

## **BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

# **ECONOMY, SKILLS AND TRANSPORT O&S COMMITTEE**

**1400 hours on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2016, Committee Room 1 – Actions**

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### **Present:**

Councillor Zafar Iqbal (Chair)

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

### **Also Present:**

Councillors Marje Bridle and Neil Eustace

Baseema Begum, Research & Policy Officer, Scrutiny Office

Frank Bird, Highways England

Andrew Butterfield, Highways England

Alistair Harris, Highways England

Jon Hayes, Transport for West Midlands

Kevin Hicks, Assistant Director, Highways & Infrastructure

Mel Jones, Transportation Behaviour Change Manager

Jessica Kenny, Highways England

Rose Kiely, Overview & Scrutiny Manager, Scrutiny Office

Anne Shaw, Assistant Director, Transportation & Connectivity

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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. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE AND CHAIR**

The committee noted and agreed the resolution of the City Council appointing the Committee, Chair and Members to serve on the Committee for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the City Council in 2017.

**3. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR**

The appointment of Councillor John O'Shea as Deputy Chair was agreed.

**4. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillor Eva Phillips.

**5. 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.

**6. ECONOMY, SKILLS AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - TERMS OF REFERENCE**

(See document No 1)

**RESOLVED:-**

To note the Committee's terms of reference.

**7. M6/A38 (M) EXPRESSWAY CLOSURE**

The following report was submitted:-

(See document No 2)

The Committee heard from Anne Shaw and Andrew Butterfield who outlined the key points in relation to communication with the public on the road closure that was a continuation of works started last year. Particular points highlighted included the impact of the works on journey times and the knock-on effect on bus users as a 30mph limit on traffic on the Expressway has been implemented. It was further mentioned that there would be additional impact on traffic on local roads coming off from the motorway. Highways England are working with partners including Birmingham City Council and Transport for West Midlands to ensure that the message is getting out to the public and businesses. There is a city centre co-ordination group that meets to discuss any issues that includes the Police and emergency services.

In addition it was confirmed by Highways England colleagues that intensive publication advice and constant messaging will be in operation for the duration of the works to ensure that road users are well versed and that the City remains open for business. It was anticipated that weekend closure of the A38 will be for no longer than 7 weekends.

## **8. PREVENTING DAMAGE TO GRASS VERGES**

The following report was submitted:-

(See document 3)

Kevin Hicks outlined the key points included in his report relating to what can be done to prevent vehicles parking on grass verges and what regulatory powers the City Council has. Key issues highlighted to the Committee involved:

- Funding to put in preventative measures to stop vehicles from parking on grass verges;
- Assessment of suitable sites and priority of these;
- Consideration of increased car ownership and parking problems in the city; and
- The cost resource to fund any proposals with limited funding available.

The Committee also heard from Cllr Marje Bridle who informed the Committee of the scheme in operation on Brownfield Road in her ward of Shard End. Alongside physical measures a Traffic Regulation Order is in place ensuring that vehicles do not park on the verge with fixed penalty notices enforced. Cllr Bridle stated that good working between the City Council, Police and residents ensured that the scheme was implemented.

Cllr Neil Eustace noted that this scheme wouldn't work everywhere and that preventative measures would need to be down to what would work locally, was cost effective and the ability to fund it.

### **RESOLVED:-**

Key points of the discussion to be drafted by scrutiny officers for consideration at the Committee's next meeting.

## **9. ECONOMY, SKILLS AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - DATES OF MEETINGS**

### **RESOLVED:-**

i) That the Committee meets on the following Thursdays at 1400 hours in the Council House:

<b><u>2016</u></b>	<b><u>2017</u></b>
21 July	19 January
22 September	16 February
20 October	16 March
17 November	27 April
15 December	

**10. ECONOMY, SKILLS AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2016-17**

The following work programme was submitted:-

(See document No 4)

Cllr Wood requested that regular key performance indicator reports on skills programmes adopted by the City Council (such as the Youth Promise) are scheduled into the work programme.

Cllr Huxtable – request that Committee keep on top of cabinet decisions noted in the forward plan.

Members agreed that a separate item on dropped kerb applications would be programmed.

**RESOLVED:-**

That the work programme be noted and updated in-line with comments made.

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

None

**12. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

None

**13. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS**

Agreed

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The meeting ended at 1607 hours.