

Members are reminded that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests relating to any items of business to be discussed at this meeting

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

NEIGHBOURHOOD AND COMMUNITY SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 14:00 HOURS
IN COMMITTEE ROOM 6, COUNCIL HOUSE, VICTORIA SQUARE,
BIRMINGHAM, B1 1BB

A G E N D A

1 NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chairman to advise the meeting to note that this meeting will be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site (www.birminghamnewsroom.com) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs. The whole of the meeting will be filmed except where there are confidential or exempt items.

2 APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Members are reminded that they must declare all relevant pecuniary interests and non-pecuniary interests relating to any items of business to be discussed at this meeting. If a 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 - 12

4 MINUTES

To confirm the Minutes of the last Meeting held on Thursday, 30 July 2015.

13 - 22

5 TRACKING REPORT: WORKING WITH HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS

Jonathon Driffill, Chair of BSHP, Rob James, Service Director – Housing Transformation, Anne-Marie Powell, Integrated Service Head - Housing Strategy, Policy and Commissioning and Nigel Kletz, AD - Corporate Procurement to discuss progress on the recommendations.

23 - 26

6 **CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT AND HOMES**

Councillor John Cotton, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Management and Homes to discuss his priorities for the year as they relate to the Committee.

27 - 30

7 **NEIGHBOURHOOD AND COMMUNITY SERVICES O&S COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

To discuss the Committee's Work Programme

8 **DATES OF MEETINGS**

All Meetings scheduled for the following Thursdays at 1400 hours in the Council House:

15 October - Room 2
19 November - Room 1
17 December - Room 6
21 January - Room 6
18 February - Room 6
17 March - Room 2
21 April - Room 6

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

To consider any request for call in/councillor call for action/petitions (if received).

10 **OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

To consider any items of business by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) that in the opinion of the Chairman are matters of urgency.

11 **AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS**

Chairman to move:-

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

P R I V A T E A G E N D A

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

NEIGHBOURHOOD AND COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 30 JULY 2015

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD AND COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY, 30 JULY 2015 AT 1400 HOURS IN COMMITTEE ROOM 6, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM

PRESENT:-

Councillor Iqbal in the Chair;

Councillors Atwal, Hartley, Jenkins, Spence, Mackey, Pears and Harmer.

ALSO PRESENT:-

Rob James	- Service Director Housing Transformation
Joyce Springer-Amadedon	- Equality & Community Engagement Manager
Rose Kiely	- Group Overview and Scrutiny Manager
Amanda Simcox	- Scrutiny Research and Policy Officer
Marie Reynolds	- Committee Services

NOTICE OF RECORDING

- 1 It was noted that the meeting was being webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site (www.birminghamnewsroom.com) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs. The whole of the meeting would be filmed except where there were confidential or exempt items.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE AND CHAIRPERSON

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE , CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR

2 **RESOLVED:-**

- (i) That the resolution of the City Council appointing the Committee and Chair, with membership set out below for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the City Council in May 2016 be noted:-

Labour Group

Councillors Atwal, Cartwright, Hartley, Iqbal (Chair), Jenkins, Phillips, Spence and Williams.

Conservative Group

Councillors Lines, Mackey and Pears.

Liberal Democrat Group

Councillor Harmer

- (ii) that Councillor Jenkins be elected Deputy Chair, for the purpose of substitution for the Chair if absent, for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2016.

APOLOGIES

- 3 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillor Harmer for lateness and Councillors Cartwright, Phillips, Williams and Lines for their inability to attend the meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 4 Members were reminded that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests relating to any items of business to be discussed at this meeting. If a pecuniary interest was declared a Member must not speak or take part in that agenda item. Any declarations would be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The following schedule was submitted:-

(See document No 1)

- 5 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Terms of Reference be noted.

DATES OF MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

6 **RESOLVED:-**

- (i) That the Committee meets on the following Thursdays at 1400 hours in the Council House:-

17 September (Room 6)	15 October (Room 2)
19 November (Room 1)	17 December (Room 6)
21 January (Room 6)	18 February (Room 6)
17 March (Room 2)	21 April (Room 6)

NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT AND HOMES – TO INCLUDE PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR AND LIFESPAN OF TOWER BLOCKS

Mr Rob James, Service Director Housing Transformation gave a comprehensive presentation of the responsibilities and the officer contact details within the Place Directorate:-

(See document No. 2)

During the presentation Mr James tabled the following information and explained the housing responsibilities and where they were located within the 3 Directorates of the City Council.

(See document No. 3)

As a result of the presentation, in response to questions from members the following were amongst the points made:-

Several concerns were raised by members regarding the roll-out of the Wheeled Bins service and associated issues, which included considerable delays in waste collections whereupon Mr Rob James confirmed that he would discuss directly with Penny Smith, Programme Director.

The Chairman agreed to liaise with Councillor Victoria Quinn, Chair of Economy Skills & Sustainability Overview and Scrutiny Committee as believed it was part of their remit.

In response to comments made regarding the changing balance of home ownership declining and the increasing growth of the private rented sector whereby the rules relating to the housing multiple occupancy (HMO's) were not working as well as it was growing, Mr Rob James agreed that the growth in the private rented sector had changed the whole makeup and that was part of the reason why they were looking at a more comprehensive housing offer.

