

# Executive Business Report

## Birmingham City Council

### City Council

1 November 2022



**Subject:** Executive Business Report  
**Report of:** Cabinet  
**Report author(s):** Julie Griffin (Managing Director – City Housing),  
Graeme Betts (Director, Adult Social Care), Justin  
Varney (Director, Public Health)

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. On 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019, Full Council accepted the recommendations of the Coordinating O&S Committee review in respect of changes to the Full Council agenda.
- 1.2. Recommendation 3 of the review requested that the Executive provide an update to Full Council on its work via the provision of an Executive Business Report (EBR). EBRs will be provided to Full Council four times per municipal year and will include details of progress made in relation to Council strategic outcomes and priorities linked to two Cabinet Member portfolios.
- 1.3. This summer, Birmingham delivered the most successful Commonwealth Games on record. The 22<sup>nd</sup> Commonwealth Games, the largest sporting event to be held in England for ten years, launched our city onto the world stage in fantastic style, with over 1.5million ticketed spectators and a record-breaking number of television viewers. Birmingham is poised to enter its Golden Decade, with historic levels of development and investment, culminating in the arrival of HS2. Our Levelling Up strategy, 'Opportunity and Prosperity For All', provides a blueprint for accelerating progress across a range of areas, from transport and health, to green spaces and employment.

- 1.4. However, despite the incredible opportunities of the next decade, we also recognise the very real challenges facing the city and the Council. As we enter the winter months, an unprecedented Cost of Living crisis means that many families across the city will be struggling to feed their children, heat their homes and afford the essentials. The anticipated rise in demand for support, alongside the very real financial pressures on the Council, means that we will need to rise to the challenge like never before.
- 1.5. In October 2022, the City Council approved the Corporate Plan 2022-2026. This new strategy, alongside a refreshed delivery plan and performance management framework, sets out a bold ambition and commitment to drive improvement across all our services, transform how we operate as an organisation, and tackle the complex challenges facing our city. Together, working with our communities, third sector partners, and national government, we will create a city that is truly Healthy, Green, Thriving and Bold.
- 1.6. This report will be used to provide an update on two Cabinet Member portfolios:
- Housing and Homelessness; pages 2 - 19
  - Adult Social Care; pages 19 - 44

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. That the report be noted.

## **3. Housing and Homelessness**

### **3.1. Context**

- 3.1.1. Since the last update to City Council, officers within City Housing (CH), City Operations (CO) and Place, Prosperity and Sustainability (PPS) directorates have continued to work with partners to respond to the housing needs of Birmingham's citizens.
- 3.1.2. This update sets out the key challenges facing the portfolio, the priorities driving our business planning, and the progress that we have made against our strategic priorities.
- 3.1.3. The City Housing directorate are currently working through a full Housing Transformation programme. This programme utilises the support of strategic partners to increase internal capacity to deliver against an ambitious programme of improvement activity. All activities and strategic priorities are aligned to this piece of work. The Directorate has also recently commissioned a new Target Operating Model, which aims to evaluate existing structures,

processes, and work practices in order to develop an effective model that supports the directorate to future-proof services for some of the local and national challenges ahead. The model is due to be published in November 2022 and a mobilisation plan will follow.

### **Pressures**

- 3.1.4. City Housing continues to face several pressures, with housing regulation change being amongst the most significant. There has been a raft of legislative change after the Grenfell tragedy, which has recently been summarised through the Social Housing Regulation Bill. The Bill will fundamentally change the way social housing is regulated, increasing opportunities for tenants to seek redress in the form of financial penalty when landlords are not performing at a high level. It includes an increased focus on tenant engagement, management of complaints, and building safety - particularly across high-rise blocks. Since Birmingham has one of the largest high-rise portfolios in the country, we are expecting additional scrutiny from the Regulator of Social Housing surrounding high-rise management. The timescale for implementation of the Bill has not yet been published, but the directorate is assessing service delivery against draft regulations in anticipation.
- 3.1.5. Both the pandemic and the current Cost of Living crisis are having a significant impact on homelessness services. Housing Solutions and Support services are encountering presentations of homelessness at a significant rate. For example, during one week in August 2022, 154 homeless cases resulted from 249 presentations.
- 3.1.6. The sheer volume of households requiring assistance means that temporary accommodation placements continue to rise. As of 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022, there were a total of 4,350 households in temporary accommodation, with 723 of those in bed and breakfast settings. 436 of the households in bed and breakfast have been there for over six weeks, which is over government guidelines. Whilst the mobilisation of Oscott Gardens focuses on identifying moves for households in bed and breakfast accommodation, the level of demand far outweighs the temporary provision available. A robust Bed & Breakfast Elimination Plan has been put in place to address this.
- 3.1.7. Despite City Housing seeing a 33% reduction in the volume of repair complaints between January to August 2022, the service is still facing significant pressures. A recent analysis shows that City Housing complete approximately 250,000 repairs per year across the stock portfolio, and complaints make up just over 2% of the number of repairs completed. However, the data also tells us that there are an average of 4.1 repairs on each property per year, higher than the average across the country of 3 repairs per year, per property. A review of the way in which the Housing

Revenues Account (HRA) is managed is underway as part of the Housing Transformation Programme. A report will be presented to Cabinet in February 2023, setting out an alternative financial model.

- 3.1.8. For some years, the lack of affordable housing supply has presented a significant pressure to City Housing. This pressure continues. Between 2011/2012 – 2021/2022, a total of 29,308 net new dwellings were completed against a target of 25,550 dwellings. The overall housing target to date has, therefore, been exceeded by 3,758 dwellings. However, a total of 4,647 affordable dwellings have been completed between 2011/12 – 2021/22 against a requirement of 9,690 for this period. This means that only 53% of the affordable housing target has been met with an under-delivery of 5,053 dwellings.
- 3.1.9. There are still many low-income households who cannot afford to live in the properties erected in their city. This is an issue that the proposed Housing Strategy 2022-2027 addresses, with the development of an Affordable Housing Delivery Group focused specifically on accelerating the supply of affordable housing.
- 3.1.10. City Housing also face significant challenges in terms of its internal capacity. As one of the largest landlords in Europe, benchmarking exercises with other authorities have demonstrated that the Directorate is lacking sufficient leadership capacity to be able to deliver on the wide variety of 'business as usual' activities and projects that are in flight through the Housing Transformation programme. New leadership structures are being explored as part of the Target Operating Model mentioned above. This will support the Directorate to manage the challenges ahead and future-proof services through a permanent and well-resourced leadership structure.

## 3.2. **Strategic Enabling**

- 3.2.1. A strategic enabling function has been mobilised to provide a sense of strategic direction and alignment to the operational services within the directorate. This aims to support operational teams to deliver high quality services to citizens. Financial support for this new service area was signed off in February 2022 and recruitment to the area has been ongoing since this time. All roles have now been filled and the service has begun to move forward on work packages.
- 3.2.2. The Housing Strategy 2022-2027 is under development and is due to be presented to Cabinet in December 2022. The strategy is jointly sponsored by City Housing and Place, Prosperity and Sustainability directorates, with a view to giving equal focus to existing housing stock and affordable housing supply. Stakeholders have been engaged on the strategic priorities identified

and there has been a public consultation via Be Heard, which closed on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022. Members have been consulted on the strategic priorities identified at specific sessions during September and October 2022.

- 3.2.3. Given the rise in poverty across the city following the Covid-19 pandemic and the Cost of Living crisis, the Strategic Enabling function are working to refresh the current Financial Inclusion Strategy and associated partnership. The Partnership will be focused on working closely with those voicing lived experience of poverty. Work with the Poverty Truth Commission will enable us to design resources, engage communities and develop solutions for those facing financial hardship across the city. This is particularly important for those facing homelessness or reliant on benefits and living in social housing. The Directorate will continue to focus on protecting these vulnerable groups.
- 3.2.4. A series of three cost-of-living roundtable sessions were delivered with partners between July and September 2022 to develop a toolkit to better equip frontline officers in supporting and signposting residents. This set of resources, due to be released in November 2022, brings together details of interventions, advice, and support from across the city into a single interactive 'toolkit'. Contributions have been made from a wide range of partners, including Housing Associations, covering areas including energy, debt advice, digital inclusion, food, employment, and wellbeing. The primary aim is to help aid discussions and signpost tenants and citizens to sources of support. The toolkit will be circulated to Members upon completion.
- 3.2.5. The Council has signed up to the Money Adviser Network (MAN), a technology focused pilot simplifying how creditors refer customers in financial difficulty to free, regulated debt advice. This service will help ease pressure on other face to face debt advice provision, ensuring it remains available for those who need it most, as well as those that would benefit from an appointment without delay. The service is flexible and allows customers to engage in several ways, including an immediate call back within 30 seconds. Officers from Housing Management, Housing Solutions, NAIS, Rents, Revenues and Benefits have received training on the service this month. Residents are able to self-refer to the Money Advisor Network using the following link: <https://adviser.moneyhelper.org.uk/en>
- 3.2.6. 'Warm Spaces' or 'Warm Hubs' are being set up all over the UK, providing safe places for people to keep warm this winter. *Warm Welcome* is our approach to warm spaces in Birmingham and aims to ensure that our communities have access to safe, welcoming, warm spaces where the focus is not upon poverty or an inability to afford heat. We do this by offering hospitality and connection; connecting people to each other, services, wellbeing activity, opportunity, and warmth. Leading the Warm Spaces priority workstream, officers are working closely with key community partners

to mobilise this initiative; whilst also exploring the potential of City Housing assets being made available for our tenants and wider public.

- 3.2.7. All the work outlined above feeds directly into the current corporate programme to address the Cost of Living crisis in the city.

