

## Health, Wellbeing & the Environment O&S Committee - 27 September 2016

Priority Report of the Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling and Environment

Councillor Lisa Trickett

### 1. Purpose of report

This report sets out the Cabinet Member's portfolio priorities for 2016/17.

The report will only focus on those areas of the portfolio that are relevant to the remit of this committee and therefore will not include operational waste management (incorporating street cleaning, litter prevention, fly tipping, graffiti and placarding) as this falls under the remit of the Housing and Homes Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### 2. Accountability and Responsibilities

In accordance with the City Council Constitution the Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling and Environment has accountability for positioning Birmingham as a 'Green City' ready for the challenges of the future, and with a sustainable infrastructure that supports these objectives through initiatives that are delivered by the city council and also by partner agencies, private and third sector organisations.

And has responsibility for the following:

#### Green City

Strategic leadership of the city's sustainability agenda, advising all Cabinet Members of initiatives that need to be taken and particularly in respect of employment, highways, transport, waste recycling and disposal matters, health and housing.

#### Climate Change

Strategic lead on policy and its implementation to address issues including climate change, carbon reduction, flood management, clean air zones, energy security, reduction of fuel poverty, food security and to maximise the contribution to be made by parks and green spaces.

#### Waste Strategy and Services

Development of a financially and environmentally sustainable waste strategy for the city, the collection and sustainable disposal of waste from residential and other properties within the city, street cleansing on operational matters and the promotion of recycling.

#### Local Parks and Allotments

Provision, maintenance and usage of local facilities

#### Cleaner Neighbourhoods

Street Cleaning, litter prevention, fly tipping, graffiti, placarding.

## Pest Control

### Provision of the Pest Control Service

### **3. Priorities – 2016/17**

Working towards the shared vision of a fair, prosperous and democratic city and aligned to the priority outcomes of the City Council, and in particular a city with 'A Strong Economy' the Cabinet Member's portfolio priorities are:

- To develop a spatial framework for Birmingham that identifies geographical areas of 'sustainability' need and identify and implement the necessary interventions to address those needs.
- To ensure that 'sustainability' is at the core of neighbourhood and city centre development and transport planning.
- To develop a new waste strategy for Birmingham focused on reducing waste produced wherever possible, maximising recycling and reuse and where we cannot prevent, reuse or recycle we will maximise recovery through generating energy.
- To maximise the contribution that our parks, open spaces and allotments can make as 'Natural Assets' to the Future City agenda through the development of a 25 year Natural Capital Plan; echoing the Government's own policy. To respond to the Department of Communities and Local Government Select Committee on the 'Future of Parks'.
- To consult with partners and stakeholders on the provision of a new vision for grounds maintenance and parks services contract for 2019.
- To seek to increase the level of volunteering in Birmingham parks whilst maintaining a sustainable balance between empowering communities and our landlords duty of care.
- To raise parks profile and continue to achieve accolades such as Gold medal at Chelsea 2017, Britain in Bloom etc. and to continue to work with sponsors to increase floral opportunities, encouraging businesses to the city and maximising economic growth.
- To develop a consolidated Flood Risk Management Strategy for Birmingham building on the Surface Water Management Plan and the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.
- To improve air quality in the city through the development of a clean air zone and other initiatives to reduce the impact of vehicle emissions. Alongside vehicle emissions, which account for the majority of poor air quality, we will also refresh our air quality action plan drawing together all areas in which the City Council can influence improvements.
- To establish an energy company that will, as a minimum, provide cheaper energy to our citizens in fuel poverty.
- To ensure that the delivery of the Birmingham Development Plan supports the growth of sustainable communities in a social, environmental and economic way.
- To maximise the opportunities that come from our infrastructure in terms of

decentralised energy, for example, maximising the potential of the city centre district energy scheme; ensuring options around cleaner, greener and leaner energy provision are a core part of our new developments.

- To ensure that we take an integrated approach to sustainability and that the energy, transport and waste systems complement each other to maximise value for the city.

