

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

ECONOMY AND SKILLS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 03 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 10:00 HOURS
IN BMI MAIN HALL, 9 MARGARET STREET, BIRMINGHAM, B3 3BS

A G E N D A

1 NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chair to advise/meeting to note 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

To receive any apologies.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Members are reminded that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non pecuniary interests arising from any business to be discussed at this meeting. If a disclosable pecuniary interest is declared a Member must not speak or take part in that agenda item. Any declarations will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

3 - 8

4 ECONOMY & SKILLS O&S COMMITTEE ACTION NOTES

To confirm the action notes of the meeting held on 15th September.

9 - 16

5 ECONOMIC IMPACTS ON BIRMINGHAM'S NIGHT-TIME ECONOMY (CULTURE, LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY SECTORS) OF NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS (IN RELATION TO TARGETS SET IN THE BIRMINGHAM DEVELOPMENT PLAN)

Maria Dunn, Head of Development Policy

17 - 20

6 ECONOMY & SKILLS O&S COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

For discussion

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

To consider any request for call in/councillor call for action/petitions (if received).

8 **OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

To consider any items of business by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) that in the opinion of the Chair are matters of urgency.

9 **AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS**

Chair to move:-

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

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

ECONOMY AND SKILLS O&S COMMITTEE**1000 hours on 15th September 2021, BMI Main Hall**

Present:

Councillor Salma Suleman (Chair)

Councillors Alex Aitken, Zaheer Khan, Chaman Lal, Simon Morrall and Darius Sandhu

Also Present:

Mark Gamble, East Birmingham Development Manager

Lloyd Broad, Head of European & International Affairs

Ozge Iskit, Interim Brexit Co-Ordinator

Ceri Saunders, Acting Group Overview & Scrutiny Manager

Baseema Begum, Scrutiny Officer

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chairman advised the meeting to note that members of the press/public may record and take photographs.

2. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE AND CHAIR

Noted.

3. APOLOGIES

Cllr Maureen Cornish

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

5. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Noted.

6. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR

Councillor Chaman Lal agreed as Deputy Chair.

7. ACTION NOTES

The action notes of the last formal meeting of the Committee on 24th March were agreed. The Committee agreed that minutes and actions from meetings that took place remotely on Teams during the pandemic and that were agreed in Teams meetings could be signed physically by the Deputy Chair Cllr Chaman Lal due to the previous Chair having since left the authority.

8. EAST BIRMINGHAM INCLUSIVE GROWTH STRATEGY – UPDATE

Mark Gamble, East Birmingham Development Manager gave an overview of the strategy and consultation process as part of his presentation and during discussion with members the following points were made: -

- An annual report is presented to cabinet and programme paperwork is available to keep up to date on the work of the Board. Updates can also be provided to committee as required.
- At the current stage a programme team is being mobilised to address various issues including skills and employment and as this comes on-board work will take place to match local people to jobs.
- An East Birmingham community anchor network has been established with the aim to create clear pathways into jobs for people in deprived communities. This will look at workforce planning and how opportunities are made available. This includes how jobs are advertised to attract residents in the city and the wider area and at the next update further information will be available to update the committee on specific projects underway.
- A Digital Inclusion Strategy and action plan has been agreed by cabinet. The East Birmingham team will be working with digital inclusion officers on how the team can lead on this work so that more people can access technology and provide people of all ages with the skills to utilise the opportunities available. This will also be part of the work in tackling isolation especially for older people.
- Connectivity around the city from the area and to the city centre is a crucial issue. To address this several options including the metro to the east (Solihull) is being implemented and the Birmingham Transport Plan also addresses some of the key issues. A study has also been funded to look at the specific East Birmingham to Solihull travel corridor.
- During the consultation period schools were contacted however due to the pandemic the engagement was limited. Going forward it is planned to engage with colleagues in schools, colleges and other education establishments to get more involvement and feedback specifically around topics of interest to young people and identifying pre-NEET young people. This will allow early engagement and to be able to identify and develop job and career opportunities and address the poor historical educational achievements of

some of the young people in the area. To this end the Council is working with the Police, University College Birmingham and voluntary organisations on the recruitment of local people to jobs and skills training for those of minority ethnic backgrounds and make available opportunities for the most deprived people in the area. It is anticipated that outputs of this work will be available in the next few months.