### 3.3. **Housing Solutions & Support**

- 3.3.1. The service remains under significant and growing pressure. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and current Cost of Living crisis, coupled with the projection that there will be a shortfall of at least 14,400 affordable housing units in Birmingham 2031 (based on current demand) means that bold action is required to ensure that everyone in Birmingham has a safe and stable place to call home.
- 3.3.2. The picture may be even more negative. Recent service forecasts indicate that if demand continues to rise along current lines, the projected 2031 affordable housing shortfall may reach as high as 50,000.
- 3.3.3. Whilst the private rented sector provides an alternative to social housing, only 15% falls within affordable rates. The combination of these different factors has meant that there has been a 26% increase in homeless presentations, with over 500 people per week currently requiring advice and assistance from the service.

#### **Homelessness and Rough Sleeping**

- 3.3.4. The main factors leading to homelessness in Birmingham are broadly similar to the rest of the country. The most common cause is the end of section 21 private sector tenancies, followed by relationship breakdown and domestic abuse.
- 3.3.5. Currently, the service receives an average of 225 homelessness applications per week, 43 households access temporary accommodation, and 505 Housing Register applications are made.
- 3.3.6. The Housing Solutions & Support redesign has increased capacity across the service and recruitment to both new and existing posts was finalised in June 2022. However, the redesign did not anticipate the Cost of Living crisis, nor the significant spike in demand for our services post-pandemic. This has reduced the impact of the new model.
- 3.3.7. The pressures the services faces can be seen in the statistics on Temporary Accommodation. The number of households living in Temporary Accommodation has hit a record high of 4227 households, with 659 of those households in bed and breakfast. Recognising that this is an exceedingly high number, we have implemented a collaborative Bed & Breakfast Elimination Plan to reduce the number of households living in this type of

accommodation. Additionally, the service is mobilising a Temporary Accommodation Strategy in order to future-proof the provision going forward, and to take a strategic approach to manage the demand.

- 3.3.8. In September, Cabinet approved plans to procure a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) for Temporary Accommodation through the private rented sector and private registered providers of social housing. The DPS, which has an estimated valued of up to £9.516 million over two years, will help the Council to provide temporary accommodation to people and families experiencing homelessness. This has been proposed in addition to gaining contracts for 1230 units of Temporary Accommodation. The DPS will help the Council find a wide range of suppliers who can meet our needs, crucially minimising our need to resort to bed and breakfast accommodation or hotels.
- 3.3.9. Birmingham City Council are still awaiting an announcement from Government following the approval of a bid for a £3.8 million grant. This bid was made to support the creation of 200 five-year leases of privately owned accommodation to end homelessness duties for families who would otherwise be in temporary accommodation. The grant would help the Council to end the use of B&B accommodation for families experiencing homelessness. The announcement was delayed from August following the Conservative Party leadership elections. If agreed, the Council will use this opportunity to establish a 'Social Lettings Agency', or other vehicle within Birmingham, which could potentially take on additional properties beyond those funded by the DLUHC grant.
- 3.3.10. In relation to rough sleeping, the service continues to perform at a high level; the service utilised the relaxed legislative guidelines in the pandemic to bring the numbers of rough sleepers down to 31 at last count. The service is also actively engaged in a Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)/Centre for Homelessness impact pilot, testing a definition of success that rough sleeping should be 'rare, brief and non-recurring'. With a rate of 2.7/100,000 sleeping rough, Birmingham is ranked as one of the best performing Local Authorities in the country. A clear pathway has been identified for single homeless households: SIFA Fireside is working alongside Housing Solutions and Support staff as the strategic partner supporting this and have seen 2212 single homeless people in the last year, with 69% of approaches successfully prevented and relieved.
- 3.3.11. Provision for single homeless people has also been strengthened by the well-established Prevention Hubs incorporating Housing Solutions and Support. These include City Council officers working alongside voluntary sector colleagues, including St Basil's for young people, Spring Housing for Offenders, SIFA Fireside for adults and Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid for Domestic Abuse.

- 3.3.12. Birmingham City Council have recently been awarded approximately £5.4 million over 3 years under the Rough Sleeper Initiative to continue the work to prevent and relieve instances of people sleeping rough in Birmingham. Much of this work is undertaken through commissioned partners. In addition, £368,000 revenue over two years has been granted to support an additional 48 citizens who have been rough sleeping to move into homes of their own.
- 3.3.13. Birmingham is also benefiting from £2.5 million of Housing First funding for the West Midlands for two years, with an additional £495,000 for Birmingham in Year 3. This funding will enhance the already successful Housing First programme in Birmingham, which has enabled over 175 people who have slept rough to move into homes of their own.
- 3.3.14. The service has had to be proactive in order to manage the challenges. Oscott Gardens has been mobilised as a new homeless centre, supporting 300 families to move out of Bed & Breakfast. The Property Acquisitions programme has also led to the purchase of a further 240 family homes to provide an alternative to temporary accommodation.
- 3.3.15. Birmingham City Council have been recognised for the success of our Eviction Prevention Panel and have been announced as finalists in the Homelessness Project of the Year Category in the UK Housing Awards. The Panel continues to meet regularly with officers from Housing Options, Rents, Revenues and Benefits to prevent evictions even at the last stage where tenants fall into arrears. Between April and August 2022, 308 cases have been to Panel and 35 evicted, which means 88.6% have been prevented year to date. By bringing together collective expertise, we have been able to maintain tenancies and reduce potential homelessness.
- 3.3.16. We urge all tenants who have concerns or find themselves struggling financially to pay their bills, to contact the council directly, particularly during these difficult times.
- 3.3.17. The Service continues to work with tenants, delivering advice and support across a range of areas including:
- Debt Advice and support (including Government Financial Support)
  - Universal Credit (UC) help and advice, working closely with Job Centres
  - Homeless prevention fund payments
  - Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP)
  - 'Think Family' support



### 3.4. **Exempt Accommodation**

- 3.4.1. In response to the growing issue of exempt accommodation, Birmingham City Council ran a Supported Housing Needs Assessment, which concluded in January 2022. The findings of the pilot, alongside the final recommendations, will be used to inform a future Supported Housing Strategy. This is hoped to be signed off later in 2022. Funding for the continuation of the Exempt Pilot team was approved by the Council's Invest to Deliver Board in December 2021. This ensures that the Council can continue to support the work taking place across the city.
- 3.4.2. The Levelling Up Select Committee, following the pilot scheme, agreed to undertake a national review into exempt accommodation and issued a call for evidence. A comprehensive programme of external affairs activity was delivered by the Council in relation to the inquiry, including a written submission from the Council in February 2022. Responses have been shared between the Council and Local Government Association (LGA). In addition, officers have provided in-person evidence to the Select Committee and the Committee have also visited Birmingham to see first-hand the issues related to Exempt Accommodation and talk to residents affected by and or living in supported Exempt Accommodation.
- 3.4.3. Birmingham City Council has been awarded £3.19m from DLUHC as part of the Government's Supported Housing Improvement Programme, to carry on its work reforming the city's supported exempt housing sector until 2025. The award was given in recognition of the successful work the Council has done to date in trying to drive up standards across the sector. This involved work such as launching the Quality Standards and Charter of Rights last year with Birmingham Voluntary Sector Council. The City Council will continue to work with other authorities across the region to develop and disseminate best practice.
- 3.4.4. On 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022, the Cabinet Member for Housing & Homelessness brought together a range of experts of exempt accommodation, including politicians, providers, academics, police, charities, and residents for the first Birmingham Exempt Accommodation Conference. Over 240 people attended the event in the Council House, designed to shine a light on the issues facing the city and to share what work is being undertaken to resolve them.
- 3.4.5. In October 2022, the Cabinet Member for Housing & Homelessness also hosted a visit for the new Parliamentary under Secretary of State for Housing and Rough Sleeping, Andrew Stephenson MP. This visit showcased Birmingham's work to tackle poor quality supported exempt housing, including a visit to Trident Reach's Washington Court homeless hostel as an example of good, supported housing for people experiencing homelessness. The visit also showcased the Council's new build Birmingham Municipal

Housing Trust (BMHT) scheme in Castle Vale, to demonstrate the delivery of good quality, new build social housing.

- 3.4.6. The London Assembly Housing Committee have now approached the City Council for an insight into the work being undertaken in Birmingham, to better understand the extent of non-commissioned exempt accommodation in London.

### 3.5. **Capital Investment and Repairs**

- 3.5.1. The Capital Investment and Repairs service are responsible for maintaining the 60,000 units of social housing stock owned by Birmingham City Council. This includes just over 200 high-rise blocks and 17,000 low-rise blocks. The service works with two contractors, Fortem and Equans to deliver on-demand repairs and a scheduled programme of maintenance activity across the city.
- 3.5.2. Over recent months, the service has focused on the demobilisation of Wates, who were previously the third contractor delivering repairs and maintenance within the city. The Wates contract was terminated on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 due to underperformance, and the de-mobilisation period involved a robust quality assurance process to make sure that service requests that had been assigned to Wates were completed to a high standard. The transition from Wates to Equans, resulted in a higher volume of complaints across the period. However, Equans are performing at a high level and have taken on any jobs left over by Wates to make sure that tenants have not been disadvantaged by previous poor performance.
- 3.5.3. To manage issues around long-term investment, a full review is being undertaken into the way the HRA is managed and spent. This will include a 12 month business plan to bolster investment over the course of 2023/2024, as well as a long-term financial model that will ensure investment into our stock is in keeping with both legislative standards and in response to tenant experience/complaints. This will be supported by a comprehensive Asset Management Strategy, which will set out our approach in full.
- 3.5.4. A new interim Head of Service has been appointed to make sure there is adequate leadership capacity across contract management, repairs, and maintenance and capital investment.
- 3.5.5. Despite these challenges, there have been many successes in the service. Staff have proactively engaged with Government since the Grenfell disaster and prioritised fire safety. This has included a significant investment in sprinklers through the Sprinkler System Programme, the total cost of which is estimated to be £31.1m. Despite the success of the fire safety and sprinkler installations in 10,213 high rise flats, there are 300 tenants refusing access

to their properties, meaning that installation is disrupted. The service is continuing to work with residents to promote the benefits of sprinklers.