#### **4. Progress/Achievements** (info awaited from service area leads)

- Members of this Scrutiny Committee will be aware of the progress being made on the development of a new waste strategy for Birmingham having been engaged in the first two of four workshops. In summary:
  - The aim of the new strategy will be to set out a long term vision of how the Council, its partners and the waste industry will work in collaboration with local residents and businesses to ensure that waste is reduced wherever possible, and only waste that cannot be reused or recycled is treated and managed in a way that maximises its financial, environmental and social benefit.
  - The principles of the 'circular economy' feature prominently in how the strategy will deliver this ambitious aim and the strategy should act as a platform for the city to act as place for innovation, both in terms of technical developments in how waste is best managed but also in the range of delivery models needed to make the circular economy a reality locally.
  - The work programme is on target to bring forward the final strategy for formal endorsement by Cabinet in [December 2016]. A series of officer / member workshops are currently underway in which the options for how we collect, treat and dispose of each type of waste (i.e. residual, garden, food, and recyclables) are being evaluated against criteria established in the first workshop. This process will provide transparency in terms of how a range of potential service options perform against the financial, environmental and social value priorities.
  - Work is underway to cost up to 7 different service configurations and compare this against the how the current service performs in terms of cost, recycling performance, carbon reduction, etc.
  - Public consultation on the key aims, objectives and targets of the draft strategy has now completed and a detailed analysis of the findings will be used to test how well each of the short listed options help meet public expectations. This is likely to be available at the end of September for consideration.
  - A key part of the waste strategy will focus on waste prevention and include a range of measures and projects to prioritise reduce and reuse ahead of recycling to help mitigate the effects of household growth over the period to 2030. The new corporate campaign aimed at promoting cleaner, greener streets launched on 12 September and the first 'mini-campaign' is promoting how members of the public, local businesses and other partners can take practical steps to change their behaviour. This campaign is expected to run for up to 3 years.
- In partnership with the University of Birmingham, the City together with additional external partners including the Royal Town Planning Institute and the Royal Chartered Institute of Surveyors; has secured Research Council funding to undertake

a 2 year national trial (2016-2018) of the Natural Capital Planning Tool, developed and being tested in Birmingham.

- The Parks service is working in partnership with national organisations including Historic England, the Forestry Commission and the National Trust on initiatives such as woodland management (in Sutton Park) and the Green Academies Project (GAP) to deliver habitat management courses for 16-21 years old and Urban Rangers for 11-16 year olds. Community use of parks continues to be supported and through the summer attracted over 300,000 visitors whilst also providing Ranger led events and Ranger led school visits.
- An options appraisal is being undertaken to explore the potential for a city energy company; this will be reporting back on 20 September in the first instance before proceeding with a full business case of the preferred option.
- We are working with the European Investment Bank to understand the potential of using European Local ENergy Assistance (ELENA) funding to develop the city's potential for heat networks and large scale rollout of solar PV.
- We are now 33% of our way to achieving our carbon reduction target of 60% by 2027; we will be re-signing up to the Covenant of Mayors (soon to become the Global Covenant of Mayors) to support us on our way to meeting this target.
- Funding has been secured from Climate KIC to support the cities work in relation to sustainability; this includes grants to SMEs who have innovative ideas to assist us in meeting some of our energy-related challenges.
- Working with the Heat Network Delivery Unit in the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) the Sustainability Team is seeking to develop opportunities for heat networks across Birmingham. Over the past two years the team has secured £350,000 to develop the pre-investment evidence bases that are required to develop networks, working with various major energy consumers and neighbouring local authorities from across the GBS LEP to create a project pipeline for investment.
- The Sustainability Team has worked with ENGIE to continue to develop the Birmingham District Energy Scheme that supplies low carbon and low cost heat to major energy consumers across the city centre. A major interconnection between the Broad Street and Aston University schemes is being finalised and will allow further expansion and more connections to be realised on the scheme. To date there has been £15m worth of investment, 12km of pipework installed and a saving of 18,000 tonnes of carbon per year.
- The Flood Risk Management Strategy for Birmingham has been completed to draft status and is currently being updated to take account of consultation responses.
- The Cabinet Member, with responsibility for Flood Risk Management, has consolidated political oversight of flooding by now Chairing the Strategic Flood Risk Management Board (SFRMB) partnership meeting as well as attending the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.
- Flooding investigations for the June 2016 flood events are being undertaken. This has entailed 2000+ surveys covering 122 Roads; 422 reported flooded properties

from 712 responses. Partnership approach through SFRMB is being adopted.