- The area is seeing a lot of regeneration especially with the metro and highway works in progress and this has caused disruption however more can be done to show the benefit in the long term to the community. More and thorough communication would be beneficial to ensure that the message is getting through to local people using local community groups and representatives such as ward members (through ward member forums).
- There are some key assets in the East Birmingham area including the Tyseley Energy Park that has both national and local significance in developing and providing low and zero carbon energies and is a sector that can be developed further with the owners to get the most of the asset.
- The construction sector has been particularly affected by a shortage of skills and is an area that does require further work in terms of how we can get our young people to fill the skills shortage gap being faced. South and City College have a construction facility based in East Birmingham and this can be utilised. Women in construction is a key issue and this will be addressed this with the Chair and committee at a future date.

RESOLVED: -

1. The report was noted.
2. Mark Gamble to provide further information on the business case being developed to support those involved in the Birmingham Wheels site.

9. UPDATE ON BREXIT

The Chair welcomed Lloyd Broad, Head of European and International Affairs and Ozge Iskit, Interim Brexit Co-Ordinator who joined the meeting remotely and talked through the presentation circulated. During discussion with members the following points were made: -

- The EU resettlement scheme was commended however it was noted that the country is facing skills shortages particularly in relation to HGV drivers and farming which were jobs filled by many workers from eastern Europe. Members shared concerns about the plans to address this both locally and nationally especially with the immigration/visa points system that requires workers must be able to secure a set minimum salary to be able to work in the UK however many job areas do not pay this. It was explained that the government has been accelerating programmes to meet needs through speeding up training of its own citizens. It will however take many months to fill vacancies and some sectors are more exposed than others. If the recruitment fails to fill positions locally then vacancies will remain. However, this is where the employment programmes come into play to support local people to match this need.

- In relation to the skills shortages that the country is facing due to Brexit alongside covid pressures it was explained that it was very difficult to separate the two issues apart in terms of the impact and the specific losses felt in particular sectors. Officers will be keeping a close eye on the challenges in the long term.
- UK growth is increasing and ahead of other countries. The last 18 months have been challenging due to the pandemic and saw the highest unemployment figures since the 1980s. However European Social Fund (ESF) monies were used to support young people and vulnerable people in the city.
- Funding from government is allocated to combined authority areas and Birmingham is part of the West Midlands Combined Authority that will have the lead for distribution of funding. The city will keep a watch on what is being agreed and ensure that Birmingham receives its fair share.
- EU funding received by the UK was in the region of approximately £1.5 billion per year. The government has given a commitment to match values that have previously been received through the Shared Prosperity Fund. It is anticipated that further details of this will emerge as part of the autumn budget statement.

10. WORK PROGRAMME

Cllr Morrall raised the effect of planning and licensing decisions on cultural, leisure and hospitality settings in the city centre with many new developments coming on board offering residential lettings and the subsequent effect of this on these sectors such as concerns relating to noise pollution and sound control. Cllr Morrall added that this would need to be looked at in the context of the Birmingham Development Plan and its refresh going forward and to see if anything could be done to safeguard venues before issues arise. As this item was scheduled for the October meeting and Cllr Morrall had tendered his apologies in advance for this date the Chair agreed to investigate whether there was capacity to change the meeting day/time to accommodate Cllr Morrall to take part in the discussion.

RESOLVED: -

1. The report was noted.
2. The Chair agreed that scrutiny officers would look at what capacity there is to change the date or time of the October meeting.

11. DATES OF MEETINGS

Members noted all future meeting dates. It was highlighted that the November meeting date had been moved to 3rd November from 10th November.

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

None.

13. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

14. AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS

Agreed.

The meeting ended at 11:48 hours

Planning and Noise

Economy and Skills Scrutiny Committee
3rd November 2021



Overview

- Policy Position
- GDPO
- Technical Approach

National Policy

■ NPPG:

- Includes consideration of the sensitivity to the prevailing acoustic environment.
- States that ‘Good acoustic design needs to be considered early in the planning process’
- Requires plan making to take account of:
 - Whether or not a significant effect is occurring or is likely to occur
 - Whether or not an adverse effect is occurring or likely to occur
 - Whether or not a good standard of amenity can be achieved.
- Sets out the factors where noise will be a concern.
- Sets out how the risk of conflict between new development and existing businesses or facilities can be addressed.

