

Appendix 1

Commonwealth Games, Culture & Physical Activity O&S Committee – the role of Overview & Scrutiny in the run up to the Games



Preface

It has been a privilege to chair the Committee with overall 'overview & scrutiny' responsibility of the Commonwealth Games; initially as the Learning, Culture & Physical Activity Overview & Scrutiny Committee and latterly in its current form as the **Commonwealth Games, Culture & Physical Activity Overview & Scrutiny Committee**.



The Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games will put this fantastic city on a global stage and showcase our talent, skills and ability to organise a world class event. As Chair of this Committee, I have had the chance to work alongside officers ever since the Council first took the bold step to bid for the Games, right through to the Games now being less than 20 weeks away and I have ultimately watched ideas transform into reality.

Having had the insight into the inception of various Commonwealth Games-related programmes, such as the Youth Programme - 'Bring The Power', the Cultural Programme - 'Birmingham 2022 Festival', and the Volunteer Programme - 'The Commonwealth Collective', it has been exciting to find out more about the number of different ways for the citizens of Birmingham to get engaged with the Games, especially our young people - who have been presented with a once in a lifetime opportunity to be a part of something special.

Members of this Committee have had the chance to visit the Alexander Stadium on a number of occasions to witness the breath-taking structural progress for themselves as well visiting the official Volunteer Centre based at the Library of Birmingham and the Perry Barr Residential Scheme.

The work of this Committee has mainly focused on holding the Executive to account and inviting the different Directorates to inform us about what they are doing to prepare for the Games as well as answering our questions on what *legacy* benefits will be achieved through the work of the various service areas. I have been especially keen on exploring the legacy aspects as I see the Games as a catalyst for many more opportunities for both the city and ordinary Brummies and we must make the most out of every single opportunity offered to us by the Games.

Aside from raising the question about legacy through the O&S Committee, I am also a member of the Legacy and Benefits Committee of the Birmingham 2022 Organising Committee, representing Birmingham City Council and work alongside various external partners on the official Legacy Plans. I have also recently joined as the Vice Chair of the Community Stakeholder Panel which will provide oversight of the Commonwealth Games Legacy Programme.

In addition to this, I've had the exciting opportunity to support the team working on the Queen's Baton Relay (QBR) on behalf of the Council, providing advice and guidance on helping shape the events and locations for the QBR to maximise involvement for as many Birmingham residents as possible.

As Chair of the Commonwealth Games Culture & Physical Activity O&S Committee, it has been an absolute pleasure working alongside my Committee Members & officers, senior officers of the Council and the Organising Committee, playing a role in ensuring that Birmingham delivers the best Commonwealth Games ever. As a proud Brummie, I can't wait for the Games to begin!

Councillor Mariam Khan

Chair, Commonwealth Games, Culture and Physical Activity O&S Committee

1. The Focus of the Committee

- 1.2 The stated terms of reference of the Commonwealth Games, Culture & Physical Activity O&S Committee are ‘to fulfil the functions of an O&S 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’.
- 1.3 Before the onset of the pandemic, members of the Committee had received presentations from the Leader of the Council and the Programme Director of the Council’s CWG Programme Team and some of the Council’s teams delivering the major regeneration projects required to get the city “Games ready”, as well as from other Games partners such as the Organising Committee.
- 1.4 Committee members were keen to play a proactive part in assisting with city readiness and embarked upon a community engagement programme. This would have taken us around the city, speaking to community groups and organisations made up of Birmingham residents from a variety of different backgrounds, had it not been for the national lockdown in March 2020. Due to the pandemic restrictions coming into force, the Committee’s visits to community groups were cut short and we were only able to visit an Elders group in Birchfield before refocussing our ambitions.
- 1.5 What follows is the result of that refocusing, which has seen a consolidated programme of scrutiny where the Committee has held Cabinet Members and directorates from across the council to account by asking them two key questions:

What are you doing in your service area to ensure the successful delivery of the Games?

