



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL HELD  
ON TUESDAY 10 JANUARY 2017 AT 1405 HOURS IN THE COUNCIL  
CHAMBER, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

**PRESENT**:- Lord Mayor (Councillor Carl Rice) in the Chair.

**Councillors**

Muhammad Afzal	Peter Douglas Osborn	Ewan Mackey
Uzma Ahmed	Barbara Dring	Majid Mahmood
Mohammed Aikhlag	Neil Eustace	Karen McCarthy
Deirdre Alden	Mohammed Fazal	James McKay
Robert Alden	Mick Finnegan	Gareth Moore
John Alden	Des Flood	Brett O'Reilly
Tahir Ali	Jayne Francis	John O'Shea
Sue Anderson	Matthew Gregson	Eva Phillips
Gurdial Singh Atwal	Carole Griffiths	Robert Pocock
Mohammed Azim	Peter Griffiths	Victoria Quinn
Susan Barnett	Paulette Hamilton	Hendrina Quinnen
David Barrie	Andrew Hardie	Chauhdry Rashid
Bob Beauchamp	Roger Harmer	Fergus Robinson
Matt Bennett	Kath Hartley	Gary Sambrook
Kate Booth	Barry Henley	Rob Sealey
Sir Albert Bore	Penny Holbrook	Valerie Seabright
Barry Bowles	Des Hughes	Shafique Shah
Randal Brew	Jon Hunt	Sybil Spence
Marje Bridle	Mahmood Hussain	Claire Spencer
Mick Brown	Shabrana Hussain	Stewart Stacey
Alex Buchanan	Timothy Huxtable	Ron Storer
Sam Burden	Mohammed Idrees	Martin Straker-Welds
Andy Cartwright	Zafar Iqbal	Paul Tilsley
Tristan Chatfield	Kerry Jenkins	Karen Trench
Zaker Choudhry	Meirion Jenkins	Lisa Trickett
Debbie Clancy	Julie Johnson	Anne Underwood
John Clancy	Brigid Jones	Margaret Waddington
Lynda Clinton	Carol Jones	Ian Ward
Lyn Collin	Tony Kennedy	Mike Ward
Maureen Cornish	Changese Khan	Fiona Williams
Ian Cruise	Chaman Lal	Ken Wood

## City Council – 10 January 2017

Basharat Dad

Mike Leddy

Alex Yip

Phil Davis

Keith Linnecor

Waseem Zaffar

Diane Donaldson

Mary Locke

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### NOTICE OF RECORDING

18776 The Lord Mayor advised that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcasting via the Council's internet site and that members of the Press/Public may record and take photographs.

The whole of the meeting would be filmed except where they were confidential or exempt items.

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### LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### A. New Year's Honours

18777 The Lord Mayor asked those in the Chamber to join him in congratulating those mentioned in the New Year's Honours list for services to Birmingham or who lived in Birmingham as follows:-

#### **OBE**

Susan Bennett

David Gould

Stephen Maddock

Susan Hunston

Dr Brinder Singh Mahon

Janice Connolly

#### **MBE:**

Councillor Mohammed Aikhlaq

Allen Matty

Marcia Shakespear

#### **British Empire Medal:**

Eric Carter

Bernard Gingold

Gurcharan Mall

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#### B. Collection for Children in Care

18778 The Lord Mayor thanked Members for the donations they had made at the November Council meeting towards Christmas gifts for Children in Care. He noted that in addition to gifts donated, the total amount of donated amounted to £1,083.

The Lord Mayor thanked everyone for their generosity, which really did go a long way to ensuring that the children had a wonderful Christmas.

**PETITIONS**

**Petition Relating to City Council Functions Presented before the Meeting**

The following petition was presented before the meeting:-

(See document No 1)

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

18779 **RESOLVED:-**

That the petition be received and referred to the relevant Chief Officer.

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**Petitions Relating to City Council Functions Presented at the Meeting**

The following petitions were presented:-

(See document No 2)

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

18780 **RESOLVED:-**

That the petitions be received and referred to the relevant Chief Officers.

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**Petitions Update**

The following Petitions Update was submitted:-

(See document No 3)

It was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and -

18781 **RESOLVED:-**

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

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**QUESTION TIME**

18782 The Council proceeded to consider Oral Questions in accordance with Standing Order 9 (B).

## City Council – 10 January 2017

During Question Time Councillor Randal Brew declare an interest as a Trustee of the Birmingham Museums Trust.

