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Agenda

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

Time and Date

10.00 am on Wednesday, 19th February, 2020

Place

Committee Room 3 - Council House

Public Business

- 1. Apologies and Substitutions
- 2. Declarations of Interest
- 3. **Minutes** (Pages 3 8)
 - (a) To agree the minutes of the previous meeting held on 5th February 2020
 - (b) Matters Arising
- 4. **Bus Innovation in Coventry** (Pages 9 10)

Briefing Note of the Scrutiny Co-ordinator

Councillors J O'Boyle and D Welsh, Cabinet Member and Deputy Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration and Councillors Hetherton and Lloyd, Cabinet Member and Deputy Cabinet Member for City Services have been invited to the meeting for the consideration of this item along with Councillor P Akhtar, who, along with Councillor Welsh, are the Council's representatives on the West Midlands Combined Authority Transport Delivery Committee.

Representatives from National Express and Transport for West Midlands have also been invited to attend

5. Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee Work Programme 2019/2020 and Outstanding Issues (Pages 11 - 16)

Report of the Scrutiny Co-ordinator

6. Any Other Items of Public Business

Any other items of public business which the Chair decides to take as a matter of urgency because of the special circumstances involved.

Private Business

Nil

Martin Yardley, Deputy Chief Executive (Place), Council House Coventry

Tuesday, 11 February 2020

- Notes:1) The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is Liz Knight, Democratic Services, Council House, Coventry, telephone 7697 2644, alternatively E-mail: suzanne.bennett@coventry.gov.uk/liz.knight@coventry.gov.uk
 - 2) Council Members who are not able to attend the meeting should notify Liz Knight no later than 9.00 a.m. on the day 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 report referred to this meeting, but who are not Members of this Committee, have been invited to notify the Chair by 12 noon on 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.

Membership: Councillors N Akhtar, A Andrews, R Brown (Chair), J Clifford, L Kelly (Deputy Chair), J McNicholas, G Ridley, K Sandhu and R Singh

By invitation: Councillors P Akhtar, P Hetherton, G Lloyd, J O'Boyle and D Welsh

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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Agenda Item 3

<u>Coventry City Council</u> <u>Minutes of the Meeting of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee held at 10.00 am on</u> Wednesday, 5 February 2020

Present:

Members: Councillor R Brown (Chair)

Councillor N Akhtar
Councillor A Andrews
Councillor J Clifford
Councillor J McNicholas
Councillor G Ridley
Councillor K Sandhu
Councillor R Singh

Other Member: Councillor P Akhtar

Employees:

D Ashmore, People Directorate N Hart, People Directorate G Holmes, Place Directorate C Knight, Place Directorate L Knight, Place Directorate M McGinty, People Directorate

G Quinton, Deputy Chief Executive (People)

P Shingadia, Place Directorate

Other representatives: Pete Bond, Transport for West Midlands (TfWM)

Chris Gibbens, National Express (NX)

Martin Hancock, NX Nikki Houghton, NX Andy Thrupp, TfWM

Apologies: Councillors L Kelly, J O'Boyle and D Welsh, Cabinet Member

and Deputy Cabinet Member

Public Business

48. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

In relation to Minute 50 below, headed 'Bus Provision in Coventry', Councillor Andrew referred to his employment at West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA). He remained in the meeting for the consideration of this item.

49. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 18th December 2019 and 8th January 2020 were agreed and signed as true records.

Further to Minute 43 concerning the 'Coventry Community Safety Plan' the Chair, Councillor Brown, had sent a letter to Cllr AS Khan requesting that the Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee (or their nominee) be included in the membership of the Coventry Police and Crime Board. Councillor Khan had since responded informing that the membership of the Board was adequate.

50. Bus Provision in Coventry

The Committee considered a briefing note of the Director of Transportation and Highways which provided a summary of existing bus service provision in Coventry with a specific focus on the city's current bus network; how services were managed; commerciality; contract services and core statistics in relation to bus service reliability, patronage and quality. Councillor P Akhtar, one of the Council's two representatives on the West Midlands Combined Authority Transport Delivery Committee attended the meeting for the consideration of this item. Chris Gibbens, Martin Hancock and Nikki Houghton, National Express, and Pete Bond and Andy Thrupp, Transport for West Midlands, were also in attendance.

The briefing note indicated that the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) was the statutory Local Transport Authority for the West Midlands, including Coventry. The WMCA discharged their responsibilities through Transport for the West Midlands (TfWM). TfWM was responsible for management of bus stops and shelters, passenger information, and other bus related infrastructure such as the Pool Meadow Bus Station, as well as the management of contracted (non-commercial) bus services.

Overall bus usage within Coventry was around 28 million passenger journeys a year, which has remained fairly constant over the last few years. In Coventry, bus punctuality (the percentage of services operating no more than 1 minute early and 5 minutes late) was 82% in 2017/18 and 80% in 2018/19, which was slightly above the West Midlands average. The nationally average was 83%.

