

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

COMMONWEALTH GAMES, CULTURE & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

O&S COMMITTEE – PUBLIC MEETING

**1330 hours on Wednesday, 7 December 2022, Committee Rooms 3 & 4,
Council House**

Action Notes

Present:

Councillor Jack Deakin (Chair)

Councillors: Gurdial Singh Atwal, Marcus Bernasconi, Bushra Bi, Deborah Harries,
Darius Sandhu, Rinkal Shergill, and Ron Storer

Also Present:

Cllr. Mariam Khan, Cabinet Member, Health and Social Care

Chris Jordan, AD, Neighbourhoods

Amelia Murray, Overview and Scrutiny Manager

Ceri Saunders, Cabinet Support Officer

Amanda Simcox, Scrutiny Officer

Dave Wagg, Head of Sport and Physical Activity / Alexander Stadium Redevelopment

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chair advised that this meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's meeting You Tube site (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 for lateness were given on behalf of Cllr. Rinkal Shergill.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

4. ACTION NOTES AND ACTION TRACKER

(See documents No. 1 and No. 2)

In relation to the action tracker the Chair highlighted that he would forward the list of the wards which did not have any volunteers represented at the Games. Also, it may be appropriate for the use of parks for physical activity and events, and visitor numbers following parking levies item to be scheduled for later in the municipal year when more information should be available.

RESOLVED:

That:

- The action notes of the formal meeting held on 2 November 2022 were agreed
- The action tracker was noted.
- Cllr. Jack Deakin to forward the list of the wards which did not have any volunteers represented at the Games.

5. CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

(See documents No. 3 and No. 4)

Cllr. Mariam Khan, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care, Chris Jordan, AD, Neighbourhoods, Dave Wagg, Head of Sport and Physical Activity / Alexander Stadium Redevelopment, and Ceri Saunders, Cabinet Support Officer were in attendance for this item.

The Cabinet Member thanked the Committee for inviting her to the meeting and highlighted the areas of her portfolio, provided details of the Community, Wellbeing and Sport Services, and summarised the opportunities: events, including Euro Athletics Championships, and implementation of the new Leisure Management System (Gladstone), and risks: pressures due to Covid recovery, and cost of living and energy crisis.

Her priorities, as they relate to the Committee's remit, were the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy, the Alexander Stadium legacy, grassroots sports, and Moseley Road baths. The Cabinet Member has also been promoting the Committee's Inquiry: Promoting Health and Wellbeing – A Commonwealth Games Legacy, and information

on groups that would like to give evidence was provided. Cllr. Mariam Khan also referenced the Disability Awareness Webinar with Public Health on 14 December 2022 and agreed to provide Members with further information / weblink.

A summary of what the Sport Service was responsible for was given and this included increasing participation, which involved linking in with key organisations so there was an affordable and sustainable offer to citizens.

Information was provided on the Alexander Stadium and developing the legacy, including grass roots sport, and examples of the refurbishment of up to 20 priority basketball courts and enhancing tennis opportunities across the city were given. Dave Wagg would welcome the opportunity to attend a committee meeting in the New Year to discuss this further. Information on driving the legacy and the £1.5m worth of sport equipment gifted in the region led by Sport England was also provided.

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

Grassroots Sports

- The importance of grassroots sports following the Commonwealth Games, which included communities being involved, and the key link between grassroots and elite sports was sports clubs. Sport Birmingham provided assistance to sports clubs.

Leisure Facilities

- Whether they can effectively measure visitor levels from the disabled community in our leisure facilities:
 - The Gladstone system will allow them to do this.
 - Data in terms of usage was included within the Sport and Leisure contracts.
 - In terms of managing programmes and activities, they were linked with The Active Wellbeing Society (TAWS), and the Health and Wellbeing Service.
 - They encouraged all sport events to have disabilities embedded.
 - The Gladstone system will most likely show there was room for improvement, and they needed to encourage and talk to the relevant groups, who can then also be used as ambassadors to demonstrate there were opportunities for everyone.
 - There was a need to drive accessibility information across all their leisure centres etc. The AccessAble website provides accessible information ([Birmingham Access Guides | AccessAble](#)).
 - Increasing monitoring and evaluation will make our city more inclusive and will generate more opportunities.
 - They were linking in with partners, such as Public Health, Sport Birmingham, and Sport England regarding data that was available to increase participation and provision.