During an answer given by the Leader Councillor John Clancy, Councillor Robert Aiden rose on a point of order to confirm that the Government's own figures indicated that core spending power would rise every year after next year. He had said that and not that it went up every year as suggested by the Councillor.

Details of the questions asked are available for public inspection via the webcast.

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### APPOINTMENTS BY THE COUNCIL

18783 There were no appointments to be made.

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### EXEMPTION FROM STANDING ORDERS

It was moved by Councillor Idrees, seconded and:-

18784 **RESOLVED:-**

That, pursuant to CBM Committee discussions, Standing Orders be waived as follows:

- *Allocate 15 Minutes for item 7 (Decision to opt in to the National Scheme for Auditor Appointments with PSAA)*
  - *Allocate 30 Minutes for item 8 (Annual Audit Letter year ended 31/3/2016 – Statutory Recommendation)*
  - *Allocate 15 Minutes for item 9 (Annual Review of the City Council's Council Tax Support Scheme)*
  - *Allocate 30 Minutes for item 10 (Birmingham Development Plan - Adoption)"*
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### DECISION TO OPT IN TO THE NATIONAL SCHEME FOR AUDITOR APPOINTMENTS WITH PSAA

The following report of the Deputy Leader was submitted:-

(See document No 4)

Councillor Ian Ward moved the motion which was seconded.

Councillor Tristan Chatfield made a short comment.

## City Council – 10 January 2017

The Motion having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

It was therefore -

18785

### **RESOLVED:-**

The Council accepts Public Sector Audit Appointments' (PSAA) invitation to 'opt in' to the sector led option for the appointment of external auditors for five financial years commencing 1 April 2018.

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### **ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER YEAR ENDED 31/3/2016 – STATUTORY RECOMMENDATION**

The following report of the Deputy Leader was submitted:-

(See document No 5)

Councillor Ian Ward moved the motion which was seconded.

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

(See document No 6)

Councillor Jon Hunt moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Paul Tilsley.

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

(See document No 7)

Councillor Randal Brew moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Robert Alden.

A debate ensued.

Councillor Ian Ward replied to the debate.

The first amendment having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be lost.

The second amendment having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be lost.

Here upon a poll being demanded the voting, with names listed in seat number order, was as follows:-

(See document No 8)

**ADJOURNMENT**

Due to technical difficulties with the voting equipment it was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded and

18786 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Council be adjourned until 1715 hours on this day.

The Council then adjourned at 1655 hours.

At 1715 hours the Council resumed at the point where the meeting had been adjourned.

The Lord Mayor explained that although the names displayed in the Chamber of the voting showed some inaccuracies, the printout of the voting had been checked and was showing the correct voting results. The consensus of the Chamber was for the meeting to continue.

The Lord Mayor reminded Members that they were still to vote on the substantive Motion which having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

It was therefore -

18787 **RESOLVED:-**

The Council accepts the statutory recommendation of Grant Thornton made under section 24 of the Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the responses and actions set out in section 3 of this report.

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**ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CITY COUNCIL'S COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME**

The following report of the Deputy Leader was submitted:-

(See document No 9)

Councillor Ian Ward moved the motion which was seconded.

The Motion having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

It was therefore -

18788 **RESOLVED:-**

That approval be given to retain the current Council Tax Support Scheme for the next financial year (2017/18) not withstanding any prescribed changes set by Government and/or annual uprating.

**BIRMINGHAM DEVELOPMENT PLAN – ADOPTION**

The following report of the Deputy Leader was submitted:-

(See document No 10)

Councillor Ian Ward moved the motion which was seconded by Councillor Stacey.

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

(See document No 11)

Councillor Jon Hunt moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Roger Harmer. Councillor Jon Hunt declared an interest in that he was the Chair of the 3 B's Neighbourhood Planning Forum in the Perry Barr Ward.

In accordance with Council Standing Orders, Councillors Ken Wood and David Barrie gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No 12)

Councillor Ken Wood moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor David Barrie.

In accordance with Council Standing Orders, Councillors Alex Yip and Maureen Cornish gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No 13)

Councillor Alex Yip moved the amendment which was seconded by Councillor Maureen Cornish.

A debate ensued.

Councillor Ian Ward replied to the debate.

The first amendment having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be lost.

Here upon a poll being demanded the voting, with names listed in seat number order, was as follows:-

(See document No 14)

The second amendment having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be lost.

## City Council – 10 January 2017

Here upon a poll being demanded the voting, with names listed in seat number order, was as follows:-

(See document No 15)

The second amendment having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be lost.

