

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

**COMMONWEALTH GAMES, CULTURE & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**

**O&S COMMITTEE – PUBLIC MEETING**

**1330 hours on Wednesday, 12 October 2022, Committee Rooms 3 & 4,  
Council House**

**Action Notes**

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**Present:**

Councillor Jack Deakin (Chair)

Councillors: Marcus Bernasconi, Rinkal Shergill, and Ron Storer

**Also Present:**

Cllr Ian Ward, Leader

Cllr Morriam Jan, Former Member of the Commonwealth Games, Culture and Physical Activity O&S Committee

Graeme Betts, Director, Adult Social Care and Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) Legacy Senior Responsible Officer (SRO)

Craig Cooper, Former Commonwealth Games Programme Director

Amelia Murray, Overview and Scrutiny Manager

Cat Orchard, Head of Community Partnerships

Amanda Simcox, Scrutiny Officer

**1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST**

The Chair advised that this meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's meeting You Tube site ([www.youtube.com/channel/UCT2kT7ZRPFCXq6\\_5dnVnYlw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCT2kT7ZRPFCXq6_5dnVnYlw)) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

## **2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors Bushra Bi, Deborah Harries (who replaced Cllr Morriam Jan on the Committee) and Darius Sandhu.

## **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

None.

## **4. ACTION NOTES**

(See document No. 1)

### **RESOLVED:**

The action notes of the formal meeting held on the 6 July 2022 were agreed.

## **5. COMMONWEALTH GAMES LEGACY**

(See documents No. 2 and No. 3)

Cllr Ian Ward, Leader, Graeme Betts, Director, Adult Social Care and CLT Legacy SRO, and Cat Orchard, Head of Community Partnerships were in attendance for this item.

The Leader introduced the item and highlighted that most people were probably not aware of the impact the Commonwealth Games would have on the city. He was in the fortunate position of having seen the Commonwealth Games in Manchester, in 2002, and Glasgow, in 2014, and other major sporting events around the world, so had some understanding how a huge event could deliver a real legacy, not only in terms of physical infrastructure, but also in terms of generating pride and confidence within the city.

It was not surprising that when the decision to bid was made in 2015, to host the 2026 Games, there was a degree of scepticism, if not outright opposition. The Leader hopes that everyone has now seen what a transformational impact the Games has had on the city, and not just those areas that hosted the sporting events, but also in the city centre during the 11 days of the Games, where you could see people in this city growing in stature, confidence, and pride for what Birmingham was achieving.

The Leader gave credit to everybody who was involved in delivering the most successful Commonwealth Games in the UK. Success can be measured in terms of the 1.5m tickets sold, which is more than any other host city in the UK, and the Commonwealth Games Federation delegates commented to him that it's either the best they have attended, or they could recall, which is a tribute to everyone involved.

It is now important to ensure we deliver the legacy, one example of this is the positive effects it had on businesses, with them asking what we are we doing next and whether they can be a part, which puts us in a stronger position, particularly with the ambition to host an annual cultural festival in late July/early August, and turning this into an international celebration of culture here in Birmingham.

It is important we build on the legacy and remind people of the things that have arisen as a result of hosting the Games, so that when we look back, we recognise this was a significant moment in the city's history, and that Birmingham was transformed for the better, which was a brave decision for the Council to make.

Graeme Betts, Director, Adult Social Care and CLT Legacy SRO, set the context and highlighted the legacy from the big strategic drivers, such as the Alexander Stadium, meaning we can attract world class events, and equally important is the grass roots work in the communities which needs to be fully realised.

Cat Orchard gave the presentation and the main points included:

- There has been a recent announcement regarding £60m legacy but no details have been provided.
- There are two legacy plans: the Council's Legacy Plan and a Partners Legacy Plan.
- Examples were given of the Games partner ambitions, and it is not just the City Council delivering these: bring people together, help the region grow and succeed, improve health and wellbeing, be a catalyst for change, and put us firmly on the map.
- The Council's Legacy Plan sets out a series of promises that align to the Council Plan, and they are reviewing the short, medium, and long term ambitions, which can be shared with the Committee once completed.
- Boost investment in Birmingham, creating thousands of jobs and become a world-leader in hosting international events: there is a 10 year major event strategy, and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has produced a snapshot report on the highlights and immediate impacts of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, which can be shared with Members.
- Engage every child and young person in the Games, including all 400+ schools in the city: the Council invested £0.5m in Bring the Power. They are looking to secure additional funding to continue this.
- Build programme and community projects to kickstart an accessible fitness and wellbeing boom: Birmingham has high level physical inactivity. The programme included 70 Active Streets. The partnership team are very keen to come to Committee and update Members on the programme. Dave Wagg is currently working on the new sport and physical activity strategy. The sport and physical activity team and Public Health will continue to look for future opportunities to work alongside Sport England, nationally and locally. We are

supporting Sport Birmingham with funding the Club Together Initiative, which is about grass roots support.