There were currently 8 bus operators with regular services within Coventry. However, over 90% of the mileage was operated by National Express Coventry who, excluding school routes, operated 19 distinct services within the area. Stagecoach operated seven services, De Courcey operated four, Diamond, Johnsons and Community Transport each operated two, whilst Arriva and A&M Travel each operated one service. Across the city, there were a total of 1,400 bus stops, 62 of which provided real-time service information to passengers. The briefing note included a map of the National Express network and detailed the latest significant changes to be introduced on the network.

The briefing note highlighted how the City Council worked closely with TfWM and local bus companies to ensure that services reflected local needs as closely as possible and identified and pursued potential investment and funding opportunities for improvements to the bus network and associated facilities. Recent examples of successful funding bids included the Ultra-Low Emission Bus Scheme, with a funding bid led by the City Council with support from TfWM and National Express. The Committee was informed that TfWM was preparing a series of Network Development Plans (NDPs) across the West Midlands setting out initial thoughts on how the bus network in each area needed to develop to support growth in the region.

Reference was made to subsidised bus routes. Where commercial operators did not provide a bus service link that was deemed to be socially necessary then it could be subsidised. The decision on which services were eligible for subsidy was taken by TfWM.

The briefing note indicated that figures taken from the city's most recent household survey showed that the car remained the dominant mode of travel. Detailed information was provided on the different modes of transport used on journeys in and out of the city centre. Regionally and nationally bus use had been declining at a much faster rate than in Coventry. In relation to bus service reliability, data comparing scheduled timetable and actual journey times on the routes 20 and 9 was highlighted.

Information was provided on private operator investment. National Express had invested heavily in renewing its bus fleet over the last few years, with the introduction of the Platinum branded buses on some core routes. Successful joint funding bids between the City Council, TfWM and National Express had also provided the funding to allow all the current fleet to have the necessary modifications to improve bus engines to EuroVI, which is the best environmental standard for current diesel engines. The other bus operators in Coventry have also invested in recent years with brand new buses being introduced onto some bus routes. The bus engine retrofit programme had now been extended to these other operators, meaning that by 2021 all buses operating public services within the city will be Euro VI or better in standard.

Punctuality and frequency of services remained a key focus for Coventry City Council, TfWM and the bus operators. New links are being considered to the University Hospital and Westwood Business Park as well as faith centres and health services.

The Committee were informed about the subsidised bus contracts and the funding levy which formed part of the West Midlands Devolution deal.

The briefing note referred to recent funding bids. In particular, in September 2019 Government announced further plans to invest up to £50 million in establishing at least one electric bus town or city. This would see a town or city's entire bus fleet changed over to zero emission vehicles, with Government money supporting the purchase of new vehicles and the development of supporting infrastructure. The Government had said that they would shortly be seeking expressions of interest from local authorities, but further details of the scheme had yet to be published. Such publication was expected imminently.

The Coventry UK City of Culture 2021 was forecast to generate around 2.5 million visits to the city and would see a significant increase in travel demand to and from the city, especially around the major events expected to attract larger audiences. A transport strategy was under development in partnership with the City of Culture Trust, and it was anticipated that the bus would play an important role in getting people to and from events within the city. Bus based Park and Ride was being considered as part of the transport strategy alongside potential enhancement of existing public bus services and the role that longer-distance coach travel could

also play in getting people to and from the city. Investment in the improvement of Pool Meadow Bus Station has already been identified as an important issue.

Members questioned the officers and representatives on a number of issues and responses were provided, matters raised included:

- Although bus usage had flatlined in Coventry over recent years, there had also been a considerable population increase during this time so was the service meeting expectations
- A concern about customer service in relation to dealing with a twitter complaint from a resident about bus stops being continually missed out
- Clarification about the impact of the Council's decision relating to the removal of bus lanes
- The impact of climate change and the need to introduce improvements to the service to encourage more people to use public transport
- The requirement for additional measures/ services in relation to the expected 2.5m visitors coming to Coventry during City of Culture 2021
- Information about the role of the West Midlands Combined Authority Transport Delivery Group
- Whether there were any penalties incurred if buses did not run on time
- Details about cross boundary travel ie from Coventry to Leicestershire or Warwickshire and the impacts for passengers
- Further information about how service changes were managed including consultations and timescales
- A suggestion that it should be cheaper to use public transport rather than making a car journey
- An update on what was happening with the Ring and Ride Service
- Information about the number of subsidised bus routes in the city
- Details about the funding levy
- The suggestion that reregulation would allow for improved services and how could the Council contribute to the current review
- Details about public/ private investment and how this related to journey times and improvements in carbon emissions
- Information about the successes of the Platinum buses
- A suggestion that bus travel needed to be more convenient than making a car journey.