Here upon a poll being demanded the voting, with names listed in seat number order, was as follows:-

(See document No 16)

The Motion having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

Here upon a poll being demanded the voting, with names listed in seat number order, was as follows:-

(See document No 16)

Councillor Peter Douglas Osborn indicated that he wished to be included as having voted against the Motion.

Therefore, the total results referred to in the interleave should read:-

Yes – 58 (For the Motion);

No – 32 (Against the Motion);

Abstain – 2 (Abstentions).

It was therefore -

18789 **RESOLVED:-**

That the City Council:

1) Adopts the Birmingham Development Plan and amends the statutory development plan accordingly.

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### **MOTIONS FOR DEBATE FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

The Council proceeded to consider the Motions of which notice had been given in accordance with Standing Order 4(A).

**Councillors Brigid Jones and Martin Straker Welds have given notice of the following Motion:-**

(See document No 17)

## City Council – 10 January 2017

Councillor Brigid Jones moved the Motion, which was seconded by Councillor Martin Straker Welds.

In accordance with Council Standing Orders, Councillors Matt Bennett and Debbie Clancy gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No 18)

Councillor Matt Bennett moved the amendment, which was seconded by Councillor Debbie Clancy.

A debate ensued during which Councillors Susan Barnett, John O'Shea and Ian Cruise declared interests working for a Children's Centre, as Director of Cottesbrooke Infant and Nursery School and as a parent and Governor of Balaam Wood School, Frankley respectively

Councillor Brigid Jones replied to the debate.

The amendment having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be lost.

The Motion having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

It was therefore -

18790

### **RESOLVED:-**

In April 2016, the Council became one of the first nationwide to pass a motion expressing concerns about the first phase of the consultation on the Schools National Funding Formula, which was then underway.

The motion:

- expressed concern that Birmingham schools were likely to see a significant funding reduction
- called on government to increase the national funding pot to meet need rather than cutting funding from millions of pupils by redistributing existing funds.

The Council notes:

Birmingham schools are delivering strong progress for some of the country's most deprived children and the outcome of this phase of consultation threatens this. The formula proposed in December 2016 following the first phase of consultation:

- Would, if it had been implemented in 2016/17, have resulted in funding reductions to Birmingham schools of £10.6m in the year of transitional protection, and £20.1m once this is removed
- Is projected to cut funding to 379 of 386 primary, secondary and all through schools in Birmingham.

The Council further notes:

- The outcome of the Early Years Funding Formula announced in December 2016, which sees Birmingham children receive an hourly rate funding reduction of 5%
- That despite being the sixth most deprived local authority, the reduction to Birmingham is the biggest in the country.

The Council still believes that the total pot of school funding needs to increase in order to not disadvantage any pupils, and for the English education system to deliver a good or outstanding education for every child.

This Council further believes that the reductions to hourly funding rates in early years threaten the quality of provision we can make to our youngest citizens.

This Council calls on the Executive to make the strongest possible representations to the Government to this effect.

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### **LENGTH OF MEETING**

Councillor Robert Alden proposed and Councillor Ian Ward seconded and it was-

18791

#### **RESOLVED:-**

That Standing Order 13 (Length of Council Meetings) be suspended and the meeting be extended by 15 minutes to 1930 hours.

#### **B. Councillors Ewan Mackey and Randal Brew have given notice of the following Motion:-**

(See document No 19)

Councillor Ewan Mackey moved the Motion, which was seconded by Councillor Randal Brew.

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

(See document No 20)

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

In accordance with Council Standing Orders, Councillors Ian Ward and Brett O'Reilly gave notice of the following amendment to the Motion:-

(See document No 21)

Councillor Ian Ward moved the amendment, which was seconded by Councillor Brett O'Reilly.

## City Council – 10 January 2017

Councillor Ewan Mackey exercised his right of reply.

The first amendment having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

The second amendment having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

The Motion as amended having been moved and seconded was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried.

Here upon a poll being demanded the voting, with names listed in seat number order, was as follows:-

(See document No 22)

It was therefore –

18792

### **RESOLVED:-**

The Council welcomes the recently published report of the Libraries Taskforce “Libraries Deliver: Ambition for Public Libraries in England 2016-2021”.

In particular the Council notes the importance of libraries highlighted in this report to delivering the following outcomes:

- Increased reading and literacy
- Helping everyone achieve their full potential
- Greater Prosperity
- Stronger, more resilient communities
- Healthier and happier lives
- Improved digital access and literacy
- Cultural and creative enrichment

Therefore Libraries help deliver a City where every child matters and help enable inclusive growth.