- They were looking at a wider programme of sport events to increase inclusivity in the city.
- There was a lack of water space in the Hodge Hill constituency and as part of the strategy they need to explore how they could deliver this.
- It was thought that the sporting guidance was that residents needed to be 20 minutes drive from their nearest swimming facility, and this was the case for the majority of residents. Dave Wagg undertook to provide written confirmation.
- The Covid recovery issues for the [sport and leisure contracts](#) were addressed in the December 2022 Cabinet report. However, leisure operators nationally were finding utility charges a risk and will continue to have dialogue with contractors.

Sport and Physical Activity Strategy

- The Sport and Physical Activity Strategy will be inclusive, and they were aware they needed to think outside the box in terms of the provision and people, so that it covers everything that can be developed for everyone. Also, they will embark on a series of engagement sessions, and Councillors and the Committee will be involved in the process.
- Dave Wagg will contact Cllr. Deborah Harries outside of the meeting regarding the lack of provision within her ward.
- Whether inner city areas and density of population was a factor was queried. There were a range of factors such as distance etc.

Basketball Courts

- More work was being undertaken regarding the basketball courts and they will report back when the list has been completed. Work was scheduled to begin next year on the basketball courts with a view to being completed and fully operational by 2024.

Alexander Stadium

- The Alexander Stadium: they have re-opened the gymnastics and martial arts programmes, the public gym, and warm up track etc. The areas not re-opened were the main stadium bowl and the main west stand. This was because of the significant works needed and the stadium will be re-launched in April 2023.
- A visit for the Committee to the Alexander Stadium to be organised and Members requested a full walk around to ascertain accessibility, particularly as a spectator.

Tennis Courts

- Dave Wagg suggested he attends a future committee meeting to discuss enhancing tennis opportunities across the city. The Committee agreed to this.

Commonwealth Games Equipment Gifting

- They were awaiting information on the £1.5m equipment gifted within the city from Sport England, and they will come back to the Committee on this.

£60m Commonwealth Games Underspend

- Confirmation on the underspend was anticipated for before or just after Christmas.

RESOLVED:

That:

- The update was noted.
- The Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care to provide more information / weblink for the Disability Awareness Webinar.
- Dave Wagg to:
 - Contact Cllr. Deborah Harries outside of the meeting regarding the lack of provision within her ward.
 - Report back on the basketball courts once the list has been completed.
 - Confirm the sporting guidance regarding the distance residents should be to their nearest swimming facility, and whether residents met those criteria.
 - Attend a future committee meeting to discuss enhancing tennis opportunities across the city.
 - Provide information on the £1.5m equipment gifted within the city.
 - A visit for the Committee to the Alexander Stadium to be organised and Members requested a full walk around to ascertain accessibility particularly as a spectator.

6. WORK PROGRAMME

(See document No. 5)

The Chair highlighted that Cllrs. Mick Brown and Gareth Moore were part of the Inquiry T&F Group and have a standing invitation to attend committee meetings as part of the evidence gathering. There had been 29 responses to the Be Heard consultation and the Chair encouraged Members to promote the inquiry in their wards. Members suggested groups that would be keen to give evidence (Deaf World and Accessi Blues (who had filled in the questionnaire on Be Heard)).

RESOLVED:

- That the work programme was agreed, and Members were updated on the Promoting Health & Wellbeing – A Commonwealth Games Legacy Inquiry T&F Group.

7. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

Noted the date of the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, 11 January 2023 at 1400 in Committee Rooms 3 & 4.

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

None.

9. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

10. 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.

The meeting ended at 14.50 hours.