- Open our city to the world and connect our communities for and after the Games: £6m Celebrating Communities Fund, Stronger Communities, Birmingham 2022 Cultural Festival (conversations ongoing about hosting an annual cultural festival), and Creative City.
- Launch an era of green growth through high-quality sports facilities, thousands of new sustainable homes, and green transport links: Perry Barr 2040, connected green spaces, sustainable travel, and sporting facilities.
- Perry Barr: The legacy plan for the Alexander Stadium will feed into physical activity strategy.
- Deliver our promise to the city and become a leading local authority with bold ambitions: we have learnt a lot from delivering the Games and we will continue to ensure it is embedded. Legacy is longer term, and they will continue to work with partners, and it is about seizing opportunities.

Graeme Betts commented that the review of the legacy plan should be completed by the end of the year, and it is important that we outline how we embed and retain what we have accomplished.

During the discussion and in response to queries raised by Members, the main points included:

- The Games was a landmark event and a big moment in Birmingham, and the commitment to grass roots events was welcomed.
- The Leader stated that the only way you can increase sport and physical activity in the city is to grow sports clubs and create additional ones. He is determined that out of the underspend, c.£5m will be invested in grass roots sport and c.£5m in grass root culture across the city. The £6m of community funding worked really well and this needs to be explored going forward.
- There will be £24m investment in the Alexander Stadium and Perry Park as agreed at Cabinet yesterday. To encourage utilisation of underutilised parks it might be worth giving up a little space to attract usage, such as a café, and more needs to be done to attract young people.
- Whether the parking levy would impact on people using the park was queried, and Members were informed that people should be encouraged to use public transport.
- Eight years ago, there was an initiative that invested in council run leisure centres, and we need to make sure we continue to make this investment. We need to make the facilities available, and increasingly will be looking to work with sport clubs around the city on some of these.

- The Leader declared an interest, there is a proposal that the council is currently considering, where there might be a leisure centre built on the land leased by Moseley Rugby Club, which will be available to members of the public.
- The Games has also led to investment, for instance Holford Drive had floodlights installed, Wyndley Leisure Centre had a new hockey pitch, Alexander Stadium now has £24m for investment in community sporting facilities in and adjacent to the stadium. Also, as a result of beach volleyball being part of the Games, the sand is remaining in the city and there will be three beach volleyball facilities: Erdington Rugby Club, Moseley Rugby Club and one, to international standard, in the stadium.
- Small Heath Leisure Centre has had to close, and options are being explored.
- The focus of the Scrutiny Inquiry is improving access to physical activity opportunities, both participating and spectating, for our disabled citizens and communities:
  - The Organising Committee did a tremendous amount of work around disability inclusion, and access to events, and live sites, and Adults Social Care contributed to this to ensure the Games was accessible to everyone, and Changing Places managed to attract funding.
  - The Leader highlighted that next year we are doing something to showcase sports for all, as the city will be hosting the 2023 International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) World Games, and it is hoped that the Council gives prominence to this event and people come and support this.<sup>1</sup>
  - There is funding via the Community Fund for a project to provide accessible cycling lessons.
  - Spirit of 2012 has started a piece of work around the experiences of disabled athletes, and how disabled people interact with major cultural and sporting events.<sup>2</sup>

**RESOLVED:**

- The update was noted.
- The review of the short, medium, and long term ambitions in the Council's Legacy Plan to be shared with the Committee when completed.
- Cat to provide a weblink to the DCMS report on the highlights and immediate impacts of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ibasport.org/ibsa-world-games/ibsa-world-games-2023/>

<sup>2</sup> [Home - Spirit of 2012](#)

- Officers to provide information on how to promote and maintain attendance at parks where there are car parking charges. This is to include Cannon Hill Park, where the City Council partnered with the Midlands Art Centre (MAC) for the car parking and the surplus is divided by the Council and MAC.

## 6. COMMONWEALTH GAMES UPDATE

(See document No. 4)

Cllr Ian Ward, Leader, and Craig Cooper, Former CWG Programme Director were in attendance for this item.

The Leader introduced the item, which is a review of the Games itself and looking ahead at what we are delivering from it.