He highlighted that for the City it was not just having to meet additional housing

needs over the next 10 years, but also the mixture of housing that was required and what was to be undertaken by the City Council, in order to ensure the safety and sustainability of tenancies within those sectors. He confirmed that one of the areas that they was looking at specifically, was the private rented sector and although the team was relatively small due to past reductions, they was looking to see whether a review could be undertaken on the statutory licensing on HMO's but also some additional licensing to deal with particular premises that did not qualify as statutory multiple occupancies due to the designs of the buildings.

He added that if the City Council implemented an additional licensing scheme or selected licensing scheme in some areas to specific types of properties for e.g., hostels, then an assessment of the impact of those types of properties on the neighbourhood and community would have to be undertaken. He added that it was something that they were trying to tackle through the consultation and highlighted that members' contributions would be most useful in this instance. He stressed that the City Council wanted to ensure that rogue landlords were penalised whilst continuing to work with the good landlords in order to ensure that people with housing needs entered into the housing sector with some confidence with regard to being housed in properties that they would want to live in.

In response to comments and concerns raised by members pertaining to elderly/disabled tenants requiring assistance with their gardens and associated issues which included the questionable strength of housing management, Mr Rob James referred to the rolling out of the Place Managers within every ward of the city which he confirmed was mainly from the Housing portfolio although, there were other areas within the directorate, where there was a point of contact for an officer that could tackle various issues. He highlighted that they were presently looking to re-invent the trainee scheme which would be supported by external funding with corporate colleagues. He further highlighted that the neighbourhood caretakers should also be able to assist in terms of where there were problems, adding however that any specific issues could be raised with him after the meeting.

With regard to tenancy conditions, Mr Rob James agreed that there was a definite need to be able to enforce tenancy conditions in order to address appropriately the tenants that blatantly refused to comply with these conditions. He stated that tenants renting properties did have a responsibility to ensure that they were kept in a tidy order however, where there was a genuine need to assist tenants in their homes, a mechanism needed to be sought.

Following comments relating to community capacity and building action teams to help residents that required additional help, Mr Rob James confirmed that Ifor Jones, Service Director was looking at the area of community engagement and the mobilisation of those communities in order to help.

In response to comments relating to the importance of how residents perceived the City Council and that they should believe the City Council was providing the best for them, Mr Rob James stressed the importance of residents perceptions

whilst highlighting that there were a great deal of challenges ahead. He stated the City Council was a different beast these days which had to be recognised by all and in order to do so, other ways were having to be found of working and engaging with people in the activities the City Council continued to carry out, as well as the activities they no longer continued to undertake.

He highlighted the importance of managing people's expectations relating to what they should expect and in particular with council housing agreed that it was difficult to accommodate everyone and that was why, they were looking at the whole housing package within the city whether it was; the private rented sector, housing associations or Birmingham City Council, there was the need to develop a comprehensive housing offer. He stated that part of that was communicating with people where there was a shortage of housing supply not just in the city, but also nationally and the requirement of developing a strategy to include managing those expectations.

Following comments and concerns relating to the call centre and associated issues, Mr Rob James agreed to discuss the concerns raised by members with Chris Gibbs, Service Director. He confirmed that the service was now managed in-house and a number of issues had since been highlighted for improvement. He confirmed that Chris Gibbs would respond directly to the Chairman as he was not sure if it was the responsibility of the Committee.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Mr Rob James for his presentation.

7 **RESOLVED:-**

That the presentation and comments be noted.

EQUALITIES, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND COHESIAN

Ms Joyce Springer-Amadedon, Equality and Community Engagement Manager introduced the following presentation which illustrated the amalgamation of three separate council functions now combined as a single service following a service re-design in 2014:-

(See document No. 4)

In response to a question from the Chairman relating to the Trojan Horse theme, Ms Joyce Springer-Amadedon referred to the specific programme of work relating to schools as part of the Government's new prevent duty. She reported that Razia Butt, schools adviser had been appointed whereupon she was based in the office part of the week. She had developed a tool kit for working in schools and the programme of work was being rolled out during this year as well as next year.

It was reported that 20 schools together with their respective head teachers had been approached to take part in a piece of work pertaining to resilience building and support for young people in schools and their families.

Ms Joyce Springer-Amadedon agreed to provide more detailed information at the request of the Chairman.

At this juncture, the Chairman confirmed that Child Poverty would be discussed at the meeting in January 2016.

In response to a question relating to community safety managers, Mr Rob James referred to the 4 co-ordinators that worked across the city and highlighted that Pam Paris covered the area of Sutton Coldfield and subsequently agreed to provide her contact details after the meeting.

In response to further comments relating to the Trojan Horse work in schools, Ms Joyce Springer-Amadedon reiterated that Razia Butt based at Lancaster Circus was undertaking the work.

Ms Joyce Springer-Amadedon agreed to provide to members further information relating to Citispyce.

In response to concerns raised regarding drugs being openly sold on the streets and associated criminal issues that should be addressed with enforcement, Mr Rob James stated that criminal activity should be dealt with by the police, however, if there were any criminal events happening in communities that the City Council could assist the police through anti-social behaviour officers, they would be tackled jointly.

It was reported that the City Council had developed under the new Police and Crime Act, new procedures that the City Council could follow and there was also a new range of powers that could be used in addition to the enforcement powers that were already in place. The City Council had developed a number of processes and procedures with the police and if members had any issues they wished to address, they should be raised at either the local delivery or safer community groups.

