

# **BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

## **ECONOMY AND SKILLS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2022 AT 10:00 HOURS**  
**IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 3 & 4, COUNCIL HOUSE, VICTORIA**  
**SQUARE, BIRMINGHAM, B1 1BB**

### **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](http://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 - 12**

4 **ACTION NOTES AND ACTION TRACKER**

To confirm the Action Notes and Action Tracker for the meeting held on 13th July 2022.

**13 - 30**

5 **LEADER'S UPDATE**

Councillor Ian Ward with supporting officers Paul Kitson, Strategic Director, Place, Prosperity And Sustainability and Rebecca Farr, Development Planning Manager.

**31 - 36**

6 **INQUIRY ON EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS - DISCUSSION ON TERMS OF REFERENCE AND KEY LINES OF ENQUIRY**

Fiona Bottrill, Senior Overview & Scrutiny Manager to outline the Terms of Reference for the proposed Employment and Skills Inquiry.

**37 - 52**

7 **WORK PROGRAMME**

For discussion.

8 **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).

9 **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.

10 **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 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022, Committee Room C, Council House Extension,  
Margaret Street - Actions**

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**Present:**

Councillor Saima Suleman (Chair)

Councillors Raqeeb Aziz, Nicky Brennan, Katherine Iroh, Izzy Knowles, Simon Morrall, Richard Parkin and Jamie Tennant.

**Also Present:**

Mark Gamble, East Birmingham Development Manager

Simon Delahunty-Forrest, Assistant Director, Development

Fiona Bottrill, Senior Overview and Scrutiny Manager

Baseema Begum, Scrutiny Officer

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**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 CHAIR AND COMMITTEE**

The appointment of the Committee was noted. The Chair highlighted an error in the membership in that it should read Cllr Raqeeb Aziz instead of Cllr Mohammed Azim. A misspelling of Cllr Iroh's first name was also noted.

**3. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR**

Cllr Iroh was elected as Deputy Chair for the current municipal year.

**4. APOLOGIES**

None.

**5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

## **6. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Noted.

## **7. ACTION NOTES**

The action notes of the last formal meeting of the Committee held on 2nd March 2022 were agreed.

## **8. EAST BIRMINGHAM INCLUSIVE GROWTH STRATEGY – UPDATE**

(see Item No. 8)

Mark Gamble, East Birmingham Development Manager outlined the key points in his presentation and during discussion with Members the following points were made: -

- The strategy is a 20-year programme designed to link positive change to help and benefit local people by creating better life chances and improving people's health, wellbeing, happiness, homes and transport for the area.
- There is a strong concentration of need and huge opportunities in the area and that is why it has been selected. Unemployment for example has not recovered post-Covid in the same way as other parts of the country and the figure here is still quite high.
- Some of the opportunities and developments in the city that can be taken advantage of includes HS2 stations, Digbeth and the Eastside of the city centre.
- Within the East Birmingham area itself Bordesley Park, Tyseley Environmental Enterprise District Park and the Washwood Heath HS2 Depot are key areas of regeneration with various activity ongoing.
- A key challenge with some of these opportunities is enabling young people to access them and the same applies to educational settings as East Birmingham is a very young area. To overcome this a proposed metro route has been identified to enable better transport connections and this has been identified through the Council's various policies and strategies. The Council is also working with partners to deliver improved public transport such as buses and trains so that people are better connected to jobs, education and opportunities.
- The proposed East Birmingham to Solihull metro area is being led by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) and is a medium to long-term project with involvement from Birmingham and Solihull Councils. A corridor transport study has been commissioned which will feed into the East Birmingham to Solihull (EBNS) Corridor Strategy and Action Plan Report detailing short to medium-term options for transport enhancements in the EBNS Corridor. Options will answer the special needs of the corridor over the next ten

years, in advance of, and complementary to, a longer-term Metro solution.

- There are a number of initiatives looking at supporting local people with jobs and opportunities such as the NHS 'I Can' scheme that identifies barriers to employment. This initiative will look to get at least 100 local people into jobs. Other initiatives include an employability coach based at the Dolphin Centre in Ward End which will see the creation of an inclusive Youth Hub, integrating Jobcentre Plus services with the local East Birmingham Community Anchor Network (that includes large organisations such as the Council, NHS, Police, Universities and others). This is aimed at engaging young people after a period of not being in employment and education into healthcare and other key employment sectors. There is a need to increase the scale of this as there are many big employers in the private sector. SME's in the area can also be included in this.
- The employability coach based at Ward End Park House is a pilot to see how it will work. If there is a good response, then future business cases can be supported to secure funding for more in the future.
- A feasibility study has been carried out to identify the housing need. The aspiration is to provide at least 10,000 affordable homes. Details on social housing are to be determined and work is taking place with housing providers through the East Birmingham Board to pull together a plan. Homes England is working with the City Council to explore opportunities to accelerate the delivery of affordable housing.
- Housing retrofit is a large and key area of work and the Council is working with South and City College on this. The resource is in place and it is now a case of determining and meeting demand.
- The River Cole Valley is a green corridor that runs through the heart of the area and plays a significant role in improving health and wellbeing and putting into practice the Council's City of Nature ambition.
- The need for green spaces and infrastructure in developments is recognised and conversations are being held to ensure that these considerations are included, and discussions are taking place with Birmingham Open Spaces Forum and Friends of Parks to reach as many people as possible.
- The WMCA are looking at options to expand the West Midlands Cycle hire scheme in the future and currently there are no immediate plans for a further rollout.
- Mediation is starting with Birmingham Wheels and the timeline for finding an alternative site is within 12 months. Redevelopment of the site formerly occupied by the organisation is currently underway.
- Proposals for an alternative swimming facility in the Small Heath area are being looked at following the closure of Small Heath Wellbeing Centre post-Covid. No plans for future use of the centre have been made.
- Senior representation on the East Birmingham board includes Councillors and representatives from the NHS and Children's Trust.
- Recruitment is underway for the Programme team as the strategy has moved into the delivery phases with some projects now live.

