

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

ECONOMY, SKILLS AND TRANSPORT O&S COMMITTEE

1500 hours on 15th February 2018, Committee Rooms 3&4 – Actions

Present:

Councillor Zafar Iqbal (Chair)

Councillors Sir Albert Bore, Zaker Choudhry, Phil Davis, Liz Clements, Timothy Huxtable, Ziaul Islam, Josh Jones, Mahmood Hussain and John O'Shea

Also Present:

Councillor Ian Ward, Leader

Councillor Stewart Stacey, Cabinet Member for Transport & Roads

Councillor Chaman Lal, Cabinet Adviser – Transport Project Delivery

Councillor Randal Brew

Philip Edwards, Assistant Director, Transport & Connectivity

David Harris, Transport Policy Manager

Kevin Hicks, Assistant Director, Highways

Steve Hollingsworth, Assistant Director, Sports & Events

Baseema Begum, Research & Policy Officer, Scrutiny Office

Rose Kiely, Overview & Scrutiny Manager, Scrutiny Office

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING

The Chairman advised that this meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site (which could be accessed at "www.birminghamnewsroom.com") and members of the press/public may record and take photographs.

The whole of the meeting would be filmed except where there were confidential or exempt items.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Ken Wood and David Barrie. Apologies were also received from Councillors Mohammed Aikhlaq, Muhammad Afzal, Meirion Jenkins and Waseem Zaffar of the Corporate Resources & Governance Overview and

Scrutiny Committee that were attending for the 'Update on Commonwealth Games' item.

3. ECONOMY, SKILLS AND TRANSPORT: ACTION NOTES 15TH FEBRUARY 2018/ISSUES ARISING

The Chair, Cllr Iqbal confirmed progress on outstanding actions from the Committee's previous meeting:

- Malcolm Holmes has confirmed that he will be speaking to the West Midlands Railway Customer Service Director, with regards to the implementation of the 'Baby on Board' scheme on local rail services.
- A copy of the rolling programme of flood risk management works was sent to Cllr Wood on 8th February as requested.

4. UPDATE ON COMMONWEALTH GAMES

The Leader outlined the key points from his report. During discussion and in response to Members the following points were made:

- If the funding isn't secured for the refurbishment of the site planned for the Athletes Village then the alternative plan is to use university accommodation. However the Village is a key requirement of the Games and a legacy for the city in providing homes. The City is under a constrained timescale of having to deliver this in 4 years instead of the usual 8.
- Aside from the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) being awarded to build the Village no other funding is available. The alternative option is to use university accommodation comes with an additional cost.
- In terms of the transport legacy there is work underway for the Midland Metro extension being built in the Eastside of the city. It would be useful to expedite this and link it to the work on Digbeth coach station that is due to be completed by November 2022.
- Enhancements are being made to Perry Barr rail station and its link to the city centre. Work is also being prioritised on the Bus Rapid Transit (SPRINT) route along the A34 dual carriageway to connect to the city centre, Alexander stadium and Perry Barr rail station. Work is also being done to ensure that pedestrians can easily link to both the train and bus.
- Following the Games it is anticipated 1000 new homes will be created on the Village site. An additional 3000-4000 homes will be created in total as part of the wider Perry Barr masterplan. This will include affordable homes.
- The City Council is committed to providing £5m in revenue costs. The City Council is exploring options for financing with the Government.
- An open conversation with the Government and local hotels is being held with regards to piloting a hotel levy scheme.
- In terms of project governance the City Council will be appointing a Corporate Director for the Games to co-ordinate work within the City Council and work with partners.
- The Local Organising Committee (LOC) is responsible for complying with Government guidelines with respect to ethnicity and gender representation

on the Strategic Board. The security costs will be covered by the LOC budget and any increase in costs than the allocated amount will be covered by the Government.