Mr Rob James added that if members had any specific issues they would like raised with the police he would ensure that they were passed on whereupon the police could contact them directly to discuss.

In response to comments and questions regarding the work relating to violence extremism, Ms Joyce Springer-Amadedon referred to the tool kit drawn up by Razia Butt, schools adviser which addressed the areas of how to work with parents as well as young people. She stated that it was a triage system with parents, young people, head teachers and teachers of the school all working together. She confirmed that Razia Butt's way of working with young people was quite subtle which included a particular dialogue as well as observing certain situations and asking them how they identified themselves or what they identified with. She spoke to parents and teachers separately and then collectively.

Ms Joyce Springer-Amadedon stated that although violent extremism was not a

huge issue it was a significant issue for Birmingham, as it was one of the areas that the Home Office considered to be key in the development of radical extremism and radicalisation of young people. In terms of work, it was understood that the team worked very carefully with schools, young people and families in tackling some of the issues leading to violence extremism.

At this juncture, the Chairman highlighted that there would be a Prevent Update in October 2015.

In response to members' comments relating to the Big Lottery and providing links and support to local organisations and concerns relating to the potential loss of the Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's), Ms Joyce Springer-Amadedon referred to how the departments of the City Council had massively reduced due to budget cuts over recent years. The financial impact on the City Council was that it was having to work differently more innovatively and effectively with partners and communities, adding that the message to communities was that the City Council was now a different beast with it being a much smaller organisation and that it would continue to reduce over the next several years.

Mr Rob James stated that part of the work the police were undertaking was re-inventing their service in order to determine the future operating model for 2020. They were embarking upon a new operating model on how they were going to police within the West Midlands in the future, and part of that, would include what could be achieved around Neighbourhood Policing and the PCSO's. He advised that the Police and Crime Commissioner would most likely update members accordingly.

He confirmed that the work Joyce and her team undertook with the Police and Crime Board was to determine what the priorities were for the future, which took place every couple of years. The information received to determine the priorities was from various sources which included; scientific evidence, information from the local dimension and crime statistics. He added that it was a large piece of work determining these priorities and it was how they were then tackled that needed to be done differently.

Ms Joyce Springer-Amadedon reported that they had recently met with the Big Lottery and confirmed that the Big Lottery had in the recent past started to organise meetings with District Committees and that her department had agreed to support them in this area of work. She highlighted that the Big Lottery were keen for members' involvement. However, due to the work being undertaken by Ifor Jones relating to the Community Governance, the Big Lottery had agreed to wait until the work had been completed before they continued to meet at District Committees.

Ms Joyce Springer-Amadedon stated that with regard to the wider funding issue, she had met with them at the same time and confirmed that they were looking to invite other funders that had had problems in the past with communities in Birmingham in being successful in acquiring funding. In this instance, she referred to the engagement sessions they were looking to have

with them, and subsequently highlighted that there was a great deal to undertake over the next few months with regard to the various areas of work that included improving on the standard of applications that were to be submitted for funding.

Several further points were submitted from members relating to the Big Lottery adopting a more pro-active approach in supporting good projects by being more willing and accepting that some of the funding not only went towards supporting the projects, but also towards the internal capacity of the organisation if necessary, and it was therefore suggested that there needed to be a slightly different approach with the incorporation of more robust discussions.

Ms Joyce Springer-Amadedon confirmed that she would discuss the issues highlighted by members with the Big Lottery especially the specific areas in how they support organisations. She stated that she had had a conversation with the Chief Executive of Birmingham Settlement who had encountered difficulties in placing a significant bid resulting in the bid going back and forth a number of times, which she highlighted, did not bode well for the smaller less experienced organisations placing bids. She advised that the next meeting with the Big Lottery would be taking place in 6 weeks and members were invited to come along.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Mr Rob James and Joyce Springer-Amadedon for attending the meeting and presenting.

8 RESOLVED:-

That the presentation and comments be noted.

WORK PROGRAMME 2015/16

The following paper was received:-

(See document No. 5)

The Chairman drew members' attention to the fact that the Work Programme had been amended since the last meeting. He advised that the "Twenty is Plenty" would be discussed at the Economy and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

It was highlighted by Councillor Jenkins the need to identify an appropriate place for an update of the work relating to Equalities and Social Inclusion and the Prevention Strategy and other areas that were part of the Committee's remit.

The Chairman referred to the Neighbourhood Challenge and encouraged members to email their ideas and comments directly to him, Rose Kiely or Amanda Simcox.

At this juncture, Rose Kiely referred to the Neighbourhood Challenge highlighting that the plan was for a larger piece of work to be undertaken in February 2016 by the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee, relating to the Districts and Wards and how they were going to operate. It was therefore suggested, that it would be logical for the Committee to specifically look at what was happening with the Neighbourhood Challenge strand which by then, the Committee would have a better understanding of how it was working with the idea of writing up the findings, and then combining the two pieces of work resulting in a report being submitted to City Council in April 2016.

9 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Work Programme be noted.

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

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

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

- 11 No other urgent business was raised.
-

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

12 **RESOLVED:-**

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

The meeting ended at 1530 hours.

