Motions in the names of Councillors Robert Alden and Ewan Mackey having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and, by the recorded vote set out below, was declared to be lost.

For the First Amendment (25)

Deirdre Alden	Adam Higgs	Gareth Moore
Robert Alden	Charlotte Hodiola	Simon Morrall
David Barrie	Timothy Huxtable	David Pears
Matt Bennett	Morriam Jan	Gary Sambrook
Debbie Clancy	Meirion Jenkins	Ron Storer
Maureen Cornish	Bruce Lines	Suzanne Webb
Adrian Delaney	John Lines	Ken Wood
Peter Fowler	Ewan Mackey	Alex Yip
Eddie Freeman		

Against the First Amendment (62)

Akhlaq Ahmed	Roger Harmer	Karen McCarthy
Mohammed Aikhlq	Kath Hartley	Saddak Miah
Alex Aitken	Penny Holbrook	Brett O'Reilly
Safia Akhtar	Jon Hunt	John O'Shea
Tahir Ali	Mahmood Hussain	Robert Pocock
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Shabrana Hussain	Hendrina Quinnen
Baber Baz	Mohammed Idrees	Chauhdry Rashid
Kate Booth	Zafar Iqbal	Carl Rice
Sir Albert Bore	Ziaul Islam	Lou Robson
Marje Bridle	Kerry Jenkins	Kath Scott
Mick Brown	Julie Johnson	Lucy Seymour-Smith
Tristan Chatfield	Brigid Jones	Shafique Shah
Liz Clements	Nagina Kauser	Mike Sharpe
John Cotton	Mariam Khan	Sybil Spence
Diane Donaldson	Zaheer Khan	Martin Straker Welds
Phil Davis	Narinder Kaur Kooner	Sharon Thompson
Barbara Dring	Chaman Lal	Lisa Trickett
Mohammed Fazal	Mike Leddy	Ian Ward
Jayne Francis	Mary Locke	Mike Ward
Fred Grindrod	Majid Mahmood	Waseem Zaffar
Paulette Hamilton	Zhor Malik	

Abstentions (2)

Zaker Choudhry Julien Pritchard

The second amendment to the Motions in the names of Councillors Meirion Jenkins and Bruce Lines having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and, by the recorded vote set out below, was declared to be lost.

For the Second Amendment (31)

Deirdre Alden	Eddie Freeman	Gareth Moore
Robert Alden	Roger Harmer	Simon Morrall
David Barrie	Adam Higgs	David Pears
Baber Baz	Charlotte Hodivala	Julien Pritchard
Bob Beauchamp	Jon Hunt	Gary Sambrook
Matt Bennett	Timothy Huxtable	Ron Storer
Zaker Choudhry	Meirion Jenkins	Mike Ward
Debbie Clancy	Bruce Lines	Suzanne Webb
Maureen Cornish	John Lines	Ken Wood
Adrian Delaney	Ewan Mackey	Alex Yip
Peter Fowler		

Against the Second Amendment (60)

MuhammadAfzal	Paulette Hamilton	Zhor Malik
Akhlaq Ahmed	Kath Hartley	Karen McCarthy
Mohammed Aikhlq	Penny Holbrook	Saddak Miah
Alex Aitken	Mahmood Hussain	Brett O'Reilly

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Safia Akhtar	Shabrana Hussain	John O'Shea
Tahir Ali	Mohammed Idrees	Robert Pocock
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Zafar Iqbal	Hendrina Quinnen
Kate Booth	Ziaul Islam	Chauhdry Rashid
Sir Albert Bore	Kerry Jenkins	Carl Rice
Marje Bridle	Julie Johnson	Lou Robson
Mick Brown	Brigid Jones	Kath Scott
Tristan Chatfield	Josh Jones	Lucy Seymour-Smith
Liz Clements	Nagina Kauser	Shafique Shah
John Cotton	Mariam Khan	Mike Sharpe
Diane Donaldson	Zaheer Khan	Sybil Spence
Phil Davis	Narinder Kaur Kooner	Martin Straker Welds
Barbara Dring	Chaman Lal	Sharon Thompson
Mohammed Fazal	Mike Leddy	Lisa Trickett
Jayne Francis	Mary Locke	Ian Ward
Fred Grindrod	Majid Mahmood	Waseem Zaffar

Abstentions (1)

Morriam Jan

The third amendment to the Motions in the names of Councillors Jon Hunt and Roger Harmer having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and, by the recorded vote set out below, was declared to be lost.

For the Third Amendment (31)

Deirdre Alden	Peter Fowler	Gareth Moore
Robert Alden	Eddie Freeman	Simon Morrall
David Barrie	Roger Harmer	David Pears
Baber Baz	Adam Higgs	Julien Pritchard
Bob Beauchamp	Charlotte Hodivala	Gary Sambrook
Matt Bennett	Jon Hunt	Ron Storer
Zaker Choudhry	Morriam Jan	Mike Ward
Debbie Clancy	Bruce Lines	Suzanne Webb
Maureen Cornish	John Lines	Ken Wood
Adrian Delaney	Ewan Mackey	Alex Yip
Neil Eustace		

Against the Third Amendment (60)

MuhammadAfzal	Paulette Hamilton	Zhor Malik
Akhlaq Ahmed	Kath Hartley	Karen McCarthy
Mohammed Aikhlaq	Penny Holbrook	Saddak Miah
Alex Aitken	Mahmood Hussain	Brett O'Reilly
Safia Akhtar	Shabrana Hussain	John O'Shea
Tahir Ali	Mohammed Idrees	Robert Pocock
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Zafar Iqbal	Hendrina Quinnen
Kate Booth	Ziaul Islam	Chauhdry Rashid
Sir Albert Bore	Kerry Jenkins	Carl Rice
Marje Bridle	Julie Johnson	Lou Robson
Mick Brown	Brigid Jones	Kath Scott

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Tristan Chatfield	Josh Jones	Lucy Seymour-Smith
Liz Clements	Nagina Kauser	Shafique Shah
John Cotton	Mariam Khan	Mike Sharpe
Diane Donaldson	Zaheer Khan	Sybil Spence
Phil Davis	Narinder Kaur Kooner	Martin Straker Welds
Barbara Dring	Chaman Lal	Sharon Thompson
Mohammed Fazal	Mike Leddy	Lisa Trickett
Jayne Francis	Mary Locke	Ian Ward
Fred Grindrod	Majid Mahmood	Waseem Zaffar

Abstentions (0)

The fourth amendment to the Motions in the names of Councillors Julien Pritchard and Mike Ward having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and, by the recorded vote set out below, was declared to be lost.

For the Fourth Amendment (29)

Deirdre Alden	Neil Eustace	Simon Morrall
Robert Alden	Peter Fowler	David Pears
David Barrie	Eddie Freeman	Julien Pritchard
Baber Baz	Roger Harmer	Gary Sambrook
Bob Beauchamp	Adam Higgs	Ron Storer
Matt Bennett	Jon Hunt	Mike Ward
Zaker Choudhry	Morriam Jan	Suzanne Webb
Debbie Clancy	Bruce Lines	Ken Wood
Maureen Cornish	Ewan Mackey	Alex Yip
Adrian Delaney	Gareth Moore	

Against the Fourth Amendment (62)

MuhammadAfzal	Kath Hartley	Zhor Malik
Akhlaq Ahmed	Penny Holbrook	Karen McCarthy
Mohammed Aikhlaq	Charlotte Hodivala	Saddak Miah
Alex Aitken	Mahmood Hussain	Brett O'Reilly
Safia Akhtar	Shabrana Hussain	John O'Shea
Tahir Ali	Mohammed Idrees	Robert Pocock
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Zafar Iqbal	Hendrina Quinnen
Kate Booth	Ziaul Islam	Chauhdry Rashid
Sir Albert Bore	Kerry Jenkins	Carl Rice
Marje Bridle	Julie Johnson	Lou Robson
Mick Brown	Brigid Jones	Kath Scott
Tristan Chatfield	Josh Jones	Lucy Seymour-Smith
Liz Clements	Nagina Kauser	Shafique Shah
John Cotton	Mariam Khan	Mike Sharpe
Diane Donaldson	Zaheer Khan	Sybil Spence
Phil Davis	Narinder Kaur Kooner	Martin Straker Welds
Barbara Dring	Chaman Lal	Sharon Thompson
Mohammed Fazal	Mike Leddy	Lisa Trickett
Jayne Francis	John Lines	Ian Ward
Fred Grindrod	Mary Locke	Waseem Zaffar
Paulette Hamilton	Majid Mahmood	

Abstentions (0)

Motion 1 having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and, by the recorded vote set out below, was declared to be carried.

For Motion 1 (67)

Akhlaq Ahmed	Roger Harmer	Zhor Malik
MuhammadAfzal	Kath Hartley	Karen McCarthy
Mohammed Aikhlaq	Penny Holbrook	Saddak Miah
Alex Aitken	Jon Hunt	Brett O'Reilly
Safia Akhtar	Mahmood Hussain	John O'Shea
Tahir Ali	Shabrana Hussain	Robert Pocock
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Mohammed Idrees	Hendrina Quinnen
Baber Baz	Zafar Iqbal	Chauhdry Rashid
Kate Booth	Ziaul Islam	Carl Rice
Sir Albert Bore	Morriam Jan	Lou Robson
Marje Bridle	Kerry Jenkins	Kath Scott
Mick Brown	Julie Johnson	Lucy Seymour-Smith
Tristan Chatfield	Brigid Jones	Shafique Shah
Zaker Choudhry	Josh Jones	Mike Sharpe
Liz Clements	Nagina Kauser	Sybil Spence
John Cotton	Mariam Khan	Martin Straker Welds
Diane Donaldson	Zaheer Khan	Sharon Thompson
Phil Davis	Narinder Kaur Kooner	Paul Tilsley
Barbara Dring	Chaman Lal	Lisa Trickett
Mohammed Fazal	Mike Leddy	Ian Ward
Jayne Francis	Mary Locke	Mike Ward
Fred Grindrod	Majid Mahmood	Waseem Zaffar
Paulette Hamilton		

Against Motion 1 (25)

Deirdre Alden	Eddie Freeman	Simon Morrall
Robert Alden	Adam Higgs	David Pears
David Barrie	Timothy Huxtable	Julien Pritchard
Matt Bennett	Meirion Jenkins	Gary Sambrook
Debbie Clancy	Bruce Lines	Ron Storer
Maureen Cornish	John Lines	Suzanne Webb
Adrian Delaney	Ewan Mackey	Ken Wood
Neil Eustace	Gareth Moore	Alex Yip
Peter Fowler		

Abstentions (0)

Motion 2 having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and, by the recorded vote set out below, was declared to be carried.

For Motion 2 (60)

MuhammadAfzal	Paulette Hamilton	Zhor Malik
Akhlaq Ahmed	Kath Hartley	Karen McCarthy
Mohammed Aikhlq	Penny Holbrook	Saddak Miah
Alex Aitken	Mahmood Hussain	Brett O'Reilly
Safia Akhtar	Shabrana Hussain	John O'Shea
Tahir Ali	Mohammed Idrees	Robert Pocock
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Zafar Iqbal	Hendrina Quinnen
Kate Booth	Ziaul Islam	Chauhdry Rashid
Sir Albert Bore	Kerry Jenkins	Carl Rice
Marje Bridle	Julie Johnson	Lou Robson
Mick Brown	Brigid Jones	Kath Scott
Tristan Chatfield	Josh Jones	Lucy Seymour-Smith
Liz Clements	Nagina Kauser	Shafique Shah
John Cotton	Mariam Khan	Mike Sharpe
Diane Donaldson	Zaheer Khan	Sybil Spence
Phil Davis	Narinder Kaur Kooner	Martin Straker Welds
Barbara Dring	Chaman Lal	Sharon Thompson
Mohammed Fazal	Mike Leddy	Lisa Trickett
Jayne Francis	Mary Locke	Ian Ward
Fred Grindrod	Majid Mahmood	Waseem Zaffar

Against Motion 2 (34)

Deirdre Alden	Eddie Freeman	Gareth Moore
Robert Alden	Roger Harmer	Simon Morrall
David Barrie	Adam Higgs	David Pears
Baber Baz	Charlotte Hodiola	Julien Pritchard
Bob Beauchamp	Jon Hunt	Gary Sambrook
Matt Bennett	Timothy Huxtable	Ron Storer
Zaker Choudhry	Morriam Jan	Paul Tilsley
Debbie Clancy	Meirion Jenkins	Mike Ward
Maureen Cornish	Bruce Lines	Suzanne Webb
Adrian Delaney	John Lines	Ken Wood
Neil Eustace	Ewan Mackey	Alex Yip
Peter Fowler		

Abstentions (0)

Motion 3 having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and, by the recorded vote set out below, was declared to be carried.

For Motion 3 (64)

MuhammadAfzal	Kath Hartley	Karen McCarthy
Akhlaq Ahmed	Penny Holbrook	Saddak Miah
Mohammed Aikhlq	Jon Hunt	Brett O'Reilly
Alex Aitken	Mahmood Hussain	John O'Shea
Safia Akhtar	Shabrana Hussain	Robert Pocock
Tahir Ali	Mohammed Idrees	Hendrina Quinnen
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Zafar Iqbal	Chauhdry Rashid

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Kate Booth	Ziaul Islam	Carl Rice
Sir Albert Bore	Kerry Jenkins	Lou Robson
Marje Bridle	Julie Johnson	Kath Scott
Mick Brown	Brigid Jones	Lucy Seymour-Smith
Tristan Chatfield	Josh Jones	Shafique Shah
Liz Clements	Nagina Kauser	Mike Sharpe
John Cotton	Mariam Khan	Sybil Spence
Diane Donaldson	Zaheer Khan	Martin Straker Welds
Phil Davis	Narinder Kaur Kooner	Sharon Thompson
Barbara Dring	Chaman Lal	Paul Tilsley
Mohammed Fazal	Mike Leddy	Lisa Trickett
Jayne Francis	Mary Locke	Ian Ward
Fred Grindrod	Majid Mahmood	Mike Ward
Paulette Hamilton	Zhor Malik	Waseem Zaffar
Roger Harmer		

Against Motion 3 (26)

Deirdre Alden	Eddie Freeman	Gareth Moore
David Barrie	Adam Higgs	Simon Morrall
Baber Baz	Charlotte Hodivala	David Pears
Matt Bennett	Timothy Huxtable	Gary Sambrook
Zaker Choudhry	Morriam Jan	Ron Storer
Debbie Clancy	Meirion Jenkins	Suzanne Webb
Maureen Cornish	Bruce Lines	Ken Wood
Adrian Delaney	John Lines	Alex Yip
Peter Fowler	Ewan Mackey	

Abstentions (1)

Julien Pritchard

Motion 4 having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and, by the recorded vote set out below, was declared to be carried.

For Motion 4 (66)

MuhammadAfzal	Roger Harmer	Zhor Malik
Akhlaq Ahmed	Kath Hartley	Karen McCarthy
Mohammed Aikhlaq	Penny Holbrook	Saddak Miah
Alex Aitken	Jon Hunt	Brett O'Reilly
Safia Akhtar	Mahmood Hussain	John O'Shea
Tahir Ali	Shabrana Hussain	Robert Pocock
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Mohammed Idrees	Hendrina Quinnen
Baber Baz	Zafar Iqbal	Chauhdry Rashid
Kate Booth	Ziaul Islam	Carl Rice
Sir Albert Bore	Morriam Jan	Lou Robson
Marje Bridle	Kerry Jenkins	Kath Scott
Mick Brown	Julie Johnson	Lucy Seymour-Smith
Tristan Chatfield	Brigid Jones	Shafique Shah
Liz Clements	Josh Jones	Mike Sharpe
John Cotton	Nagina Kauser	Sybil Spence

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Diane Donaldson	Mariam Khan	Martin Straker Welds
Phil Davis	Zaheer Khan	Sharon Thompson
Barbara Dring	Narinder Kaur Kooner	Paul Tilsley
Mohammed Fazal	Chaman Lal	Lisa Trickett
Jayne Francis	Mike Leddy	Ian Ward
Fred Grindrod	Mary Locke	Mike Ward
Paulette Hamilton	Majid Mahmood	Waseem Zaffar

Against Motion 4 (28)

Deirdre Alden	Peter Fowler	Gareth Moore
Robert Alden	Eddie Freeman	Simon Morrall
David Barrie	Adam Higgs	David Pears
Bob Beauchamp	Charlotte Hodivala	Julien Pritchard
Matt Bennett	Timothy Huxtable	Gary Sambrook
Zaker Choudhry	Meirion Jenkins	Ron Storer
Debbie Clancy	Bruce Lines	Suzanne Webb
Maureen Cornish	John Lines	Ken Wood
Adrian Delaney	Ewan Mackey	Alex Yip
Neil Eustace		

Abstentions (0)

Motions 5-8 having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and, by the recorded vote set out below, was declared to be carried.

For Motions 5-8 (60)

MuhammadAfzal	Paulette Hamilton	Zhor Malik
Akhlaq Ahmed	Kath Hartley	Karen McCarthy
Mohammed Aikhlq	Penny Holbrook	Saddak Miah
Alex Aitken	Mahmood Hussain	Brett O'Reilly
Safia Akhtar	Shabrana Hussain	John O'Shea
Tahir Ali	Mohammed Idrees	Robert Pocock
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Zafar Iqbal	Hendrina Quinnen
Kate Booth	Ziaul Islam	Chauhdry Rashid
Sir Albert Bore	Kerry Jenkins	Carl Rice
Marje Bridle	Julie Johnson	Lou Robson
Mick Brown	Brigid Jones	Kath Scott
Tristan Chatfield	Josh Jones	Lucy Seymour-Smith
Liz Clements	Nagina Kauser	Shafique Shah
John Cotton	Mariam Khan	Mike Sharpe
Diane Donaldson	Zaheer Khan	Sybil Spence
Phil Davis	Narinder Kaur Kooner	Martin Straker Welds
Barbara Dring	Chaman Lal	Sharon Thompson
Mohammed Fazal	Mike Leddy	Lisa Trickett
Jayne Francis	Mary Locke	Ian Ward
Fred Grindrod	Majid Mahmood	Waseem Zaffar

Against Motions 5-8 (34)

Deirdre Alden	Eddie Freeman	Gareth Moore
Robert Alden	Roger Harmer	Simon Morrall
David Barrie	Adam Higgs	David Pears
Baber Baz	Charlotte Hodivala	Julien Pritchard
Bob Beauchamp	Jon Hunt	Gary Sambrook
Matt Bennett	Timothy Huxtable	Ron Storer
Zaker Choudhry	Morriam Jan	Mike Ward
Debbie Clancy	Meirion Jenkins	Suzanne Webb
Maureen Cornish	Bruce Lines	Ken Wood
Adrian Delaney	John Lines	Alex Yip
Neil Eustace	Ewan Mackey	
Peter Fowler		

Abstentions (0)

Motion 9 having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and, by the recorded vote set out below, was declared to be carried.

For Motion 9 (60)

MuhammadAfzal	Paulette Hamilton	Zhor Malik
Akhlaq Ahmed	Kath Hartley	Karen McCarthy
Mohammed Aikhlaq	Penny Holbrook	Saddak Miah
Alex Aitken	Mahmood Hussain	Brett O'Reilly
Safia Akhtar	Shabrana Hussain	John O'Shea
Tahir Ali	Mohammed Idrees	Robert Pocock
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Zafar Iqbal	Hendrina Quinnen
Kate Booth	Ziaul Islam	Chauhdry Rashid
Sir Albert Bore	Kerry Jenkins	Carl Rice
Marje Bridle	Julie Johnson	Lou Robson
Mick Brown	Brigid Jones	Kath Scott
Tristan Chatfield	Josh Jones	Lucy Seymour-Smith
Liz Clements	Nagina Kauser	Shafique Shah
John Cotton	Mariam Khan	Mike Sharpe
Phil Davis	Zaheer Khan	Sybil Spence
Diane Donaldson	Narinder Kaur Kooner	Martin Straker Welds
Barbara Dring	Chaman Lal	Sharon Thompson
Mohammed Fazal	Mike Leddy	Lisa Trickett
Jayne Francis	Mary Locke	Ian Ward
Fred Grindrod	Majid Mahmood	Waseem Zaffar

Against Motion 9 (34)

Deirdre Alden	Eddie Freeman	Gareth Moore
Robert Alden	Roger Harmer	Simon Morrall
David Barrie	Adam Higgs	David Pears
Baber Baz	Charlotte Hodivala	Julien Pritchard
Bob Beauchamp	Jon Hunt	Gary Sambrook
Matt Bennett	Timothy Huxtable	Ron Storer
Zaker Choudhry	Morriam Jan	Paul Tilsley

Debbie Clancy
Maureen Cornish
Adrian Delaney
Neil Eustace
Peter Fowler

Meirion Jenkins
Bruce Lines
John Lines
Ewan Mackey

Mike Ward
Suzanne Webb
Ken Wood
Alex Yip

Abstentions (0)

Therefore it was-

19455

RESOLVED:-

1. **Fees and Charges**

That the schedule of fees and charges as set out in Appendix V, Annex 1, be approved.

2. **Capital Strategy and Programme and Treasury Management**

That the proposals, as set out in the Capital Strategy Chapter and Appendices L - T of the Financial Plan 2021 – 2025, be approved for:

- a) Capital Programme
 - b) Prudential Indicators
 - c) Treasury Management Strategy
 - d) Service and Commercial Investment Strategy
 - e) Debt Repayment Policy
- and, as set out in Appendix I, for:
- f) Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy

3. **Pay Policy**

That in fulfilment of the requirements of Sections 38 to 43 of the Localism Act 2011, the Pay Policy Statement, as set out in Appendix U, be approved.

4. **Revenue Budget**

That the revenue budget for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2021 of £828.671m, including the budget allocations to the various Directorates of the Council, as set out in Appendix J to the Financial Plan 2021 – 2025, be approved.

5. **Council Tax Requirement**

That the following calculations be now made in accordance with Section 31A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2021:

	£
a. aggregate of estimated City Council expenditure, contingencies, and contributions to financial reserves	3,771,160,145
b. Parish Precepts	1,866,316
c. aggregate of estimated income (including Top-Up Grant), and use of financial reserves	(2,997,868,927)
d. net transfers to/(from) the Collection Fund in relation to Business Rates	(394,605,942)
e. Transfer to/(from) the Collection Fund in relation to Council Tax	4,237,000
f. Council Tax Requirement, being the aggregate of (a) to (e) above	384,788,592

6. **Council Tax - Basic Amount**

That the Basic Amount of Council Tax for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2021 be set at £1,514.95, pursuant to the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, being the Council Tax Requirement of £384,788,592 divided by the Council Tax Base of 253,995 Band D properties.

7. **Council Tax – City Council and Parish Precepts**

- (i) That the basic amount of Council Tax for City Council services for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2021 be set at £1,507.60 pursuant to the formula in Section 34(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

	£	£
a. Basic Amount calculated under Section 31B		1,514.95
LESS		
b. Parish precepts	1,866,316	
DIVIDED BY		
City Council Tax base	253,995	<u>7.35</u>
		1,507.60

- (ii) That, pursuant to Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Basic Amount of Council Tax for City Council services is not excessive in relation to determining whether a referendum is required on the level of Council Tax.
- (iii) That the basic amount of Council Tax for New Frankley in Birmingham Parish for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2021 be set at £1,534.88 pursuant to the formula in Section 34(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

	£	£
a. Basic Amount calculated under Section 34(2)		1,507.60
PLUS		
b. The New Frankley in Birmingham Parish precept	35,981	
DIVIDED BY		
The tax base for New Frankley in Birmingham Parish	1,319	27.28
		<hr/>
		1,534.88

- (iv) That the basic amount of Council Tax for the Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2021 be set at £1,557.56 pursuant to the formula in Section 34(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

	£	£
a. Basic Amount calculated under Section 34(2)		1,507.60
PLUS		
b. The Royal Sutton Coldfield Parish Council precept	1,830,335	
DIVIDED BY		
The tax base for Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council	36,636	49.96
		<hr/>
		1,557.56

8. **Council Tax - Total**

That, in accordance with Section 30 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the amounts of Council Tax set for the financial year commencing on 1st April 2021 for each category of dwelling listed within a particular valuation band, shall be calculated by adding:

- a. the amount given by multiplying the basic amount of Council Tax for the relevant area by the fraction whose numerator is the proportion applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation

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band, and whose denominator is the proportion applicable to dwellings listed in valuation Band D; to

- b. the amounts which are stated in the final precepts issued by the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority and the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner; and shall be:

Band	Council Tax Areas without a Parish Council £	Council Tax New Frankley in Birmingham Parish £	Council Tax Royal Sutton Coldfield Town £
A	1,165.46	1,183.64	1,198.76
B	1,359.70	1,380.92	1,398.56
C	1,553.94	1,578.19	1,598.35
D	1,748.19	1,775.47	1,798.15
E	2,136.67	2,170.01	2,197.73
F	2,525.15	2,564.56	2,597.32
G	2,913.65	2,959.11	2,996.91
H	3,496.37	3,550.93	3,596.29

9. Financial Plan 2021 – 2025

That the Financial Plan 2021 – 2025 be approved.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The following report of the Council Business Management (Chief Officers and Deputy Chief Officers Appointments, Dismissals and Service Conditions Sub-)Committee was submitted:-

(See document No. 9)

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

A debate ensued.

The Leader Councillor Ian Ward replied to the debate.

The Motion having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and, by the recorded vote set out below, was declared to be carried.

