

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

ECONOMY, SKILLS AND SUSTAINABILITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 12 FEBRUARY 2016

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ECONOMY, SKILLS AND SUSTAINABILITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON FRIDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2016 AT 1000 HOURS IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 3 AND 4, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM

PRESENT:-

Councillor Quinn in the Chair;

Councillors Barrie, Hughes, Huxtable, Islam, M Jenkins, O'Shea, Rehman and Spencer.

ALSO PRESENT

Councillor T Ali – Cabinet Member for Development, Transport and the Economy

Ms B Begum – Research and Policy Officer

Mr C Brockie – Cabinet Support Officer

Ms S Freedman – Assistant Director - Regeneration

Ms A Shaw – Assistant Director -Transport and Connectivity

Miss V Williams – Committee Manager

Mrs B Wishart – Overview and Scrutiny Manager

Mr C Wright – Drainage and Flood Risk Manager

NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

- 57 The Chairman advised, and the Committee noted, that this meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site (www.birminghamnewsroom.com) and members of the press/public could record and take photographs. The whole of the meeting would be filmed except where there were confidential or exempt items.

APOLOGIES

- 58 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillor J Evans.
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MINUTES

Councillor Islam wished his name to be recorded in the Minutes as having attended the last meeting.

- 59 With that amendment, the Minutes of the last meeting, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed.

CABINET MEMBER FOR DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORT AND THE ECONOMY

The following report of the Cabinet Member for Development, Transport and the Economy was submitted together with a copy of the presentation slides tabled at the meeting:-

(See documents Nos 1 and 2)

Councillor T Ali, Cabinet Member for Development, Transport and the Economy, gave a presentation and highlighted the achievements over the last year as more particularly referred to in the report and slides now submitted.

Councillor Ali responded to Members' questions and the following were amongst the points made:-

1. With regard to revenue costs, he suggested that funding could be raised, for example, through the retention of business rates or from enterprise contributions.
2. The Council had been lobbying the Department for Transport regarding the Camp Hill course. Discussions had also taken place with Centro. However, it was a long term project and would not be achieved overnight.
3. It was important to create good links between different modes of transport such as the metro, bus and rail networks.
4. With regard to local centres, a new strategy was being developed.
5. The Council was committed to the continued development of the A38 corridor, Innovation Birmingham and the science park.
6. Birmingham Smithfield would create opportunities for more than 1,000 homes.
7. Councillor Ali undertook to e-mail information regarding the Birmingham Jobs Fund to Members.

8. Councillor Ali offered to submit a progress report to a future meeting regarding the Community Infrastructure Levy which had come into effect on 1 January 2016.
9. The pop up job shop was a way of bringing together employers and job seekers. The aim was to try to match jobs with people.
10. The city centre mainly comprised large retail chain stores that were found in many other cities throughout the UK. However, there was also a 'uniqueness' to Birmingham created by independent businesses based in the local centres such as Alum Rock Road, Ladypool Road, Acocks Green, Sutton Coldfield and Erdington.

It was important to maintain a balance between large retail chain stores and independent businesses.
11. He confirmed that the highways funding PFI credits for 2010/11 had been protected.
12. The transport capital project was a rolling programme. A report was due to be considered by Cabinet on 16 February 2016.
13. Councillor Ali welcomed the suggestion that there should be a review of speed limits within the vicinity of schools.
14. It was important to improve the real time information regarding transport and travelling throughout the area.
15. Councillor Ali undertook to liaise with Councillor Brigid Jones, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, regarding funding for school crossing patrols.
16. The life expectancy of the work carried out on the Tame Valley Viaduct was between 25 and 30 years.
17. He briefly explained the road improvements to the junction at Iron Lane, Stechford, expected to commence in January 2017, and the Bromford Gyratory.
18. Councillor Ali welcomed the suggestion that European funding could be sought for providing intelligent road signage.
19. He undertook to e-mail information to Members regarding Birmingham Connected and Midlands Connect.
20. Councillor Ali urged Members to feed into the process regarding the parking review.
21. The length of the proposed rapid transit sprint vehicles would be a decision for the Integrated Transport Authority.

22. Birmingham was an economically successful city which attracted big investment and large organisations such as HSBC which had recently decided to relocate its headquarters from London to the Arena Central development in Broad Street.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Ali for attending the meeting.

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RESOLVED:-

That the report be noted.

The Committee adjourned at 1203 hours and reconvened at 1212 hours.

FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSE ANNUAL REPORT

The following report of the Flood Risk Manager was submitted:-

(See document No 3)

Mr C Wright, Flood Risk Manager, introduced the item, highlighting the progress in addressing the Council's new statutory responsibilities as a Lead Local Flood Authority, and provided an update on other flood risk management, as more particularly referred to in the report now submitted.

He responded to Members' questions and the following were amongst the points made:-

1. Dealing with accountancy and financial arrangements were now part of an engineer's role.
2. It was important to build on partnership working and make the most of any development opportunities.
3. The Council had been working with the Environment Agency to try to identify a way of carrying out flood defence work to protect approximately 70 to 80 properties in Sparkhill. One option currently being considered was to remove a weir.
4. In order to keep costs to a minimum, the Council had been working with the Environment Agency regarding the River Tame Strategy, referred to in paragraph 4.4.5 of the report.
5. He explained the different types of flooding that could occur.
6. The National Flood Forum provided support and advice to people who had suffered from flooding including information about insurance.
7. A mini flood fest was not feasible. The Birmingham Floodfest held last November 2015 had not been planned as an annual event and was only likely to be held again if there was something major to put forward.

However, members of the public could obtain information regarding flooding on the Council's website.

8. Members of the public could report blocked gullies by 'phoning 303 6644.
9. With regard to flood risk management, the Council worked on a daily basis with Severn Trent Water.

The Chairman thanked Mr Wright for attending the meeting.

61 **RESOLVED:-**

That the report be noted.

ECONOMY, SKILLS AND SUSTAINABILITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2015-16

The following work programme was submitted:-

(See document No 4)

62 **RESOLVED:-**

That the work programme be noted.

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

- 63 The Chairman advised that there had been no requests for call in/councillor call for action/petitions received.
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OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

- 64 No other urgent business was raised.
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AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

65 **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 1246 hours.

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CHAIRMAN