What are you doing above and beyond your business as usual to get the most value from the legacy for residents and businesses of Birmingham hosting the Games?

2. The Former Partnerships, Prevention and Insights Directorate

- 2.1 The then Assistant Chief Executive, who was the BCC Senior Responsible Officer for Legacy for the Games alongside senior officers from the former Partnerships, Prevention and Insights Directorate started the year of scrutinising the directorates, as they set out what they were doing to deliver the Games successfully and what additional opportunities they were seeking to secure as a legacy from hosting the event.
- 2.2 The BCC CWG Programme Team’s Head of Community Partnerships took the Committee through the detailed proposals for a Legacy Plan for the Council. This was a theme which we returned to again early in 2022 following the publication of the official BCC Legacy Plan.
- 2.3 In April 2021 we were able to question the team on the ambitions stated around community cohesion, inclusion and pride in the city, alongside the details of the £6m Community Fund elements.

- 2.4 The Committee has always been keen to scrutinise the benefits of hosting the Games for the people of Birmingham and the BCC Legacy Plan sets out the ambition that Birmingham has never shied away from and is now encapsulated in our “Be Bold, Be Birmingham” initiative.
- 2.5 Committee Members were familiar with the Council’s “Everyone’s Battle, Everyone’s Business” plan and were interested to hear how it aligned the work of the Equalities division with the aims of the Games, particularly around challenging inequalities in every community and celebrating the city’s shared stories and heritage.
- 2.6 The Committee heard how the Stronger Communities aim is to build on existing work around tackling inequalities in Birmingham and how it is to use the Games as a springboard for change, with activities designed to develop and continue legacy work beyond the Games. We anticipate bringing this back to committee after the Games to scrutinise how successfully this has been done.
- 2.7 We also heard how press and PR activity in association with the Games partners had generated 653 media articles, of which 89% had been positive or neutral in tone and that the reach of these articles up to April 2021 was 104 million readers or viewers. No doubt that figure has increased massively since then as we are closer to approaching Games time.
- 2.8 Whilst West Midlands Police lead on the security programme, the Council is represented at each security governance level and there is an extensive programme to support these activities with significant oversight and assurance including training, testing, readiness and exercise programmes in place as well as safety management to provide major event safety oversight.
- 2.9 The Public Health team’s focus in terms of health protection has unsurprisingly been on Covid resilience and preparedness. Before Games time they will be working with Games partners and national bodies looking at outbreak response and Covid response planning. Post-Games/Legacy they will be ensuring the environmental sustainability approach is entrenched.
- 2.10 We also heard that Public Health are looking at Commonwealth projects linked to food and physical activity, volunteer and staff health literacy, developing health profiles, inputting into the Physical Activity Legacy Action Plan through Active City Forum, and giving Public Health specialist advice to local CWG grants programmes.
- 2.11 At Games time there will be increased Active Travel messaging, physical activity and a focus on inequalities and healthy eating messaging. Again, the Committee anticipates a review of how effective this messaging has been when we call Public Health back to provide an assessment after the Games.

3. City Operations Directorate

- 3.1 The Director of City Operations reassured the Committee of his personal commitment to the Games through his role as Vice Chair of the CWG Programme within BCC. In addition, the Committee were reassured that frequent meetings were held with the

BCC CWG Programme Director and Star Chambers to review overall delivery plans and specific progress meetings on the delivery of the Alexander Stadium.