For Motion (60)

Akhlaq Ahmed	Fred Grindrod	Saddak Miah
Mohammed Aikhlaq	Paulette Hamilton	Gareth Moore
Alex Aitken	Kath Hartley	Simon Morrall
Safia Akhtar	Adam Higgs	Brett O'Reilly
Deirdre Alden	Charlotte Hodivala	John O'Shea
Robert Alden	Penny Holbrook	David Pears
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Jon Hunt	Robert Pocock
David Barrie	Mahmood Hussain	Julien Pritchard

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Baber Baz	Shabrana Hussain	Hendrina Quinnen
Bob Beauchamp	Timothy Huxtable	Chauhdry Rashid
Matt Bennett	Mohammed Idrees	Carl Rice
Kate Booth	Zafar Iqbal	Gary Sambrook
Sir Albert Bore	Kerry Jenkins	Kath Scott
Mick Brown	Julie Johnson	Lucy Seymour-Smith
Tristan Chatfield	Brigid Jones	Shafique Shah
Zaker Choudhry	Josh Jones	Mike Sharpe
Debbie Clancy	Nagina Kauser	Sybil Spence
Liz Clements	Mariam Khan	Ron Storer
Maureen Cornish	Zaheer Khan	Martin Straker Welds
John Cotton	Narinder Kaur Kooner	Sharon Thompson
Phil Davis	Chaman Lal	Paul Tilsley
Adrian Delaney	Mike Leddy	Lisa Trickett
Diane Donaldson	Bruce Lines	Ian Ward
Barbara Dring	Mary Locke	Mike Ward
Mohammed Fazal	Ewan Mackey	Suzanne Webb
Peter Fowler	Majid Mahmood	Ken Wood
Jayne Francis	Zhor Malik	Alex Yip
Eddie Freeman	Karen McCarthy	Waseem Zaffar

Against Motion (1)

Morriam Jan

Abstentions (1)

Lou Robson

It was therefore-

19456 **RESOLVED:-**

That the City Council as required by Part C7.4 of the Constitution approves the appointment of Graeme Betts as Acting Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service from 7th March 2021 until the appointment of an Interim Chief Executive.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

19457 The Deputy Lord Mayor asked Members to note that the date of the next meeting of City Council was 13 April 2021.

The meeting ended at 1905 hours.

APPENDIX

Questions and replies in accordance with Standing Order 10.2.

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

A1 2021/22 Council Budget

Question:

At the last Council Meeting on 2 February, I asked the Leader a question relating to the 2021/22 Budget proposals and if he believed a meeting with 15 business rate payers was a consultation'. The Leader responded with these words ' .. In terms of wider engagement across the City, we will be, as I said at the last meeting, rolling out such arrangements that will involve several different platforms; social media, an external bulletin and use of the Council's website, Cabinet Members carrying out video's as well as other forms of engagement with people right across the City in order that they can pass comment on the budget proposals'. Could the Leader give a full explanation as to what consultation has actually taken place with the citizens of Birmingham leading up to this Budget Council?

Answer:

As agreed in the Cabinet paper of 10 November 2020 – section 6: In previous years, budget proposals will have been formulated in the Autumn and the Council has engaged in a large-scale public consultation. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the new Delivery Plan approach has forced a change to this approach and a broader consultation will take place on the Delivery Plan and resourcing priorities when appropriate.

There is a requirement in the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to consult business ratepayer representatives and on 27 January, the Leader and other Cabinet Members held a Teams meeting with Business Rate Payers. At this meeting a presentation was given that set out our long-term strategy to support Birmingham's economic recovery, outline the financial challenges facing the City Council and discuss opportunities for economic growth to support the recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. This was followed by a Q&A session. The presentation and a recording of the event is available on BCC web site and has been shared widely.

A dedicated webpage outlining the budget was created, while wider engagement across social media channels has explained where the Council gets its money and where it is spent, with emphasis on how council tax contributes to the overall budget.

This was done via the Council's own social channels which have a reach of: Facebook 27.5k followers, Twitter 158.9k, Instagram 9.3k and LinkedIn 29.8k.

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A blog by the Leader and links to the Cabinet member videos were shared in a bulletin to 116k subscribers. Birmingham Updates assisted in helping the Council have conversations with residents and get the best reach to all communities. This activity is ongoing, and a full evaluation will be available when completed. A snapshot of activity to date is as follows: Cabinet member videos were shared on our social channels and Birmingham Updates, receiving 55k views and the campaign as a whole received 442k impressions, with an engagement rate of 2.3%.

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

A2 Climate Change Action Plan

Question:

Could the Leader indicate how much time he has spent in helping develop and plan implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan over the last six months?

Answer:

Implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan has been discussed extensively in numerous forums over the last 6 months. These include regular one to ones with the Interim Director for Inclusive Growth, regular one to ones with the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment, meetings with the Executive and officers at informal Cabinet meetings and numerous informal conversations with officers and members on this matter.

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

A3 Businesses during lockdown

Question:

Could the Leader state what assessment has been done of the risks to the City Centre caused by the collapse and withdrawal of businesses during lockdown, setting out what recovery plans are in place to support the Centre once lockdown rules ease?

Answer:

The Council has commissioned detailed research to understand the economic impact of Covid on the business community and key occupiers within the city centre, this includes a focus on office market trends around supply, take-up, values and occupier demand. Outputs from this piece of work will inform the delivery of the Council's Economic Recovery Strategy as well as vision for the future development and growth of the city centre, the Future City Plan. The Economic Recovery Strategy which will be reported to Cabinet next month for adoption proposes to accelerate delivery of the Urban Centre Framework to support the recovery and reinvigoration of our high streets. We will also work to improve the environment within centres through The Birmingham Transport Plan by encouraging greater pedestrianisation where appropriate.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR ZAKER CHOUDHRY**

A4 Extension of Lockdown Powers

Question:

It has been reported the Government has extended lockdown laws to give councils the power to close pubs, restaurants, shops and public spaces until July 17 this year through changes to the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No.3) Regulations 2020, that were made as part of a review of the third lockdown by Central Government. Could the Leader explain the additional support that will be offered to struggling businesses in the City to help them recover, should the Lockdown be extended by any further considerable time?

Answer:

If the lockdown is extended or new government restrictions are introduced, the City Council will be seeking additional support from the government to extend its provision through the Local Restriction Grant Scheme/Additional Restrictions Grant Scheme to support businesses, which continue to be impacted.

To date Birmingham City Council has provided the following support:

- £185.3m in extended retail and nursery relief
- £217.8m to 18,153 businesses as part of the first phase of grants
- £49.4m in 24,349 grant payments to 10,499 businesses

We are also lobbying Government for an extension of business rate relief and VAT reduction to avoid a cliff edge for businesses.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM
COUNCILLOR ADAM HIGGS**

A5 Contracts Awarded

Question:

List all Companies who have been awarded contracts in relation to Birmingham Commonwealth Games including cost of contract?

Answer:

The below is a list of companies awarded contracts in relation to the Commonwealth Games by Birmingham City Council specifically, during the financial years 2019/20 and 2020/21, including cost of contract. Spend with contractors is regularly published in the public domain on the Birmingham City Council Website.

Other contracts related to the Commonwealth Games have been awarded by other Game's partners such as the Birmingham 2022 Organising Committee and queries regarding these contracts should be directed to them.

2019/20

Company	Spend (£ ex VAT)
360 GIVING	1,500.00
ACIVICO LTD	532,182.21
ARCADIS LLP	109,155.00
ATKINS LTD	1,400.00
BANNER GROUP LTD	196.69
CAPITA BIRMINGHAM LTD	625.35
CLICK TRAVEL LTD	2,012.96
COMMISSION AIR LTD	389.00
CORPORATE DOCUMENT SERVICES LTD	8,384.74
DSM DEMOLITION LTD	532,000.00
ESCAPE LIVE LTD	768.00
GELDARDS LLP	722.00
HARROW GREEN LTD	1,016.50
HAYS SPECIALIST RECRUITMENT LTD	15,170.34
HEMMING GROUP LTD	1,000.00
IRG ADVISORS LLP	96,857.67
LOCAL PARTNERHIPS LLP	30,236.33
MACE COST CONSULTANCY LTD	393,269.20
MIDLAND SURVEY LTD	3,270.00
MOVECORP LTD	50.00
NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK D/D	1,657.47
OVE ARUP & PARTNERS LTD	2,912,408.98
PANTHER TRAVEL	450.00
PICTURE TEAM	160.00
PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS LLP	25,000.00
PRINTBOTS	2,080.00
REBECCA BATTMAN LTD	9,650.00

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Company	Spend (£ ex VAT)
SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC LTD	785.00
SPORT ENGLAND	9,543.00
SUMO SERVICES LTD	3,850.00
T O A TAXIS (RADIO SYSTEM) LTD	273.90
TINKER TAYLOR LTD	18,000.00
TURNER & TOWNSEND PROJECT MGMT LTD	288,558.80
WESTERN POWER DISTRIBUTION (WMIDS)	47,374.22

2020/21

Company	Spend (£ ex VAT)
ACIVICO (DCFM) LTD	221,272.47
ACIVICO LTD	63,124.00
ATKINS LTD	1,520.00
BANNER GROUP LTD	170.76
BLACKSTOCK PARTNERSHIP LTD	13,750.00
BURGES SALMON LLP	164,828.00
CBRE LTD	35,250.00
CLICK TRAVEL LTD	41.50
DSM DEMOLITION LTD	705,504.70
HAYS SPECIALIST RECRUITMENT LTD	214,473.60
INNER CIRCLE CONSULTING LTD	58,468.00
IRG ADVISORS LLP	236,875.64
LASER SURVEYS LTD	945.00
LEVEL ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING LTD	3,253.80
MACE COST CONSULTANCY LTD	370,672.33
MCLAREN CONSTRUCT (MIDLANDS & NORTH	149,731.50
McLAUGHLIN & HARVEY CONS LTD	11,305,692.00
MCLEAN PROJECTS AND EVENTS LTD	23,760.89
NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK D/D	427.03
OVE ARUP & PARTNERS LTD	1,865,832.82
PENNA PLC	187,200.00
PICTURE TEAM	145.00
PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS LLP	189,312.67
PROMETHEANIX LIMITED	162,900.00
SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL	695,553.00
SOFTCAT LTD	81.98
T O A TAXIS (RADIO SYSTEM) LTD	45.65
THE KNOWLEDGE ACADEMY LTD	2,691.00
TINKER TAYLOR LTD	366.15
TURNER & TOWNSEND PROJECT MGMT LTD	983,783.59
WESTERN POWER DISTRIBUTION (WMIDS)	311.67

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

A6 Local Companies

Question:

How many Companies with a registered head office in Birmingham have been awarded contracts connected to the Commonwealth Games?

Answer:

Below is a list of companies awarded contracts in relation to the Commonwealth Games by Birmingham City Council specifically, during the financial years 2019/20 and 2020/21. These companies are broken down to show whether:

- Their registered office is in Birmingham
- If not, is their Head Office in Birmingham
- If not, are they a supplier from the GBSLEP
- If not, do they have a Birmingham office
- If not, do they have an office within the GBSLEP

Other contracts related to the Commonwealth Games have been awarded by other Game's partners such as the Birmingham 2022 Organising Committee and queries regarding these contracts should be directed to them.

2019/2020

Company	Spend (£ ex VAT)	LOCAL SUPPLIER REGISTERED OFFICE BHAM	LOCAL SUPPLIER HEAD OFFICE BHAM	LOCAL SUPPLIER GBSLEP	IF NOT, BHAM OFFICE	IF NOT, GBSLEP OFFICE
360 GIVING	1,500.00	No	No	No	No	No
ACIVICO LTD	532,182.21	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
ARCADIS LLP	109,155.00	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
ATKINS LTD	1,400.00	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
BANNER GROUP LTD	196.69	No	No	No	No	No
CAPITA BIRMINGHAM LTD	625.35	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
CLICK TRAVEL LTD	2,012.96	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
COMMISSION AIR LTD	389.00	No	No	No	No	No
CORPORATE DOCUMENT SERVICES LTD	8,384.74	No	No	No	No	No
DSM DEMOLITION LTD	532,000.00	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
ESCAPE LIVE LTD	768.00	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
GELDARDS LLP	722.00	No	No	No	No	No
HARROW GREEN LTD	1,016.50	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
HAYS SPECIALIST RECRUITMENT LTD	15,170.34	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
HEMMING GROUP LTD	1,000.00	No	No	No	No	No
IRG ADVISORS LLP	96,857.67	No	No	No	No	No
LOCAL PARTNERHIPS LLP	30,236.33	No	No	No	No	No

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Company	Spend (£ ex VAT)	LOCAL SUPPLIER REGISTERED OFFICE BHAM	LOCAL SUPPLIER HEAD OFFICE BHAM	LOCAL SUPPLIER GBSLEP	IF NOT, BHAM OFFICE	IF NOT, GBSLEP OFFICE
MACE COST CONSULTANCY LTD	393,269.20	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
MIDLAND SURVEY LTD	3,270.00	No	No	No	No	No
MOVECORP LTD	50.00	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK D/D	1,657.47	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
OVE ARUP & PARTNERS LTD	2,912,408.98	No	No	No	No	Yes
PANTHER TRAVEL	450.00	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
PICTURE TEAM	160.00	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS LLP	25,000.00	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
PRINTBOTS	2,080.00	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
REBECCA BATTMAN LTD	9,650.00	No	No	No	No	No
SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC LTD	785.00	No	No	No	No	No
SPORT ENGLAND	9,543.00	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
SUMO SERVICES LTD	3,850.00	No	No	No	No	No
T O A TAXIS (RADIO SYSTEM) LTD	273.90	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
TINKER TAYLOR LTD	18,000.00	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
TURNER & TOWNSEND PROJECT MGMT LTD	288,558.80	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
WESTERN POWER DISTRIBUTION (WMIDS)	47,374.22	No	No	No	Yes	n/a

2020/21

Company	Spend (£ ex VAT)	LOCAL SUPPLIER REGISTERED OFFICE BHAM	LOCAL SUPPLIER HEAD OFFICE BHAM	LOCAL SUPPLIER GBSLEP	IF NOT, BHAM OFFICE	IF NOT, GBSLEP OFFICE
ACIVICO (DCFM) LTD	221,272.47	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
ACIVICO LTD	63,124.00	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
ATKINS LTD	1,520.00	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
BANNER GROUP LTD	170.76	No	No	No	No	No
BLACKSTOCK PARTNERSHIP LTD	13,750.00	No	No	No	No	No
BURGES SALMON LLP	164,828.00	No	No	No	No	No
CBRE LTD	35,250.00	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
CLICK TRAVEL LTD	41.50	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
DSM DEMOLITION LTD	705,504.70	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
HAYS SPECIALIST RECRUITMENT LTD	214,473.60	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
INNER CIRCLE CONSULTING LTD	58,468.00	No	No	No	No	No
IRG ADVISORS LLP	236,875.64	No	No	No	No	No
LASER SURVEYS LTD	945.00	No	No	No	No	No
LEVEL ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING LTD	3,253.80	No	No	No	No	No
MACE COST CONSULTANCY LTD	370,672.33	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
MCLAREN CONSTRUCT (MIDLANDS & NORTH	149,731.50	No	No	No	No	Yes
McLAUGHLIN & HARVEY CONS	11,305,692.00	No	No	No	No	No

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Company	Spend (£ ex VAT)	LOCAL SUPPLIER REGISTERED OFFICE BHAM	LOCAL SUPPLIER HEAD OFFICE BHAM	LOCAL SUPPLIER GBSLEP	IF NOT, BHAM OFFICE	IF NOT, GBSLEP OFFICE
LTD						
MCLEAN PROJECTS AND EVENTS LTD	23,760.89	No	No	No	No	No
NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK D/D	427.03	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
OVE ARUP & PARTNERS LTD	1,865,832.82	No	No	No	No	Yes
PENNA PLC	187,200.00	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
PICTURE TEAM	145.00	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS LLP	189,312.67	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
PROMETHEANIX LIMITED	162,900.00	No	No	No	No	No
SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL	695,553.00	No	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a
SOFTCAT LTD	81.98	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
T O A TAXIS (RADIO SYSTEM) LTD	45.65	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
THE KNOWLEDGE ACADEMY LTD	2,691.00	No	No	No	No	No
TINKER TAYLOR LTD	366.15	Yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
TURNER & TOWNSEND PROJECT MGMT LTD	983,783.59	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
WESTERN POWER DISTRIBUTION (WMIDS)	311.67	No	No	No	Yes	n/a

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

A7 Employees

Question:

How many jobs have been awarded to employees with a B postcode in connection with Commonwealth Games?

Answer:

7 jobs have been awarded to employees with a B in their post code out of the 14 that have been directly recruited to work within the Commonwealth Games Programme Team for Birmingham City Council.

Birmingham City Council have learnt lessons from Glasgow City Council and their experience of hosting the 2014 Commonwealth Games. We have purposefully emulated their delivery model of recruiting a core centralised Programme Team under the management of the Programme Director. The vast majority of delivery is conducted across the rest of the Council, and as such there are currently hundreds of staff who are working on elements of the games as part of their substantive roles and were not needed to be directly recruited to.

Looking more broadly, 83 employment opportunities have been created at the Alexander Stadium redevelopment so far, with 49% of those roles going to people who live within 10 miles of the site, and 59 of those being new entrant roles. 29 apprentices have also been operational on the Stadium project.

So far, the Organising Committee has around 250 employees and this number is expected to grow to over 1000 by games time with the ambition that the majority of these go to local people. Further, over 12000 volunteering opportunities will be created during games time.

It is estimated that over 4000 jobs will be created in total by the Commonwealth Games either through direct employment with Games Partners, or via primary contractors and the supply chain. Just recently it was announced that 300 retail jobs will be created to sell games merchandise and the games broadcast partner will create 150 jobs and offer training to 200 young people.

These announcements will continue and become more frequent as we approach games time and more contracts are signed in preparation for the event.

The economic benefit to the region was always a primary driver to host the games and be that the 3 to 1 return on the council's investment, job creation, or the £20+ million Business and Trade Programme, we are already seeing the benefits to the City of Birmingham.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MATT BENNETT

A8 New Builds

Question:

How many houses potentially for first time buyers is housing having built on land they own, where the roads are being constructed of a standard where they cannot be adopted?

Answer:

There is only one scheme currently that has been constructed for sale by BMHT without adoption and this comprises six houses at a scheme on Ebrook Road. BMHT is committed to developing schemes with adopted roads wherever possible and it is rare that the adoptable standard cannot be met, this may be for a variety of design requirement reasons, not however due to the quality of the construction of the road.

The road at Ebrook Road is private due to the access road and design constraints of the plot which do not meet the Highway Departments criteria for adoption. We explored this at length with highways colleagues before works on site started. Though the road does not meet adoption standards because of the requirement for footpaths both sides and a larger turning head, it is constructed to an adoptable quality standard which means that it should require no maintenance for several years.

It was made clear to prospective buyers and their respective solicitors that the road is private and it is common to adopt similar arrangements in the private sector. Hunters are the estate agents appointed to sell the homes for BMHT and they ensured that buyers were provided with all pertinent information from the outset.

We are aware that many of the purchasers are relying on the stamp duty amnesty and do not anticipate that the end date will not be met.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ALEX YIP

A9 New Builds

Question:

Following on from the question asked by Councillor Pears, What financial support is the Housing department going to provide to future first time buyers, who are likely to be on limited incomes, to help pay for the maintenance of the unadopted road?

Answer:

There is no financial assistance planned or available to assist owners with any future maintenance of the highway outside of the initial defect period. The houses are being sold at a full market value which reflect the maintenance liability. The scheme is not specifically aimed at first time buyers, though some will fall into this category and are being assisted through 'Help to Buy' which has been extended until May 2021.

The road at Ebrook Road is private due to the access road and design constraints of the plot which do not meet the Highway Departments criteria for adoption. We explored this at length with highways colleagues before works on site started.

The new homes have been marketed with full knowledge of this, however, please rest assured that it is constructed to an adoptable quality standard which means that it should require no maintenance for several years.

Lastly, it is worth noting it is illegal to subsidise owner occupation with funding from the Housing Revenue Account and therefore this cannot be considered.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR MIKE WARD

B1 Social Care Referrals

Question:

It has been recently reported there has been a significant fall nationally in referrals to children's services of 10 per cent between the end of April and November, according to research by the Office for the Children's Commissioner in England. Even before the pandemic, an estimated 2.2 million children were living in households affected by domestic abuse, parental drug and alcohol dependency and severe parental health issues. Could the Cabinet Member give reassurances families caught in this cycle are being fully supported during this time detailing the actions taken by the City to address these issues?

Answer:

We have not seen a significant fall in contacts and referrals to Birmingham Children's Trust during the pandemic, although we have seen a change in referral patterns. Domestic abuse has consistently been the most prevalent reason for contacts to the Trust during the pandemic. However, in the last week we have seen a reduction in the rate of domestic abuse and a shift back to the usual patterns of contact and referral.

We have tracked the rates and causes of contact and referral to the Trust during the pandemic. We have reported this information to the DfE on a weekly basis. Please see the most recent data on the front door of Children's services provided with this answer.

We anticipated that families would experience isolation, financial hardship and increased levels of stress during the pandemic. The Trust, along with our partners took immediate action to mitigate as we fully expected to receive more contact and referrals to the Trust as a result of more children experiencing harm.

We quickly established a multi-agency group to ensure that all partners were clear on the potential impact of the pandemic on the children and families of the city. The Partnership Operational Group known as the 'POG' continues to meet on a fortnightly basis.

Through this group and with the oversight of the Birmingham Children's Partnership, we have delivered a number of strategies:

- A city-wide response to the prevention, identification and support to domestic abuse.
- A multi-agency support offer to homeless families and families living in temporary accommodation.
- A shared response to supporting vulnerable children safely back into education settings.
- A Covid early help response at a locality level – this has been particularly impactful with over 8000 families accessing early help support, reducing harm and demand on more costly services.

- A shared policy on visiting children and families with an emphasis on pre-birth and children under five years old.
- Established a new online mental health service for 400,000 young people aged 11-25. We set up 'Kooth' in two weeks, the largest roll-out they have done in the shortest time.
- Established a new emergency food and fuel scheme as families in lockdown three are running out of fuel vouchers over winter and suffering food poverty.
- Distributed a grants scheme to community groups to create 162 new services to help families through lockdown and the impact of Covid. Overall, we distributed 33,000 activity packs, 8,400 Information Assurance Group (IAG) or counselling sessions, and 1,300 physical, health and wellbeing activities.

The Early Help offer has made the most impact on supporting the health and wellbeing of families during the pandemic. The offer has responded to worries about mental health, safeguarding issues, domestic abuse and poverty that affected so many families. This work has meant that the Trust has not been overwhelmed with safeguarding referrals – we have been able to respond appropriately to families who have presented with complex and significant need, requiring the intervention of a social worker and a multi-agency plan.

The Trust has been very proactive in encouraging partner agencies to refer to us if there are safeguarding concerns. We have taken some practical steps to encourage referrals:

- Working with the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) and the Birmingham Children Partnership (BCP) on a city-wide communication strategy on the safety and wellbeing of children during lockdown.
- Detailed guidance to Trust staff on professional curiosity and visiting children during the pandemic.
- Regular audit of front door practice and decision making – looking at application of threshold and referral outcomes.
- The establishment of daily multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC) meetings to ensure no delay on safeguarding decisions where domestic abuse is a feature.
- Accelerating the 'team around the school' model as it becomes increasingly important that we work hand-in-hand with schools to pick up on safeguarding concerns and ensure no families are forgotten.

During the pandemic it has become increasingly important to ensure that children and young people who are 'out of the sight' are a priority. A number of key areas of practice have been further strengthened to support those children in an attempt to reduce risk and harm. They include:

- Investing in additional posts within the Contextual Safeguarding Hub (Empower U). This has resulted in swifter responses to screening children who are missing from home and care, high 'take up' rates of return interviews by assigned key workers and fewer incidents of repeat missing incidents. Follow up work takes place with parents, schools and other professionals.

- The establishment of the Joint Response Group – where lead professionals meet on a weekly basis to identify groups and themes where children are not attending education. Measures are put in place to work with children and their families, resulting in more children attending their settings.
- Robust multi-agency risk assessments for children open to the Trust in respect of face-to-face visiting. We have accompanied this with clear partnership guidance on the importance of seeing children.
- A reduction of thresholds at the front door of children's services for pre-birth and 0 – 5 children to ensure tight oversight of this vulnerable group.
- A dedicated multi-agency group focusing on children who are excluded from school or who have no place – troubleshooting and problem solving together.
- Focused discussions with paediatrics, health visiting and midwifery on identification of risk.
- The investment in Community Connectors and named Trust workers for every early years and schools setting in the city to ensure an additional layer of support during Covid. This is proving to be very successful.
- Investment in the location of the Youth Offending Service (YOS) staff in the City of Birmingham School (Pupil Referral Unit) to support early identification and support.
- An enhanced offer to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC), 16 and 17-year-old homeless and care leavers as we are aware of the risk of isolation for these groups of young people.
- Direct approaches to families of disabled children who are in receipt of short breaks to ensure they are supported.
- A call to action to all partners to 'share' the families whom they are worried about (January 2021) so we can be assured that the localities can respond.