- Relevant statistics and information from the work happening as part of the East Birmingham Project can be shared with the committee's Inquiry into Employment and Skills as required.

**RESOLVED: -**

1. The report was noted.
2. Mark Gamble to provide further information on affordable and social housing when this information is available and has been presented to the East Birmingham Board.
3. Doug Lee to provide further information to Cllr Morrall in relation to the Birmingham Wheels site.
4. Future update to be added to the work programme.

**9. OUR FUTURE CITY PLAN: SHAPING OUR CITY TOGETHER**

(see Item No. 9)

Simon Delahunty-Forrest, Assistant Director, Development made the following points as part of his presentation: -

- This document has been put together to help shape a framework to meet some of the key challenges in providing housing and jobs for the young and diverse growing population over the next 20 years.
- There are 2 key areas for consideration in shaping the city's future: -
  - *Route to Zero and transition to meet the low carbon target for the city by 2030.* This needs to be put in place to deliver for the city's communities ensuring that it is inclusive in approach for all. Technology will play a big part of this.
  - *Diversity has to be inclusive going forward.* The Council must look outward and replicate what's working well in the city centre to other parts of the city. A key aspect of this is providing more green spaces and putting in more pocket parks where possible and practical.
- Ensure that various parts of the city are celebrated for what happens there such as festivals and the eating offer.
- Creating 15-minute neighbourhoods with local centres going forward and creating the digital and physical infrastructure needed to allow this to happen if it is not already there.
- Working with partners including educational institutions to ensure that young people who come to the city to study make the city their home to live and work.
- Having a city centre park as part of the health and wellbeing agenda is something that has been highlighted and would make the city centre more of a destination outside of shopping. The Council would work with partners to deliver this.
- Other ideas and items of interest raised include the city hosting a film studio and work is ongoing with Homes England to create more homes to support new businesses opening in the city.

- There is a need to be more creative with our assets and build on those that are already here.

In discussion with Members the following points were made: -

- It is imperative that the city's workforce is matched up to future jobs and as highlighted in the previous item there is a need to tackle the high unemployment rate. Many industries are struggling to recruit staff and there is a need and opportunity for people to upskill and fill the gaps.
- Decision making must involve all communities and those that are hard to reach. Residents currently feel that decisions are made without their engagement or consultation.
- Work that has gone into improving the accessibility to the city centre especially around the Paradise area and New Street has been positive. However, there are many empty units and space that is not being utilised on the key corridor of New Street.
- Concern was shown that commercial and creative industries especially in the Digbeth and Jewellery Quarter areas are suffering economically as night-time venues are seeing fewer people visit. There are also more residential buildings being built and fewer commercial buildings available and this is having an impact on businesses with visitors choosing to go elsewhere. It was acknowledged that the nightlife was important for those that live in the area and work in these industries.
- Ensuring that people can access the city centre and surrounding areas via green infrastructure as some areas such as the A38, Jewellery Quarter and Colmore Row are not particularly accessible or easy to navigate if cycling for example. It was confirmed that interventions are being planned to tackle this and safety is paramount through a wider framework on streets and lighting levels across the city. Incidentally interventions such as improved street lighting levels were introduced when financial help from the government was received during the Covid-19 pandemic. Alternative and sustainable ways of travel are key drivers within this framework and other Council policies including walking and cycling.
- It was confirmed that about 19,000 affordable homes are expected to be built out of a total of 89,000 homes being constructed however it is anticipated that this number may shift. Although it was acknowledged that this number seemed quite low it was hoped that the Council's assets could be used in a savvier way to mitigate this.
- Focus of the work still seems to be city centre focussed and there is a need to regenerate and develop other areas of the city.
- It was clarified that working groups have been set up such as with partners to understand the needs and requirements of institutions and landowners. This includes sharing their strategies and plans with the Council. The Council is engaging and inviting people to tell us their needs.

The Chair thanked Simon for the presentation and a future update will be programmed.

**RESOLVED:** -

1. The report was noted.
2. Simon Delahunty-Forrest to provide Cllr Morrall with expected number of housing in the Digbeth area.
3. A further update to be added to the work programme.

## 10. WORK PROGRAMME

(see Item No.10)

Cllr Suleman confirmed that the Co-Ordinating O&S Committee had agreed a brief outline of the Committee's proposed inquiry into Employment and Skills as a key piece of work highlighted by members at the informal meeting in June. The Chair outlined that it was important that the Inquiry kept a narrower focus on key areas where a difference can be made with good and achievable recommendations.

Fiona Bottrill, Senior Overview & Scrutiny Manager then outlined the next steps for the Inquiry to take shape. This includes scoping the key lines of enquiry and outcomes and will be based on priorities highlighted by members. It is anticipated that a draft Terms of Reference will be in place to be discussed at the September meeting.

Members then highlighted key areas that they would like covered as part of the Inquiry: -

- Ensuring that young disenfranchised people are being made aware of these opportunities through specific targeted outreach and marketing.
- Focus on equalities particularly young women and girls.
- There is a shortage of young people and those entering the construction industry and the city does lack skills in these areas. Also, important to note how many young people are taking up further study in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) courses.
- Important to invite those that the inquiry is focussing on for example young people to evidence gathering sessions to understand their experiences, barriers and what they would recommend/work for them.
- A Council's inclusion strategy has not yet been formed. It is worth noting that the Education & Children's Social Care O&S Committee are doing some work in this area and the findings from this inquiry needs to feed into this.
- Further details and statistics required on identifying adults without skills and qualifications.
- What more can the Council do to support careers programmes in schools to support young people better ensuring information on a host of careers and skills are being shared.
- Careers Service should also focus on highly specialised jobs requiring particular skills such as those required for HS2 and taking a short, medium- and long-term view. Currently there are several sources of funding however the application time can be time-consuming so it would be helpful if the Council could help with streamlining this.

Fiona Bottrill confirmed that future meetings during the autumn could be used as evidence gathering sessions as listed in the Committee's work programme. However,

there are options in how evidence is gathered with the possibility for a Task and Finish Group to be set up to ensure that certain issues are picked up and frees up space at Committee meetings for other items as appropriate.

