



## Report to Communities and Neighbourhoods Transitional Committee

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022

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**Report of:** Policy & Improvement Officer

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**Subject:** Final report on work programme

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The Transitional Committees were set up for the duration of the 2021/22 municipal year, as part of the transition to a committee based governance system in 2022. They started meeting in September 2021 and met monthly for six months.

The Communities and Neighbourhoods Transitional Committee covered a number of issues during this time and this report summarises the recommendations that were made by them. The intention is to ensure that issues raised are not lost and that they can be forwarded on to the relevant committee under the new system.

The Committee also established 3 working groups; Young People and Anti-social Behaviour, Repairs and Maintenance and Post Christmas Debt. The findings of Working Group 1, which has concluded, are also included in this report.

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**The Committee is being asked to:**

- Note the recommendations that it has made during the last 6 months.
- Consider recommendations from the final meeting that need to be added
- Request that these are forwarded to the relevant committee(s)

## 1. Local Area Committees

- Some feedback had indicated that a Local Area Committee meeting had felt like 'Town Hall on Tour', and a suggestion was made that it might be useful for members to visit other Local Area Committee meetings to gain ideas on different issues.
- A suggestion was noted that the Local Area Committee newsletters should not be generic and instead be focussed on the local area.
- An interactive voting system was suggested but the cost of installing such a system was highlighted.

## 2. Cladding

- Concerns expressed about the cost of waking watch. This should be monitored.
- An update is required on the recent Government announcements regarding additional funding being made available.

## 3. Selective Licensing

- Further work to be considered on Selective Licensing; how it has worked across the City so far and scope for further schemes.

## 4. Working Groups:

### 4.1 Young People and Anti Social Behaviour

Members of the working group: Cllrs Karen McGowan (Chair), Sioned Richards and Peter Garbutt.

The working group had an initial meeting with Chelsea Renehan, Head of Youth Service on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021. It was agreed at this meeting that the Members would go out with Chelsea to see first hand how Youth Workers approached and engaged with young people. This took place on Thursday 10 February 2022 with Councillors Karen McGowan and Councillor Peter Garbutt. The following is the Chair's report.

It was a very cold and miserable night and we visited several local areas previously known for ASB within the Birley ward. Unfortunately (or fortunately for those experiencing ASB) due to the weather there were no youths present however on our last stop in Basegreen which has one of the highest elderly populations within the ward, we did come across some young people kicking about a football on a grassed area surrounded by flats. Chelsea approached the youths and myself and Peter observed. It was obvious from the lack of response of the weariness that the youths were not used to being approached by adults. For me what I learned from the visit was that there was so many aspects that Chelsea took into account and adapted her approach to engage

with these young people such as reading their body language, using psychology by saying statements like "I'm making you feel uncomfortable aren't I?". To making them feel safer by asking them to come and stand under the streetlighting. The boys came from the block of flats and at one stage the mother of two of the boys was concerned and shouted out to them in her own language obviously concerned that they had been approached by strangers (she was fine once we explained).

Through Chelsea opening up some rapport with the youths when asked "if I had a magic wand what would you like in the area" the response was "goalie nets". Afterwards we spoke to a passing resident who also lived in the flats. This was also a very useful discussion and she said she would love to see some organised youth work being undertaken for the young people in the area. That the people in the flats do sometimes complain about them playing on the grassed area but overall it is tolerated. Chelsea is taking this away to discuss with the Youth Workers for Birley Ward and to organise some sessions.

I want to thank Chelsea for providing us with the opportunity to experience first-hand the role that Youth Workers. It made me realise that there is so much more to statements made in meetings such as "we will go into an area and engage with young people". The emotional, psychological and social understanding required is why Youth Work requires a qualification.

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