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Covid-19 Impact Tracker

Weekly Contacts, Referrals and Family Assessments with Domestic Abuse Concerns

Date Refreshed: 10-Feb-2021

Contact Source by Week

Contact Source	6 wk avg Pre-Covid	2020-02	2020-03	2020-04	2020-05	2020-06	2020-07	2020-08	Last week	Trend
Education	15%	1%	1%	0%	11%	12%	14%	14%	16%	
External	2%	5%	2%	5%	5%	4%	6%	6%	2%	
Health	20%	27%	32%	18%	25%	24%	25%	27%	27%	
Individual or Self	3%	2%	3%	5%	0%	0%	2%	2%	2%	
Internal	0%	0%	2%	11%	8%	7%	0%	7%	7%	
Legal Agency	2%	7%	1%	3%	7%	3%	5%	2%	2%	
Police	26%	30%	40%	37%	29%	28%	32%	30%	30%	
Unknown	19%	12%	13%	15%	9%	10%	10%	11%	11%	
No Group	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Total Contacts Per Week	943	641	519	676	885	827	906	948		

Contact Outcome by Week

Contact Outcome	6 wk avg Pre-Covid	2020-02	2020-03	2020-04	2020-05	2020-06	2020-07	2020-08	Last week	Trend
Referral	40%	32%	20%	30%	32%	29%	25%	32%	32%	
Contact/referral already in place	2%	3%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	
Family Support	11%	7%	0%	8%	10%	12%	6%	10%	10%	
Signpost	20%	32%	39%	32%	30%	30%	37%	29%	29%	
Advice	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
N/A	16%	19%	23%	19%	18%	22%	14%	17%	17%	
Other	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Blank	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	

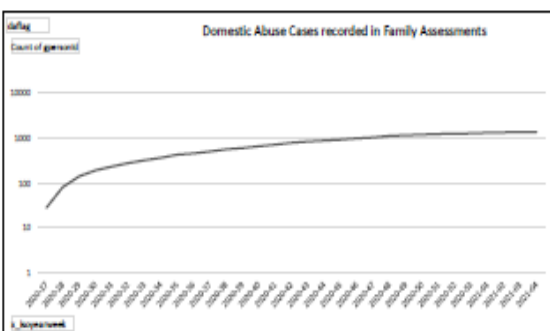
Top 5 Contact Reasons Last week

Contact Reason	Count	%
1 Domestic Abuse	150	15%
2 Neglect	125	14%
3 Family dysfunction	97	10%
4 Physical Abuse	87	9%
5 Family in acute stress	78	8%

Family Assessments Domestic Abuse by Week

Assessment	6 wk avg Pre-Covid	2020-02	2020-03	2020-04	2020-05	2020-06	2020-07	2020-08	Last Week	Trend
Domestic Abuse	10%	12%	14%	20%	18%	17%	13%	17%	17%	
No Domestic Abuse	86%	88%	85%	73%	82%	83%	87%	90%	90%	
Total DA	237	31	21	22	35	33	19	8		

Family Assessments Logarithmic Chart by Week



Referral Source by Week

Referral Source	6 wk avg Pre-Covid	2020-02	2020-03	2020-04	2020-05	2020-06	2020-07	2020-08	Last week	Trend
Education	23%	1%	0%	8%	15%	17%	15%	22%	22%	
External	3%	1%	2%	3%	4%	5%	6%	2%	2%	
Health	10%	14%	31%	9%	17%	20%	15%	15%	15%	
Individual or Self	4%	2%	2%	3%	8%	3%	4%	1%	1%	
Internal	9%	20%	0%	21%	10%	11%	10%	8%	8%	
Legal Agency	2%	9%	0%	4%	5%	3%	5%	0%	0%	
Police	27%	30%	50%	43%	32%	30%	34%	34%	34%	
Unknown	17%	10%	9%	9%	9%	10%	11%	11%	11%	
No Group	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Total Referrals Per Week	400	231	140	212	263	249	321	308		

Referral Outcome by Week

Referral Outcome	6 wk avg Pre-Covid	2020-02	2020-03	2020-04	2020-05	2020-06	2020-07	2020-08	Last week	Trend
Assessment	70%	87%	90%	84%	90%	80%	89%	84%	84%	
Signpost	7%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
No further action	13%	7%	0%	11%	7%	5%	5%	7%	7%	
Other	3%	4%	1%	4%	3%	8%	7%	8%	8%	
Blank	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	

Top 5 Referral Reasons Last week

Referral Reason	Count	%
1 Physical Abuse	59	10%
2 Domestic Abuse	54	10%
3 Child Criminal Exploitation	32	10%
4 Sexual Abuse	27	9%
5 Family in acute stress	20	6%

Analysis

- 1.) Contacts have increased again from the previous week. Contacts from Education and Health have risen by 2%, however contacts from the Police have fallen by 2%.
- 2.) Referrals have fallen over the previous week though by 23.
- 3.) Contacts with an outcome of Referral have increased by 6%. Contacts with an outcome of N/A have decreased by 6%.
- 4.) Referral outcomes have remained largely stable again. There has been a slight fall in Assessments (-5%).
- 5.) Domestic Abuse is the top reason for Contacts and Physical Abuse is the main Referral Reason.
- 6.) Total Assessments with a reason of domestic abuse has decreased over the previous week. As this indicator is based on those assessments completed, we would need to monitor this over the next 6 weeks (due to 45-day timescale for completion).

Comments

Graph Notes
This is a Logarithmic graph, not an absolute value graph.
It shows if we are increasing/decreasing the amount of Domestic Abuse cases recorded in Assessments.
The flat line shows that we are not currently recording any more cases than we have before.
X Axis = Week Number
Y Axis = Cumulative Case recorded with Domestic Abuse concerns.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S
WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR RON STORER**

B2 Written Question B1

Question:

Thank you for providing some more information in response Written question B1 at the last Full council meeting. Please could you now add in the outstanding columns onto the Table already produced as of 2 February 2021. Please note we re-iterate again that if the information is not provided this Question will be sent in as an FOI into the Council.

To assist you with this question here is some useful information:

Interim/Consultants Name or the Company Name: This should be readily available as the details will be on the payment that you are making

The Day Rate: this is the amount that was agreed to pay the Interim/Consultant; please write in the figure or don't know or the Interim/Consultant sends an invoice and it is a random amount according to what the Interim/Consultant wishes to charge.

Number of Days worked: there should be no reason why it takes you to a significant time to collate the Number of Days worked as this can be done by:

- What is the Day Rate you have agreed to pay the Interim/Consultant?
- How much have you already paid them?

Even you must be able to establish the easy calculation that you simply divide the amount paid by the day rate and it equals the Number of Days Worked.

Ethnic Origin: This City Council has expressed a commitment to reflecting the diversity of Birmingham. To assist and progress this have you simply decided against applying this to the large volume of interims and consultants you are employing?

Resident in Birmingham: You have said that you do not collect this information, however, the interim/consultant or company will have provided their address details. Please answer the question as to whether or not those address details are in Birmingham – yes or no.

Date Vacancy advertised & Date decision made to outsource this work: You have said that the majority of the interim resource are additional capacity that has been brought in to support the service and that these are not vacancies at the stage of you identifying the need for this work. The question remains as to the date you looked to identify internal expertise/talent and the steps you took that confirmed there was no one internally available to do this work, that then leads us to the date you decided to source an interim/consultant. One example to help you with the type of information we are seeking is: A Team Manager level SEND Tribunal Lead vacancy was recently advertised for £400 a day. What evidence is there that this requires FTE of £104,000 paid for a position that has no JNC responsibility and that this post cannot be filled by a

secondment arrangement from within the Council or recruiting to a full time post externally? Please outline a similar narrative for each one of the Interim/Consultants to this effect.

Answer:

Table with updated interim resource costs to end of January attached including: role; area; commissioned by; start date; end date (where assignment is no longer active); whether the assignment is still active?; cumulative spend from Sept 18 – Jan 21 (inclusive); a high-level list of activities and summary of improvements

We are unable to disclose information relating to names, number of days worked and day rates. First and foremost, there are commercial sensitives and data protection implications of sharing information relating to individuals. This has been confirmed by corporate procurement and HR. Even if we were able to share the information there would be a risk that the Authority will struggle to recruit and retain interim or consultative resources as a result.

Following advice from Corporate Procurement, who manage the interim and consultancy framework, I can confirm that ethnic origin is not collected and therefore cannot be disclosed.

Similarly, residence is not generally a prerequisite for employment at Birmingham City Council and is therefore not collected. There is no obligation to physically move to Birmingham except where people are required to be on site as part of service delivery. Where this is a requirement for an interim contract, the interim would have to be able to comply through residence or commutable proximity.

To date we have not recorded the dates that vacancies have been discussed with agencies, nor when decisions were taken to outsource. Therefore, this information is in multiple places, including emails and documents, that are difficult to access, and could not be provided within the timescales. Furthermore, we conservatively estimate that it would take an equivalent of 40+ FTE hours to provide for historical appointments due to the breadth and depth of information to be collated. We will, however, ensure this is routinely recorded and can be reported moving forwards.

Interim resource spend as at 2nd Feb 2021

Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	A high-level list of activities they've been involved with	A summary of the improvements they've made (bullet points of what has improved since the consultants have been here).
Guide transformation lead	Home To School Transport	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	27/01/2020	31/08/2020	No	£48,848	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business case to support the reduction of Agency Guides • 1st Draft Business Case in relation to SEND Transport Application process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to the service Saving Strategy and improved gatekeeping and application of policy conditions relating to transport eligibility
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	SENAR Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	03/03/2020	11/02/2021	No	£35,160	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Reviewing and actioning 9,197 outstanding annual review paperwork * Reviewing and actioning newly received review paperwork 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5,271 outstanding reviews closed with all action completed • 2,873 outstanding reviews actioned and awaiting issue by Business Support • Reduction in the backlog of assessments from 500 to 200
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	09/03/2020	22/05/2020	No	£8,775		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	SENAR Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	03/03/2020		Yes	£37,260		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	SENAR Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	03/03/2020		Yes	£40,780		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	03/03/2020	31/05/2020	No	£10,660		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	SENAR Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	03/03/2020	31/07/2020	No	£13,910		

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Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	A high-level list of activities they've been involved with	A summary of the improvements they've made (bullet points of what has improved since the consultants have been here).
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	09/03/2020	31/05/2020	No	£11,700		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	09/03/2020	31/05/2020	No	£7,410		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	09/03/2020	31/05/2020	No	£12,480		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	04/10/2020		Yes	£61,170		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	03/03/2020	31/05/2020	No	£12,350		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	19/03/2020	31/05/2020	No	£12,220		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	09/03/2020	31/05/2020	No	£18,280		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	03/03/2020	31/05/2020	No	£14,040		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	11/03/2020	31/05/2020	No	£12,740		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	03/03/2020	31.10.2020	No	£17,420		

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Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	A high-level list of activities they've been involved with	A summary of the improvements they've made (bullet points of what has improved since the consultants have been here).
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	09/03/2020	31/05/2020	No	£11,700		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	09/03/2020	31/05/2020	No	£12,220		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	17/03/2020	31/05/2020	No	£14,040		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	03/03/2020		Yes	£23,165		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	12/03/2020		Yes	£24,870		
Interim Annual Review Officer / Plan Writers	Senar Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	16/03/2020	31/05/2020	No	£16,563		
Interim Communication Officer	Transformation & Project Support	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	01/03/2020	30/11/2020	No	£19,075	* Communication strategy * Communication plan * Communication material including newsletters for schools and parents, and briefings	* Improved communication and engagement with PCF
Interim Communication officer	Transformation & Project Support	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	30/12/2019	12/02/2020	No	£1,313		
Interim Compliance Officer	Home To School Transport	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	26/10/2020		Yes	£24,302	• Proposed Safeguarding and PATS training	As per Compliance Manager and Senior Compliance Officer

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Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	A high-level list of activities they've been involved with	A summary of the improvements they've made (bullet points of what has improved since the consultants have been here).
Interim Compliance Officer	Home To School Transport	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	01/12/2020		Yes	£11,628	program to be delivered to 480 guides in the new year. • Driver and Guide handbook to be issues to all guides and then drivers. • Daily compliance reports • Supplier check reports • Investigation findings for safeguarding complaints	
Interim Compliance Officer	Home To School Transport	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	28/10/2020	20/11/2020	No	£5,400		
Interim Compliance Officer	Home To School Transport	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	06/10/2020		Yes	£27,563		
Interim Compliance Performance Officer	Home To School Transport	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	23/09/2020		Yes	£30,825	Generate information from the Compliance team and Assessment officer to develop and produce accurate information that can provide an overview of the service performance and suppliers, identify trends and areas of improvement. Provide additional	• Directors and Heads of service are now understanding the performance of suppliers and identify social, mechanical or performance trends at source and in the coming weeks/ months note an increase in service delivery

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Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	A high-level list of activities they've been involved with	A summary of the improvements they've made (bullet points of what has improved since the consultants have been here).
							support to the Compliance team to carry out site visits and depot audits as required.	
Interim Data Officer	Transformation & Project Support	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	18/03/2020	18/09/2020	No	£45,560	* EHCP requests tracker and associated reports * EHCP review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved workflow management * Automated monitoring reports for managers
Interim Data Officer	Transformation & Project Support	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	18/03/2020	18/12/2020	No	£63,700	recovery project database and associated reports * Tracker for new EHCP reviews * Tracker for complaints * Tracker for mediations and appeals	
Interim Early Years SEND Lead	SEND Strategic Transformation	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	01/09/2020	01/09/2021	No	£22,500	* Review of early years service	* Recommendations to improve early years service
Interim Educational Psychologist	SEND Strategic Transformation	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	06/07/2020	18/09/2020	No	£29,910	* Tracker of children awaiting a special school place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidated view of children awaiting special school place so placements could be managed

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Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	A high-level list of activities they've been involved with	A summary of the improvements they've made (bullet points of what has improved since the consultants have been here).
Interim Finance Project Support Officer	Transformation & Project Support	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	01/11/2019	30/09/2020	No	£21,900	* Review formula funding for specialist provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established mechanisms for financial reporting for specialist provision • New criteria and allocation of top up funding for mainstream
Interim Link Officers	Link Service	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	07/09/2020		Yes	£7,755	* Responding to contact from parents and schools via email and telephone * Support families through the needs assessment process * Signposting families to relevant support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing support to families (24 new referrals in Jan 20 > 205 in Dec 20) New satisfaction survey launched in Dec 20 recorded a positive rating of 4.78 / 5
Interim Link Officers	Link Service	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	13/03/2020	17/02/2021	No	£18,280		
Interim Link Officers	Link Service	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion			Yes	£3,680		
Interim Link Officers	Link Service	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	04/03/2020	27/11/2020	No	£15,180		
Interim Link Officers	Link Service	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	09/03/2020		Yes	£22,670		
Interim Link Officers	Link Service	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	24/07/2020		Yes	£8,510		

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Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	A high-level list of activities they've been involved with	A summary of the improvements they've made (bullet points of what has improved since the consultants have been here).
Interim Ops Manager (Transport)	Home To School Transport	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	24/08/2020		Yes	£50,284	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telephone systems – Cirrus • Email system – Cirrus Omni • Bus Pass report • Invoice reports • Staff 1-to-1 • Complaints • Restructure operations service • Performance Improvement - guides 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify current telephone system failings resulting in Cirrus implementation. Daily / weekly reports regarding the Cirrus phone system. Calls answered / abandoned. Time taken to answer calls / calls being abandoned in compliance with the BCC KPI's of 90% answered – 10% abandoned. Ensuring the team meet these KPI's Bus Passes- Identifying hidden issues within the service; identifying the weakness in the service and ensuring new staff are training in the processing of these bus passes. Identifying improvements with the system to avoid the volume of future applications given the 80% rejection rate. Invoice reports – ensuring the overdue

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Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	A high-level list of activities they've been involved with	A summary of the improvements they've made (bullet points of what has improved since the consultants have been here).
								<p>invoices are processed in a timely manner considering value and age of invoices and finding solutions to improve service</p> <p>Redesign of the variation form to provide transparency with the variation form process submitted by contractors asking for price increase/ decrease</p>
Interim Performance Lead	Home To School Transport	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	17/02/2020	13/03/2020	No	£13,600	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * HST dashboard * HST immediate fixes plan * HST weekly sit rep report * HST contract performance reporting schedule * SEND dashboard * SEND Weekly sit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visibility of data • Improved data reliability
Interim Performance Lead	Transformation & Project Support	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	11/06/2020		Yes	£56,186		
Interim Performance Lead	Transformation & Project Support	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	11/03/2020	12/06/2020	No	£36,500		

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Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	A high-level list of activities they've been involved with	A summary of the improvements they've made (bullet points of what has improved since the consultants have been here).
							rep report	
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion		30/10/2020	No	£28,250	* Reviewing and actioning 9,197 outstanding annual review paperwork * Reviewing and actioning newly received review paperwork * Managing placements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5,271 outstanding reviews closed with all action completed • 2,873 outstanding reviews actioned and awaiting issue by Business Support • Reduction in the backlog of assessments from 500 to 200
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	26/05/2020	31/08/2020	No	£4,200		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	04/10/2020	30/10/2020	No	£48,030		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	04/05/2020	31/08/2020	No	£21,000		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	30/09/2020		Yes	£21,280		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	30/10/2020		Yes	£21,300		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	04/10/2020		Yes	£26,250		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	02/10/2020		Yes	£26,175		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	04/10/2020		Yes	£39,850		

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Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	A high-level list of activities they've been involved with	A summary of the improvements they've made (bullet points of what has improved since the consultants have been here).
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	30/09/2020	12/11/2020	No	£24,300		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	17/08/2020		Yes	£18,600		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	30/10/2020		Yes	£26,100		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	02/10/2020	18/12/2020	No	£20,475		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	04/10/2020		Yes	£42,900		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	30/10/2020		Yes	£6,000		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	30/10/2020		Yes	£20,700		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	20/04/2020	13/11/2020	No	£55,650		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	02/10/2020		Yes	£33,975		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	29/04/2020		Yes	£13,873		

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Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	A high-level list of activities they've been involved with	A summary of the improvements they've made (bullet points of what has improved since the consultants have been here).
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	13/07/2020		Yes	£34,800		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	02/10/2020		Yes	£44,633		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	NA		Yes	£10,800		
Interim PO / SEND Case worker	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	11/01/2021		Yes	£3,000		
Interim PO / SEND Case worker	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	11/01/2021		Yes	£3,000		
Interim PO / SEND Case worker	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	07/12/2020		Yes	£5,400		
Interim PO / SEND Case worker	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	11/01/2021		Yes	£9,000		
Interim PO / SEND Case worker	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	11/01/2021		Yes	£4,200		
Interim PO / SEND Case worker	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	NA		Yes	£19,500		
Interim PO / SEND Case worker	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	NA		Yes	£18,600		

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Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	A high-level list of activities they've been involved with	A summary of the improvements they've made (bullet points of what has improved since the consultants have been here).
Interim PO / SEND Case worker	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	NA	05/02/2021	No	£18,600		
Interim PO / SEND Case worker	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	11/01/2021		Yes	£5,700		
Interim PO / SEND Case worker	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	11/01/2021		Yes	£4,500		
Interim PO / SEND Case worker	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	11/01/2021		Yes	£4,200		
Interim PO / SEND Case worker	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	11/01/2021		Yes	£4,200		
Interim PO / SEND Case worker	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	11/01/2021		Yes	£4,200		
Interim PO / SEND Case worker	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	11/01/2021		No	£3,450		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	31/08/2020	18/12/2020	No	£40,360		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Head of SENAR	31/01/2020	31/07/2020	No	£35,515		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Head of SENAR	13/07/2020	22/08/2020	No	£9,920		
Interim PO / SEND Case	Senar - Case Work	Head of SENAR	31/01/2020	31/07/2020	No	£24,054		

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Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	A high-level list of activities they've been involved with	A summary of the improvements they've made (bullet points of what has improved since the consultants have been here).
workers								
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Head of SENAR	NK	NK	No	£25,674		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Head of SENAR	NK	NK	No	£47,291		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Head of SENAR	13/07/2020	20/10/2020	No	£63,817		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Head of SENAR	31/01/2020	31/07/2020	No	£66,969		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Head of SENAR	31/01/2020	31/07/2020	No	£79,270		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Head of SENAR	31/01/2020	31/07/2020	No	£72,127		
Interim PO / SEND Case workers	Senar - Case Work	Head of SENAR	01/04/2020		Yes	£49,600		
Operational Lead	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	07/12/2020		Yes	£16,298	* Reviewing and actioning 9,197 outstanding annual review paperwork * Reviewing and actioning newly received review paperwork * Managing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5,271 outstanding reviews closed with all action completed • 2,873 outstanding reviews actioned and awaiting issue by Business Support • Reduction in the backlog of assessments
Operational Lead	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	07/12/2020	11/03/2021	No	£15,500		
Operational Lead	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	11/01/2021		Yes	£4,860		

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Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	A high-level list of activities they've been involved with	A summary of the improvements they've made (bullet points of what has improved since the consultants have been here).
Operational Lead	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	07/12/2020	24/12/2020	No	£5,000	placements	from 500 to 200
Operational Lead	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	07/12/2020	11/01/2021	No	£7,226		
Interim Post 16 SEND Lead	SEND Strategic Transformation	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	NK	18/12/2020	No	£62,340	* Review of post 16 service	Recommendations to improve preparation for adulthood
Interim Project Lead - Local Offer Website	Transformation & Project Support	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	20/08/2020	31/10/2020	No	£21,038	* Local offer website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New local offer website launched in Jan 2021 • Online booking system in final stages of development to be launched in the spring
Interim Project Manager	Transformation & Project Support	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	13/07/2020		Yes	£45,250	* Developing & managing local provision project plan and associated governance	* DLP project launched
Interim Project Support Officer	Transformation & Project Support	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	11/03/2020		Yes	£64,600	* School Planning meeting documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local offer website launched in Jan 2021 • Improved communication with special school transport leads • Input to Home to school transport improvement programme
Interim Project Support Officer	Transformation & Project Support	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	01/04/2020		Yes	£15,224	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Local offer website upload * Weekly report and liaison with special schools * Consolidation report 	

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Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	A high-level list of activities they've been involved with	A summary of the improvements they've made (bullet points of what has improved since the consultants have been here).
Interim Safeguarding & Compliance SEND Transport Manager	Home To School Transport	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	21/07/2020		Yes	£40,566	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Weekly & monthly performance reports * Safeguarding process for complaints * data analysis from supplier returns (monthly) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robust compliance team who apply safeguarding checks at schools and supplier premises to ensure vehicles and staff are compliant. • Vehicle inspections carried out to ensure vehicles transporting clients are fully roadworthy and feedback given to supplier they additional checks to ensure compliance. • Supplier performance has improved as a result of the checks and visits made to schools and suppliers, once concerns are identified and improvement plans are agreed. • Depot Audits at supplier premises to ensure policies are being applied throughout the operation against their contract. • Regular supplier

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Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	A high-level list of activities they've been involved with	A summary of the improvements they've made (bullet points of what has improved since the consultants have been here).
								<p>meetings to ensure performance issues are identified and actioned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding tracker to capture safeguarding complaints ensure escalated to LADO and managed appropriately in a timely way. • Supplier monthly reporting processes are accurate and identify DBS application's so they are processed as quickly as possible to ensure supplier has sufficient staff to delivery service. • Improved communication and feed back to suppliers is carried out in a timely was to ensure failings identified are rectified.
Interim Safeguarding & QA Lead	Home To School Transport	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	18/11/2019	06/03/2020	No	£25,200	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * initial safeguarding audit of suppliers * DPS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contracts confirmed with suppliers • Baseline safeguarding reports
Interim SEN Coordinator - EHCP Reviews	SENAR Recovery - Annual Review	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	05/03/2020		Yes	£21,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Managing allocation of paperwork to officers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5,271 outstanding reviews closed with all action completed • 2,873 outstanding

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Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	A high-level list of activities they've been involved with	A summary of the improvements they've made (bullet points of what has improved since the consultants have been here).
							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Maintaining record of activity * Liaising with schools to obtain further information as required 	reviews actioned and awaiting issue by Business Support
Interim SEND Transformation Lead	SEND Strategic Transformation	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	Nov-19	Dec-19	No	£25,810	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Review of SENAR administration services * Draft review recovery project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5,271 outstanding reviews closed with all action completed • 2,873 outstanding reviews actioned and awaiting issue by Business Support
Interim SEND Transformation Lead	SEND Strategic Transformation	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	10/03/2020	25/09/2020	No	£30,575		
Interim SEND Transformation Lead	SEND Strategic Transformation	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	22/11/2019	14/01/2020	No	£4,463		
Interim SEND Transformation Lead	SEND Strategic Transformation	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	Feb-20	Feb-20	No	£9,585		
Interim SEND Transport manager	Home To School Transport	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	20/07/2020	17/01/2021	No	£42,900	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * DfE bid for COVID funding * Deed variation for supply of guides * Deed variation for alteration of DBS process * Communication & Implementation plan * Org chart for restructure * Summer operations plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The service has had improved leadership and structure in order to achieve a number of significant improvement key tasks. This development has worked in partnership with the recommendations outlined in the Service Investigation Report. • The service is now able to ensure early

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Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	A high-level list of activities they've been involved with	A summary of the improvements they've made (bullet points of what has improved since the consultants have been here).
							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Draft revised risk assessment process * Contribution to immediate fixes plan, weekly and daily sit rep, monthly covid plan, service dashboard and revised implementation plan 	identification of operational concern and introduce strategies in order to improve performance and administration across the service as a whole
Interim Senior Compliance Officer	Home To School Transport	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	17/09/2020		Yes	£27,988	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supplier performance figures on a daily and weekly basis • Carry out record and report on Supplier Audit. • Daily engagement with suppliers to address any issues identified within compliance checks. • Recognize training needs for drivers and suppliers relating to compliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robust and engaging compliance team in place. Robust procedures implemented to improve supplier /driver compliance • Implemented a revised parking plan at 2 schools to date (Calthorpe & Dame Ellen Pinsent) • Allocate work to the compliance team to ensure work is completed and prioritised. • Advise suppliers on compliance matters i.e.

