

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

COMMONWEALTH GAMES, CULTURE & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

O&S COMMITTEE – PUBLIC MEETING

1000 hours on Wednesday, 16 March 2022, Committee Room C, Margaret Street, Council House Extension

Action Notes

Present:

Councillor Mariam Khan (Chair)

Councillors: Gurdial Singh Atwal, Mohammed Azim, Yvonne Mosquito, Ron Storer, and Martin Straker Welds

Also Present:

Cllr Ian Ward, Leader

Craig Cooper, Commonwealth Games Programme Director

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) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Cllrs Morriam Jan and John Lines.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

4. ACTION NOTES

(See document No. 1)

RESOLVED:

The action notes of the formal meeting held on the 9th February 2022 were agreed.

5. COMMONWEALTH GAMES UPDATE

(See document No. 2)

Cllr Ian Ward, Leader, and Craig Cooper, Commonwealth Games Programme Director, gave the presentation, and the main points included:

- There are 134 days until the opening ceremony on the 28th July 2022 and this is the biggest event the city will have played host to.
- Opportunities include promoting the city to an international audience and changing the image of the city both nationally and internationally.
- There are economic benefits to the city and the wider region, and this is not limited to the million people who will attend the Games and the boost to the hospitality sector.
- There are also legacy benefits to hosting the Games and Manchester and Glasgow are examples of how a city can be transformed when they host the Games.
- The cultural programme wraps around the Games and starts on the 17th March 2022 in Centenary Square and this programme runs until September 2022.
- The venues are on track and will be handed over to the Organising Committee (OC).
- A one team approach has been adopted by the Council and its partners and plans are in place, e.g. Get Set has been launched to enable residents and businesses to be ready for the Games.
- This is a Games for everyone and includes every household, all communities, athletes and officials, children and young people, visitors and spectators, business and employers, and trainees and workers.
- The legacy plan's statement is 'we want a city that supports and celebrates what makes us different. An inclusive and united city. We want a clean and green city. We want people to see us, hear us, come and visit and experience this great city with us. We want to put this city on the map'. It has six key commitments.
 - Boost investment in Birmingham creating thousands of jobs and become a world-leader in hosting international events.

- Engage every child and young person in the Games, including all 400+ schools in the city. This includes the Bring the Power Programme and 5,000 additional free tickets for children in care and their carers.
- Build programmes and community projects to kickstart an accessible fitness and wellbeing boom. This includes £1m from Sport England for Active Communities in five wards with high levels of physical deprivation: Lozells, Alum Rock, Sparkbrook and Balsall Heath East, Castle Vale, and Heartlands.
- Open our city to the world and connect our communities for and after the Games includes the Birmingham 2022 Festival, and the anticipation of an increase in visitors after the Games, which happened with Manchester and Glasgow.
- Launch an era of green growth through high-quality sports facilities, thousands of new sustainable homes and green transport links to become a carbon neutral city by 2030. The Perry Barr Masterplan is an example of this.
- Deliver our promise to the city and become a leading local authority with bold ambitions.

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

- City Operations are leading on all of the roads being in the right condition, particularly around games venues and key routes.
- The aim of the Games Transport Plan is to make sure the city keeps moving and the athletes and officials can get to the venues on time. This is a partnership between Transport for West Midlands and the Council.
- Get Set for the Games gives advice to residents and businesses as to how they may want to adjust their travel arrangements during the Games.
- Learning from what happened during the London Olympics, the Leader's message to everyone is to come into the city for this fantastic celebration and everyone should be part of this, even if they haven't got a ticket. There are also seven live events in the parks plus the events in the city centre.
- The co-ordination of community safety is through the Safety and Security Programme led by the Chief Constable of West Midlands Police.
- The Council has led the capital programmes for the venues in Birmingham.
- The train stations are run by Transport for West Midlands and the Perry Barr Station will be completed for the Games.
- Rob James, City Operations Manager, is leading on ensuring the road infrastructure is suitable.

