

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

COMMONWEALTH GAMES, CULTURE AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**WEDNESDAY, 03 FEBRUARY 2021 AT 13:30 HOURS
IN ON-LINE MEETING, MICROSOFT TEAMS**

A G E N D A

1 NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chairman to advise/meeting to note that this meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site (www.civico.net/birmingham) 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 that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non pecuniary interests arising from any business to be discussed at this meeting. If a disclosable pecuniary interest is declared a Member must not speak or take part in that agenda item. Any declarations will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

1 - 6

4 ACTION NOTES

To confirm the action notes of the 13 January 2021.

7 - 10

5 FUTURE PARKS ACCELERATOR

Hamira Sultan, Director for Future Parks Accelerator in attendance.

6 UPDATE FROM THE ACTIVE WELLBEING SOCIETY (TAWS)

Update to be provided.

7 **WORK PROGRAMME**

For discussion.

8 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

To note the date and time of the next meeting.

9 **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).

10 **OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

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

11 **AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS**

Chairman to move:-

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

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**COMMONWEALTH GAMES, CULTURE & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
O&S COMMITTEE**

1330 hours on 13th January 2021, Online Meeting – Action Notes

Present:

Councillor Mariam Khan (Chair)

Councillors: Alex Aitken, Zhor Malik, Hendrina Quinnen, Ron Storer and Martin Straker Welds

Also Present:

Rachel Dixon, Stakeholder Engagement Executive for CWG Programme Team

Eleri Roberts, AD, Communications

Ceri Saunders, Acting Group Overview & Scrutiny Manager

Amanda Simcox, Scrutiny Officer

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chair advised that this meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site (www.civico.net/birmingham) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Cllr John Lines and apologies were submitted on behalf of Cllr Alex Aitken for lateness.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

4. ACTION NOTES

(See document No. 1).

RESOLVED:

The action notes for the meeting held on the 4th November 2020 were agreed.

5. BUILDING A NARRATIVE – UPDATE FROM COMMONWEALTH GAMES PROGRAMME SURVEYS

Eleri Roberts, AD, Communications and Rachel Dixon, Stakeholder Engagement Executive for the CWG Programme Team attended for this item.

The main points in the presentation included:

- The AD predicated that Covid has impacted on how the Council is communicating and its focus. Naturally they are focusing on public health messaging and supporting campaigns about keeping our city safe, informing people of what they can do to make sure they keep safe and stop the spread.
- The Commonwealth Games host city narrative is about articulating the city's ambition and delivering the Games and its legacy. They are looking at bringing this into one narrative through engagement, looking at what people want from the Games, and that is why they undertook the survey.
- It was highlighted that the narrative should include our vision and how we are going to capitalise on hosting this international event. When looking at the results of the survey, Members were reminded that this was conducted when we were out of lockdown and people were thinking about Christmas and some of this is reflected in the uptake and the survey results.
- The survey was conducted across the city and includes council employees and elected Members, as it is felt that they are also important stakeholders.
- How informed people felt they were, and how they would like to be communicated with are examples of some of the questions.
- They received 615 responses with the majority of these coming from citizens. It was acknowledged that there is probably work to be done in relation to engagement with elected Members and employees. However, the take-up figures might reflect elected Members and employees are dealing with Covid on the frontline and therefore the Games was not particularly foremost in their thinking.
- It was hoped that next time the survey is conducted people will be less worried and they will be looking forward to having something to be excited about.
- Respondents thought that some of the benefits of the Games in the city included increasing the city's profile and improved infrastructure.
- The context must be looked at in relation to the impact of Covid and officers are mindful about the messaging and the need to balance the tone, considering the economic situation and people's feelings.
- 73% of respondents would like to be informed and therefore they will be doing more work around that, and they are about to launch a micro site that will help them to put all the information about the Games into one space so it is easy to find. They are also working closely with the Organising Committee, who are doing a huge amount of promotion for the event.

- There is a strong preference for digital communication, and they are growing this on twitter etc.
- This survey was a temperature check and the next step is to develop the narrative, and there will be more regular surveys so they can see where there may be issues.