City Council – 23 February 2021

Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	A high-level list of activities they've been involved with	A summary of the improvements they've made (bullet points of what has improved since the consultants have been here).
								<p>procedures and technique to improve performance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved communication with suppliers, schools and internal teams to ensure concerns are addressed and recorded in a timely way • Support other service areas to address any safeguarding /compliance issues and resolve in a timely way.
Interim Programme mgr	Transformation & Project Support	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	21/01/2020		Yes	£126,840	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Review recovery project * Draft EHCP multi agency QA framework * Draft managing send provision model * PCF briefing * Internal engagement and briefings * Multi agency operational 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a contact database for families 5,271 outstanding reviews closed with all action completed • 2,873 outstanding reviews actioned and awaiting issue • Multi agency operational stakeholder engagement • Progress against the written statement of

City Council – 23 February 2021

Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	A high-level list of activities they've been involved with	A summary of the improvements they've made (bullet points of what has improved since the consultants have been here).
							stakeholder engagement * Draft Pathways * Resource tracker & resource plan	action
Interim Transport Manager Operations, Commissioning & Contracts	Home To School Transport	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	01/06/2020	30/11/2020	No	£70,240	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed system requirements for the Home to school transport database • Procurement Business case for the purchase of the new system (365 Response chosen) • Implementation Plan for 365 • Communications Plan for the implementation of 365 • Mobile Phones for Guides requirements document • CXM Bus Pass Administration requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taken the request for a new transport system from concept, through requirements definition and procurement to commencement of operational roll out and live testing. • Defined additional costs to cover data requirements for BCC in the absence of a legacy database and revised the business case to justify new requirements. • Revised business case includes the cost of project management.

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Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	A high-level list of activities they've been involved with	A summary of the improvements they've made (bullet points of what has improved since the consultants have been here).
							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Also developed the daily route report which underpins the Daily SitRep reporting to Chief Executive 	
Interim SEND Transport Officer	Home To School Transport	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	09/11/2020		Yes	£20,880	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of system for transport risk assessments • Proposals for new transport irks assessment system • Best practice with other LA to inform implementation in Birmingham 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In process of implementing revised system for transport risk assessments • Liaison with SENAR to develop joined up processes for eligibility
Interim Transport Operations Manager	Home To School Transport	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	04/11/2020	29/01/2021	No	£32,869	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Mobility Assessment Risk Assessment Process. • Review of Current Assessment Process and recommendations • Provide guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved Risk Assessments are being carried out. • Engage with relevant service areas to obtain all relevant information to produce accurate information and assessments.
Interim Transport Operations Manager	Home To School Transport	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	11/03/2020	21/04/2021	No	£63,940		

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Role	Area	Commissioned By	Start Date	End Date (if assignment has ended)	Is assignment still 'active' Yes or No	Cumulative costs Sep 2018 - Jan 2021	A high-level list of activities they've been involved with	A summary of the improvements they've made (bullet points of what has improved since the consultants have been here).
							on improving safer accurate assessments.	
Interim Tribunal Officer	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	01/06/2020	31/08/2020	No	£6,450	Managing the throughput of mediations, appeals and tribunals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High level of compliance with statutory timelines. • Robust mediation process to ensure resolution
Interim Tribunal Officer	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	30/06/2020	30/09/2020	No	£19,200		
Interim Tribunal Officer	Senar - Case Work	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	20/10/2020		Yes	£26,350		
Interim Tribunal Officer	Senar - Case Work	Head of SENAR	01/06/2020	14/08/2020	No	£40,500		
Sensory Consultant	SEND Strategic Transformation	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	01/09/2019		Yes	£35,359	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Review of sensory resource bases * Review of FAMS * Supporting implementation of recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of more inclusive provision for children with physical difficulties • Improved use of resources through use of sensory resource bases
Strategic SEND Consultant	SEND Strategic Transformation	Assistant Director SEND & Inclusion	Sep-19	Dec-20	No	£15,836	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Funding comparison for special schools to inform the special school funding review * Preparatory work for the DLP project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DLP project launched • Special school funding review in progress

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S
WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR CHARLOTTE HODIVALA**

B3 Letter – EHCPs

Question:

Please could you provide a complete answer to Question B2 of the last Full Council meeting? You neglected to include the letter you sent out to parents of children with EHCPs during the first lockdown of last year.

Answer:

An individual letter to families was not sent out during the first lockdown. [Information for parents was posted on the council's Local Offer website](#) which is the approach that local authorities across the region took.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S
WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR SIMON MORRALL**

B4 SEND Code of Practice

Question:

In line with Question B3 of the last Full Council meeting how have you ensured:

- **compliance with the law, and the requirements contained in the SEND Code of Practice?**
- **training on the legal requirements and the SEND Code of Practice, particularly by those officers involved in the decision-making process?**
- **decision-making processes documented and clear?**
- **clearer structure of accountability and responsibility implemented within the SEND service?**

Answer:

SEND Statutory Framework training, organised by SENDIASS and delivered by a SENDIST Judge, took place on 3 February 2021. All SEND services, including officers involved in decision-making, were represented at this training. Further training sessions are also being arranged to supplement this.

There will be ongoing monitoring activity to ensure compliance.

Work is underway to fully document the decision-making process.

A restructure of the service is underway and consultation meetings with staff and trades unions are taking place.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR ADAM HIGGS

B5 Home Bridging Team

Question:

Please can you provide a complete answer to Question B4 of the last Full Council meeting? You provided a narrative around the home bridging team and other forms of home tuition but you only provided data on the number of children who are supported by the Home Bridging Team and are out of school awaiting a special school placement. As reminder, the question asked you to provide, broken down by area of need, year group, number of children & young people with EHCPs who are currently:

- **Without a school place**
- **In a mainstream school but awaiting a special school placement**
- **Having Section F provision met through the Home Bridging Team**
- **Having Section F provision met by other home- based providers (please define who is providing this and the cost)**
- **Have annual reviews recommending change of placement that have not yet been actioned**

Answer:

Without a school place & having Section F provision met through the Home Bridging Team:

These are the children that are currently out of school and are being supported through alternative provision. The cases are being reviewed by the task and finish group on a weekly basis alongside support from the provision teams and linked professionals. Since the question was asked last month we have placed 12 children into special schools and we are working with those families and the schools on the transition. We have matched a further 26 children with school placements according to need with vacancies in our special schools and we are working with these schools under the consultation process to place the children. They will be supported with a transition plan back to school based education taking into consideration the perimeters set by Covid19 protocols. We are continuing to support families and meeting on a weekly basis to place the remaining children. This is a static dataset that we are working with as a focused group. All of these children remain supported by the Home Bridging team until they are fully transitioned into a school placement.

While there will always be some 'churn' in the system, whereby a small number of children will, at any given time, find themselves between schools, our intention is to reduce the number through a combination of improved local support and by continuing to work with our special schools to develop the places our children and young people need.

By Age Group

Year Gr.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
No. of Children	11	2	6	2	2	10	12	6	3	14	5	0

By Need

Need	ASD	MLD	PD	SEMH	SLD
No. of Children	57	2	1	12	1

By Area

Area	North	South	East	West
No. of Children	9	35	25	4

Having Section F provision met by other home- based providers (please define who is providing this and the cost:

There are a small number of children who are accessing Academy 21 which is an online provider delivering learning from Key Stage Two onwards. This is commissioned on a pay as you go basis with the focus being to secure full-time provision back in a school setting. This schooling enables children to take part in a lesson with other students in a supervised way with mentoring/pastoral support still being delivered though the Home Bridging team contact with the child and family.

The cost of tutoring and Home Bridging is reviewed on a regular basis as children are placed in provision transition support is then put in place to support the new school placement.

The current main provider is Connex. They charge £27 per hour for each child and on average children are currently receiving 15 hours per week on a one to one ratio. The number of children we are currently supporting through Connex is 52. These children are not all awaiting a school placement and are on a bespoke education programme.

In a mainstream school but awaiting a special school placement

For some of these children reviews are still ongoing with families though the statutory annual review process. In some cases further evidence is being sought to ensure that the decision making process to place in a special school is robust. Linked professionals are working with families and schools in the meantime to build the support needed through the developing local provision offer which will enhance the support available to the that young person with a view to keeping them in mainstream provision. If this is not suitable then we are seeking Special school placements.

Over lockdown mainstream schools have been able to work with children with EHC plans in smaller, focused groups which in some cases is closing gaps in their attainment and making the future of that placement more sustainable long term. Through the ESN funding model schools have been able to access additional staffing and resources which is also impacting positively on the mainstream school's capacity to meet individual children's needs.

By Age Group

Year Gr.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
No. of Children	18	3	11	3	2	9	1	3	1	4	1	0

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By Need

Need	ASD	MLD	PD	SEMH	SLD	C&L
No. of Children	40	3	1	1	1	10

By Area

Area	North	South	East	West
No. of Children	12	20	24	0

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S
WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR BRUCE LINES**

B6 Statutory Requirements

Question:

Do you deem 85 children with EHCPs taught as an alternative to a school placement by Home Based learning as lawful practice that fulfils statutory Section F and Section I requirements?

Answer:

We are working to ensure that all children and young people with EHCPs have a full-time placement in a school appropriate to their needs, as near as possible to where they live.

The figure of 85 children referred to in this question was provided in response to question B4 for the 2 February 2021 meeting and was accurate as at that date. This number has reduced since the previous response was provided. Details of the children and young people currently without a school place or who are attending mainstream school and awaiting a special school place have been provided in response to question B5 for the 23 February 2021 meeting. Those who are without a school place are being supported by the Home Bridging team on an interim basis while suitable placements are being sought. This support is not, therefore, considered to be an alternative to a school placement and it is not usually possible to meet all of the requirements of Section F - which sets out the special education provision required by the child or young person – through home bridging provision. Section I of the EHCP requires that the name and type of the school or other institution to be attended is specified or, where the name of a school or other institution is not specified, the type of placement to be attended. In these cases, the type of placement has been specified in Section I of EHCPs rather than home education.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S
WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR GARETH MOORE**

B7 Decision Making Groups

Question:

You have 7 Decision Making Groups (DMGs) in operation. Please provide the dates that these DMGs have been meeting, who were the DMG members in attendance, number of cases considered, number of cases outstanding to still consider. Please define the law/statutory framework that each DMG covers and adheres to?

Answer:

The DMGs currently in operation have been designed to fulfil the requirements of legislation and the SEND Code of Practice in respect of assessment, provision and placement. This statutory framework is adhered to by each DMG. The DMGs are utilising a multi-agency approach and attendees include relevant Specialist Leads in Education, Health and Social Care to ensure effective and informed decision-making. This multi-agency approach has been in place since July 2020.

The DMGs are utilising a multi-agency approach and attendees include relevant Specialist Leads in Education, Health and Social Care to ensure effective and informed decision-making. This multi-agency approach has been in place since July 2020.

Meetings of the DMGS are scheduled weekly as follows:

Monday

- Early Years
- Preparation for Adulthood

These meetings focus on the ongoing individual support required for children and young people. Decisions are not made in respect of statutory assessments in these groups. The groups are led by the lead specialist for each area, with support from Business Support and the attendance of relevant professionals within SEND services. The cases are considered each week and there is, therefore, no backlog.

- Special Schools

These meetings are led by the Provision Lead for Special Schools, with attendance by professionals in SEND services. Head Teacher representatives are also invited to the Special Schools DMGs. This DMG is currently prioritising the children identified as being out of school.

Tuesday

- Sensory – Average of 12 cases per week
- Cognition and Learning and SEMH – Assessments, with a follow up Placement & Provision Meeting on the Thursday of the same week – Average of 10 – 18 cases per week

- ASC – Assessments, with a follow up Placement & Provision Meeting later the same day – 87 cases in respects of decisions to assess and 54 cases in respect of decisions to issue EHCPs since January 2021. Within the placements meeting the team review an average of 19 new cases per week.

These meetings focus on decisions around assessments and issuing of EHCPs for new cases and changes to provision for children and young people with existing EHCPs. All these meetings are multi-agency, with lead specialist representatives from Education, Health and Social Care. All cases submitted are presented at the next available DMG, with no cases submitted left unheard.

Friday

- Exceptional Funding – 78 cases reviewed since January 21. All cases submitted are presented at the next available DMG, with no cases submitted left unheard.

This meeting is led by the Assistant Director and reviews cases where there are exceptional funding requirements (threshold £25k per annum). The meeting includes relevant provision leads and SEND finance officers to review and approve cases where appropriate.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S
WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID PEARS**

B8 Developing Local Provision

Question:

Please provide the data set relating to the Developing Local Provision (DLP) impact on:

- **number of children this programme will support**
- **the needs that will be met**
- **the outcomes that will be achieved**
- **Full cost that is being spent on the administration of the DLP, inclusive of identification of payments made to named individuals and organisations that are working on delivering the DLP.**

Answer:

The Developing Local Provision (DLP) project is a city-wide school led project, focused on the development of SEND local provision across partnerships of schools to improve outcomes and enable greater inclusion of children and young people with SEND, educated in their local community schools.

As a result, there is not a single DLP dataset but instead each consortium of primary schools and network of secondary schools have used their local contextual and performance data to identify key performance indicators (KPIs) and to set baselines from which impact of the project will be measured. These datasets are bespoke to those partnerships of schools in their locality and they identify their specific and local needs. These will therefore, rightly, be different across the different consortia and networks depending on what the identified priorities for improvement are for that specific community of schools.

In the same way the range of needs to be met will differ according to the specific needs that are identified across the partnership of schools in that locality. These cover a range of needs and numbers of pupils e.g. performance and attendance of SEND pupils, improving reading ages of secondary pupils, reducing numbers of children and young people who are currently not on roll of any schools etc. As part of the delegation of funding to consortia and networks of schools, the 'Conditions of Grant' document specifies the need for termly reporting of progress toward KPIs and spend. Project proposals have also been required to outline how the partnership of schools will use the voice of parents and carers to show the impact of the project.

It is important to understand that currently Birmingham has the lowest numbers of pupils with SEND whose needs are met in mainstream schools, than any other local authority, regionally and nationally. The development of mainstream provision for pupils with SEND is a national priority of DfE and Ofsted. The DLP is a project that is designed to address this as a priority across Birmingham.

Full cost that is being spent on the administration of the DLP, inclusive of identification of payments made to named individuals and organisations that are working on delivering the DLP.

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(For data protection reasons the names of individuals are not included in the table below)

		Total Costs to date	Total Cost -End of financial year
Roles leading and working on project	1x P/T Project lead 1x P/T Primary Schools Lead 1 F/T Project Manager	£60,000 (approx.)	£96,000 (approx.)

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S
WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR KEN WOOD**

B9 SEN2 Return

Question:

Following on from Written Question B11 at the last Full Council meeting, have you now compiled the data for this year's LA SEN2 return and, if so, can you provide the data you have already collected to make this return and chart a contrast with last year's data?

Answer:

As set out in the response to Full Council last month, this year's submission is being compiled and will be completed and submitted as per DfE set timescales and a copy will be published.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S
WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE ALDEN**

B10 High Needs Block

Question:

You said in Question B15 2 February 2021, that money from the High Needs Block of school funding has been spent on consultants. Please provide details of these consultants and the day rate they received, along with the rationale for diverting this money from children's education in schools?

Answer:

Due to data protection reasons the names of the individual consultants cannot be provided, nor their individual day rates.

The consultants' work is used to improve services for children, by making systems and processes more efficient and providers more accountable, the funding is not being diverted from children's education in schools.

Over two thirds of Councils have a cumulative deficit on their High Needs Block and half of these have a deficit in excess of 2% of DSG. For Birmingham that would equate to a deficit in excess of £40m. This is not the case as ours is just 0.6% and will reduce further. Instead, by investing in preventative services and improving efficiency, the SEND service delivered to budget last year and is forecast to do so this year, putting it in a much better position than the majority of Councils.

I am determined that we will continue to transform our services with rigour and pace to ensure our children with SEND are supported more effectively as close to home as possible in a far more inclusive way which is in line with the national direction of travel that the government is also setting.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S
WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR PETER FOWLER**

B11 Hunters Hill School

Question:

Hunters Hill School has had little or no provision since last year. Please detail:

- **how those students specifically are being supported with their Mental Health Needs.**
- **the assessments that have been undertaken to identify the Mental Health impact that the lack of education and provision is having on those children**
- **the specialist provisions that have been involved for assessment and therapeutic intervention?**
- **the support their parents and families have received?**

Answer:

A reduction in face to face education provision generally has unfortunately been one of the inevitable results of the pandemic. This has been exacerbated in the case of Hunters Hill College by ongoing site issues.

School staff are not in a position to carry out specific mental health assessments, however relevant professionals in school meet each week to triage and risk assess the vulnerabilities of all pupils on roll. School employs a RAG rated register for each pupil according to their individual needs. RAG ratings are reviewed weekly. A 'red' rating for a student at Hunters Hill College is applied where there are significant concerns regarding a student's wellbeing. All risk assessments are discussed regularly with the local authority's triage team in common with other special schools.

All families are assigned a specific worker from the Hunters Hill staff team who contacts them on a weekly basis. This contact is used to as a welfare check and to assess pupil and family needs. A written protocol is in place and all information is securely recorded. There is a clear escalation route in place if contact cannot be made.

Any pupils who are identified as requiring additional support are signposted or referred to specific services based on individual needs. The school's resident counselling psychologist also offers targeted interventions to specific pupils and families as appropriate. There are a number of signposts to mental health and wellbeing services on the school website, which all pupils, parents and carers have been made aware of.

Annual Reviews of EHCPs and PEP meetings have continued throughout lockdown and school closure. The school has dedicated Educational Psychology support and mental health and wellbeing fall within this service's remit.

Twelve children of critical key workers/vulnerable pupils are currently receiving provision at Brays School - Tile Cross site - and this arrangement will continue after the half term break. All pupils, parent/carers have been sent a text link to the step-by-step guide to access the school's remote offer. All pupils have a laptop and internet access. Any pupils requiring paper packs have been sent them and these are replenished on a regular basis.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S
WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR MEIRION JENKINS**

B12 Disability Discrimination Cases

Question:

How many Disability Discrimination cases have there been against Birmingham schools since 2019 and what legal costs have been incurred?

Answer:

There have been 2 disability discrimination cases against Birmingham maintained schools since 2019. No legal costs have been incurred by those schools. As Legal Services provides the legal representation and support, no additional legal costs have been incurred by the Council.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S
WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR EWAN MACKEY**

B13 DBS Checked

Question:

You stated in in answer to Written Question B14 at the last Full Council Meeting that you can confirm that as of 12 January you have been assured that no drivers with a positive DBS are driving for the contractor. Please can you clarify the following points:

- Are all positive DBS rejected for positions in Home to School Transport or can you give the details of the vetting and decision-making process to explore the nature of the positive DBS.**
- Prior to 12 January did you not have the assurance that no drivers with a positive DBS are driving for the contractor and did you only seek that assurance based on the questioning we are raising through Council?**

Answer:

There is a suitability process for guides and passenger assistants in relation to home to school transport.

All staff need a 'contract ID badge' to work on the Council's contracts. To secure an ID badge, they must first undertake an enhanced DBS check. The applicant must share the DBS certificate and if there is any positive content, they are not automatically able to secure a contract ID badge.

In the cases where there is positive content, this is reviewed by the Council to identify the nature of the content, dates of any offences, repeated patterns of offences and so on. A panel then reviews this information to ascertain if the applicant is likely to pose a risk to vulnerable pupils and takes a decision on whether an ID badge can be offered.

This review process reflects similar processes in many local authorities across the country to ensure the most vulnerable pupils are safeguarded.

Prior to 12 January, we did have assurances that drivers with positive DBS outcomes were suitably risk assessed through the Council's approved procedures and this was not based on the questioning raised through Council.

Procedures for risk assessing these drivers have been updated over the period since the DBS system was introduced and the Council has sought to continuously improve the safeguarding of vulnerable service users through strengthening this process further over the past year.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S
WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR TIMOTHY HUXTABLE**

B14 Data

Question:

For the period January 2020 - present please provide the following data, all broken down by type (Refusal to Assess, Refusal to Issue, Section B,F,I):

- **The number of appeals against the Council registered by SENDIST**
- **The number of appeals conceded by the local authority prior to hearings**
- **The number that went to hearing where the appeal was dismissed (i.e. the local authority's decision was deemed to be correct)**
- **The number of resulting tribunal orders which have not yet been complied with by the Council**

Answer:

- **The number of appeals against the Council registered by SENDIST**

Month	Refusal to Assess	Refusal to Issue EHCP	Section I	Cease to maintain Plan	Contents of Plan	Contents of Plan & Section I	Grand Total
Jan-20	4	6	7	0	1	3	21
Feb-20	3	3	6	0	1	5	18
Mar-20	5	2	11	0	0	1	19
Apr-20	4	1	9	0	0	4	18
May-20	2	0	14	0	1	3	20
Jun-20	5	5	14	0	2	3	29
Jul-20	3	0	30	0	2	5	40
Aug-20	2	2	14	0	2	6	26
Sep-20	2	1	16	1	1	1	22
Oct-20	2	1	8	0	1	4	16
Nov-20	4	3	5	0	0	6	18
Dec-20	9	4	3	0	0	0	16
Jan-21	5	1	3	0	1	1	11
Grand Total	50	29	140	1	12	42	274

- **The number of appeals conceded by the local authority prior to hearings**
- **The number that went to hearing where the appeal was dismissed (i.e. the local authority's decision was deemed to be correct)**

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Type of SENDIST Appeal	Cease to maintain Plan	Contents of Plan	Contents of Plan & Section I	Refusal to Assess	Refusal to Issue EHCP	Section I	Grand Total
Consent Order	0	1	18	0	1	46	66
Not Opposed	0	1	4	34	20	41	100
Withdrawn	1	1	2	1	0	13	18
Upheld	0	1	0	1	1	3	6
Upheld in part	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Appeal Denied	0	1	0	0	0	4	5
Grand Total	1	5	25	36	22	107	196

- **The number of resulting tribunal orders which have not yet been complied with by the Council**

There are four recent Orders from SENDIST which are currently in the process of being complied with in accordance with required timescales.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S
WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR ADRIAN DELANEY**

B15 Sensory Impaired Schools

Question:

Proposals are currently being put forward by the Council that amount to an attack on the provision and placements at our sensory impairment schools (Braidwood, Longwill, Priestley Smith), this includes HI/Deaf & VI/Blind. These highly valued and highly regarded schools are jewels in the crown of the Special Schools and facilities in the city. There is no evidence of stakeholder involvement (Special Schools, parents and pupils, HI/Deaf community, VI/Blind community) in these proposals, nor of any political oversight.

Why is it now the Council's policy to undermine the viability of these schools, when was it approved and by whom?

Answer:

It is not the Council's policy to undermine the viability of the City's special schools that provide for children and young people with sensory impairments. It is not clear which specific proposals are being referred to that could be considered to amount to an attack on provision and placements at schools mentioned or any schools.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND
SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR ZAKER CHOUDHRY**

C1 Additional Grant

Question:

It is understood the government has committed to provide £23m in funding to dozens of councils in England to help fight misinformation around coronavirus vaccines and to encourage uptake of the jab among more high-risk communities. Could the Cabinet Member confirm if the City has been allocated any additional grant through this scheme giving full details of the amount of grant awarded as well as an indication of how this money will be spent?

Answer:

In January 2021 Birmingham City Council Public Health team secured through a competitive process £440,000 of the Community Champions Fund from the Ministry of Housing and Local Communities (MHCLG) to support communication and engagement with residents impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The fund is to support communication and engagement with those communities identified to be at most at risk from COVID-19, including those from an ethnic minority background and disabled people, to help them follow safer behaviours and reduce the impact of the virus on themselves, and those around them. This fund will enhance existing community engagement programme through additional targeted and tailored activity focusing on:

- Increasing the range of accessible information for hard to reach and vulnerable groups to include people with learning difficulties, poor literacy and vulnerable families.
- Extending engagement to those with limited digital access through the development of telephone trees for information dissemination through community partner organisations.
- Building on the existing COVID Community Champions programme to develop a bespoke Community Champion's programme for children and young people that will foster peer to peer and family sharing of information, advice and guidance on COVID 19.
- Developing arts-based messaging, particularly through different cultural mediums to engage with different ethnic communities.
- Developing a COVID-19 Business Community Champions approach to focus on engagement with the business community on a sectoral basis focused on hospitality, retail, manufacturing and entertainment to work with us to recruit more business owners into the community champion programme.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND
SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR MORRIAM JAN**

C2 PPE for Carers

Question:

It has recently been announced that free PPE will be made available to carers who do not live with the people they care for and that 2/3 Local Authorities have signed up to assist with supply. Could the Cabinet Member confirm if Birmingham has lent its support to this important initiative?

Answer:

I can confirm that Birmingham City Council have been providing informal carers (who do not live with the person they care for) with PPE since June 2020 and widened the offer to live-in informal carers in November 2020 and will continue to do so in line with the Government PPE offer which currently ends on the 30th June 2021.

PPE can be requested either online through the Council website on the following link <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/xfp/form/738> or by calling the PPE Team on 0121 796 2577 (Monday – Friday 9am – 4pm excluding bank holidays).

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND
SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR MIKE WARD**

C3 Vaccinations for high risk community groups

Question:

Whereas we welcome the new vaccination centres that have been arranged in places of community worship with the full co-operation of community faith leaders, we are still reading and hearing concerning reports of vaccinations not reaching some high-risk minority ethnic groups and of the City's overall vaccination rate being worryingly low. Could the Cabinet Member give full details of what outreach is taking place to these communities?

Answer:

The NHS is leading on vaccination rollout and community engagement and this is led through the local Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG).

The Council is supporting the CCG by collaborating on a series of community webinars and live Q&A sessions chaired by the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health with the Director of Public Health.

The Public Health Division have led a series of similar sessions for Covid Community Champions and for elected members and targeted groups such as social care staff.

The Council has also supported the CCG in dissemination of vaccination information and awareness, including promoting translated materials on the Council website and media channels.

I have continually shared information with all elected members to share with their constituents on increasing vaccination take up including messages targets at our minority ethnic groups.

Last week BAME councillors from across the Chamber recorded a short video that is being circulated to encourage vaccine take up.



