

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

COMMONWEALTH GAMES, CULTURE & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

O&S COMMITTEE – INFORMAL MEETING

1330 hours on Wednesday, 6 October 2021, On-line

Action Notes

Present:

Councillor Mariam Khan (Chair)

Councillors: Mohammed Azim, Morriam Jan and Martin Straker Welds

Also Present:

Kevin Crompton, Interim Director, Education and Skills

Rebecca Farr, Development Planning Manager – North & West Birmingham, Inclusive Growth

Daniel King, National Management Trainee, Scrutiny Office

Ian MacLeod, Acting Director, Inclusive Growth

Ceri Saunders, Acting Group Overview & 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) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Ron Storer.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

4. CWG: EDUCATION AND SKILLS DIRECTORATE

(See document No. 1)

Kevin Crompton, Interim Director for Education and Skills attended for this item.

The main points during the presentation included:

- Using the Games to inspire and engage thousands of children and young people is a clear ambition for the city.
- Kevin was a Chief Executive at a London council during the preparation for the Olympics and observed that ensuring communities benefit is quite a challenge.
- The Games Learning Programme will use the assets of the sporting and culture event to connect children and young people directly with opportunities.
- The Council has contributed £500,000 of funding to support a targeted strand of activity that seeks to ensure young people in every ward in the City have access to at least one Games opportunity, either through schools or community participation. There has been a slight delay in the programme due to originally being told that the DfE was going to fund a national programme for schools, which the Council was going to match fund. However, this is not going to happen now, and the Education Steering Group, chaired by Cllr Francis, resolved to use the £500,000.
- The sub-committee of the Education Steering Group has agreed to focus on three themes: journey of the games (following the Queen's Baton as it goes round the Commonwealth countries); finding common ground (colonialism and taking on issues around the BLM campaign); and we can change the world. The three themes go across five areas.
- The allocation of the funding will be across three areas of activity: OC games assets (includes the mascot visiting schools); existing council projects (includes using the Games as a vehicle to address youth violence); and learning programme open call (a pot of funding that will be available in three rounds, inviting people to put through their proposals).
- Employability and skills: construction opportunities especially at the Perry Barr residential scheme have produced 312 jobs; 57 apprenticeships; nearly 5,250 young people engaged through schools links; and over 1,600 volunteer hours.
- Five new team members are to join the learning youth programme and are being recruited now.
- There will be a lot of work promoting and encouraging schools to be involved.

- There are up to 50 schools already engaged in the pathway to the podium project that will be following the Queen's Baton.
- 15 schools are already involved in the city history project and they are hoping to get more schools involved.
- Through the Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP), 180 schools have applied to be part of the Commonwealth Connections project (linking with another school in a Commonwealth country) and 60 schools have signed up in 10 clusters, with five being across Birmingham.

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

- Members are pleased to see the involvement of youth services and schools in the creative festival, as this is almost as important as the Games.
- The Olympic Games legacy was in direct proportion to proximity to the Games. Kevin was in Haringey, so there was no physical legacy as such. Probably the most obvious legacy was the real boost to participation in sport.
- The legacy in Birmingham and the work being done on civic history and the history of the Commonwealth could be a legacy, and this can be continued and celebrated. Pathways to employment and young people getting into work will also be a legacy.
- Reassurance was requested as to whether this is too little too late, as progress at the beginning seemed to have stalled. Kevin thought that £500,000 is quite a substantial pot. It isn't too late, however there is a need to increase pace, as he spent a lot of time with the Assistant Director for Education and Early Years sorting out the £500,000, as this was being held against the promise of money from the DfE. Members want officers to come back in the new year to update the Committee.
- The Birmingham Education Partnership links with schools and they are already working on the Commonwealth Connections Project and they are continuing to work on other ideas. We will be using them to help get programmes up and running in the schools.
- The Youth Service and the Youth Employment Project is funded by DWP and officers will work across the Council, including the Inclusive Growth Directorate.
- The voluntary sector is involved in the culture programme.
- The DfE had an idea to match fund across the country but this did not occur, so the DfE are not taking a role. The LEP are involved, as is the WMCA, who are leading on the skills and apprenticeship programmes.

- Commonwealth Connections Project: 60 schools signed up in 10 clusters, which is 30 schools in Birmingham in five clusters, and 30 schools across the WMCA area. Kevin will provide the names of the connector schools.
- The Council is working on the Skills Strategy which is due to go to Cabinet in the next six weeks or so. This will be looking at sustainability and focuses on young people.
- It had previously been discussed that there might be a qualification, working with the universities and colleges, that young people could have. Kevin undertook to make inquiries.
- Whether there is a newsletter or bulletin that will let the Committee know what is happening in schools was queried. There is going to be an increase in activity in schools and Kevin will inquire what the medium will be and how the Councillors can be informed. If this is not being done, then Kevin will request this is undertaken.
- Sue Harrison will be the new Director for Children's Services starting from November 2021.

Actions:

- The following is to be forwarded to the Committee:
 - Membership of the Education Steering Group.
 - The names of the connector schools.
 - Inquiries into what happened to the possibility of there being a qualification linked to the Games.
 - Information on the medium and how Councillors will be informed as to what is happening in schools.