- 3.2 On Street Scene, Members were relieved to learn about the enhanced cleansing programme which has been developed for the build up to the Games and during the Games itself, as well as a grounds maintenance programme, as this was an area which had caused great concern amongst Members.
- 3.3 Additional floral enhancements have been planned, and the Parks Service have been working closely with the development team to ensure the Games work has added benefits after Games activity takes place at Sutton Park and Perry Park. Discussions have also been held with the Council's Legacy Team to ensure there is commitment to support Friends of Parks groups to develop their local parks post-Games.
- 3.4 Street Scene are also working with the CWG volunteering team to keep as many local volunteers post-Games. Key partners and organisations have been developed and are working along Street Scene colleagues to tackle long term street scene issues including tackling graffiti.
- 3.5 The Committee heard that Delivery Plans had been prepared for Environmental Health, Trading Standards and Licensing, and that the Regulation and Enforcement Division is heavily involved in planning for and ensuring the Games operate in a manner which is safe for visitors, spectators, competitors, staff and volunteers at the Games. The Committee were reassured to learn that the legacy benefits they hope to achieve include capacity building through better trained officers able to deal with a wider scope of hazards; providing better joint working between other West Midlands local authorities to build on for the future; sharing best practice between venue authorities to raise standards; and trying out new methods of work to make a more effective enforcement regime for the City Council.
- 3.6 Members were informed that the Alexander Stadium works are progressing in line with the contractor programme and has been consistently reporting on budget and on time. The legacy for the stadium and wider Perry Park has been captured within the Perry Barr Masterplan being led by the Inclusive Growth Directorate. Members of this Committee, along with colleagues on the Sustainability & Transport, and Economy & Skills O&S committees, had the opportunity to visit the Alexander Stadium at the end of October 2021 to see for themselves the progress made and ask any questions or raise any concerns on the developments.
- 3.7 Members heard about the Major Sporting Events Strategy document which will set out the Council's vision for the next ten years. Amongst other things this will set out the outcomes we are seeking to deliver on the back of securing major events. This subsequently was approved by Cabinet on 27th July 2021.
- 3.8 The Council is bidding to host some key events in the next few years off the back of the Games, and these include the ITU World Paratriathlon & Triathlon Series 2024, 2025 & 2026, Invictus 2027, the World Road Race Championships 2023 and the Council has submitted a formal bid to host the World Athletics Road Running Championships 2023 or 2024. The Committee will be receiving an update on these in due course.

- 3.9 Within Neighbourhoods, the Neighbourhood Development and Support Unit were co-ordinating the ward-based CWG Celebrating Communities Fund of £2m. Working with Locality/Birmingham Community Matters, they have been providing community capacity building and support for groups wanting to apply for funding starting in April 2021 and worked with community anchor organisations who have been acting as the ward facilitators for the participative decision making on grant proposals from June 2021 onwards.
- 3.10 The Cultural Development Service commissioned and supported the feasibility of 20 community arts projects - some of which will reach full blown project delivery during 2022. In addition, Members learned that they were working with the CWG's Cultural Programme Team to coordinate cultural activity across the city from March – August 2022, and in February 2022 we had a further detailed update on progress on this project which is covered later in this report.
- 3.11 Some of the noticeable projects included: Coordinating a pilot community arts (refugee) project for CWG's Cultural Programme in Erdington in October 2021 – Amal International Puppet Tour, assisting the Council's CWG's team to deliver the Queen's Baton Relay (through Community Arts activity along route), and assisting the Council's Legacy Team in the allocation of Ward Community activity funding.
- 3.12 The Sports Development team have been working with the OC on engagement around sports club infrastructure and support during the period of the Games including the set-up of pop-up sports zones across the city, thus offering opportunities to local sports organisations to engage in delivery.

4. Housing Directorate

- 4.1 The Housing Directorate took the Committee through the major redevelopment in Perry Barr which has been unlocked through the Games activity, and this included the Perry Barr Residential Scheme, which will see almost 2,000 homes delivered in two phases and also how it will be part of the greater Birchfield Gateway proposals, enabling a total of 5,000 new homes across the area in the next 20 years.
- 4.2 Other legacies from this work include the remodelling of the One Stop Shopping centre and Birchfield Road development opportunities, a new school and transport improvements such as improvements to the bus interchange and railway station. Some of the detail arising from these is shared under the update from Inclusive Growth Directorate below.