Craig Cooper gave the presentation (which includes three videos) and the main points included:

- Thanked the Committee for the oversight, guidance, encouragement, and support given to them in delivering a successful Games.
- Over the last few months, they have been able to demonstrate the fantastic ambition when the bold decision was made to bid for the Games.
- This has been a catalyst and firmly put Birmingham on the global map.
- Challenges: half the time to plan and deliver, Brexit, Covid 19 – with the Games becoming more important to help communities come together, Suez Canal blocked, supply chain issues, and the new ‘new normal’, with collaboration being a challenge as they had to adapt to a different way of working remotely.
- Setting the Stage:
  - Venues: delivered the venues, with 1.5bn TV audience watching the opening ceremony, 1.5 million tickets sold for the events, 5.5m footfall over the two weeks in the city centre, as it wasn’t just about sport.
  - Preparing our city: different directorates came together to deliver this and have done a phenomenal job.
  - City dressing: They drew in an additional funding of c.£2.2m from central government to dress the city, and the second video encapsulates all the different activities of the city dressing team.
- Delivering a successful Games:
  - Operating the city: during the Games time, they established BC4, which was a co-ordination and operations centre from across the Council’s directorates, alongside the police and partners, kept the city moving, Get Set for the Games - where they engaged with communities and businesses that would be affected by the Games, the Festival was a key component in giving opportunities to all parts of our communities to engage.

- Our proud Host City Volunteers: 14,000 people joined the Commonwealth Collective, and the Council's volunteer programme had the highest retention rate.
- The Queens baton played a key role, with the former Chair, Cllr Mariam Khan, and the Committee having played a key role in setting the principles, and engagement with local communities and faith leaders .
- A proud host city:
  - Community Investment: The Council's investment of £6m. The physical activity with the eight community games and the work that Sport Birmingham is going to take forward in raising the profile of sport. Bring the Power and working very closely with the OC to make sure that engagement with young people was at the heart of the programme.
  - Putting Birmingham on the map: Craig thanked the Leader, and they made sure that no stone was left unturned in making sure they squeezed every ounce of opportunity.
  - They have delivered on the five mission statements that they laid out four and a half years ago, and the long-term benefits and the profile of the city is now firmly established.

During the discussion and in response to queries raised by Members, the main points included:

- About 30% are technical volunteers and are international accredited, and they do that job all over the world at international events.
- The issues with lack of signage and volunteers when Cllr Morriam Jan visited Coventry. They can pass this feedback to Coventry City Council, who worked with the OC regarding volunteering.
- The council put together a meticulous training package for volunteers in Birmingham.
- There was a very sophisticated safety and security programme established, and this was led by the Chief Constable for West Midlands Police.
- The bull is going back to the workshop for repair and maintenance, however, they have to reduce the height so it can go under the bridges. It will re-emerge in Birmingham at an indoor venue to be revealed shortly.
- Members gave thanks to Craig and his team for the delivery of a successful games.
- There were volunteers from 57 of the wards, and a list of the wards which did not have any volunteer representation was requested.
- The audit threat of the city had identified a number of significant buildings that have viewing galleries, and there was a direction to close them from a safety perspective.

**RESOLVED:**

- The update was noted.

- A list to be provided of the wards which did not have any volunteers represented at the Games.

## 7. WORK PROGRAMME

(See document No. 5)

- 2 November 2022 committee meeting: Cllr Jayne Francis, Cabinet Member for Digital, Culture, Heritage & Culture will attend.
- The Chair will explore whether Nichola Turner, Director for Legacy can come and speak to the Committee.
- 7 December 2022 committee meeting: Cllr Mariam Khan, Cabinet Member, Health and Social Care, will now be attending this committee meeting, and the Committee agreed to start the meeting at 1.30pm.
- Cllr Morriam Jan has left the committee and been replaced by Councillor Deborah Harries. The Chair is happy for any Councillor to attend, as this is at the discretion of the Chair, but asked that Cllr Morriam Jan let him know if she had specific items she wishes to comment on.
- An update on the T&F Group was provided and details are contained within the papers.
- Amelia Murray asked Members what items/issues they wanted to come to the Committee in relation to the Games legacy. These could be themed, and she requested Members come back and indicate what they want to look at. It was agreed that an e-mail will be sent with the Legacy Plan setting out what was being requested from Members.
- It was agreed that there will be time allocated on the 2 November 2022 agenda for Members to discuss the Games Legacy, and the Scrutiny Inquiry.

### **RESOLVED:**

- The work programme to be updated accordingly as agreed.
- The Chair to explore whether it would be appropriate for Nichola Turner MBE, Director of Legacy for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games to be invited to a future meeting of the Committee.
- Agreed the 7 December 2022 committee meeting will start at 1.30pm.
- Agreed an e-mail will be sent with the Legacy Plan setting out what was being requested from Members.
- Agreed that there will be time allocated on the 2 November 2022 agenda for Members to discuss the Games Legacy, and the Scrutiny Inquiry.
- Noted the membership for the Inquiry the Committee is involved with (Cllr Morriam Jan to be replaced).
- Agreed the Terms of Reference for the Health and Wellbeing and Commonwealth Games Inquiry.

- Noted the Deputy Chair of the Inquiry Task and Finish Group as Cllr Gareth Moore (representative from Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee).

**8. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED:**

Noted the date of the next meeting is 2 November 2022 at 1400 hours in Committee Room 6.

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

None.

**10. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

**11. AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS**

**RESOLVED:**

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

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The meeting ended at 15.30 hours.