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### **Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3)**

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**Time and Date**

10.00 am on Wednesday, 21st September, 2016

**Place**

Committee Rooms 2 and 3 - Council House

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**Public Business**

1. **Apologies and Substitutions**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Minutes** (Pages 3 - 8)
  - (a) To agree the Minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2016
  - (b) Matters Arising.
4. **Providing Transport for an Ageing Population** (Pages 9 - 12)  
Briefing Note of the Executive Director of Place
5. **Outstanding Issues**  
There are no outstanding issues.
6. **Work Programme 2016/2017** (Pages 13 - 16)  
Report of the Scrutiny Co-ordinator
7. **Any other items of public business which the Chair decides to take as matters of urgency because of the special circumstances involved**

**Private Business**

**Nil**

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Chris West, Executive Director, Resources, Council House, Coventry

Tuesday, 13 September 2016

Note: The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is Michelle Salmon / Lara Knight, Governance Services Tel: 024 7683 3065, Email: michelle.salmon@coventry.gov.uk / lara.knight@coventry.gov.uk

Membership: Councillors R Auluck, J Birdi, R Brown, M Hammon, R Lancaster, A Lucas, T Mayer, J McNicholas (Chair) and H Sweet

Notes:

1) The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is Michelle Salmon / Lara Knight, Governance Services, Tel: 024 7683 3065 / 024 7683 3237, Email: michelle.salmon@coventry.gov.uk / lara.knight@coventry.gov.uk, alternatively information about this meeting can be obtained from the following web link: <http://moderngov.coventry.gov.uk>

2) Council Members who are not able to attend the meeting should notify Michelle Salmon / Lara Knight as soon as possible and no later than an hour before the start of the meeting giving their reasons for absence and the name of the Council Member (if any) who will be attending the meeting as their substitute.

3) Scrutiny Board Members who have an interest in any item on the agenda for this meeting, but who are not Members of this Scrutiny Board, have been invited to notify the Chair by 12 noon the day before the meeting that they wish to speak on a particular item. The Member must indicate to the Chair their reason for wishing to speak and the issue(s) they wish to raise.

Please note: a hearing loop is available in the committee rooms

If you require a British Sign Language interpreter for this meeting OR if you would like this information in another format or language please contact us.

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**Coventry City Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3)**  
**held at 10.00 am on Friday, 8 July 2016**

Present:

Members:                   Councillor McNicholas (Chair)  
                                  Councillor R Auluck  
                                  Councillor J Birdi  
                                  Councillor R Brown  
                                  Councillor M Hammon  
                                  Councillor L Kelly (Substitute for Councillor Lucas)  
                                  Councillor R Lancaster  
                                  Councillor G Ridley  
                                  Councillor H Sweet

Other Members:           Councillor D Welsh (Deputy Cabinet Member for Jobs and  
                                  Regeneration)

Employees (by Directorate):

Place                       P Boulton, K Hammond, K Mawby

Resources                 G Holmes, M Salmon

Others Present:           Guy Craddock, Travel West Midlands

Apologies:                Councillor Lucas (Substitute Councillor Kelly)  
                                  Councillor O'Boyle (Cabinet Member for Jobs and  
                                  Regeneration) (By Invitation)

## **Public Business**

### **1.       Declarations of Interest**

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests made.

### **2.       Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2016 were noted.

### **3.       Public Transport in Coventry**

The Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) received a briefing note of the Executive Director of Place that provided the Board with background information on the governance, responsibilities and operation of public transport services in Coventry, to inform the select committee meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016.

Nationally, public transport included a range of different modes of travel, including heavy rail, tram and light rail, rapid transit systems, bus, taxi and cycle hire. In Coventry, public transport provision was currently primarily concentrated around bus, rail and taxi services, however the focus of the briefing note was the mass passenger carrying modes of transport, namely rail and bus.

Bus and rail services were governed by various pieces of legislation and were planned and operated by a variety of organisations and companies. The briefing note provided an overview of the major elements involved such as legislation, governance and the key bus and rail services provided to the public. It also outlined important legislative changes which may have an impact on the provision of public transport in the future.