The Council notes:

- The government’s continuing austerity programme has resulted in 343 library closures and a cut of 7,933 (25%) paid library staff nationally between 2010 and 2016.
- That Birmingham’s community library service must be delivered within the available budget for 2017-18 onwards.
- The current consultation on a proposed new operating model will deliver a community library network that is comprehensive, accessible and operates within budget.

## City Council – 10 January 2017

- The proposed significant investment to modernise the library service through the introduction of self-service and open plus.
- The proposed new operating model will deliver an increase in the amount of money actually spent on the book fund and on the library maintenance budget.
- The willingness to engage in constructive discussions with Sutton Town Council and other third parties to explore options for the retention of a Library service in Sutton Town Centre

This Library Network will -

- Meet both the spirit and letter of the law as set out in the Public Libraries & Museums Act 1964;
- work in partnership with those best placed to deliver the service - the staff and communities;
- Work in the best interests of the people of Birmingham;
- Remain located in local communities;
- Be accessible to everyone;
- Support wider improved outcomes for the people of Birmingham; and
- Be affordable and provide good value to the tax payer.

Every library will provide –

- Free access to information, including digital.
- Opening hours suited to meet local need.
- A range of stock and services that reflect local needs and interests.
- A collection of books and other resources specifically aimed at children & young people of all ages and abilities.
- Professional expertise and support.
- Wider services that benefit the community, designed flexibly around local need with no one size fits all.

Every Library will supply a range of diverse services to augment those on offer and generate much needed additional income streams to help secure the future of the service.

This would enable the council to continue and improve Birmingham City Council's Library Service.

Council agrees that any mutualisation should be with the full consent and support of staff.

Council supports a strategy that places libraries at the heart of communities, with the potential for town and parish councils playing a part in their management;

It would also mean that redevelopment plans for local centres take into account the potential for enhancing existing library provision, as could be undertaken in Sutton Coldfield town centre and Tower Hill, Perry Barr.

The meeting ended at 1940 hours.

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

**A1     Reduction in Number of Play Areas**

**Question:**

**Budget line SN13, reduction in the number of play areas, in this year's business plan was recorded as delivered "in part" in the mid-year budget review, published in September. Can the Leader tell us whether it is currently intended that this proposal be included in the business plan to be adopted for 2017-18?**

**Answer:**

The consultation on Play Areas that are coming to the end of their economic life that will need removing or replacing in the near future has been completed, and an agreed way forward has been reached with the appropriate Ward Members. Therefore there are no further proposals on play areas included in the 2017-18 business plan.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR NEIL EUSTACE**

**A2 Young Active Travel - School Crossing Patrols**

**Question:**

**Budget line SN12, young active travel, in this year's business plan promised to maintain the current level of school crossing patrols while delivering a saving of £500,000 in the current financial year and £881,000 in future years. Could the Leader set out how these savings have been achieved?**

**Answer:**

The Council has established the Young Active Travel trust, securing additional income that will enable us to invest in safer travel initiatives in conjunction with local schools, and the saving of £500,000 in 2016/17 will no longer be pursued. Compensating funding of £750,000 has been provided from the policy contingency for the continued provision of the service. This funding will be continued on an on-going basis through the policy contingency (subject to the annual approval of the budget by City Council).

The further existing saving of £381,000 in 2017/18 will be substantially mitigated by the allocation of additional resources of £300,000 in 2017/18.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR TIMOTHY HUXTABLE**

**A3     Transport Plan**

**Question:**

**At CBM on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2016, CBM discussed the inclusion of the ITA Movement for Growth WM Strategic Transport Plan for debate at the November City Council meeting.**

**The plan was not on the agenda for the November City Council meeting, the plan wasn't on the agenda for December's City Council meeting; why has this plan taken so long to appear on the City Council agenda for debate?**

**Answer:**

Movement for Growth was adopted by the former Integrated Transport Authority at its meeting on 17th December 2015, and a report was presented to Cabinet on 16th February 2016.

This did not progress to full Council at that time as, due to the abolition of the ITA and creation of the Combined Authority in June 2016, there was a requirement for the Combined Authority to re-adopt the "movement for Growth" as its strategic regional transport plan, which it did at its meeting on 29th June 2016.