3.5.6. Shelforce, the City Council business unit specialising in providing PVCu windows and doors to local authority building projects were finalists in the “Innovation in Building Diversity and Inclusion” category at the Municipal Journal Awards in 2022. This category looked at those organisations that have made equality, diversity, and inclusion a strategic imperative, and have shown pioneering ways to deliver successful initiatives with proven progress and results. The nomination occurred following Shelforce’s achievements in 2021, where they won a number of prestigious awards from Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, British Chamber of Commerce and Asian Business Chamber Awards. Shelforce’s award-winning success has put them on a path for continued growth and investment in people underpinned by their approach to diversity and inclusion.

3.5.7. Equans and Birmingham City Council have recently been announced as finalists in the Contractor of the Year category in the UK Housing Awards. Winners will be announced on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November.

### 3.6. **Whole House Retrofit**

3.6.1. The Council is actively working to secure funding to enable people to make their homes more energy efficient, prevent heat and energy loss in the home and reduce fuel bills. The Council, alongside other Local Authorities from across the Midlands, have applied for over £82m of funding from the Government’s Home Upgrade Grant and Local Authority Delivery (LAD 3) Phase Three.

3.6.2. In Birmingham, we are developing our LAD 3 programme to target fuel poor private and public sector properties. A total fund package of £8.1m has been allocated for this task. Following the Council’s approval of a statement of intent to enable private households to have energy efficiency improvements taken through the energy company obligation (ECO 3), to date over 700 household have benefitted. Officers are now working with energy company providers to deliver ECO 4 interventions and target this work to compliment other grant schemes.

3.6.3. The City Housing Directorate are working to improve the energy efficiency of its housing stock and to directly help its tenants reduce their energy bills. Following Cabinet approval in July 2022, a 300-home whole house pilot will take place in East Birmingham. If the pilot is successful, the retrofitting strategies could be expanded across the rest of the council’s 60,000 properties. The directorate is also developing a bid approach to the Social

Housing Decarbonisation Fund, which is scheduled to be released in September 2022 to support the pilot funding.

### **3.7. Housing Management**

#### **Voids**

- 3.7.1. City Housing are focusing heavily on void management across the city. Given the pressure Housing Solutions and Support are facing, it is imperative voids are managed as efficiently as possible. As of August 2022, the directorate are operating at 33 days void turnaround time, which is higher than the 28 day target. However, a 2020/21 benchmarking exercise demonstrated that Birmingham performed better than two of the other top five largest retained stock authorities, with respect to managing voids.
- 3.7.2. The service has identified that the reason for not meeting the 28-day target is mainly due to the repair times in the South area (managed by Fortem) and the remaining Wates legacy voids. Officers are working with Fortem to improve performance and it is anticipated that performance will improve by Autumn 2022. Excluding Fortem's performance, and the associated impact on void turnaround time on the South district, the rest of the City (North, Central, East) achieved the void turnaround target of 28 days. This is in-line with the service's plan to achieve the 28 day target overall by Q4 of 2022/23.

#### **Tenant Engagement**

- 3.7.3. We are currently renewing our approach to Tenant Engagement. A new Tenant Engagement Strategy is due to be submitted for sign-off in November 2022 and focuses on moving to a more collaborative approach. Tpas, a leader in the field of tenant engagement, have been procured to support the strategy and the holistic, overarching approach to tenant engagement. This will include reviewing the existing engagement structures and ensuring there is engagement with a broader proportion of tenants that represent the citizens that live in the city.

#### **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)**

- 3.7.4. Anti-social behaviour (ASB) continues to present significant issues across both council-managed estates and within local communities. To ensure we are adopting the best approach, City Housing are working with community safety colleagues to review the current Anti-Social Behaviour Policy, ensure a preventative approach is adopted across tenure, and guarantee that the council's response to ASB, regardless of tenure, is consistent and joined up. This will enable us to capitalise on relationships with Think Family, Children's Services, Adult Social Care, Community Safety, and other statutory services to identify solutions wherever possible.

- 3.7.5. There has been a significant increase in fly-tipping and rubbish dumping on Housing Management estates since 2020. In 2019/20, 1752 tonnes of waste were collected from fly tipping or rubbish dumping. This increased by 24% to 2156 tonnes in 2020/21 and further increased to 2179 tonnes in 2021/22. Officers in Housing Management are working with a number of stakeholders, including Waste Management, Waste Enforcement, and Environmental Health to review how Housing Management addresses the increase in volume of fly tipping and rubbish dumping.
- 3.7.6. The review will include:
- How we work with customers to engage, educate, and encourage reporting of illegal fly-tipping and promote examples of enforcement against perpetrators.
  - Considerations of the roles of both Waste Management and Housing Management in reducing fly tipping and rubbish dumping e.g. encouraging recycling, provision of more bins, more frequent rubbish removal and review of processes.
  - Consideration of the role of Neighbourhood Visiting Officers in investigating high problem areas, such as high-rise communal areas, and provide evidence to colleagues in Environmental Health to enforce legal penalties on offenders.

### **Sheltered Housing and High-Rise Living**

- 3.7.7. As part of the City Housing transformation programme, the Directorate is undertaking a full review of the sheltered housing provision. This includes a review of the policy and procedures around how sheltered housing is managed and the physical properties we have available for this purpose. The overarching objective is to ensure the provision meets the needs of older people living in Birmingham.
- 3.7.8. City Housing are preparing for the implementation of the Social Housing Regulation Bill, understanding that post-Grenfell there is a significant focus on increasing regulation in high-rise blocks. Birmingham currently hold responsibility for 211 high-rise blocks, one of the largest numbers of high-rise populations in the UK. The directorate expect close regulation from government given the size of the portfolio and are looking to develop a high-rise strategy to support our approach:
- Review our current security offer across the high-rise sites, including our CCTV provision and bench marking with similar authorities.

- Review and develop our localised housing management offer exploring best practice and how we interact with customers, using data insight to inform prioritisation and a help shape the required offer.
- Review existing arrangements for the management of the communal areas and develop a robust strategy working in partnership with key stakeholders, focusing on the safer, clean, and green agenda.
- Explore and scope out the current service charge arrangements around communications, proactive management of anti-social behaviour and tenancy queries.

### 3.8. **Private Rented Sector**

3.8.1. On 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 the Council adopted its Private Rented Sector Strategy 2022-2027. We have now begun working towards delivering our seven key priorities for the private rented sector (below). These priorities ensure that the work of the team directly improves standards in the private rented sector and enables tenants to have safe and stable accommodation. They include:

- Increase the supply of safe and secure accommodation by bringing empty homes back into use.
- Identify and implement local initiatives to address local issues.
- Tackle disrepair and criminality.
- Prevent illegal evictions and harassment.
- Improve the energy efficiency of Birmingham homes, tackle fuel poverty, and reduce carbon emissions.
- Operate a high-quality mandatory Houses of Multiple Occupation licensing scheme.
- Seek to influence Government and national regulatory agencies to enhance relevant legislation and regulation.

#### **Selective and Additional Licensing**

3.8.2. Following submission of a Selective Licensing Application, Birmingham City Council have now been granted permission by DLUHC to introduce a Selective Licensing Scheme for all private rented properties in 25 wards in the city. This is being done under the Housing Act 2004. The proposed selective and additional licensing have been designed to support the priorities of the new Private Rented Sector Strategy.

3.8.3. The Selective Licensing Scheme, which will be delivered through a team of 126 staff, will target wards where both the private rented sector owns above 20% of properties and there are high levels of deprivation and/or crime. The

scheme will be the largest in the UK covering between 40,000- 50,000 properties. It will last for five years and come into force on 5 June 2023.

- 3.8.4. The Council undertook extensive consultation before progressing the scheme. This included meeting with Elected Members, focus groups and a flyer drop at all 125,000 properties in the 25 wards. Over 800 responses were received from landlords, residents (including tenants), and business/organisations. This identified significant support from residents and businesses/organisations.
- 3.8.5. Feedback from the consultation for the selective licensing scheme indicated that residents in wards not included within the proposed designation supported inclusion of their wards. Whilst that was not possible, the Council has powers to designate part, or all, of the city, as subject to additional licensing if appropriate.
- 3.8.6. Additional licencing provides for appropriate regulation of smaller, non-mandatory HMOs, and the proposed scheme aims to reduce anti-social behaviour and waste incidents linked to these types of accommodation. A 10-week consultation period closed on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022. If implemented, the scheme will cover approximately 8,000 smaller HMOs across the city. An initial review of survey responses received so far indicates that respondents are largely supportive of the proposal, with 86% agreeing with the principals of the scheme and 81% saying it would have a positive impact on them.
- 3.8.7. The results of the consultation will be presented to Cabinet and, subject to approval, the scheme would be launched alongside selective licensing in June 2023.
- 3.8.8. A review of the Council's HMO Mandatory Licensing Scheme was undertaken in 2021. The review identified that additional officer resources and new processes were necessary to ensure that applications are determined within a reasonable timescale and compliance checks and enforcement activity against illegally operating HMOs is effective.
- 3.8.9. The costs associated with the administration of licence applications should be met through the licence fee and following a review of the fee structure, an increased fee was agreed by the Licensing and Public Protection Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022. The new work processes, along with the revised fee structure, were implemented on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.

### **Empty Properties**

- 3.8.10. One priority of our approach to the Private Rented Sector is increasing the number of empty properties brought back into use. With over 20,000 households on the Council's housing register, increasing the supply of private sector housing can only help the housing situation of our

citizens. Empty properties can also have a knock-on effect on local communities as they can attract vermin, anti-social behaviour, and fly tipping.

