

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

**HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS O&S COMMITTEE –  
PUBLIC MEETING**

**1400 hours on Thursday 19 November 2020, Online meeting**

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**Present:**

Councillor Penny Holbrook (Chair)

Councillors Deirdre Alden, Marje Bridle, Roger Harmer, Mahmood Hussain, Shabrana Hussain, Mary Locke and Ken Wood

**Also Present:**

Cllr John Cotton, Chair of the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership/Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, Community Safety and Equalities

Chief Superintendent Steve Graham, Vice-Chair of the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership

Waqar Ahmed, AD, Community Safety and Resilience

Mira Gola, Head of Business Improvement and Support, Neighbourhoods Directorate

Julie Griffin, Acting AD, Housing

Gary Messenger, Interim Head of Housing Options and Private Rented Sector

Stephen Philpott, Strategic Lead – Rough Sleepers

Pamela Powis, Safer Neighbourhood Manager

David Watson, Trident Reach

Les Williams, Depot Manager

Jayne Bowles, Scrutiny Officer

Emma Williamson, Head of Scrutiny

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**1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST**

The Chairman advised that this meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site ([www.civico.net/birmingham](http://www.civico.net/birmingham)) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

## 2. APOLOGIES

None.

## 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

## 4. ACTION NOTES AND ACTION TRACKER

(See documents 1 and 2)

### **RESOLVED:**

- The action notes of the meeting held on 30 July 2020 were agreed.
- The action tracker was noted.

## 5. PERFORMANCE MONITORING

(See document 3)

Mira Gola, Head of Business Improvement and Support, Neighbourhoods Directorate, Julie Griffin, Acting AD, Housing, and Les Williams, Depot Manager, attended for this item.

In the course of the discussion, and in response to Members' questions, the following were amongst the main points raised:

- It was acknowledged that there has been previous dialogue about the wording of the missed collections measure and the title has been amended, however Members remain concerned that the this measure only captures *reported* missed collections. It was agreed that this would be taken back to the Cabinet Member and AD for further discussion;
- The "slab in the cab" is being re-introduced with better technology with live reporting if a collection is missed and the reason why;
- It was queried whether the recycling figures (excluding bottom ash) include green waste;
- Improved cleanliness is often the top of the list of priorities for residents and Members asked whether any benchmarking had been done with other LAs and if so what the comparisons are for last year;
- In response to a question about the purchase of new waste vehicles, Members were told that it is predominantly recycling where problems are being experienced and so those vehicles will be replaced first;
- The fleet now being ordered are slightly different in size, with more alleycats and narrow track vehicles being purchased;
- Reference was made to the Tyseley shutdown and more detail was requested on waste diverted to other disposal facilities during that period (ie what went where);

- This year, household waste has increased and created excess waste, and the service is looking at how to tackle that. It may be that bigger bins are needed or that more education is needed on recycling and there is a new campaign on recycling about to be launched;
- Members were told about discussions taking place with Keir on some joined-up working to schedule deep cleaning on streets where they are carrying out work and it was agreed that a report would be brought to O&S on how that progresses when the time is right;
- With regard to housing repairs, the report refers to Contractor A, B, C & D and Members asked that in future reports the contractors are identified by name;
- Members also asked whether the quarterly performance report which goes to the City HLB could be shared with O&S and officers undertook to look into this;
- With regard to the number of properties improved in PRS, a breakdown of issues and interventions was requested;
- It was pointed out that Co-ordinating O&S Committee is undertaking a piece of work on Exempt Accommodation;
- Concern was expressed about the length of time some people are spending in temporary accommodation, due to there being more homeless presentations than housing available. Demand is rising and it is difficult to move people out of temporary accommodation, one of the reasons being the amount of properties being lost with Right to Buy. However, work is being done with partners and there are many initiatives to address this issue;
- It was agreed that performance reports would be scheduled quarterly from now on.

**RESOLVED:**

- Responses to be provided to the following requests:
  1. Contractor information to be included in performance reports;
  2. Wording for missed collections to be taken back to Cabinet Member and AD (currently only captures *reported* missed collections);
  3. Improved cleanliness – has there been any benchmarking with other LAs and if so, what are the comparisons for last year;
  4. Recycling figures excluding bottom ash – do they include green waste;
  5. Can the quarterly reports to the City HLB be shared with committee;
  6. Breakdown of the issues and interventions with regard to properties improved in PRS;
  7. More detail on waste diverted to other disposal facilities during the Tyseley shutdown;
  8. Future report to committee on joined-up working with Keir to schedule deep cleaning on streets where they are carrying out work;
  9. Performance reports to be scheduled quarterly from now on.
- The report was noted.

## 6. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BIRMINGHAM COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

(See document 4)

CLlr John Cotton, Chair of the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership/Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, Community Safety and Equalities, Chief Superintendent Steve Graham, Vice-Chair of the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership, and officers, attended for this item, and also for the Update on PSPOs.