In the course of the discussion and in response to queries raised by Committee Members the main points included:

- Members acknowledged it is a weird time to be conducting a survey.
- The tone and positioning need to be done with the backdrop of everything that is happening in relation to Covid. Officers are working with the Organising Committee and are mindful about tone and this being a difficult time for people. Also, in a year's time the City might not be fully recovered financially or emotionally, and officers want to ensure the Games are celebrated, but also recognise that this may not be the right time for everybody to hear about the Games.
- The Organising Committee last year changed their focus to be more about bringing communities back together and what people are and may be still going through. Therefore, they are looking at what is right and appropriate.
- The Organising Committee will be promoting the events, such as women's sport and the Council will amplify this through their media channels.
- The survey was a temperature check and the 12,000 figure quoted relates to the City Council having c12,000 employees who were sent the survey. Members requested a breakdown of the survey, including demographics and it was agreed that a more in-depth paper will be shared with Members.
- The survey was conducted via the Council's Be Heard consultation platform, and promoted via the Council's social media channels and the Get Set newsletter etc.
- There are some questions that will be repeated in future surveys, such as how people wish to be informed and do they feel informed. This will enable them to do a temperature check and measure success with the work they are doing in relation to engagement and communication. There will be other questions that will be added as and when appropriate around some of the other activity.
- Officers have seen a strong uptake in engagement with the Council in general throughout the pandemic, as people turn to the Council to find out what is going on, because we are seen as a trusted source. Also, officers have learned through Covid how to better communicate with some of the groups in the City who are normally quite disengaged from the Council. This learning will assist with increasing engagement with the Games.

RESOLVED:

The update was noted and Members to receive an in-depth paper on the survey.

6. HOW TO KEEP INFORMED AND ENGAGED IN THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES PROGRAMME – MEMBER ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

Eleri Roberts, AD, Communications and Rachel Dixon, Stakeholder Engagement Executive for CWG Programme Team attended for this item.

Eleri Roberts continued with the presentation and the main points included:

- They were using the inform, educate and excite approach to the way they are undertaking communications and engagement with Members.
- They are preparing the infrastructure, such as the capital programme and keeping people engaged with this. They are also ensuring people are connected into what the Games will involve and inspiring people so there is a lasting legacy.
- They have productive engagement with Members that is not just about putting information out but is also actively getting Members involved.
- In the last six months they have reviewed the way they were undertaking engagement and they have created the Proud Host City Members' Forum. This is a space for Members to come and get involved and hear what is going on. They are bringing in external people into this space to present to Members.
- Core channels include communications that are sent out to staff and citizens, and the micro site will be coming online shortly.
- The Get Set newsletter was launched in September 2020, and there were two newsletters last year, and they will continue to ramp this up. They received a satisfactory response rate of Members that opened the newsletter.
- The Proud Host City Members' Forum has had two meetings since it has relaunched (15 October 2020 and 2 December 2020). They have aimed to make the topics interesting to Members and they have brought in external Games partners such as the West Midlands Police to talk about what they are doing around communications, and safety and policing matters. They have also had Ian Reid, Chief Executive Officer, Birmingham CWG, Organising Committee (OC) talking about what the OC are doing and they are hoping to do more place-based activity, obviously Covid has impacted on this.

In course of the discussion and in response to queries raised by Committee Members the main points included:

- The nuances as to how we engage with communities who have been particularly affected by Covid is important, and officers are working on setting the tone and how they can assist Members with this. As we get nearer the Games this will be about rebuilding communities and helping to get people back together. It is suspected that the impact of loneliness will have a longer term affect. They are having conversations with the OC as to how they can use the Games to try and rebuild community spirit and bring people back together.
- They will maintain the links the Council has built with communities during Covid to assist with work around the Games.
- There are a lot of sports leagues that are operating in the city who are saying they have not been contacted. Therefore, there are c.4,000 – c5,000 participants who can be contacted, and information on these groups can be obtained from an officer within the Council who deals with the bookings. The

AD informed Members that she will feedback on what is being done and what needs to be done to involve sport groups.