- 3.8.11. In 2021/22, 267 empty properties were brought back into use and so far, this year (April to end August 2022) 94 properties have been brought back into use.
- 3.8.12. Recognising the role of the private rented sector in assisting the Council to meet its homelessness duties, owners will be referred to the Council's Accommodation Finding Team or social housing providers where appropriate. The team will continue to explore other options for joint working between the Council and property owners.

### **Evictions**

- 3.8.13. Many private landlords are helping to support the Council's aim to ensure that all residents have the appropriate housing to meet their needs. These landlords continue to make a valuable contribution to the provision of residential accommodation in the City.
- 3.8.14. However, there are instances, whether through ignorance or deliberate action, whereupon some landlords will fail to follow the correct repossession procedure when asking their tenants to leave. The Council has strong legal powers to respond to illegal evictions and harassment by landlords and will use these where appropriate. In addition to the legal powers available to it, the Council works with landlords to address issues before resorting to eviction.
- 3.8.15. Experience tells us that many landlords may pursue eviction of their tenant due to a breakdown in communication with both parties at loggerhead. With the Council acting as a mediator to resolve issues, 8 households were prevented from becoming homeless in Q1 2022/23 as a result of intervention by the service.

### **3.9. Birmingham Municipal Housing Trust (BMHT)**

- 3.9.1. Work continues to deliver our 10 year Housing Delivery Plan 2019-2029, including approximately 3,000 new homes for rent and sale through Birmingham Municipal Housing Trust (BMHT) and Forward Homes.
- 3.9.2. The current programme consists of approximately 51 sites across the city at various stages of development and five housing schemes, delivering 233 units started on site in 2021/22. These are located at Monmouth Road (Bartley Green ward), Farnborough Road (Castle Vale), Abbeyfields 4 (Erdington), Birchfield 2 (Birchfield) and Hollybank Road (Billesley).



- 3.9.3. Completion handovers in 2021/22 were, however, adversely affected by external events, resulting in reduced completions and expenditure. For example, the handover of 71 homes slipped into 2022/23. Measures are in place to recover slippage from 2021/22, and 57 new homes have already been handed over between April and June 2022, and the programme is currently on target to complete 225 homes by March 2023.
- 3.9.4. New starts of 36 units have been achieved and planning applications have been submitted for 88 new homes between April and June 2022. The Council and BMHT won the Insider Regional Property Awards for Housebuilder of the Year in June 2022 and have been announced as finalists in the Housebuilder of the Year category in the UK Housing Awards in November.
- 3.9.5. Whilst good progress is being made on the BMHT programme, the current inflationary market poses challenges to achieving successful competitive procurement. In the current market, contractors are reluctant to agree to bear the normal risks associated with design and build contracts based on a detailed specification from BMHT. To address this, we are reviewing both the method of procurement and type of contract to be awarded.
- 3.9.6. The aim to increase the pace of new development to meet need is also hampered by the ongoing issue of a limited land supply. Within the city, we struggle to balance competing land uses, such as the need for new affordable housing with enhancing green space, as well as challenges from Sports England and other external bodies. This competition limits the availability of land for affordable housing.
- 3.9.7. BMHT is proactively responding to the climate emergency and the aim for the Council to be a net zero city. The BMHT build specification has been further updated anticipating the changes to building regulations in 2025. This takes our homes beyond the minimal requirement for increased thermal efficiency, further helping to reduce fuel poverty and ensuring our new homes are future proofed, to include better thermal insulation, air source heat pumps, and electric vehicle charge points.
- 3.9.8. The phasing out of gas heating systems are an essential requirement for the specification. £500k of funding has been secured from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to test new energy saving renewable technologies on a scheme 36 new homes at Gressell Lane, Tile Cross. This project is now on site and will be completed in 2023. A planning application is also being prepared for BMHT's first Passivhaus scheme, The Passivhaus Approach.
- 3.9.9. We have progressed our commitment to support Community Led Housing (CLH) through joint work with Pioneer Housing to deliver a development of 124 new homes at Farnborough Road, 24 of which we are building on

behalf of Pioneer. We continue to work closely with Housing 21 and their co-housing for older people development programme, with 5 pipeline sites coming forward for disposal. Further sites for CLH and self-build are progressing with planning colleagues, West Midlands Community Homes, and Witton Lodge Community Association. Multiple sites have been identified for self-build, community-led housing, and co-housing developments. A marketing plan is to be agreed with Property Services and Planning. It is anticipated to make the sites available for SCB register in the 22/23 financial year.

- 3.9.10. The work of the land and property team underpins much of the delivery programme for BMHT, Forward Homes, and the partnership programme. The team has enabled the successful rehousing of 63 households to support the redevelopment of the Druids Heath, Kings Norton, and Beach Road in Sparkbrook. The team also supported the rehousing of 60 households to support the land assembly for the Perry Barr Residential Scheme.
- 3.9.11. The team are also planning for the Druids Heath returners scheme, which aims to achieve the move back for those who wish to return to the newly built estate. This number is currently at 64 households. The Land and Property BMHT delivery team will also be involved in the training of tenants and monitoring of the success of the pilot Gressell Lane project in Tile Cross, where new energy saving technologies will be used for the first time.

#### **Area Regeneration**

- 3.9.12. The Druids Heath regeneration team are working with the community, with the support of Pioneer Community Consultants to create a vision for the estate and a masterplan for Druids Heath.
- 3.9.13. An outline planning application will be submitted at the end of this year. Funding of £70,500 has been secured from DLUHC to use interactive technologies to support the consultation programme.
- 3.9.14. A £20m bid for Levelling Up funds to support infrastructure works was submitted in August 2022. There is a returners policy in place with a Local Lettings Plan within the Option to Return policy.
- 3.9.15. In the interim, three small sites are being developed at pace to provide circa 50 new family homes for those that have previously been moved from the tower blocks to return at the earliest opportunity.
- 3.9.16. A commitment is in place to commence a regeneration project within the Ladywood area. A competitive dialogue process to identify a preferred bidder to enter a partnership with the Council to develop proposals for the area is ongoing. It is projected to finish by the end of 2022.

- 3.9.17. Following the development of 292 tenure blind properties, with a mix of 147 affordable housing for rent and 145 for sale properties on the Primrose estate in Kings Norton, the installation of a new park and retail offer, approval was secured in March this year to develop a further 82 homes as a second phase.

## **4. Adult Social Care**

### **4.1. Context**

- 4.1.1. The context within which Adult Social Care is operating has never been more pressurised. The rising cost of living, combined with the most fundamental reforms to social care in our lifetime, means the sector is facing one of the most challenging periods in decades. The fact that this is taking place against a background of national political instability and sharply increasing demand for services means the health and care sector is anticipating an exceptionally tough winter and to be operating in 'crisis mode' for much of this time.
- 4.1.2. This section of the Executive Business Report outlines the impact of the Cost of Living crisis, Covid-19 recovery, and reform on the adult social care sector in Birmingham, as well as how the Directorate is responding to these major pressures and changes. It highlights the key role of the newly formed Integrated Care System (ICS) in enabling health and care partners across Birmingham and Solihull to respond collectively to the unprecedented demands. Workforce shortages have been a key risk for the Directorate in responding to both these national pressures and in meeting its statutory requirements. The impact of steps taken to offer additional financial incentives to recruit and retain the professional workforce are outlined below; as well as the commissioning activities being undertaken to better support the unpaid workforce of carers who are an essential part of the care economy.

### **4.2. Cost of Living Crisis**

- 4.2.1. People needing or working in care and support have already been significantly affected by the twin impacts of austerity and the pandemic, and are now being further hit by the Cost of Living crisis. The rising cost of fuel, food and other essentials places many citizens supported by Adult Social Care at significant risk of both immediate hardship and reduced opportunity and wellbeing. The spiralling cost of inflation is impacting social care through multiple routes, some of which are outlined in this section.

- 4.2.2. For citizens, rapid increases in the cost-of-living are impacting their ability to sustain healthy behaviours and lifestyles. Maintaining a warm home and a balanced diet is becoming increasingly financially difficult, particularly for people with disabilities or older adults who spend most of their time in their homes. Many service users and their carers live in low-income households who spend a larger share of their income on energy and food. Citizens who are afraid to heat their home risk deterioration in their health which ultimately adds further pressures on social care. Anxieties about inflation and the rising costs of living also has a serious impact on mental health and citizens' ability to cope on a day-to-day basis.
- 4.2.3. In 2021, an estimated 37,000 people in Birmingham worked in adult social care. Over a third of the workforce are on zero-hour contracts, with rising inflation affecting both wellbeing and morale - which has a significant impact on workforce retention. The rising cost of fuel makes community-based jobs providing care to individuals in their own homes less attractive than other roles due to the increasing travel costs for employees. This puts further pressure on the ability of care services to meet the exceptionally high demands being experienced across the system.
- 4.2.4. For public services and care market providers, the cost of service delivery is also rising. We expect social care pay pressures to be significant this year, putting extra stress on what is already an extremely tight and competitive labour market. Wage offers in competing occupations, such as retail, are already more attractive than care work. There is a serious risk that care providers will not have scope to fully absorb higher costs themselves, particularly at current fee rates. This heightens service continuity concerns and increases the risk of providers handing back care packages to Council as they are unable to deliver support. Care providers have previously increased fees for self-funded users in response to cost pressures; however, the 'fair cost of care' and Adult Social Care funding reforms mean that this approach may not be sustainable. As businesses are under increasing pressures, there are greater risks to the level of activity, performance, and quality of care.
- 4.2.5. In order to mitigate these pressures, the Directorate is actively contributing to the development of the corporate strategic response to the Cost of Living crisis, as well as working closely with NHS colleagues and partners to develop and deliver a joint approach as part of the winter planning process.