Local Policy

- No specific policy in the Birmingham Development Plan
- Development Management Policies in Birmingham DPD:
 - Due to be adopted late 2021
 - Policy DM6 – Noise and Vibration – requires development to be designed, managed and operated to reduce exposure to noise.
 - Requires background noise to be taken into account
 - Requires that development sensitive to noise must be accompanied by an assessment of the impact of any existing/planned sources of noise and vibration in the vicinity and details of how any adverse noise will be reduced/mitigated.

GPDO – Change of Use to Residential

- Impact of noise from commercial premises largely an issue that is controlled through the prior approval regime however certain PD rights exclude noise from considerations (e.g. Sui Generis uses such as takeaway, launderette or B1(c) to residential).
- Noise was not originally a consideration for office to residential but has been introduced providing greater protection for businesses.
- GDPO only talks about commercial noise, other sources of noise (e.g. traffic) are not in scope
- Subtleties in the drafting of the Order. Most are defined as “impacts of noise from commercial premises on the intended occupiers” but it also uses the phrase “noise impacts of the development” (e.g. B8 and agricultural to residential)

Technical Approach

- In respect of planning applications or prior approvals where noise is in scope the first stage is the provision by the applicants of a Noise Assessment with appropriate methodology and scope that characterises the existing noise environment. The Officer and the EPU will ensure that all suitable noise sources are included and they are representative. An example would be ensuring that a nearby factory was operating noisy equipment or a live music venue had an event on when any surveys were undertaken.
- Covid and lockdowns have complicated matters. Although less of an issue now a combination of modelled and historic data from other sites together with test events helped to provide the information when entertainment uses were not operating.
- The impact of the above is then tested against the development proposals bearing in mind its layout and construction details. Where feasible non-habitable rooms are located in the noise effected parts of the scheme
- There are three potential outcomes 1) the noise is such that it is incapable of mitigation to an acceptable level 2) that with mitigation a suitable residential environment can be created and 3) the existing situation is suitable for residential use.

Technical Approach

- In case of where mitigation is necessary this can take the form of the specification of the external fabric of the building (e.g. wall construction and glazing spec) or in the worst case having non-opening windows at the residential properties and providing alternative means of ventilation. Where windows are sealed this is not an optimum solution and not supported at all by Regulatory Services as a principle. This would therefore be put into the planning balance of the overall scheme.
- Where mitigation at source is feasible without placing unreasonable constraints on the business, and both parties agree to the scope of these works (utilizing the agent of change principle) the developer can fund/undertake works to the business. The benefits of this is that all not just the application being determined benefit from the changes. A recent example of this strategy is at a development at 16 Kent Street where works are proposed to mitigate the impact of the Nightingale Nightclub in the heart of the Gay Village.
- Disadvantages to dealing with the noise at source are a) negotiations to agree (and test) the scope of works can take a long time, b) the cost of the works to the developer reduce the other planning gains that would have been provided such as affordable housing and public open space contributions, and c) the scope of works agreed will only be to mitigate for that specific development – other schemes may necessitate further works.





Economy & Skills O&S Committee: Work Programme 2021/22

Chair: Cllr Saima Suleman

Deputy Chair: Cllr Chaman Lal

Committee Members: Cllrs Alex Aitken, Maureen Cornish, Peter Griffiths, Zaheer Khan, Simon Morrall and Darius Sandhu

Officer Support: Ceri Saunders, Acting Group Overview & Scrutiny Manager (303 2786)
Baseema Begum, Scrutiny Officer (303 1668)
Errol Wilson, Committee Manager (675 0955)

1 Meeting Schedule

| Date | What | Officer Contact / Attendees |
|---|--|---|
| 16th June 2021 (informal) 1000 hours Online meeting | To discuss priorities for the 2021/22 work programme. | Scrutiny Office |
| 14th July 2021 (informal) 1000 hours Online meeting Report deadline: 5 th July | Supporting the Economic Recovery from Covid-19 – jobs & skills & supporting SMEs | Maria Dunn, Head of Development Policy Ilgun Yusuf, Assistant Director, Skills & Employability |
| 15th September 2021 1000 hours BMI Main Hall Report deadline: 6 th Sept | East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Strategy – update Update on Brexit | Mark Gamble, East Birmingham Development Manager Lloyd Broad, Head of European Affairs and Ozge Iskit, Interim Brexit Co-Ordinator |
| 6th October 2021 (informal) 1000 hours Online meeting Report deadline: 27 th Sept | Redevelopment of Birmingham Smithfield and surrounding area Council support to businesses | Richard Brown, Timothy Brown, Inclusive Growth Directorate Mohammed Zahir, Head of Business Enterprise and Innovation |



