

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

**COMMONWEALTH GAMES, CULTURE & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**

**O&S COMMITTEE – INFORMAL MEETING**

**1330 hours on Wednesday, 8 December 2021, On-line**

**Action Notes**

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**Present:**

Councillor Mariam Khan (Chair)

Councillors: Gurdial Singh Atwal, Mohammed Azim, Yvonne Mosquito, and Martin Straker Welds

**Also Present:**

Ceri Saunders, Acting Group Overview & Scrutiny Manager

Darren Share, AD, Street Scene, City Operations Directorate

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**

Apologies were received on behalf of Cllr Ron Storer and Cllr Morriam Jan.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

None.

#### **4. CWG: STREET SCENE**

(See document No. 1)

Darren Share, AD for Street Scene, was in attendance for this item and gave the presentation.

The main points during the presentation included:

- There has been massive investment to tackle the issues on the city's streets.
- In scope includes street cleansing; waste management; and parks.
- Principals include: deep cleansing taking place between December 2021 and July 2022; a new appointment of a dedicated Street Scene Manager; agency workers to backfill existing staff positions; an increase to weekly grounds maintenance along key routes from June 2022; enforcement on private land will commence in January 2022; and they are developing a Love Your Streets campaign targeting the main routes.
- Information on the additional crews was provided and this includes: five additional graffiti crews and three additional rapid response crews.
- In total there will be 95 additional staff, not including the fly tipping crews etc.
- They have developed a link with the Botanical Gardens, who are developing a Commonwealth eating project and five sites across the City will be identified to display this.
- They are working on the legacy for Perry Park and Sutton Park; and £150,000 has been identified for the Future Parks Accelerator (FPA), which is about community involvement in Parks.
- Details of the floral enhancements, including the locations and colours to be used, were provided.
- Other work includes talking to the Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) regarding co-ordinating the floral enhancements; maximising the volunteering offer; and looking at how parks could be delivery centres for grass root sports.
- The additional work that has been undertaken has resulted in additional waste being managed via the mobile Household Recycling Centres (HRCs).

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

- Officers are aware that there are a lot of people keeping the streets and parks clean and tidy and they are happy to work with them to assist with things such as using the right kit (high vis jackets etc) and collecting the waste.
- It is anticipated that the main issue during the Games will be fly tipping.

- A mobile HRC was not able to be situated due to a road closure and officers are working closely with other Directorates to ensure things like this do not re-occur.
- Officers are trying to engage with shop owners regarding their trade bins and side waste being stored on the high street. There are regulations to assist and this is a joint venture with Keir and the Council. There is future legislation coming into effect that includes Planning being involved to ensure new businesses have adequate storage for their waste. However, a business may also need to have more bins due to proposed new recycling regulations.
- Officers are also looking at supporting businesses who want to provide planters etc.
- Up until the Games work will take place city-wide as officers are tasked with cleaning up the whole of the City.
- The use of the mobile HRCs needs to be monitored as some may not be needed every week in certain areas. Also, they appear to work better when the site is picked in consultation with the Ward Members.
- A reduction in fly tipping has occurred which may be because of the mobile HRCs, although this may be a natural phase and fly tipping may increase. Officers are learning from the work they are undertaking and are exploring using smaller vehicles in certain areas, and giving Ward Members three weeks' notice on where they may be situating a mobile HRC and on what day etc.
- The issue of crews picking up fly tipping that has been reported but driving past fly tipping because it hasn't been reported was raised. It was acknowledged that one depot is operating differently, and plans are being put in place to address this.
- The Botanical Gardens contacted the Council about growing vegetables from all the Commonwealth countries and wanting to put displays throughout the City. Officers are in contact with Walsall Road Allotments and will work to support both organisations. There may also be interest from other groups who want to be involved and Darren Share will contact the Botanical Gardens to discuss this.
- The towers and plants for the towers are in process and officers are happy to share the locations and specifics with Members as these can be changed.
- Officers are keen to work with any groups who want to get involved with the parks, as they are a resource that could assist with getting people active and officers are willing to work with the Organising Committee on this.
- The new Street Scene Manager is expected to be in post in January 2022 and they will be the point of contact and the key link. Details will be shared with Members when they are in post.

- How the information provided today will be shared with all Members was queried. Officers have been talking to the Cabinet Member regarding briefings early in the New Year with what they are planning, and how people can be involved in helping clean up their streets, such as Love your Streets.
- Who Members contact regarding details of private land that needs clearing of rubbish was queried. In the interim Members can contact Darren Share to make sure they are on the list and then the new Street Scene Manager when they are in post.
- The additional crews will focus on particular areas around the venues and key routes during the Games; and the crews not directly linked will focus on the other areas.

#### **ACTIONS:**

To be provided:

- More information on the eating projects.
- The Love Your Streets list.

### **5. WORK PROGRAMME**

(See document No. 2)

The Chair advised that a response is awaited from the Leader about his attendance at a future meeting and suggested the Chief Executive and Programme Director are also invited. Committee agreed with this suggestion.

Members were also advised to let the Chair know if they want particular officers from the Directorates that have previously attended to come back to a future meeting.

Cllr Martin Straker Welds queried whether there is a plan for all the Directorates that includes a timetable, and how Directorates are working together and with other organisations such as Keir. Ceri Saunders suggested that the scheduled activity and how this knits together could be requested from the Programme Team.

In addition, the Chair suggested that Committee members either have a visit to the Council House or an update is provided on the plans the Organising Committee has for the Council House, and this was agreed.

### **6. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The Chair advised Members that the next committee meeting is at 1.30pm on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

**7. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

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The meeting ended at 15.00 hours.