- It was disappointing that only 18 elected Members responded to the survey and it was queried how the Committee could play a more pivotal role in getting more elected Members onboard. The AD recognised that when the survey was undertaken in September Members were busy helping communities and therefore distracted by community based issues. Going forward, the more noise that comes from the Organising Committee, such as the mascot launch and tickets going on sale will see more information about volunteering and how to get involved and this will spark people's interest.
- It would be helpful if Members could get involved in the Proud Host Members' Forum and look at what is coming up on the agenda. This feedback will help them shape what they are doing.
- The AD confirmed she is happy to attend ward forums although there may be more appropriate officers who can talk about the capital programmes, if that is what is being requested.
- It was suggested that to get more Members involved officers could contact the four party leaders asking them to assist with this.
- The Festival of Britain is being led by Martin Green, Chief Creative Officer, Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, OC which is happening during 2022 and there should be exciting opportunities arising from that.
- The Chair advised if Members have suggestions as to how to improve Member engagement to e-mail either herself or the officers present.
- Invitations to the Proud Host City Members' Forum and the newsletter are due out later this month.

The Chair thanked the officers for attending and stated that there is a need for this to be an ongoing conversation and therefore the Committee will continue to be involved. The Chair committed to all Members responding to the next survey and encouraging colleagues to also complete the survey.

RESOLVED:

The update was noted and Members to receive feedback on what is being done and what needs to be done in relation to involving sport groups in the City.

7. WORK PROGRAMME

(See document No. 3).

The Chair advised that the Committee had been undertaking a piece of work on engagement, however it had not been possible to continue this due to Covid. Therefore, the Chair will be meeting with officers to discuss how the Committee can best add value over the coming months and extended an invitation in case any of the Committee Members also wished to be in attendance.

It was suggested that one of the Committee meetings could be used to engage with all Members.

RESOLVED:

- The work programme was noted.

8. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

The date of the next meeting on Wednesday, 3rd February 2021 at 1.30pm was noted.

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

None.

10. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

11. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN 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 14:47 hours.

Naturally Birmingham: FPA - Introduction and Overview

Author: Daniel Lloyd, FPA Project Officer

Date: 18/11/2020

What is the FPA addressing?

Birmingham is one of eight urban areas part of a unique multi-million-pound initiative formed jointly by the National Trust, National Lottery Heritage fund, and the Ministry for Communities, Housing and Local Government; designed to enhance and secure the future of the UK's green spaces.

The goal of our FPA programme goes beyond simply funding and maintaining parks. The programme seeks to embed the value of green spaces across all areas of the Council and ensure that Birmingham's substantial green infrastructure is well utilised, sustainable, and valued in the face of austerity. By testing a range of proposals across key themes, including finance; governance; volunteering; children's; health and wellbeing; employment; and the built environment, we aim to generate valuable networks and learning that can be taken forward by the wider Council in the future to fundamentally shift the way we work to a more sustainable, inclusive model.

Our aims are:

1. **Promoting a step-change in how people engage with their parks in order to maximise public benefit, local potential and innovation;**
2. **enabling new cross-sector partnerships that bring together knowledge and expertise from outside the traditional parks sector, embedding new skills;**
3. **catalysing and blending new sources of funding to enable diversified and sustainable business models that are attractive to new donors, funders and investors;**
4. **adopting a systemic approach so that a whole place's portfolio of public green space is protected and enhanced, delivering a fair, quality and free service to all.**

Why is it needed now?

Whether our green spaces are parks, allotments, nature reserves, country parks, public open spaces, parts of our homes, cemeteries, wildlife corridors, woodlands, playing fields, community gardens, the bit of grass at the end of the road or two planters greening a grey street, their importance has always been recognised by the individuals that use them. This has become even more apparent during the Covid-19 pandemic, where parks and other green spaces often remain the only source of exercise or social contact for some groups. Despite this, the funding available for our green spaces has been consistently reduced over recent years, meaning councils and associated partners are increasingly struggling to preserve and maintain green spaces; having neither the time nor resources to properly enhance and promote their value. This is leading to growing inequality in access to quality green spaces and their associated benefits to wellbeing and prosperity, particularly amongst minority populations.

Green spaces and nature are also key to the long-term realisation of our goals to tackle the issues of Climate Change and biodiversity loss. Alongside the direct positive impacts of vegetation cover to local CO₂ emissions and air quality, green space also helps to protect against the unavoidable effects of Climate Change that will occur in coming years; acting as sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) during increased rainfall events, and reducing the severity of the urban heat island effect. Green spaces must therefore be integral to our response to these global issues and will require a fundamental shift in our approach to finance and perceived value.