**RESOLVED: -**

1. The report was noted.
2. Discussion to take place with Simon Delahunty-Forrest on timescales for an update on the work taking place in relation to the night-time economy as a key area of interest for the committee. An update will be scheduled onto the work programme accordingly.
3. Further to a discussion at the Co-Ordinating O&S Committee it was agreed that the Commonwealth Games, Culture & Physical Activity O&S Committee would lead work on the legacy of the Games and this committee can be invited to attend relevant meeting(s).
4. The Co-Ordinating O&S Committee also confirmed that due to a change of Committee remit the monitoring of recommendations made as part of the Council-Owned Assets Inquiry report would be taken forward by the Resources O&S Committee.
5. Fiona Bottrill to meet with the Chair and Deputy Chair to scope a Terms of Reference to be discussed at the September meeting.

**11. PROPOSED DATES OF MEETINGS 2022/23**

Agreed.

**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.

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The meeting ended at 12:10 hours



**ECONOMY AND SKILLS O&S COMMITTEE**  
**ACTION TRACKER 2022-23**

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Update
13 July 2022	East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Strategy - Update	Mark Gamble to provide further information on the number of social and affordable housing once it has been presented/agreed at the East Birmingham Board.	Information circulated to members on 28/7/22.
		Doug Lee to provide further information to Cllr Morrall in relation to the redevelopment of the B'ham Wheels site and what the Council is doing in relation to the relocation of B'ham Wheels.	Response received and sent to Cllr Morrall on 12/9/22.
		Further update to be provided in approximately 6 months.	Added to work Programme.
13 July 2022	Our Future City Plan: Shaping Our City Together	Simon Delahunty-Forrest to provide Cllr Morrall with the expected number of housing in the Digbeth area.	Response received and sent to Cllr Morrall on 6/9/22.
		Future update to be scheduled.	Work Programme to be updated.
13 July 2022	Work Programme	Fiona Bottrill to meet with Chair and Deputy Chair with reference to drafting a Terms of Reference for the Employment & Skills Inquiry. Committee to agree a finalised version at the September meeting.	Draft TOR considered by the Member Working Group on 30 <sup>th</sup> September.
		Discussion to take place with Simon Delahunty-Forrest on timescales for an update on the work taking place in relation to the night-time economy a key area of interest for the committee. An update will be scheduled onto the work programme accordingly.	Scrutiny officers to liaise with Simon Delahunty-Forrest.
		The Co-Ordinating O&S Committee agreed that work around the legacy of the Commonwealth Games will be led by the Commonwealth Games, Culture & Physical Activity O&S Committee and this Committee should be invited to a future meeting focussing on jobs and skills.	Work Programme.
		Due to a change in committee remits the Co-Ordinating O&S Committee confirmed that the monitoring of recommendations agreed by City Council in the Council-Owned Assets Inquiry report would be undertaken by the Resources O&S Committee.	The Committee was informed of the decision during their discussion.



# Economy & Skills O&S Place, Prosperity & Sustainability Case Study: Perry Barr

12<sup>th</sup> October 2022



**PERRY BARR**  
REGENERATION



# Agenda

- What has been delivered in Perry Barr?
- What next for Perry Barr?
- How has this been achieved?
- An exemplar for Birmingham

# Perry Barr

Alexander Stadium

A34



One Stop

PBRs –  
Phase 1

PBRs –  
Phase 2



# What has been delivered at Perry Barr?

- More than £700m public sector investment
- Land assembly, demolition and remediation
- Sustainable and active travel improvements
- New public spaces
- Sports, leisure and education provision
- Significant social value outputs
- A vision for the next two decades



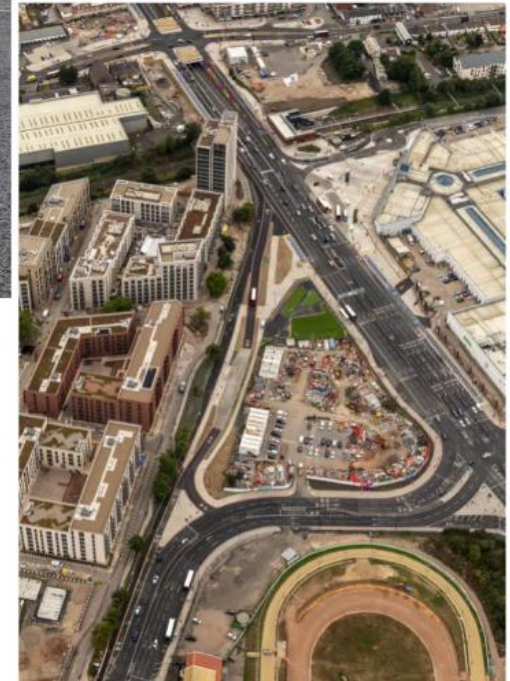
# Perry Barr Residential Scheme

- Full consent for 1,414 homes in Phase 1
- 968 homes on site across 4 plots
- 312+ affordable homes
- 268 'later living' homes
- New central park and linear parks
- Low levels of car parking
- Occupation from Jan 23
- 6 more plots for development
- Outline consent for up to 500 homes on Phase 2



# Highways scheme

- £30m project
- Reconfiguration of Birchfield Gateway and removal of flyover to deliver:
  - Surface level pedestrian crossings
  - Segregated two-way cycle route
  - Public transport priority
  - Additional development land



# Public Transport

- Redeveloped Rail Station with capacity for 1m passengers per annum
- Reconfigured bus interchange provides more public space and more efficient bus movements
- Public transport priority
- Sprint Bus network
- Micromobility



# Facilities & infrastructure

- Alexander Stadium
- New secondary school and sixth form
- Investment in Holford Drive Sports Hub
- Sites assembled to enhance town centre
- Meanwhile uses being introduced
- Proposals for Bus Garage reuse



