

# **COMMONWEALTH GAMES, CULTURE AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (O&S) COMMITTEE – VISIT**

**1330 hours on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020, Notes**

**Present:**

Councillor Mariam Khan (Chair)

Councillors: Alex Aitken, Zhor Malik, John Lines, Martin Straker Welds and Ron Storer

**Also Present:**

Rose Kiely, Group Overview and Scrutiny Manager

Ceri Saunders, Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Programme Team

Amanda Simcox, Scrutiny Officer

Andrew Simons, Community Development Worker for Birchfield Big Local

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## **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors: Morriam Jan and Hendrina Quinnen.

## **2. VISIT**

Members went along to the regular Birchfield Big Local's Wednesdays' Elders' Club at Grosvenor Road Studios, as part of the Community Engagement in Commonwealth Games piece of work.

The following were among the main points made during the discussion:

- Attendees knew about Birmingham hosting the Commonwealth Games (CWG) in 2022. Reasons for this include the area being close to Perry Barr and an officer from the CWG had been to the studios to discuss this. A request was made for the Leader and a Senior Officer to attend to answer questions.
- They are positive and very supportive about the CWG and feel this will put Birmingham on the map.
- There is a lot of energy and passion for showcasing arts, drama and creativity during the CWG and it was questioned whether there would be funding available.
- Culture, music and arts would be a wonderful advert for the city.
- It was suggested that a concert /music festival / reggae festival should happen alongside the CWG.

- The CWG could be a platform for dance and arts groups and it was questioned whether they could be involved in the opening / closing ceremony.
- There is an opportunity to put organisations / groups in touch with places that have space that can be used, e.g. the Methodist church has space available.
- There is a need to work with colleges and schools to get young people excited and involved.
- It was suggested that adverts and information could be put in places / centres such as Birchfield Big Local, as people and small social enterprises want to get involved and they don't know how.
- Got to get to the grass roots level and the internet is not always the answer.
- They want to be the drivers.
- Important that local people get training and good jobs and there is a legacy.
- Some felt that the CWG didn't offer much for people their age but was good for younger people.
- It was questioned whether local people / schools would be able to get reduced rates on the tickets.
- Members were asked to listen to a music video. The music video is not available at the moment, however there is a link to the Forward to Success video regarding the work with young people to make the anthem.  
<https://birchfieldbiglocal.org/2019/08/my-endz-summer-programme/>

Members discussed the next steps and it was agreed they would next like to engage with children in care and young people in outer city areas (e.g. Allens Cross/Croft and The Factory).

Members questioned whether anyone had spoken to Manchester about how they engaged with their communities when they hosted the CWG in 2002.

Members requested information in relation to the CWG including the Community Champion Programme and how people can get involved, so that Members can provide this when discussing the CWG with communities.

The Chair advised that Martin Green was hosting an event on 24 February 2020 for the cultural sector. The event will be an opportunity to hear more about the plans for the Commonwealth Games Festival

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/birmingham-2022-culture-programme-tickets-86496363953>

### **3. DATES OF MEETINGS**

The dates of future meetings are on the following Wednesdays at 1330 hours: 4 March 2020 and 1 April 2020. However, the Chair highlighted that visits may take place outside these dates and times and encouraged Members to be part of these.