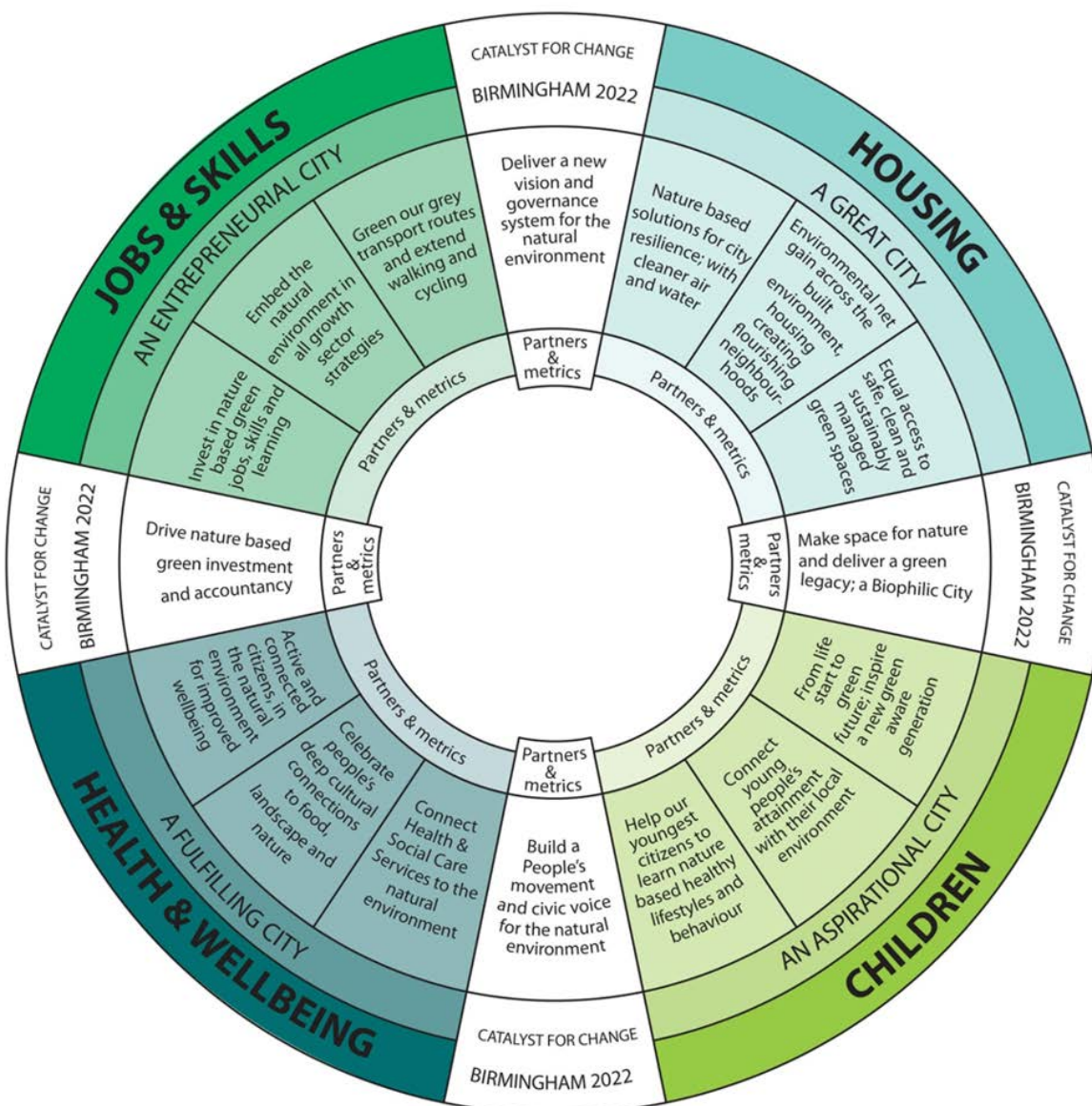
What are our frameworks?