# Social Value

- Significant benefits delivered with nearly all social value targets exceeded:
  - Jobs created: 587 (target: 400)
  - Apprenticeships: 90 (target: 100)
  - Training – people upskilled: 1,354 (target: 1,000)
  - Work placement hours: 41,515 (target: 10,500)
  - Hours paid volunteers: 2,591 (target: 1,000)
- Local spend:
  - Local spend: £265.5m (target: £136m)
  - SME Spend: £99.6m (90% of target)
  - Social Enterprise spend: £790.6k (Target: £500k)

# What next for Perry Barr?

- Guided by Perry Barr 2040: A Vision for Legacy masterplan adopted Feb 22

## Early priorities:

- Further residential development
- Enhancing Perry Park
- Place activation

## Further opportunities:

- Birchfield Gateway
- Town Centre transformation



# How has this been achieved?

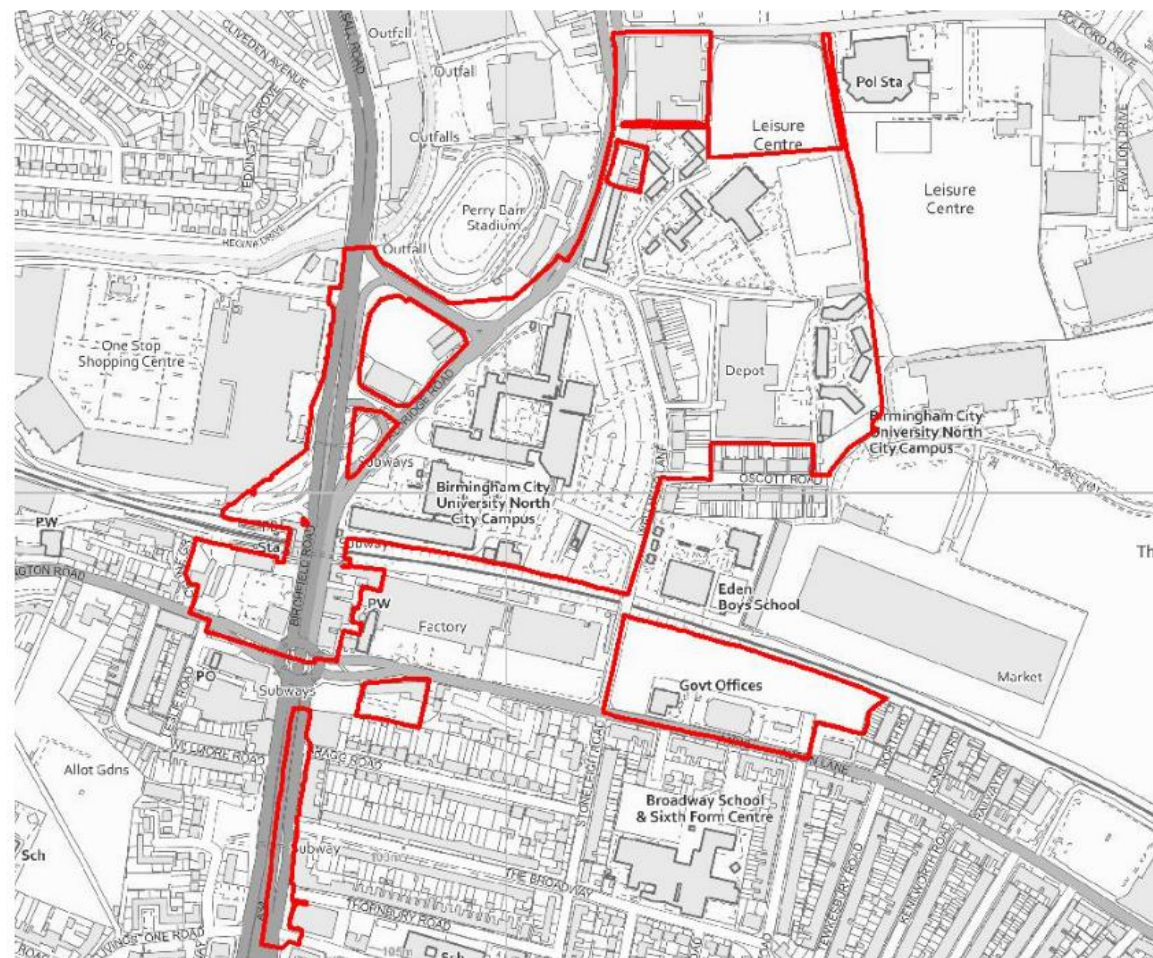


# Funding & Partnerships

- Package totalling more than £700m, funded through:
  - Government funding
  - WMCA
  - GBS LEP
  - CIL
  - Homes England
  - Sport England
  - Canal & Rivers Trust
  - Prudential borrowing
- Delivery partners:
  - Strategic governance
  - Long term approach
  - Anchor institutions

# Land Assembly

- c. 28ha, with other land acquired ahead of commencing CPO
- Around 500 individual interests
- Mix of commercial, community, and residential uses
- Order confirmed September 2019
- c. 80% of land acquired ahead of confirmation
- All land vested by June 2020
- Vast majority of claims now finalised



# The Local Plan

- Perry Barr identified as a growth area in Birmingham Development Plan
- Transport projects in pipeline
- Provided context for early masterplanning and proposals
- PB2040 informs the Local Plan review