The following points were highlighted:

- This was an annual report “plus”, with more recent updates in response to Covid, and thanks were expressed to all the partners who have contributed;
- This had been a joint endeavour, with strengthened and widened membership;
- There had been challenges, with new ways of working adopted during Covid and fortnightly meetings to respond quickly;
- Covid had had an impact on patterns of crime – with some types of crime decreasing and others, for example domestic violence and hate crime, increasing;
- Targets and outcomes had been reviewed and Local Partnership Delivery Groups re-instated;
- A key focus for the Police is on violent crime;
- The size and complexity of the council poses challenges and opportunities but it was noted that adversity in some ways had helped strengthen relationships;

In the course of the discussion, and in response to Members’ questions, the following were amongst the main points raised:

- It is good to know that the Local Delivery Partnership Groups are attended by councillors and a request was made for membership details to be circulated;
- With regard to the Connecting Communities Project, the Eastern European champions are sustainable and although the project will finish, the outcomes should have longevity;
- In response to a question about the use of deployable CCTV cameras, Members were told they have been making use of these and conversations are taking place with the Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Parks regarding other opportunities.

### **RESOLVED:**

- List of members of the six Local Partnership Delivery Groups to be circulated;
- The report was noted.

## 7. UPDATE ON PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS

(See document 5)

Cllr Cotton highlighted the following points:

- This was an opportunity to update the committee on the use of PSPOs and the development of the policy;
- He was grateful for the work the committee had undertaken previously and the recommendations made, which had been taken fully on board, and they had looked at best practice elsewhere;
- PSPOs are one of a number of powers and tools to tackle anti-social behaviour and their use will continue to be evidence-led and in partnership;
- It is important to use the right tool and there are valid concerns from homelessness sector partners and a better approach has been co-designed;
- David Watson from Trident Reach and Stephen Philpott, Strategic Lead – Rough Sleepers were also in attendance for this discussion.

In the course of the discussion, and in response to Members' questions, the following were amongst the main points raised:

- New commissioning brought in Trident Reach and 10 more partners and there are weekly conversations to determine whether everything that can be done to provide support has been done before taking action;
- They have worked hard on the tasking element, building up relationships with the Police and Enforcement and are at the point of respecting each other's decisions;
- Tasking meetings are held daily, in addition to the weekly meetings;
- In the last week, 20-30 people have been discussed and only three or four were homeless;
- Cllr Alden was concerned that the PSPO in North Edgbaston had come to an end, but there are problems with beggars, often at traffic lights, and the Police have advised that other things can be done to deal with these issues other than PSPOs;
- The key thing is that PSPOs are not automatically renewable; they have to be evidence-based, and Cllr Cotton said he would like to have a conversation about North Edgbaston to see what else can be done;
- Concerns around traffic light begging were noted and understood but there is limited legislation for tackling this;
- They do engage with individuals and offer support, eg referring to outreach services, and some may have accommodation but other vulnerabilities;
- They will only enforce if all avenues have been exhausted and anti-social behaviour a problem;
- There is a review being undertaken at the moment on the impact and outcomes of PSPOs and it was agreed a report will be brought back to O&S on this when it is completed;
- Currently, there are five live PSPOs (with one on Ladypool Road sent back for further investigation) and it was agreed that a list of pending PSPOs would be circulated to members;

- It was suggested that committee should ask for a separate report on street/traffic light begging, numbers and approach (including PSPOs, neighbourhood policing, etc).

**RESOLVED:**

- Report to be brought back to O&S on the review of impact/outcomes of PSPOs, when completed;
- List of pending PSPOs to be circulated and regular updates to be provided;
- Separate item to be programmed on street/traffic light begging, numbers and approach (including PSPOs, neighbourhood policing, etc);
- The report was noted.

**8. WORK PROGRAMME**

(See document 6)

The Chair referred to the cancellation of the last meeting and confirmed that should a similar situation arise in the future, the meeting will go ahead with a Chair being chosen from the floor.

The work programme was discussed and the following agreed:

- Fly-tipping – date(s) to be circulated for informal session with the Cabinet Member to discuss the draft report and recommendations;
- December meeting – Housing in Tower Blocks and Planning Enforcement in relation to HMOs;
- Co-ordinating O&S Committee work on Exempt Accommodation – committee members to be kept updated and input welcomed;
- Performance Reports to be scheduled on a quarterly basis;
- Suggestions for future work programme items:
  - Street/traffic light begging, numbers and approach (including PSPOs, neighbourhood policing, etc);
  - Update on Localisation;
  - Housing Repairs and Maintenance Contracts.

**RESOLVED:**

- The work programme was noted.

**9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Noted.

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

None.

**11. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

**12. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS**

**RESOLVED:**

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

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The meeting ended at 1634 hours.