The Board questioned officers and discussed the following issues:

- Proposals for the review of bus gates/lanes – the rationale of the review, the impact of closures/reductions on the city’s transport and income stream, the effect on the city’s Primelines, and the sourcing of data on individual City bus lanes to ensure evidence based decisions
- Members sought clarification of the Bus Alliance arrangement, the Movement for Growth Strategy under which Coventry buses operate, the Midlands Engine, Midlands Connect who were investigating future smart card opportunities, the provisions of the new Bus Bill and the obligations of the West Midlands Combined Authority Non-Constituent Members
- West Coast Mainline and HS2 – the City Council’s response to the West Coast Mainline Consultation, wholly supporting the retention of the current service level, without which the economy and jobs in the city would be affected and the potential effects of HS2 on the use of current rail services
- Key bus routes within the West Midlands area - consistency of operation of management locally and across the 28 West Midlands bus operators
- Swift Cards – the use of a pre-credited cards for travel on the West Midlands Rail and Bus Networks
- Contactless Smart Cards – Pilot in Coventry later in 2016, the adoption of this form of payment by the West Midlands by 2020 and nationally by 2022
- Hackney Carriage Vehicles Policy – condition and age of vehicles, owner responsibilities and provision of service in the City
- Bus services consultation and surveys – consultation on service changes and the use of bus surveys

The Board requested that they be provided with the following as background information for their Select Committee meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016:

- The Web Link to ‘Select Committees Under Scrutiny’
- The City Council’s Hackney Carriage Vehicles Policy
- HS2 and West Coast Mainline rail proposals for future service and passenger information
- The Coventry Rail Story
- The Air Quality Report with the recommendation from Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

The Board agreed that the Authority's proposal to review Bus Gates/Bus Lanes, including the rationale behind the proposed review/changes and the impact on the City i.e. the benefits expected by a reduction; the effect on the City's Primelines; and income issues, would be the subject of the Board's 2nd November 2016 meeting. For this meeting, Members requested that they be provided with comparable data on other Cities Bus Lane/Bus Gate provision and reviews, as background information. The Board also agreed that Councillor Innes, Cabinet Member for City Services, be invited to attend the meeting to inform the Board of her recent visit to Liverpool where they have removed bus lanes in the City.

**RESOLVED that the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) agreed that:**

- 1) **The contents of report be noted**
  - 2) **The following be identified as topic areas which require further scrutiny at the Select Committee of the Board on 21st September 2016:**
    - **HS2 and West Coast Mainline – Future Rail Service Provision**
    - **Hackney Carriage Services in the City – Policy for vehicles and service**
    - **Plans for future Bus Services – smart cards, bus alliance, routes, regional issues, movement for growth strategy, Midlands Engine, and Midlands Connect**
    - **West Midlands Combined Authority: i) Public Transport Governance - Roles of the West Midlands Combined Authority, the District and the City ii) £150m resource allocation for transport – proposed use of resource**
  - 3) **The Authority's proposed review of Bus Lanes and Bus Gates be considered by the Board at their meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016.**
4. **Delivering the Jobs and Growth Strategy - Annual Progress 2015/16**

The Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) considered a report of the Executive Director of Place that summarised the progress made to deliver the Jobs and Growth Strategy.

The Jobs and Growth Strategy for Coventry, that supported the vision and priorities of the Council Plan, was endorsed by the Council in May 2014. It articulated how the council would use its resources to make Coventry a city that supported growth, providing jobs and prosperity for local people.

The report summarised the progress made to deliver the Strategy, which was now in its second year and was performing at or above target for all measures, for the twelve month period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016.

The Economy and Jobs service, part of the City Centre and Development Division, had directly contributed to creating 1,694 new job opportunities against a target of

1,000 set for the year. £323m of business investment had also been secured for the benefit of the city, with the Council's services directly supporting 398 businesses to grow and develop.

The number of people engaging with the Council's Employment Team had far exceeded targets set with over 6,800 workless, unemployed and vulnerable adults and young people accessing employment support in the past 6 months. 1,844 people who had engaged with the services provided had progressed into work. This was a significant achievement. The majority of these individuals were engaging through the Council's city centre Job Shop located in Bull Yard.

The Board questioned officers and discussed the following issues:

- European Funding Support – concerns about projects currently funded, future funding proposals, bidding for resources, timescales for changes and the effects on projects
- Business Rates – consultation and propose changes to the rating system. Scrutiny to have input to Consultation.
- Performance Targets - outcomes and future target setting
- New data base – to capture more detail about clients, providing better intelligence. Future reports to include data from the new data base.
- NEETS – Employment opportunity take-up by NEETS and difficulties in tracking young people, particularly 16-19 year olds
- 'Better-off' assessments – ensuring clients select best employment options and discourages poorly paid/extremely short term employment options
- Zero Hour Contracts – Officers confirmed that the City Council does not operate any zero hour contracts, does not encourage businesses to operate zero hour contracts, does not recommend zero hour contracts to clients and always offer to find alternatives and provide 'Better Off' calculations to discourage take-up of these contracts
- Apprenticeships – Links with employers offering/encouraging the offer of apprenticeships, Shared Apprenticeship in place, Council apprenticeships