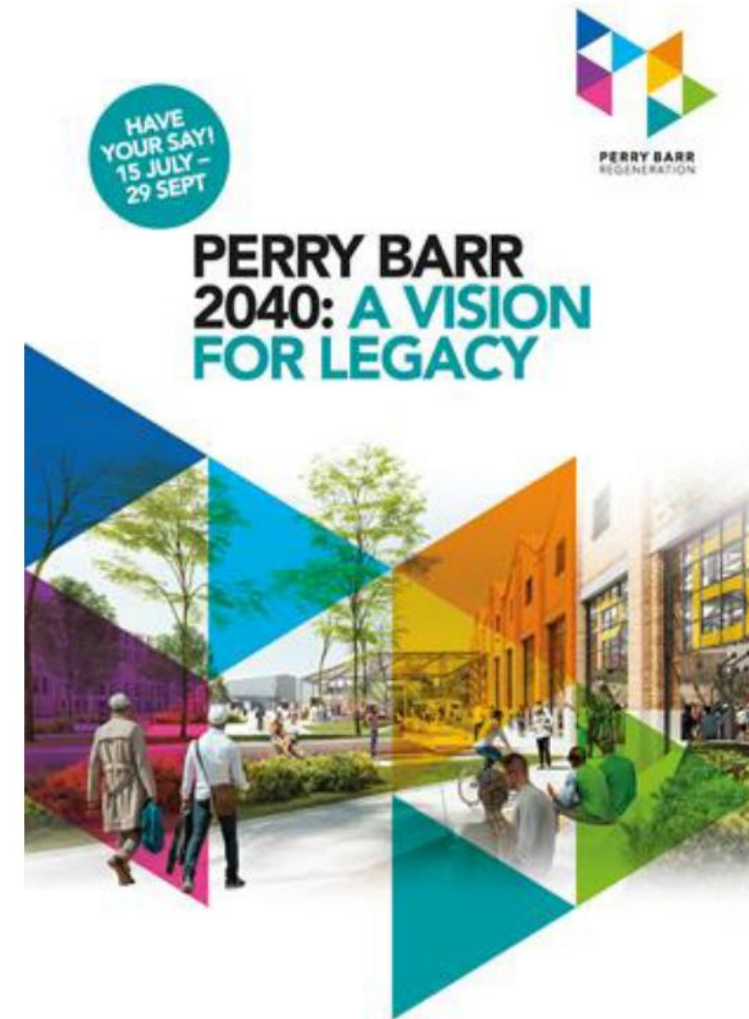
# Planning Applications

- PBRs Phase 1 – zero to full consent in less than 12 months
- Phase 2 and school
- Station
- Stadium including Games-time overlay



# Consultation and Engagement

- Overarching comms strategy in place
- Throughout CPO process
- Specific applications
- PB2040 – multi-phase approach
- Future governance









## Economy & Skills O&S Committee: Employment and Skills Terms of Reference

<b>Chair:</b>	Cllr Saima Suleman
<b>Deputy Chair:</b>	Cllr Katherine Iroh
<b>Committee Members:</b>	Cllrs Raqeeb Aziz, Nicky Brennan, Izzy Knowles, Simon Morrall, Richard Parkin and Jamie Tennant
<b>Officer Support:</b>	Fiona Bottrill, Overview & Scrutiny Manager (07395 884487) Scrutiny Officer: Baseema Begum (303 1668) Committee Manager: Louisa Nisbett (303 9844)

### 1 Recommendation

- 1.1 The Committee:
- 1.2 Agree the Terms of Reference for the Employment and Skills Inquiry attached as Appendix 1.
- 1.3 Appoint the Deputy Chair of the Inquiry Task and Finish Group.

### 2 Background

- 2.1 The Inquiry proposed by the Economy and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee was agreed by Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the meeting on the 8 July 2022 as one of the 4 Inquiries to be carried out during 2022/23. Following discussions with the Chair and key officers the draft terms of reference attached were considered by the Task and Finish Group on the 30 September 2022.

### 3 Terms of Reference

- 3.1 The Terms of Reference for the Employment and Skills Inquiry are attached as Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The aim is to complete the inquiry within the municipal year and report to City Council on the 4 April 2023. In line with the Scrutiny Framework Procedure Notes the final report will be considered by the Task and Finish Group including representatives of the 3 main political parties and the report will be signed off by the Chair of the Task and Finish Group.



## 4 Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report. However, the final inquiry report will include legal implications relating to any recommendations that are put forward for consideration by City Council

## 5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report. However, the final inquiry report will include financial implications relating to any recommendations that are put forward for consideration by City Council.

## 6 Public Sector Equality Duty

- 6.1 The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

- 6.2 The Task and Finish Group should ensure that it addresses these duties by considering them during work programme development, the scoping of work, evidence gathering and making recommendations. This should include considering: How policy issues impact on different groups within the community, particularly those that share a relevant protected characteristic; Whether the impact on particular groups is fair and proportionate; Whether there is equality of access to services and fair representation of all groups within Birmingham; Whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people are being realised.

- 6.3 The Task and Finish Group should ensure that equalities comments, and any recommendations, are based on evidence. This should include demographic and service level data and evidence of residents/service-users views gathered through consultation.

## 7 Use of Appendices

- 7.1 Appendix 1: Draft Terms of Reference for Employment and Skills Scrutiny Inquiry.



## Contact Officers

Fiona Bottrill, Senior Overview and Scrutiny Manager, [fiona.bottill@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:fiona.bottill@birmingham.gov.uk) - 07395 884487  
Baseema Begum, Scrutiny Officer, [baseema.begum@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:baseema.begum@birmingham.gov.uk) – 0121 303 1668