5. HR & OD Directorate

- 5.1 Members were informed there are plenty of additional employment and development opportunities within the Council around the Games, such as additional workers to aid with the street scene cleansing programme and the floral/grounds maintenance work to improve the look of the city. As part of the legacy from the Games, options will be explored as to how these roles could lead to potential apprenticeship opportunities within the Council and Members anticipate a report post-Games on actual figures realised.

- 5.2 Officers talked about how the Games will create around 35,000 new jobs and skills opportunities, including volunteering roles and training opportunities. From those meeting and greeting on the frontline to backstage heroes and specialists like paramedics, the 12,500+ volunteers will be one of the largest workforce groups and HR is supporting Organisational Development colleagues with the development of a legacy-focussed Employee Volunteer Policy to capitalise on this momentum.
- 5.3 Members of the Committee were also keen to hear what the impact of having the Games will be on our own staff, and they heard that a staff engagement group was established in April 2021 which will review internal health and wellbeing survey data and engage with staff to identify how they can improve their physical health, through initiatives like staff games competitions and incentives.
- 5.4 HR supports the Games through its messaging to staff through regular updates, providing strategic HR support and preparing for staff to support or attend the Games, via the flexible working policy while maintaining essential Council services.
- 5.5 Other ways in which HR contributes to the successful delivery in its business as usual activity is by promoting health and wellbeing opportunities as part of the Council's employee rewards package. An Employee Volunteer Policy was being developed to support the lasting legacy of the Games, engaging with other local authorities involved in the Games to ensure a consistent approach across the region. OD were also exploring possibilities to develop apprenticeship opportunities as part of the legacy with a primary focus on care leavers and under-represented groups.
- 5.6 There were even some specific examples of legacy in action already, and this included a member of staff who had enrolled onto a Management apprenticeship with a focus on crowd safety / management with a completion date of May 2022, meaning they can apply their learning at the Games immediately, plus another member of staff also enrolled in September 2021.

6. Adult Social Care Directorate (ASC)

- 6.1 The Committee learned about the Adult Social Care Engagement Group, whose aim is to raise awareness, enthusiasm and engagement in all aspects of the Games (pre, during and post-Games legacy). It also enables the Directorate to deliver against the key corporate objective of 'Birmingham residents gaining the maximum benefit from hosting the Commonwealth Games' and supports the sharing of information, ideas and opportunities with relevant individuals and groups.
- 6.2 The Directorate is a member of the OC Accessibility Forum and promotes 'Accessibility' to Opportunities (Volunteering / Jobs) while also ensuring venues are accessible with appropriate wayfinding (Changing Places / AccessAble) both via the OC and the Council.
- 6.3 The Committee heard how the Directorate has developed an ASC Reach Group out of a contact list of around 400 community based organisations / individuals who work with ASC to support adults in the community including ASC Charities and Voluntary Sector Organisations (linked via Neighbourhood Networks), Groups supporting people with Disabilities, Pure Project employment organisations, Parents and Carers

Organisations supporting Preparation for Adulthood, Day Centres and Migration Forum members. It has been developed to enable ASC to share information quickly and directly and offer support to access the opportunities in the city associated with the Games such as CWG grants, volunteering and cultural activities.

- 6.4 In addition, an officer has been seconded to work with the Neighbourhood Network Service one day a week to help promote opportunities for ASC users to experience and join in the cultural festival and activities, as well as supporting community organisations to apply for grants under the Celebrating Communities and Creative Communities programmes.
- 6.5 The wellbeing of ASC users has been addressed by linking directly to venues to develop programmes to improve health and wellbeing of Adult Social Care Users (e.g. Edgbaston Cricket Ground) and by planning a range of activities with the Council's Day Centres & Care Centre users – utilising wider health promotion activities associated with the Games. At the time of the presentation to Committee they were considering whether they might be able to access a small amount of funding from the Legacy Programme to deliver an enhanced programme of activities for Council service users.
- 6.6 In addition to contributing suggestions for the Queen's Baton Relay (covered separately in this report), ASC have been able to connect organisations from their wider partnership links into the Games. For example, connecting the Canal and Rivers Trust to the 'Beneficial Activities workstream' (via Birmingham Autism and ADHD Partnership Board) and Accessible Cycling via Mencap.
- 6.7 The Director for Adult Social Care has also recently taken over as the Council's Strategic Lead for Legacy.