#### **4.3. Covid Recovery and Rising Demand**

- 4.3.1. The Covid-19 pandemic required an unprecedented response from Adult Social Care, in the midst of a national and international health crisis. The coronavirus pandemic has had a profound impact on people receiving social care. Service users experienced higher death rates and increased restrictions compared to the general population, due to the numbers of individuals who were identified as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) and were required to shield. In order to protect service users, many community services stopped and some activities, such as Day Care, are still operating at reduced capacity due to ongoing Covid-19 considerations.
- 4.3.2. The increased adverse impact of Covid-19 on some of our most vulnerable citizens, combined with delays in health care treatment across the population, is driving the current peak levels of demands on health and social care providers. At a time of year when services are usually more stable and better able to meet needs, the system finds itself constantly operating in a crisis response mode which is usually only seen during the depths of winter. High levels of vacancies, exhausted staff and unprecedented numbers of people on waiting lists or presenting for support continue to drive high levels of demand. It is likely the situation will deteriorate further this winter and so the Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care System (BSOL ICS), including Adult Social Care, is preparing as best it can for an extremely difficult period ahead.

#### **4.4. Adult Social Care Reform**

- 4.4.1. The Government has set out a range of significant changes to the adult social care system in England. These touch on all aspects of social care – from the way that care is funded and paid for by individuals, to how the care system develops its workforce and works alongside the NHS, and pilots for radically different models of care.
- 4.4.2. The implementation of these reforms is expected to start over the next two years. They are taking place against a backdrop of extremely challenging circumstances in relation to increased needs, more people waiting and reducing staff. The Directorate has considerable staff time and resources invested in preparing for this programme of major reform, but the ongoing political uncertainty still leads to questions as to whether they will continue. If the planned reforms do take place, there are fundamental questions about the extent to which the changes will be funded and the increasing pressure this might place upon the Council and its workforce.

## **Charging Reform**

- 4.4.3. In September 2021, the Government published 'Build Back Better: Our Plan for Health and Social Care', which set out its plan for Adult Social Care reform in England. This included a lifetime cap on the amount anyone in England will need to spend on their care of £86k, alongside a more generous means-test for Council financial support. Further clarity and guidance will be provided by the Department of Health and Social Care in the near future. The Council is currently focused on working with providers to scope the fair cost of care modelling and draft market sustainability plans.

## **Fair Cost of Care**

- 4.4.4. In December 2021, National Government announced the Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund, part of the wider suite of social care reforms, which include plans for older people to get the best possible care without fear of catastrophic social care costs. The primary purpose of the fund is to help Local Authorities prepare their care markets for the wider social care reforms and support Local Authorities to move towards paying a 'fair cost of care'.
- 4.4.5. Birmingham has been allocated £3.78m in 2022/23, and the government is set to announce further increased amounts in 2023/24 and 2024/25. The Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) have stated that they expect councils to move towards paying a fair cost of care over a number of years, and that the funding is to be used to genuinely increase care fees. The scope of the grant funding is limited and includes older adult (65yrs+) residential and nursing care and home care and extra care for 18yrs+ adults. Not in scope of the funding but potentially affected and impacted is young adult care homes and supported living provision.
- 4.4.6. In order to receive this funding, the Council was completed the following actions by 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022:
- Carry out cost of care exercises with 18yrs+ home care providers and 65yrs+ care homes and determine a 'fair cost of care' (defined by the DHSC as the median of costs submitted by care providers).
  - Develop and submit a cost of care report.
  - Develop and submit a draft Market Sustainability Plan – assessing sufficiency of supply, diversity and quality of provision, its ability to attract and maintain a high-quality workforce and to determine the key

impacts of the social care reforms on the market and identify the biggest risks to provision in the next 3 years.

- Develop and submit a spend report determining how the grant funding will be spent.

- 4.4.7. External support was engaged to conduct the analysis and develop the reports, which were submitted in line with the Government deadlines.
- 4.4.8. The cost of care exercise was completed on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2022. 62 care home returns, 43 home care returns, and 10 extra care returns were analysed.
- 4.4.9. Initial analysis - both regionally and nationally - suggests that the proposed level of government funding will not be sufficient to bridge the gap between current care fees and a 'fair cost of care'. The fair cost of care is a local authority decision, which does not need to be based on the open book exercise, but the methodology of setting it will need to be justified.
- 4.4.10. The timescale of meeting the cost of care can be flexed, and a final decision will need to be made in line with funding decisions from government (if the timing of announcements allows this).
- 4.4.11. The Market Sustainability Plan analysis has been completed and submitted. Two care provider groups have been set up to engage with provider representatives, share findings and gain input into final report and the Council's plans. The Directorate is also required to finalise its Market Sustainability plan by February 2023.

### **Care Quality Commission Assurance**

- 4.4.12. As part of the suite of national reforms, the Government has launched proposals to include a new duty for the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to assess councils' delivery of their adult social care duties under the Care Act (2014). Under the Act, local authorities have duties to make sure that people who live in their areas:
- Receive services that prevent their care needs from becoming more serious or delay the impact of their needs.
  - Can get the information and advice they need to make good decisions about care and support.
  - Have a range of high quality, appropriate services to choose from.

- 4.4.13. The intention is also to include powers for the Secretary of State to intervene where, following assessment under the new CQC duty, it is considered that a council is failing to meet their duties. These high-level proposals were formalised earlier this year in the Health and Care Act 2022. As part of the CQC assurance process it is expected that councils will receive a judgement on their performance.
- 4.4.14. As part of the development of their approach, CQC has consulted nationally on how they intend to assess Adult Social Care provision as well as a separate duty and process to also assess the newly established Integrated Care Systems.
- 4.4.15. BCC has played a full and active role in this consultation process, though as yet there is no published final position on the approach. At present it appears the assessment process will be a combination of regular submissions of data to CQC as well as traditional assessments, including: reviews of evidence gathered from Directorate performance data; citizen feedback on their experiences of our services and how effectively we work with them to co-produce these; feedback from staff and leaders (including relevant Cabinet Members); feedback from partners; and direct observation and reviews of our processes and outcomes.
- 4.4.16. The emerging scope from CQC suggests that their assessment of Adult Social Care Services will focus on four areas:
- Working with people - assessing needs (including unpaid carers), supporting people to live healthier lives, prevention, wellbeing, information and advice.
  - Providing support - markets (including commissioning), workforce equality, integration and partnership working.
  - Ensuring safety - safeguarding, safe systems and continuity of care.
  - Leadership and workforce - capable and compassionate leaders, learning, improvement, innovation.
- 4.4.17. To prepare for this large-scale assessment of services, the Directorate has established a project group to articulate our journey of improvement to date, assess how well the Council is currently performing against each of these areas, and develop plans to improve performance against each of these key lines of enquiry. A small but dedicated team of staff is being recruited to



support the Directorate to prepare for inspection and to evidence the strong work to date in developing the city's Adult Social Care services.

#### **4.5. Birmingham & Solihull Integrated Care System (BSOL ICS)**

4.5.1. Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care System is one of 42 Integrated Care Systems across the country that launched on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022. The vision of BSOL ICS is to make Birmingham and Solihull the healthiest place to live and work, driving equity in life chances and health outcomes for everyone. It is recognised as the biggest opportunity in a generation for the most radical overhaul in the way health and social care services in Birmingham and Solihull are designed and delivered.

4.5.2. The Council is a key stakeholder in the ICS and is working alongside local partners from the NHS, voluntary, community and faith sectors to achieve better outcomes for citizens across the area. All ICS partner organisations will work in collaboration, building on what has been achieved through integrated working so far. Integrated working has long been an ambition for the health and care system, with the Covid-19 pandemic accelerating how partners work together to meet the needs of the local population.

4.5.3. The four objectives of the ICS are to:

- Improve the health of our population.
- Tackle unequal outcomes and access.
- Enhance productivity and value.
- Support the broader social and economic development of Birmingham and Solihull.

4.5.4. A number of priorities for action have been identified to make progress against the objectives. These priorities include workforce investment, the ongoing Covid-19 response, reducing long waits, improving the responsiveness of urgent and emergency care, building community care capacity, making primary care more accessible, enhancing mental health services for people with a learning disability and/or autism, and tackling health inequalities.

- 4.5.5. The governance arrangements for BSol ICS comprises an Integrated Care Partnership (ICP), Integrated Care Board (ICB), and a Place Committee. These elements are outlined below.

#### **Integrated Care Board**

- 4.5.6. The Integrated Care Board (NHS Birmingham and Solihull) is the statutory NHS body that leads the health element of the ICS. As such it is accountable for the use and allocation of NHS resources. Dame Yve Buckland is Chair of NHS Birmingham, and a core Executive Team has been appointed for the ICB which will provide leadership for the organisation, working with leaders in partner organisations to create the conditions for further integration.
- 4.5.7. The ICB takes on all of the functions of the former Birmingham and Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) , which has now ceased to exist. BSOL ICB also now has a responsibility for the parts of West Birmingham that were previously aligned to Sandwell and West Birmingham CCG, ensuring that there are now co-terminus ICB and LA boundaries.

#### **Integrated Care Partnership**

- 4.5.8. The Integrated Care Partnership is a statutory committee jointly formed between the NHS Integrated Care Board and the two local authorities that fall within the Integrated Care System (ICS) area. The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care is the lead representative for the Council on this partnership. The ICP is responsible for producing an integrated care strategy on how to meet the health and wellbeing needs of the population in the ICS area. Birmingham's Director of Public Health is leading on the preparation of this strategy.
- 4.5.9. As part of the Birmingham and Solihull ICS Transition Plan, there has been extensive local engagement with key stakeholders and partners about the role, function and representation of the ICP.
- 4.5.10. As a result of this engagement, it has been agreed that the core functions of the ICP will be to:
- Agree the strategic intent for the health and social care system including the development of the Integrated Care Strategy, while encouraging places and localities to set their own strategy and decision making within this framework.

- Work together to unblock obstacles to success that emerge in local place alliances and to hear the voices of citizens and frontline staff to inform strategic thinking and planning.
- Act in the best interest of people, patients, and the system as a whole rather than representing individual interests of any one constituent partner.
- Encourage innovation and signpost ways to develop and spread that innovation.
- Harness the capability and innovation of the whole system.
- Support and encourage decision making at locality and place level and create the environment across the ICS for collaboration locally and, where appropriate, at system level.
- Actively role model and promote the values and leadership standards of the ICS.

### **Birmingham Place Committee**

- 4.5.11. Place-based working and the principle of subsidiarity - taking decisions as locally as possible - is one of the core principles of the ICS. The Place Committee is a sub-committee of the ICB with responsibility for driving collaboration and integrated delivery at the Birmingham Place level. The Place Committee has been established to drive forward partners' shared ambitions for neighbourhood working, earlier intervention and prevention, and for joined-up commissioning strategies to help us achieve better outcomes for citizens.
- 4.5.12. The first meeting of the Place Committee took place on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2022; with a focus on agreeing the scope and purpose of the Committee. This has put in place the essential foundations to unlock exciting collaboration opportunities between the local authority, NHS providers and commissioners and the voluntary and community sector. At the next meeting (delayed due to the period of mourning that accompanied the death of the Queen), the Committee plan to focus on the 'Fairer Futures Fund' and setting out a process for determining which functions should be delegated to the Place (i.e. Birmingham) level.

#### 4.6. **Workforce Recruitment and Retention**

- 4.6.1. The Directorate currently has starting salaries for social work staff that are well below the current market position, which is affecting the recruitment and retention of these staff and in turn the services provided to our most vulnerable citizens. Work has been underway for some time within the Adult Social Care directorate to seek to address these issues for our registered Social Work and Occupational Therapy staff who carry out statutory and regulated services for our most vulnerable citizens.
- 4.6.2. As part of this work, the data collected showed that BCC starting salaries for social care staff are significantly lower than other Local Authority employers across the majority of social work roles, considering additional allowances paid by other LAs. The evidence also showed that some of our neighbouring LAs are paying ongoing retention payments upon appointment. This continues to make BCC unattractive to social workers and has led to workforce retention issues, whereby our Social Work staff opt to move to other neighbouring authorities.
- 4.6.3. A business case was produced which recommended monetary incentives be implemented in the form of a 'Golden Hello' payment and a Recruitment & Retention payment to staff in qualified Social Work and Occupational Therapy roles.
- 4.6.4. In the course of developing this business case, the following evidence was considered:
- comparative salary levels of our local competitors/other Local Authorities
  - review of staff turnover and vacancy levels
  - feedback from exit interviews
  - information on caseloads and backlogs of work.
- 4.6.5. Officers worked closely with corporate colleagues and with Legal Services to consider all possible options to resolve our workforce retention issues, so that ensuring we provide the best service possible to our citizens.
- 4.6.6. The Adult Social Care business case was presented to the Employment Governance Steering Board who considered this carefully, taking full account of all of the evidence presented and considering any legal and business risks.

All options were considered and approval was provided to pay the following allowance with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022:

- Golden Hello payment - £1k (upon appointment)
- Recruitment & Retention Payment - £5k (paid in monthly instalments over a 12 month period, pro-rotta for part time staff)

4.6.7. HR and Adult Social Care have engaged a recruitment specialist to support the process of recruiting staff to Adult Social Care, including social media, video chats with staff and targeted advertisement of roles, with a simplified application process that commenced in June 2022.

4.6.8. By October 2022 over 200 individuals had applied to join the Adult Social Care directorate, and more than 100 of those have progressed to the next steps of recruitment. So far 55 staff have been hired, subject to the necessary checks, and further interviews are planned which highlights the success of this innovative and essential recruitment drive for the Directorate.

#### 4.7. **Support for Carers**

4.7.1. The Birmingham Carers Hub (The Hub) service provided by Forward Carers is jointly commissioned by Birmingham City Council Adult Social Care and Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Board, and funded by the Adult Social Care budget and the Better Care Fund. The service follows a pathway approach, linking to young carers and mental health carers services and their commissioners, building on the collaborative approach as an Integrated Care System. In addition, the service works in partnership with other organisations bringing additionality and added value throughout the service delivered.

4.7.2. The Hub delivers a range of services to enable carers to continue in their role, feel supported and manage and prevent the likelihood of crisis with early interventions which include statutory assessments as required by the Care Act, wellbeing assessments and payments, an emergency service, a health liaison project, Partners in Care cards (issued in hospitals so that the carer is recognised and actively involved in the person they care for plans and discharge process), group sessions and one to one support. There are over 17,500 carers registered with the service. The Hub takes a place-based approach, with locations across the city to deliver support on a locality basis and work with Neighbourhood Network Services.

- 4.7.3. The current contract for the Hub ends on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and a recommissioning process has commenced. Additional funding has been secured to develop a wellbeing break/sitting service for carers to provide much needed breaks to support their mental and physical wellbeing and to expand the health liaison project to support the carer when the person cared for returns home following discharge from hospital.
- 4.7.4. Co-production will commence on the refresh and review of Birmingham Carers Strategy with the consultation opened at a launch event for the new contract in May 2023. The strategy will seek Cabinet approval and be launched in 2024, allowing time for full consultation and co-production with carers, providers, partners and key stakeholders.

## **5. Public Health**

### **5.1. Cost of Living Crisis**

- 5.1.1. We anticipate that the consequences of the Cost of Living crisis will be equivalent to that of the Covid pandemic, and requires a similar level of response.
- 5.1.2. Effective strategic information sharing between city partners will be essential to aid the Birmingham cross-agency response. To facilitate this, the Director of Public Health (DPH) has convened a Cost of Living City Partnership Group, connecting into the Cost of Living Strategic Response Group, with membership from statutory, voluntary and faith sectors, academia, and regional public health organisations.

### **5.2. Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy Development**

- 5.2.1. Since the previous Executive Board report in November 2021, the Public Health division has continued to support the business of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the refresh of the Board's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- 5.2.2. A draft Strategy was produced in 2021, consulted widely and amended to reflect feedback. As a result, the Joint Birmingham City Health and Wellbeing Strategy: Creating a Bolder, Healthier City (2022-2030), ratified by the Board in March 2022, is an inclusive, collaborative approach to tackling health inequalities and achieving our collective ambitions.

5.2.3. The Birmingham Health and Wellbeing Board has five sub-forums, chaired by cabinet members, driving action at pace across the city to deliver the outcomes set out in our Strategy. These are:

- Creating an Active City
- Creating a Healthy Food City
- Creating a Mentally Healthy City
- Creating a City Without Inequality
- Health Protection Forum

### 5.3. **Covid-19**

5.3.1. The Public Health division is now transitioning its dedicated Covid-19 public health specialist capacity into the 'business as usual' health protection specialist response. Additional capacity has been maintained within the Public Health division Health Protection team until the end of the financial year, funded from the Covid Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) reserves, to give support for winter pressures of flu outbreaks and an expected further wave of Covid-19.

5.3.2. There has been intensive career support and learning and development for the Covid staff in addition to the normal support for priority movers.

5.3.3. The regular councillor and MP briefing on Covid-19 data has been stood down and officers are working to create a monthly Health Protection update for Members and MPs building on the learning from this briefing.

5.3.4. The Covid Comms and Engagement function has supported the NHS Covid Vaccine programme, including: hyper-local vaccine campaign and vaccine delivery programmes; the vacc-immune community engagement programme; updated vaccine toolkit and community immunology training, and a smoking cessation campaign. This work will be completed by the end of September 2022 and residual resources transferred to the NHS.

5.3.5. The Covid Champions have been migrated into the new Bolder Healthier Champion programme, which was re-launched in September 2022.

#### 5.4. **Commonwealth Games**

- 5.4.1. The Public Health division maintained an on-call response function for the duration of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games (CWG), building on six months of work with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and the CWG Medical Officer team to agree health protection protocols. The team managed a series of incidents and outbreaks during the CWG period successfully including complex TB cases, care home outbreaks and a regional lead poisoning incident. These were all managed well and efficiently.
- 5.4.2. A range of public health projects linked to the CWG were delivered, which are outlined below.
- 5.4.3. A Cook the Commonwealth campaign was delivered, promoting over 200 recipes on the WHISK platform, reflecting heritage and culture from different Commonwealth countries. This was amplified through ten community cooking demonstrations at events across the city. The WHISK app had over 20K visits in the initial week of launch and there were several recipes donated by local restaurants and chefs which has also promoted local business.
- 5.4.4. Seven Commonwealth Country Community Health Profiles were published ahead of the Games to increase understanding of communities of Commonwealth heritage in Birmingham. A series of live webinars have been delivered in September and October 2022 and all presentations have been uploaded to the Community Health Profile landing page. Each profile will have a community engagement partner attached to it, disseminating the report within the community and starting to address some of the main health inequalities identified within the profile.
- 5.4.5. A suite of Sport and Health posters, identifying the evidence base for health impact of different Commonwealth sports, were published and launched at a breakfast event hosted by Public Health during the Games. The posters were drawn from a rapid evidence review which is now being written up for publication and the posters have been disseminated locally and nationally to sport and leisure organisations.
- 5.4.6. Public Health co-hosted the Commonwealth Food Futures summit held on 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> July 2022 as part of the UK House Business Hub event around the CWG. The event was attended by over 150 delegates from around the world including representatives from India, South Africa, Namibia and Malawi as well as several significant national and international policy leads. The Council re-launched the Global Cities Pledge on Food Justice at a reception as part



of the event and over 30 organisations and partners signed the pledge, including the Mayor of Johannesburg.