## Work Outline

# Birmingham Skills Offer: meeting the needs of current and future employment opportunities

## Economy and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group

Our key question:	How is the council responding to the Breaking Down the Barriers Report and what is the vision for Life-Long Learning and Skills across the city?
1. How is O&S adding value through this work?	<p>Birmingham has a persistently high unemployment rate and low skills which affects the opportunities for residents and the ability to grow the local economy and attract business to the City.</p> <p>In February 2020, prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, 6.3% of young people aged 18-24 in Birmingham and 6.1% in the West Midlands were unemployed. By March 2021, this had risen to 11.6% in Birmingham and 11.5% in the West Midlands – an increase of over 5%. When we remove economically inactive young people who are not currently seeking employment, such as students, youth unemployment in the city rose to approximately 20% as of April 2021. Almost one in five young people in Birmingham are now out of work - substantially greater than the current UK average of 13.5% for 18 to 24 youth unemployment. (Breaking Down the Barriers)</p> <p>The Scrutiny Inquiry will contribute to policy development through focussing on the recommendations of the Breaking Down the Barriers Report that relate to the skills agenda for young people.</p> <p>Grand Challenges addressed: Unemployment, skills and the economy</p> <p>Corporate Plan Priorities: A city that is Prosperous and Inclusive</p>
2. What needs to be done?	<p>Key questions:</p> <p>The 5 recommendations from the Breaking Down the Barrier Report that are relevant to are relevant to this Scrutiny Inquiry are:</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support young people to build confidence and resilience</li> <li>• Develop a comprehensive city-wide mentoring scheme</li> <li>• Facilitate accessible work experience opportunities</li> <li>• Reshape careers advice and guidance services</li> <li>• Deliver a locally designed scheme of employment support for young people and businesses</li> </ul> <p>The Inquiry may also identify specific sectors where there is a skills gap or groups of young people to consider in greater detail during the inquiry.</p> <p>Members will also receive evidence on the data on employment and skills and the current arrangement for skills funding for children and young people and the position going forward.</p> <p>Evidence from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabinet Members</li> <li>• Birmingham City Council Skills Team: including data on jobs and skills funding (Committee Meeting November 2022)</li> <li>• Employers* – identify 2 sectors (based on evidence)</li> <li>• Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)*</li> <li>• Local Enterprise Partnership *</li> <li>• Business Improvement Districts*</li> <li>• Trade unions / Trades Council*</li> <li>• Young People (including SEND and Care Leavers. City Youth Board*, Link with Beat Freaks)</li> <li>• Schools</li> <li>• Chamber of Commerce*</li> <li>• Careers Enterprise Company*</li> <li>• Small Business Association*</li> <li>• Higher and further education institutions* ( 9 Further Education colleges and 5 universities)</li> <li>• Examples of good practice from other areas*</li> </ul> <p>*These organisations do not have a statutory duty to contribute to the Scrutiny Inquiry but will be invited to contribute and give evidence.</p> <p>The WMCA has the devolved power for adult skills but has a separate WMCA Scrutiny Committee that will consider this adult skills. The WMCA work recognises the importance of youth skills and employment and works with regional partners to support this. However, while not scrutinising the WMCA, it will be important to understand the regional strategic context for the skills agenda in Birmingham.</p> <p>The Breaking Down the Barriers report includes recommendations regarding reducing the cost of public transport, children and young people’s mental health, digital inclusion, giving a voice to young people through the Brum Talks Festival and creating a one stop shop online hub. These issues are</p>
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	outside the scope of the Scrutiny Inquiry. It is noted that there is a separate Scrutiny Inquiry taking place on children and young people's mental health.
3. What timescale do we propose to do this in?	Inquiry report to City Council 4 April 2023. It is noted that a response to the recommendations in the Breaking Down the Barriers Report will be provided in December 2022. This will take into account the work being undertaken by the Inquiry and the Inquiry timescales.
4. What outcomes are we looking to achieve?	Reducing unemployment Increasing skills / retraining for better paid jobs Reducing long term unemployment / reducing poverty To consider the funding streams to deliver the skills agenda for young people Including the transition from European Social Fund (ESF) to the UK Prosperity Fund Careers – understanding what careers / job opportunities there will be in the city and how to train for them.
5. What is the best way to achieve these outcomes and what routes will we use?	The Economy and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee has established a Task and Finish Group to undertake this Inquiry. Evidence will be presented to Committee meeting or meetings of the Task and Finish Group.

### Member / Officer Leads

Lead Member:	Chair of Task and Finish Group: Cllr. Suleman Deputy Chair to be agreed at Committee Meeting 12 October 2022
Members of the Task and Finish Group	Cllrs: Suleman, Aziz, Morrall, Brennan, Knowles
Lead Officer:	Fiona Bottrill. Senior Overview and Scrutiny Manager.



## Economy & Skills O&S Committee: Work Programme 2022/23

<b>Chair:</b>	Cllr Saima Suleman
<b>Deputy Chair:</b>	Cllr Katherine Iroh
<b>Committee Members:</b>	Cllrs Raqeeb Aziz, Nicky Brennan, Izzy Knowles, Simon Morrall, Richard Parkin and Jamie Tennant
<b>Officer Support:</b>	Fiona Bottrill, Overview & Scrutiny Manager (07395 884487) Scrutiny Officer: Baseema Begum (303 1668) Committee Manager: Louisa Nisbett (303 9844)

### 1 Terms of Reference

- 1.1 As per City Council on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022 the Committee's Terms of Reference is 'to fulfil the functions of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee as they relate to any policies, services and activities concerning strategic economy; skills and apprenticeships; inward investment; land use planning; business improvement districts and the Local Enterprise Partnership'.

### 2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Committee:
- 2.2 Considers the draft work programme, attached at Appendix 1, and agrees any amendments required.

### 3 Background

- 3.1 *"Scrutiny is based on the principle that someone who makes a decision...should not be the only one to review or challenge it. Overview is founded on the belief that an open, inclusive, member-led approach to policy review...results in better policies in the long run."* (Jessica Crowe, former Executive Director, Centre for Governance and Scrutiny).
- 3.2 Developing an effective work programme is the bedrock of an effective scrutiny function. Done well, it can help lay the foundations for targeted, inclusive and timely work on issues of local importance, where scrutiny can add value. Done poorly, scrutiny can end up wasting time and resources on issues where the impact of any scrutiny work done is likely to be minimal.
- 3.3 As a result, the careful selection and prioritisation of work is essential if the scrutiny function is to be successful, add value and retain credibility.



## 4 Work Programme

- 4.1 Appendix 1 sets out the proposed draft work programme for this Committee. This provides information on the aims and objectives, together with lead officers and witnesses, for each item. This also includes items to be programmed where dates are still to be confirmed, and any outstanding items including the tracking of previous recommendations.
- 4.2 The work programme will be brought to each Committee meeting for review and to be updated.