BAME councillors come together to encourage vaccine uptake.

Councillors from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds across Birmingham have joined together to publish a video promoting the covid-19 vaccine uptake within BAME communities. [Watch and share the video now.](#)

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND
SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR KEN WOOD**

C4 Vaccinations

Question:

How many testing and vaccination centres have had to close due to ice and snow so far since September 2020 to now, including how many days was each closure?

Answer:

A total of four Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing sites have had to close since September 2020 due to ice and snow. Over the weekend of the 23 and 24 January 2021, the Utilita Arena closed 2.5 hours early on one day, and each of our three mobile testing units was closed for 1.5 days.

The Council is not responsible for vaccination delivery or vaccination centres. This is managed by the NHS.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR JON HUNT**

D1 HMO

Question:

Since the expansion of HMO Licensing, to cover all HMOs that have five or more people in occupation, what is the increase in the staff in the Private Rented Sector Team who inspect licensed HMOs and how does this increase relate to the increase in the number of licensed HMOs (in actual numbers and percentage terms)?

Answer:

The mandatory licensing criteria changed on 1 October 2018, removing the three storey criteria. Prior to 1 October 2018, the HMO licensing team consisted of four officers who administer the licences. At the same time in the wider PRS service there were 5 Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) who as part of their role would undertake inspections of HMOs as well as other types of private sector accommodation.

In the period 1 April 2018 to 30 September 2018, 158 applications were received. For the period 1 October 2018 to 31 March 2019, 529 applications were received. This represents a 235% increase in applications. In the same period there were 214 licences issued in the period 1 April to 30 September 2018 and 222 licences issued in the period 1 October 2018. This was a 4% increase of HMO licences issued. The last financial year 300 applications were received and 304 licences issued. This is a 37% increase in licences issued.

Since the expansion in HMOs Licensing criteria, there has not been an increase in the staffing complement of the HMO Licensing Team or EHOs. However, there will be a recruitment drive to increase the service with an additional eight staff.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR BABER BAZ**

D2 Digital Autopsy Service

Question:

Will the Digital Autopsy service be retained after the trial?

Answer:

The formal trial for the digital autopsy ran from July 2019 to June 2020. The work arising from the pandemic and the demands it places on bereavement services staff means that a formal review has not been possible to date.

However, officers have put in place an agreement to continue with the service this year up to the end of June 2021, prior to any formal review. There is a demand for the service with 749 digital autopsies undertaken up to the end of January 2021. As you will be aware the introduction of this service was a manifesto commitment and I feel it is an important part of the service provided. I am certainly committed to the continuation of digital autopsy service, hoping any formal review will identify the lessons from the pilot to make the service more effective.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR ROGER HARMER**

D3 HMO

Question:

How many HMO License Applications are currently waiting to be processed?

Could the Cabinet Member please provide a breakdown, by year/month of when these outstanding applications were submitted to the Council.

Answer:

Year/Month	No
2019	
January	21
February	28
March	47
April	63
May	46
June	59
July	51
August	49
September	48
October	54
November	49
December	52

2020	No
January	24
February	38
March	52
April	58
May	46
June	63
July	58
August	42
September	58
October	41
November	38
December	58

2021	
January	42

Above are the outstanding licences waiting to be issued. The figure also includes applications received within the last 56 days, which is the target date for issuing a fully completed application.

There is a planned programme to eliminate the outstanding applications. The original plan was to complete the issuing of all outstanding licences received older than 56 days by 31 March. The target has had to be revised to May 2021 due to a number of issues which include reduced resources due to Covid, a number of incomplete applications received and approximately 300 paper applications which take longer to process.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR PETER FOWLER**

D4 Garage Maintenance

Question:

What is the spend on garage maintenance for this year?

Answer:

Garage maintenance on Housing Revenue Account garages is carried out by the Repairs Contractors as part of the Price Per Property charge. The costs for garage maintenance are not able to be separately identified from the overall Price Per Property charge.

Forecast expenditure on capital investment on Housing Revenue Account garage sites this year is £0.05m.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID BARRIE**

D5 Budget - Garage Maintenance

Question:

What is it budgeted for in each of the next four years?

Answer:

Garage maintenance on Housing Revenue Account garages is carried out by the Repairs Contractors as part of the Price Per Property charge. The budget for garage maintenance is not separately identified from the overall Price Per Property budget.

The capital investment budgets for Housing Revenue Account garage sites over the next four years are in the table below.

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
	£000	£000	£000	£000
HRA Garage Investment 2021/22 to 2024/25	744	400	438	64

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES AND
NEIGHBOURHOODS FROM COUNCILLOR MAUREEN CORNISH**

D6 Running Service

Question:

What is the cost of running the garage maintenance service?

Answer:

Garage maintenance on Housing Revenue Account garages is carried out by the Repairs Contractors as part of the Price Per Property charge. The budget for garage maintenance is not separately identified from the overall Price Per Property budget.

A full garage review will be concluded by March 2021 which will assist in informing the future capital investment required.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE
AND PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR ROGER HARMER**

E1 Street Litter Bins

Question:

How many on street litter bins have been removed (and how many new ones added) by Ward since May 2018?

Answer:

The service does not maintain a record of the number of bins removed nor the location from where they have been removed.

However, since 2018 596 have been purchased and installed giving rise to an approximate total of 6500 bins across the city.

The service is constantly reassessing priorities and need and if there are locations where the local bin requirement does need reassessment a manager would be available for a site visit.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR STREET SCENE
AND PARKS FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL TILSLEY**

E2 Volunteers

Question:

The Council recently received significant national funding to support volunteer litter picking groups, I understand that part of this money was spent on wheelbarrows. Could the Cabinet Member state how many wheelbarrows were purchased, stating how many have been loaned to volunteers?

Answer:

Councils across England received funding to assist community groups in helping to clean up high streets and town centres. Birmingham received over £190k but with only days in which to spend it, otherwise it would have been clawed back. In total, we managed to purchase and receive over 4880 pieces of equipment including litter pickers, hoes, rakes, loppers and graffiti kits and develop a comprehensive training programme to assist community groups. In addition to this equipment, we also purchased and issued Cleaning Barrows. 75 were purchased and 23 have been issued to volunteer groups to date. Once Covid restrictions have been eased, further barrows will be issued. Groups have received equipment appropriate to their needs.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR JON HUNT

F1 City Centre Signposting

Question:

The City Centre is currently surrounded by confusing signposting and throughout there are many physical obstacles on the roads and pavements while many shops appear to have been vacated and put on the market.

What plan does his department have to ensure the centre is seen as “open to business” once lockdown rules are eased?

Answer:

The city is experiencing an unprecedented level of activity that impacts on its transport network – through investment in transport infrastructure including Metro and HS2 as well as redevelopment and regeneration projects.

Many of these works were planned or started prior to COVID-19 and several must be completed before the immovable deadline of the 2022 Commonwealth Games. With the significant reduction in visitors to the city centre over the last 11 months, we have been able accelerate delivery of some projects without a significant increase in disruption to members of the public.

Despite reduced numbers of people travelling to and around the city, our usual rigorous traffic management process has continued, with all signage and diversion routes submitted to our Traffic Management team for co-ordination and approval.

As soon as venues in the city centre start to open up again, our approach to works and other approvals will reflect the need to support renewed economic activity.

We are also progressing work on a streetworks permit system to further improve co-ordination of works and allow for more effective enforcement of conditions placed upon developers and contractors.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ROGER HARMER

F2 Draft Transport Plan

Question:

Could the Cabinet Member explain again why it has taken so long to bring the draft Birmingham Transport Plan and the responses to consultation for approval, explaining why a draft plan was used to underpin an “emergency plan”, which was also not subject to consultation?

Answer:

Consultation on the draft Birmingham Transport Plan ran from 28 January to 9 April 2020, with the original intention of adopting a final plan during 2020.

However, with the changes brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, resource was diverted into the creation and delivery of an Emergency Birmingham Transport Plan (a low carbon, clean air recovery after COVID-19), published in May 2020. This set out plans for a wide range of emergency measures to support walking, cycling and public transport throughout the city, in light of the impact of COVID-19.

The Emergency Birmingham Transport Plan carried principles from the draft Birmingham Transport Plan, with both documents building on the adopted Birmingham Connected White Paper (2014), our 20-year transport strategy.

The Emergency Plan needed to be created and delivered at pace as part of the Council’s response to COVID-19. It was approved by the Acting Director, Inclusive Growth on 11 May 2020, in accordance with the Emergency Powers in Part E3 of the Constitution and was published on 14 May 2020, with endorsement via a Cabinet Member report on 10 June 2020. Some engagement with stakeholders took place as the Emergency Plan was being drafted, but there simply was not time to consult widely, nor was it considered appropriate as part of the emergency response.

Work has now resumed on the main Birmingham Transport Plan and the intention is to publish the consultation report and adopt the revised plan in the summer of 2021.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR MATT BENNETT

F3 Carbon Cost

Question:

What is the cost of the demolition work to the Perry Barr Flyover?

Answer:

The title of the question is inconsistent with its content.

It is not possible to extract the demolition costs from the whole scheme costs, as this information is commercially sensitive. The specific demolition cost would also be irrelevant as the demolition forms part of the whole scheme and could not have been carried out in isolation from the main works. The scheme costs are publicly available in the full business case documentation.

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR SIMON MORRALL

F4 Assessment – Perry Barr Flyover

Question:

Please provide a copy of any assessments of the birds living under the Perry Barr Flyover carried out before demolition work began?

Answer:

The flyover at Perry Barr was demolished outside the bird nesting season. No birds were nesting in, on or around the flyover at the time of the demolition and no nests were disturbed as a result.

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

F5 Assessment Impact

Question:

Please provide a copy of the impact assessment on animals from the Perry Barr Flyover demolition works?

Answer:

A Screening Opinion was received that determined that an Environmental Impact Assessment was not required.

The flyover was not subject to any statutory nature conservation designations and there are no such sites within a 2km radius.

There are 11 non-statutory designated sites within a 1km radius of the A34 Highway Scheme, but due the location, scale and nature of the scheme it is not likely to impact on the ecological status of any of these non-statutory designated sites.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEAD MEMBER FOR THE FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL EUSTACE**

G Sheldon Fire Station

Question:

There have been serious concerns voiced in the community following the removal of the Brigade Response Vehicle from Sheldon Station which serves Yardley which was put in place originally because the second fire engine was withdrawn. Could you confirm when the Brigade Response Vehicle will be returned to Sheldon Station?

Answer:

The Brigade Response Vehicle located at Sheldon Community Fire Station has not been removed from our Service Delivery Model of frontline operational resources. The resource is removed temporarily utilising an evidenced and risk-based methodology called the Flexible Use of Resources. This approach was agreed and introduced by the Fire Authority in 2019 as a control measure to achieve financial efficiencies. The approach is spread evenly across the 11 Core Brigade Response Vehicles that are spread over the West Midlands conurbation. Statistics evidence that in the calendar year 2020 Fleet Availability equalled 92.7% which is a healthy return given the current pandemic.

The Flexible Use of Resources is evaluated and reviewed in collaboration with our Integrated Risk Manager to ensure no area of the West Midlands, including Yardley, are exposed to significant risk whilst implementing this approach.

Birmingham City Council

City Council

13 April 2021



Subject: Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel 2020-21

Report of: Council Business Management Committee

Report author: Emma Williamson, Head of Scrutiny Services

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? ☐ Yes ☒ No

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Annual Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel was discussed at the Council Business Management Committee meeting of 29 March 2021 and a copy of the Panel's Report is attached as an Appendix to this Report.
- 1.2 The Panel has worked consistently within the requirements of the Local Government Act 2000 and the accompanying Statutory Guidance and Regulations on Councillors' allowances.
- 1.3 The City Council must have regard to the recommendations of an Independent Remuneration Panel before it can set up or amend its Members' Allowances Scheme. The Council is, of course, free to accept the Panel's recommendations in full, in part, or not all.

2 Motion

- 2.1 The Recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel on page 5 of its Annual Report be accepted and implemented with effect from 25 May 2021.

3 2020/21 Report and Recommendations

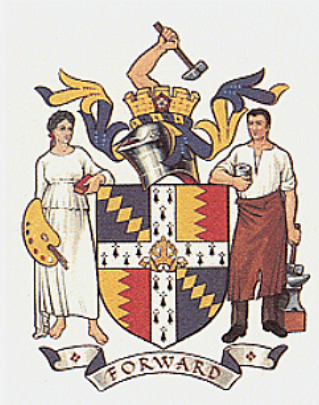
- 3.1 In 2019 the City Council accepted the Panel's recommendation to bring the Basic Allowance (BA) back in line with the Annual Survey of Household Earnings (ASHE) comparator. Previously, allowances paid to Councillors had fallen behind those rates of the comparator used at the time. In this year's report, the Panel noted the very different context of the 2020/21 but remained focussed on the need to make recommendations on the allowances paid to Birmingham City Councillors.
- 3.2 The Panel is recommending that the City Council increases the BA to £18,681. This represents an increase of 4.2% which is half of the difference between the current

rate of BA and the ASHE rate for 2020, with the expectation that the Panel shall recommend a full catch-up for the municipal year commencing 2022. The Panel also recommends the same increase is applied to Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA). The Panel believes this a fair and equitable approach to setting the BA and SRAs in 2021 which incorporates the City Council's commitment to the catch-up element, whilst acknowledging the unprecedented economic and social circumstances faced by residents, communities and the City Council.

- 3.3 The report also notes several issues raised by Councillors which, although falling outside the Panel's remit, are recorded here as having relevance but are for the Council to follow up.

4 Appendices

- 4.1 Appendix 1: Annual Report of the Birmingham Independent Remuneration Panel 2020-2021



COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCES

Annual Report of the Birmingham Independent Remuneration Panel 2020-2021

MARCH 2021

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

2020-2021

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

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FOREWORD

The Independent Remuneration Panel has once again had detailed discussions and carefully considered a broad range of information and evidence before making recommendations to Birmingham City Council in respect of the Basic Allowance (BA) Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) and associated matters for the 2021/22 municipal year. As in previous years the Panel considered the need for an appropriate level of remuneration for the role of Councillors as defined in law and expected by local citizens, together with the role of the City Council regionally, nationally and internationally. The BA does not and should not represent a wage. The Panel is also minded of the desirability to have a Council which reflects Birmingham's growing, diverse and young population.

In May 2018, the City Council implemented the recommendations of the Boundary Commission whereby new wards were created; the number of Councillors was reduced from 120 to 101 and each ward was represented by a single or two Councillors, rather than three under the previous arrangements. All Councillors were elected for a four year term of office. With a population of 1.1 million, each Councillor in Birmingham represents an average of 11,300 citizens, a significantly higher number of citizens per Councillor than other West Midlands authorities or Core Cities including Leeds at 8,011 and Manchester at 5,477.

These changes marked a significant change to the way the City Council is governed and how Councillors fulfil their roles and responsibilities. Consequently, in 2019 the City Council accepted the Panel's recommendation to bring the BA back in line with the Annual Survey of Household Earnings (ASHE) comparator. Previously the economic and financial circumstances together with Government policy as it was then meant that allowances paid to Councillors had fallen behind those rates of the comparator used at the time. Therefore, in the 2019/20 municipal year the BA was reconnected to the annual ASHE comparator for the four year electoral term to May 2022 subject to annual review. This has been done by taking the rate currently being paid and then spreading the difference between that and the current ASHE figure over the remaining term of office - the catch-up element.

The context of the 2020/21 Panel report is quite different to that of previous years. The Covid-19 pandemic has seen significant challenges to how Birmingham City Council's democratic processes operate, and the way services are delivered. Councillors have adapted and modified the way they work to ensure that they remain in touch with their communities and are able to respond to both ongoing issues and new challenges. Whilst fully acknowledging the massive impact of the pandemic on communities and services, the Panel remains focussed on the need to make recommendations on the allowances paid to Birmingham City Councillors.

The Panel is recommending that the City Council increases the BA to £18,681. This represents an increase of 4.2% which is half of the difference between the current rate of BA and the ASHE rate for 2020, with the expectation that the Panel shall recommend a full catch-up for the municipal year commencing 2022. The Panel also recommends the same increase is applied to Special Responsibility Allowances. The Panel believes this a fair and equitable approach to setting the BA and SRAs in 2021 which incorporates the City Council's commitment to the catch-up element, whilst acknowledging the unprecedented economic and social circumstances faced by residents, communities and the City Council.

Finally, this report notes several issues raised by Councillors which although falling outside the Panel's remit are recorded here as having relevance but are for others to follow up. For example,

a Councillor has no automatic right to be part of the Local Government Pension Scheme nor is there any interim financial support if Councillors lose their seats - both issues are perceived as disincentives to becoming a Councillor. There is no pastoral or mental health support for Councillors; this is an ongoing issue but especially pertinent during the pandemic. In addition, there is a strong view that single Councillor wards are inappropriate. There is an opportunity to embed new and more effective ways of working on the back of the Covid-19 experience.

I would like to thank all those Councillors and officers who gave evidence for their valuable contributions; and to Emma Williamson, Head of Scrutiny Services and Ingrid Whyte, Senior Finance & Purchasing Officer (Democratic Services) for their help in producing this report.

Rose Poulter, Chair – Independent Remuneration Panel

March 2021

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Basic Allowance increases by 4.2% to £18,681.00.
2. The Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) increase by 4.2% (as shown in Appendix 1).
3. The co-optee allowances increase by 2% (as shown in Appendix 1).
4. The independent carers' allowance (hourly rate) continues to be raised in line with the Living Wage, currently at £9.50 per hour, and that this allowance remains linked to the Living Wage in future years.
5. The professional care allowance (hourly rate) continues to be raised in line with the Council's rate for a Care Assistant (Grade 2 post) taking the mid-range spinal point, currently at £10.15 (at time of writing).
6. Travel expenses and Subsistence Allowances continue to reflect the Council's Scheme for officers.
7. The Parental Leave Policy be amended to allow Councillors on maternity leave entitlement to the full Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) for six months, with a possible extension for a further six months to be agreed by Council Business Management Committee.

MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

1. Background

The City Council has an Independent Remuneration Panel which is made up of people independent from the Council. The City Council may only pay allowances and expenses after first considering a report from its Independent Remuneration Panel. It is for the Council to decide on the Members' Allowances Scheme that is put in place, having regard to the Panel's recommendations.

The Panel is well-established, having been formed by the City Council at its meeting on 3 July 2001. It has made a number of recommendations to the City Council over the years on Members' Allowances and Expenses. In 2012/13 it carried out a "root and branch" review of allowances and, in recent years, has also made reports to the New Frankley in Birmingham Parish Council and the Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council.

The Panel has eight members, four of which are citizen representatives, two are appointed and two are co-opted, non-voting, members drawn from former Councillors of the City Council.

2. 2020/21 Annual Report

This report is the Panel's annual report for the allowance scheme for 2021/22. The Panel met on a regular basis between November 2020 and February 2021 to consider evidence for the 2021/22 allowance scheme, and based the recommendations on fairness, from the information received.

3. Basic Allowance

As in previous years, the Panel has worked within the requirements of the Local Government Act 2000 and the accompanying Guidance and Regulations on Councillors' allowances in making its recommendations for 2021/22.

The Panel reaffirms the principles of the Birmingham Members' Allowances Scheme set out in previous reports. The key factors which the Panel considers remain:

1. The promotion of a healthy democracy by reducing financial disadvantage as a barrier to people from a wide range of backgrounds and a wide range of skills standing for election or serving as Councillors.
2. The maintenance of an ethic of voluntary public service and the need to reflect this within the Basic Allowance (BA) paid to all Councillors.
3. Councillors should not expect nor receive a full-time salary.

The Basic Allowance covers the following range of activities

- ◆ Representative role including acting as an advocate for the interests of the ward, dealing with constituents' enquiries or representations, active participation in the shaping and management of services devolved to a local level and attendance at meetings of local organisations.
- ◆ City Council and Committee work including preparation for and attendance at meetings, interview panels, appeals, visits, seminars and conferences, service on or chairing ward forums and participation on other bodies relating to the work of the City Council.

- ♦ Service as the representative of the City Council or its Committees on outside bodies for which no separate remuneration is made.
- ♦ The time element of the Basic Allowance based on a gross commitment of no more than three days per week with a public service discount of 25%.

Our deliberations have been informed by the definition of the role of the Councillor as set out in the Constitution and we have given this due regard in adopting it as a framework, while retaining the above.

4. Setting the 2021/2022 Basic Allowance

In 2019, the Panel set out its rationale for recommending an increase in the Basic Allowance (BA) to re-establish the link to the comparator (Annual Survey of Household Earnings – ASHE) agreed as part of the “root and branch” review of 2013. To move straight to the ASHE 2018 figure would have resulted in a 10% rise on the 2017/18 basic allowance. The Panel’s intention therefore was to bring the basic allowance back to parity with ASHE over the remaining years of this four year electoral term (2018 – 2022).

As in previous years, and before coming to a conclusion for the 2021/22 year, the Panel invited evidence from a number of sources. Because of the restrictions imposed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Panel were unfortunately unable to meet with Councillors face to face, or to hold a “drop in” session as in previous years. However, an invitation was sent to all Councillors to meet with the Panel and five took up the invitation, including the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council. The Panel also reviewed allowances paid by other local authorities including other core city allowances. The evidence received confirmed the Panel’s approach to remuneration.

Therefore, the Panel recommends:

That for the next municipal year (May 2021 to May 2022) the basic allowance increases to £18,681. This represents an increase of 4.2% which is half of the difference between the current rate of BA and the ASHE rate for 2020, with the expectation that the Panel shall recommend a full catch-up for the municipal year commencing 2022. This is in line with the commitment made by the Panel in previous reports and is a fair and equitable approach this year, all other factors being considered, with future years increases to be determined by the Panel on an annual basis.

Table 1: Basic Allowance and ASHE

	CURRENT RATE	ASHE 2020	PROPOSED RATE	
<i>Gross min. time (3 days x 52 weeks)</i>	156.00	156.00	156.00	<i>days</i>
<i>x Baseline per day</i>	<u>147.34</u>	<u>159.78</u>	<u>153.56</u>	<i>p.a.</i>
<i>Gross Rate</i>	22,985.04	24,925.68	23,955.36	
<i>Less public service discount 25%</i>	5,746.26	6,231.42	5,988.84	
TIME ELEMENT	17,238.78	18,694.26	17,966.52	
ADDITIONAL EXPENSES ELEMENT	<u>715.00</u>	<u>715.00</u>	<u>715.00</u>	
BASIC ALLOWANCE	17,954.00	19,409.00	18,681.00	<i>Rounded</i>

5. Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA)

In April 2015, the City Council accepted the Panel's recommended new approach for calculating Special Responsibility Allowances. The Panel recognised that the Leader's role takes the most responsibility assessed at 100% and all the other roles are then taken as a relative percentage of the Leader's role (see Table 2).

The City Council also accepted the Panel's recommendation that "the ASHE 2013 for all Industries and Services Male Full Time (top 10%) table 4.1a for the United Kingdom would be the most appropriate comparator to be used for the Leader's role in order to reflect the transferable skills of the role".

In line with the recommendations last year, and the approach to the BA set out above, the Panel further recommends an increase of 4.2% within the current banding (as set out in Appendix 1) for all Special Responsibility Allowances.

6. Co-optees' Allowances

The Panel took no new evidence on co-optee allowances and was of the view that a 2% rise would be reasonable, and in line with the increase to basic allowance (minus the step-up element).

Therefore, the Panel recommends an increase of 2% on co-optee allowances (as set out in Appendix 1).

7. Carers' Allowances

In 2012, the City Council agreed to adopt the Living Wage for all its employees, and subsequently extended this to externally-contracted care sector workers from October 2014.

In 2015, the Panel recommended that the Independent Carers' Allowance adopt the change from the National Minimum Wage to the Living Wage, currently at £9.50 per hour.

The Panel therefore recommends that this continues for 2021/22 and that this continues to track the Living Wage in line with the Council.

The professional care allowance (hourly rate) continues to be based on the Council's rate for a Care Assistant, Grade 2 post, mid-range spinal point at £10.15 per hour (at time of writing).

8. Travel expenses and Subsistence Allowances

The Panel took no new evidence on travel or subsistence expenses and recommends that these continue to reflect the Council's Scheme for officers.

The Panel emphasised the need to ensure that the list of approved duties for which such expenses can be claimed is kept up to date and in accordance with all relevant legislation.

9. Work Programme 2020/21

As agreed by the City Council, the Panel also considered the following matters as part of the 2020-2021 review:

Employment Appeals Panel – The Panel was asked to review the time commitment of participation in the Appeals Panel. The Covid-19 pandemic has had a big impact on the operation of the Appeals Panel and so the Panel did not feel that it was appropriate to recommend changes this year. However, if Councillors wish the Panel to reconsider this matter, then the evidence will be considered in the 2021/22 municipal year.

Banding – The Panel this year considered the banding table (see Table 2 below) and determined that no new evidence had been presented to merit a change in the bandings.

Table 2

Bands	Level of Responsibility	Title/Description
1	75% to 100%	Strategic Leadership with overall responsibility for decision making for the direction and running of Council Services.
2	50% to 74%	Strategic responsibility within Cabinet and individual responsibility as delegated by the Constitution.
3	15% to 49%	Responsibility for Chairing key Regulatory and Overview and Scrutiny Committees in order to meet regulatory requirements and where required hold the Executive to account.
4	5% to 14%	Other roles with Special Responsibilities.

Parental Leave - The Panel had been asked to keep the parental leave policy under review. The policy was introduced by the City Council following a recommendation from this Panel in 2018. As part of that review, the Panel received legal advice obtained by the City Solicitor that confirmed that there is legal justification for the Council's approach in having such a policy, and that another Councillor can receive an SRA whilst the incumbent is on parental leave. However, in respect of SRAs, there was also legal justification for stating that the payments should be in full, rather than on a percentage basis as is currently the case.

