

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**BIRMINGHAM ECONOMY,
SKILLS AND
SUSTAINABILITY OVERVIEW
AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
11 DECEMBER 2015**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BIRMINGHAM ECONOMY, SKILLS AND
SUSTAINABILITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON FRIDAY,
11 DECEMBER 2015 AT 1000 HOURS IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 3&4, COUNCIL
HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT: - Councillor Quinn in the Chair;

Councillors Barrie, Hughes, Huxtable, Jenkins, O'Shea, and Rehman

ALSO PRESENT

Councillor Lisa Trickett, Cabinet Member for Sustainability
Baseema Begum - Research & Policy Officer
Jacqui Kennedy, Acting Strategic Director for Place
Chloe Tringham, Head of Fleet and Waste Management
Errol Wilson – Committee Manager
Benita Wishart - Overview and Scrutiny Manager

NOTICE OF RECORDING

39 The Chairman advised and it was noted that this meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site (www.birminghamnewsroom.com) and that 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.

APOLOGIES

40 Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Badley, Evans, Islam, Jones and Spencer.

MINUTES

The following amendment was noted: -

Minute No. 35

The minute on page 58 should include - Councillor O'Shea declared his non-pecuniary interest as a member for Acocks Green BID.

41

RESOLVED: -

That, subject to the inclusion of the amendment, the minutes of the meetings held on the 13 November 2015 having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABILITY

42

Councillor Lisa Trickett introduced the item and drew the Committees' attention to the Birmingham Innovative Green Sustainable City Growth Plan that was circulated at the meeting. She made the following statements: -

- The document detailed where they intended to move in terms of the wider work that they were doing concerning the Green Agenda, the Smart City Agenda and the Sustainability Agenda.
- Linked into this was the whole standing of the resources and assets they had as a City. Waste was one of the key resources they had available over the next two years to shape a more coherent sustainable future and to recover energy in a way they did not had before.
- They were trying to stop seeing green smart and sustainable as the *icing on the cake* as this was part of the whole mixture.
- They were just running projects rather than creating a wholesale change that was needed if they were to deliver on the requirements in terms of climate change and low carbon targets.
- There was some challenge, if they had to make a decision far too many people within the City because of cuts had to make decisions between food and fuel, then discussions about low carbon and what happens to a specific island was not on top of their list.
- When they speak of their child's right to clean air, food, and old people trying not to die in fuel poverty, they had a different dialogue.
- What they were trying to show was that whilst they would continue to develop policy and programmes to deliver on the low carbon agenda which was tied up in the Mears Metric on the liberal cities indicator, they would also measure progress in terms of how they deliver on fuel poverty,

cleaner streets, recycling, changes to modal shifts and critically, jobs and skills.

- It was not felt that sustainability in the Green agenda could be separated out from the jobs and skills agenda. In 2007, work was done that highlighted that they were best set up to change their manufacturing profile and their jobs profile into the green economy.
- It was never properly seized and it was never used for their procurement and the opportunities in the most effectively way, partly as a result of waste being tied to contract, but because they did not create the certainty and framework that this mattered to Birmingham.
- There were two sides of the same coin in relation to equipping the economy that creates the skills and employment pathways. There was also the other side of sustainability and the outcome about ways to wellbeing through adopting sustainable approaches.
- They could deliver on those fundamental ways of connecting citizens and ensuring that citizens had the ability to learn. They were trying to look at the whole system approach.
- Councillor Trickett drew the Committee's attention to the rectangle in the middle of the document and advised that they were now not referring to smart city, but smart approaches that would deliver the city and the outcomes they were looking for.
- They would use data technology and systems approaches to help deliver and reconcile the three pillars of sustainability - economy, environment and society.
- At the core of this was the absolute imperative through which they had created a new contract with the citizens and a new collaboration with partners to shape and build for the future. They were looking at the key plans that they had available and underlying this was a whole range of projects and various other areas. She undertook to circulate as an example an energy plan.

Councillor Trickett then drew the Committee's attention to the Place Mat – Future Sustainable City document and highlighted specific points in relation to its contents concerning the following: -

- a) Housing
- b) Energy
- c) Waste
- d) Birmingham Connected
- e) Health
- f) Natural Capital
- g) Digital

In response to questions from the Members, the following were amongst the points made:-

- I. In terms of Parks and Natural Capital, the whole point of the Natural Capital Accounting tool was to ensure that if green space was taken out, you create that rebalance and ensure that the impact in terms of the benefits to the environment goes back in.
- II. This was about trying to get that payback within the system. It was also a way of accounting differently and it would be a challenge for Birmingham in a number of other local authorities as they had to start not just us as a Council, but our partners in the Health Service.
- III. They know that all the people who exercise regularly, people who walked their dogs or run through the parks, what this had shown was that if they started doing this at a certain age that they had a lower dependency on the Health Service after a number of years. A lot of this was about the associated benefits.
- IV. One of the discussions they were having through the Health and Wellbeing Board and others was how they account for some of the programmes they had developed such as the Active Parks programme which was successful in terms of community participation.
- V. They were now in receipt of data in terms of what this potentially meant concerning people's fitness and health and wellbeing and what this translates through in terms of money. It was about trying to get a whole system accounting process.
- VI. In relation to the disposal of parks and acreage it was for opposition leaders to oppose things. It was hoped that they had a degree of rationality on how this was approached. There was a lot of green space within the City that was not effectively used, example *No Ball Game* signs on some Council estates.
- VII. They could secure the future of the City's parks, but they were looking creatively about some of the spaces around them. They could make them safer by creating an overview. It was not about the wholesale flogging off green space, but about how they could be used more effectively. This could be about the whole public estate programme as what was found in some areas where there were green space there could be a police station that was going to close a fire station that needed to be modernised – there was a way about trying to group these together. It was about looking at the totality of the green space.
- VIII. With regard to skills profile a small piece of work had been commissioned to look at where the economy was moving in the City and where the skills agenda would be needed. Again, one of the discussions that was had with Councillor Penny Holbrook, Cabinet Member for Skills, Learning and Culture and others was the concern that you had to *build a big enough pipeline* and was one of the things they had discussed with the colleges.
- IX. If they were to deliver a low carbon agenda, the schools the Further Education Colleges and employers could work together to create that skills and employment pathway. They had a habit of counting inward investment, but this did not necessarily meant changes. The life and wellbeing of individuals in the City and the work that they were doing with Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local

Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) was to try and understand how they meet and create that Level 1 through to Level 3, 4 and beyond in terms of the skills employment path.

- X. In 2016 they would be running with Solihull MBC a *Future Skills Green Day* event where they would have 30 schools with over 300 school children with careers employers doing a *Dragon's Den* where people pitch some of their ideas at where they see potential opportunities. The idea was to try and engender an interest in some of the young people so that that interest in the environment could be taken through.
- XI. In terms of the parks and the budget, the parks had to be thought of differently. They were not just spaces for people to walk their dogs, or play, but were connecting spaces. They were spaces that were an opportunity for employment and enterprise.
- XII. There were huge opportunities evidenced by other cities of developing catering and a whole series of programmes that still kept the importance of free space and creative space for natural enjoyment alongside other ventures that might provide some resource. The Chamberlain 21 Initiative that they were looking at in the south of the City was one such thing.
- XIII. Concerning Anesco and reducing energy bills, they were currently looking at and had commissioned work to look at the different structures and vehicles that might be possible in terms of decentralising energy. They had done some cluster mapping and GBSLEP had funded this.
- XIV. Where there may be District Heating Schemes to work in in the future and one of those was the Selly Oak Campus where they had the University of Birmingham and various areas. Discussions were had about how you overlay potentially your energy district with your green travel district to create a whole system approach.
- XV. They were looking to bring proposals for ANESCO over the next few months and were likely to look at a series of options where they go into partnership with someone else and then move to registration and licensing. They needed to try and find a way that they could ensure that they pass on to the citizens of Birmingham the opportunity to address fuel poverty.
- XVI. With regard to Digital Birmingham and open data, one of the critical things was that they had a number of activities operating in parallel. This was an area where they would see some efficiency brought together by mainstreaming some of the work. They had recently secured an ERDF programme attached to open data and they were keen to use a number of officers within the Council who already had huge skills and being effectively pooled. It was believed that they could pool these better.
- XVII. In terms of the ITA and emissions, they were conscious of this when they had expressed concerns to Councillor Sir Albert Bore, then Leader of the City Council concerning the Sprint Service. The problem was that this was going to be potentially cleaner going through this quarter, but then belching out its fumes as it goes through some of the suburbs.

- XVIII. A report was submitted to the ITA engaging National Express and others to look at hydrogen fuelling of this and others. They were engaged with Transport for London on how authorities that needed to deliver on the air pollution target on how they uses this to encourage the market to come forward.
- XIX. They could not underestimate the importance of taking hearts and mind with them on this one. Mobility and air quality was a critical thing that had come across many cities, but equally the power of the Car Lobby be it VW as a major contributor to the economy or Members of the current administration.
- XX. Clean Air Zones were different to congestion charging and they were in the early days of looking at how they do this. This was an area where there could be some budgetary pressures in the future. This was more about ensuring that they did not have the budgetary pressures down the line and putting in the action now. Following the Christmas period they would be installing cameras and sensors to ascertain where the most important areas were in terms of clean air zones.
- XXI. This would be funded by the Government and would be done in partnership with the Government so that they develop clean air zones or approaches to solution. The Government had committed that when they look at things like HGV's, what they do in terms of putting them around the edge of the City, example when they relocate the Wholesale Market, as part of that plan they would work with the Council to see how they could use their legislative capability alongside the Council's powers.
- XXII. There was no proposal to outsource street cleansing, Fleet and Waste. The issue they were looking at was a broader strategy for waste post 2019. They were committed to working with cross-party concerning the issue and had cross-party Steering Group that was overseeing the waste strategy where they were discussing the various options.
- XXIII. The figures within the budget relate to the mortgage payment that would no longer be required relate to a number of depots and garage payments and a broader introduction of efficiency and productivity within the service. The issue was that they needed to look at waste disposal, waste collection and innovation.
- XXIV. The wheelie bins roll out had been the fastest roll out of wheelie bins in Europe – 660,000 wheelie bins had been rolled out in Birmingham and they now had a chance to stabilized this service and bring it through . There were other aspects they need to look at such as franchising and management buyout. This would be strategy driven and outcome driven, not technology driven. It would be down to what works within in localities.
- XXV. Concerning fines for clean air pollution, experience of the Government was that they were good at devolving the axe, the blame and the pain to localities and there was clarity that leads to advice as to whether the fines could be devolved down to local authorities if they did not meet thee emission zones.
- XXVI. In terms of nudging, the critical thing the Green Travel Districts which were the ones they were working with at the moment, the Selly Oak Green Travel District with Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the University of Birmingham and the localities chaired by Jacqui Smith was the whole thing about the last mile. Too much gridlock and pollution was down to people driving that last mile that they did not

need to do the short journeys. The more they could nudge people so that they use the walk to school programme could make a difference.

- XXVII. In terms of certainty, they were looking with partners on ways they could put solar panels on the cycle ways and light up some of the City's parks and was something that could benefit all cycle lanes in the City at minimal costs. The tariff changes blew this out of the water. It was the speed at which these things were happening which meant that some of the local SME's were less confident to carry on.
- XXVIII. With regard to Innovation Birmingham, as a City they were now on the Governing Body of Climate KICK. Innovation Birmingham was something that they could justifiably be proud of and need to work with as the fact was that Birmingham was one of the first City to have a Science Park and had worked with that and developed it to Innovation Birmingham was a testimony to the City's creativity and the partner they engage with.
- XXIX. In relation to the reductions in play areas and parking charges, this had to be seen in a whole system whole place approach which was the way they were going to try and deliver these cuts. They already had £500m cuts in the system. Things they had taken for granted that they were able to deliver; the money will not be there. There were little guarantee around and they were aware of the risk of what they had to do was to try and think and work differently. They needed to work with local Members and try and explore where there were opportunities.
- XXX. Councillor Trickett noted Councillor Huxtable's comment concerning the play areas creative approaches and advised that she was having discussions with the Deputy Leader, Councillor Ian Ward and Marketing Birmingham on how they could look at the City's assets differently and to present them in a system way. These and the A38 they would be picked upon and anything that goes into the locality.
- XXXI. What happens with Tyseley Enterprise District, was that they had commissioned Ricardo Foresight and the fact that they had a coherent District Plan for Tyseley, this meant that this was a valuable asset in that area and this would be counted in any business planning they took forward for Tyseley in the future. The volume of the Planning Framework and the ownership of Tyseley would be something that they would look at. How this was valued in terms of future agendas had some real potential.
- XXXII. Councillor Trickett noted Councillor Huxtable's comment concerning the Green Commission and advised that they were reviewing the Green Commission and the Smart Commission. The Green Commission was a commission of GBSLEP and they were in discussion with GBSLEP and partners which was known as Birmingham Green Commission and provides some challenges to Solihull.
- XXXIII. They may look at was to retain the Green Commission as it was as the Deputy Leader of Solihull MBC sits on the Commission which was cross-party within the broadest framework of the GBSLEP. It may be that they look to do as part of the plan was to set up a Governance Board for the Sustainable City and on that basis would operate it on a more traditional line of having opposition representation as this would be about Birmingham position.

- XXXIV. In terms of the waste and resources, there had been significant progress and the fact that they had moved forward in a strategic way, they may not have met the tracking deadlines, but that they would not have the future of the City to have waste and how they use waste reconfigure new opportunities around sustainability driven by some kind of process and tick sheet for a scrutiny report. It was preferred that this be driven by a strategic requirement to bring the outcomes for the citizens of Birmingham.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Trickett for attending the meeting and presenting the information.

TRACKING REPORT FOR FROM WASTE TO RESOURCE

43 The following report of the Cabinet Member for Sustainability was submitted:-

(See document No 2)

Jacqui Kennedy, Acting Strategic Director for Place, introduced the item and took Members through the report.

Councillor Huxtable commented that the Strategic Director had stated that there were no redlines, but that reference was made to the Budget Consultation document concerning outsourcing refuse collection and street cleansing. The Cabinet Member had ruled this out in her statement stating that there was a redline. He questioned whether there was or was not a redline concerning the issue.

The Chairman referred to her earlier comments to the Cabinet Member that this may be getting 'bloody' as the Committee could not realistically go through the Tracking report without having an eye on what was a public document about the future over that period through 2020 in terms of reduction to the whole service. As this was so constructive in the comments about how they would be moving forward, they needed to explain how with the budget challenges mapped out to 2020, they still hope that these pathways could be delivered.

Ms Kennedy advised that there was a lot of work to be done within the service to improve it. They needed to demonstrate in a direct delivery service that they could deliver effective efficient and economic service to the local authority. She stated that when she advised that there were no red lines, there was a lot of work they could do within their current directly delivered service to improve provisions to the citizens and to make savings. Politically people would make decisions and their political mandate was to improve the service. They have a year to deliver an efficient, economic and quality service on waste collection and street cleansing.

An extensive discussion took place concerning each recommendation and in response to questions, the officers made the following statements:-

Recommendation RO1

- a. Ms Kennedy advised that this was in its early stage and that a public dialogue had been set up on *Birmingham Speaks* which they were trying to put out

through social media. She undertook to circulate the information to all Elected Members.

- b. They were looking at how they did it best for the New Year to ensure that this information was given to all citizens. They have tried to be smart, but had recognised that not all citizens had access to the web.
- c. Letters and ideas would be welcomed from all as the citizen's ideas would be valuable. They use the *Be Heard* approach and had had a number of targeted interviews with key stakeholders and partners.
- d. Ricardo Foresight had produced the questions for them that would be circulated to a wide audience early in 2016.
- e. BMG was doing the public consultation exercise which would take place early in 2016. This would be a survey to residents. Although they had a comprehensive social media exercise with residents, there was the opportunity who did not tap in through this medium to have a voice in terms of the consultation exercise.
- f. All complaints were used as suggestions for service improvement and these would be fed in. The research company had access to all their data and they were trying to put more of their data in the public domain. The key stakeholders were the citizens of Birmingham.
- g. A full review of the on street recycling banks were being undertaken as some of these did not recycle sufficient materials and income generation to cover maintaining the cleanliness of the sites. A report would be taken to the Cabinet Member shortly to consider the decommissioning of some of these sites.
- h. This would be done in consultation with the Ward Councillors. The Charity sites had permission from the City Council to be on the highway and they should know who the charities were. They were also required to keep the sites clean.
- i. There were two thing in the way in which they work which had resulted in people putting more waste around the bins. The street cleaners took the bags out of the bins and place them alongside the litter bin and wait for a vehicle to collect it which had not happened.
- j. Work was being done to streamline this. They were looking at everything that was causing the problems on the streets in terms of recycling bins; on street recycling bins; the size of the bins; the way the methodology was used to work around street cleaning and bin collection.

The Chairman commented that it would be useful if the Committee had site of the report to help generate or feel that they were taking this forward in terms of review rather than just sitting with one Member so that they could help to cascade it. This might be another way in which they could help boost the business engagement objective of this.

Ms Kennedy advised that in January 2016 they were looking to have a number of Elected Members Workshops to speak about the current service; the waste strategy for 2020 and the constraints and opportunities around waste enforcement.

Recommendation 1 was not achieved, but progress was being made.

Recommendation RO2

- i. Ms Kennedy noted Councillor Huxtable's comments concerning the breakdown of the Wards in terms of recycling for both paper and multi-materials, not green waste and focusing on the two wheelie bins pilot Wards and advised that the numbers spoken of may not be directly comparable, but that she would circulate a written response concerning the issue.
- ii. From the 1st April to 2016, the proposal was that they publish all information so that they did not had to wait on City Council question time and having to write reports so that they could get this information out for all citizens to see how they were performing. Their commitment around waste management was to put everything out into the public domain.
- iii. In terms of the funding for composition and analysis, this would be essential to enable them to put forward to the Council the appropriate consideration for the right methodology for the waste. They needed to know that the composition of their waste some of the waste disposal issues would vary i.e. food waste etc. that was in the residual waste. The composition analysis would be done and funded through the waste strategy.
- iv. The wheelie bins were chipped as part of the rollout, but money was set aside in the medium and long-term financial plan as they were aware that the contract was up in 2019 to fund the preparation. As a Council they were information savvy in drawing up a specification for the contract. There had been funds set aside in the long-term financial plan for that work.
- v. The chips linked the bins to the property. The composition analysis needed to be done by Wards as what they were saying was that the solution may not be the same for the whole of the City.
- vi. The current composition analysis had only looked at 3 of the depots so the waste to the three transfer stations. It could identify where it came from but it could not identify the exact Wards. Knowing what was in the waste could help to ascertain the right figures for each Ward.
- vii. They were delivering all the bins which would take 12 week for things to stabilise for the rollout for each depot. Perry Barr had three issues – vehicle availability, routes used etc. This was a complex programme in terms of properties and where they were, flats and other things. It could not be stated that Perry Barr was fully stabilised as there were still some missed collections.

Recommendation RO2 – No progress made.

Recommendation RO3

1. In terms of the governance structure a copy of the structure would be sent to the Scrutiny office for circulation to the Committee. They had two groups and this was approached as a City Council wide – the officer group which comprised the sub-boards which were led by different persons from the Council. Above this group was the cross-party group.
2. The scrap metal collectors had to be licensed and if Members were aware of scrap metal collectors they could check on the website to see if they were licensed. If there were any concerns Members could email the team. There were issues with fly tipping where they had people collecting metal and taking the bits that had value and tipping the rest.
3. They were lobbying the Government on the regulations concerning fridges. They were also looking at excess packaging as there were European directives that Trading Standards would bring forward concerning excessive packaging and they were starting with their own businesses first. They were liaising with some of their colleagues around the country where they were the primary authority for some of the biggest perpetrators for excessive packaging.
4. They would be talking to some local businesses to see if when they sold a fridge they would collect the old ones back and whether they would take the old mattress back when they deliver a new one without charging for it. Part of the technology Ricardo Foresight was looking at was the opportunity to see how they could recycle mattresses and fridges. There were a number of significant operations that were on-going concerning enforcement around fly-tipping.
5. Licensing officers were getting on with identifying some specific areas concerning the licensing of private rented sector. There were some good private landlords in the City, but there was some poor ones also. The rogue landlords would be targeted through the waste enforcement team who did not dispose of things appropriately.
6. They would work more smartly as they were not working as integrated as they could. They needed to change people's attitude regarding waste. Historically, the City had a dependency approach to rubbish and people could just put anything out at any time and it would be collected. They were now more intelligent as to how they dealt with refuse that was placed on the streets and were looking to target people who were fly-tipping and littering the City.
7. They were targeting rogue landlords and not good landlords who persistently causes problems. They would also tackle tenants and contractors who uses the highways as a tipping point.
8. With regard to street cleaning, they were looking at an intelligence approach to the issue. Currently they had a traditional approach to street cleaning i.e. areas, zones, milk rounds, picking up from litter bins and were looking to review this and were keen to do the *Keep Britain Tidy* approach.

9. Concerning bulky waste it was uncertain that they could evidence an increase in fly-tipping concerning the bulky waste and charges. They were monitoring the fly-tipping. There were some streets in the City that may never needed to be cleaned but a full review using the *Keep Britain Tidy* methodology would be used to ensure that the streets were cleaned when appropriate.
10. In relation to bulky waste, they were looking for a solution for the mattresses specifically as part of the future waste strategy and how they could better deal with these as they were a problem. They were in discussions with re-use organisations through the workshop and were talking to them about how they could better pick up and reuse items that would otherwise be collected as bulky waste. There was a link on the website, but the furniture had to be in a certain condition.

(Councillor Jenkins declared his non-pecuniary interest in the item as a private landlord).

Recommendation RO3 – In progress.

Recommendation RO4

- a. In terms of any alternative options and local solutions, a full value for money business case and options paper based upon the findings of Ricardo Foresighting looking at the waste and the option in terms of technology. Ricardo Foresighting was due to produce their initial report by the end of December 2015 with a view to them producing their final report towards the end of January 2016.
- b. Concerning the Commissioning Model Strategy, going to Cabinet, this was schedule for March 2016 on a programme plan.
- c. Regarding the Condition Survey, this was scheduled for this year and was brought forward as a recommendation from the Scrutiny Review. The first part was done in February which was an initial condition survey, but during the shutdown period the plan was up and working and only so much could be done. It was expected that the second part would be done during shutdown next year.
- d. The condition Survey had been done and it was known that post 2019 with some minor adjustments, the duration would be for a further 15 years. The options appraisal around Tyseley still needed to be done looking alongside the other technologies that were available. The condition of Tyseley needed to be known as there would be a dual purpose in having that final survey.

Recommendation RO4 – Not achieved but progress made. This recommendation was to come back to the Committee before it goes to the Cabinet in March.

Recommendation RO5

There was no comments on this recommendation

Recommendation RO5 – In progress. This recommendation was to come back to the Committee before it goes to the Committee and that it was fully flagged up within the financial planning of the Council.

Recommendation RO6

The Communications Team was handling the communication and were undertaking a campaign approach beyond the launch as this was about changing behaviour and understanding the consequences. There would be a short media launch/press release which would tell people how they could make their voice heard and make representations. One of the things they were looking at was whether they could use the roadshow approach that was used for the wheelie bins rollout, but it was uncertain whether they could resource this.

The whole strategy was around educating and enforce and were looking at every contact with members of the public with the waste service and to get out of some of the key messages

Recommendation RO6 – Agreed.

TRACKING REPORT FOR HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRES

44 The following report of the Cabinet Member for Sustainability was submitted:-

(See document No 3)

Recommendation RO1

This could be part of what they put in their contractual requirement –reduce, reuse, recycle. They were looking at an outcome focused contract and this would be something they offer as part of the specification.

Recommendation RO1 – In progress

Recommendation RO2

In response to questions, the officers made the following statements: -

- i. There was no proposal to increase green waste charges in 2016/17. There was consideration that they might revisit this in 2017.
- ii. In terms of the garden waste this was picked up from this recommendation as one of the items in the access improvement plan. An exercise was undertaken following the recommendation which looked at two parts – whether they could have a separate garden waste facility.
- iii. There were a number of reasons this was not pursued: - the finance would cost £600k to put a basic garden waste in place and the timing as the Environment Agency stated that they would need to go through a prescriptive

waste permit to get the site operational. This would have meant that the site would not be available until mid-summer and it was needed earlier as April was when the season commence.

- iv. The access improvement plan was considered and how they could improve the customer experience in going into the Household Recycling Centres (HRC) for the citizens to dispose of their garden waste if they did not wish to purchase the service. This had worked during this year as they did not have as many complaints throughout this year as they did in 2014.
- v. By providing the extra capacity within the three sites, to dispose of garden waste, made the journey more pleasant for residents. There were a number of other things that were put in place to try and help. The traffic counters were in place and were being monitored to ensure when the peaks were in communications out residents. The webcams were also in place and people could go online and see queues before setting out.
- vi. If they wanted to tackle air quality and car journeys, people with green waste from their gardens should compost at home. They would be encouraging Elected Members to encourage householders to compost at home rather than bringing in an alternative collection process.

In terms of green waste in parks, they were looking at how they could use their parks around green waste better

Recommendation RO2 – Achieved

Recommendation RO3

The cost of disposing of waste imported from elsewhere was £35 per tonne plus tax. As a City they were asking the question whether the public and Elected Members wanted to consider just having Birmingham only household waste in the HRC.

The B36 residents from Solihull that used Tameside Drive, they were reviewing that agreement. The usage from the B36 residents was closely monitored and there had been some significant abuse of that and this proposal would help the genuine B36 users should the agreement goes forward.

Recommendation RO3 – Progress made

Recommendation RO4 & RO5

They were working with Jericho to see whether the model could be replicated out, but it had its complications. It worked well at Norris Way, but this did not stop them from looking at how they could roll this out. They were in discussions with Jericho to ascertain how they sort this out. There were some challenges around the current contract and they were looking at how they could go forward under the new waste strategy.

They were pursuing rigorously the contract to extend it to the 2019 date and was work with their legal and procurement colleagues concerning the issue to ensure that they were not breaching anything by extending the contract.

Recommendations RO4 and RO5 – Agreed

Recommendation RO6

There was no comments on this recommendation

Recommendation RO6 – Progress made.

Recommendation RO7

In response to questions, the officers made the following statements: -

- People in trade were claim that a lot of their waste was household waste. This had become more apparent with the black bags changing to the wheelie bins. They were looking at how they could help traders to reduce their waste as it was not only about trade waste provisions. They had discussed having a chargeable site for trade waste, but they had not taken this to a conclusion.
- The flats above the shops were domestic waste and in different parts of the City they were putting in large paladin bins for domestic waste only. As soon as these were abused they were looking to take action against the traders. They had worked well in some of the pilot areas where traders did not abuse them.
- In terms of traders, officers had been trained in terms of their duty of care responsibility. They did not just have to have to have a waste disposal contract, but it had to be suitable for the waste generated. A contract with one bag may be a food outlet and would not be sufficient, so they would take action accordingly.

Recommendation RO7 – In progress.

Recommendation RO8

The Chairman stated that this recommendation came back to the Committee for the Committee to think about. In terms of the schedule the officers had detailed the overarching time line that they were getting the report from the consultants back concerning the general waste strategy at the end of this month to the beginning of January. There was also the public consultation and dialogue on waste going forward. She suggested that at the February Committee meeting they could come back with any matters arising as this could join up usefully on the work with Local Centres.

Recommendation RO8 – Agreed

The Chairman thanked Jacqui Kennedy and Chloe Tringham for all the work they did in getting the report to the Committee and the detailed explanations.

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

45 The Chairman informed the committee that agenda item 7 had been withdrawn as regrettably the Deputy Leader, Councillor Ian Ward and Councillor Tahir Ali, Cabinet Member for Development, Transport and the Economy were unable to attend the meeting.

Councillor Huxtable commented that just as they had gone through some of the budget consultation proposals with Councillor Trickett earlier, perhaps when Councillors Ward and Ali were able to attend the Committee they could include their item on BIDs the opportunity to ask them about the budget consultation proposals that were pertinent to their portfolios within the remit of this Committee. He stated that he was aware that the next schedule Committee meeting was after the end of the consultation process.

The Chairman stated that she was trying to find a suitable time in both the diaries of the Deputy Leader and Councillor Tahir Ali, Cabinet Member and if necessary would try to do this at the opportune moment.

Councillor O'Shea expressed disappointment that the Cabinet Members were unable to attend the meeting.

Councillor Rehman enquired how far they were with Sparkbrook and Springfield BID process and whether they would have another re-ballot.

The Chairman advised that this would be added to their *shopping list*

WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE ECONOMY, SKILLS AND SUSTAINABILITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2015/2016

The following work programme was submitted:-

(See document No 4)

Councillor Huxtable stated that at the last meeting he had spoken of his disappointment that the Transportation and Highways Capital programme for 2015/16 and 2017/18 was not scheduled to come to Cabinet until December 2015, part way through the Municipal Year. This had now been put back to January 2016. If this trend continue, it would not be a Capital Programme for 2015/16 but would be for 2016/17 etc. He questioned when the Cabinet Member would take the decision on the Capital Programme which theoretically started in April 2015.

Councillor Huxtable stated that they had some time ago had an interim report on the maximisation on the HS2 benefit to this Committee, but that they did not get a full report on it to take it to City Council. It was known from the Work Programme that the Cabinet was due to take a decision on the HS2 programme delivery plan and resource requirement on the 26th January 2016 by the Deputy Leader.

The Chairman advised that in relation to the Transportation and Highways Capital programme, the proposed date of the decision was the 26th January 2016. She suggested that if the Committee would like her to she would draft a letter noting the 2015/16 aspects and the questions.

In relation to the HS2 interim report, this could be taken forward in two ways without having to get round this table again and do it in that format. The Committee could look at the draft report as it goes on the 26th January 2016 and would be happy if Members comment on what was in the draft report to her which could then be sent to the Deputy Leader to ensure that this was included within the draft. If they did not like that report they would be free to call it in to this Committee after it had gone through the Cabinet decision.

46

RESOLVED:-

That the work programme be noted.

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

47

The Chairman advised that there had been no requests for call in/councillor call for action/petitions received.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

48

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.

The meeting ended at 1300 hours.

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CHAIRMAN