| Date | What | Officer Contact / Attendees |
|--|--|--|
| 3rd November 2021 1 000 hours BMI Main Hall Report deadline: 25 th Oct | Economic impacts on Birmingham's night-time economy (culture, leisure and hospitality sectors) of new residential developments (in relation to targets set in the Birmingham Development Plan) | Maria Dunn, Head of Development Policy |
| 8th December 2021 1 000 hours BMI Main Hall Report deadline: 29 th Nov | 6-month assessment on the impact of the Clean Air Zone on businesses within the area | Stephen Arnold, Head of Clean Air Zone |
| 5th January 2022 1 000 hours BMI Main Hall Report deadline: 23 rd Dec | Cabinet Member for Education, Skills & Culture – Portfolio update to include Skills & Youth unemployment, Apprenticeship Levy | Cllr Jayne Francis, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills & Culture |
| 2nd February 2022 1 000 hours BMI Main Hall Report deadline: 24 th Jan | TBC | |
| 2nd March 2022 1 000 hours BMI Main Hall Report deadline: 21 st Feb | East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Strategy – update | |
| 27th April 2022 1 000 hours BMI Main Hall Report deadline: 18 th April | TBC | |

2 Other Meetings

| | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Call in Meetings | <i>None scheduled</i> |
| Petitions | <i>None scheduled</i> |



| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Councillor Call for Action Requests | <i>None scheduled</i> |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|

- 2.1 It is suggested that the Committee approve Wednesday at 1000 hours as a suitable day and time each week for any additional meetings required to consider 'requests for call in' which may be lodged in respect of Executive decisions.

3 Forward Plan for Cabinet Decisions

The following decisions, extracted from the Cabinet Office Forward Plan of Decisions, are likely to be relevant to the Economy & Skills O&S Committee's remit. **Please note this is correct at the time of publication.**

| Reference | Title | Portfolio | Proposed Date of Decision |
|-------------|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 008314/2021 | Adoption of Parking Supplementary Planning Document | Leader | 09 Nov 2021 |
| 009059/2021 | Adoption of the Development Management in Birmingham (DMB) Development Plan Document | Leader | 09 Nov 2021 |
| 008915/2021 | Druids Heath Regeneration | Homes & Neighbourhoods | 14 Dec 2021 |
| 007884/2020 | Proposed Compulsory Purchase Order –Digbeth & Allison Street Birmingham for the Beorma Quarter Development | Leader | 14 Dec 2021 |
| 007686/2020 | Historic Environment Supplementary Planning Document | Leader | 14 Dec 2021 |
| 008303/2021 | Asset Review - Multi-storey car park, Brunel Street, Birmingham | Leader | 14 Dec 2021 |
| 008971/2021 | Sale of 1 Lancaster Circus, City Centre | Leader | 14 Dec 2021 |
| 009068/2021 | Paradise Circus Update | Leader | 14 Dec 2021 |
| 009281/2021 | Adoption of Perry Barr 2040: A Vision for Legacy Masterplan and endorsement of the Perry Barr 2040 Delivery Plan | Leader | 14 Dec 2021 |
| 008192/2021 | Contribution to Decarbonising Construction of HS2 - Approval to accept Grant and Full Business Case | Transport & Environment | 14 Dec 2021 |
| 008863/2021 | Metro Centenary Square Extension – GBSLEP EZ additional funding | Transport & Environment | 14 Dec 2021 |
| 009030/2022 | Business Rates Income 2022/23 | Leader | 18 Jan 2022 |
| 009239/2021 | Disposal of Murdoch and Pitman, Birmingham, 153 - 161 Corporation Street, Birmingham | Leader | 18 Jan 2021 |
| 005048/2018 | Moor Street Queensway Public Realm Improvements Outline Business Case | Transport & Environment | 18 Jan 2022 |
| 009445/2022 | City Centre Public Realm Improvement Scheme (CCPR) Full Business Case (FBC) phase 2 | Transport & Environment | 18 Jan 2022 |



| Reference | Title | Portfolio | Proposed Date of Decision |
|-------------|---|-----------|---------------------------|
| 009031/2022 | DRAFT FINANCIAL PLAN 2022-2026 | n/a | 08 Feb 2022 |
| 009407/2022 | Enterprise Zone Investment Plan 2022 | Leader | 08 Feb 2022 |
| 009408/2022 | 25 Year City of Nature Delivery Framework | Leader | 08 Feb 2022 |