This latter point reflected evidence received from Councillors, one of whom pointed out that the current policy unintentionally created a loophole where a woman who takes six months off for having a baby gets paid less than a man or woman who takes six months off for being sick.

The Panel therefore recommends that the Parental Policy be amended to state that Councillors on maternity leave would be entitled to the full SRA for six months, with a possible extension for a further six months to be agreed by Council Business Management Committee.

Group Whip Role – Following on from evidence received last year, the Panel also asked Councillors about the Group Whip role and the Employment Appeals Committee. However, no new evidence was presented to merit any change.

10. Other Issues Raised

During the Panel's discussions with Councillors, several issues were raised that fall outside the remit of the Panel but that the Panel nevertheless wishes to bring to the attention of the Council:

- **Impact of Covid on the Role of a Councillor:** a number of Councillors raised this, in terms of increased workloads (both in the council and in the community) and in the additional strains resulting from working almost exclusively from home and the difficulty in maintaining a separation between home and work life – something experienced by many people. The Council should consider the support available to Councillors to manage this and **ensure Councillors' good mental health is supported.**
- The **ratio of Councillors to residents** has been raised over the past few years since the boundary changes, as has the impact of single member wards, or two-member wards where one Councillor has significant additional responsibilities or is off sick. Appendix 3 sets out some comparisons. The Panel notes this and recognises the difficulties this causes.
- The Panel also notes that Councillors receive **no equivalent to a redundancy payment** if they lose their seat (as MPs do), **nor any pension provision**, which has an impact on the recruitment and retention of Councillors.

11. Work Programme in 2021/22

During the evidence gathering undertaken this year, some issues were raised where the Panel felt that there was not enough evidence to make recommendations this year but would warrant further consideration next year. Therefore, next year's work programme will include:

- Chief Whips role and how this intersects with the Group Secretaries role – if the three parties on the Council request this;

- Parental leave will be kept under review;
- Frankley in Birmingham Parish Council – following a request from the Parish Council;
- Clarifying the role Councillors play on outside bodies and the impact, if any, on allowances.

Appendix 1: Proposed Members' Allowances Rates (from May 2021)

BASIC ALLOWANCE (per annum unless otherwise stated)

	£
Baseline per Day Rate	153.56
Basic Allowance	18,681.00
Time Element	17,966.52
Additional Expenses Element	715.00

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCE (per annum unless otherwise stated)

Baseline per week (£1,280.08 discounted by 15%)	1,088.06
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STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

Leader of the Council	56,579.00
Deputy Leader of the Council	45,263.00

STRATEGIC SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Cabinet Member	28,289.00
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RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHAIRING KEY REGULATORY, OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

Chair of the Planning Committee	16,973.00
Chair of Licensing & Public Protection Committee	16,973.00
Leader of the Largest Qualifying Opposition Group	16,973.00
Chair of an Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14,145.00

OTHER ROLES WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Deputy Leader of the Largest Qualifying Group	9,618.00
Chair of the Audit Committee	5,658.00
Chair of the Trusts and Charities Committee	5,658.00
Chairs of the Licensing Sub Committees	5,658.00
Leader of Other Qualifying Opposition Groups	7,921.00
Deputy Leader of Other Qualifying Opposition Groups	3,960.00
Lead Opposition Spokesperson (Shadow Cabinet)	5,658.00
Political Group Secretaries	3,960.00

(A Qualifying Opposition Group is one with a minimum of 6 Members)

CO-OPTEE ALLOWANCES (<i>per annum</i>)	£
Chair of the Standards Committee	1,082.00
Member of an Overview & Scrutiny Committee	900.00
Member of the Standards Committee	602.00

CARERS' ALLOWANCES

Independent care – hourly rate	9.50
Professional care with supporting documentation – hourly rate	10.15

Where applicable figures have been rounded.

TRAVEL EXPENSES AND SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES

Car, Motorcycle and Bicycle Allowance Rates are set in line with those paid to officers of the authority.

Subsistence Allowances are set in line with those paid to officers of the authority or the inflation factor in the council's budget.

Car Mileage Rates

First 10,000 business miles in tax year	45p per mile
Each business mile over 10,000 in tax year	25p per mile
Supplement for official passenger	5p per mile

If car mileage is claimed for travel outside the West Midlands area, the payment will be the lesser of the value of the actual mileage claimed or the peak time standard rail fare.

Motorcycle Mileage Rates *24p per mile*

Bicycle Mileage Rates *20p per mile*

Other Travel Expenses

Rail Travel (supporting receipt required)	Standard Class Fare
Taxi, Tube and Bus Fares, Car Parking, Toll Charges (Supporting receipts if possible)	Actual Cost

If a travel pass is provided by the Council the recipient must make a contribution of 40% towards the total cost met by the Council. The recipient also forgoes the right to claim for travel allowances or expenses for duties undertaken in the area covered by the pass or to make use of transport services provided directly by the Council, unless the relevant travel service is not available, or there are health and safety reasons.

Appendix 2: Membership of the Independent Remuneration Panel

Chair of the Panel

Rose Poulter (Chair)

Council Appointees

David Grainger

Sajid Shaikh

Citizen Representatives

Sandra Cooper (Deputy Chair)

Veronica Docherty

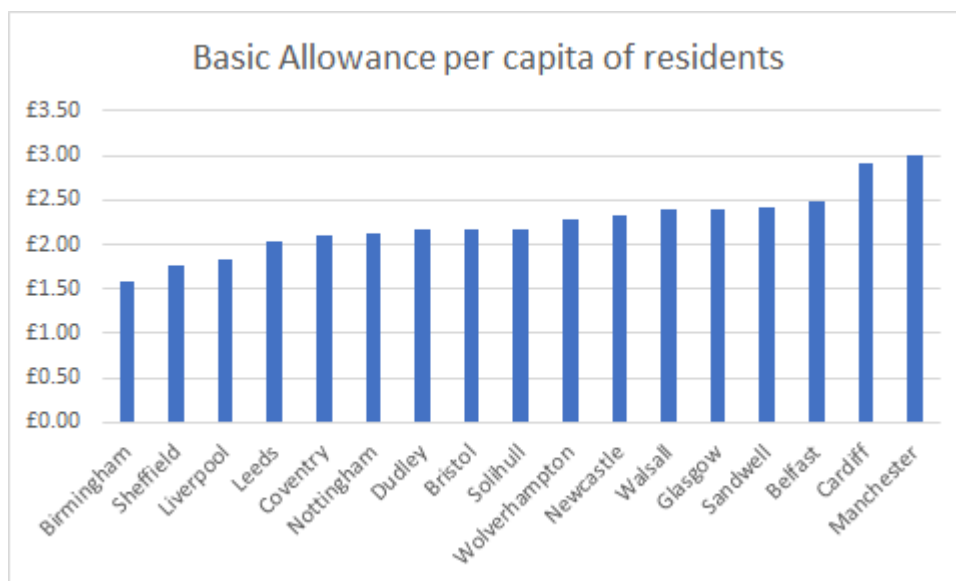
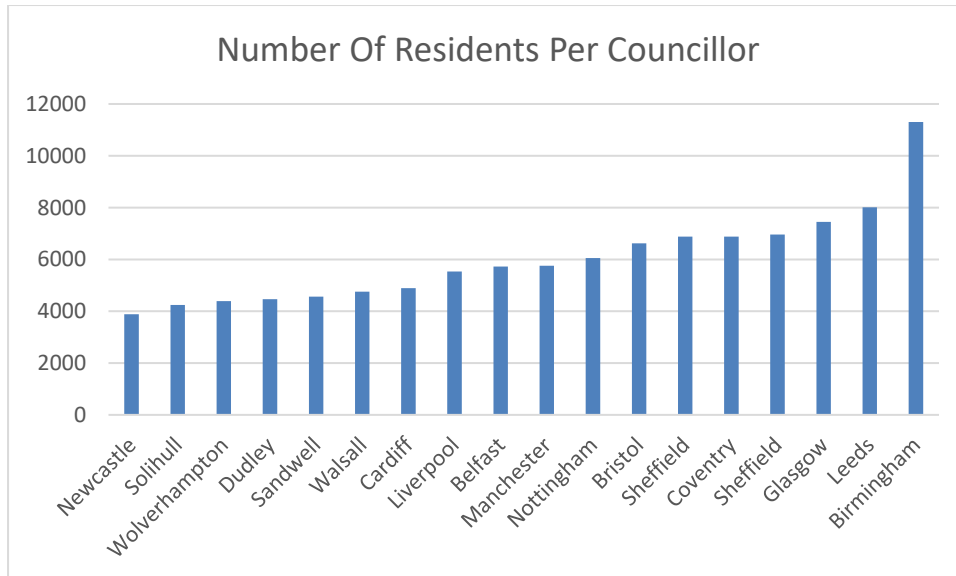
Jacqui Francis

Co-opted Members

Honorary Alderman Fergus Robinson

Honorary Alderman Stewart Stacey

Appendix 3: Residents per Councillor and Basic Allowance per Capita of Residents



Birmingham City Council

City Council

13 April 2021



Subject: Scrutiny Business Report
Report of: Co-ordinating O&S Committee
Report author: Emma Williamson, Head of Scrutiny Services
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Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? ☐ Yes ☒ No

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This, the fourth Scrutiny Business Report to Full Council, presents the Scrutiny Framework for agreement. It also sets out proposed amendments to strengthen the call-in process.
- 1.2 The aim of the Scrutiny Framework is to set out a statement of collective understanding of scrutiny's role within the Council, and the value that it adds. It will be a guide for Members and other parties, describing the purpose of Scrutiny, the interface between Scrutiny and the Executive and the principles that underpin the relationship. Further operational details will be set out in a series of procedure notes.
- 1.3 The introduction of the Scrutiny Framework is an opportunity for the whole Council – backbench Members, the Executive and senior officers – to create the right culture, lead the way and make achieving a high standard a reality.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That Full Council endorses the Scrutiny Framework set out in Appendix 1.

3 Background

- 3.1 As has been reported in previous Scrutiny Business Reports, Scrutiny Members had agreed to develop and implement a Scrutiny Framework.¹ The intention was to set out the role and purpose of Scrutiny, in order to build understanding across the wider organisation of how Scrutiny can benefit the Council and to set out consistent standards by which this can be achieved.

¹ Formally agreed at Co-ordinating O&S Committee, September 2020

- 3.2 The framework presented is the result of the work of cross-party Members, including backbenchers and Cabinet Members, and of officers. This approach, and the adoption by Full Council, signals the extent to which a strong cultural commitment to scrutiny is owned by the council's leadership.
- 3.3 Whilst many other councils have scrutiny protocols and elements of a scrutiny framework, there is currently no other council that has implemented a comprehensive framework of this type.

4 Methodology

- 4.1 In relation to designing the framework, Members were mindful of the advice from the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS)² in the Good Scrutiny Guide, emphasising the importance of involving all Members:

"In CfPS's experience, the value in the production of such a document derives from the conversations that precede its agreement, rather than the document itself."

- 4.2 Therefore, the approach taken commenced with Scrutiny Members (Co-ordinating O&S Committee) and then included workshops with Cabinet Members and senior officers, and with backbench Members. Members were supported by the CfPS, and they wish to thank the Chief Executive, Jacqui McKinley, for her assistance in facilitating the workshops.
- 4.3 A cross-party group of Members (Cllr Carl Rice, Cllr Sir Albert Bore, Cllr Debbie Clancy, Cllr Roger Harmer, and Cllr John Cotton representing the Executive) then developed a draft for consultation. This was endorsed by the Co-ordinating O&S Members and circulated to all Members and discussed at senior officer meetings. Feedback from those sessions have fed into the final version.

5 The Scrutiny Framework

- 5.1 The Scrutiny Framework has been designed as a relatively short document, setting out the key principles, and supported by a set of procedure notes.
- 5.2 The framework sets out a vision statement, with a set of conditions for success. This is underpinned by a revised set of procedure notes setting out more detailed practical arrangements. A list of the procedure notes is set out at the end of the Scrutiny Framework.
- 5.3 It is proposed that the Scrutiny Framework and procedure notes are reviewed annually by the Co-ordinating O&S Committee.

The Vision

- 5.4 The vision set out seeks to emphasise that Scrutiny is a strategic function of the Council, and a critical part of a strong local governance framework. It also highlights the importance of a positive culture, as Scrutiny is most effective when it is not reliant

² Now the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS)

on legislation, the constitution or guidance but willing participants, as the Statutory Guidance on Scrutiny recognises:

‘Creating a strong organisational culture that supports scrutiny is essential to adding value creating efficient and effective services.’

- 5.5 The current Constitution sets out four principles of good scrutiny. These were developed by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS, then the Centre for Public Scrutiny) and adopted by many councils across the country. They have recently been reviewed and amended by the CfGS.³ Reflecting on feedback from Members in the workshop, which suggested an appetite to emphasise the voice of the public, Members of Co-ordinating O&S Committee agreed that the order of the principles be changed to put “Amplify public voice and concerns” first in the vision.

Conditions for Success

- 5.6 The conditions for success were developed from the feedback at the workshops. The intention is that these are succinct summaries, with more detailed guidance contained in the procedure notes.
- 5.7 The proposed conditions for success are:
1. Reflecting the Concerns of Citizens
 2. Parity of esteem between the Executive and Scrutiny
 3. Member Leadership and Engagement
 4. Mutual Respect and Good Faith
 5. Clear Purpose and Focus
 6. Evidence Based Conclusions and Recommendations that Add Value
 7. Clear Roles, Responsibilities and Relationships
 8. Transparency of the Scrutiny Process and Access to Information
 9. Co-operation with Partners and Professional Bodies

6 Amendments to the Call-in Process

- 6.1 Alongside the development of the Scrutiny Framework, Members of the Co-ordinating O&S Committee considered amendments to the call-in process, to strengthen cross-party engagement in Scrutiny.

Background

- 6.2 Call-in is a statutory right for Members to delay the implementation of an Executive decision that has not yet been implemented so to allow a Committee to consider the decision.

³ <https://www.cfgs.org.uk/revisiting-the-four-principles-of-good-scrutiny/>

- 6.3 An external peer review in 2019 expressed the opinion that the number of call-ins at the Council were disproportionately high;⁴ and, separately, Members had raised concerns about their ability to prepare properly for call-in meetings. This led to a cross-party Member review of the call-in criteria, the call-in request form and whether an informal resolution step was needed ahead of a call-in meeting.

Call-In Criteria

- 6.4 The first question Members considered was whether the call-in criteria set out in the Constitution were sufficiently robust. After considering an analysis of the criteria used in successful call-in requests, Members concluded that the criteria were on the whole robust, but will put forward two recommendations to the Council Business Management Committee:
1. That criteria 7 “the decision appears to be particularly ‘novel’ and therefore likely to set an important precedent” is deleted as a criteria for call-in, as analysis showed this criteria had not been used in a successful call-in within the last two years;
 2. That criteria 9 is amended to read “the decision appears to give rise to significant *governance*, legal, financial or propriety issues” – reflecting concerns raised in a number of call-ins heard by the Resources O&S Committee.

Further Details for Request for Call-In

- 6.5 To enable the better management of the call-in process Members also considered whether there was a need for the Members to give more indication of why they were making the request for call-in. The Constitution states that “The “Request for Call In” should state the reason for call-in.” Currently under the procedure, Members are only required to tick one or more of the criteria boxes and not give specific reasons to explain the request for a call-in meeting.
- 6.6 Requesting more detail would allow Committee Members, Cabinet Members and officers to prepare for the call-in more thoroughly. It can be the case that matters are raised in the call-in meetings that cannot be adequately addressed by the Executive, or questioned by other Committee Members, as the criteria used for the call-in requests are insufficiently informative, particularly where specific or technical detail would assist Members in making their decision. Given the time limited nature of call-ins, more information ahead of the meeting would help the process run more smoothly.
- 6.7 Members agreed to make this change to the process, by adding a column to the list of criteria requiring an explanation for the choice of each criteria. This would take the form of a short concise statement of one or two sentences.

⁴ LGA Peer Review – report available [here](#)

Early Resolution

- 6.8 A further advantage of the sharing of more detail is that it would give the Cabinet Member and officers the opportunity to respond ahead of the meeting with additional information.
- 6.9 If, in turn, that led to those who have requested the call-in meeting re-considering that request, they would have the option to withdraw the request for call-in, and so the meeting to consider the call-in would not go ahead. In that case, the matter would be reported to the next scheduled meeting of the relevant O&S Committee to ensure full transparency.
- 6.10 Members considered whether any informal resolution mechanism would further improve the process, and agreed that it would not, so no recommendation will be made on that point.

Next Steps

- 6.11 Following discussion at Full Council, these changes will be presented to Council Business Management Committee to consider any resulting Constitution changes, which will be brought back to Full Council as part of the Annual Review of the Constitution.



Overview & Scrutiny Framework April 2021



Vision for Overview & Scrutiny in Birmingham

To ensure effective democratic accountability and oversight of the Council's executive. This will be achieved by a Member-led Scrutiny function which is held in high regard by its many stakeholders and which adds value for the people of Birmingham.

This vision recognises that Scrutiny is a core component of the governance structures of the Council, and that Scrutiny Members, the Executive and senior officers will all work to create the right culture and lead the way in making the vision a reality. Ensuring good Scrutiny in Birmingham is a common endeavour across the council.

To achieve this Scrutiny will follow the nationally agreed 'Four Principles of Good Scrutiny';

- a. Amplify public voice and concerns;
- b. Drives improvement in public services;
- c. Provides constructive "critical friend" challenge;
- d. Be led by 'independent minded people' who take responsibility for their role.¹

Conditions for Success

To succeed, the Council recognises that the following conditions need to be present:

1. Reflecting the Concerns of Citizens

Scrutiny should focus on issues that reflect concerns of citizens, and where they can add value and make an impact. Where possible, Scrutiny will ensure that the public's (and/or specific stakeholders) voice is heard in the way that decision-makers design and deliver services. This may include, if appropriate and at the discretion of the Chair, speaking at a formal meeting of a Committee.

The views and ideas of citizens, service providers and other agencies with an interest in the subject under review are all valuable in effective Scrutiny. Scrutiny should involve stakeholders and take account of views of service users and the public, with particular efforts to engage groups that are harder to reach. Constructive engagement and clear lines of communication should enable a two-way flow of information between Scrutiny and all those involved, including feedback of results.

Reflecting citizens' concerns will entail Scrutiny taking a wider view than Council policies and services. In particular, Scrutiny has a legitimate interest in scrutinising organisations and projects that receive public funding to deliver goods and services. This should be recognised by the Council and, where relevant, consider the need to provide assistance to Scrutiny Members to obtain information from organisations the Council has contracted to deliver services. When agreeing contracts with these bodies,

¹ <https://www.cfqs.org.uk/revisiting-the-four-principles-of-good-scrutiny/> - re-ordered and slight re-worded to reflect priorities in Birmingham

the Council should consider whether it would be appropriate to include a requirement for them to supply information to or appear before Scrutiny Committees.

2. Parity of Esteem between the Executive and Scrutiny

We all have a collective responsibility to support high quality decision-making and policy development. Creating a strong organisational culture that recognises the critical role of an independent Scrutiny in the governance process is essential to adding value and creating efficient and effective services. Without recognition of this, Members and officers involved in Scrutiny are not empowered to exercise their duties as they should, resulting in poor accountability.

3. Member Leadership and Engagement

Members have a unique perspective to bring to the Scrutiny process, a different point of view which brings something distinct to both policy development and scrutiny. Members set their own work programmes and can look at things from angles that might not be apparent to Cabinet Members or senior officers. To be successful, Members and officers must engage with Scrutiny in a positive way.

4. Mutual Respect and Good Faith

While Scrutiny should be constructive and challenging, it will only be successful if all partners work together considerately, within a climate of non-partisan working.

Scrutiny must be forensic and challenging but Members must also collaborate to support decision-makers to do their work better. Members must listen and engage constructively, irrespective of political group, putting the values of Scrutiny into practice.

Decision-makers have to be open to scrutiny and create a culture which enables effective scrutiny to happen.

5. Clear Purpose and Focus

Scrutiny activities should be well planned and timely. There must be clarity on what Scrutiny wants to do, confident it can add value and make an impact, and be clear on what it hopes to achieve.

Every significant piece of work must have a terms of reference, setting out aims, methodology and timescales. These should be developed with the participation of the Executive and agreed by the relevant Committee.

Work programmes are developed in collaboration with Members and with the participation of the Executive. Scrutiny is in charge of its own work programme and

there will occasionally be times when Scrutiny and the Executive do not agree but with meaningful engagement such occasions will be rare. Scrutiny Committees must review work programmes to identify a clear order of priority for all topics being considered. This may mean that it is not possible for Scrutiny to look at all items, and it is important that committees do not overreach. Once the work programme is established it must be published and shared with internal and external organisations, so they are clear on upcoming topics.

Procedure notes set out further detail on work programming, conducting inquiries and call-ins.

6. Evidence Based Conclusions and Recommendations that Add Value

The Scrutiny process should be impartial, driven by the evidence rather than by a particular standpoint. Recommendations should be clear, feasible, deliverable, providing value for money by securing benefits that outweigh the costs of implementation. It should be noted that the Scrutiny process is not meant to be an “expert” review.

When Scrutiny is making recommendations, it must consider the impact that they will have and the resource implications, obtaining advice from relevant Cabinet Members and officers.

Scrutiny must add value and not duplicate the other forms of performance management, review or inspection. Equally, decision-makers must seek to ensure that Scrutiny is involved in a timely manner, at a point where the outcome can be influenced, to ensure involvement is meaningful. They should also give meaningful consideration to Scrutiny recommendations.

Measuring the impact of Scrutiny is notoriously difficult to do, but we will make steps to improve the tracking process to take more account of outcomes.

7. Clear Roles, Responsibilities and Relationships

To facilitate good Scrutiny, the roles of all participants in the scrutiny process must be clear and understood by all. In summary:

Overview & Scrutiny Chairs are responsible for leading and co-ordinating the work of the Scrutiny Committee so that Scrutiny functions in a positive, constructive and non-partisan manner which provides a good environment for the constructive challenge of decision-makers.

Overview & Scrutiny Members must contribute time and effort to both the development and the carrying out of the Scrutiny work programme by attending and contributing to committee meetings and inquiries; they must be independent minded and not pre-judge issues coming to Scrutiny nor use the meeting to promote narrow or parochial interests.

The senior political leadership of the Council set the tone of how successfully Scrutiny will be able to work. Cabinet Members should act as a champion for Scrutiny's work within and outside the organisation, creating a culture which enables effective Scrutiny to happen, and ensuring that the views of a Scrutiny Committee put forward to the Executive are reflected in decision and policy-making.

Officers should provide impartial and high quality advice and evidence to Scrutiny Committees and may be asked to attend O&S Committees to explain policies or to answer questions on service delivery. Overview and Scrutiny Committees should always bear in mind that when officers appear to answer questions their evidence should, as far as possible, be about questions of fact and explanation relating to policies and decisions.

All Members are expected to act in accordance with the highest standards of probity and public life, in all matters relating to the Council's Code of Conduct for Members, related protocols and supporting guidance.

Details of roles and responsibilities of key participants is set out in Procedure Note 2.

8. Transparency of the Scrutiny Process and Access to Information

Scrutiny should be a transparent process and encourage open and honest discussion. Processes and reports should be clear and accessible to the public.

This framework and supporting documents will be published on the Scrutiny website.²

All formal Committee meetings are web-streamed, and the agendas published on the Council's website. Work programmes will be published on each O&S Committee's agenda. Committees may sometimes hold informal meetings or briefings, but any outcomes and recommendations will always be reported in public.

A Scrutiny Business Report will be presented three times a year to Full Council, outlining Scrutiny activity at that time.

To be effective, a Scrutiny Committee must receive relevant information in a timely manner. This is supported by legislation which gives the Committee rights to access information that relates to Scrutiny work, even where information is exempt from publication.

9. Co-operation with Partners, Professional Bodies and Providers

Increasingly services are provided jointly or as the result of partnerships between the Council and other public sector organisations or other partners. And improvement in service delivery can often best be achieved through partnerships between the Council and other service providers and professional bodies.

² Page to be created after Full Council 13 April 2021

Procedure Notes

Note 1: Overview & Scrutiny Work

A summary of the remit of O&S work and how it should be planned, including processes for work-programming, and for following up on actions.

Note 2: Roles and Responsibilities

This note sets out the key roles involved in supporting Scrutiny: Scrutiny Chairs and Deputy Chairs, Scrutiny Members, Cabinet Members and officers.

Note 3: Role in Scrutinising Partners and Partnership Work

This note sets out the powers of Scrutiny to look at the work of partners including health; crime and disorder partnerships and flood risk management authorities.

Note 4: Policy Framework Plans

An outline of the role Scrutiny can play in respect of policy framework plans.

Note 5: Request for Call in

A detailed note on the call-in process (to be revised post Constitution change)

Note 6: Councillor Call for Action

A detailed note on the councillor call for action process

Note 7: Responding to Petitions

A detailed note on the process for Scrutiny to respond to petitions.

Note 8: Conducting Inquiries

This note sets out the stages of conducting an inquiry and makes suggestions for activity based on good practice.

Note 9: Tracking Recommendations

A detailed note on the process for tracking Scrutiny recommendations.

Note 10: Regional Scrutiny

A note setting out regional Scrutiny arrangements.

