

## **BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

# **ECONOMY, SKILLS AND TRANSPORT O&S COMMITTEE**

**1400 hours on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017, Committee Room 1 – Actions**

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### **Present:**

Councillor Zafar Iqbal (Chair)

Councillors David Barrie, Zaker Choudhry, Phil Davis, Diane Donaldson, Ziaul Islam, Eva Phillips, Timothy Huxtable and Ken Wood.

### **Also Present:**

Shilpi Akbar, Assistant Director, Employment

Ashley Innis, Major Projects Manager

Sandeep Shingadia, Head of Programme Development, Transport for West Midlands (TfWM)

Baseema Begum, Research & Policy Officer, Scrutiny Office

Rose Kiely, Overview & Scrutiny Manager, Scrutiny Office

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## **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](http://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 John O'Shea.

## **3. ECONOMY, SKILLS AND TRANSPORT: ACTION NOTES 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017/ISSUES ARISING**

The Chair, Cllr Iqbal confirmed that:

1. Following Cllrs Wood and Huxtable request if it was possible for Amey representatives to attend future meetings with Members to answer queries on Highways issues. This will be added to the future work programme.
2. The Draft Corporate Apprenticeship Strategy referred to by Cllr O'Reilly at the last meeting has been added to the Committee's future work programme as an item to look at.
3. The East Birmingham & Solihull Regeneration Strategy will be undergoing further work and an update will be presented to Members in the Autumn. Officers will update the work programme accordingly.
4. Cllr Huxtable made reference to the tree pruning schedule and was informed that this would be dealt with as part of the private meeting on the Highways PFI contract following this meeting.
5. Cllrs Huxtable and Choudhry sought clarity on the funding made available for the prevention of damage to grass verges. Cllr Iqbal noted that the Cabinet Member for Transport & Roads, Cllr Stacey was currently off ill but would seek to ask the Cabinet Member to attend a future meeting to give further information.
6. Cllr Huxtable made reference to the Committee looking at the biodiversity and protecting natural wildlife along grass verges in residential areas as part of a Green Corridor Policy.

#### **4. QUARTERLY KEY PERFORMANCE INDIACTOR REPORT ON SKILLS PROGRAMMES**

Shilpi Akbar outlined the key points from her report with reference to the Birmingham Youth promise. During discussion with Members it was highlighted that:

- The way that information is presented in terms of KPI's may need to change in line with policy changes nationally and the way that the Council's collects that data (i.e. annually).
- Important that Committee has the right mix of information to undertake their scrutiny role
- Youth Promise programme is aimed at preventing young people dropping off the radar and out of the system and not becoming NEET's (not in Education, Employment or Training). The aim is to avoid people becoming economically and socially excluded.
- With regards to apprenticeships – number of live are about 200-400. This is a low number however that is a positive as it means that opportunities are being filled as they become available. There is a lag in data and changes in systems that support in data. This has been dependent on national changes re: apprenticeship levy.
- It is important to get the visibility of employment opportunities to young people much earlier. The key is at looking at levers that can help connecting businesses to young people. This will impact statistics.
- In addition the Council's Economy directorate is looking at it can better join up activities on economic development and growth that directly links opportunities to communities.

- Integrating of all modes of travel and to make better the connectivity is vital to enable residents to access job and training opportunities.

#### **RESOLVED:-**

In response to Cllr Islam's request for data on unemployment in all wards if possible. Shilpi Akbar confirmed that this data was available on the City Council's website and she would circulate the April Quarterly briefing on unemployment on wards and constituencies.

Shilpi Akbar agreed to provide further information with regard to the contract overview and objectives for Youth Promise Plus.

### **5. HS2 BENEFITS REALISATION**

Ashley Innis and Sandeep Shingadia talked through the key points as included in their presentation. During discussion the following points were made:

- With reference to the wider connectivity map included in the papers the Sutton Park Line this is not shown (reference was also made to other lines and connecting points). What is thinking on this in terms connectivity seeing that it is reference in the Birmingham Connected White Paper, 2014?
- Sandeep Shingadia stated that the map shows the HS2 Connectivity Package funded schemes only. TfWM (on behalf of the WMCA and working with partners including local authorities) are looking at how this connectivity package will interact with the wider 10 year delivery plan that will be out to consultation shortly and wider improvements across the public transport network.
- More work needs to be done to highlight the arrival of HS2 to especially highlight all the opportunities that come with the arrival of high speed rail so that local residents can benefit through the the jobs and training that will be on offer.
- There seems to be a lack of connectivity between the high speed rail college and the HS2 station/Moor Street. Are there any plans to improve connectivity here as the college?

#### **RESOLVED:-**

Ashley Innis to provide Cllr Islam with further information on how much the Birmingham can get from £104k for the WMCA area for creating new jobs.

Sandeep Shingadia to provide Cllr Barrie with further details on the Sprint and Connectivity Package to Sutton Coldfield.

Shilpi Akbar offered to arrange a visit to the new College for High Speed Rail if Members would like this.

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

**RESOLVED:-**

That the work programme be noted.

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

None.

**8. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

Councillor Huxtable thanked Councillor Iqbal for his Chairing of the Committee on behalf of the Conservative Group.

**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.

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The meeting ended at 1535 hours.