This matter is currently scheduled to go to Full Council on 7th February 2017.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR ROB SEALEY**

**B1     Budget**

**Question:**

**At the meeting of the City Council sitting as Council as Trustee on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016, it was agreed that “.. the Council is making a budget resource of £750k a year going forward, subject to the usual budget processes, using policy contingency funding to ensure no net change to the Council Budget, to ensure the ongoing provision of a service in areas of high priority, in particular with schools”.**

**Will this be incorporated in the Business Plan and Budget 2017?**

**Answer:**

**Yes**

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM  
COUNCILLOR PETER DOUGLAS OSBORN**

**B2     Offices**

**Question:**

**Who pays the rates for the offices that we provide for the Trades Unions in the Council House?**

**Answer:**

The Council House has a single rating assessment and the offices occupied by the Trades Unions are not separately assessed; the office space is provided to the unions free of charge. This is in accordance with the ACAS Code of Practice which states that “employers should, where practical, make available to union representatives the facilities necessary for them to perform their duties efficiently and communicate effectively with their members ....”.

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

**B3 Commonwealth Games - Feasibility Study**

**Question:**

**Could the Deputy Leader say when the feasibility study on bidding for the Commonwealth Games will report, setting out the costs of any work undertaken?**

**Answer:**

The feasibility study into bidding for the Commonwealth Games is set to start shortly and will take 3 months to complete. The cost of the feasibility is capped at £170k and the LEP is making a contribution of £50k towards the work. The outcome will be the subject of a cabinet report anticipated in April, which will identify the technical and financial requirements to bid for and deliver a successful games.

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

**B4 Birmingham Museums Trust - Charges for Facilities**

**Question:**

**Proposal JS1 in the current budget consultation refers to possible charging for facilities managed by the Birmingham Museums Trust. Which facilities is it envisaged will introduce charges?**

**Answer:**

The heritage sites and Thinktank already make general admission charges. The main site does not currently charge an entrance fee but there are charges for some temporary exhibitions.

The Birmingham Museums Trust is developing a business plan to respond to the proposed reduction in funding.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN,  
FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR MATT BENNETT**

**C1 Vacant Properties 2**

**Question:**

**At the last Full Council Meeting you responded to written question (C6) which related to expenditure on the services of consultants SEND4Change and the process by which they were procured.**

**Although you confirmed that approx £188,000 had been spent or committed to this firm, you did not provide any details of the procurement process, even after having been asked again for the information in an oral question.**

**The following rules are taken from Standing Orders:**

**3.2 High Cost Quotations**

**Where the Estimated Total Cost of a Contract exceeds £10,000 but is below the European Threshold no Contract shall be entered into unless either:-**

**3.2.1 the Contract has been advertised on finditinbirmingham.com and 14 days allowed for the submission of quotations and at least 3 quotations have been submitted. If at the end of 14 days less than 3 quotations have been submitted then direct contact may be made with at least 3 Contractors to request the submission of quotations in accordance with Standing Order 7; or**

**3.2.2 where there is a suitable European List at least 3 quotations have been submitted from Contractors on the European List. If the rules for the operation of the European List do not require a mini-competition then a quotation shall be requested from a Contractor on the European List.**

**Can you please provide details of whether and how these rules were adhered to?**

**Answer:**

Section B2 of the Constitution contains the Standing Orders for Contracts within which section 5.2 permits for a Single Contractor Negotiation (SCN) to take place.

5.2.1 A Contract may be negotiated with a single Contractor where the City Solicitor, the Strategic Director– Finance and Legal, or the Assistant Director

Corporate Procurement Services has certified in writing prior to the commencement of such negotiations that: -

5.2.1.1 as a result of a market investigation there is only one contractor that can meet the Council's requirements for that Contract; or

5.2.1.2 there is an Unforeseen Priority.

## **City Council – 10 January 2017**

A SCN was approved on this occasion outlining the proposal to engage SEND4CHANGE consultants to lead the project. The SCN process was used as the engagement was required urgently and there was insufficient time to complete a full procurement process. This was conducted within the standing orders of BCC.

This work was signed off under the Executive Director's delegated powers. The new acting Assistant Director has since reviewed the contract and revised the expected outcomes so that the consultants are now focussed on delivering the work stream activity and drafting the self-evaluation for Ofsted.

