

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**COMMONWEALTH GAMES, CULTURE & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
O&S COMMITTEE**

1400 hours on 8th June 2020, Online Meeting – Actions

Present:

Councillor Mariam Khan (Chair)

Councillors Alex Aitken, Morriam Jan, John Lines, Hendrina Quinnen, Martin Straker
Welds

Also Present:

Cllr Ian Ward, Leader

Cllr Waseem Zaffar, Cabinet Member for Transport & Environment

Craig Cooper, Commonwealth Games Programme Director

Alison Kennedy, Principal Transport Policy Officer

Rose Kiely, Group Overview & Scrutiny Manager

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chair advised those present that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site and that Members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

2. APOLOGIES

Cllr Ron Storer.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

4. COMMONWEALTH GAMES, CULTURE & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY O&S COMMITTEE ACTION NOTES

A point was raised querying whether any progress had been made following from the 15th January 2020 meeting when the Acting Chair undertook to discuss the remit of the committee and about future work programme items to come to the committee with the Chair.

RESOLVED

There had been no further developments on this but it was agreed that the Chair will follow this up and that the Chair will meet with the Acting Chair to discuss the remit of the committee after this meeting.

The action notes of the meetings held on the 15th January 2020 were then agreed.

The action notes of the visit to Birchfield Big Local's Wednesdays' Elders' Club on 5th February 2020 were noted.

5. IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON BIRMINGHAM COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022 PREPARATIONS

The Chair outlined the purpose of the discussion as an opportunity to discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the major programmes currently in progress in preparation for the Birmingham Commonwealth Games in 2022. The Chair then welcomed all attendees and asked the Leader, Cllr Ian Ward, and Craig Cooper the recently appointed Commonwealth Games Programme Director to update the committee.

Cllr Ward stated that in spite of the unprecedented challenge, the council continues to work with partners to plan and deliver the 2022 Games and the long-term benefits to the city and the wider region. The Leader confirmed that the date for the Games would not be pushed back but that discussions were ongoing with the organisers of other events such as the Queen's Jubilee, the Centenary of the BBC and the Women's European Football Championships to see what flexibility can be introduced to avoid clashes.

In response to queries raised by committee members the following points were made by the Leader:

- Confirmation that the Organising Committee were currently reviewing the plans for delivering the capital programme. The three biggest schemes within the capital programme are the Athletics Stadium, the Aquatic Stadium and the Games Village. He confirmed that the delivery of the Games Village is the most critical of the three and that the Athletics Stadium and the Aquatic Centre are still on course.
- In response to a query about opportunities for the committee to look at the money available to promote and raise the profile of the Games, it was suggested that a separate meeting be held with the committee to discuss how to take this work forward.

- The Leader agreed that the impact of the Games on partner organisations and sports, arts, cultural and creative organisations and schools would be even more important now than previously, in the wake of the impact of the COVID pandemic.
- The importance of delivering the Games legacy in terms of regeneration, community cohesion, jobs and civic pride to wider areas of the city and beyond was acknowledged and discussions with government had been very supportive.
- Contact has been made with previous Games hosts including Manchester who hosted the 2002 Games and Glasgow the 2014 hosts and that information was being gleaned and lessons learned and it was agreed that more regular updates need to be provided to the committee.
- In relation to the budget for the Games, this had been set and had not changed.
- Assurance was provided that the government are helpful in ensuring that the additional homes at the Games Village are delivered as part of the legacy.

Craig Cooper, Commonwealth Games Programme Director was then introduced to the committee and invited to contribute. He provided assurance that he would make every effort to ensure that every opportunity was delivered for the city including the cultural programme, the opening and closing ceremonies, the involvement of children, capital programmes and opportunities to deliver improvements in transport traffic management, regulatory enforcement, resilience and street scene and that there would be a structured programme to deliver all of these over the next 18 months.

The Programme Director referred to the appointment of Nicola Turner as Head of Legacy. He emphasised the importance of ensuring that the Games act as a catalyst to deliver the programmes and achieve the legacy set out for the city.

In response to questions from members, the following issues were discussed:

- The Organising Committee has adopted a requirement on developers to recruit local apprentices. There are opportunities to link these to the Smithfield Development which can lead to longer-term jobs.
- There is also a need to recruit c12,000 volunteers, some from deprived areas, and opportunities to 'buddy up' with mentors from further and higher education, with the possibility of an educational qualification for Games volunteers especially targeted at young people from deprived communities.
- It was confirmed that no drastic changes had been made to plans arising from the COVID pandemic but that some contingency funding had been used for the stadium and aquatic centre to cover additional costs due to delays arising from the pandemic.
- Discussions had taken place about the Summer 2022 sporting calendar due to the fact that the Swimming and Athletic World Championships had been pushed back to 2022 from 2021 and would now be taking place in Summer 2022 in addition to the Women's European Championship and the BBC centenary.
- It was agreed that involving Birmingham communities would now be more challenging in the wake of the pandemic and that innovative ways would need to be found to ensure that diverse communities are engaged and involved in the Games.