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CHAIRMAN

Report of:	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Management and Homes
To:	Neighbourhood and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	17 September 2015

Progress Report on Implementation:

Working with Housing Associations

Review Information

Date approved at City Council:	8 th April 2014
Member who led the original review:	Councillor Majid Mahmood
Lead Officer for the review:	Robert James, Service Director Housing Transformation
Date progress last tracked:	26 January 2015

1. Members are asked to consider progress against the recommendations and give their view as to how progress is categorized for each.

Appendices

1	Scrutiny Office guidance on the tracking process
2	Recommendations you are tracking today
3	Recommendations tracked previously and concluded

For more information about this report, please contact

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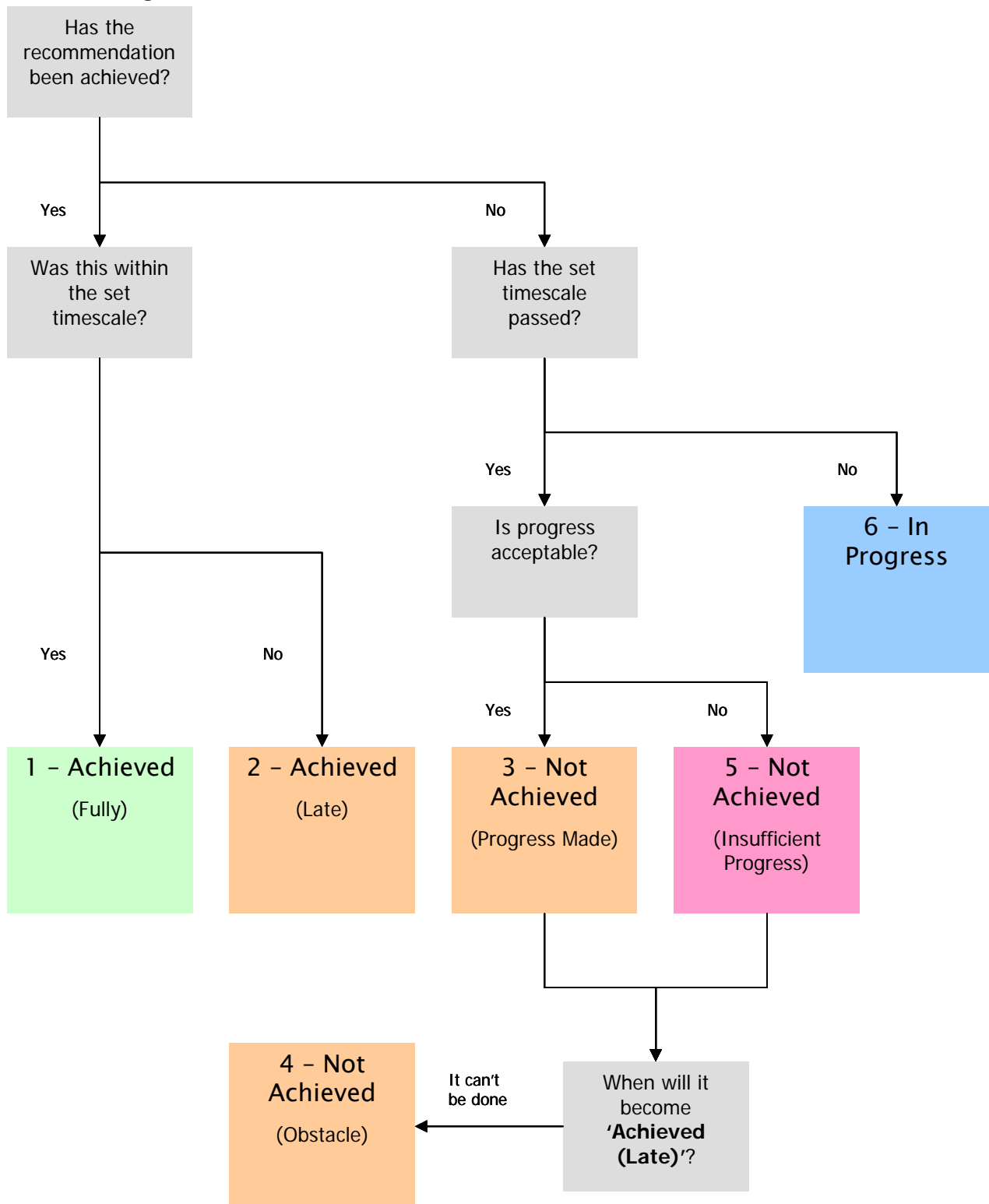
Appendix ①: The Tracking Process

In making its assessment, the Committee may wish to consider:

- What progress/ key actions have been made against each recommendation?
- Are these actions pertinent to the measures required in the recommendation?
- Have the actions been undertaken within the time scale allocated?
- Are there any matters in the recommendation where progress is outstanding?
- Is the Committee satisfied that sufficient progress has been made and that the recommendation has been achieved?

Category	Criteria
1: Achieved (Fully)	The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has been fully implemented within the timescale specified.
2: Achieved (Late)	The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has been fully implemented but not within the timescale specified.
3: Not Achieved (Progress Made)	The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has not been fully achieved, but there has been significant progress made towards full achievement. An anticipated date by which the recommendation is expected to become achieved must be advised.
4: Not Achieved (Obstacle)	The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has not been fully achieved, but all possible action has been taken. Outstanding actions are prevented by obstacles beyond the control of the Council (such as passage of enabling legislation).
5: Not Achieved (Insufficient Progress)	The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has not been fully achieved and there has been insufficient progress made towards full achievement. An anticipated date by which the recommendation is expected to become achieved must be advised.
6: In Progress	It is not appropriate to monitor achievement of the recommendation at this time because the timescale specified has not yet expired.