Procedure Notes are available on request from the Scrutiny Office



Scrutiny Inquiry: Infant Mortality

Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Infant mortality is defined as death before the child reaches the age of one year. The infant mortality rate is the number of deaths under one year of age occurring among the live births in a given geographical area during a given year, per 1,000 live births. Nationally, the rate of infant mortality has been declining steadily since the 2001/03 period but in Birmingham infant mortality rates have been statistically high for several years, nearly twice the national average. Currently, out of every 1,000 births in the city, seven babies will not live to their first birthday. This is an indicator of the general health of an entire population, as well as a tragedy for all families affected by such a death.
- 1.2 Members of the Health and Social Care O&S Committee therefore agreed to undertake a scrutiny inquiry to look at the extent of the issue, to identify the factors which are affecting the rate of infant mortality in Birmingham and to explore possible interventions. The City Council's Delivery Plan contains a commitment from Public Health Services to develop an Infant Mortality Strategy by May 2021. We intend that evidence from this inquiry will provide a base from which a policy can be formed to tackle the issue.
- 1.3 Two evidence gathering sessions were held in December 2020 and January 2021. The first session focused on the data, the multiple causes of infant mortality, national policy/guidance, NHS initiatives relevant to this issue and the contribution of various risk factors including recessive genetic disorders related to consanguinity. Current service provision in terms of clinical genetics, genetic testing and counselling for families was shared. Members also heard about the work being done in Sheffield. The presentations for that session can be found [here](#) and the session is available to watch [here](#). At a second session held in January 2021, Members heard from a local community organisation. The presentation for that session can be found [here](#) and the session is available to watch [here](#).
- 1.4 A list of participants in both sessions can be found in Appendix 1.

2 Findings – What the Data Tells us

Infant Mortality

- 2.1 The infant mortality rate consists of three components:
 - Early neonatal – the first 0 to 6 days after birth;
 - Late neonatal – 7 to 28 days after birth;
 - Post-neonatal mortality rate - the number of infants who die between 28 days and less than one year.



- 2.2 It is important to note that infant mortality is not only important in itself but is also used as an indicator of the general health of an entire population. Infant mortality affects different parts of the population unequally and correlates with several determinants of population health e.g. socio-economic status, ethnicity, environmental condition, health care, obesity, smoking etc. So, infant mortality is a proxy indicator for a lot of other public health issues.
- 2.3 The current England rate of infant mortality is 3.9 deaths per 1,000 live births (this is pooled data from 2017-2019). The West Midlands¹ has a much higher rate as a region at 5.6 deaths per 1,000 births, which is the highest in the country. All local authorities in the West Midlands have rates above the England average except for Warwickshire which has a rate of 3.6. The top four local authorities in England with the highest rates of infant mortality are all in the West Midlands. Stoke on Trent has the highest rate, then Sandwell, and Birmingham is third highest nationally, at seven deaths per 1,000 live births. In terms of the actual numbers, this equates to around 112 deaths per year (336 infant deaths within Birmingham according to the most recent data, 2017-19).
- 2.4 Areas outside of the West Midlands which have a level of infant mortality statistically higher than the national average include Blackpool, Kirklees, Manchester, Bradford, Leicester, Oldham, Nottingham, Rochdale, Derby, Liverpool and Luton. However, these all have an infant mortality rate lower than Birmingham.
- 2.5 Birmingham has had consistently high rates of infant mortality that exceed that of England. In 2018-20 there were 296 deaths of children and young people in Birmingham (0-19 years). Infant deaths (under 1 year) account for 65% (192 deaths) of these.

Perinatal Mortality

- 2.6 The definition of perinatal mortality is the summation of stillbirth babies (born from 24 weeks onwards with no sign of life) and neonatal deaths (babies which die within the first 28 days of birth). The perinatal mortality rate is the number of perinatal deaths per 1,000 births.
- 2.7 Again, Birmingham has a higher rate than its neighbours: eight areas in the West Midlands are higher than the national average and Birmingham has the second highest with a rate of 5.47 deaths per 1,000 births.

Infant Mortality and Deprivation

- 2.8 There are significantly higher rates of infant mortality in deprived populations compared to the population as a whole. This is important in understanding what is happening in Birmingham as there is a significant level of deprivation in the city. In Birmingham, 28.1% of children live in low-income families compared to 17% nationally.

¹ West Midlands here refers to the seven metropolitan boroughs: the city of [Birmingham](#), the city of [Coventry](#), and the boroughs of [Dudley](#), [Sandwell](#), [Solihull](#), [Walsall](#), and [Wolverhampton](#), plus Stoke on Trent, Herefordshire, Staffordshire, Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, Worcestershire and Warwickshire



- 2.9 In comparing Birmingham with those areas that are most similar in terms of socio-economic features, Birmingham has the second highest infant mortality rate, Sandwell has the highest. The most recent national report on perinatal mortality reported that 42% of births at University Hospitals Birmingham (UHB) and 38% of births at Birmingham Women's Hospital (BWH) were in the most deprived decile.
- 2.10 Nationally, there is a recognised correlation between higher infant mortality rates and deprivation. Reducing infant mortality overall and the gap between the richest and poorest groups are part of the Government's strategy for public health. A map showing the number of deaths of children under one year and levels of deprivation, included in Appendix 2, demonstrates this point. However, further work is required to better understand the complex local relationship between population level risk factors and individual outcomes.

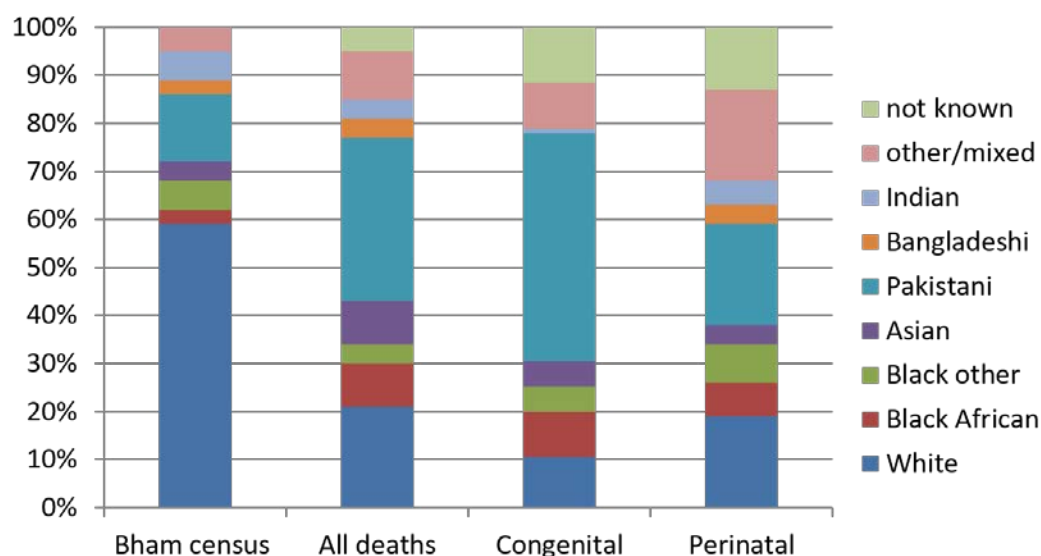
Infant Mortality and Ethnicity

- 2.11 Data seen by the Committee shows that there are significant variations in infant mortality and perinatal mortality between communities of different ethnic identity. Analysis undertaken by the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP – see section 2.14 below), shows a disproportionate percentage of child deaths amongst those who identify as 'Asian – Pakistani' than the percentage of 'Asian – Pakistani' in the wider population. Conversely, there is a lower percentage of CDOP cases in the 'White' ethnic group compared to the 16-44 'White' female population. Care does need to be taken with these figures, firstly as the comparative population data is from 2011 and the data on deaths is from 2018-20, so the actual population by ethnic group could be different now.
- 2.12 The latest Mothers and Babies: Reducing Risk through Audits and Confidential Enquiries (MBRRACE) report (Dec 2020)² shows mortality rates remain exceptionally high for babies of Black and Black British ethnicity: stillbirth rates are over twice those for babies of White ethnicity and neonatal mortality rates are 45% higher. Similarly, mortality rates remain high for babies of Asian and Asian British ethnicity: stillbirth and neonatal mortality rates are both around 60% higher than for babies of White ethnicity.

² 'MBRRACE-UK' is the collaboration appointed by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) to run the national Maternal, Newborn and Infant clinical Outcome Review Programme (MNI-CORP) which continues the national programme of work conducting surveillance and investigating the causes of maternal deaths, stillbirths and infant deaths



Comparison of ethnicity and cause of death³



- 2.13 The perinatal mortality rate by ethnicity, which is the combination of stillbirths and neonatal deaths, also shows that the Pakistani population is over-represented. This has declined but not as much as for the White population. And whilst caution should be exercised in using these figures as the numbers involved are very small, it is worth noting that national data based on larger numbers (published in January 2021) shows that for neonatal deaths 1 in 606 white babies die compared to 1 in 420 black and 1 in 380 Asian babies. So, a correlation can be demonstrated.

Child Death Overview Panel – Infant Mortality and Ethnicity 2018–2020

- 2.14 The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) reviews the death of every child residing in Birmingham, collecting data of children that die from birth to 18 years old regardless of gestation, i.e. even those born so extremely prematurely that they could not possibly survive. Stillborn babies and those dying as a result of the termination of a pregnancy are not reviewed. The home address of the child is used rather than the location of death. The data presented to the Committee related to children whose deaths had been reviewed between April 2018 and March 2020 (they may have died the year before).
- 2.15 In that time period, 296 deaths of under 18 year olds were reviewed. The number of deaths each year has remained stable, at around 150 to 170 deaths. CDOP categorises deaths looking at the underlying cause rather than the actual event, and the two most common causes in infancy are:
- Chromosomal, genetic and congenital abnormalities – including trisomies⁴, other congenital disorders, single gene defects, cystic fibrosis and other congenital anomalies including cardiac

³ Based on the 2011 Census

⁴ a condition in which an extra copy of a chromosome is present in the cell nuclei, causing developmental abnormalities



- Perinatal/Neonatal event – i.e. death ultimately related to perinatal events, e.g. prematurity, antepartum and intrapartum anoxia, bronchopulmonary dysplasia, post-haemorrhagic hydrocephalus, irrespective of age at death. It includes cerebral palsy without evidence of cause and congenital or early onset bacterial infection (onset in first postnatal week).

- 2.16 During 2018-2020, there were 296 deaths reviewed in the 0-18 age group of which there were 138 deaths of babies in the first month of life and 54 deaths from one month to one year old. By far the largest category was perinatal/neonatal deaths accounting for 102 babies but a further 65 dying of chromosomal, genetic and congenital abnormalities. 50 of those 65 babies had conditions that were not compatible with life i.e. there was no treatment option. The remaining 15 children were mainly those with a complex congenital heart disease who died following complex heart surgery.
- 2.17 Of the perinatal deaths, 42 out of 102 were born at less than 23 weeks gestation so would have had very limited chance of survival; those born at 21 weeks gestation or less would not have been admitted to the Neonatal Unit but would have been kept comfortable with their mother. There were 44 deaths of babies between 23 and 27 weeks; 6 between 28-31 weeks and 5 babies who died between 32 to 36 weeks and 5 at 37 weeks or more.
- 2.18 Using the Birmingham 2011 census to compare death and ethnicity the Pakistani, Black African and Afro-Caribbean populations is over-represented in all child deaths, particularly in deaths from chromosomal, genetic and congenital abnormalities but, also, in the perinatal/neonatal deaths, which is concurrent with prematurity.
- 2.19 A further 39 deaths of children aged 1-17 years from chromosomal, genetic and congenital abnormalities occurred in 2018-20. Congenital causes also have considerable morbidity associated with them throughout the lifetime and many of these children grow up to be adults but have complex health problems and need a lot of care and support.
- 2.20 Members asked if failure in maternity care was a significant factor in deaths in Birmingham. In response, practitioners said that whilst there were a couple of cases where that may have contributed, these were very rare and so had no impact on the statistics. For this reason, it was concluded by practitioners that standards of maternity care are not a significant causal factor in the City's disproportionately high infant mortality rate.
- 2.21 In summary, perinatal/neonatal causes are responsible for the majority of infant deaths, and babies born within families of Pakistani and Black African ethnicity are over-represented in deaths from both perinatal and congenital causes.

3 Findings – Risk Factors

- 3.1 There are many known risk factors associated with infant mortality including:
- **Smoking in pregnancy** – Birmingham has a statistically lower rate of smoking amongst pregnant women of 11.6% compared to the England average of 12.8%. Smoking in pregnancy



causes a significant number of premature births, miscarriages and perinatal deaths. The statistics for those smoking at the time of delivery are at 10.7% in Birmingham compared to 10.4% in England and 12.1% in the West Midlands. We note with concern however, that the most recent data show the levels of smoking in pregnancy are now rising.

- **Low birth weight** which constitutes the birth weight of a baby that is under 2,500 grams and a very low birth rate under 1,500 grams. Low birth weight is not necessarily a direct risk factor, but it does signify relevant issues – premature delivery being the most obvious. In 2018, 1.72% of babies were born with a very low birth rate in Birmingham compared to an England average of 1.16%.
- **Obesity** – One quarter of women in Birmingham are classed as obese in pregnancy and that rate is higher than the England average of 22.1%. However, this relationship is complex as obesity is also highly correlated with socio-economic status.

3.2 The three most modifiable factors related to pregnancy which influence perinatal mortality were reported to the Committee as:

- **Pre-term birth** i.e. babies born before 37 weeks of pregnancy: The national target for pre-term birth rate is 6%. The England average is 8% and in Birmingham and Solihull it varies around 10%, showing no real improvement. A reduction in the pre-term birth rate would be expected to significantly impact on the perinatal mortality rate.
- **Fetal growth restriction detection:** Defined as less than the 10th centile for gestation i.e. a term for a baby who is growth restricted but not small. Growth restricted babies are more likely to succumb to stillbirth but, if they do survive, are likely to have long-term poorer outcomes. It is difficult to detect foetal restriction in pregnancy with 100% accuracy; 50% detection levels would be regarded as good performance, but the local rate is around 30%.
- **Smoking:** Smoking in pregnancy is regarded as a modifiable factor and improving that rate would also impact on perinatal mortality outcomes

4 Findings – Responses to Infant Mortality

The National Response – *Better Births: Improving Outcomes of Maternity Services in England*

- 4.1 There is a national improvement target to reduce the perinatal mortality and stillbirth rate by 50% by 2025 which was based on the 2010 baseline. National focus on this issue follows a major review of maternity services, triggered by a number of unexplained perinatal and maternal deaths in Morecambe Bay in 2015.
- 4.2 That same year, the Secretary of State for Health commissioned a major review of maternity services and in November 2015, the Department of Health announced an ambition to reduce the rate of



stillbirths, neonatal and maternal deaths in England by 50% by 2030. The date by which this is to be achieved has since been revised to 2025.

- 4.3 In 2016, the *Better Births: Improving Outcomes of Maternity Services in England – A Five Year Forward View for Maternity Care* was published. It sets out the vision for a holistic approach to maternity care.

“Our vision for maternity services across England is for them to become safer, more personalised, kinder, professional and more family friendly; where every woman has access to information to enable her to make decisions about her care; and where she and her baby can access support that is centred around their individual needs and circumstances. And for all staff to be supported to deliver care which is woman centred, working in high performing teams, in organisations which are well led and in cultures which promote innovation, continuous learning, and break down organisational and professional boundaries.”

- 4.4 The report made seven recommendations based on the following:

- **Personalised Care** – based on the needs and decisions of the woman, her baby and family.
- **Continuity of Carer** – the woman and her family are supported by a midwife or small group of midwives throughout the entire journey of the pregnancy.
- **Safer Care** – references quality improvement initiatives that have been set up by the NHS. For example, Saving Babies Lives Care Bundle (SBLCB) which is particularly focussed on reducing stillbirths and perinatal mortality and how health care services can impact on that. The SBLCB is an evolving picture. Nationally, evidence is collated and fed back to the local maternity system. Therefore, using national data to inform local decisions.
- **Better Postnatal and Perinatal Mental Health Care** – for example, locally, implementing the Maternal Mental Health Service which is to improve mental health services to women who suffer trauma and loss during pregnancy.
- **Multi-Professional Working** – multi-professionals working to ensure that there are no barriers between members of a team e.g. midwives, consultants and other professionals.
- **Working Across Boundaries** – to commission maternity services to provide support and choice and specialist services.
- **A Payment System** – which is fair and pays providers of services appropriately while ensuring that the money follows women and their babies through their care.

- 4.5 More information can be found [here](#).

Saving Babies Lives Care Bundle (version 2)

- 4.6 **The Saving Babies Lives Care Bundle (version 2)** is a guidance document for Maternity Services and Commissioners developed by NHS England / Improvement (NHSE/I) in March 2019 which provides detailed information on how to reduce perinatal mortality across England.



- 4.7 The guidance sets out five elements of care within the Maternity Services, that are widely recognised as evidenced-based and / or best practice:
1. Reducing smoking in pregnancy.
 2. Risk assessment, prevention and surveillance of pregnancies at risk of Fetal Growth Restriction (FGR).
 3. Raising awareness of Reduced Fetal Movement (RFM).
 4. Effective fetal monitoring during labour.
 5. Reducing pre-term birth.

NHS Long Term Plan

- 4.8 The NHS Long Term Plan (LTP) was published in January 2019 by NHS England in response to funding, staffing and inequalities to facilitate improved outcomes. The LTP includes some specific measures for maternity/neonatal/mental health services, Clinical Commissioning Groups and regional National Health Service England and NHS Improvement teams:
- Implementing the Saving Babies' Lives Care Bundle.
 - Improving Neonatal Critical Care.
 - Targeted and enhanced continuity of carer.
 - Improved and increasing access to Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Services.
 - Introduction of maternal medicine networks.
 - Targeted services to help to decrease maternal smoking.
 - Improving postnatal physiotherapy services.
 - Improve infant feeding programmes.
- 4.9 The LTP incorporates **Better Births** reinforcing the message of holistic improvement in care and empowerment for women but adding extra features such as the postnatal physiotherapy services, infant feeding programmes and NHS specific care such as Neonatal Critical Care. Findings and recommendations from the Ockenden review of maternity services at Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, published in December 2020, will also be incorporated.

Local Interventions

- 4.10 Birmingham and Solihull have two main maternity services providers i.e. University Hospitals Birmingham (UHB) NHS Foundation Trust (which includes Good Hope, Heartlands and Solihull) and Birmingham Women's and Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (BWH) who deliver circa 18,000 babies per annum. The most recent data available locally (January 2021) indicates a combined unadjusted perinatal mortality rate for 2019 of 6.2. For UHB, the perinatal mortality rate was 5.21, and for BWH 5.18.



- 4.11 The Local Maternity System (LMS), Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust and University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust across Birmingham and Solihull have a transformation plan in place to meet the requirements of the guidance.
- 4.12 The actions that are being taken locally are:
- **Improving Neonatal Critical Care:** The LMS is working in partnership with the Neonatal Operational Delivery Network to implement the recommendations of the Neonatal Critical Care Review, which is to ensure that women who give birth before 27 weeks are able to do so in a unit with on-site neonatal intensive care. Local plans have been submitted for regional and national consideration. A <27-week pathway has been in place in Birmingham and Solihull since January 2020 and a 6-month evaluation has taken place. Ongoing meetings with partners are taking place with a proposal in development to expand on the current service criteria. Providers also report on neonatal deaths.
 - **Targeted and enhanced Continuity of Carer:** Continuity of carer (CoC) refers to consistency of the midwife or clinical team that provides care for a woman throughout the three phases of her maternity journey: pregnancy, labour and the postnatal period. Evidence has shown that this model of care improves clinical outcomes, safety and patient experience. In addition to the universal offer of 35% of women receiving CoC by March 2021, due to the widening inequalities faced by Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) women and Covid-19, 75% of BAME women and those living in the most deprived areas will receive CoC by 2024. Due to the impacts of Covid-19 and staffing challenges providers will struggle to meet the target however plans are in place to continue to work towards implementation.
 - **Improved and increased access to Specialist Perinatal Mental Health services:** The first 1001 critical days from pregnancy to the first 2-years of a child's life is a crucial developmental stage to lay the foundation for a child's emotional wellbeing, health, resilience and learning potential. Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Foundation Trust deliver a specialist Perinatal Mental Health (PNMH) Service to pregnant women suffering with moderate to severe mental illness. Plans are in place to increase the number of women accessing the service by March 2021. Phased plans are in place to extend the existing provision from pre-conception to 24 months after birth with increased availability of evidence based psychological therapies. It also offers support to partners of women accessing the service and development of a Maternal Mental Health Service offer which will focus on trauma which includes fear of giving birth and loss.
 - Targeted services to help to decrease maternal smoking: Smoking during pregnancy increases the risk of stillbirth, miscarriage, low birth weight, prematurity and birth defects. The Birmingham and Solihull Stop Smoking Service went live 21st September 2020, providing Smoking Cessation Support, ongoing personalised support, if required, for up to 12 months or 6 weeks postnatal and access to Nicotine Replacement Therapy prescriptions.



- **Improved infant feeding programmes:** A study of optimal breastfeeding practices and infant and child mortality: a systematic review and meta-analysis evidenced the effects of optimal breastfeeding on all-cause and infection-related mortality in infants and children aged 0–23 months. The authors found higher rates of mortality among infants never breastfed compared to those exclusively breastfed in the first six months of life and receiving continued breastfeeding. There is an established infant feeding workstream in place progressing key actions including analysis of infant feeding data trends, and the Maternity Voices Partnership (MVP) is in the process of facilitating an infant feeding survey. A review and scoping of Tongue Tie Services is taking place and ongoing work in line with the Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI), an evidence based accredited programme which supports maternity, neonatal, health visiting and children's centre services to improve their care.
- **Risk assessment, prevention and surveillance of pregnancies at risk of Fetal Growth Restriction (FGR):** There is strong evidence to suggest FGR is the biggest risk factor for stillbirth. Therefore, antenatal detection of growth restricted babies is vital and has been shown to reduce stillbirth risk significantly because it gives the option to consider timely delivery of a baby at risk. Prevention and surveillance include detection of smoking status and efforts to be smoke free by 16-weeks, medication, risk assessment, surveillance and management of women at greater risk of FGR, growth disorders in multiple pregnancies and small gestational age. Policies for managing FGR detection have made a positive impact whilst ensuring sufficient scanning services capacity remains challenging. Providers also continue to learn from best practice, errors and incidents to evidence continuous improvement.
- **Raising awareness of Reduced Fetal Movement (RFM):** Enquiries into stillbirth have consistently described a relationship between episodes of RFM and stillbirth. Unrecognised or poorly managed episodes of RFM have been highlighted as contributory factors to avoidable stillbirths. Locally, providers have a communication strategy in place, with enhanced communications with women during Covid-19, including a bespoke telephone triage assessment tool, availability of leaflets in multiple languages, 'Ask the Midwife' sessions and use of social media, radio and digital platforms. Training will be delivered to focus on raising awareness of reduced fetal movement and effective fetal monitoring.
- **Effective fetal monitoring during labour:** Evidence suggests effective fetal monitoring during labour could support a reduction in stillbirths and avoidable fetal morbidity related to brain injury causing conditions. Fetal surveillance midwives are in post at each Trust. The Fresh Eyes and Ears protocol has been reinforced with all staff and local monitoring is in place. Some face to face mandatory training is on hold due to Covid-19.
- **Reducing Pre-Term Birth (PTB):** PTB is defined as delivery at less than 37+0 weeks' gestation. It is the most important single determinant of adverse infant outcome with regards to survival and quality of life. There are major national quality improvement programmes to support reduction in PTB and optimisation for those babies born prematurely e.g. British Association of Perinatal Medicine antenatal optimisation toolkit. Pre-term prevention services are



in place across Trusts and work continues in relation to the development of guidelines, data validation, clinical audit, training and addressing service pressures.

5 Findings – Consanguinity

- 5.1 One of the questions that prompted this inquiry was to explore the evidence suggesting that consanguinity is a potentially significant causal factor in congenital abnormality, and consequently in increasing the risks of infant mortality.
- 5.2 Consanguineous marriage is a union between couples related as second cousins or closer. Globally, 10.4% of the population are married to a blood relative or a child of such a relationship⁵, though the Committee understands that in terms of non-traditional families such marriages are declining with younger generations choosing to marry distant relatives, where the risk is not as great, or using social networks to meet possible suitors. Such marriages occur in many cultures, and have potential social, economic, and genetic advantages. However, there is also an association between consanguinity and increased risk of infant mortality, linked to congenital defects arising from autosomal recessive inheritance.
- 5.3 The evidence the Committee received further emphasised that these risks do not relate only to infant mortality but also to childhood morbidity and mortality, with consanguinity observed in 86% of children with progressive intellectual and neurological deterioration.⁶ Thus there is also an association with disability and other lifelong conditions, which has long term consequences for both the individual and health/public services needed to support the individual and family.
- 5.4 The evidence received shows mixed views amongst professionals on the causes and significance of consanguinity, particularly as it relates to ethnicity. The Committee notes that accurate estimates of the increased genetic risk associated with consanguinity are hampered by poor data availability and the fact that cases cannot always be confirmed.
- 5.5 Recent studies include the “Born in Bradford” study, the most recent large-scale birth cohort study published in the Lancet, which demonstrates a doubling of risk of any congenital disorder (since recessive genetic conditions could not be isolated with certainty) from around 3 per 100 live births among unrelated couples to around 6 per 100 live births among first cousin couples. The increased risk was found to remain after adjusting for deprivation.⁷ The Committee was informed that these figures are in line with several other investigations in other contexts.
- 5.6 A review of regional data derived from the Perinatal Episode Electronic Record (PEER) investigating mortality over a 2-year period (2009-2010), found that congenital anomaly related deaths occurred in about one third of stillbirths and infant deaths and the mortality rate was significantly higher in

⁵ Bittles and Black, 2010. The impact of consanguinity on neonatal and infant health. Early Human Development 86 (2010) 737–741

⁶ Fraser and Parslow., 2017, Verity et al., 2021

⁷ Sheridan et al. 2013 [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(13\)61132-0/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(13)61132-0/fulltext)



Pakistani and Bangladeshi mothers.⁸ Deaths due to metabolic disorders, renal anomalies and neural tube defects were also significantly higher in Pakistani babies. Antenatal folate use was low in most ethnic minority groups and late booking may have contributed to later detection of congenital abnormalities. When the cause of death was examined in more detail, in the case of Pakistani births autosomal recessive conditions represented a quarter of deaths and two thirds of deaths from congenital abnormality, compared to 10% and over a third respectively in the rest of the population.