7. Birmingham Children's Trust

- 7.1 Members of the Committee have been keen on hearing about how Birmingham's children in care and care leavers will be involved in the Commonwealth Games and how they will benefit from the opportunities from the Games and had some searching questions when they came to present to us.
- 7.2 The Committee heard how Birmingham Children's Trust are seeking to unlock the Games opportunity for children in care in Birmingham, reaching at least 5,000 young people and families, as well as creating their own Games experience, complete with their own opening and closing ceremonies. They will also be creating access to key Games-time opportunities and assets.
- 7.3 All cohorts will include children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. Partners will include Evolve, Sport Birmingham, Aston Villa Foundation, The Active Wellbeing Society (TAWS), Teamwork's Karting and Sport4Life to design a programme to run during school and in half term – focused on physical activity and mental wellbeing. During the summer holiday, activity weeks will be developed and ran by 'Friends of the Children's Trust' and care leavers that are ready to take the next step into employment and volunteering.

- 7.4 The committee were delighted to learn of the various achievements for the service which included over 27 Care Leavers having applied to be a volunteer at the Games; four consultation events with Care Leavers including partners such as the CWG Volunteering Team, Sport4Life, West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), Stand Up project and Teamwork's Karting, hosting and organising a Commonwealth Games Participation Day with children in care, care leavers, young parents and young people with disabilities in attendance, CWG / Physical Activity Sensory Days for young people with disabilities; Being part of the Stand Up project with National Lottery Partners; Holiday Activity and Food Fund Project – which involved physical activity and CWG themed activities every morning in August 2021 for families in the local community, children in care and foster families. The holiday activity reached 4,000 young people.
- 7.5 Committee members were also pleased to hear that Birmingham Children's Trust received 5,000 tickets to the Commonwealth Games for children, young people and their families.

8. Inclusive Growth Directorate

- 8.1 Most of the regeneration or development projects associated with the Games fall within the Inclusive Growth Directorate and one of the greatest benefits has been the ability to accelerate the delivery of and enhance the scope of planned projects. Perry Barr would have seen residential development on a much smaller scale, Sprint would have been delivered later, and there would not have been the coordination of projects on this scale or the critical mass which delivers additional benefits.
- 8.2 There has been more than £700m public sector investment in Perry Barr - £165m from Central Government, £20m from WMCA for land assembly – all of which would not have been possible without the Games. The new housing development was covered by colleagues in Housing Directorate at an earlier session, and members heard the associated jobs created in the construction, the new school for the development and the wider regeneration picking up the masterplan for Perry Barr 2040 would not have happened in the way it has had it not been for the Games.
- 8.3 Perry Barr is talked about at length in terms of investment and opportunities, but officers from the Inclusive Growth Directorate also shared proposals for the improved Southside public realm including a new public square, and the development of Digbeth High Street, Lower Temple Street, New Street and Victoria Square as well as Snow Hill in the city centre.
- 8.4 One of the most exciting current city centre developments is Smithfield, which is to be a Games-time venue and live site and then post-Games will be handed back to the Council for development to deliver a new home for the Birmingham markets, high quality public spaces, integrated public transport, retail and workspaces, 3,000 new homes and an improved leisure and culture offer – and of course thousands of new jobs.
- 8.5 Presentations from officers highlighted both an increase in business as usual in helping to deliver the Games on time, but also maximising the opportunities afforded by the Games in seeking to take advantage of synergies in other activities happening as a result, particularly in public transport, housing and public realm developments as

evidenced in Perry Barr and the city centre in particular, and by attracting inward investment opportunities and Members pressed them on benefits to be realised.