The Tracking Process



Appendix 2: Progress with Recommendations

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility (Lead officer in brackets)	Original Date For Completion	Cabinet Member's Assessment
R1	That a clear & integrated framework for partnership working with Registered Providers at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategic - District (including District Committees as well as District Housing Panels) and - Neighbourhood levels (including Ward Committees) be agreed jointly with Birmingham Social Housing Partnership (BSHP) members.	Leader of the Council Exec Members for Local Services CHF Exec Board BSHP Exec Board - in partnership (Louse Collett)	September 2014	2 - Achieved (late)
Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')				
<p>At the previous meeting, Members were advised as follows:</p> <p>A new strategic partnership has been established to enable joint working between the City Council, Registered Providers and other interested parties. City Housing Forum has now met three times, has agreed Terms of Reference and developed a work programme.</p> <p>Much of the work following on from this Review will be taken forward by City Housing Forum (CHF).</p> <p>Background documents for this report include the CHF Terms of reference and work programme.</p> <p>At a district level good progress has been made on establishing District Housing Panels and most districts have now held at least one DHP meeting. The purpose of the DHP is to provide a forum for identifying local housing issues and developing local responses. Membership of the panels varies at a local level depending upon the nature of housing local housing priorities but registered providers do attend the majority of the established DHPs.</p> <p>Understandably at a neighbourhood level the situation is more diverse, reflecting the patterns of registered provider stock ownership within the city. Within some neighbourhoods registered providers, such as Castle Vale Community Housing Association, have a well-developed role in neighbourhood management. This is usually where the registered provider is the major landlord in the area. Actions arising from R2 will seek to further develop registered providers role at the neighbourhood level.</p> <p>Since the previous meeting, ongoing discussions have taken place and work is underway at District Housing Panel meetings. In terms of integrated strategic partnership working, this is in place and progress has been made in delivering the work programme adopted by the City Housing Forum (CHF). This will be discussed at the next meeting of CHF and subsequently with the BSHP Executive.</p>				

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility (Lead officer in brackets)	Original Date For Completion	Cabinet Member's Assessment
R4	That the Councillor guide to BSHP be refreshed to include dedicated contacts for BSHP organisations and clear routes of contact for Councillors and that both be kept up-to-date.	BSHP Exec Board (Rob James)	September 2014	2 - Achieved (late)

Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')

At the previous meeting, members were advised that work was nearing conclusion, and would coincide with the refresh of the BSHP website. A final document would also be produced which would be consistent with the content of the website.

Since that meeting Lead Contacts for RSLs have been distributed to the District Councillors. The website is now complete and will be re-launched mid September, thereby giving Councillors a guide to the work of BSHP

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility (Lead officer in brackets)	Original Date For Completion	Cabinet Member's Assessment
R5	That the framework outlined in R01 includes a commitment from both the Executive and BSHP Executive Board to a new conversation and developing a new offer to address the development issues identified by Housing Associations during the Inquiry with a shared focus on strategic planning.	Leader of the Council Cab Mem for Dvt, Jobs and Skills Exec Members for Local Services BSHP Exec Board (Clive Skidmore)	September 2014	2 – Achieved (Late)

Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')

At the previous meeting, members were advised that the key issue of Housing Growth had been included within the first work programme of the new City Housing Forum referred to in R1, and the development of District Housing Panels would provide mechanism to discuss housing development at local levels. Since that meeting, there has been active discussion at some of the DHPs on potential BCC sites for development, notably the Greenwood Academy site at Castle Vale. The Council has published its Housing Growth Plan which sets out how the Council will work with Housing Associations to develop more homes and sets out a policy framework

At the previous meeting, BSHP were keen to continue engagement with the City at a strategic level on the issue of housing growth and welcomed the opportunity for further dialogue with senior members and officers as to how the capacity of housing associations within the city could be maximised to contribute towards achieving housing growth targets.

Since that time, BCC have continued to work with Housing Associations providing strategic guidance/support for bids to the Homes and Communities Agency for grant funding to develop new affordable homes in Birmingham. In 2014-15, 226 new affordable homes (affordable rent and low cost home ownership) were built by Housing Associations, which contributed towards the housing growth targets.

In the 2015-18 Affordable Homes Programme the HCA have allocated funding to Housing Associations to deliver 422 new affordable homes on sites in Birmingham. In addition, BCC has supported Continuous Market Engagement bids for a further 173 new homes (to be built by HAs).

BCC have also worked closely with YMCA, St Basil's and Catalyst Mutual Enterprise who have submitted bids under the Homelessness Change/Platform for Life programme. Homelessness Change will provide tailored hostel accommodation and improved facilities for the provision of healthcare, training or education for rough sleepers with the aim of helping them off the streets and transforming their lives.

Platform for Life is a new programme for shared accommodation, let at an affordable rent, for young people aged 18 to 24, who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, in housing need and who would not be a priority for self-contained housing. The aim is to provide a stable place to live, where residents can be supported into training and education, linked effectively into existing health services, and encouraged into long term employment, independence and healthy living. This is not supported housing but is aimed at young people with low support needs who want to work or study, but need stable accommodation in order to do so.

£25 million has been made available by the Department of Health to support developments across both elements of this funding programme in England which will be delivered by the HCA.

This work and relationship will be further strengthened as we take forward the Leader's Policy Statement commitment by developing a Comprehensive Housing Offer.

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility (Lead officer in brackets)	Original Date For Completion	Cabinet Member's Assessment
R6	That the Executive and BSHP lobby the Homes and Communities Agency jointly to enable Birmingham to secure a greater and proportionate share of Housing Grants monies.	Leader of the Council BSHP Exec Board (Clive Skidmore)	June 2014	2 - Achieved (Late)

Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')

At the previous meeting, Members were advised that management structure issues within the HCA have led to this recommendation being stalled. Dialogue would continue, but it seemed unlikely that there would be a short term conclusion. The growth agenda forms part of a larger issue affecting all aspects of BCC priorities. Consideration was to be given to the way this dialogue was taken forward taking account of the implications for City Deal and the Local Enterprise Partnership.

Members are now advised that there is currently significant unallocated funding within the HCA's Affordable Homes Programme 2015-18 which is available for Housing Associations to bid for. The HCA is using a model of continuous market engagement to ensure a more flexible approach to funding new schemes and to give maximum scope to Associations to bid for the available funding. There is approximately £800m funding available via the HCA'S Continuous Market Engagement.

The real challenges to HAs delivering more homes in the city relate to the Government's recent announcements launching Housing Association Right to Buy, and the 1% cut in rents over the next 4 years. Both of these will affect the financial viability of HAs and disincentivise development on their part.

The Cabinet Member and the Chair of BSHP have written to the Secretary of State on this and other issues arising from the Chancellor's Budget.

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility (Lead officer in brackets)	Original Date For Completion	Cabinet Member's Assessment
R7	That the potential for shared services – both neighbourhood-specific & service-specific – be explored in detail with BSHP members.	Leader of the Council Deputy Leader of the Council Cab Mem for HWB Exec Members for Local Services BSHP Executive (Rob James)	October 2014	2 - Achieved (late)

Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')

Members were advised previously that, discussions had taken place between the Leader of the City Council and BSHP reps and the issue was also addressed at the October event mentioned earlier. District Housing Panels will continue to address local issues, and further development was required – which would be monitored through City Housing Forum.

Members are advised that this work is ongoing and will develop as further opportunities arise, but the recommendation has been made in that the exploration of current options have been discussed. See Recommendation 8. This is being explored through BSHP and City Housing Forum eg. House 2 Home – ongoing assessment will continue through City Housing Forum.

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility (Lead officer in brackets)	Original Date For Completion	Cabinet Member's Assessment
R8	That a joint neighbourhood management scheme be piloted to inform ongoing work on the feasibility of lead neighbourhood managers with BSHP members in appropriate localities.	Deputy Leader Exec Members for Local Services (Rob James)	October 2014	2 – Achieved (late)

Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')

Members were advised that Midland Heart were working in the Perry Barr area on a neighbourhood management project. The results from this project will assist in shaping future models and progress would be monitored through the City Housing Forum.

Members are advised that a proposal from Midland Heart will be presented to the Cabinet Member in September, and will be discussed at the Midland Heart/BCC Board Meeting on 11th September. An evaluation of the proposal will take place and will be presented to the Executive.

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility (Lead officer in brackets)	Original Date For Completion	Cabinet Member's Assessment
R9	That dedicated work on opportunities for joint procurement be undertaken with BSHP members with an emphasis on supporting local economies.	Cab Mem for Commissioning, Contracting and Improvement BSHP Exec Board (Nigel Kletz)	October 2014	4 – Not Achieved (Obstacle)
Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')				
<p>Members are advised that it is considered it is not yet appropriate to consider joint procurement activity with BSHP members until more progress is made on neighbourhood management arrangements.</p> <p>Wider consideration of joint procurement will feature on a refreshed work programme for City Housing Forum. This is likely to be later this year and the Lead Officer will be included in City Housing Forum discussions.</p>				

Appendix ③: Concluded Recommendations

These recommendations have been tracked previously and concluded. They are presented here for information only.

concluded

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Date Concluded by Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Tracking Assessment
R2	That BSHP hosts a workshop, supported by the Council, to develop working with Councillors at all levels within the context of the new framework (as stated at R01) for partnership working.	Deputy Leader of the Council and BSHP Exec Board (Louise Collett)	26 January 2015	1 – Achieved (fully)
R3	That clear structure charts for housing-related areas and other relevant departmental contact information be shared with Housing Associations and updated regularly (as part of a wider commitment to a more joined-approach to working with Housing Associations and recognising continuing change within Council staffing).	Deputy Leader of the Council (Rob James)	26 January 2015	2 – Achieved (late)
R10	That an assessment of progress against the recommendations and suggestions made in this report should be presented to the Partnership, Contract Performance and Third Sector Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Housing Transformation Board.	Deputy Leader (Rob James)	26 January 2015	1 – Achieved (fully)

**NEIGHBOURHOOD AND COMMUNITY SAFETY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE SEPTEMBER 2015**

**PRIORITY REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT
AND HOMES**

REPORT BY: COUNCILLOR JOHN COTTON

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report sets out my portfolio priorities for 2015/16 and updates Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on recent announcements and future issues.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES

I have accountability for:

Council housing management services	Oversight and direction of estate management services and best use of housing stock (across all housing providers). Repairs and maintenance programmes.
Registered Social Landlords	Liaison with the Birmingham Social Housing Partnership on neighbourhood management initiatives and the housing growth agenda.
Private Rented Sector	Licensing and regulation. Private Tenancy Unit activities. Bond and deposit scheme initiatives.

