

## BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

# ECONOMY, SKILLS AND TRANSPORT O&S COMMITTEE

1400 hours on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017, Committee Rooms 3&4 – Actions

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### Present:

Councillor Zafar Iqbal (Chair)

Councillors David Barrie, Zaker Choudhry, Liz Clements, Phil Davis, Mahmood Hussain, Timothy Huxtable, Ziaul Islam, John O'Shea and Ken Wood

### Also Present:

Ian MacLeod, Assistant Director, Planning

Doug Lee, Doug Lee, Development Planning Manager

Stuart Wiltshire, Principal City Designer

Baseema Begum, Research & Policy Officer, Scrutiny Office

Rose Kiely, Overview & Scrutiny Manager, Scrutiny Office

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## 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](http://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

An apology was received from Councillor Sir Albert Bore. Councillor Zaker Choudhry submitted an apology for lateness.

## 3. ECONOMY, SKILLS AND TRANSPORT: ACTION NOTES 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017/ISSUES ARISING

The Chair, Cllr Iqbal confirmed progress on outstanding actions from the Committee's previous meetings:

- A briefing note for Committee on the actions taken to improve safety in respect of the Pershore Road/Edgbaston Road junction for cyclists and pedestrians was circulated on 19 October.
- A briefing note for Committee on the costs of enforcing parking is currently in progress.
- Officers in the parking section are investigating Cllr Choudhry's request about what the City Council can do to ensure that residential roads near to the area of Tesco (Swan Island) are not blocked all day by staff members parking on them.
- A briefing note was circulated on 19 October with regards to the Erdington Parking Scheme.

#### **4. EAST BIRMINGHAM AND NORTH SOLIHULL REGENERATION STRATEGY - UPDATE**

Ian MacLeod, Assistant Director, Regeneration took the Committee through the presentation (see document 1). He confirmed that the evidence base is now completed and summaries all the challenges. This will now be used to develop a strategy to address all of the long-term complex issues in greater depth than previously.

During discussion and in response to Members the following points were made:

- Work is being done to ensure that all issues including health and education as well as social and economic issues are linked to the full growth strategy and this is therefore having an impact on progressing some of the work relating to housing and installation of the Metro system.
- The City Council are working closely with Transport for West Midlands and transport providers. The SPRINT bus on the A38 to Langley is a high priority for delivery. There are currently two options for consideration on the route to the city centre due for the end of December.
- There are 7 stations in the West Midlands area that are a priority. Transport connectivity issues will be discussed with responsible colleagues.
- There needs to be more employer involvement and engagement in schools. This is an area that can be improved in terms of bringing schools and employers together to ensure that schools are geared up in providing a future workforce that has the necessary skills to take up the jobs that will be created and needed in local areas.
- It is imperative that funding programmes need to be longer than a period of 3 years to make an impact and difference to local communities as it takes a considerable amount of time to bed-in a new programme before you can actually see results.
- It is important to attract first and second tier supplier companies especially in training young people and upskilling and offering apprenticeships to local people.
- Ensure that major policy initiatives of the City Council are part of the strategy going forward for instance access to jobs in the Tyseley Environment Enterprise District.

- Communicating with local people about the opportunities coming up is equally important as many people are not aware of what will be on offer in terms of skills and jobs.

**RESOLVED:-**

1. That a further update report is provided in the new municipal year including picking up the issue of adequacy of availability of school places in the area in response to a query raised by Members.

**5. BIRMINGHAM DESIGN GUIDE – DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION**

(See document No 2)

Stuart Wiltshire outlined key points from his report specifically that:

- The period of consultation of six weeks on a ‘Vision’ document was completed on 6<sup>th</sup> November and all members were included in this.
- With the adoption of the Birmingham Development Plan earlier this year and the investment the city is witnessing it was felt that it was an appropriate time for the City Council to refresh and update its planning guidance relating to design of developments across the city. As part of this a new Design and Conservation Review Panel will be set up to implement the policy.
- The new Design Guide will replace all the current area based policies and documents and it contains five big design themes.
- Comments received as part of the consultation will be translated into a summary document and will be fed into the drafting of the Design Guide later next year. Another period of consultation will take place asking for comments on the draft before it is formally adopted by the City Council.

During discussion with Members the following points were made:

- The initial feedback to the consultation has been positive and there is general support for the proposals.
- There is a Terms of Reference for the proposed Design and Conservation Review Panel. The code of conduct will be the same as it is for Planning Committee. There will be an appropriate balance of professionals but the key is achieving a balance with others that wish to be involved as appropriate.
- Those with disabilities/mobility issues and representative groups have been consulted with.
- The policy on conservation is contained within the overarching policy of the Birmingham Development Plan. The majority of conservation areas have conservation area management plans and assessments.

**RESOLVED:-**

1. Councillor Wood requested a breakdown of responses to the consultation by actual numbers rather than percentages.
2. An update report is presented to this Committee in Summer 2018 after the next consultation period and before the Guide is presented to City Council for adoption.

**6. WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE ECONOMY, SKILLS AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2017-18**

(See document No 4)

Councillor Clements requested that as part of the item on European Funding scheduled for the March meeting that this item also covers the strategic approach to regeneration in light of the Brexit negotiations in the area.

The Committee agreed to invite the Leader of the Council to a future meeting to discuss the cost implications of hosting the Commonwealth Games.

Councillor O'Shea requested that the Chair write to the Parliamentary Committee on the regional impact of Brexit. In particular referencing what studies exist on the economic impact.

**RESOLVED:-**

1. The item on European Funding scheduled for the March meeting is expanded to include a discussion on the impact of Brexit negotiations to the region.
2. The Leader is invited to a future meeting to discuss the cost implications to the City of hosting the Commonwealth Games.
3. The Chair to write to the Parliamentary Committee on the economic impact of Brexit to the region.

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

None.

**8. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

**9. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS**

Agreed.

**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.

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The meeting ended at 1624 hours.