- 8.6 The Committee discovered that other benefits generated by the Directorate include learning best practice – the scale of activity has required an enhanced project management and governance approach and this learning has benefitted other projects and programmes. There has been a focus on developing Council officers to fulfil challenging roles and on enhancing partnerships and stakeholder relationships and community engagement approaches. The Council will benefit from community and small business engagement generated as a result of the Games and will be able to utilise those contacts and linkages post-Games.

9. Education & Skills Directorate (now known as the Children and Families Directorate)

- 9.1 The opportunities for children and young people in the city to reap the benefits of hosting the Games was one of the areas which the Committee was most interested to hear about. We were delighted to hear how by working together the OC and the Council are seeking to use the once-in-a-generation platform to inspire and engage thousands of children and young people and leave a lasting legacy.
- 9.2 The Games Learning Programme “Bring the Power” will use the assets of this major sporting and cultural event to connect Birmingham’s young people directly with opportunities to gain new skills, grow in confidence and become part of a stronger and more cohesive community.
- 9.3 The Council has contributed £500,000 of funding to support a targeted strand of activity called Bring to Power that seeks to ensure young people in every ward of the city have access to at least one Games opportunity either through schools or community participation, delivered in partnership with the OC.
- 9.4 The Games Learning Programme has established an Education Steering group to support the delivery of the “Bring the Power” programme. The programme has three key themes that underpin the planned activities - “Journey to the Games”, “Finding Common Ground” and “We can Change the World”. The Steering Group intend to ensure that Birmingham’s children and young people benefit from priority access to key Games opportunities by deepening engagement and impact to reach as many young people and schools as possible, particularly the disadvantaged, investing in resources and activity delivery that tackles the legacy of colonialism, prioritising work with young people who are NEET / at risk of becoming NEET, and by aligning with some of Birmingham’s bigger priorities for children and young people: Child-Friendly City, UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools, Violence Reduction.
- 9.5 The Committee were reassured of the progress to date in terms of the Employability and Skills agenda, with the Games currently impacting on construction opportunities especially at the Perry Barr Residential Scheme which has so far produced 312 jobs (78% of target of 400 jobs from construction); 57 apprenticeships; nearly 5,250 young people engaged through schools’ links; and over 1600 volunteer hours.

- 9.6 The Council's Children and Families Directorate are also linking schools to the Games work experience programme (Gen 2022) with a focus on 17-year olds (NEET peak) and supporting the Volunteers Programme through Birmingham Adult Education Service, community libraries and the Library of Birmingham.

10 Council Management Directorate

- 10.1 The Council Management Directorate has been looking after Games finances, legal, procurement and council governance matters.
- 10.2 One of the key projects that they have provided these services for include the construction of the Alexander Stadium project and where social value has been built into the contracts. This includes (but is not limited to) jobs safeguarded or new jobs created and ringfenced for local people, apprenticeships and work experience placements; 50% target spend within 30 miles to target local subcontractors, including SMEs and 3rd sector organisations; schools' engagement programmes to offer hundreds of hours of voluntary time by staff and commitment to 100% of all packaging waste being recycled via supplier takeback schemes for key packaging materials or components etc.
- 10.3 Similar targets apply to the A34 construction works and Perry Barr Residential Scheme with an increased emphasis on learning and a dedicated skills hub.
- 10.4 In order to exploit opportunities from hosting the Games, Members were informed that further work is now underway to assess how the Council can further target and maximise social value contributions. This can be realised in the form of wider benefits within our communities related to the legacy of the Games.
- 10.5 One example given to the Committee is that is work in progress is to use the Council's new <https://matchmyproject.org/birmingham> portal for community organisations in receipt of funding from the Council for Games-related projects to advertise for assistance from the Council's contracted supply chain to sustain projects for the Games legacy.
- 10.6 The Finance Team support the Games by providing in-depth financial advice and support to the Programme Director and team, participating in key governance meetings (such as the Capital Programme Board and Executive Board), and supporting capital projects such as the Alexander Stadium build, Sutton Park Wyndley Leisure Centre and Smithfield.
- 10.7 In addition, they have supported the BCC City Readiness Programme by reviewing and challenging budget proposals for additionality for Games time through detailed financial monitoring and reporting and secured and managed external funding including the £20m contribution from Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) and WMCA's £25m contribution.
- 10.8 The Legal Team have been playing a vital role before we even won the bid by inputting into the commissioning of a Games feasibility study. The Commercial Team played a significant part in preparing and submitting the Games Bid in collaboration with Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) including advising on State Aid

(now Subsidy Control) Matters and assisted with taking the matter from successful bid to negotiating the Host City Contract with the Commonwealth Games Federation.

