

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**ECONOMY, SKILLS & TRANSPORT O&S COMMITTEE –
PUBLIC MEETING**

**10.30AM hours on 19th April 2019, Committee Room 6, Council House –
Action Notes**

Present:

Councillor Tahir Ali (Chair)

Councillors John Clancy, Chaman Lal, Simon Morrall, Julien Pritchard, Lou Robson, Lucy Seymour-Smith and Ken Wood

Also Present:

Peter Culley, Architect, Spatial Affairs Bureau

Richard Cowell, Assistant Director, Development

Councillor Jayne Francis, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Culture

Baseema Begum, Research & Policy Officer

Rose Kiely, Group Overview & Scrutiny Manager

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chairman advised the meeting to note that members of the press/public may record and take photographs.

2. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE AND CHAIRMAN

Committee appointments were noted as listed on the agenda.

3. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR

Cllr Lou Robson was confirmed as the Deputy Chair for the municipal year.

4. APOLOGIES

None.

5. ACTION NOTES

The Committee agreed the action notes for the meeting held on the 24th April 2019.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

7. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Noted.

8. SMITHFIELD PETITION

(See document No. 1)

The Chair, Cllr Ali invited Peter Culley to address the Committee with regards to Petition 2104 (a larger park on the Birmingham Smithfield site) referred to the Committee for consideration by the Council Business Management Committee.

Peter Culley highlighted the key points from his presentation and during discussion with Members the following points were made:

- The opportunity to create a new park in a key strategic city centre site will ensure that this signals the city's strong green agenda in line with Birmingham being the only city with biophilic status in the UK;
- That existing infrastructure is used and complemented to ensure that the area does not lose its historic significance by revising the layout of the old market site to ensure a mix of housing, leisure and commercial developments in line with buildings that already exist and deliver the jobs and homes that the city needs;
- To take account of significant changing policy priorities that the City Council has adopted since the plan was drawn up such as delivering a Clean Air Zone to tackle air pollution and declaring a 'climate emergency' and ensure that these priorities are appropriately reflected in the plans for the site and other developments going forward.
- Clarification was sought on the number of jobs being created as part of the masterplan and further information on the number of green spaces and public accessibility to the site was requested.
- In terms of stakeholder engagement and partnership working there needs to be the ability to change and adapt to incorporate the issues raised by Members today.
- Members noted from the presentation that if possible some of the features referred to by the CityPark4Brum campaign group could be incorporated into the plans for the site.
- Does the alternative plan by CityPark4Brum factor in the same number of jobs and homes as those in the Masterplan?

- It is imperative to get the scheme right and factor in the impact of a delay if required.

Richard Cowell, Assistant Director, Development outlined the key points from his report and presentation that was included in the agenda pack and added the following points:

- The Masterplan was consulted on widely and following a procurement process the international developer Lendlease has been appointed as the delivery partner.
- Lendlease will be delivering the vision and policies as set out in the Masterplan including those on housing, jobs and the environment and meeting the wider social value challenges of ensuring apprenticeship opportunities are provided and that local people are able to improve their skills.
- The Smithfield Masterplan is part of the overall plan for the city centre as outlined in the Big City Plan 2010 and is part of the growth in the southern gateway. Alongside this the Council has launched in May 2019 the Rea Valley Urban Quarter that will be used to unlock land space to provide homes and jobs and is working with partners to transform this current area.
- The Council is focussed on how it can deliver the changes needed and meet the challenges it has set as part of the Birmingham Development Plan.
- The Smithfield Masterplan was part of a zero emissions city programme that looked at green and sustainable schemes.
- Environmental and resilience issues are also being addressed through providing green and sustainable transport measures.
- Public consultation by Lendlease is scheduled to take place by the end of the year with local people.
- A further report on comparisons in relation to the environment, quality of buildings, and deliverability of the proposals by citypark4brum can be done for a future meeting.

Cllr Ali proposed that further work was required in respect of the Smithfield Masterplan and that there were two processes for the Committee to follow. The first being that the Leader is invited to attend the Committee's next meeting to address the issues and concerns raised at today's meeting. The second was that the Committee look at the Masterplan in greater detail and at the consultation and engagement that took place at its October meeting.

RESOLVED:-

1. The Chair will write to the Leader on behalf of the Committee to highlight their views and to ask that he attend the Committee's next meeting, if possible, to address the issues raised in greater detail.
2. That the Committee dedicates their October meeting to considering the Smithfield Masterplan proposals and the engagement and consultation that has taken place with partners and local stakeholders. This meeting should be held in the local community to involve residents.

9. WORK PROGRAMME DISCUSSION

(See document No. 2)

The Chair, Cllr Ali invited Members of the Committee to raise issues of interest and to highlight priorities for the Committee to consider at future meetings.

Following discussion at the meeting today, Cllr Ali confirmed that the Committee's October meeting to discuss the Smithfield Masterplan with local resident input should be held in the community and suggested Stanhope Hall Community Centre in Highgate as a possible venue.

Cllr Ali requested that the Committee hold a future meeting at South and City College, Digbeth to consider the wide range of non-academic courses on offer and for this to be used as a basis to discuss with the college the provision on offer to address the skills gap that exists in the city.

Cllr Morrall stated that he would like the Committee to consider how the City Council is communicating and promoting opportunities to young people from deprived communities. He suggested that a strategy was required and added that the Council's Marketing and Communications section and West Midlands Growth Company could be invited to a future meeting to discuss this with Members.

Cllr Clancy gave his apologies for the July meeting and requested that the item on the West Midlands Pension Fund item scheduled for July is postponed to the September meeting if possible.

Cllr Robson noted the policy making role of the Committee and the motion passed at City Council on 11th June relating to a 'climate emergency' in the city. She added that it was an overarching area that affected all areas of the Council and that the Co-ordinating O&S Committee could take a view as to how to take this forward from an O&S perspective. Cllr Robson added that issues relating to land use planning and heritage needed to be picked up by this Committee and it was suggested that this could be raised with the Leader at a future update.

Cllr Pritchard added that the Birmingham Development Plan and Supplementary Planning Documents with respect to the motion passed on a climate emergency also needed consideration.

Cllr Wood highlighted the economic impact of the proposed Clean Air Zone (CAZ) due to come into effect in July 2020 on businesses within the CAZ area in particular the possibility of shop and business closures due to the impact on their customer base. Cllr Wood requested that this item was scheduled for the November meeting. The Chair agreed that the relevant Executive Member(s) would be invited and that representatives from the city centre Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) would also be invited to give their views. Cllr Ali added that as mentioned in the previous municipal year a separate meeting will be held on BIDs.

Cllr Ali confirmed that Cllr Lal's request on creating sustainable jobs for young people and apprenticeships could be picked up as part of the 6 monthly update on the Youth Promise Plus programme.

RESOLVED:-

That the Committee's work programme is updated to reflect the priorities and issues raised.

10. ECONOMY AND SKILLS WORK PROGRAMME

(See document No. 3)

The Chair requested that Scrutiny Officers update the work programme to reflect the discussion as per the previous item.

11. DATES OF MEETINGS

Noted and agreed.

12. REQUEST(S) FOR CALL-IN/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION/PETITIONS RECEIVED (IF ANY)

None.

13. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

14. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

Agreed.

RESOLVED:-

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

The meeting finished at 12:37 hours.