- 5.4.7. Due to delivery partner issues, the programme of work on Health Literacy training was not ready in time for the CWG volunteer programmes and so is being reworked to align into the Bolder Healthier Champion training.
- 5.4.8. Public Health has been developing the Project 2022 Intergenerational Cohort Study and engaging potential funders. This is likely to launch in 2023 as part of Birmingham's Year Of The Child.

## 5.5. **Public Consultations**

- 5.5.1. The public consultation on the new Birmingham Food System Strategy closed in mid-September and the results are currently being analysed. More detail is given in the next section of this report, as part of a general update on the wider determinants of health.
- 5.5.2. The consultation on the Triple Zero Strategy, the Council's plan to tackle drug and alcohol addiction across Birmingham, closed in August 2022. The results are currently being analysed and will be presented before the end of the year to the Health and Wellbeing Board, along with the proposed final version of the Triple Zero Strategy, that has been redrafted as a result of the consultation feedback. This will be supported by the Birmingham drug and alcohol needs assessment, completed earlier this year.
- 5.5.3. The outputs of the consultation on the Birmingham Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy 2022-2030 were presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board in September 2022. At that meeting the final Strategy was ratified.

## 5.6. **Wider Determinants of Public Health**

### **Food Team**

- 5.6.1. The Creating a Healthy Food City Forum, a sub-forum of the Health and wellbeing Board, continues to develop the Food Strategy for the city.
- 5.6.2. The draft Birmingham Food System Strategy: Creating a Bolder, Healthier and More Sustainable Food City was published in June 2022 and is the outcome of three years of collaboration with partners and citizens. It sets out

our ambitious eight-year approach to creating a thriving food system (2022-2030). The vision is to create a bold, fair, sustainable and prosperous food system and economy, where food choices are nutritious, affordable and desirable so all citizens can achieve their potential for a happy, healthy life.

- 5.6.3. Public consultation on the draft strategy ran between June and September 2022, with targeted engagement events (including three school events), a community event with over 70 attendees and engagement at each of the ten community Cook the Commonwealth activities.
- 5.6.4. Work on the culturally relevant Healthy Eating guides is on track for publication in January 2023.
- 5.6.5. The Public Health team was scheduled to present at the national Sustainable Food Places conference in September 2022, on the work in the city on food and our work to tackle food poverty. That event has been postponed and will now take place in Spring 2023.
- 5.6.6. In October 2022, the Birmingham Food System Strategy was recognised internationally by Hellbars Sustainability Research Institute and Gourmand Awards, as Winners in the Local Free Food Publications for 2022 and the only UK city in this award level and category to be recognised. The Birmingham Food System Strategy will be platformed at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization Headquarters and at the World Food Forum in Rome later in October and will be showcased internationally as a winning approach to food system strategic direction.
- 5.6.7. Birmingham has also submitted three projects for the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Awards. Birmingham holds one of two European secretariat seats for MUFPP and leads on food justice and food cultural diversity for the Pact network.

## 5.7. **Inequalities Team**

### **Birmingham and Lewisham African Caribbean Health Inequalities Review (BLACHIR)**

- 5.7.1. The BLACHIR (Birmingham and Lewisham African Caribbean Health Inequalities Review) report was published in June 2022 and there is now significant work going into the implementation phase.

- 5.7.2. The implementation board was launched on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022 with the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care as Vice-Chair and we are in the process of appointing an independent Chair.
- 5.7.3. A Parliamentary event co-hosted between MPs for Birmingham and Lewisham took place on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022 as part of the continued work to highlight the review and its recommendations.
- 5.7.4. Engagement partners have been commissioned through an open tender process to support community engagement during the implementation phase for African Caribbean communities and for young men and women from the community. The ICS has established a specific working group to focus on the opportunities for action relating specifically to NHS provision and there is a registrar lead, working to the Director of Public Health on moving this forward.
- 5.7.5. The NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSEI) National Director of Inequalities has committed to using BLACHIR to challenge every NHS regional inequalities board to respond to the report and its findings over this year. A fixed-term dedicated team has been appointed to drive implementation with the senior officer starting in December 2022.

#### **Poverty Truth Commission**

- 5.7.6. The Poverty Truth Commission was launched on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022. Ten community commissioners and eight civic commissioners have been recruited and have been meeting regularly. The commissioners have agreed three priority areas of focus: housing, food, and health. The community commissioners have also contributed to the food poverty work of the food team and the developing housing strategy.

#### **Creating A City Without Inequality Forum**

- 5.7.7. The Creating A City Without Inequality Forum has a revised Terms of Reference and a new forward plan, aligning the forum's work to the key inequality areas identified within the Creating a Bolder Healthier City Strategy 2022-2030. Building on the Council's approach to mitigating the impacts of the cost of living emergency on Birmingham citizens, over Autumn 2022 the forum will be focusing on health inequalities linked to poverty, bringing the relevant evidence and exploring opportunities for collaboration with the Council and the wider partnership, with a particular focus on prevention and early intervention.

- 5.7.8. Outcomes from the discussions are being fed to the Cost of Living Taskforce as well as the Birmingham Health and Wellbeing Board and the Birmingham Financial Inclusion Partnership.

#### **Additional Equalities Activity**

- 5.7.9. The team are working on a response to the national 10-year Women's Health Strategy which was recently published and a fixed term post to develop work on gender inequality has been appointed to.
- 5.7.10. The team are commissioning a comprehensive, sex worker health needs analysis as part of the inclusion health work programme.

### **5.8. Communities Team**

#### **Community Leadership Training**

- 5.8.1. The Birmingham Voluntary Services Council (BVSC) has been commissioned to deliver community leadership training, working with the Bolder Healthier Champions team to find 150 people to join training courses to deepen their understanding of community organising, develop core community organising leadership skills (such as 1-2-1 relational meetings, storytelling, power analysis, campaign strategy, action-planning and negotiation skills), and gain the skills to lead change in their community.
- 5.8.2. Each attendee will receive an accreditation as a community leader.

#### **Faith Toolkits**

- 5.8.3. The content of the faith toolkits for the six dominant faiths in Birmingham is now agreed and published. A contracting process is underway to find partners to facilitate the next phase of engagement with faith organisations, and engagement partners have been confirmed for Muslim, Christian, Sikh and Hindu communities.

#### **Community Health Profiles**

- 5.8.4. In the November 2021 Executive Board Report, it was noted that in addition to Covid-19 specific community engagement, the Public Health Division Communities Team had developed a framework for profiling the health and wellbeing of Birmingham's communities. The team initially explored four specific areas: faith, ethnicity, LGBTQ+ and disability.

- 5.8.5. In the past year, fourteen community profiles have been completed and published. These include: communities with ethnic origins in Commonwealth countries with links to Birmingham, Muslim and Sikh communities; the deaf and hearing loss community; the sight loss community; and lesbian and trans communities.
- 5.8.6. Feedback has been extremely positive about these resources. Community engagement partners are being commissioned to disseminate the report amongst communities and allocate funding to tackle the main health inequalities identified within the profiles, through community co-produced solutions.
- 5.8.7. The profiles are currently being publicised via a series of webinars and this detailed analysis and narrative of Birmingham's diverse communities will be used to inform need and service delivery in the post-Covid recovery phase.

### **Arts and Health**

- 5.8.8. A programme of work on the links between health and the arts continues to evolve, with the creation of a joint post with Birmingham Museums Trust.
- 5.8.9. The Jamaican Arts and Health project has delivered workshops and events within the topics of musculoskeletal disease, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, mental health and pregnancy. These events have been tied to the Jamaican 60th Year of Independence programme and final evaluation reports will be completed by the end of October 2022.
- 5.8.10. An 'Arts and Dying Well' project has been advertised for arts organisations to deliver workshops to remove taboos and stereotypes and improve conversations around ageing and dying well. This fulfils one of the requirements for Birmingham to become a Compassionate City and is being supported by the Older People's Team.
- 5.8.11. Arts and Health projects held in 2021/22 were celebrated and showcased at the Local Government Association Culture Commission.  
<https://www.local.gov.uk/case-studies/impact-community-centered-arts-culture-and-health-commissioning-birmingham>

### **5.9. People Team**

- 5.9.1. As part of the national Covid-19 Mental Health Recovery Action Plan 2021-2022, Birmingham City Council successfully bid for and received a grant of

£813,673 from the Better Mental Health Fund (BMHF) to ensure that the mental health impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic were swiftly addressed.

- 5.9.2. Fourteen different interventions were commissioned across a range of local organisations, with consideration of evidence given to address mental health and wellbeing needs across the life-course informing the commissioning process.
- 5.9.3. Interventions included a combination of universal programmes (such as the Birmingham Mind Being Well Programme and Mental Health helpline) and targeted interventions for specific populations. Targeted interventions include:
- ethnicity – including The Delicate Mind: The Mindful Muslims Programme
  - support for children and young people - including Birmingham Education Partnership's teacher and pastoral staff training to achieve a whole school approach to mental health support
  - support for the LGBTQ+ community - through funding increased counselling hours and provision of mental health awareness training to increase cultural competency
- 5.9.4. These interventions have led to an increase in mental health awareness, skills to provide support and understanding of and ability to use coping strategies improving resilience. An external evaluation is planned to further understand impact and to build local evidence to inform future commissions and to form part of the programme legacy. Three of the Birmingham projects were included in the national [OHID video](#) BMHF impact video.
- 5.9.5. The People Team also applied to the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) on behalf of BCC to become a signatory to the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health Commitment consensus statement. The application has been successful and received extremely positive feedback, indicating that Birmingham's application was considered exemplar for future applications. The Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health is underpinned by an understanding that taking a prevention-focused approach to improving the public's mental health has been shown to make a valuable contribution to achieving a fairer and more equitable society. The next step for the People Team is to determine how the Prevention Concordat's guiding principles and commitments will now be effectively incorporated into ongoing and upcoming projects and workstreams.

