

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

ECONOMY, SKILLS AND TRANSPORT O&S COMMITTEE

1400 hours on 22nd September 2016, Committee Room 2 – Actions

Present:

Councillor Zafar Iqbal (Chair)

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

Also Present:

Councillor Stewart Stacey, Cabinet Member for Transport and Roads

Baseema Begum, Research & Policy Officer, Scrutiny Office

Philip Edwards, Head of Growth and Transportation

Kevin Hicks, Assistant Director, Highways & Infrastructure

Rose Kiely, Overview & Scrutiny Manager, Scrutiny Office

Anne Shaw, Assistant Director, Transportation & Connectivity

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

None received.

3. ECONOMY, SKILLS AND TRANSPORT: ACTION NOTES 21 JULY 2016

(See document No 1)

Cllr Huxtable requested that all relevant reports from the forward plan are noted on the Committee's work programme where possible. It was noted that the work

programme is a 3 month rolling programme and that as such there would be incidents of slippage. Therefore it will show the correct information at the point of publication.

In response to Cllr Wood's query regarding the Committee receiving regular key performance indicator reports on skills programmes adopted by the City Council the Chair confirmed that following his meeting with Cllr O'Reilly he was able to confirm that the Committee would receive quarterly monitoring reports. This will be noted on the Committee's work programme.

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.

5. CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ROADS: PORTFOLIO PRIORITIES AND UPCOMING WORK AREAS

(See document No 2)

The Cabinet Member for Transport and Roads Cllr Stewart Stacey highlighted the key points from his report.

In terms of forthcoming work and priorities the Cabinet Member made reference to the key policy drivers of the Birmingham Development Plan (a growing population, more homes and jobs) meaning that there will be an increase in demand for journeys as well as an increase in vehicles on the road. As part of this it was crucial that journeys are sustainable ensuring that people have access to safe modes of transport (buses, rail, cycling) to tackle health issues such as obesity and poor air quality. It is equally important to ensure road safety for all road users including pedestrians and cyclists. Planning sustainable transport systems means that residents are able to access education, skills and job opportunities as well as local health and wellbeing services.

Cllr Stacey also made reference to the City Council's strategic priorities within his portfolio going forward:

- Creating Safe Places and Streets – ensuring that where people live and where they commute too are pleasant and safe. Developing green travel districts pilots to ensure this.
- Keeping Traffic flowing – recognising that some vehicle movement is essential to the economy and to keep the city moving. It was also important to improve the flow of traffic through improvements at key pinch points in the city. There is still plenty of development in Birmingham to come and therefore it is important to manage the highway network appropriately with reference to major structural work and highway maintenance. As part of this it is key to ensure that all road users reminded of the changes being made and alternative travel choices available to them. Reference was also made to the introduction

of a street works permit scheme to the city to better regulate and manage the works on its carriageways.

- Bus Services Bill – A new bill of legislation should come into force in April 2017. Working with West Midlands Bus Alliance to maximise the benefits to Birmingham of the bus network and an enhanced partnership.
- Rail/Light Rail – Working with partners to ensure nationally let franchises meet our local needs. The City Council needs more local capacity to support economic growth.
- Highways PFI Contract – Ensuring that people are clear on what is in the contract and ensuring that the contract is fully implemented. On-going discussions are taking place with the contractors.
- HS2 –The city needs to be ready when HS2 arrives to ensure the city maximises opportunities by providing connectivity and jobs. Also its construction impacts on our highway network so this also needs to be managed carefully.

RESOLVED:-

1. The Chair agreed to speak to officers with regards to arranging for a private briefing for the Committee on the Highways PFI contract.
2. Councillor Huxtable to be provided with clarity on any replacements made in conservation areas in line with the Highways PFI contract.
3. Cllr Islam to be provided with the criteria of people awarded the Big Birmingham Bikes scheme and the actual locations of people given bikes.

6. ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY CONSULTATION

The following report was submitted:-

(See document No 3)

Philip Edwards outlined that the strategy is focussed on a number of strategic outcomes:

- Reducing the number and severity of road traffic collisions;
- Reducing the number of people killed or seriously injured;
- Helping more people to make journeys to school and work on foot;
- Encouraging more children to walk or cycle to school; and
- Supporting the air quality agenda.

The strategy has 3 strategic key themes:

- Safer roads including more physical and engineering measures;
- Safer people – behaviour change and education; and
- Safer vehicles – looking at the technology of vehicles to make them safer.

A Birmingham Road Safety Strategy Partnership has been set-up to coordinate all activity with key partners of which the City Council is part.

Feedback from partners, members and residents has enabled the document to be refined and the version currently (with some further updates) is the one that is due to be approved at the Cabinet meeting on 18th October. Subject to approval at Cabinet it will then be presented to a future City Council meeting for adoption as Council policy.

During discussion the following points were also made:

- The City Council had worked with agencies such as ROSPA and incorporated good practice from other local authorities when putting together the strategy.
- With regards to the impact of quad-bikes and mopeds on road safety in the city. It was noted that this issue is primarily an anti-social/criminal behaviour issue and work is going on in the City Council's 'Place' directorate on injunctions with relevant partners to see what can be done in relation to enforcement.

RESOLVED:-

1. The Committee to receive a briefing paper on the work being undertaken in Place Directorate to tackle Quad Bikes/Scramblers etc.
2. Academic research on 20mph Limits and Zones to be collated and shared with the Committee.
3. Provide a briefing to the Committee on the work taking place elsewhere (in particular Bristol, Solihull and Edinburgh) on banning parking outside schools in terms of work.
4. Philip Edwards to feedback to his staff on what work can be done on road and community safety for Bournville School as it is becoming a 'All Through School'.
5. Members to be provided with progress on the Construction Logistics and Community Safety (CLOCS) partnership and the Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS).

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

The following work programme was submitted:-

(See document No 4)

Members were requested to note the changes made to the work programme.

Cllr Huxtable requested that the GBSLEP Strategic Economic Plan: A Greater Birmingham for a Greater Britain was circulated to the Committee ahead of the appropriate meeting.

Scrutiny officers confirmed that that a discussion paper on preventing damage to grass verges would be made available to Members for consideration at their October meeting.

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

None

9. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None

10. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

Agreed.

The meeting ended at 1603 hours.