- Transport for West Midlands is responsible for the metro works in Digbeth and this will not be completed in time for the Games. However, they are required to cover over any works that have not been completed during the Games to allow for traffic. They will then return after the Games to complete the work.
- The Games is a fantastic opportunity to help promote women in sport and there are more medals for women than men.
- Nicola Turner, MBE has been appointed as the director of legacy and a charity has been formed. This is a partnership arrangement with all the key partners. When the OC and Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) move on after the Games, the Council, West Midlands Police, and West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) need to make sure the legacy benefits continue.
- They are planning to meet with the arts organisations to discuss the annual arts festival arising from the Games, as this needs to be led by them and supported by the Council. The ambition for this should be international and schools should be involved, with the activities from the Games being used to inform and develop this.
- Whether the Lord Mayor's Charity could be linked to the new charity that has been set up for the legacy of the Games was questioned. The Lord Mayor's Charity has a wider remit than the new charity that has been set up, and the Leader will be pleased to have a conversation with the Lord Mayor and former Lord Mayors to discuss raising the profile of the Lord Mayor's Charity.
- Cllr Yvonne Mosquito declared an interest as she is a board member on Cultural Spectrum.
- The opportunities arising from the Games were welcomed and these included the first fully integrated volunteer programme and children in care being encouraged to be part of this.
- Members welcomed children in care being involved in the Games and requested whether the Leader could explore opportunities for children in care to shadow those making decisions within the Council to inspire them.
- There is a Games Transport Plan which is a statutory plan that partners have to comply with. If roadworks are not completed in time for the Games, then they will be stood down. There will also be park and ride facilities and Games tickets include the cost of public transport to and from the event.
- The Games are for everyone and the venues will be fully accessible.
- The para sport programme will be taking place alongside and during the Games and not as a separate activity after the Games.
- Over the last 12 months the Council has invested heavily in the highways network and this will continue post-Games.

- Sandwell Aquatics Centre will be the best facility outside London and the major sport steering group are discussing whether Sandwell Council should have a seat at this.
- Opportunities for the use of Alexander Stadium post Games are being explored, which will not just be about sport and creating a sporting village but will also include other opportunities such as music events. They are also in discussion with Sport England about investment in community facilities at the Stadium and a legacy for local people.
- They have recently entered into an agreement with UK Athletics which focuses on the indoor grand prix, the return of the Diamond League and securing another athletics event.
- They have at least two test events planned at Alexander Stadium, one is for the UK Armed Forces sports event in April and then secondly on the 21st May it will be hosting the Diamond League Athletics.
- The safety and security programme is overseen by the Security Minister and the Chief Constable for West Midlands Police is delivering the programme. Policing levels across the West Midlands are being analysed and it is expected that normal policing levels will remain with enhanced policing at particular times, and the Home Office has provided additional resources.
- 1.5m tickets have been sold and there is availability for some large venues such as women's cricket. Some people hold back on purchasing tickets as they want to see certain countries and they don't know until later when they will be playing.
- Opportunities for small vendors and pop-ups was queried. Within the venues, food and drink vendors would need to bid to the OC. As for pop-up shops there is the Commonwealth Games Act and exclusions around the sporting locations that need to be factored in. The Chair suggested the Leader and Programme Director may wish to look into this and the Be Bold, Be Birmingham brand could be used rather than the Games branding.
- Cat Orchard's team will continue until March 2023 and there is a discussion with Graeme Betts, the legacy lead, on how the directorates ensure the legacy benefits are embedded for future years.
- There is still work to be done in clearing up the city and the plans and extra resources were welcomed. During the first lockdown fly tipping increased nationally and this has reduced in Birmingham this year. Additional resources have been allocated but the challenge for recruiting HGV drivers is causing problems and training internally is on-going to assist with this. It must also be recognised that some residents dump their rubbish, an example of a fridge being dumped was given, and it was suggested that Members could say this in

the wards as this is a collective effort. Enforcement will also help to address this.

- Some pockets of the community may still not be engaged, and it was suggested that more could be done regarding communication and messaging. Utilising faith networks and consulates which are based within the city with their own networks could also be utilised.
- Members will see from tomorrow a huge effort by the Council and media to promote the Games, especially by the BBC who are the key promotor and has made a huge commitment. Craig Cooper has been tasked to produce a small brochure of key events for every councillor. The picture is still emerging, so this will be a live document that can then be used as a briefing tool. They will come back and share the work on communication with the Committee.
- The possibility of an App was queried, and whether a hard copy of the brochure for the Birmingham 2022 Festival could be made more widely available was requested. It was suggested that this is discussed with Martin Green, Chief Creative Officer for the Games.
- Craftspace is starting their 'Ready. Set. Make!' workshops which are for residents to make 4,600 hand-embellished gifts to welcome athletes to the Games.
- If the wards do not utilise the full amount of the funding allocated, officers will come up with a way to utilise this so the monies won't be lost.

RESOLVED:

The update was noted, and the Leader will:

- Explore opportunities for children in care to shadow those making decisions within the Council to inspire them.
- Have a conversation with the Lord Mayor and former Lord Mayors to discuss raising the profile of the Lord Mayor's Charity.
- Come back and share the work on communication with the Committee.

6. WORK PROGRAMME

(See document No. 3)

It was noted that the next committee meeting may be poorly attended due to the local elections. The Chair therefore agreed to explore whether this could be a shorter informal meeting or whether it should be cancelled. If the meeting was to go ahead suggestions for the agenda items were street vendors, namely non-food and intellectual property, and / or a focus on community engagement. Members were also requested to contact the Chair if they had any further suggestions.

7. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Chair advised Members that currently the next committee meeting is at 1330 hours on the 6th April 2022.

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 12.00 hours.