- 5.9.6. The Suicide Prevention Partnership continues to oversee the suicide prevention plan. We are currently exploring a pilot of the Orange Button Scheme. The scheme gives those trained in the appropriate suicide prevention awareness training a signifier of an orange button badge to show they are trained and are comfortable having conversations around suicide. It has been successfully implemented in several other LAs.
- 5.9.7. We continue to support development of real time surveillance for attempted and completed suicide in collaboration with Solihull. This approach has been successful in adapting and targeting suicide prevention interventions in other areas.
- 5.9.8. The People Team is in the process of appointing a joint Community Engagement Officer with a community partner to support Central and Eastern European Communities around mental health and wellbeing. This group has poorer mental health than their peers and access fewer services overall and later in the progress of their illness than others despite increased availability of interpreters. This post will facilitate engagement to assist in the design of acceptable and effective approaches to aid access to services when they are needed.
- 5.9.9. Those working in the construction industry have elevated risks and are overrepresented in poor mental health and suicide statistics. The Kier Group has expressed an interest in prototyping a series of workshops to see if this approach assists their workers with managing mental health and wellbeing. A structured evaluation and case study will capture the project outcomes and learning. Work is currently underway to appoint the providers of the workshops.

5.10. **Populations Sub-Division**

**Children and Families Team**

- 5.10.1. Following the establishment of the Infant Mortality Taskforce, work continues on to tackle high rates of infant mortality in the city. Work is taking place on developing cultural compassion practice in the Birmingham maternity workforce, led by the Midwifery EDI. A report on the economic cost of genetic conditions has been completed by the University of East Anglia and is being taken forward through NHSEI as part of a funded programme to support culturally competent genetic services for underserved groups in Birmingham through the Local Maternity Network. The community researcher element of the work is continuing to evolve in partnership with the University of

Birmingham and community sector partners, and a UKRI funding bid has been submitted.

- 5.10.2. Work continues on the option appraisal for the recommissioning of the Healthy Child Programme and a paper will come to Cabinet later in the year. There are clear signs that the quality improvement activity with the provider partnership is delivering results and there has been significant quarterly improvement in key performance indicators.
- 5.10.3. The team have been collaborating with the ICS on a programme of work in West Birmingham schools, focusing on reducing childhood asthma admissions. The approach involves working with schools to develop an asthma policy and register alongside training for teachers, children and families. This sits alongside a wider programme of work with Faith Action, working with faith settings to deliver a health literacy programme in the ten wards of the city with the highest levels of childhood asthma and low levels of English in households.

#### **Adults Team**

- 5.10.4. The NHS Health Check (NHS HC) programme is a mandated programme for people between the ages of 40 to 74 to prevent or detect early chronic diseases. Currently, all 168 of Birmingham's GP practices are commissioned to deliver Health Checks to eligible patients every 5 years. Current contracts with GPs for NHS Health Checks services expire in May 2023.
- 5.10.5. In July 2022, Cabinet approved the planned procurement request that recommended a dynamic purchasing system (DPS) be used to issue new contracts for May 2023 - April 2027. The proposal is to set up the system to enable continuation of the current service model for 4 years with payment by results. Consultation with various local public health services has identified several possible modes for NHS HC delivery that could improve quality and access in Birmingham. The Adults team will be engaging with GP practices through meetings and online surveys to gather feedback on recommissioning services to include some of these modes.
- 5.10.6. A business case for developing a GP/Pharmacy automated activity and payments portal, which will increase the efficiency of contract management, was submitted to the IT Governance Board on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022. It will now be taken forward by the Business Analyst Team to assess the functional requirements.
- 5.10.7. The majority of Smoking Cessation services are delivered by 113 primary care practices and 119 pharmacies, and are supplemented by a digital App



(Quit with Bella App). The contracts for all these services will expire in May 2023. Cabinet approval has been obtained for the planned procurement of new services to use a dynamic purchasing system (DPS), and contracts will be issued for the period May 2023 - April 2027. As above, the Adults team will be engaging with GP practices and pharmacies, through meetings and an online survey, to gain their feedback on a proposed new model for service delivery. The team has also continued to support local Maternity Service BUMP- nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) vouchers, a BSOL ICS inpatient tobacco programme and the local Lung Health Steering Group.

- 5.10.8. The Council received ring-fenced non-recurrent funding for Adult Weight Management (AWM) services through a OHID grant which finished in June 2022. Through this funding 11 contracts were commissioned. Two providers (Beezee Bodies and Momenta Health) had their contracts extended to March 2023 funded by public health grant funds that were carried forward from the 2021/2022 financial year to 2022/2023 and supplemented by 2022/2023 FY funds.
- 5.10.9. Beezee Bodies provides AWM services for those with physical and learning difficulties, visual impairment, hearing impairment and Momenta Health caters for clients aged 55+. Both had achieved delivery and were demonstrating outcomes. Other providers who had yet to deliver their agreed volume of clients had their contracts extended without additional funding to enable them to meet their delivery targets within the financial year.
- 5.10.10. The generic weight management app Shape Up 4 Life has also been continued, as it has demonstrated a successful reach to all the diverse communities which constitute Birmingham with positive results. A full evaluation of the outcomes of all AWM services is ongoing in order to inform any future commissioning.
- 5.10.11. Currently, Birmingham's Sexual Health Service is delivered by University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (UHB) under a joint contract with Solihull, which commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2015 and expires on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. Consequently, work has progressed to extend the contract, gain stakeholders' approval (through a consultation process) of a Sexual Health Strategy for 2023-2030, and commence implementation of a procurement plan for a new service. The proposal to extend the contract was taken to Cabinet on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022 alongside the findings from the consultation on the strategy.
- 5.10.12. Fast Track Cities (FTC+) is a global network of cities and municipalities that are committed to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 3.3, ending the

epidemics of HIV and tuberculosis (TB) – and the World Health Organisation (WHO) goal of eliminating Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C by 2030. Birmingham formally signed the partnership declaration at an event on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022. Birmingham's FTC+ is being informed by the findings of an engagement and needs assessment completed in April 2022. Working with stakeholders in the steering group, work has continued to finalise an action plan for the initiative and explore data monitoring methods.

### **Older Adults Team**

- 5.10.13. The Older Adults team has supported the NHS consultation on the Birmingham and Solihull Dementia Strategy and continued to progress the engagement work to shape a Healthy Ageing Strategy. The team has faced some significant health-related absence which has limited capacity.

## **5.11. Knowledge, Evidence and Governance (KEG) Sub-Division**

### **Knowledge**

- 5.11.1. The Knowledge team has completed the 2022 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, which will be published on the new City Observatory Platform (launching November 2022). Three life course segments will be published, starting with Children and Young People, which will be the first step towards a digitized joint strategic needs assessment.

### **Evidence**

- 5.11.2. The Evidence team is continuing to work on the deep dive report programme. In train currently are reports into learning disabilities, dual diagnosis, and mobility impairment. These will be published over Q3 and Q4 through the Health and Wellbeing Board.

### **Governance**

- 5.11.3. The Governance team has developed a dashboard of indicators to track impact of the Creating a Bolder Healthier City Strategy. Following discussion and ratification at Birmingham's Health and Wellbeing Board, the dashboard will be published on the City Observatory Platform. This will allow citizens and Board members to see progress against the key indicators and benchmarks against regional and national comparators.

- 5.11.4. The Governance team have worked with Solihull on the production of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment. This assessment will go out to consultation in October for finalisation and publication in January 2023.

5.12. **Population Health Management (PHM)**

- 5.12.1. The PHM team continues to work with the wider KEG team and NHS informatics teams to develop the approach to PHM. The team is working on two projects to link data in order to understand the risk factors associated with infant mortality and with diabetes. The team has also undertaken an evaluation of Health Checks to inform the recommissioning of the service.

5.13. **Health Protection and Environmental Public Health Sub-Division**

- 5.13.1. The Birmingham and Solihull Tobacco Control Alliance has had its first meeting and is developing a joint delivery plan.
- 5.13.2. Work continues towards the recommissioning of the drug and alcohol misuse treatment services and working to mobilise additional funding from DHSC. The Council has agreed a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with Staffordshire County Council to implement the additional funding from OHID for residential treatment and support. This is part of a West Midlands regional collaboration to maximise the benefit through joint commissioning and reporting, whilst retaining the pro-rata access allocated for Birmingham.
- 5.13.3. The Health Protection team has continued to provide specialist support and advice in relation to outbreaks of infectious disease and non-infectious public health hazards. This has included responding to complex TB cases as part of the multi-disciplinary team and collaborating with teams across the West Midlands around a lead poisoning incident.
- 5.13.4. The Place team is evolving, and additional capacity is being created to help accelerate the work on physical activity. The work on culturally competent approaches to promote physical activity in ethnic communities has been commissioned and will shortly be published in four South Asian languages. As referenced above, the team successfully launched a series of Sport and Health posters during the Commonwealth Games.
- 5.13.5. The Future Parks Accelerator programme has culminated in a 25-year Plan for a City of Nature, which was agreed by Cabinet in February 2022. This

involves using £500,000 of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding to support improvements to the 33 green spaces in six wards across the north-south central spine of Birmingham.

- 5.13.6. BCC has also leveraged additional funding from the National Trust and the Heritage Lottery Fund to run two programmes – The Urban Nature Development Grant and the Urban Forest Accelerator Programme. The first grant provides funding for a Programme Manager across both programmes of work, a community facilitator and green champion co-ordinator to support delivery of the first phase of the City of Nature Plan. This includes improving the quality of existing green spaces in Bordesley and Highgate, as well as developing a masterplan for increase the amount of green space and green infrastructure in the ward.