Birmingham's FPA programme is complex and wide reaching, involving a huge variety of partners and stakeholders across the city. The programme is split into 5 frameworks:

- **A New Governance Model for Birmingham's Green Space:** Under Joseph Chamberlain, Birmingham was seen as the birthplace for modern municipal government, it was at this time that the city's parks took pride of place amongst its newest city assets. 150 years later we are living in very different times and the City's green spaces now need to respond to global climate and ecological emergencies, as well as the current Covid-19 pandemic. To do this effectively Birmingham now needs to take the lead again and change its current governance approach to put nature at the centre of its decision-making. This is why our FPA programme is called 'Naturally Birmingham'.
- **Environmental Justice:** We know that people living in more deprived areas have poorer health and wellbeing, poorer educational outcomes, poorer access to work, and suffer more from the impact of climate change. These are the same groups of people who are struggling more from Covid-19 and have less access to good quality green space. This thread connects the impacts from climate change, ecological decline and the Covid-19 pandemic to environmental justice. We know that green space offers huge benefits to health and wellbeing and by making sure those in more need of it, can access it, we will go some way to achieving environmental justice.
- **A Healthy City:** Birmingham aspires to be a healthy city as well as a green city. In the great Victorian era, city parks came out of the 1848 Public Health Act. This recognised the overwhelming health benefits of the natural environment on all people's lives. Our Healthy City Framework will re-connect these agendas once again in Birmingham so that we clearly link health and wellbeing to green space nature, helping our residents to live healthier lives.
- **Sustainable Finance:** Any change or improvement we make to parks and green spaces has to be financially viable. Our new finance framework will re-calculate all the benefits green space brings to the whole City. We will look at ways to bring extra money in where possible. By focussing on money and budgets, we will grow a greener future with confidence.
- **Citizen Involvement:** The world's greenest cities make it very easy for their citizens to make a difference through contributing their ideas, their endeavour, and their time. Birmingham needs such a support system for its citizens and under FPA we intend to create such a platform - where everybody's voice can be heard.

Due to the complex, cross-cutting nature of these frameworks, we are also testing the principles of the FPA on a smaller scale, using pilot sites to test proposals in four key areas: Children's (Dawberry Fields Park, Cotteridge Park); Jobs and Skills (Ward End Park); Health and Wellbeing (Witton Lakes, Perry Common Recreation Ground); and Housing (City-wide).

The wheel diagram below displays how our pilots and the wider FPA are integral to the City's priorities in the City Plan:



Links

- [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)
- [Project Website](#) (work in progress) – includes our monthly newsletters
- [National Trust: Our vision for the future of parks](#)
- [Heritage Fund: HLF and National Trust join forces to improve parks](#)



Commonwealth Games, Culture & Physical Activity O&S Committee: Work Programme 2020/21

Chair: Cllr Marian Khan

Deputy Chair: Cllr Alex Aitken

Committee Members: Cllrs: Morriam Jan, John Lines, Zhor Malik, Hendrina Quinnen, Ron Storer and Martin Straker Welds

Officer Support: Acting Group O&S Manager: Ceri Saunders (303 2786)
Scrutiny Officer: Amanda Simcox: (675 8444)
Committee Manager: Louisa Nisbett (303 9844)

1 Terms of Reference

- 1.1 'To fulfil the functions of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee as they relate to any policies, services and activities concerning the Commonwealth Games; arts and culture; libraries and museums; sport; events and physical activity'.

2 Priority Issues and Items to be Scheduled

- 2.1 The following were highlighted at the informal meeting on 8th July 2020 as potential priorities to be followed up through the work programme:

- (a) There is an opportunity for the committee to track the participation of women in sport – a possible place to start would be to invite key women who have achieved in the sporting arena to provide their input to the committee.
- (b) To continue the work on community engagement already begun, community representatives including possibly representatives from Commonwealth countries could be invited to talk to the committee (remotely) about how we can work together to promote the CWG.
- (c) Engage with small voluntary and arts organisations on what they would like to see happen/how they can get involved.

- 2.2 The following have been followed up through the work programme:

- (d) There is also an opportunity for committee members to be involved in and influence and shape the £2m ward funding, by working to input to the 'co-design' process to come up with ideas and suggestions about what criteria would work best locally and how to maximise the legacy benefits to the local community. Discussed 7th October 2020.
- (e) Invite Martin Green, who is in charge of the cultural programme to a future committee meeting to discuss the cultural programme with members. Attended 7th October 2020.
- (f) Maximising the benefits for businesses is another strand of work. There is an opportunity for Birmingham businesses to benefit from the trade and tourism investment being developed by



the West Midlands Growth Company. Neil Rami, Chief Executive of the WMGC attended the 2nd September 2020 meeting to discuss the investment programme.

3 Meeting Schedule

3.1 Below is the list of committee dates and items. However, Members may want to use some of these dates for other things, such as visits and informal briefings etc.

