

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

ECONOMY, SKILLS AND TRANSPORT O&S COMMITTEE

1400 hours on 20th October 2016, Committee Room 1 – Actions

Present:

Councillor Zafar Iqbal (Chair)

Councillors David Barrie, Zaker Choudhry, Ziaul Islam, Josh Jones, John O'Shea, Eva Phillips and Ken Wood.

Also Present:

Councillor Brett O'Reilly, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Skills

Baseema Begum, Research & Policy Officer, Scrutiny Office

Chris Brockie, Cabinet Support Officer

Uyen-Phan Han, Strategic Planning Manager

Rose Kiely, Overview & Scrutiny Manager, Scrutiny Office

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") 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. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Davis, Huxtable and Thompson.

3. ECONOMY, SKILLS AND TRANSPORT: ACTION NOTES 22 SEPTEMBER 2016

(See document No 1)

Cllr Wood also noted that the Cabinet Member stated that he would be considering further details on the Bus Rapid Transit scheme following a meeting with colleagues from Transport for West Midlands.

4. CABINET MEMBER FOR JOBS AND SKILLS: PORTFOLIO PRIORITIES AND UPCOMING WORK AREAS

(See document No 2)

Councillor Brett O'Reilly, the Cabinet Member for Jobs and Skills presented his report and outlined key points from his presentation. During discussion with Members the following points were made:

- Concern about the lack of resources (money and staffing) in districts to carry forward the work of the district jobs and skills panels in the future.
- Protection of jobs in Birmingham with the impact of Brexit on the horizon.
- Important that the District Jobs teams work with DWP and businesses to link people with relevant skills and experience to available job opportunities.
- There are number of programmes aimed at young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs) and it is worth investigating if the schemes in place are being duplicated (across the city) and if some of this can be bought together. However it is worth noting that with funding streams and criteria it is inevitable that there will be some cross-over. It was stated that older unemployed residents also need to be considered.
- The City Council needs to consider and recognise that there are other stakeholders better placed to deliver services than the City Council itself.
- Cross-party working is vital especially in instilling confidence in our partners and businesses.
- Alignment in the work of the LEP work and City Council is crucial.
- The economic development of the city is linked to jobs and skills.
- How many jobs have been created by the Birmingham Jobs Fund programme? How many of these have resulted in actual employment for young people? Is it cost effective?
- Supporting and retaining graduates to boost Birmingham and the opportunities we have here such as HSBC placing their Headquarters in the city. Important to upskill and prepare our workforce for this.
- Those aged 25+, changing careers and the increase in self-employed people is also very important.

RESOLVED:-

1. The Cabinet Member agreed to report back to a future Committee meeting on the work that is being done to identify resources that will allow the work done on District Jobs & Skills plans to move forward.
2. The Cabinet Member agreed to provide a breakdown to Cllr Islam of the proportion of work carried out by the two providers under the Destination Work Programme in the Ladywood district if the data was available to.
3. Breakdown of costs on Youth Promise Devolved Fund.

5. BIRMINGHAM DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE

The following report was submitted:-

(See document No 3)

Uyen-Phan Han presented the key points from her report to the Committee.

Following the presentation, the attendees responded to questions from Members which included:-

- What is the impact on planning in light of the holding direction in place? Is there any impact on new homes bonus and is there any penalisation by government not putting place?
- What lessons have been learnt on the consultation that took place?
- How many outstanding applications are there for house building that have not yet started?

RESOLVED:-

1. Uyen-Phan Han to provide the Committee with further details on the effect of the holding direction on the New Homes bonus scheme.
2. Further information on the number of outstanding applications for house building to be provided.

6. WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE ECONOMY, SKILLS AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2016-17

The following work programme was submitted:-

(See document No 4)

Members were requested to note the changes made to the work programme.

RESOLVED:-

1. That the Committee's report on 'Preventing Damage to Grass Verges' is sent to the Cabinet Member for Transport & Roads and District Chairs for action.
2. That the Terms of Reference on the impact of Air Pollution is brought to the Committee's November meeting for discussion. This piece of work will be led by the Health, Wellbeing & Environment O&S Committee.

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

None

8. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None

9. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

Agreed.

The meeting ended at 1609 hours.