I am advised by the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing on:

Pre-tenancy Services	Assessing housing need, options for vulnerable adults, children and young people and offenders. Temporary accommodation provision. Initiatives for rough sleepers.
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I am advised by the Cabinet Member for Inclusion and Community Safety on provision of accommodation for the victims of domestic violence.

I advise the Cabinet Member for Development, Transport and the Economy on tenure mix in the supply of housing, based on analysis of housing need.

I take advice from the Cabinet Members for Children's Services; Development, Transport and the Economy; Health and Social Care; Sustainability; Skills, Learning and Culture; and Inclusion and Community Safety on the linkages with non-Council services delivered by partners in the Districts.

I will be working with Executive Members for Districts to support their "neighbourhood challenge" role – with the aim of improving the performance of all council services at a local level and promoting partnership working and service integration across the whole public sector on:

Tenant engagement in social housing	Tenant engagement in the management and development of social housing and Housing Liaison Boards.
Neighbourhood Management	Wider council and public sector integration at the local level.
Cleaner Neighbourhoods	Street cleansing, advising the Cabinet Member for Sustainability on neighbourhood issues. Enforcement of legislation relating to litter prevention, fly-posting, placarding, graffiti and fly-tipping.
Pest Control	Provision of the pest control service.
Local Parks and Allotments	Provision, maintenance and usage of local facilities.

3. PRIORITIES

The Executive remains committed to working together for a fair, prosperous and democratic city, with a clear focus on priorities and outcomes.

This includes the opportunity for everyone to live in decent, affordable housing; in clean neighbourhoods and to enjoy good levels of health and life expectancy.

Therefore my portfolio priorities for this year are to:

- Deliver integrated Place-based management, ensuring that neighbourhood services are coordinated and delivered efficiently, reflecting local needs and priorities.
- Develop a comprehensive housing offer, to ensure that all citizens have the opportunity to enjoy affordable, safe and decent accommodation.
- Ensure that the growing private rented sector provides decent, affordable accommodation by making use of our licensing powers and ensuring a stronger partnership through our Social Lettings Agency, Let to Birmingham.

- Work with Districts to ensure they deliver a robust "Neighbourhood Challenge", holding both the council and other service providers to account for the quality and effectiveness of local public services.
- Work with Districts to ensure that our scarce resources are deployed in a manner that helps to improve the local street scene and environment.
- To continue to maintain investment in our existing properties and to build new properties that meet Birmingham's future housing needs.

4. OTHER KEY PROGRAMMES

In addition to the priorities outlined above, there are a number of other key programmes that will be progressed during 2015/16 including:

- A review of housing services to older people, ensuring that we consult on the types of support services and the adequacy of the accommodation we provide.
- A review of tenancy conditions in line with proposed legislation in the current Housing Bill.
- Undertake consultation on the introduction of additional / discretionary licensing schemes within the growing private rented sector.
- Re-Procurement of Council House Repairs and Maintenance and Investment Contracts to commence April 2016.

5. KEY BUDGET ISSUES

I am responsible as the Cabinet Member for the Housing Revenue Account with expenditure of £290m in 2015/16, which is funded by an equivalent amount of income from rents and service charges. These resources are used to repair and maintain existing stock, provide valued estate and tenancy management services and payment of income on outstanding debt. In addition, I am responsible for a capital budget of £100m in 2015/16 for investment in the existing stock and the building of new homes (this totals £310m over the next 3 years from 2015/16 to 2017/18).

In addition I have responsibility for a revenue budget of £1.3m that is utilised for managing the responsibilities of the private sector housing (including HMO Licensing, empty properties and registered providers of housing).

The Housing Revenue Account will be under financial pressure over the next 5 years as a result of:

- the impact of the welfare reforms and introduction of Universal Credit (arrears will increase)
- the liabilities from the equal pay obligations
- price inflation, as the construction industry recovers

- the impact of the new rent reduction policy over the next 4 years, which was recently announced by the Chancellor in his recent Budget Statement.

In particular, it is estimated that the new rent policy will reduce revenue resources in the HRA by an estimated £42m by 2019/20 – this is the cumulative effect by the end of that particular year and is equivalent to almost 14% of total income.

6. RECENT GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following the Chancellor's Budget announcement on 8 July this year, the challenge for housing in Birmingham became even greater. We are working with our partners to look at the implications of these policies which will undoubtedly impact on some of the most vulnerable people in our City, in particular the proposed welfare reforms, the extension of Right to Buy to tenants of registered providers and the proposed review of 'lifetime tenancies' raise particular challenges for Birmingham's citizens.

A joint letter from the Chair of BSHP and myself has been sent to the Minister of State for Housing and Planning, outlining our concerns and I will be able to update Members of this committee on our joint work to address some of these issues in my update report on 17 March 2016.

Councillor John Cotton

Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Management and Homes



Neighbourhood and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2015/2016

Chair: Cllr Zafar Iqbal

Committee Members: Cllrs Gurdial Singh Atwal, Andy Cartwright, Roger Harmer, Kath Hartley, Kerry Jenkins, John Lines, Ewan Mackey, David Pears, Eva Phillips, Sybil Spence and Elaine Williams.

