

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

ECONOMY, SKILLS AND TRANSPORT O&S COMMITTEE

1400 hours on 19th January 2017, Committee Rooms 3&4– Actions

Present:

Councillor Zafar Iqbal (Chair)

Councillors David Barrie, Zaker Choudhry, Phil Davis, Ziaul Islam, John O'Shea, Eva Phillips, Timothy Huxtable, Sharon Thompson and Ken Wood.

Also Present:

Councillor Brett O'Reilly, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Skills

Councillor Stewart Stacey, Cabinet Member for Transport and Roads

Jane Newman, Employment and Skills Manager

Lesley Bradnam, Project Leader - Economic Policy

Baseema Begum, Research & Policy Officer, Scrutiny Office

Rose Kiely, Overview & Scrutiny Manager, Scrutiny Office

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING

The Chairman advised that this meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site (which could be accessed at "www.birminghamnewsroom.com") and members of the press/public may record and take photographs.

The whole of the meeting would be filmed except where there were confidential or exempt items.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Josh Jones.

3. ECONOMY, SKILLS AND TRANSPORT: ACTION NOTES 16TH JANUARY 2017/ISSUES ARISING

The Chair, Cllr Iqbal confirmed that:

1. He had written to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) on behalf of the Committee on 6th January seeking his views in relation to setting policy on 20mph zones vs 20mph limits and was waiting for a response.
2. Cllr Choudhry should have received an email with information relating to the backlog of dropped kerb applications made. Paul O'Day sent this information on 17th January.
3. Cllr Choudhry asked for a breakdown of the responses received on the consultation by LEP area following Katie's presentation on the SEP at the last meeting. An email was sent with that information to Cllr Choudhry on 18th January via the scrutiny office.
4. The Learning and Work Institute report referred to by Joanne Keatley has been received and circulated.
5. Cllr Huxtable had asked for upcoming cabinet decisions noted on the forward plan to be highlighted where there was any slippage going forward. This will be noted on the Committee's work programme.

The action notes of the meeting held on 17th November were noted.

The action notes of the Call-in meeting held on 5th January were noted.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded that they must declare all relevant interests relating to any items of business to be discussed at the meeting. Councillor Timothy Huxtable declared an ongoing interest as a board member of Marketing Birmingham.

5. BUDGET SCRUTINY

Councillor Brett O'Reilly, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Skills

Cllr O'Reilly highlighted the following key points relating to his portfolio:

1. There are two budget lines that are just for information as they are connected to Cllr O'Reilly's portfolio. There is the proposal on Marketing Birmingham to move to a self-financing model sitting within the West Midlands Combined Authority and discussions are ongoing.
2. Secondly the Future Operating Model of the Economy directorate. A number of options have been considered to ensure that it is the most effective in terms of the statutory services it provides and the opportunities in terms of promoting jobs and skills and moving to a model of retaining business rates and maximising the collection of business rates in the future.
3. Cllr O'Reilly spoke specifically about the direct portfolio pressure of budget reductions in the Youth service and Careers service. The consultation with the public, businesses and stakeholders is currently underway. There is some feedback to date that a merger of back office services would be beneficial and would enable them to

work together more effectively whilst delivering the savings needed. It was however important to protect front-line staff and to continue to deliver on the Council's priorities.

Councillor Stewart Stacey, Cabinet Member for Transport and Roads

Cllr Stacey outlined the following key areas of budgetary change:

1. The Future Operating Model for the economy directorate – how it is being reshaped to make savings, to achieve better efficiencies and connectivity of work as areas are bought together.
2. A reduction in the in the WMCA transport levy is being sought. This has been agreed at officer level for the first year of savings but policy decisions will need to be made about future years.
3. Car parking tariff increases. Local charges and city centre car parks are being reviewed to ensure that charges are at an appropriate level.

RESOLVED:-

That the reports be noted.

6. QUARTERLY KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR REPORT ON SKILLS PROGRAMMES

Jane Newman introduced the report and made reference to dashboard data and highlighted that it was developed for the delivery of the Youth Promise programme. It contains data related to youth unemployment only. Activity and direction of travel is developed from a range of providers across the city. The data in the report is produced on a monthly basis in the main.

It was noted that the data in the report is owned by the GBSLEP and so is under a shared agreement protocol and therefore presented in a restricted way.

RESOLVED:-

The Chair requested that all future reports would need a covering note explaining the data and giving some context and providing more clarity.

Members requested youth unemployment information by ward.

Members also asked for an indication of the numbers of young people that would be required to move off benefits to meet the KPI targets.

Cllr Wood requested that skills data was provided on all constituencies so that comparisons could be made and areas of greater need identified.

Jane Newman confirmed that information relating to the Birmingham Jobs Fund in terms of where young people are living and where it is having the most impact can be made available to Members.

7. WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE ECONOMY, SKILLS AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2016-17

It was agreed that the Review of Safety Cameras scheduled for the February meeting would be postponed to the new municipal year so that adequate data is available.

The Committee will look at the benefits of HS2 in greater depth. This item will be added to the work programme for April.

The impact and evaluation of areas where 20mph limits have been implemented scheduled for the Committee's April meeting will be looked at in the new municipal year to ensure that there is adequate monitoring data.

Cllr Iqbal requested members to give any comments on the draft report on 'Maximising Jobs and Skills in the City' report to February City Council by 24th January.

Councillor Huxtable asked for an update on the Draft Local Centres strategy and for it to be scheduled onto work programme.

Cllr Huxtable highlighted that the West Midlands Connected Strategic Transport Plan ('Movement for Growth') was to be discussed at the next City Council meeting and suggested that the Committee may want to do some further detailed work on it following it being noted at the meeting.

Cllr O'Shea requested that the Committee receive an update on the parking strategy review.

RESOLVED:-

That the work programme be noted.

8. REQUEST(S) FOR CALL IN/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION/PETITIONS

9. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

10. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

RESOLVED:-

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

Agreed.

The meeting ended at 16:17 hours.