Date & Time (1.30pm)	Items	Officers / Attendees
8 June 2020 (Online, 2.00pm start)	Impact of COVID -19 on Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022	Cllr Ian Ward, Leader and Craig Cooper, Commonwealth Games Programme Director
	Update on Cycling in Birmingham	Cllr Waseem Zaffar, Cabinet Member, Transport and Environment and Alison Kennedy, Principal Transport Policy Officer
8 July 2020 (Online Informal Meeting)	Update on the finance available to promote community engagement and citizen involvement and Culture Programme.	Cllr Ian Ward, Leader and Craig Cooper, Commonwealth Games Programme Director, BCC
	Future Work Programme Discussion	
2 September 2020 (Online, 2.15pm) Report Deadline: 24 August 2020	Maximising the benefits of CWG Investment Programme for business in Birmingham	Neil Rami, Chief Executive, West Midlands Growth Company
	The Athletes Village / Perry Barr Regeneration Scheme	Ian Ward, Leader and Jim Hamilton, Capital Programme Director
7 October 2020 Report Deadline: 28 Sep 2020	CWG Cultural Programme	Martin Green, Chief Creative Officer, Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, OC & Symon Easton, Head of Cultural Development
	CWG Community Fund Ward Funding	Cat Orchard, Head of Community Partnerships, Commonwealth Games Project Team and Karen Cheney, Head of Service, Neighbourhood Development and Support Unit (NDSU)



Date & Time (1.30pm)	Items	Officers / Attendees
4 November 2020 Report Deadline: 26 Oct 2020	Delivering Effective Engagement: Birmingham 2022 Host City Programme Craig Cooper, CWG Programme Director, BCC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does it mean to be a 'host city'? • How we deliver the Games - understanding the role of Birmingham City Council. • The City Council's role in delivering effective engagement • Upcoming activity. Matt Eagles, Head of Communications, Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Games vision and mission recap. • Status on engagement. • Examples: what we've done, what we're doing and what we would like to do. 	Craig Cooper, CWG Programme Director, BCC and Matt Eagles, Head of Communications, Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games
13 January 2021 Report Deadline: 4 Jan 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building a Narrative – Update from Commonwealth Games Programme Surveys • How to keep Informed and Engaged in the Commonwealth Games Programme – Member Engagement Update 	Eleri Robert, AD, Communications & Rachel Dixon, Stakeholder Engagement Executive, CWG 2020, BCC
3 February 2021 Report Deadline: 25 Jan 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future Parks Accelerator • Update from the Active Wellbeing Society 	Hamira Sultan, Director for Future Parks Accelerator TBC
3 March 2021 Report Deadline: 22 Feb 2021	TBC	
7 April 2021 Report Deadline: 29 Mar 2021	TBC	

4 Other Meetings

Call in Meetings

None scheduled

Petitions



None scheduled

Councillor Call for Action requests

None scheduled

It is suggested that the Committee approves Wednesday at 1.30pm as a suitable day and time each week for any additional meetings required to consider 'requests for call in' which may be lodged in respect of Executive decisions.

5 Report(s) to City Council

5.1 Community Engagement in CWG

Date	Item
2 October 2019 & 6 November 2019	Discuss piece of work to City Council / Executive
January 2020 – March 2020	Evidence Gathering
TBC	Report to City Council / Executive

6 Forward Plan for Cabinet Decisions

6.1 The following decisions, extracted from the Cabinet Office Forward Plan of Decisions, are likely to be relevant to the Commonwealth Games, Culture and Physical Activity O&S Committee's remit.

ID Number	Title	Proposed Date of Decision	Date of Decision
007933/2020	Commonwealth Games Legacy	13 Oct 20	
008015/2020	Commonwealth Games Community Fund and Creative Communities Small Grants Fund	13 Oct 20	13 Oct 20
008016/2020	Commonwealth Games Community Fund Community Celebrations Ward Funding	15 Dec 20	15 Dec 20
005730/2018	Sport and Leisure Transformation – Wellbeing Service	29 Jun 21	
007968/2020	2019 Major Events Review	13 Oct 20	13 Oct 20
008397/2021	Commissioning of Cultural Activities 2021-22	09 Feb 21	
008299/2021	Indoor Athletics Events - Capital Equipment	09 Feb 21	
008398/2021	Moseley Road Baths – Outline Business case	16 Mar 21	