The total spend data with SEND4CHANGE from 2015 to end of Dec is £173,121 inc VAT.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN,  
FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY**

**C2 Different Rates for Private, Voluntary and Independent Sector  
Nurseries**

**Question:**

**What is the difference in the rate that Private, Voluntary and Independent Sector Nurseries will be paid per hour per child for each 3 and 4 year old in 2017/18 compared to 2016/17, presuming rates are set at the minimum level of 95% allowed under the new funding formula?**

**Answer:**

This is shortly to be subject to consultation and agreement with the Cabinet Member and Schools Forum. A public consultation will be launched on 9<sup>th</sup> January for a 3 week period based on the 2 models that have been prepared with a proposal that will see the rate for PVI's increase to a minimum of £4.17 and maximum of £4.23 from the current rate of £4.03. This is based on a pass through of 94% in 17/18 (a maximum of 7% can be centrally retained in 17/18). We will move to a 95% pass-through by 18/19 whereby PVI rates would increase to £4.26 in both proposed models.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN,  
FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR ALEX YIP**

**C3 Maintained Nursery Funding Levels**

**Question:**

**How much of the additional £4.6m is being made available to Birmingham to maintain levels of maintained nursery funding for the life of this Parliament, including how much will be distributed direct to the nursery settings themselves?**

**Answer:**

A total of £4,651,786 of funding is being made available to Birmingham – this is not the national total and is for Birmingham only. 100% of this funding will be distributed directly to Maintained Nursery Schools. This will either be done as an additional rate per hour for each child OR as a lump sum per school. The 2 models apply the MNS protection as an additional rate per hour per child, however initial discussion with Nursery Heads indicate that this may not be the preferred method and further discussions will take place. This does not affect the overall rates modelling and is only applicable to Nursery Schools.

Based on the formula/funding that has been allocated to Birmingham, Maintained Nursery Schools will lose £160k in 17/18 against their 16/17 budgets. This equates to 1% overall reduction.

It should also be noted that in total the City will be receiving a 5% funding reduction over the next two years. We will be in the minority of local authorities that will be losing funding under the new National Early Years Funding Formula.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,  
RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DEBBIE CLANCY**

**D1 Bins**

**Question:**

**71 bins in total have recently been removed from the Northfield District. Can the Council therefore list all further Districts to be affected including the number of reduced street bins per District, together with the dates against each District for removal of these street bins?**

**Answer:**

A process of litter bin 'Rationalisation' has been undertaken in the Northfield District in order to trial a litter bin sensor. The sensor sends a message to our control point to tell us when the bin needs emptying, so rather than utilising resource to empty bins on a routine basis, and perhaps even when not necessary, the service is able to be more selective in its response and therefore more efficient.

The litter bin 'Rationalisation' has assessed bins on the following location principles:-

- i. Fast food outlets
- ii. Commercial sales and food retailers.
- iii. Main routes to schools
- iv. High footfall and throughput areas
- v. Areas where people congregate e.g. bus stops, benches etc.

Where litter bins have not met this criteria (for example, the old Bournville College campus) they were removed ahead of the trial.

It is envisaged, as part of the Cleaner, Greener Streets programme that further rationalisation of litter bins will be undertaken to ascertain suitability of bins, location of bins and usage across the city. The outcome of the rationalisation may include removal of litter bins, but will also consider relocation or replacement of litter bins following the criteria above.

For the Northfield district, this exercise has been completed and the outcome of the Litter Bin Sensor trial is anticipated in Late February 2017.

Some while ago Councillors were asked to complete and submit a Cleaner Street Plan for their ward. These form a very useful opportunity to hear local members'/residents' views and as we have not received one from Northfield I would encourage one to be submitted at the earliest opportunity.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLEAN STREETS,  
RECYCLING AND ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR MIKE WARD**

**D2     Park Rangers**

**Question:**

**How many park rangers will be left in post if the proposed reductions to city parks budgets are implemented?**

**Answer:**

The proposal is to retain 2 Ranger Hubs, one at Sutton Park and one at Lickey Hills.

A proposed Ranger Service of 25 staff (subject to staff consultation) will continue to cover the whole city and will refocus on health and safety, land management and maintenance issues.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR LYN COLLIN**

**E      Social Care**

**Question:**

What steps are you taking to ensure the Sustainability and Transformation agenda for Social Care in Birmingham and Solihull is implemented successfully?

**Answer:**

The success of the STP is a matter for all those that are party to it across the NHS and councils in the Birmingham and Solihull Footprint. Over the last year a great deal of time and effort has gone both into the published plan but also setting up and running better governance processes and decision making.

As a council we have supported this process with the time of senior officers, including the work of the Chief Executive as System Leader and significant Cabinet Member and Leader engagement. We have also paid for some of the work done so far by use of a change support fund.

We continue to give the partnership work with the NHS our full support and commitment. We recognise that this remains challenging but will continue to play our part in building an effective and ultimately successful care and health system.