The Board requested that European Funding issues be considered by Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee and that they be provided with the following:

- The notes of the Local Government Association Business Rates Seminar be circulated to Members of the Board. Item to go to Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee over the Summer
- Information on apprenticeship take-up in the City
- Information on the letting and use of the 20, 50,000 square foot industrial units at Lythalls Lane
- Information on Office for Low Emission Vehicles

**RESOLVED that the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) agreed:**

- 1) That the progress made by the Jobs and Growth Strategy for Coventry in Year 2 from April 2015 – March 2016 be endorsed**

- 2) That Scrutiny be involved in the City Council's Response to the Business Rates consultation and that Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee be requested to consider this matter, with Members of the Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board (1) and Business, economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) invited to attend for this item.
- 3) That the following recommendations be forwarded to Cabinet for consideration:
  - i) That consideration be given to an increase in resource to the Economy and Jobs Services Service to enable them to maximise their outcomes
  - ii) That targets for the Economy and Jobs Service be reviewed on a six monthly basis to take account of the changing climate for jobs and growth
  - iii) Data from new database be included in next report on clients progress
- 4) That a six month progress report of the Economy and Jobs Service be submitted to the Board in January 2017

5. **Work Programme 2016/2017, Select Committee and Task and Finish Groups**

The Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) received a briefing note of the Scrutiny Co-ordinator that sought to formally establish the Board's task and finish groups, agree the work programme and timescales, and to adopt a Select Committee approach for consideration of public transport issues, for the ensuing year.

At the informal meeting of the Board on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2016, Members considered areas of work and the approach they would like to take to scrutinise the issues identified. The issues included: Public Transport; Tourism and Marketing; European Funding; Digital for Business; and Refreshed Green Space Strategy. They also agreed to receive reports on the MIPIM 2016 Conference; Progress on Selective Licensing; Progress on the Jobs and Growth Strategy.

They established a proposed work programme and timescales and agreed that they wanted to look at several items in more depth through task and finish groups and a select committee. They agreed that Task and Finish Groups would be established for: Tourism and Marketing; European Funding; Digital for Business; and Refreshed Green Space Strategy; and there would be a select committee approach to Public Transport.

Following a presentation and briefing note on the Digital Coventry Strategy at the meeting of the Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board (1) on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2016, the Board had agreed to establish a Task and Finish Group to have input to and shape the Digital Coventry Strategy. Members of the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) agreed that, as they were also proposing to establish a Task and Finish Group for digital issues, these should be a combined Group of both Boards.

**RESOLVED that the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) agreed to:**

**1) The establishment the following task and finish groups with memberships as follows:**

**i) Greenspace Strategy – Councillors Auluck (Chair), Hammon and McNicholas**

**ii) European Issues – Councillor Dr Auluck, Lucas (Chair) and Ridley**

**iii) Tourism and Marketing – Councillors Dr Auluck, Hammon and McNicholas (Chair)**

**2) That proposals to establish a task and finish group to consider ‘Digital for Business’ now be a joint task and finish group with Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board (1), who have already established a similar Group, with membership as follows: Councillors Brown, McNicholas and Ridley from Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) and Councillors Kelly and Thay already appointed to the Group by the Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board (1) (Chair to be confirmed)**

**3) A select committee approach to consider public transport issues.**

**4) The work programme, attached as an appendix to the briefing note.**

**5) Receive recommendations from the task and finish groups for the appropriate Cabinet Members, at subsequent meetings.**

**6. Outstanding Issues**

There were no outstanding issues.

**7. Any other items of public business which the Chair decides to take as matters of urgency because of the special circumstances involved**

There were no other items of public business.

For future meetings, this item would be used to monitor progress on agreed actions and recommendations of the Board.

(Meeting closed at 12.25 pm)





Coventry City Council

## Briefing note

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**To Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3)**

Date 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016

**Subject – Providing transport for an ageing population**

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### **1 Purpose of the Note**

To provide Scrutiny Board 3 with a brief guide to the transport solutions to support the mobility and independence of an ageing population, to inform a future select committee meeting.

### **2 Recommendations**

Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board are recommended:

- (i) To note the contents of the report;
- (ii) To identify and agree topic areas which require further scrutiny at a future select committee.

