

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

**SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSPORT O&S COMMITTEE  
MEETING**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 1400 hours in Committee  
Room 6, Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham**

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**Present:**

Councillor David Barker (Chair)

Councillors Raqeeb Aziz, Colin Green, Timothy Huxtable, Lauren Rainbow and Waseem Zaffar

**Also Present:**

Beccy Marston, West Midlands Mayoral Commissioner for Active Travel

Matthew MacDonald, West Midlands Mayoral Commissioner for Road  
Safety (Online)

Superintendent Gareth Mason, West Midlands Police

Baseema Begum, Scrutiny Officer

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**NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST**

91. The Chair advised those present that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast and that Members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

The Chair stated that there was a change to the anticipated agenda with the report on Parking Enforcement deferred and explained the reasons given.

The Chair agreed to write to the Cabinet Member and relevant senior officers to express the Committee's disappointment that the report had been withdrawn.

**APOLOGIES**

92. Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Akhlaq Ahmed and Richard Parkin.

93. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**MINUTES**

94. **RESOLVED: -**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ACTION TRACKER**

95. The Chair noted the progress made on outstanding actions and advised that information relating to the Environment and Neighbourhood Transport Fund (ENTF) had just been received and would be shared with Members.

A follow-up on requests for further information was noted in the minutes of the meeting held in April: -

- It was noted that the Climate Change/Route to Net Zero Committee had not formally met since May 2022. An update on a future meeting date was requested.
- That missing ward level data requested as part of the ENTF was provided.
- An update on progress made with the refurbishment of Witton Railway Station.

**RESOLVED: -**

That the action tracker be noted.

**ROAD HARM REDUCTION AND ACTIVE TRAVEL**

96. The Chair welcomed Beccy Marston, West Midlands Mayoral Commissioner for Active Travel and Superintendent Gareth Mason, West Midlands Police, who were present for this item. Matthew MacDonald, West Midlands Mayoral Commissioner for Road Safety joined the meeting virtually.

The Superintendent, West Midlands Police and the Commissioners for Active Travel and Road Safety introduced themselves and explained their roles. They made the following points in respect of their priorities and current work: -

- A shared vision for safer streets accessible by walking, wheeling, and cycling.
- A strategic focus on school safety zones as community hubs.
- Joint working agreements for average speed enforcement.
- Advocacy for fewer cars, slower speeds with an emphasis on collaborative, place-based approaches.

The Road Safety Commissioner added that his specific role was to co-ordinate agencies working together to reduce road harm having started his role in January. His focus was to look at ways to support local authorities in reaching their goals by implementing changes based on evidence. One example of this was looking at where 20mph zones could be installed. Another aim was tackling pavement parking. It was added that a taskforce meets once a month with the West Midlands Mayor to discuss key issues affecting communities ensuring that the work complements the place based approach.

The Active Travel Commissioner stated that she had begun her role in February and set out her priorities and met with all the relevant officers within the West Midlands

Combined Authority. She had also visited all the local authorities within the region to talk about her priorities and look at ways to bring in additional investment. She was an ambassador for amplifying bike training and highlighted the positive work of the Third Sector in respect of this and how this work could be built upon.

The Commissioners confirmed that they dedicated a day per week to the role. This was outside of their other working commitments.

A discussion was then held with Members, Commissioners and Police and the following were among the points raised: -

#### Speed Limits

In respect of the Road Safety Inquiry carried out by the Committee, reference was made to Recommendation 12 contained within the report that “Council requests that an implementation plan setting out how it intends to reduce speed limits across the city is provided to the Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This plan should include how it will engage and inform ward members.”

Commissioners and the Police were supportive of citywide 20mph zones with limited exceptions. They noted that signage alone was deemed ineffective in reducing speed and design changes were required for adherence. It was noted that road design influences driver behaviour more than signage alone.

Average Speed Cameras and enforcement activity was discussed alongside the need to change driver behaviour and shift cultural mindsets. Members noted the 20mph speed limit implemented in Wales and the impact in the reduction of road casualties. However, the political sensitivity of implementation locally was also acknowledged.

#### Funding Challenges

The Committee was updated on ongoing financial constraints affecting the delivery of road safety and traffic calming measures. It was highlighted that there had been a shift to strategic, place-based investment aligned with the Local Transport Plan (LTP).

There was a need to increase the use of collision and traffic data for prioritising schemes. This would also be the best way to increase transparency and manage community expectations.

Concerns were raised about the risk of funding reallocation due to underspends on key programmes such as the City Region Sustainable Transport Scheme (CRSTS).

#### Enforcement and Infrastructure Integration

Committee members noted minimal speed reduction following limit changes. The example of Chester Road was given where previously the speed limit was 40mph reduced to 30mph. Vehicles were on average still travelling at 38mph despite over 2,000 tickets being issued. Emphasis was placed on the importance of designing roads to encourage compliance, with enforcement as a last resort. A need for investment in infrastructure and exploration of legal tools such as temporary driving bans was highlighted.

A regional agreement had been established to support cohesive enforcement efforts with all the West Midlands Councils.

#### **RESOLVED: -**

That the report be noted.

**SUSTAINABILITY & TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

97. The Chair thanked Members for their input for the current municipal year and confirmed the details for the first meeting of the new municipal year.

It was acknowledged that the Committee had focussed on transport and highway issues this year and the aim was to ensure that there was more focus on the sustainability remit of the portfolio moving forward.

In response to a query about the scheduling of the report on illegal dropped kerbs, the Chair confirmed that he would request an update for the Committee from the relevant senior officer.

**RESOLVED:** -

- i) That the report be noted.
- ii) That an update on illegal dropped kerbs report be provided to the Committee.

**REQUEST(S) FOR CALL IN/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION/PETITIONS (IF ANY)**

98. There were no requests received.

**OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

99. There were no items of Other Urgent Business received.

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The meeting ended at 15:39 hours.

Chair's signature: