#### **BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

#### SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 12 JULY 2023 AT 14:00 HOURS IN COMMITTEE ROOM 6, COUNCIL HOUSE, VICTORIA SQUARE, BIRMINGHAM, B1 1BB

#### AGENDA

#### 1 NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chair to advise/meeting to note that this meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Public-I microsite (<u>please click</u> this link) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

#### 2 APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies.

#### 3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Members are reminded they must declare all relevant pecuniary and other registerable interests arising from any business to be discussed at this meeting.

If a disclosable pecuniary interest is declared a Member must not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless they have been granted a dispensation.

If other registerable interests are declared a Member may speak on the matter only if members of the public are allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless they have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', Members do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that they have an interest. Information on the Local Government Association's Model Councillor Code of Conduct is set out via <a href="http://bit.ly/3WtGQnN">http://bit.ly/3WtGQnN</a>. This includes, at Appendix 1, an interests flowchart which provides a simple guide to declaring interests at meetings.

## 3 - 8 4 <u>MINUTES</u>

To confirm the minutes from the meeting held on 14th June 2023.

## 9 - 10 SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ACTION TRACKER

To review and note the actions from the previous Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

## 11 - 28 6 **WORK PROGRAMME**

That the Committee considers its work programme, and attached appendices, and agrees any amendments required.

#### 7 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

To note the date and time.of the next meeting on 7 September, 2023 at 1400 hours in Committee Room 2,

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

To consider any request for call in/councillor call for action/petitions (if received).

#### 9 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any items of business by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) that in the opinion of the Chair are matters of urgency.

#### 10 **AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS**

Chair to move:-

'In an urgent situation between meetings, the Chair jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee'.

#### **ITEM TITLE**

Item Description

#### **BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

#### SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSPORT O&S COMMITTEE

#### 1400 hours on 14th June, Committee Room 2, Council House

#### **Present:**

Councillor Lee Marsham (Chair)

Councillors Saima Ahmed, David Barker, Colin Green, Timothy Huxtable, Richard Parkin and Waseem Zaffar

#### **Also Present:**

Philip Edwards, Assistant Director, Transport & Connectivity

Mark Shelswell, Assistant Director, Highways & Infrastructure

Ellie Horwitch-Smith, Assistant Director, Route to Zero Carbon

Paul Clarke, Assistant Director, Programmes, Performance and Improvement Division (PPI), Strategy, Equality and Partnerships Directorate

Richard Smith, Head of Insight, Policy & Strategy, Strategy, Equality and Partnerships Directorate

Tracey Murray, Improvement and Change Partner, Programmes, Performance and Improvement Division (PPI), Strategy, Equality and Partnerships Directorate

Amelia Wiltshire, Overview & Scrutiny Manager

Baseema Begum, Scrutiny Officer

The meeting started at 14:01 hours

#### 1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

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 are confidential or exempt items.

#### 2. APOLOGIES

Councillor Martin Brooks.

#### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Cllr Huxtable outlined his interests as follows: -

- Member of the Transport Delivery Committee, West Midlands Combined Authority
- Lead Member for Rail and Metro Transport Delivery Committee, West Midlands Combined Authority
- Substitute Member (for Andy Street, West Midland Mayor) on the West Midlands Bus Alliance
- Shadow Cabinet Member for Transport, Birmingham City Council

Cllr Zaffar declared that he was involved in some work professionally on Air Quality.

The Chair stated that these declarations would be noted as standing for the year and asked Members where relevant in the future for good practice to re-iterate any relevant interests.

## 4. MEMBERSHIP OF SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(See Item No. 4)

This was noted and the Chair thanked Councillors Lal and Aitken for their contributions during the last municipal year and noted the number of experienced Members on the Committee.

#### 5. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR

Cllr Barker was nominated and agreed as Deputy Chair.

#### 6. SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSPORT O&S COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

(See Item No.6)

Noted.

#### 7. MINUTES

(See Item No.7)

The minutes of the meetings held on 19<sup>th</sup> April and 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023 were approved.

## 8. SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ACTION TRACKER

(See Item No. 8)

Noted.

The Chair agreed that issues for further discussion would be taken under the work programme item.

#### 9. DELIVERING EFFECTIVE AND FLEXIBLE SCRUTINY

(See Item No. 9)

The Chair set out the purpose of this item as outlined in the report circulated with the agenda and clarified that Members were being tasked with holding the Council to account by undertaking their role in the best way to achieve positive outcomes. This included conducting their scrutiny role in a variety of ways that best suited the need. Members endorsed this approach.

#### **RESOLVED: -**

1. The report was noted and agreed.

## 10. DEVELOPING THE SUSTAINABILITY & TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

(See Item No.10)

The Chair outlined the purpose of the item and noted the need to balance the work of the Committee so that issues relating to the environment and sustainability were also given some focus alongside the keen interest that relates to matters involving transport and highways.

Cllr Marsham then invited Members with support from the officers present to set out their priorities and during discussion a number of issues were raised: -

- Active Travel Alongside walking and cycling it should be noted that buses are
  a key aspect of encouraging more people to travel in an active way with less
  impact on the environment resulting in less air pollution and reducing
  congestion on the city's roads. A debate has been held at City Council and
  further work is needed with all partners including bus operators and the West
  Midlands Bus Alliance to understand how the design of cross city bus services
  could help mitigate these issues.
  - The amount of time taken to design and deliver active travel schemes in comparison to neighbouring Councils was highlighted. It was suggested that Members could benefit from undertaking some case studies where there would be the opportunity to understand the complex process involved in developing, designing and procuring schemes. The Committee may also wish to invite the West Midlands Combined Authority to explain the governance process in more detail.
- Refresh of the Road Safety Strategy A motion was passed at City Council and a key priority for the Council is to improve road safety for all road users. A refresh of the Strategy is currently being drafted and there will be an

- opportunity for input from the Committee in the near future. It is anticipated that the Strategy will be completed by the end of the calendar year.
- Route to Zero Carbon the focus on sustainability issues is very important and
  a request was made for an update on the action plan agreed at City Council to
  deliver on the climate emergency previously declared. The Committee should
  also aim to focus its sights on transport related issues. As part of this work the
  Council's role should be explored in respect of leading the city in engaging with
  different sectors (i.e., businesses, young people and faith groups), and how this
  is being done.
- The re-procurement of the Highways PFI contract as the arrangements of a
  new delivery partner is being procured it was noted that due to contractual
  discussions Members may need to receive commercially sensitive information
  in a private setting (over the summer period) however there should also be a
  public session. An invitation to the responsible Cabinet Member to attend
  these meetings should also be arranged as it was crucial that as much
  information should be available to support the Council's aim for openness and
  transparency.
- Sustainability issues relating to Waste specifically what is being done to tackle poor levels of recycling in the city

It was noted that data and information from the City Observatory and Programmes, Performance and Improvement Division could be used to support the Committee's work.

The Chair concluded that following discussion there were 4 key priorities identified by the Committee and that officers would now work to develop these further with Members having the opportunity to comment further at July's meeting.

It was anticipated that these initial discussions would frame the Committee's work programme for the first 3-4 months and discussions would be had in the best way to achieve added value and positive outcomes in terms of how each piece of work would be carried out.

#### **RESOLVED: -**

- 1. The report was noted.
- 2. Suggestions made by Members will be added to the work programme accordingly.

#### 11. REQUEST(S) FOR CALL IN/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION/PETITIONS (IF ANY)

None received.

The Chair outlined that he would most likely present the report on the Call-In heard by the Committee on 18<sup>th</sup> May to the next proposed Cabinet meeting later in the month. A further update will be shared with Committee when this is available.

#### 12. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

#### 13. SCHEDULE OF MEETING DATES FOR COMMITTEE MEETING AND SCRUTINY WORK

The Chair proposed a change of meeting day to Thursdays if Members agreed however, he was mindful that it would not have an adverse impact on other Members' commitments. It was also noted that, if possible, consideration would be given to bringing the meeting forward to 1pm if there was meeting room availability to allow this to happen and to explore options to hold meetings in a larger room.

#### **RESOLVED:** -

1. It was agreed that officers would explore the options for a change of date and time (where possible) and these would be shared with the Committee as early as possible.

#### 14. AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS

Agreed.

#### **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 14:35 hours.

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## SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSPORT O&S COMMITTEE ACTION TRACKER 2023-24

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Update	Completion
19 <sup>th</sup> April	City of Nature 25 Year Plan	Simon Needle to provide a copy Green Infrastructure Masterplan	Simon Needle confirmed that	Awaiting payment
	Update	Vision document for committee members, following its publication	Arcardis were commissioned to	of invoice by BCC.
		end of April 2023.	complete the report and will be	
			released to the Council upon	
			receipt of payment for the work	
			done – 15 <sup>th</sup> June	
19 April	Refresh of the Road Safety	Martin Rowe to update the Committee on the HS2 Road Safety	Update circulated to Committee	Completed.
	Strategy for Birmingham	schemes in due course.	– 21 <sup>st</sup> June	

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# Birmingham City Council Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee



12 July 2023

Subject: Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny

**Committee's Work Programme** 

**Report of:** Christian Scade, Head of Scrutiny and Committee

Services

**Report author:** Amelia Wiltshire, Overview and Scrutiny Manager

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#### 1 Purpose

- 1.1 This report sets out the proposed work programme for the Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2023-24, based on the Committee's meeting in June 2023. Appendix 1 outlines the topics identified, aims and objectives and the preferred method of scrutiny to achieve these objectives.
- 1.2 The report also refers to other topics, which the Committee has identified, for future consideration, and this will be continuously updated during the year.
- 1.3 The report also outlines a proposed Terms of Reference for a detailed piece of work considering Active Travel Schemes.

#### 2 Recommendations

#### 2.1 That the Committee:

- Reviews and agrees, subject to further input from the Chair and Deputy Chair, the proposed Terms of Reference in relation to Active Travel Schemes (Appendix 1) and the membership for a Task and Finish Group.
- Notes the information set out in Appendix 2 and identifies if any further topics need to be added to the menu of topics for the Committee to explore over the coming year.
- Agrees, subject to further input from the Chair and Deputy Chair, the issues that the Committee will consider during September-October 2023, the proposed aims and objectives and the preferred method of scrutiny.

- Identifies, subject to further input from the Chair and Deputy Chair, the issues that the Committee will consider in November, the proposed aims and objectives and the preferred method of scrutiny.
- Notes, subject to further input from the Chair and Deputy Chair outside of the meeting, its proposed work programme will be submitted to Coordinating O&S to enable work to be planned and co-ordinated throughout the year.

#### 3 Background

- 3.1 The <u>statutory guidance for local government overview and scrutiny</u> sets out the role it can play in holding an authority's decision makers to account. This makes it fundamentally important to the successful functioning of local democracy.
- 3.2 Effective Overview and Scrutiny should:
  - Provide constructive 'critical friend' challenge.
  - Amplify the voices and concerns of the public.
  - Be led by independent people who take responsibility for their role.
  - Drive improvements in public services.
- 3.3 The role and functions of Overview and Scrutiny Committees are outlined in <a href="https://doi.org/10.108/journal-no.108/">The role and functions of Overview and Scrutiny Committees are outlined in <a href="https://doi.org/10.108/journal-no.108/">The City Council's Constitution | Birmingham City Council</a> They will:
  - Make reports and/or recommendations to the full Council, the Executive and/or other organisations in connection with the discharge of the functions specified in their terms of reference.
  - Consider any matter covered in their terms of reference that may affect or be likely to have an effect on the citizens of Birmingham; relevant to the Council's strategic objectives; relevant to major issues faced by officers in managing a function of the Council; and likely to make contribution to moving the Council forward and achieving key performance targets.
- 3.4 Effective scrutiny needs to add value. A well planned and timely work programme enables Overview and Scrutiny Committees to be involved at the right time and in the right way, and ensure their involvement is meaningful and can influence the outcome.
- 3.5 Members often have a number of topics suggested to them and are therefore required to **prioritise** matters for consideration. The Scrutiny Framework sets out the following factors to be considered:
  - Public interest: concerns of local people should influence the issues chosen.
  - Ability to change: priority should be given to issues that the Committee can realistically influence.

- Performance: priority should be given to areas in which the Council and Partners are not performing well.
- Extent: priority should be given to issues that are relevant to all or a large part
  of the city.
- Replication: work programme must take account of what else is happening to avoid duplication.

#### Looking Ahead

3.6 Overview and Scrutiny Committees will identify a 'menu' of issues (including policy development, policy review, issues of accountability and statutory functions) at the start of the year. Each Committee should then regularly review their 'menu' and decide which issues need to be examined further, and how that work would be undertaken. Scrutiny activities should be thorough and undertaken in a timely manner.

#### **Scrutiny Methods**

- 3.7 There are a range of ways to undertake scrutiny. The approach for 2023-24 enables flexible scrutiny and outlines a shift from monthly formal meetings to a combination of approaches. The Committee will choose the most effective scrutiny method to achieve the desired aims and objectives for each topic.
- 3.8 Based on Statutory Guidance published in 2019, different scrutiny methods include (but are not limited to):
  - A single item, or items, on a committee agenda this method fits more closely with the "overview" aspect of the Scrutiny function and provides limited opportunity for effective scrutiny. It is most appropriate for specific issues where the committee wants to maintain a watching brief.
  - A single item meeting, either as the committee or a more limited number of Members. It has the capacity to enhance the previous option by taking evidence from a number of witnesses.
  - A task and finish day provided that these are properly focused, they
    ensure Councillors can swiftly reach conclusions and make
    recommendations and are effective even for complex topics.
  - A task and finish review this is an enhancement of the previous option being held over four or six meetings spread over a limited number of months.

#### Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 3.9 The Committee's Terms of Reference is to fulfil its functions as they relate to any policies, services and activities concerning:
  - Sustainable transportation policy and programmes, projects and initiatives
  - Strategic highways matters

- Maintenance of roads and streets, traffic management and car parks and enforcing rights of way
- Cooperation with the WMCA and Mayor in relation to the key route network
- An Air Quality strategy for Birmingham
- A financially and environmentally sustainable waste strategy
- A robust re-use and recycle strategy
- A strategy for sustainability, liveability and environmental improvements
- Citywide and national policy development to tackle the causes and consequences of climate change
- 3.10 The Committee is chaired by Cllr Lee Marsham, and its membership comprises Cllrs Saima Ahmed, David Barker, Martin Brooks, Timothy Huxtable, Colin Green, Richard Parkin and Waseem Zaffar

#### 4 Work Programme 2023-24

- 4.1 Appendix 2 sets out the topics the Committee will consider over the next few months, and also outlines future items for consideration.
- 4.2 The Committee may decide to add further items to the work programme during the course of the year. When considering this, the Committee is advised to consider where it can best add value through scrutiny, and how it can prioritise topics for consideration based on the Scrutiny Framework referred to in 3.5.
- 4.3 The Council's latest Forward Plan <u>July 2023 Forward Plan (cmis.uk.com)</u> may assist Members in identifying future topics. The following reports are of particular relevance to this Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

Reference	Title	Portfolio	Proposed Date of Decision
011432/2023	New Location for CCTV and Traffic Control Centre	Deputy Leader	25 Jul 2023
011384/2023	Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Update	Finance & Resources	25 Jul 2023
011525/2023	P0403 Package 4: Processing of Dry Mixed Recycling (DMR)	Environment	05 Sep 2023
010416/2022	NEC Masterplan	Leader	05 Sep 2023
011433/2023	Establishment of a Special Purpose Vehicle to Deliver the European Athletics Championships Birmingham 2026	Leader	05 Sep 2023
011139/2023	Highway Maintenance and Management PFI Contract – Commercial Arrangements	Transport	05 Sep 2023
007349/2020	Waste Vehicle Replacement	Environment	10 Oct 2023
011439/2023	Public Sector Decarbonisation	Environment	10 Oct 2023
007686/2020	Historic Environment Supplementary Planning Document	Leader	10 Oct 2023
010173/2022	Our Future City Plan 2040 – Draft Central Birmingham Framework	Leader	10 Oct 2023
011475/2023	Local Development Scheme Update	Leader	10 Oct 2023
010756/2023	A45 Birmingham to Airport and Solihull Sprint Phase 2 – Full Business Case	Transport	14 Nov 2023
010763/2023	A34 Walsall to Birmingham Sprint Phase 2 – Full Business Case	Transport	14 Nov 2023
011429/2023	Southside Public Realm Improvement Scheme - Revised Financial Appraisal	Transport	14 Nov 2023
011584/2023	Average Speed Enforcement: Revised Approach	Transport	14 Nov 2023
010635/2023	Paradise Phase 3	Leader	12 Dec 2023

4.4 Overview and Scrutiny Chairs are advised to maintain regular engagement with Cabinet Members to enable flexibility to be built into the Overview and Scrutiny work programme, so as to respond to the Council's policy priorities in a timely way. Appendix 3 provides additional information on the Cabinet Member for Environment's current priorities as they fall across this Committee, and also the Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

#### 5 Any Finance Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report.

#### 6 Any Legal Implications

6.1 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report.

#### 7 Any Equalities Implications

- 7.1 The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:
  - eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.
  - advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
  - foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 7.2 The protected characteristics and groups outlined in the Equality Act are Age; Disability; Gender Reassignment; Marriage and Civil Partnership; Pregnancy and Maternity; Race; Religion and Belief; Sex, and Sexual Orientation.
- 7.3 The Committee should ensure that it addresses these duties by considering them during work programme development, the scoping of work, evidence gathering and making recommendations. This should include considering how policy issues impact on different groups within the community, particularly those that share a relevant protected characteristic; whether the impact on particular groups is fair and proportionate; whether there is equality of access to services and fair representation of all groups within Birmingham; and whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people are being realised.
- 7.4 The Committee should ensure that equalities comments, and any recommendations, are based on evidence. This should include demographic and service level data and evidence of residents/service-users views gathered through consultation.

#### 8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1: Terms of Reference Active Travel Schemes
- 8.2 Appendix 2: Work Programme 2023-24 July
- 8.3 Appendix 3: Cabinet Member for the Environment Priorities

#### 9 Background Papers

- 9.1 Birmingham City Council Constitution
- 9.2 Birmingham City Council Overview and Scrutiny Framework April 2021

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#### Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023/24

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
August	Highways PFI	Inform the development of the proposed Highways PFI contract	Other – Briefing outside of Committee	PFI Contract Manager - Domenic De Bechi		This has been scheduled in advance of a decision by the Sponsorship Board and then Cabinet. An additional written briefing will be shared with members in advance and will follow on from information provided in all member briefings earlier in 2023.  Date/ time to be confirmed.
July – October (to be confirmed at the July Committee)	Active Travel Schemes	To be confirmed at July Committee.	Task and Finish Group	Head of Transport Planning and Network Strategy - Mel Jones  Transport Planning Manager, Streetscape -	To be confirmed at July Committee	An outline Terms of Reference will be discussed and confirmed at July's Committee. The work will contribute towards the broader road safety work.  Report with recommendations to October's Committee.
September- December	Road Safety	To be confirmed at September's Committee.	Task and Finish Group	Martin Rowe To be confirmed	To be confirmed	A new Road safety Strategy is under development. A presentation was delivered to last year's Committee <a href="here">here</a> .  Members for the Task and Group will be agreed at July's Committee.

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
						The work will be complemented by the active travel scheme work.  Potential stakeholders to engage include WMCA and WMP/PCC.
						This work will follow on from the Active Travel schemes.

<sup>\*</sup>Outcome: This will be populated once the item/topic has been completed. It will highlight the added value and impact.

#### **Menu of Options for Future Consideration**

The following items had been identified as potential topics for future consideration. This approach enables the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to remain flexible and respond in a timely manner to emerging issues.

This is a live work programme work programme. New items may be added, or items removed during the course of the year. Proposed aims and objectives as well as scrutiny methodology may also be subject to change.

Item/ Topic	Proposed Aims and Objectives	Proposed Scrutiny Method	Additional Information
Bus Network	To be confirmed following further discussion at July Committee	To be confirmed. However, could consider on location and a visit to a bus garage	To involve multiple providers of bus services within the city
Customer Services – Highways Repairs	To be confirmed following July's Co- ordinating O&S Committee. Currently: Monitor the progress and impact of the recommendations from the Customers Services O&S programme	To be confirmed	Co-ordinating O&S Committee convened Task and Finish groups to identify, and monitor progress of, recommendations to improve customer services in 4 areas including Highways.  A final Task and Finish group took place on 14 June
			2023, and a report will be presented to Co-ordinating

Item/ Topic	Proposed Aims and Objectives	Proposed Scrutiny Method	Additional Information
			O&S in July. Following this, it is intended that Sustainability and Transport O&S Committee takes
			forward this work for Highways in the future and will discuss how to do this at its July Committee.
Flooding	Understand the work undertaken to mitigate against flooding within the city over the past 12 months	To be confirmed	This is an annual report. Latest report to the Committee is <a href="here">here</a> . Previously this item has been scheduled for March.
Parking Enforcement	To be confirmed following further discussion at July Committee	To be confirmed. However this could consider on location visits.	No further information at this time
Rail	To be confirmed following further discussion at July Committee	To be confirmed. However, could consider on location including visits to stations under development	To involve other stakeholders, for example, WMCA.
Recycling and Waste Reduction	To be confirmed following further discussion at July Committee	To be confirmed	No further information at this time
Route to Net Zero	Consider how the Council is supporting community leadership	To be confirmed	If this is an in-depth piece of work, to be scheduled following the completion of the Road Safety topic.

#### **Scrutiny Method Options:**

Committee meeting - single item

Committee meeting - single theme

Task and Finish Group (outline number of meetings)

On location

Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee, July 2023 – Appendix 1

Other - (describe)



## **Work Outline / Terms of Reference**

## **Active Travel Schemes Task and Finish Group**

# Reporting to Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Our key question:	How can Birmingham deliver Active Travel schemes quicker and make city roads safer for all users?
1. How is O&S adding value through this work?	Improving road safety is always a priority for communities across the city, however this has significantly increased in recent months. This follows several tragic incidents on Birmingham's streets where cyclists and pedestrians, both adults and children, have died or been injured, and resulted in strong public interest.
	The Council has been criticised for the time taken to deliver, and the design of, active travel schemes in comparison to neighbouring Local Authorities. If this is true, Birmingham residents will wait longer to enjoy the benefits of better cycling and walking infrastructure. In turn, the city will take longer to realise its ambitions outlined in the Birmingham Transport Plan to shift to a low traffic city.
	Through this inquiry, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee intends to understand if there are different and better ways for the Council to deliver Active Travel schemes and make recommendations to achieve this. This will also complement and feed into the new Road Safety Strategy for Birmingham, which is currently under development.
2. What needs to be done?	The Task and Finish Group will receive evidence from a range of stakeholders in order to consider the following key issues:  • How are Active Travel schemes funded within the city?  • What is the current size, scale and scope of the activity under development and being delivered including joint projects with the WMCA?  • What is the design, development and delivery process?  • How does the Council work together as a single organisation to develop and deliver Active Travel schemes?  • What are the current barriers and challenges the Council is facing to deliver these schemes?  • Where are the opportunities for acceleration and what would this require?  • How do other Local Authorities do it differently? What can we learn from their approaches?
3. What timescale do we propose to do this in?	The Sustainability and Transport O&S Committee will agree its recommendations on 12 October 2023.
4. What outcomes are we looking to achieve?	<ul> <li>Outcome 1: Make Birmingham's roads safer for all users</li> <li>Outcome 2: Enable more efficient development and delivery of Active Travel Schemes</li> </ul>