5. CWG: INCLUSIVE GROWTH

(See document No. 2)

Ian MacLeod, Acting Director for Inclusive Growth, and Rebecca Farr, Development Planning Manager – North & West Birmingham, Inclusive Growth attended for this item.

Ian MacLeod introduced the item and highlighted to Members that the Games is a major opportunity for the City and the Directorate is seeking to maximise this with a number of key development schemes and public realm improvements that are taking place across Birmingham.

The Directorate is leading on the transformation of Perry Barr, with the main focus being on the residential scheme and the legacy benefits. They have a masterplan in

place to maximise the opportunities and this includes Perry Park and the Alexander Stadium, and this has been a key theme for the Directorate for the past four years.

More recently the Directorate has adapted the Smithfield development to accommodate the Games and act as a venue, and they are on time to hand this over to the Organising Committee. The site will then be handed back and will be one of the biggest transformations in the City.

The main points during the presentation included:

- One of the big opportunities from the Games is the ability to accelerate and increase the scope of planned projects; some of these had been aspirational.
- They have secured additional funding for regeneration because of the Games.
- They are leading on the transformation of the Perry Barr regeneration scheme, this includes facilitating the improvement of the transport infrastructure, which was helped by the funding from West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) and Government.
- The existing Perry Barr projects include the redevelopment of the rail station which would have only entailed minor improvements without the Games.
- They are looking to take the Perry Barr masterplan - Perry Barr 2040: A vision for legacy to Cabinet for adoption in December 2021. Accompanying this will be a delivery plan.
 - There is the potential for a total of c5,000 homes and a commitment of 35% being affordable.
 - One of the key projects in the masterplan is the re-use of the bus garage and it is proposed that the retrofit could provide a mixed use destination, including leisure, arts and culture etc.
 - The town centre at Perry Barr has the opportunity of being a lot more innovative and distinctive which will futureproof the town centre.
 - Other projects include active travel routes, and there is a proposal to develop a cultural strategy to reflect the heritage.
- There are other improvements to the public realm that have been accelerated and / or maximised due to the Games, which will be ready for the Games, such as Digbeth High Street and Victoria Square.
- The development of the Smithfield site will deliver high quality public spaces; integrated public transport; 3,000 new homes; a leisure and culture offer, and new jobs.
- One of the big wins from hosting the Games is the spotlight that will be on Birmingham, and the opportunity to promote investment opportunities and attract inward investment. A £24m business and tourism programme / strategy has been developed, and the Council has had a significant role in this.

- Birmingham has always delivered projects on this scale. However, delivering all these projects all at once on this scale has presented challenges. This has led to enhanced project management and capability, and there have been a lot of opportunities for officers to develop and fulfil more challenging roles. Also, they have learnt from modern methods being used on the residential scheme.

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

- The team are working on the next phases of the regeneration of the residential scheme (plots 3, 4 and 5). They will then be focusing on phase two and the delivery of the 600 homes.
- The highway schemes are making good progress and are on track.
- The supply chain has been an issue regarding some supplies. However, a lot of goods have been pre-ordered, and the modular construction has helped with this.
- The buildings will look finished during the Games, and they will remove the hoardings where they can. They are having discussions with the OC to maximise the visual aspect and promote the site, and they are in the process of putting together a sales team.
- Pop up opportunities: they are expecting bids from organisations by the middle of next week and they've asked them to demonstrate an innovative approach on how they will attract and support local businesses.
- Affordable housing: they have a commitment to deliver 22% for phase one, and for phase two they are committing to 35%. They have also submitted a bid to Homes England to support this.
- The wider economic benefits across the city include the regeneration of Ladywood estate; East Birmingham Inclusive Growth; Longbridge and they continue to work with St Modwen; Life Science campus in Selly Oak; and in the North of the City they have major proposals etc.
- The station timeline is currently March 2022 for the completion of the build, and it should be operational from late April to early May 2022.
- Post Games economic legacy for other parts of the city that are not involved in delivering the Games include the University Station which will support the life science in Selly Oak. There are also other infrastructure proposals that will support wider economic investment.
- The business and tourism strategy will bring in more investment for the city and this will have a legacy.

The update was noted, and Members may be interested in visiting the new school in Perry Barr.

6. WORK PROGRAMME

(See document No. 3)

The Chair informed Members that the visit to the Alexander Stadium will take place on the 22nd October 2021 and requested Members respond to the e-mail if they wish to take part.

The November committee meeting will be attended by Becky Hellard from the Council Management Directorate; Dr Peter Bishop from the Digital and Customer Services Directorate; and Paul Lankester from the Regulation and Enforcement Department.

Members were asked to let the Chair know if they wanted any of the officers from the Directorate to return to provide an update, or if there was anything or anyone else they wanted to be added to the work programme.

The Chair highlighted that she is now on the Organising Committee's Legacy and Benefits Committee, which she hopes will link to this committee. She has attended one meeting last month and she is happy to provide an update if members wish, and we can build on the work the Committee is doing.

The Chair welcomed Daniel King who had attended the meeting today. He is one of the recently recruited graduates on the NMT Programme and will be working in Overview and Scrutiny.

7. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting at 1.30pm on 3rd November 2021 was noted.

8. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

The meeting ended at 15.11 hours.