- In terms of the cultural programme for the Games the City Council is talking to organisations in the city about how they can help deliver this. The City will also work with Coventry City Council to gain learning from their work on the City of Culture which they will host in 2021.
- Alongside the key legacies for the city there are also leisure facilities that will be built or enhanced that the citizens of Birmingham will benefit from together with the accelerated and improved connectivity and transport options. The Council's Health and Wellbeing service will be able to use these legacies to encourage and drive a change in people's behaviour in terms of inactivity and tackling the obesity levels in the city.
- Tickets purchased for events will include free public transport.

RESOLVED:-

1. The Committee noted the report.

5. CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ROADS

The Cabinet Member outlined the key points from his report and during discussion with Members the following points were made:

Cllr Huxtable declared an interest as a substitute member on the West Midlands Bus Alliance.

The Cabinet Member confirmed that the City Council was waiting for Government funding to progress the 3 train lines and 11 Bus Rapid Transit (SPRINT) routes as stated in the Birmingham Connected White Paper (2014). The SPRINT routes have been rationalised and 3 of these have been prioritised as part of the preparation for the Commonwealth Games.

Key to the work on the Midland Metro Eastside extension (including the Digbeth area) is ensuring a development agreement is in place with HS2. Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) are in discussions with the Department for Transport (DfT) and HS2 to bring this forward. It was highlighted that the interface with Moor Street Queensway was crucial as part of this work and to ensure that this is linked to the work taking place in time for the Commonwealth Games.

Cllr Bore highlighted that the Committee needed to keep an eye on the progress of the Midland Metro and SPRINT routes to ensure that lessons are learnt from the previous Metro extension. This could be done through quarterly reports with relevant data on timescale and costs that Members could analyse and keep a track on for future delivery. In the first instance a report to the Committee in understanding the current position would be helpful with details of routes, implications of delay and funding. The Cabinet Member added that the Transport Delivery Committee (part of TfWM) of which the City Council has Members on receives regular reports and that the City Council is working with TfWM on analysing progress.

In terms of work on Park and Ride schemes it was confirmed that the aim is to target strategic sites where motorists are about to or are just entering the conurbation. There is however one scheme in progress led by TfWM to build a site in Longbridge that would provide an additional 600 car parking spaces. TfWM are also developing a new Park and Ride strategic strategy.

There are currently 5 Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ) in the city (4 in the city centre and 1 suburban). The costs associated with CPZ's are a tool to rationalise the available road space and help to keep traffic flowing. CPZ's are also used to encourage behavioural change (by using other modes of travel beside the car) in commuters especially those travelling to the city centre.

The CPZ scheme in Erdington is currently out to public formal consultation. Feedback so far has been mixed and officers will be using this experience for future requests for CPZ's in the city. It was noted that due to cuts in the budget work in this area was taking longer than anticipated due to under resourcing.

It was confirmed that a policy statement was being worked on for CPZs.

A parking strategy for the city is currently being drafted. Data is being collected to help prioritise where action needs to be taken. This will also help identify how interventions will need to be funded due to the reduction in capital funding available.

Members also noted that parking around schools and lack of enforcement is a major issue for residents however the powers to enforce lie with the Police. It was noted that Solihull Metropolitan Council were doing some work on exclusion zones around schools that Birmingham may want to look into.

Members raised a number of similar issues with regards to the state of the public highway currently maintained by Amey PLC under a PFI contract. Due to current legal issues in dispute Members requested a private briefing.

RESOLVED:-

1. The Cabinet Member to provide a briefing paper on the current position of the Midland Metro Extension and SPRINT routes.
2. The Committee to add to its future work programme quarterly updates on the Midland Metro Extension and SPRINT routes.
3. A private briefing for the Committee is provided on the current position of the PFI contract.

6. WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE ECONOMY, SKILLS AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2017-18

(See document No 4)

The work programme was noted.

RESOLVED:-

1. An item to be added to the Committee's work programme for 2018/19 on the West Midlands Mayor's bus franchising powers.
2. Members agreed to cancel the Committee's April meeting.

7. REQUEST(S) FOR CALL IN/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION/PETITIONS

None.

8. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

9. 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 1744 hours.