- In response to a request for information about the Community Champions Programme, Craig Cooper agreed to provide further information in writing.

RESOLVED

1. To hold a separate informal committee meeting to discuss how the money available to promote the Games was being spent and how the committee can best continue the work which was previously started and has now been put on hold, on engaging with communities to raise the profile of the Games and how the committee can best contribute to promoting the Games.
2. To invite Martin Green who is on charge of the cultural programme for the Commonwealth Games and other members of the Organising Committee to attend a future meeting of the Committee.
3. Craig Cooper to provide information in writing about the Community Champions Programme.

6. UPDATE ON CYCLING IN BIRMINGHAM

Cllr Zaffar, Cabinet Member for Transport & Environment supported by Alison Kennedy, Principal Transport Policy Officer attended to update the committee about work underway to facilitate increasing cycling in the city.

Cllr Zaffar stated that the Emergency Transport Plan (ETP) had been produced as a direct response to the impact of COVID-19 following changes in travel behaviour with fewer commuters and less road traffic. The benefits in improved air quality and more sustainable ways of travel with more people walking and cycling was something that needed to be built upon as the council and partners work together to ensure that people are safely able to navigate roads, local high streets and use public transport to shop, return to work and for leisure purposes.

The key principles were based on the Draft Birmingham Transport Plan which was published for consultation in January 2020 with a set of short, medium and long term goals and the opportunity to use government funding set out for active travel including making walking and cycling safer.

The ETP includes plans for reallocating roadspace and providing segregated cycling lanes and plans for pop-up cycling lanes had been published that same morning. Work is ongoing with key stakeholders including Transport for West Midlands to prepare a bid to be submitted to government for 14 schemes to be delivered within the first tranche of funding, as part of which the government would provide £1million of funding support.

In relation to cycling and the Games, the key principle in the vision is to deliver sustainable transport, a major part of which is delivering a wide network of segregated cycling to some of the key venues across the city and ultimately to deliver segregated cycling across a range of routes spread across the city. There are also schemes to facilitate social distancing in various high streets as part of the overall plan to put sustainable transport at the heart of the city with the ambition of converting a

significant proportion of journeys made in the city of less than a mile every day to walking or cycling. There is also a real opportunity to make canals a key place to walk and cycle.

In response to a query about what consultation had taken place on the measures just announced, members were informed that the measures were temporary and there had been considerable engagement but limited consultation. However, further consultation would need to happen if the measures are to be made permanent.

During discussions the following initiatives were highlighted:

- Ongoing work with Birmingham schools on sustainable travel through the Modeshift STARS travel planning tool.
- Work with the police on 'Safer Streets' areas outside schools.
- The 'Bikeability' cycle training programme with The Active Wellbeing Society.
- The ongoing monitoring of increases in cycling especially between the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the City Centre, cycling on the A38 route and significant increases along canal towpaths.
- The 'Places for People' concept of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods to reduce and slow traffic in areas to make it safer to walk and cycle.
- The 'Car Free School Streets' initiative whereby roads outside some Birmingham schools are closed to motor traffic at the start and end of the school day.
- Measures just published to ensure segregated cycle infrastructure and links to employment hubs.
- Work with the government on developing an e-scooter pilot.
- The importance of addressing accessibility to ensure that every child has access to a bicycle. Big Birmingham Bikes has given out c7,000 bikes and created cycling hubs in some communities but the need to do more was acknowledged and the Cabinet Member is working with the West Midlands Mayor, Andy Street to get a Bikeshare Scheme up and running.

RESOLVED:

1. A list of cycling clubs to be provided to members. Together with information about how members can access Birmingham Cycling Revolution T-shirts.

7. COMMONWEALTH GAMES, CULTURE & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY O&S COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

It was noted that, as already agreed, the committee will meet informally to discuss work programme priorities and innovative ways to continue with the community engagement piece of work which has already been started, in the wake of the COVID pandemic.

8. REQUEST(S) FOR CALL IN/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION/PETITIONS (IF ANY)

None.

9. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

10. 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 ended at 15:35 hours.