

# Learning, Culture and Physical Activity Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Jayne Francis

Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Culture



**Making a positive difference** everyday to people's lives

# Portfolio overview

- Education of Children and Young People
- Arts and Culture and Tourism
- The Library of Birmingham and Community Libraries
- Museums
- Youth Engagement and Youth Service
- Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and Inclusion – **also Children’s Social Care Committee**
  
- Skills and Entrepreneurship in Schools - **Economy and Skills Committee**
- Employment Opportunities - **Economy and Skills Committee**
- Skills, expansion for key growth sectors enterprise and innovation - **Economy and Skills Committee**
- Lifelong Learning (post 14 skills and adult education) - **Economy and Skills Committee**

# Education of Children and Young People: School Improvement

- Birmingham City Council commissions Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP) to deliver school improvement
- Current contract runs until the end of the 2019/20 academic year.
- BEP reported to this committee on school performance last month.
- Ward based school performance data.

# Education of Children and Young People: School Admissions

- Service modernisation
- Applications for school places
- Appeals
- Fair Access Protocol

# Education of Children and Young People: School Place Planning

- To be responsible for securing sufficient school places to meet the needs of the population in Birmingham
- Birth rates are falling
- *ONS data also indicates a decrease in the net migration in the year 2017 which “indicate that the EU referendum result may be influencing people’s decision to migrate into and out of the UK, particularly EU and EU8 citizens... “ (ONS, August 2017).*
- Larger primary cohorts are now moving into secondary education so our Additional Places Programme is focussed on our secondary schools
- Annual School Capacity (SCAP) return for DfE
- **It remains a challenge to ensure there are sufficient places and financially sustainable schools in each area of the city without creating over provision and destabilising existing schools.**

# Education of Children and Young People: Travel to and from school

- The Cabinet Member for Children's Wellbeing, has the lead for Travel Assist
- Schools in Birmingham can sign up to the Modeshift STARS national award scheme which recognises excellence in encouraging walking, cycling and other sustainable travel (228 currently registered).
- Schools are able to access a wide variety of resources and activities to deliver travel plans, including road safety talks and Bikeability cycle training
- From September Car Free School Streets will be piloted with at least five schools in Birmingham.
- Following the consultation on budget proposals, no savings have been identified from School Crossings and they will continue to be provided at priority sites.
- Working with officers on this and will report back.

# Education of Children and Young People: Oversight of Direct Schools Grant

- Continue to work closely with Schools Forum on best use of the DSG
- Conversations ongoing about SEND and High Needs funding
- Many schools have raised the issue of declining budgets and the impact on their provision

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# Education of Children and Young People: Support to Schools

- Support ongoing campaign for fair funding for Birmingham's schools.
- National Education Union letter.
- Impacts being felt across the city (reduction in school day).
- With Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, Community Safety and Equalities have supported schools and the wider Birmingham community around Equalities education.

# Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and Inclusion

- Also falls under Children's Social Care committee.
- Following the SEND Local Area inspection in June 2018, a Written Statement of Action was produced that was approved by Ofsted.
- Recruitment to Assistant Director SEND – stability within the portfolio.

# Youth Engagement and Youth Service

- The Youth Service is an open access service available to all young people
- Offers a broad range of opportunities, experiences and activities relevant to the needs of young people.
- **Youth Employment** – Youth Promise Plus Phase 2.
- **Sexual Health** – A partner in delivering the “Umbrella” sexual health service.
- **Participation** e.g. youth forum, UK Youth Parliament, consultation work, city board.
- **Safeguarding young people** – keeping young people safe by providing safe spaces and working with young people to address issues that affect them e.g. Criminal Exploitation, Youth Violence, CSE, Extremism Agenda.

# Youth Service – key numbers

- Provided 16 safe and friendly environments in areas of high deprivation where young people can be inspired to achieve.
- 7,500 individual young people.
- Supported 163 NEET young people reach a positive destination
- 69,000 condoms distributed and 471 STI kits completed.
- 15,200 votes casted by young people across the city to elect five members of the UK Youth Parliament.
- One and only LGBTQI Youth Group.

# The Library of Birmingham and Community Libraries

- Now part of Education and Skills Directorate
- We have a lot of buildings around the city but there are financial challenges.
- Libraries are extremely important to communities across the city.
- Visited several libraries with more visits taking place over the coming weeks.
- Repairs required at several buildings.
- A review of the service is being undertaken so the focus is less on the buildings and more on the purpose of the Libraries service and the statutory duty.
- Libraries Working Group of councillors is also looking at this area.

# Arts, Culture, Tourism and Museums

- Birmingham Museums Trust Contract and Lease renewal
- Birmingham Museums Trust Capital programme ambitions
- Support to the Arts Funding 2019-20
  - revenue funded arts organisations update (meeting with arts orgs chairs)
  - arts project funding
  - arts events funding (Weekender and International Dance Festival)
- Core Cities – Cultural Compact proposal (working with Arts Council and Culture Central) including development of refreshed cultural and heritage strategies, investment in culture and a possible cultural infrastructure plan
- Risks / Challenges – DRUM building sale in Aston and capital budget for building repairs and maintenance liabilities
- Renewal of Old Rep Theatre Lease to Birmingham Ormiston Academy
- Film Birmingham / West Midlands Screen Bureau work
- Public Art update

# Commonwealth Games

- The Organising Committee are in the process of recruiting the overall Cultural Programme Director post who will coordinate and oversee the management of the wider cultural programme as well as the delivery of the opening and closing ceremonies and the Queen's baton relay.
- Work also progressing on an Education programme, linking in with the already successful UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools programme.

# Questions



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