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

**F1     Housing - Potential**

**Question:**

**In September 2014 the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment found that Birmingham had a housing potential of 38,395 dwellings identified, including 5,971 with planning permission, 4,471 under construction and 5,028 with outline planning permission. Of these how many have been completed and built to date?**

**Answer:**

Of the units under construction, with detailed planning permission or outline planning permission at April 2014 (total of 15,470 units), 4128 units have been completed at April 2016.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR KEN WOOD**

**F2 SHLAA Assessments**

**Question:**

**In between the 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014, SHLAA assessments of capacity, how many new houses have been built in each intervening year between assessments?**

**Answer:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Dwellings completed</b>
2009-2010	1,920 dwellings
2010-2011	1,558 dwellings
2011-2012	1,608 dwellings
2012-2013	1,934 dwellings
2014-2015	2,046 dwellings
2015-2016	3,139 dwellings

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR ANDREW HARDIE**

**F3 Vacant Properties**

**Question:**

**The 2011 census showed that there were 14,359 vacant properties in the city, this is 3.38% of the dwelling stock. We note that the empty property strategy returned 60 vacant private sector properties to use in 2011/12, 258 in 2012/13 and 275 in 2013/14. Of the 14,359 vacant properties in the city, how many are still vacant to date?**

**Answer:**

As of December 2016 there are currently 9235 private-owned properties, including flats, empty as per Council tax figures.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR BOB BEAUCHAMP**

**F4 Vacant Properties 2**

**Question:**

**How many vacant properties are there now in the city?**

**Answer:**

As of December 2016 there are currently 9235 private owned properties, including flats, empty as per Council tax figures.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR MATTHEW GREGSON**

**F5 Homelessness Review**

**Question:**

**At the December meeting of the City Council the Cabinet Member gave a commitment in response to a question I asked that he would look to accelerate the homelessness review which is currently being conducted. Can the Cabinet Member please detail the steps his department has taken since the last City Council meeting to accelerate the review and the timescales against which the review is now being conducted?**

**Answer:**

The Homelessness Review continues to be a critical programme of work for the City. The Homelessness Strategy Review will be finalised by the end of January and this will inform the Homelessness Strategy refresh for 2017 and also the development of an improved pathway for people experiencing homelessness.

Senior Officers and partners have been meeting to set out the vision and the scope of the programme which now incorporates recent changes such as:

- the review of supported housing in line with the DWP/DCLG consultation;
- implementation of improvements that will flow from the funding received as a result of the recent successful bids on Homeless Prevention Trailblazer and Rough Sleeping funds; and
- the homelessness requirements arising from the Housing, Domestic Abuse, Care Leavers and Health and Wellbeing Strategies.
- New governance arrangements are being constituted in order to ensure robust management and to track progress of this programme of work.

The programme strands will include review of existing services, understanding service gaps to inform commissioning intentions, research into root causes of homelessness in Birmingham and a review of how preventative strategies can be mobilised in order to help people find the right solutions at the right time that enables and supports them to improve their lives.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR MIKE WARD**

**F6 New Selective Licensing**

**Question:**

**Why have only 11 wards been selected for implementation of the new selective licensing for the private rental sector powers?**

**Answer:**

The Government issued guidance to local authorities in 2015 on the criteria for the use of Selective Licensing powers.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/selective-licensing-in-the-private-rented-sector-a-guide-for-local-authorities>

This identified that local authorities should target those areas with a high proportion of Private Rented Service (PRS) properties which they classed as those with 19% or more. Overall the PRS is approximately 17% of the housing stock in the city. An analysis by ward has identified 11 Wards with over 19% PRS stock. The other criteria were that areas were affected by low demand for homes and or Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and that partnership working to tackle these issues are not being successful.

The Government has also limited local authority discretion to use Selective Licensing to a maximum of 20% of their area or of the PRS stock, above this level will require Secretary of State approval. The Council will be reviewing the outcome of the consultation on selective licensing to determine if a business case can be made to Government to increase the scope of licensing of the PRS in the city.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR GARY SAMBROOK**

**F7 Hotel Room Bookings for Homeless People**

**Question:**

**How many instances of hotel rooms being booked, including how many nights, have there been for each of the last 4 years for placing homeless people?**

**Answer:**

Year	No. of B&B Tenancies created	Total No of Days
2013	1808	37609
2014	1999	38664
2015	2231	29417
2016	3704	75619
<b>Total</b>	<b>9742</b>	<b>181309</b>