- 10.9 Since 2017 the Legal Team has completed a contract for the redevelopment of Alexander Stadium, advised regarding construction of the Athletes' Village which later became the Perry Barr Regeneration Scheme (PBRs), and played a significant role in taking the Birmingham Commonwealth Games Bill through to becoming an Act of Parliament.
- 10.10 Future opportunities identified by the Directorate include the use of assets, knowledge transfer, commercial engagement, social value, career pathways for young people, apprenticeships and support for care leavers etc.
- 10.11 Digital and Customer Services outlined the level of IT and Digital (IT&D) support they provide to the CWG Programme Team to manage their work, and also specialised IT&D support to the Alexander Stadium at all the stages from build through to the Games and into post-Games time when the stadium returns to Council ownership.
- 10.12 Committee members were given reassurance that the other main area of work focuses on the Customer Services contact centre and the close collaboration with the Programme Team's engagement lead to ensure all contact centre support is appropriate for Games time and that staff are sufficiently trained and equipped to take on calls and enquiries from residents and potentially visitors to the city during Games time.

11. CWG Programme Team – Engagement & Legacy

- 11.1 As Chair of the Commonwealth Games, Culture and Physical Activity O&S Committee, I have been engaged with the team working on the Queen's Baton Relay activity on behalf of the Council for many months, providing advice, guidance and an insight from the perspective of councillors as community leaders on how to make the best use of the two days we have the Queen's Baton in Birmingham and how to reach as many people as possible. The Committee participated in a workshop earlier this year with the team and provided some useful observations from our unique position within our own wards.
- 11.2 When the Director of Adult Social Care attended a Committee meeting in his new role as BCC's Corporate Leadership Team Legacy Lead it was encouraging for Members to hear his enthusiasm for what he called "a fantastic opportunity to not only host a successful Games but to build the legacy for generations to come". From his experience of the Olympics in 2012, when he worked in Newham in London, he is aware that legacy benefits are achieved in different ways, such as improved infrastructure, culture and economic benefits and welcomed the approach of this Committee in having such questions at the forefront of our minds, such as "how can we use this opportunity to improve outcomes for citizens, how can we increase engagement, and how can we use the Games as an accelerant to sustainable improvements?"
- 11.3 He gave a brief overview of the Council's Legacy Plan "Delivering a Bold Legacy for Birmingham" which explains how we are using the opportunity of hosting the Games

to help address the main challenges that the city faces. He then explained how the Legacy Programme is addressing the challenge that this is a 'Games for Everyone', with the plan on the page providing a lot of detail and setting out the connectivity with our priorities and those of our partners. A second cross-partner legacy plan is due in June 2022 and the Council's post-Games report is due in Spring 2023. The final post-Games Legacy Evaluation report will be delivered by Government in 2023.