- The phase one of the River Tame flood alleviation works for Perry Barr and Witton are nearing completion.
- Air Quality Steering and Management Groups with shared ownership of Air Quality as a Public Health Issue have been set up to oversee, coordinate and deliver and the Clean Air Action Plan. The programme of intervention actions being developed through this Action Plan which will ensure that Birmingham achieves its obligations and ambitions with respect to improving air quality and sustainably reduce the levels of key air pollutants (primarily nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter).
- Several actions and initiatives are taking place in respect of the Clean Air Zone and some of these include:
  - Hydrogen Buses and re-fuelling – UK and EU funding sourced to deploy 22 Hydrogen Fuel Cell Buses on Birmingham’s roads. This will be delivered along with hydrogen refuelling infrastructure.
  - Electric Buses and Charging – OLEV funding sourced through TFWM and National Express to procure electric buses to be deployed between Birmingham and Walsall. This will be accompanied with charging infrastructure for bus usage.
  - OLEV funding has been sourced to carry out Euro 6 approved LPG retrofit taxi programme and has retrofitted 20 Hackney Carriages and is set to deliver 63 taxi retrofits by December 2016. OLEV funding has also been sourced to implement electric charge points in 4 City Council buildings with 6 electric vehicles in operation as result.
  - Tyseley Energy Park planning application was submitted in August as a key location to include low/zero emission re-fuelling infrastructure as the first location to be developed in a network to support fleet transition to Electric, Hydrogen, CNG & LNG (compressed natural gas & liquid natural gas), bio-diesel, and LPG (liquefied petroleum gas). The site will also include a Hydrogen production facility. This also supports green growth through Hydrogen as part of the GBSLEP low carbon & environmental sector growth strategy.
  - We are in the process of determining the public availability of EV charging on Council owned land across the city at city and local centre locations, places of destination, and other key strategic locations linked to the road network.

## 5. Key Budget Issues

I am responsible as the Cabinet Member for significant financial resources in the delivery of my portfolio service as summarised in the table below:

Service	Expenditure £m	Income £m	Net Budget £m
Waste Management Services	73.7	(20.6)	53.1
Park Services (including internal recharges)	36.8	(22.6)	14.2
<b>Total Revenue Budget</b>	<b>110.5</b>	<b>(43.2)</b>	<b>67.3</b>

In addition, a total of £8.7m will be spent over the next 3 years to improve our Waste Management Services Depots and a further £3.2m will be spent over the same period on continuing to improve our Strategic and Local Parks. This expenditure will be funded primarily from City Council resources including historic Section 106 reserves and self-funded prudential borrowing.

### Waste Management Services

The resources are utilised to deliver an extensive range of services including domestic waste collections, recycling services, street cleaning, trade waste, green waste and the disposal of waste.

The main components of the expenditure include £24m on employees, £32m on waste disposal costs and the remainder is spent on transport and capital finance costs. The majority of the income (estimated at 60%) is received from our trade waste services and the remainder is generated from green waste and paper income. The net expenditure on the service of £53.1m is equivalent to £1 per week for each citizen of Birmingham.

A Service Improvement Plan has been developed and implemented to stabilise and improve the service following the completion of the Wheeled Bin Programme in November 2015 (the latter was completed within budget and to the planned timescale). The key projects that are being implemented include performance management frameworks, optimising the route planning, reducing missed collections, waste prevention & enforcement and re-balancing the work force to minimise agency and overtime expenditure. These actions may result in some mitigation of the financial pressures and overspend that is projected for the service in 2016/17 (the latter is estimated at £8m but needs to be considered in the context of total expenditure and income of £94.3m).

The financial challenges on the service will continue in the medium term to 2019/20 – additional efficiencies and savings are planned to provide a major contribution to the budget shortfall that is facing the City Council due to the ongoing national public expenditure restraints. The new Waste Strategy that is being developed to support the commissioning/procurement of the Waste Disposal Service in 2019 has the potential to make a significant contribution to improve our environment and to continue to reduce the cost of the service.

### Parks Services

The resources are utilised to deliver an extensive range of services including the maintenance of all our strategic and local parks, protecting our woodlands, providing allotment services and our park ranger services. Our services continue to receive national recognition for innovation and excellence.

The main components of the expenditure include £8m on employees and the remainder effectively relates to our commissioned grounds maintenance services (this includes services provided to other parts of the Council e.g. our housing estates).

The finances of the service are being managed effectively although a modest overspend of £0.8m is currently projected – this relates to some specific components of our savings programme for the generation of extra income from the Cofton Nursery and the

consideration of land re-designation to support the growth of the City and the development of new housing.

The current approved savings of £1m in 2016/17 for the service are only expected to increase marginally by £0.8m over the next 4 years to 2019/20 (primarily the land disposal programme of 8 acres per year compared to our estimated 8,000 acres of open public spaces and parks).

Strong financial management of the resources will continue and we will work closely with our partners and citizens to ensure that value for money continues to be provided to our service users.