

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

**ECONOMY, SKILLS & TRANSPORT O&S COMMITTEE –**

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**11.00AM hours on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2017, Room M93, Council House – Action Notes**

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**Present:**

Councillor Zafar Iqbal (Chair)

Councillors Sir Albert Bore, David Barrie, Zaker Choudhry, Liz Clements, Mahmood Hussain, Timothy Huxtable, Ziaul Islam, Josh Jones, and John O'Shea

**Also Present:**

Cllr Stewart Stacey, Cabinet Member Transport & Roads

Cllr John Lines, Ward Councillor for Bartley Green

Varinder Raulia, Head of Infrastructure Projects

Andy Middleton, Cycling Programme Manager

Andy Chidgey, Principal Studies Officer

Cigdem Jain, Senior Landscape Architect

Baseema Begum, Research & Policy Officer

Emma Williamson, Head of Scrutiny Services

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**1. NOTICE OF RECORDING**

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

**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Cllrs Ken Wood and Phil Davis.

**3. BIRMINGHAM CYCLE REVOLUTION: WOODGATE VALLEY GREEN ROUTE FULL BUSINESS CASE**

(See document No 1)

Cllr Huxtable declared his role as a member of the Transport Delivery Committee of the West Midlands Combined Authority.

Cllr Lines outlined the reasons for the call-in and made the following specific points:

- The scheme was discussed at Bartley Green ward and Edgbaston District committees.
- The majority of the community is not happy with putting a route through the park. It is also a designated wildlife reserve.
- An alternative route has been offered that is much safer and he hoped that this would be considered.
- There is no money for upkeep and maintenance.
- Through the City Council's Be Heard consultation database local people have been consulted on two occasions and a number of the comments were against the scheme;
- Report to Cabinet Committee on 7th March referred to the evolution of devolution in particular listening to input from District Committees.

The Cabinet Member, Councillor Stewart Stacey responded:

- This scheme is part of the BCR Phase 3 bid for Strategic Green routes as agreed with DfT. The funding provides further improvement to parks for cycling in all weathers.
- The route to be implemented has taken into account local views.
- All of the Be Heard Consultation database comments were included in the information shared with Cllr Line including yes/no answers.
- The scheme gives people with bikes an opportunity to get into parks and use green routes, which was a key feature of the green routes scheme.
- The Landscape Practice Group practiced was involved in the design and planning of this route including reporting to friends of the park and the ward committee. Ecologists were consulted and kept these groups informed of progress and officers took precaution in designing of the path taking on board suitable advice with respect to the environment.
- An alternative route was evaluated by officers however it was not wholly away from traffic and would not qualify as a green route.
- The petition received from Councillor Barton was received and objections noted.

Members of the Committee raised the following points:

- There was plenty of consultation with the local community and the proposal was thought to be a constructive one.
- There was no evidence of adverse effect or impact on wildlife as the ecologist consulted made no comments.

- It was questioned whether using this route for BCR would impact on future SPRINT routes.
- As part of this work the path was being made wider (including removal of overhanging branches) so this was positive in encouraging a range of community use.
- In line with Freedom of Information law personal details of respondents to the consultation cannot be shared, only their comments can be shared and officers have provided this information to Councillor Lines.

The Cabinet Member and officers then left the room. Following a discussion amongst Committee members it was

**RESOLVED:-**

That the decision taken by the respective Cabinet Members and Lead Officer on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017 approving the Full Business Case for the implementation of the Woodgate Valley Green Route scheme as part of the Birmingham Cycle Revolution Phase 3 programme should not be “called in”.

**4. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

None

**5. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS**

Agreed

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The meeting finished at 1215 hours.