### **3 Information/Background**

- 3.1 In 2015 Coventry's population was estimated to be 345,000 of which 14.3% were aged over 65. Whilst this percentage is lower than the regional and national averages, it still represents 49,000 citizens. It is projected that by 2039 the number of over 65's in Coventry will have increased by nearly 50% to number 73,000. On the one hand this is a positive indicator of improved health and rising life expectancies. On the other hand however it presents significant fiscal and policy challenges for local authorities in determining the most viable and cost effective transport solutions to support the mobility and quality of life of an ageing population.
- 3.2 In addition to the increasing number of older people, in 2015, 17.7% of all residents within Coventry were also living with a long term health problem or disability. Based on this figure the number of over 65's with a long term health problem or disability in 2015 was over 8,500 and by 2039 this is likely to increase to 13,000 without interventions. Given the link between increased age and health, the actual figures are likely to be higher.
- 3.3 To assist Scrutiny Board identify the topics for further scrutiny at a future Select Committee, the following is a list of transport solutions that are currently provided in Coventry for older people including those with mobility impairment:

**3.3.1 Concessionary Travel Scheme** – Provides elderly and disabled people with free travel by bus anywhere in England during off-peak times. Residents in Coventry along with the wider West Midlands are also entitled to free train and Metro travel during off-peak times, which is an additional non-statutory service. In 2015/16 the concessionary fares scheme for senior citizens and the disabled cost £55m across the whole West Midlands region and was administered by Transport for West Midlands (TfWM).

**3.3.2 Accessible Public Transport** – There is a comprehensive bus network available within Coventry which through TfWM policies encourage the use of low floor and wheelchair accessible buses designed for easy access by people with mobility issues including the elderly. Within the West Midlands about 90% of all buses are low floor and wheelchair accessible, more than any other metropolitan area outside London. All stops and shelters also have timetables and there are maps in key locations. At Pool Meadow bus station and adjacent to many stops along main routes, real-time passenger information is provided on electronic information displays, which provide details of the next buses to call at the stop including the service number, destination and the time that the bus will arrive. For passengers who are blind or partially sighted, RNIB key fobs are available which can be used to activate an audio voice message which provides the exact same information.

**3.3.3 Community Transport (including Ring and Ride)** – Consists of local passenger transport provision which is organised on a non-profit basis by voluntary organisations, community groups and other non-statutory bodies. Co-operation with local authorities is an important source of funding for many non-profit making transport providers and the Department for Transport encourages this model of working.

In line with this, TfWM provides a grant to Ring and Ride West Midlands Ltd for the provision of services in Coventry and the wider West Midlands for all people who find it physically difficult or impossible to use conventional public transport. Ring and Ride provides an on-call service to people meeting this criteria, transporting them to local amenities. The service is operated by Ring and Ride West Midlands Ltd, a charitable company limited by guarantee. Part of the grant is used to fund the purchase of the special purpose Ring and Ride Vehicles. In 2015/16 the special needs service grant administered by TfWM was £8.5m across the whole West Midlands region.

**3.3.4 Passenger Transport Services** – Delivered by the Council providing transport for over 500 passengers per day amounting to more than a quarter of a million trips each year. The service allows people to access education and learning, social care, health, employment and take an active part in everyday activities. The services include social care transport for adults with learning difficulties and older people to day care and other opportunities. Also “Routedirect” which provides flexible and personalised transport for people on mobility disability living allowance residing in the city.

The in-house transport provision is delivered via standard and accessible minibuses with 27 routes servicing four special schools, 7 college runs, and 14 routes supporting six centres for people with learning disabilities, and older people. The cost of providing this element of the service is in the region £3m per year. Further provision is provided by external providers on 36 routes costing a further £2m per year and a number of taxis are also deployed costing just under £1m per year. The majority of the in-house minibuses are utilised during the morning and in the afternoon which means that during the middle of the day they could potentially be utilised on other activities. A service review is currently underway.

**3.3.5 Taxis and private hire vehicles** – In Coventry there are over 850 taxis and nearly 200 private hire vehicles currently licensed helping to provide an important additional transport

option for elderly and disabled people as they can be booked in advance to provide a “door to door” service. All taxis in Coventry are also wheelchair accessible helping to increase the mobility of disabled citizens.

**3.3.6 Blue Badge Scheme** – Aims to help residents with severe mobility problems to access goods, services and other local amenities by allowing them to park close to their destination. In Coventry City Centre alone there are over 400 on-street parking spaces which offer free parking for blue badge holders, including over 40 dedicated disabled bays.

**3.3.7 Shop Mobility** – Aims to provide independence for people with reduced mobility to access shopping centres and other local amenities. The scheme in Coventry is based in Barracks car park and provides for the hire of mobility scooters and other equipment for mobility impaired shoppers and visitors to the city centre. The service is provided by Mobility Pathways on behalf of the Council at a cost of around £85,000 per year.