Officer Support Rose Kiely: Tel: 303 1730
Amanda Simcox: Tel: 675 8444

1 Meeting Schedule

Date / Start at 2pm	What	Attendees/ Officer Contact
25 June 2015 Committee Room 6	Informal meeting: Work Programme Discussion	Emma Williamson Mashuq Ally, AD Equalities, Community Safety & Cohesion Joyce Springer-Amadedon Chris Jordan
30 July 2015 Committee Room 6	Introduction to portfolio: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place Directorate – to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private rented sector Lifespan of tower blocks Community Safety & Cohesion 	Rob James, Director, Housing Transformation Joyce Springer-Amadedon, Equality & Community Engagement Manager
17 September 2015 Committee Room 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tracking: Working with Housing Associations Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Management and Homes 	Jonathon Drifill, Chair of BSHP, Rob James, Anne-Marie Powell and Nigel Kletz Cllr John Cotton/Marcia Wynter
15 October 2015 Committee Room 2 Deadline for reports 6 Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birmingham: where the world meets - Tracking Report including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation 9: Cabinet Member for Skills, Learning and Culture to report back on the Birmingham Heritage Week (10th – 17th Sept) PREVENT Strategy Update The operational roll out of wheeled bins (in particular Sutton Coldfield) 	TBC Cllr Penny Holbrook / Jon Lawton Mashuq Ally Penny Smith / Matt Kelly (TBC)



Date / Start at 2pm	What	Attendees/ Officer Contact
19 November 2015 Committee Room 1 Deadline for reports 10 Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cabinet Member for Inclusion and Community Safety. Discussion to include random violent crime Tracking Report: Working with Communities to Prevent Relationship Violence Update on Domestic Violence Strategy 	Cllr James McKay/Marcia Wynter TBC Mashuq Ally to advise
17 December 2015 Committee Room 6 Deadline for reports 8 Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress on Equalities and Social Inclusion Neighbourhood Challenge Inquiry (TOR) 	Mashuq Ally TBC
21 January 2016 Committee Room 6 Deadline for reports 12 Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Poverty 	Mashuq Ally
18 February 2016 Committee Room 6 Deadline for reports 9 Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report on the Community Safety Partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To include neighbourhood policing & Neighbourhood Tasking Groups (NTGs) Domestic Homicide Reviews Neighbourhood Challenge - Update report 	ACC Marcus Beale and Mashuq Ally Paula Harding TBC
17 March 2016 Committee Room 6 Deadline for reports 8 Mar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Management and Homes. Discussion to include Volunteers and the third sector Cabinet Member for Inclusion and Community Safety Tracking: Health of the Birmingham's Third Sector 	Cllr John Cotton / Marcia Wynter Cllr James McKay / Marcia Wynter TBC
21 April 2016 Committee Room 2 Deadline for reports 12 Apr	TBC	TBC



2 Outstanding Tracking Reports

Inquiry	Member who led the Inquiry	Recommendations Outstanding	Date
Birmingham: Where the world meets	Cllr Waseem Zaffar	Recommendations 1 (Welcome Pack) and 8 and: Recommendation 9: Cabinet Member for Skills, Learning and Culture to report back on the Birmingham Heritage Week (10 th – 17 th Sept)	15 Oct 2015
Working with Communities to Prevent Relationship Violence	Cllr Mariam Khan	Recommendations 1 - 4	19 Nov 2015
Working with Housing Associations	Cllr Majid Mahmood	Recommendations 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9	17 Sep 2015
Health of Birmingham's Third Sector	Cllr Majid Mahmood	<p>Recommendation 1: A thorough and detailed mapping exercise of all third sector provision is undertaken.</p> <p>To be provided: A final report giving an overview (to familiarise the NCS Committee) of how the approach to Rec 1 has been revised over the years as resources have fallen (an approach agreed to by the PCP&TS Committee) together with the detail/analysis.</p>	17 Mar 2016

3 Inquiry Schedule

Inquiry – Neighbourhood Challenge

Date	Item
17 December 2015	Committee Agree Terms of Reference
December /January 2016	Call for evidence
9 February 2016	Corporate Resources O&S Committee's Evidence Gathering Session re: the new District and Ward Structures
18 February 2016	Neighbourhood and Community Services O&S Committee's Evidence Gathering Session
w/c 29 February 2016	Committee agree the draft report and send to the Executive for comments (8 day rule)
17 March 2016	Committee agree the final report
5 April 2016 (deadline for send out is 22 March 2016)	City Council



4 Other Meetings

Call in Meetings

None scheduled

Petitions

None scheduled

Councillor Call for Action requests

None scheduled

Neighbourhood Challenge

None scheduled

It is suggested that the Committee approve Thursday at 1400 as a suitable day and time each week for any additional meetings required to consider 'requests for call in' which may be lodged in respect of Executive decisions etc.

5 Forward Plan for Cabinet Decisions

The following decisions, extracted from the Cabinet Office Forward Plan of Decisions, are likely to be relevant to the Neighbourhood and Community Services O&S Committee's remit.

ID Number	Title	Cabinet Member	Proposed Date of Decision
000542/2015	Policy for the Use of Private Rented Sector to Meet Housing Needs	Health & Social Care	19 Oct 15
000581/2015	Integrated Commissioning of Universal Prevention and Housing Related Support Services	Health & Social Care	19 Oct 15