

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

ECONOMY, SKILLS AND TRANSPORT O&S COMMITTEE

1400 hours on 16th February 2017, Committee Room 2 – Actions

Present:

Councillor Zafar Iqbal (Chair)

Councillors Zaker Choudhry, Phil Davis, Diane Donaldson, Ziaul Islam, John O'Shea, Eva Phillips, Timothy Huxtable and Ken Wood.

Also Present:

Councillor Stewart Stacey, Cabinet Member for Transport and Roads

Kevin Hicks, Assistant Director, Highways & Infrastructure

Anne Shaw, Assistant Director, Transport & Connectivity

Varinder Raulia, Head of Infrastructure Projects

Andy Middleton, Cycling Programme Manager

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 Councillor David Barrie and for lateness from Cllr John O'Shea. Councillor Islam also tendered an apology for having to leave early due to a medical appointment.

3. ECONOMY, SKILLS AND TRANSPORT: ACTION NOTES 19TH JANUARY 2017/ISSUES ARISING

The Chair, Cllr Iqbal confirmed that:

1. He wrote to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) on behalf of the Committee on 6th January seeking his views in relation to setting policy on 20mph zones vs 20mph limits. The PCC's response was received yesterday and has been circulated.
2. In relation to outstanding actions relating to the Quarterly Key Performance Indicator Report on Skills:
 - Members requested youth unemployment information by ward. This information was circulated to Members on 23rd January.
 - An Indication of the numbers of young people that would be required to move off benefits to meet the KPI targets and the request for skills data on all constituencies so that comparisons could be made and areas of greater need identified. This information has been received today and has been circulated.
 - He is still awaiting information to be received relating to the Birmingham Jobs Fund in terms of where young people are living and where it is having the most impact requested by Members at the last meeting.
3. At the last meeting Cllr Huxtable requested that the Committee take a look at the benefits of HS2 in greater depth following the report of this Committee to February Council. An update has been added to the April meeting.
4. Councillor Huxtable asked for an update on the Draft Local Centres Strategy and for it to be scheduled onto work programme. Ian MacLeod, Assistant Director (Regeneration) attending the next meeting and I believe he is the lead on this piece of work so we can ask for some initial feedback then and add it to the work programme accordingly.
5. Cllr O'Shea requested that the Committee receive an update on the parking strategy review. This has been scheduled for the April meeting.

4. CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ROADS – ANNUAL REPORT

The Cabinet Member stated that his report was an update on the progress made on his strategic priorities as set out to the Committee in September when he first attended.

He made reference to his report outlining in particular the work on:

- Creating Safe Places and Street – including 20mph limits
- The City Centre Transport Masterplan – including the City Centre Parking Review
- Rail and Light Rail services including the Midland Metro
- Work on the A38 Aston Expressway during the summer
- Opportunities from the Bus Services Bill
- High Speed Rail 2 and Connectivity issues

- Highway maintenance & management issues including the Highways PFI contract

RESOLVED:-

Councillor Huxtable asked for further information on how the City Council is dealing with orphan lighting columns and non-BCC assets with respect to the Highways PFI contract.

Councillor Wood requested a member briefing on the Highways PFI contract.

Councillor O'Shea requested further information on the City Council's tree policy with respect to the pruning schedule.

Cllr Stacey suggested that the Members might be interested in doing further work on the draft parking policy when an update is presented to Committee in April.

5. UPDATE ON BIRMINGHAM CYCLE REVOLUTION PROGRAMME

Andy Middleton and Varinder Raulia outlined the main points of the report circulated to the Committee. These included:

- Delivery of the programme to date
- Canal and Green Routes
- The Big Birmingham Bikes programme
- Highway schemes to improve and increase cycling to ease congestion and improve health and well-being.

RESOLVED:-

Councillor Islam asked what progress has been made on the £500k allocated for Top Cycle Locations.

6. WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE ECONOMY, SKILLS AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2016-17

Councillor Huxtable asked if the Committee could consider an item on Local Centres at the March meeting.

Councillor Huxtable asked if the Committee could also receive further information on the West Midlands Connectivity Package as part of the HS2 Benefits Realisation item scheduled for April.

RESOLVED:-

That the work programme be noted.

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

8. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

9. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

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.

Agreed.

The meeting ended at 16:06 hours.