**3.4** In addition to the services that we currently provide, technological advances in the future will also offer a range of other potential transport solutions for older people and those with mobility impairment including within the emerging concept of “Mobility as a Service”:

**3.4.1 Mobility as a Service (MaaS)** – Supported by TfWM this new concept considers a traveller’s journey from end to end rather than between individual modes. It puts the traveler at the core of transport services, offering them tailor-made mobility solutions based on their individual needs. This means that, for the first time, easy access to the most appropriate transport mode or service will be included in a bundle of flexible travel service options for individual users. In short, MaaS will provide transport via a real-time personalised service that integrates all types of mobility choices and presents them to the customer in a completely integrated manner to get them from A to B as easily as possible.

In addition to conventional transport modes linked to MaaS, it may also encompass technological improvements that could assist older people when retiring from ‘conventional driving’, by providing mobility solutions that are consumed as a service. For example the use of assisted technology in cars and driverless vehicles will enable older people and those with mobility impairment to continue driving safely for longer. Other linked future services may include ride-sharing, e-hailing services, bike and car sharing programmes as well as on-demand “pop-up” bus services to assist in people’s mobility.

**Paul Boulton**  
**Place Directorate**  
**Ext 2452**

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## Business, Economy and Enterprise (3)

Scrutiny Work Programme 2016/17

<b>Select Panel Work</b>
Public Transport Infrastructure
<b>Task and Finish group subjects</b>
European Funding Digital for Business Refreshed Green Space Strategy
<b>Progress Reports</b>
Selective Licensing – progress report
<b>6<sup>th</sup> July 16</b>
Public Transport background and context
<b>21<sup>st</sup> Sept 16</b>
Accessible Transport background and context
<b>12<sup>th</sup> October 16</b>
Bus Usage background and context
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> November 16</b>
Rail Story background and context Refreshed Green Space Strategy T&F Report
<b>14<sup>th</sup> December 16</b>
Select Committee – Public Transport report back
<b>18<sup>th</sup> January 17</b> <b>22<sup>nd</sup> March 17</b>
Digital for Business T&F report back Tourism and Marketing T&F report back

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
<b>Select Panel Work</b>	Public Transport Infrastructure	To look in more detail at the transport infrastructure of the city. Maybe link with the LEP single infrastructure plan for Coventry and Warwickshire and the devolved powers as part of the Combined Authority. Consider the relationship with the business sector. To include service providers, commissioners and users as witnesses.	Cllr O'Boyle Colin Knight Paul Boulton Rebecca Young
<b>Task and Finish group subjects</b>	European Funding	To consider the European funding that supports projects in Coventry. The findings and recommendations will be fed into Scruco	
	Digital for Business	To consider in more detail the work that the Council is doing to support high-speed connectivity, for both domestic and commercial users. This is a joint piece of work with SB1	Cllr O'Boyle Rebecca Young David Cockroft
	Refreshed Green Space Strategy	The Green Space Strategy will be refreshed. Members wanted to ensure <b>that recommendations made as a result of the Parks task and finish group were included in the Strategy, as agreed by the Cabinet Member.</b>	Graham Hood Cllr Caan
<b>Progress Reports</b>	Selective Licensing – progress report	Following the acceptance of the recommendations from the T&F group on selective licensing <b>Members requested the outcome of the consultation is considered by scrutiny before a final decision is made.</b>	Helen Caves/Marcus Fothergill Cllr O'Boyle
<b>6<sup>th</sup> July 16</b>	Public Transport background and context	A briefing note providing the current position and background to public transport in the city to prepare Members for the select panel in September	Nigel Mills Cllr O'Boyle
<b>21<sup>st</sup> Sept 16</b>	Accessible Transport background and context	A briefing note providing the current position and background to accessible transport in the city to prepare Members for the select panel in the new year	Andrew Walster
<b>12<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Bus Usage background	A briefing note providing the current position and	Colin Knight

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
16	and context	background to bus usage in the city to prepare Members for the select panel in the new year	
2 <sup>nd</sup> November 16	Rail Story background and context	A briefing note providing the current position and background to Coventry rail story to prepare Members for the select panel in the new year	Colin Knight
	Refreshed Green Space Strategy T&F Report	The Green Space Strategy will be refreshed. Members wanted to ensure <b>that recommendations made as a result of the Parks task and finish group were included in the Strategy, as agreed by the Cabinet Member.</b>	Graham Hood Cllr Caan
14 <sup>th</sup> December 16	Select Committee – Public Transport report back	Report back on the evidence provided at the public transport select committee in September	Cllr O’Boyle Colin Knight
18 <sup>th</sup> January 17			
22 <sup>nd</sup> March 17	Digital for Business T&F report back		
	Tourism and Marketing T&F report back		

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