	Outcome 3: Complement work on the Council's new Road Safety Strategy.
5. What is the best way to achieve these outcomes and what routes will we use?	A Task and Finish Group is the recommended approach comprising cross party membership.  The Task and Finish Group will meet approximately 5 times. Initial scoping will take place at the Sustainability and Transport O&S Committee in July. The Task and Finish group will then meet to:  • Session 1: Carry out site visits to pending, current and completed Active Travel schemes within Birmingham (these will be identified in conjunction with the relevant service and may involve some/ all of the Committee).  • Session 2: Consider evidence from stakeholders including Better Streets for Birmingham; Urban Transport Group; WMCA.  • Session 3: Consider evidence from Birmingham City Council services.  • Session 4: Consider evidence from neighbouring Local Authorities.  • Session 5: Identify key findings and discuss recommendations.  The order of the sessions may not follow the above.

### **Member / Officer Leads**

Lead Member:	Chair: Cllr. Lee Marsham
Members of the Task and Finish Group:	To be confirmed following discussion at Sustainability and Transport O&S Committee on 12 July 2023.
Lead Officer and support:	Support for the Task and Finish Group will be provided by the Overview and Scrutiny team.  This support will include:
	<ul> <li>Liaising with members to agree meeting dates</li> <li>Liaising with Council services to arrange site visits and evidence gathering sessions</li> <li>Inviting people to give evidence</li> <li>Agreeing the agenda with the Chair</li> <li>Circulating agenda and papers in advance of the meeting</li> <li>Producing a record of Task and Finish Group meetings that is agreed with the Chair / Task and Finish Group members</li> <li>Producing the report for Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee</li> </ul>
	In addition, the Head of Transport Planning and Network Strategy (Mel Jones) and Transport Planning Manager, Streetscape (Martin Rowe) will act as Council service support.
	This support will include:
	<ul> <li>Providing evidence to the Committee</li> <li>Liaising with other relevant services within the Council</li> </ul>



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#### Appendix 3

#### Cabinet Member for Environment – Current Priorities

#### <u>Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee</u>:

• Create a collaborative forum to discuss and identify measures and mitigations to assist the Council in reaching its net zero commitment.

#### Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- Seek opportunities to invest in new infrastructure in our local parks.
- Seek opportunities to generate income from our local parks other than through car park charging.
- Work in collaboration with Public Health to utilise and increase the usage of our parks to reduce health inequalities across the City.
- Work in conjunction with elected members in seeking to assist in their local priorities around cleanliness and reduction of fly-tipping.
- Work with enforcements agencies to reduce flyposting, abandoned vehicles and neglected skips on highways.
- Further develop the 'LoveYourStreets' and 'LoveYourEnvironment' teams to help meet the ongoing demand for clean neighbourhoods utilising LAMS data.
- Develop a waste reduction strategy and increase recycling opportunities across the city working with stakeholders such as the 'ReUsers' Centre, schools and interest groups to raise the level of recycling.
- Enhance the Mobile Household Recycling Collection service by seeking to introduce a free bulky
  waste collection for those receiving an assisted collection and develop it into a more agile
  service by working with elected members.

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