- 11.4 The Head of Community Partnerships provided details of the Council's £6m Community Fund and the Cabinet paper set out the eight key points and principles, and the split of this £6m fund is: £2m for Creative City Grants; £2m Celebrating Communities, which is the ward funding programme; £1m to support physical activity initiatives; £500,000 to support Stronger Communities programmes and £500,000 to support learning and youth engagement.
- 11.5 Members learned about the Creative City Fund grants, including the programme aims and the grants process. There are 107 projects being part of the Birmingham 2022 Festival which was launched on 28th February 2022. The next steps include identifying gaps and opportunities, so that more residents are engaged.
- 11.6 Members of the Committee were encouraged to share with the CWG team specific projects that community organisations have approached them about in their areas, and opportunities for organisations to get involved via the £6m Community Fund.
- 11.7 As part of the Legacy and Community Engagement update, Members also were interested to receive an update on progress with the Bring the Power Youth Programme (referred to in the Children and Families directorate update above). Covid restrictions impacted on the way the programme was initially delivered but the design of the programme has been youth-led. Early successes of the programme include 78 young people being part of the launch of the Queen's Baton Relay at Buckingham Palace. Work includes running more school festival days, amplifying athlete and mascot visits to schools, and on the 7th March 2022, they ran a headteachers' conference.
- 11.8 Details of the Common Ground Grant, whereby £80,000 has been allocated, enabling every secondary school to apply for a grant of £1,000 to participate in the project, was provided. A launch celebration event at the Lighthouse youth hub took place on the 24th February 2022 which was well attended by local young people and their families. Details of Games-related projects being delivered by the Youth Service were highlighted, including six weeks intensive Commonwealth Games themed activities focussing on sport, music and learning about the wider Commonwealth. The Youth City Board Panel has very much shaped the programme.
- 11.9 Members had the opportunity to delve deeper into specific areas and sought reassurances on the inclusion of all children such as those in alternative provision like the Pupil Referral Unit or the Virtual School for Children in Care and were reassured to learn that they are also working with the Children's Trust who are keen to link in with the programmes for children and young people known to the Trust.
- 11.10 Especially since the advent of the pandemic, Members have been concerned about the mental health and wellbeing of young people, so were pleased to hear this is a

priority and they are working with a local boxing organisation to deliver workshops on mental wellbeing.

- 11.11 The second round of applications for the Celebrating Communities fund concludes at the end of March 2022 and Members of the Committee were encouraged to feed back to the team on experiences of applying to aid the evaluation process. It was acknowledged the approach had been inconsistent on the initial round and lessons learnt is to be picked up in a full process evaluation. More information and clarity were requested, especially in relation to Members' responsibilities and Members were informed that their responsibilities are to champion the fact that the fund was there and to encourage local organisations to apply.
- 11.12 Members also received an update on the delivery of commissioned activity from the Commonwealth Games Community Fund encouraging residents to become more active. The Active Wellbeing Society (TAWS) had been commissioned to deliver 70 active streets across Birmingham and Sport Birmingham in partnership with Inspire Activity will be delivering 8 Community Games across the city this summer, as well as working to support local community sports groups through the 'Club Together' initiative. In addition to this, funding will also be used to support the development of the City of Nature Alliance and help them to deliver a pilot project focusing on delivering the Birmingham Fair Standard in parks across the city. This ties in with the City of Nature report which was recently approved at Cabinet. Members were keen to help to disseminate information amongst colleagues on this and the Celebrating Communities Fund.
- 11.13 The Birmingham Voluntary Service Council (BVSC) has been secured as the lead anchor organisation to oversee the distribution of £500,000 under the Stronger Communities Fund, and they have a Community Investment Framework for inclusive commissioning. Initiatives include heritage trails, a digital record and story project looking at heritage, migration and community activism, regenerating the Peace Garden, inspiring future leaders from under-represented groups, and Getting Communities Talking through a range of activities.

12. Conclusion

- 12.1 This has been a fascinating Committee for all the members who have been privileged to sit on it over the past four years and we have been proud to play our part in championing the city as the Proud Host City for the 2022 Commonwealth Games, but also in holding the Executive and Leadership Team to account in ensuring they deliver the best Games for the city but also derive the strongest and longest-lasting legacies they can across all Directorates for all communities.
- 12.2 We share the same aims and have contributed to its delivery by bringing information transparently into the public arena, by being bold and asking questions and by committing to revisit and review the evaluation of the success of the legacy that comes out of such an opportunity.
- 12.3 There are 135 days to go to the opening ceremony – let's Be Bold Birmingham!