## 5 Joint working across Committee Work Programmes 2022/23

- 5.1 As the work programmes for the Committee have developed a number of cross cutting issues have been identified. To avoid duplication members will be invited to attend different Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings for relevant reports as set out below:

Lead Committee	Meeting and Agenda Item	Members to be invited and reason
Resources O&SC	17 November 2022: Monitoring recommendations from Council Asset Inquiry	Economy and Skills O&SC The Economy and Skills OSC undertook the inquiry, however this work now falls within the remit of the Resources O&SC
Education and Children's Social Care O&SC	30 November 2022: Report from Birmingham Safeguarding Children's Partnership (BSCP) Report from Birmingham Children's Trust (BCT)	Members of the CYP Mental Health Inquiry from the Health and Adult Care O&SC Information from the BSCP and BCT will inform the CYP mental health inquiry.
Health and Adult Care OSC	14 October 2022 Report from Forward Thinking Birmingham	Members of the Education and Children's Social Care OSC It was agreed at Co-ordinating OSC on the 8 July 2022 that the Health and Adult Care O&SC undertakes scrutiny of children's mental health (under the overview and scrutiny role set out in the National Health Service Act 2006 as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012) and members of the Education and Children's Social Care Committee will be invited to attend as mental health is included within the Committee's terms of reference.
Commonwealth Games, Culture and Physical Activity O&SC	Meeting: TBC Report on employment and skills Legacy of the Commonwealth Games	Members of the Economy and Skills OSC At the meeting on the 8 <sup>th</sup> July Co-ordinating O&SC decided that this issue falls within the remit of the CWG, Culture and Physical Activity OSC, and as it has been identified during the work planning for the



		Economy and Skills O&SC as an issue of interest Members of this Committee would be invited to the relevant meeting.
Co-ordinating O&SC	14 October 2022 Report on Devolution Trailblazer Deal	Members of the Employment and Skills Inquiry Task and Finish Group The Deputy Leader will report to Co-ordinating OSC on the devolution deal and this discussion will inform the work of the Employment and Skills Inquiry.

## 6 Inquiry Proposal

- 6.1 The Inquiry proposal from the Economy and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee was agreed at the meeting of the Co-ordinating Scrutiny Committee on the 8<sup>th</sup> July. The Terms of Reference for this Inquiry on Employment and Skills will be considered at the Committee meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> October.

## 7 Other Meetings

### Call in Meetings

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*None  
scheduled*

### Petitions

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*None  
scheduled*

### Councillor Call for Action requests

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*None  
scheduled*

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.

### Contact Officers

Fiona Bottrill, Senior Overview and Scrutiny Manager, [fiona.bottill@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:fiona.bottill@birmingham.gov.uk) - 07395 884487  
Baseema Begum, Research & Policy Officer, [baseema.begum@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:baseema.begum@birmingham.gov.uk) – 0121 303 1668



## 8 Forward Plan for Cabinet Decisions

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

Reference	Title	Portfolio	Proposed Date of Decision
010142/2022	Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Refresh	Finance & Resources	11 Oct 2022
009892/2022	The Birmingham Plan Issues and Options Document Consultation	Leader	11 Oct 2022
010173/2022	Our Future City Plan 2040 – Draft Central Birmingham Framework	Leader	11 Oct 2022
010468/2022	Full Business Case for the Legacy Developments following The Commonwealth Games at Alexander Stadium, Perry Barr	Leader	11 Oct 2022
010533/2022	Digital Strategy 2022-25 Technology Roadmap	Digital, Culture, Heritage and Tourism	08 Nov 2022
010484/2022	A Digitally Connected City - Enabled for Future Growth	Digital, Culture, Heritage and Tourism	13 Dec 2022
009663/2022	Promotion of Council Owned Land within Bromsgrove	Leader	13 Dec 2022
010266/2022	Our Future City Framework and Delivery Plan	Leader	13 Dec 2022
010416/2022	NEC Masterplan	Leader	13 Dec 2022
010446/2023	Business Rates Income 2023/24	n/a	17 Jan 2023
010589/2022	Ladywood Regeneration Estate	Leader	14 Feb 2023
010635/2023	Paradise Phase 3	Leader	14 Feb 2023
009445/2022	City Centre Public Realm Improvement Scheme (CCPR) Full Business Case (FBC) phase 2	Transport & Environment	14 Feb 2023

## APPENDIX 1

### ECONOMY & SKILLS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2022-23

**Meeting Date: 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

Item/ Topic	Type of Scrutiny	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Visits	Additional Information (Including joint working / links with other O&S Committees)
East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Strategy	Agenda Item	To keep up to date with the ongoing work in the area and identify further issues for scrutiny	Mark Gamble	Mark Gamble	None Required	The committee has regularly received 6 monthly updates since the approval for implementation.
Our Future City Plan: Shaping Our City Together	Agenda Item	To be appraised on the detail of plans and take part in future consultation and engagement and identify further issues for scrutiny	Simon Delahunty-Forrest	TBC	None Required	To link in with the work on East Birmingham and as outlined in June meeting and for members to have the opportunity to take part in proposed consultation and engagement activity related to the 'Central Renewal Area Plans' as raised during the discussion in June.
Work Programme Development	Decision	Approve work programme for 2022-23 Consider scope of Inquiry if agreed at Co-ordinating OSC on 8 July	Fiona Bottrill, Scrutiny Manager	None	None Required	

**Final Deadline: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

**Publication: Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

**Meeting Date: 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022 [POSTPONED]**

<b>Item/ Topic</b>	<b>Type of Scrutiny</b>	<b>Aims and Objectives</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Witnesses</b>	<b>Visits</b>	<b>Additional Information (Including joint working / links with other O&amp;S Committees)</b>
Leader	Agenda Item	Leader to set out priorities for the administration and key deliverables for 2022/23 with a focus on inward investment, development and major projects within the remit of the city.	Rebecca Grant, Cabinet Support Officer	Cllr Ian Ward	None Required	Item deferred to October meeting.
Inquiry on Employment & Skills – Discussion on Terms of Reference and Key Lines of Enquiry	Agenda Item	Following agreement at the Co-ordinating OSC on 8th July the committee will have the opportunity to discuss the Terms of Reference and Key Lines of Enquiry in preparation for future gathering sessions.	Fiona Bottrill, Scrutiny Manager	None	None Required	Item deferred to October meeting.

**Final Deadline: Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**Publication: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**Meeting Date: 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

<b>Item/ Topic</b>	<b>Type of Scrutiny</b>	<b>Aims and Objectives</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Witnesses</b>	<b>Visits</b>	<b>Additional Information (Including joint working / links with other O&amp;S Committees)</b>
Leader	Agenda Item	Leader to set out priorities for the administration and key deliverables for 2022/23 with a focus on inward investment, development, and major projects within the remit of the city.	Rebecca Grant, Cabinet Support Officer	Cllr Ian Ward Paul Kitson Rebecca Farr	None Required	
Inquiry on Employment & Skills – Discussion on Terms of Reference and Key Lines of Enquiry	Agenda Item	Following agreement at the Co-ordinating OSC on 8th July the committee will have the opportunity to discuss the Terms of Reference and Key Lines of Enquiry in preparation for future gathering sessions.	Fiona Bottrill, Scrutiny Manager	None	None Required	Initial discussion at Task & Finish group on 30 <sup>th</sup> September.

**Final Deadline: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022**

**Publication: Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

Meeting Date: 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Item/ Topic	Type of Scrutiny	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Visits	Additional Information (Including joint working / links with other O&S Committees)
Deputy Leader Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families	Agenda Item	Cabinet Portfolio priorities/responsibility in relation to employment & skills including apprenticeships  Update on implementation of the recommendations from Breaking the Barriers report. Adult skills levels. Identify how apprenticeship opportunities can be made more accessible to encourage local people to take up including for those with SEND.	Mary Crofton, Cabinet Support Officer	Deputy Leader, Cllr Brigid Jones, Promotion of the city and Inward Investment Council's lead on Levelling-Up, Devolution and WMCA Employment & Skills Employment Opportunities  Cllr Karen McCarthy Youth Engagement and Youth Service Skills and Entrepreneurship in Schools	None Required	Note cross-over with E&CS O&S around work with young people in schools on skills and those with SEN
Skills Funding	Agenda Item	To understand the current and future skills finding and identify any issues / risks	Tara Verrell, YEI Project Manager	Tara Verrell	None Required	

Final Deadline: Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022

Publication: Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022

**Meeting Date: 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

<b>Item/ Topic</b>	<b>Type of Scrutiny</b>	<b>Aims and Objectives</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Witnesses</b>	<b>Visits</b>	<b>Additional Information (Including joint working / links with other O&amp;S Committees)</b>
Employment & Skills Inquiry – Evidence Gathering session	Inquiry	TBC	Fiona Bottrill, Scrutiny Manager	TBC	TBC	

**Final Deadline: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

**Publication: Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

**Meeting Date: 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

Item/ Topic	Type of Scrutiny	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Visits	Additional Information (Including joint working / links with other O&S Committees)
Employment & Skills Inquiry – Evidence Gathering session	Inquiry	TBC	Fiona Bottrill, Scrutiny Manager	TBC	TBC	

**Final Deadline: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2023**

**Publication: Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023**

**Meeting Date: 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

Item/ Topic	Type of Scrutiny	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Visits	Additional Information (Including joint working / links with other O&S Committees)
East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Strategy (TBC)	Agenda Item	To keep up to date with the ongoing work in the area and identify further issues for scrutiny	Mark Gamble	Mark Gamble	None Required	The committee has regularly received 6 monthly updates since the approval for implementation.
Our Future City Plan: Shaping Our City Together	Agenda Item	To be appraised on ongoing plan and take part in future consultation and engagement and identify further issues for scrutiny	Simon Delahunty-Forrest	TBC	None Required	A further update was requested following the original item presented to committee in July. This work also complements the EBICGS. Members also have the opportunity to keep up to date on proposed consultation and engagement.

**Final Deadline: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**Publication: Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023**

**Meeting Date: 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Item/ Topic	Type of Scrutiny	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Visits	Additional Information (Including joint working / links with other O&S Committees)
TBC						

**Final Deadline: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**Publication: Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**Meeting Date: 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

Item/ Topic	Type of Scrutiny	Aims and Objectives	Lead Officer	Witnesses	Visits	Additional Information (Including joint working / links with other O&S Committees)
TBC						

**Final Deadline: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**Publication: Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**To be scheduled:**

<b>Item/ Topic</b>	<b>Type of Scrutiny</b>	<b>Aims and Objectives</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Witnesses</b>	<b>Visits</b>	<b>Additional Information (Including joint working / links with other O&amp;S Committees)</b>
Invitation to Cabinet Members	Agenda Item	To outline priorities, key areas of work and to take part in areas of discussion linked to their respective portfolio	Respective CM and CSO			4 cabinet members: Leader, Deputy Leader, CM for Children Young People and Families and CM for Digital, Culture, Heritage and Tourism.
Night-time economy & impact on city	Agenda Item	Opportunity to understand the differing needs of local centres around the city.	TBC			With reference to local areas and high streets post pandemic.
The role of universities in the city	Agenda Item	To understand the economic input and output of the city's 5 universities in respect of capital investment (infrastructure), as employers, attracting people to the city for study and work.	TBC			Retention of graduates has historically been identified as quite low. Has this changed? What is being done to retain more young people who come to study in the city to start their career and make it their home. Are more people coming here for work for example relocating from other big cities such as London, Manchester (are there any statistics that support more people coming to the city, possible data on house prices and purchasing?). Link to Housing & Neighbourhoods O&S?

Engagement with Council for SMEs	Agenda Item	To understand how SME's can improve access to council procurement activity and identify barriers and opportunities for improvement.				Noted that Resources O&S has recently completed a report due to Council covering procurement
Legacy of the Commonwealth Games in relation to Jobs & Skills	TBC	The Co-Ordinating O&S Committee agreed that work around the legacy of the Commonwealth Games will be led by the Commonwealth Games, Culture & Physical Activity O&S Committee and this Committee should be invited to a future meeting focussing on jobs and skills.	CWG O&S Committee			Scrutiny officers to liaise to ensure that members of this committee are invited to the relevant future meeting.