It should be noted that there has been a national increase in homelessness of 43% (partly a reflection of on-going welfare reforms and this trend is being reflected in Birmingham). The Council is implementing a range of actions to reduce the use of bed and breakfast accommodation including completion of the refurbishment of our hostels programme and converting some existing properties for short term use over 3 years.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR RON STORER**

**F8 Costs to BCC for Hotel Room Bookings for Homeless People**

**Question:**

**How much money has the Council spent with hotel companies, broken down by year for the last 4 years, when placing homeless people?**

**Answer:**

The expenditure that has been incurred in the provision of temporary bed and breakfast accommodation is set out below:

2013/14	£1.09m
2014/15	£1.74m
2015/16	£1.33m
2016/17	£3.90m (to date)

The expenditure excludes income that is received as a reimbursement through housing benefit.

It should be noted that there has been a national increase in homelessness of 43% (partly a reflection of on-going welfare reforms and this trend is being reflected in Birmingham as additional costs in 2016/17). The Council is implementing a range of actions to reduce this expenditure including completion of the refurbishment of our hostels programme and converting some existing properties for short term use over 3 years.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR ZAKER CHOUDHRY**

**F9 Impact on Services for Homeless and Rough Sleepers**

**Question:**

**What will be the impact on services for the homeless and for rough sleepers on the current budget proposals to reduce funding for supporting people?**

**Answer:**

Formal consultation is taking place alongside the Council's Budget Consultation to allow service providers and service users the opportunity to set out the risks and impacts of the proposed reduction on Supporting People services. These views will form part of the overall impact assessment as part of the budget setting process.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR JOBS AND SKILLS  
FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL EUSTACE**

**G      Unspecified Project - Youth Promise**

**Question:**

**Which unspecified project no longer needed the £1.5m in reserves that have now been applied to the youth promise (as reported at the last Cabinet meeting)?**

**Answer:**

The £1.5m is a partial release of a £3.1m corporate reserve established around 10 years ago in light of the potential for an adjustment to grants received by the Council for the Enterprising Communities programme.

Given the time now elapsed, the likelihood of such a retrospective grant adjustment has reduced. It is for this reason £1.5m of the £3.114m resources held in corporate reserves is now being released for the EU funded Youth Employment Initiative project, by supplementing its match funding requirement for delivery of employment and business start-up support to underrepresented groups (NEET Young People). This will enable significant delivery capacity through achieving £2 of EU funds for every £1 of match funding invested.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF PLANNING COMMITTEE FROM  
COUNCILLOR ALEX YIP**

**H1     Housing – Brownfield**

**Question:**

**In 2013 the Birmingham post reported "around 17,000 homes are waiting to be built on brownfield sites in Birmingham". How many of these new houses have been built so far?**

**Answer:**

Of the aforementioned homes, 10,134 units have been completed and 2,770 units were under construction at April 2016. The 10,134 completions account for 95% of all dwellings completed in this period, the remaining 487 completions being greenfield sites.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF PLANNING COMMITTEE FROM  
COUNCILLOR EWAN MACKEY**

**H2     Housing - Planning Applications**

**Question:**

**In September 2014, the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment found that Birmingham had a housing potential of 38,395 dwellings identified with 5,971 units with detailed planning permission not started and 4,471 under construction. Of those units which have not yet been completed, how old is each planning application?**

**Answer:**

The position of these units is as follows:

As at the SHLAA 2014, 4986 units are not yet completed. This breaks down as:

1037 units (on 60 sites) were less than 3 years old  
583 units (59 sites) 3 to 3 and a half years old  
829 units (49 sites) 3 and a half to 4 years old  
823 units (26 sites) 4 to 4 and a half years old, and  
1714 units (89 sites) over 4 and a half years old.

Of these, at 2016 SHLAA 1260 units (30 sites) have permissions that have now expired and 1529 units (54 sites) have gained new permissions for development.

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF PLANNING COMMITTEE FROM  
COUNCILLOR KEN WOOD**

**H3     Bigger not always best!**

**Question:**

**In response to a written question last month, you advised that the dimensions of the City’s “oversized” refuse vehicles had been made known to Highways and as such any changes required to planning applications would be covered.**

**Can you confirm the date they were advised, including what information they were provided with and the number of changes, if any, to planning applications which have had to be made to ensure these vehicles can be accommodated?**

**Answer:**

Planning applications involving new roads and access points are generally referred to officers in Transportation for consultation and comment. These would normally be subject to assessment of tracking plans for large vehicles, usually submitted as part of a wider traffic and highways statement. Officers have known of these large refuse vehicles for about a year, and appropriate tracking is included in relevant assessments.