

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

**COMMONWEALTH GAMES, CULTURE & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**

**O&S COMMITTEE – PUBLIC MEETING**

**1400 hours on Wednesday, 6 July 2022, Committee Room C, Margaret Street,  
Council House Extension**

**Action Notes**

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**Present:**

Councillor Jack Deakin (Chair)

Councillors: Gurdial Singh Atwal, Marcus Bernasconi, Bushra Bi, Darius Sandhu, Rinkal Shergill, and Ron Storer

**Also Present:**

Cllr Ian Ward, Leader

Cllr Jayne Francis, Cabinet Member, Digital, Culture, Heritage and Tourism

Craig Cooper, Commonwealth Games Programme Director

Amelia Murray, Overview and Scrutiny Manager

Amanda Simcox, Scrutiny Officer

**1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST**

The Chair advised 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**

None.

### **3. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE, CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR**

#### **RESOLVED:**

- Noted the resolution of the City Council appointing the Committee and Chair to serve on the Committee for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the City Council in 2023.
- Appointed Cllr Gurdial Singh Atwal as the Deputy Chair to serve on the Committee for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the City Council in 2023.

### **4. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

None.

### **5. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

#### **RESOLVED:**

Noted the Terms of Reference.

### **6. ACTION NOTES**

(See document No. 1)

#### **RESOLVED:**

The action notes of the formal meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022 were agreed.

### **7. COMMONWEALTH GAMES UPDATE**

(See documents No. 2 and No. 3)

Cllr Ian Ward, Leader, introduced the item and highlighted that there are 21 days to go until the opening ceremony and excitement is beginning to grow across the City, with the merchandising being very popular. Also, the Leader placed on record his thanks to the former Committee and former Chair, Cllr Mariam Khan, especially in relation to all the work the Chair did for the Queen's Baton Relay route. There will be a huge celebration trail on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2022 in Victoria Square that Members should have received an invitation to.

The Leader emphasised that if people do not have tickets for the Games there is still much to get involved in at the live sites in the city centre, at Smithfield and Victoria Square, where there will be a fantastic atmosphere with entertainment and refreshments, and everyone can be a part of this.

Craig Cooper, Commonwealth Games Programme Director, gave the presentation, and the main points included:

- This is a fantastic achievement with the Games being delivered on time and within budget even though we had half the time to deliver, four years instead of eight years, and during the challenge of a pandemic.
- We are ready to be the Proud Host City on the international stage and the public realm work is either complete or very near to completion.
- The Queen's Baton Relay was made in the City and it not only has a camera but is also capturing air quality data throughout its journey and this will be analysed by the University of Birmingham.
- The Cultural Festival 2022 was launched in April 2022 and £2m has been invested by the City Council, with 107 different cultural activities having taken place or will continue to take place up to the end of September 2022. There will be an arts and culture legacy post Games and an announcement will be made.
- There is a cohesive campaign to attract business and investment and the Leader is part of this.
- The Games will be a platform and there is an ambition to remain on the international stage, and this includes hosting future large major sporting events.
- We are ready to welcome the world and the Council has a comprehensive programme to host and engage dignitaries who are attending the Games, with the ambition to build long lasting international relationships that span our strategic ambitions.
- There are 320 activities celebrating communities that have been put in place.
- Get Set for the Games: briefings are in place, so communities are properly informed, leaflets have been delivered, and officers are going door to door in particular areas. Further information and key details will be shared with Councillors next week, and this is being done alongside Transport for West Midlands and the Police.
- The Games is being made first and foremost by and for Birmingham.
- Every school has the opportunity to be involved.
- They wish to encourage Members, so residents are aware and take full opportunity of the Games, and there is a phenomenal amount of activity that people can engage with even if they do not have a ticket for a sporting event.

During the discussion and in response to queries raised by Members, the main points included:

- The Chair also gave thanks to the previous Committee, and the former Chair, and congratulated Cllr Mariam Khan on her Cabinet appointment. Also, it is hoped the Committee can be involved in how the Games has impacted on not just sport, but other things like poor air quality.
- Over 40,000 people applied to be a volunteer. Approximately 25,000 to 26,000 people were interviewed, and 13,000 volunteers were recruited. The ambition is to create the atmosphere the London volunteers generated and give a warm welcome.
- As the Commonwealth Games are widely known outside the Commonwealth, we are also expecting people from Europe and the rest of the world to attend.
- The London Olympics had a problem with security, as the contracted company had let them down, which we're not anticipating. Although an additional resource has been made available if the Organising Committee (OC) require this.
- Policing and security arrangements are in place and other police resources have been allocated during the Games.
- The Council has launched its legacy strategy. This includes the physical investment and "Be Bold, Be Birmingham" with people having more civic pride, and they want to create an annual cultural festival, and they are expecting an uptake in young people wanting to join a sports club. Nationally, childhood obesity is an issue, and they want to address that and create a legacy.
- The Leader and others are expecting to be held to account on legacy.
- Improvement to urban environments and high streets longevity was questioned. The Council has invested heavily regarding fly tipping and litter, with there having been a national increase during the pandemic. The resources will continue so the improvements should be sustained. They are also targeting fly tippers and are lobbying the Government so Council Officers can give the evidence rather than residents.

**RESOLVED:**

The update was noted.

**8. WORK PROGRAMME**

(See document No. 4)

The Chair highlighted the following changes to the work programme published:

- 14 September 2022 committee meeting:

- Cllr Jayne Francis, Cabinet Member, Digital, Culture, Heritage and Tourism is unable to attend and will be attending the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022 committee meeting instead.
- The Leader will be attending to provide an update on the Commonwealth Games, and Graeme Betts, Legacy Lead for the Council has also been invited to attend.
- 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022 committee meeting:
  - To accommodate Cllr Mariam Khan, Cabinet Member, Health and Social Care, the Committee agreed to start the meeting at 1.30pm.
  - Cllr Jayne Francis will also be in attendance to provide an overview of her priorities as they relate to the Committee's remit.
- There are outstanding items to be programmed, including the digitalisation of an asset map for all cultural and physical activity, and the Chair will be meeting with Richard Brookes, Director, Strategy, Equality & Partnerships to ascertain whether this can / will be undertaken and whether it is appropriate for this to be an agenda item at a future committee meeting.
- Members to contact the Chair between committee meetings if they have any issues they wish to raise.
- Whether it would be appropriate for Nichola Turner MBE, Director of Legacy for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games to be invited to a meeting of the Committee to be explored.
- Amelia Murray, Overview and Scrutiny Manager, highlighted that the work programme is a living document, and there is a need to firm up the aims and objectives of the items with Members.

**RESOLVED:**

The work programme to be updated accordingly and:

- The Committee agreed to start the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022 committee meeting at 1.30pm and not 2.00pm.
- Members to contact the Chair between committee meetings if they have any issues they wish to raise.
- The Chair will have a meeting with Richard Brookes, Director, Strategy, Equality & Partnerships to discuss the digitalisation of an asset map for all cultural and physical activity.
- The aims and objectives of the agenda items will be firmed up with Committee Members.
- The Chair to explore whether it would be appropriate for Nichola Turner MBE, Director of Legacy for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games to be invited to a future meeting of the Committee.

**9. DATE OF MEETINGS 2022/23**

**RESOLVED:**

Noted the date of future meetings: 14 September 2022, 12 October 2022, 2 November 2022, 7 December 2022, 11 January 2023, 1 February 2023, 1 March 2023, and 5 April 2023.

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

None.

**11. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

**12. AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS**

**RESOLVED:**

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

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The meeting ended at 14.53 hours.