

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

CORPORATE RESOURCES AND GOVERNANCE O&S

COMMITTEE – PUBLIC MEETING

1430 hours on 17th May 2017, Committee Room 2 – Action Notes

Present:

Councillor Mohammed Aikhlaq (Chair)

Councillors Randal Brew, Ewan Mackey, Rob Pocock, Hendrinna Quinnen, and Sybil Spence

Also Present:

Cllr Deirdre Alden,

Cllr Lisa Trickett, Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling and Environment

Ken Lyons, Head of Commercialism

Steve Hollingworth, Assistant Director Place

Iram Choudry, Research & Policy Officer, Scrutiny Office

Emma Williamson, Head of Scrutiny Services

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chairman advised the meeting to note that this meeting will be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site (www.birminghamnewsroom.com) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Muhammed Afzal, David Barrie, Changese Khan, Chaman Lal and Yvonne Mosquito

3. CORPORATE RESOURCES & GOVERNANCE-ACTION NOTES APRIL 2017

RESOLVED:-

To note the action notes

4. REQUEST FOR CALL IN: IMPLEMENTATION OF CHARGING SCHEME FOR CAR PARKING IN CANNON HILL PARK AND APPROVAL TO UNDERTAKE ASSOCIATED IMPROVEMENT (SEE DOCUMENT NO 1)

Cllr Dierdre Alden outlined her reasons for requesting the Call-in

- A clear lack of consultation with elected members from the Edgbaston ward, whilst the main area of the park falls within the Kings Heath and Moseley ward, the boundary of the car park actually falls within Edgbaston ward
- The introduction of car parking fees will have a detrimental effect on visitor numbers and may penalise users on low incomes who may travel by car to use the facilities of the park.
- The experimental Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) only appears to cover streets within 1 ward i.e. Kings Heath and Moseley, it fails to cover streets within either Sparkbrook or Edgbaston which may also be effected by additional displacement of vehicles within their areas.
- There is also the possibility that visitors to the QE hospital may start to use the car park as an overflow to the main hospital car park.

Cllr Ewan added the following points

- Consultation with local residents: It's unclear within the report how much weighting /consideration is given to the views of residents who are opposed to the proposed changes.
- Whilst Sutton Park does not charge for car parking, it does charge a small entrance fee But the income generated is yet to yield a profit. He therefore felt that some of the financial claims within the report were questionable as it was unclear as to how long a period it would take for the car park to start making a profit.

The Cabinet Member, Cllr Lisa Trickett responded

- She apologised for not consulting with the local Edgbaston councillors
- The introduction of parking charges was included as part of the councils 2017 budget and formed part of the budget consultation process
- Cllr Trickett proposed to hold a further residents' meeting and residents from Edgbaston ward would also be invited to attend.
- The rationale behind the introduction of the experimental TRO was to identify the roads which would be impacted most from the displacement of parking around the immediate vicinity of the park
- The experimental TRO has been set up a to ensure maximum flexibility, it can be amended within a 2 week period to reflect any concerns raised by residents and it will continue to be monitored over a 12 month period
- The scheme will also provide a means of improving the safety of users of the park with the introduction of CCTV and new lighting. She also stressed that the

proposed upgrades to the car park were crucial in maintaining the revenue stream of the MAC. (Midlands Arts Centre)

- A funding reduction of 10% to the parks was approved within the council budget and if the proposed charges are not introduced at the park, savings targets for the portfolio will still remain and further budget cuts will have to be identified from other service area to mitigate the loss of revenue from the car park.

Members of the Committee raised the following points

- The TRO only covering 1 ward of the city was a matter of concern
- Concerns were also raised on how the TRO would be enforced.
- It was not clear from the report if other alternatives to this plan had been considered. The cabinet member responded by saying that this option was the most viable for securing a guaranteed income stream which was a requirement to secure the repayments against the prudential borrowing used to pay for the upgrade. A citywide business plan to support the development of revenue streams for the city's parks would also be created
- A number of concerns were raised about the consultation process. Members felt the focus was largely on the views of local residents as opposed to the users of the park .

The Cabinet Member and officers then left the room. Following a discussion amongst Committee members it was

RESOLVED:-

That the decision taken by the Cabinet Member should be "called in", with 3 votes in favour and 2 against.

5. REQUEST(S) FOR CALL IN/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION/PETITIONS RECEIVED (IF ANY)

None

6. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None

7. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

Agreed

The meeting finished at 1555 hours.