- 5.7 However, as noted above, accurate estimates of the increased genetic risk associated with consanguinity are hampered by poor data availability.⁹ In addition there are other variables known to influence childhood health including social conditions, maternal age and education, birth order, and birth intervals which also have an impact and must be considered alongside consanguinity as a factor in infant mortality.

Data in Birmingham

- 5.8 So, what does the data in Birmingham tell us? Looking at the Birmingham data from the CDOP (as above), it can be seen that perinatal causes are responsible for the majority of infant deaths (102 out of 298) in Birmingham, and congenital factors are the second main cause (65 of 298). Therefore, congenital factors are a cause in around a fifth of deaths – a significant factor but not the main cause. The data from Mothers and Babies: Reducing Risk through Audits and Confidential Enquiries (MBRRACE) on Causes of Death and Associated Conditions of perinatal deaths for babies delivered in 2018 differs slightly in that it identifies rates as higher and it is the MBRRACE data that maternity outcomes are judged on.

Interventions

- 5.9 Strategies developed in the West Midlands to improve access and encourage appropriate and early referral of patients and families at risk of genetic disorders include the permanent employment of specialist Asian Genetic Counsellors (1 full time equivalent) with expertise and knowledge of the cultural and religious issues. The Enhanced Genetics Services Project (December 2008 – December 2011) was established to address excess infant and childhood morbidity linked to autosomal recessive (AR) conditions identified by the former Heart of Birmingham Primary Care Trust. It aimed to improve the detection of AR diseases by developing genetic laboratory testing, identifying and offering relatives carrier testing and increasing specialist Genetic Counsellor support for South Asian ethnic minority families. A major component was community and primary care involvement to enhance awareness of those that may benefit from clinical genetics input and tailored educational

⁸ Tonks, A. M., Williamson, A., Williams, D. and Gardosi, J. O. (2013) Mortality, congenital anomaly, & maternal risk factors across ethnic groups in Birmingham. Archives of Disease in Childhood. 98, Suppl.1;

Tonks, A. M., Fowler, T., Williams, D. (2014) Stillbirth and infant mortality from congenital anomalies and autosomal recessive (AR) conditions in Birmingham ethnic groups. Archives of Disease in Childhood. 99(A153-A154)

⁹ Salway et al (2012). Responding to increased genetic risk associated with consanguineous marriage: A formative review of current service approaches in England. Available at <http://clahrcsy.nihr.ac.uk/images/health%20inequalities/resources/Responding%20to%20increased%20genetic%20risk.pdf>



resources to professionals and families. However, a shift in emphasis from consanguinity to rare AR diseases, and a more sustained approach, is required.

- 5.10 Research and clinical audit have repeatedly demonstrated that families at risk of affected births commonly have poor access to information and support, and that healthcare professionals may miss opportunities to address this inequity.
- 5.11 A number of areas in the UK where there is a high prevalence of consanguinity have implemented interventions to respond to the unmet need for genetic information and services. Further work needs to be carried out to consider if such an approach should be undertaken in Birmingham. However, it is important to acknowledge that the challenge in tackling this potential risk can be complicated by cultural sensitivities, preconceptions and misconceptions around consanguinity, as well as inadequate knowledge and skills among healthcare professionals and low levels of trust among communities that have past experience of discrimination.
- 5.12 The witnesses to the inquiry emphasised that this was a sensitive area and, sometimes, the risk of birth abnormality linked to consanguinity was exaggerated. As noted above in section 3, there are many other factors that contribute to infant mortality and all must be taken into consideration.
- 5.13 Specialist family-centred services for genetics conditions is available from the West Midlands Regional Clinical Genetics Service. The current referral pathway into the Clinical Genetics Service is mainly through hospital and community paediatricians, antenatal/fetal medicine services and self-referral. Once patients have been referred to the service, family history details are collected, clinical assessments, diagnostic testing and carrier testing, if available, can be offered to relatives. In addition, options for, pre-natal testing and pre-implantation genetic diagnosis can be explained. Barriers to service uptake may disadvantage certain ethnic communities, particularly where there are language, accessibility, trust and confidentiality issues as well as misconceptions or perceived lack of utility by patients and professionals.
- 5.14 Members heard evidence from the Wellbeing Project perspective, who reported that they have not been aware that this is a point of discussion in the community. There is a lot more awareness around diabetes, depression, obesity and hypertension but there is always a willingness to improve health outcomes through the Wellbeing Project.
- 5.15 At the evidence gathering session, participants put forward the following suggestions to improve access to services to communities:
- Missed opportunities by GP's and other health care professionals to make referrals into the genetics service. Equally, health care professionals may not always understand the levels of risk and exaggerate them or presenting information in a way that is confusing to parents.
 - Issues around trust and confidentiality regarding dealing with family information and sharing genetic information, so families need reassurance that information will be handled appropriately. The staff group should be specialists, where possible, and geographically and culturally matched to the population so they are able to provide information, education and training, not only to health professionals, but people in the community in an accessible format.



- Responses around the country to this unmet need for genetic information and services have been patchy, short lived and often alienating with not enough involvement from local communities so there needs to be resources to ensure the longevity of programmes.
- Language can be an issue, particularly when trying to explain complex scientific matters which may not be easily understood.
- The timing of the referral i.e. it would be inappropriate to discuss issues around genetic testing when seeing an acutely unwell child. So, there can be missed opportunities.
- There are also misconceptions and perceptions by families and professionals around what genetic services can offer and professionals may see it more in a research capacity rather than a utility to help the management of the child and family. It is important for the service to be accessible, being delivered by health workers in community hubs and have networks of other service providers to support and facilitate this.
- In terms of reducing health inequalities in infant mortalities across specific communities, interventions that support quality nutrition, an active lifestyle and personal space for self-care are just as important.
- There is also a lack of advice and practical knowledge on providing high quality nutrition and breastfeeding babies to support their development and disease prevention.
- Improve awareness of the services provided to help manage pregnancy from start to end. Further knowledge is also required to improve understanding of pregnancy and positive health choices which are available to ensure the health of mother and baby. More work is also needed with BAME women around preconception to increase their chances of healthy pregnancies, whilst maintaining good mental and physical health, and using stress reduction strategies before becoming pregnant are thought to increase the chance of giving birth to a healthy baby.

6 Conclusions and Recommendations

- 6.1 In pulling together the strands of this inquiry, the Committee concluded that the stubbornness of Birmingham's high infant mortality rate required a solution that brings together all partners, including those communities who suffer most from infant mortality. The first recommendation is therefore that a multi-agency 'Reducing Infant Mortality in Birmingham' Task Force be established, to oversee a concerted effort by all relevant agencies to achieve a substantial reduction in Infant Mortality in the City.
- 6.2 The Task Force should include the existing Local Maternity System, Clinical Genetics Service (Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trusts and University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust), including Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and commissioners and providers, plus the City Council's Public Health team, along with representatives of the community and voluntary sector, faith groups and elected Members, with a brief to bring the threads of all related interventions together in a concerted and mutually reinforcing programme.



- 6.3 This should be backed up by an ambitious goal, for example to reduce infant mortality by 50% in Birmingham by 2025 (from 2015 figures, matching the national target) but to go further and aim to eliminate the gap between infant mortality rates in Birmingham and the England average by this date. As Birmingham's rate is higher than most others, it is important that this disproportionately high health inequality is addressed. Key to this is understanding that parents will always have the choice to proceed with affected births, and the focus should be on "unanticipated deaths" so as to avoid moves towards unsafe practices such as encouraging terminations.
- 6.4 Key to success will be effective grassroots engagement, and so a strong community awareness strand should be developed within the Task Force work programme, led by respected and trusted community groups, local leaders and community influencers engaged in social media. This awareness work should focus on the range of different communities and causal factors that most contribute to preventable infant mortality. Helping people minimise risk including identifying and supporting families facing material hardship and adverse stressful circumstances is also important here. The use of community hubs should be explored. The proposed Public Health community researcher initiative should be part of this work. It is also important to have up to date information on matters such as consanguineous unions, so the task force is asked to assess the current scale and likely future trends of this in Birmingham.
- 6.5 The work of the Task Force should look at the comprehensive 'four strands' approach put to us by Professor Salway (which refer to unmet need for genetic information and services) and see how these can be adapted for addressing infant mortality more broadly:
- Family-centred enhanced approach to provision of clinical genetic services.
 - Educate and equip professionals at the interface with the community (health visitors, midwives and GPs).
 - Raise genetic literacy at community level.
 - Strengthen access to specialist genomic diagnostic services.
- 6.6 All this should be co-ordinated by the multi-professional group with active community engagement as outlined above. The Committee agrees that the national proposal for new investment (across Clinical Genetics, Maternity, Health Visiting & Community Genetic Literacy) should be pursued.
- 6.7 It is also important to approach the contributory factors in a balanced way, avoiding stigmatisation and covering the five elements of the Saving Babies Lives Care Bundle, plus wider environmental factors and consanguineous relationships, ensuring parents and wider families are empowered to make informed decisions to maximise their children's life chances.



Ref	Recommendation	Responsibility	Completion Date
R01	<p>To work with partners to establish a multi-agency 'Reducing Infant Mortality in Birmingham' Task Force to oversee a concerted effort by all relevant agencies to achieve a substantial and reduction in Infant Mortality in the City.</p> <p>The Task Force should include the existing Local Maternity System, Clinical Genetics representation, commissioners and other maternity services such as BCHC, plus BCC Public Health, representatives of the CVS sector and elected Members, with a brief to bring the threads of all related interventions together in a concerted and mutually reinforcing programme. It should also identify and address any factors that may discourage some parents from engaging effectively with their maternity service professionals.</p>	Cabinet Member, Health and Social Care	July 2021
R02	<p>To set an ambitious goal to reduce infant mortality by 50% in Birmingham by 2025 (from 2015 figures, matching the national target) but to then go further and eliminate the gap between infant mortality rates in Birmingham and the England average by this date.</p> <p>This should be accompanied by a delivery plan that can plausibly demonstrate how these targets can be met, identifying both the structural and modifiable factors underlying the inequalities in infant mortality within the City.</p>	Cabinet Member, Health and Social Care	<p>July 2021</p> <p>October 2021</p>
R03	<p>To develop a strong community awareness strand within the Task Force work programme, led by respected and trusted community groups, local community and faith leaders, and other influencers who are engaged in social media. This should be targeted at improved health behaviours, identifying and supporting families facing material hardship and adverse stressful circumstances, early detection of poor baby growth, and empowering people to make healthy life choices that minimise their infant mortality risk factors. This will include ensuring up to date information is available, including the current scale and likely future trends in consanguineous unions in Birmingham.</p>	Cabinet Member, Health and Social Care	February 2022



Ref	Recommendation	Responsibility	Completion Date
R04	The work of the Task Force should be tasked to consider and adapt the 'four strands' approach put to us by Professor Salway (outlined above) and access any resource and support available nationally.	Cabinet Member, Health and Social Care	March 2022

7 Progress against Implementation and Motion

7.1 To keep the Committee informed of progress on implementing the recommendations within this report, the Executive is recommended to report back on progress periodically.

Ref	Recommendation	Responsibility	Completion Date
R05	Progress towards achievement of these recommendations should be reported to the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee no later than 31 October 2021. Subsequent progress reports will be scheduled by the Committee thereafter, until all recommendations are implemented.	Cabinet Member, Health and Social Care	October 2021 To be confirmed

7.2 Full Council is asked to agree the following motion:

That recommendations R01 to R05 be approved, and that the Executive be requested to pursue their implementation.



Appendix 1 – List of Participants

NAME	ORGANISATION
Angela Brady	Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Birmingham and Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group
Ernestine Diedrick	Senior Commissioning Manager, Maternity, Children and Young People, Birmingham and Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group
Dr Qulsom Fazil	Institute of Applied Health Research, University of Birmingham
Dr Jo Garstang	Designated Doctor for Child Death, Birmingham and Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group
Dr Marion Gibbon	Assistant Director, Partnerships, Insight and Prevention, Public Health
Dr Laura Griffith	Senior Knowledge Transfer Facilitator, Local Knowledge Intelligence Service, Public Health England Midlands
Helen Jenkinson	Chief Nurse, Birmingham and Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group
Richard Kennedy	Medical Director, Birmingham Local Maternity System
Shagufta Khan	Genetic Counsellor, Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust
Shabana Qureshi	Project Manager, Ashiana Community Project
Professor Sarah Salway	Professor of Public Health, University of Sheffield
Dr Julie Vogt	Consultant Clinical Geneticist, Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust.



Appendix 2

Number of Deaths Aged Under 1 reported to CDOP by Ethnic Group and Postcode 2018-19

Legend

- Birmingham Constituencies
- Birmingham Wards

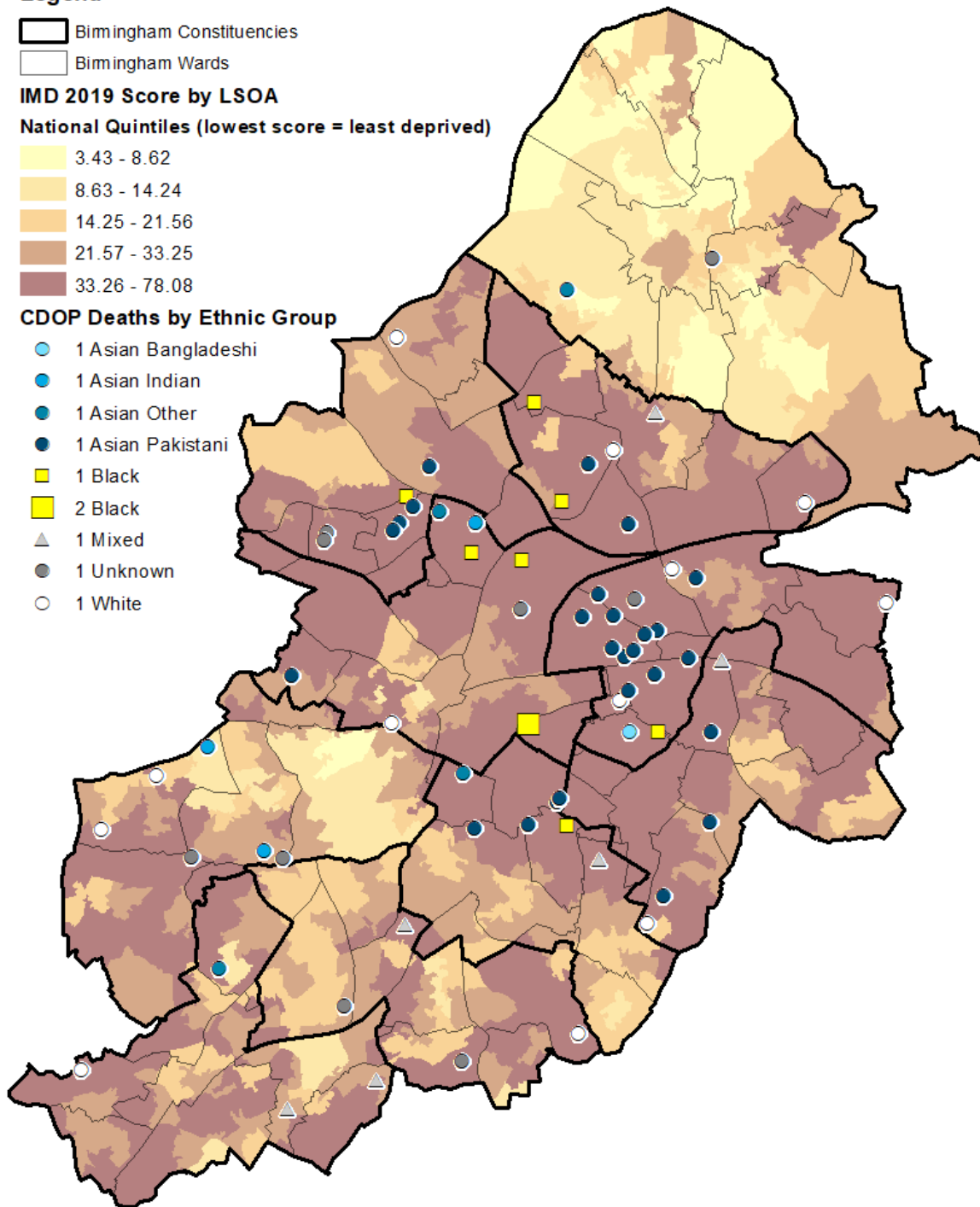
IMD 2019 Score by LSOA

National Quintiles (lowest score = least deprived)

- 3.43 - 8.62
- 8.63 - 14.24
- 14.25 - 21.56
- 21.57 - 33.25
- 33.26 - 78.08

CDOP Deaths by Ethnic Group

- 1 Asian Bangladeshi
- 1 Asian Indian
- 1 Asian Other
- 1 Asian Pakistani
- 1 Black
- 2 Black
- 1 Mixed
- 1 Unknown
- 1 White



Source: Birmingham Child Death Overview Panel annual report
Produced by Birmingham Public Health Division (2020).
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Infant Mortality– Executive Commentary

I welcome this inquiry as it is such a considered review that highlights and raises awareness of some of the factors leading to infant mortality. This is essential as preventable loss of life is the most devastating consequence a family could ever face.

There is obviously far more we need to do as the review highlights the fact that some of these deaths are preventable through a range of actions and awareness and earlier conversations on lifestyle choices. There is more we need to collectively undertake with our health partners, our communities and with our citizens. The facts as set out in this inquiry are alarming given that in our City the rate of infant mortality is twice the national average, 65% of all deaths in children and young people are infant deaths.

The report sets out both national and local work in reducing infant mortality and the findings set out some excellent work is being delivered to tackle the factors, through the NHS Long term Plan - Saving Babies Lives Care Bundle, our Local Maternity System. There is a need to bring together the various strands of work underway and a focus on influencing, promoting, supporting and encouraging healthier lifestyles and choices is key to this. We need to build on the work and programmes identified and progress action around the four strands approach set out by Professor Salway in the report and on the investment in the areas of Clinical Genetics, community genetic literacy and health visiting.

There is clearly a need for improvements in recording data and sharing datasets and an ability to discuss more openly the higher prevalence of infant congenital abnormalities and consequently an increase in the risks of infant mortality with consanguineous unions. A consanguineous union is union between couples related as second cousins or closer. Consanguineous unions according to the current available datasets equate to a fifth of deaths in the City. Whilst this is a significant factor, it is not the only factor. This is a sensitive issue and there is awareness within the community on the significance of congenital abnormalities and genetics from the datasets available. However, there is a need to understand further with Birmingham being a city with significant health inequalities and there is more we need to do raise awareness and education in supporting women through preconception, throughout pregnancy and post birth. Linked to this area is the need to promote the greater use of services that are already available such as the Clinical Genetics Service.

It is vitally important that we improve awareness of the services provided to help manage pregnancy from start to end. Further knowledge is also required to improve the understanding of pregnancy and positive health choices which are available to ensure the health of mothers and their babies. More work is also needed with women from ethnic minorities in relation to drug and substance misuse; obesity, whilst maintaining good mental and physical health and using stress reduction strategies before becoming pregnant to increase their chances of giving birth to a healthy baby. Thankfully we live in times in which we can more easily reach out to all communities through social media and improved digital technology. The City Council along with our partners will be using many media channels to more effectively to target our communities in promoting healthier life choices and improving access to information and advice which needs to be harnessed.

Sadly, it is clear from this report that infant mortality disproportionately affects the poorest areas of our City and the risk factors include congenital anomalies, multiple pregnancies, socio-economic deprivation, teenage pregnancy, older motherhood, obesity, poor nutrition, drug and alcohol abuse and smoking during pregnancy.

I am committed to taking immediate action on this and will be raising this at a future Health and Wellbeing Board meeting. To address the current trend, there is a need to implement immediate actions as well as developing medium to long term actions. Immediate action is underway, and we have a multi-agency steering group that has been established and work is underway in the development of an action plan to respond to the recommendations of this review. This action needs to be owned by all stakeholders and I am keen that the multiagency taskforce established is reflective of all our key statutory partners and wider community, voluntary and faith representative's - co-production is key to reducing the rates of infant mortality.

This review is vital and essential as it provides an insightful commentary on an important issue within our city. I thank the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee and all the agencies, groups and individuals that contributed to the inquiry. There is a need for collective action, and I am committed to delivering on the recommendations proposed to help us in creating a society where we can significantly reduce infant mortality.



Councillor Paulette Hamilton
Cabinet Member Health and Social Care

Birmingham City Council

City Council

13 April 2021



Subject: APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Report of: Council Business Management Committee (Chief Officers and Deputy Chief Officers Appointments Dismissals and Service Conditions Sub-Committee)

Report author: Acting City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer / Assistant Director Organisational Development

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential:

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 29th March 2021, the Chief Officers and Deputy Chief Officers Appointments Dismissals and Service Conditions Sub-Committee ("JNC Panel") recommended the approval of the appointment of Deborah Cadman as the Interim Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service, for a fixed term period of an initial 18 months from appointment pending the appointment of a permanent Chief Executive for which a campaign will commence in Summer 2022. The CV for Deborah is attached at appendix 1.
- 1.2 The salary range for the role is £186,003 to £227,852 (pending any NJC pay award announced with effect from 1 April 2021).
- 1.3 Consultation had taken place with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member Finance and Resources in the preparation of the report.

2 MOTION

- 2.1 That the City Council as required by Part C7.4 of the Constitution¹:
 1. Approves the appointment of Deborah Cadman as Interim Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service for a fixed term period of 18 months initially; and
 2. Notes that the period of notice on either side will be three months; and

¹ As agreed by Full Council on 10 September 2019

3. Approves that until commencement, Graeme Betts will act as Acting Chief Executive.

Birmingham City Council

City Council

13 April 2021



Subject: The Birmingham & Midland Institute - Disposition of 93-95 Cornwall Street

Report of: The Leader of the Council

Report author: Councillor Ian Ward

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential :

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Birmingham & Midland Institute registered charity no. 522852 (BMI) now located at 9 Margaret Street was established under the Birmingham & Midland Institute Act 1854. In 1971 the BMI acquired the adjoining property at 93-95 Cornwall Street which is now considered surplus to requirements. This together with financial pressures, not helped by Covid - 19, BMI propose to dispose of 93-95 Cornwall Street and the proceeds used for a major refurbishment of 9 Margaret Street which is a Grade II* listed building.
- 1.2 There is a restriction in the deeds on both properties that "no disposition by the proprietor of the land is to be registered unless made in accordance with the Birmingham & Midland Act 1854". The Act, which incorporated the BMI, requires any disposal to be subject to the consent of the 'Council of the Borough' and the Trustees of the BMI are now seeking that consent. The Trustees having secured and shared a Counsel's opinion to confirm the Trustees of the BMI have the relevant powers of disposal, it is proposed to recommend that consent to dispose of 93-95 Cornwall Street be given.

2 Motion

- 2.1 That the consent of the Council to the disposal of 93-95 Cornwall Street be confirmed and that the restriction on the title be removed.
- 2.2 authorises the City Solicitor to negotiate, seal, execute and complete all legal documentation to give effect to the above recommendations.

3 Background

- 3.1 The 1854 Act of Parliament gave powers to the Corporation of Birmingham to purchase land in Paradise Street/Ratcliff Place and build the original Birmingham & Midland Institute. The Birmingham Corporation Act 1914 also gave the BMI power to acquire additional lands for the purposes set out in the Birmingham and Midland Institute Act 1854 and also a wider power to sell exchange or otherwise dispose of any lands or any interest therein acquired by them under this Act.
- 3.2 The premises at Paradise Street/Ratcliff Place was subject to a Compulsory Purchase Order which resulted in the old BMI being demolished as part of the wider re-development of the city centre and in 1965 the BMI purchased and moved to 9 Margaret Street. In 1971 it acquired 93 and 95 Cornwall Street for additional office accommodation under subsequent powers to purchase and dispose of property, granted under the Birmingham Corporation Act 1914. All three properties belong to The Birmingham & Midland Institute but remain governed by the 1854 Act of Parliament. In effect while the Institute can dispose of its property, the 1854 Act (as confirmed by restrictions on the title) requires the Council to also consent to those disposals.
- 3.3 The disposals will remove surplus property and provide funds for immediate necessary repairs and refurbishment of 9 Margaret Street and also provide matched funding to assist a bid to the lottery for additional monies for further repairs.

4 Options considered and Recommended Proposal



- 4.1 The institute operates wholly independently of the City Council and the City Council does not provide any financial assistance to the Institute. The connection between the City Council and the Institute is solely through the original formation incorporation of the BMI and the continuation of the various Acts of Parliament.
- 4.2 The Council could oppose the proposals and refuse consent for the disposals but this will not assist the operation of the Institute and would limit the opportunity to seek external funding for the improvement of the building. The restriction requiring the Council's consent would have been appropriate when the Institute was first established in 1854, but with the passing of time it is considered somewhat anachronistic and there is no purpose in the Council opposing the requests.

5 Appendices

- 5.1
 - Plan indicating property for disposal



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 Birmingham City Council		Kathryn James Assistant Director Property Inclusive Growth Directorate 10 Woodcock Street Birmingham, B7 4BG		
93 - 95 Cornwall Street Ladywood	 Page 157 of 158	Scale (Main Map)	Drawn	Date
		1:1,250	Bharat Patel	08/04/2021