A further item on bus innovation was to be considered by the Committee at their next meeting on 19th February. It was decided that in addition to the original information requested, the following information be provided for this meeting:

- i) Framework of options under the Bus Services Act 2017 and how Coventry could input into the current review
- ii) Breakdown of the levy, ie the specific costs for Coventry
- iii) Detailed statistics for the recently introduced platinum bus service (12/12x)
- iv) Infrastructure solutions to assist bus travel to be more convenient than the car.

RESOLVED that the contents of the briefing note and the arrangements for the follow up meeting on 19th February to discuss 'Bus Innovation in Coventry' be noted.

51. Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge - Progress Report

The Committee considered a briefing note of the Deputy Chief Executive (People) which outlined the progress made against the recommendations from the Council's Corporate Peer Challenge that took place between 9th and 12th October 2018. At the time of the Peer Challenge it was agreed that the delivery of actions in response to the recommendations would be monitored by Scrutiny Coordination Committee, as well as being monitored through the One Coventry Change Board and the Strategic Management Board. Appendices to the briefing note set out the Corporate Peer Challenge Feedback Report and the Council's Self-Assessment Document

The briefing note indicated that the focus of the visit had been to look at how the Council understood its place and set priorities; the leadership and governance; financial planning; and the capacity to deliver on what it set out to achieve. The Peer Team were also asked to look at the approach to housing and homelessness; readiness for UK City of Culture 2021; how the Council made the most of social value in its capital projects; and the One Coventry approach.

During the Peer Challenge week, the Peer Team found that there were some areas where further work was needed. These were set out in the Feedback Report. The Council developed an action plan in response with progress being monitored by the Peer Challenge Delivery Group, which involved a range of officers across the Council. An updated position statement was produced in January 2020 as a self-assessment of the progress made since October 2018. The document also provided an overview of the next steps including future challenges.

The briefing note provided a summary of progress against the following 10 recommendations:

a) Prioritising action to tackle homelessness by:

Replacing expensive bed and breakfast with cheaper temporary accommodation options

Increasing the supply of social rented and affordable private rented accommodation so it exceeds projected temporary accommodation demand

Making greater use of peer or external challenge to continue to develop our response

- b) Ensuring the work to deliver against the projected balanced budget position for 2019/20 is successfully concluded
- c) Learning from other public sector best practice on industrial relations, pay and reward models and HR policy and practice
- d) Taking the opportunity to enhance the way the Council communicates with residents and delivers customer service
- e) Driving the digital agenda harder and faster
- f) Being mindful of those staff who have not yet benefitted from changes to ways of working and accommodation and responding to the thirst amongst staff for knowledge and input
- g) Hard-wiring the legacy and inclusive growth potential of the City of Culture and the cultural strategy
- h) Determining what 'One Coventry' is and the role it can play helping the city and the Council respond to the challenges being faced

- i) Taking forward the recognised need for a shared vision for working in partnership across the Council and the city
- j) Strengthening delivery of the change programme to support the transformation agenda.

The Committee noted that although good progress had been made in some areas, it was important that the completion of the action plan continued, to enable as much progress to be made as possible before the Peer Team follow-up visit. This visit was currently expected to take place in autumn 2020, within 2 years of the original Corporate Peer Challenge. The timing of the visit would be determined by the Council. The Council would also need to decide where the Peer Team would focus their efforts. The focus would be agreed by the Senior Management Board.

Members questioned the officers on a number of issues and responses were provided, matters raised included:

- The need for more focus to be given to issues which cut across Scrutiny Boards with particular reference to the One Coventry approach
- A concern about the lack of communication with Councillors and residents with respect to City of Culture and the need for local involvement with the development of events
- A concern that under the issue of homelessness, there was no mention of the housing first approach
- The importance of local firms being able to benefit from any regeneration works
- Details about other peer reviews, the recent scrutiny review and the forth coming review of Communications.

RESOLVED that the progress made and areas still to be addressed in response to the recommendations included in the Corporate Peer Challenge Feedback report be noted.

52. Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee Work Programme 2019/2020 and Outstanding Issues

The Committee considered their work programme for the current municipal year.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) The work programme be noted.
- 2) Consideration of City Centre South Progress (including an update on Ikea) and Climate Change Emergency at the meeting on 4th March be supported.

53. Any Other Items of Public Business

There were no additional items of public business.

(Meeting closed at 12.10 pm)



Briefing note

To: Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

Date: 19th February 2020

Subject: Bus Innovation

1 Purpose of the Note

1.1 To provide members of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee with some background information for consideration of an item on Bus Innovation

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee are recommended to:
 - Consider the information discussed and agreed at their meeting on the 5th February 2020
 - 2) Consider the information presented at the meeting on the 19th February 2020
 - 3) Identify any recommendations for the appropriate Cabinet Member or appointed representatives on partner organisations

3 Background and Information

- 3.1 At their meeting on the 5th February, Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee considered an item on Bus Provision in Coventry.
- 3.2 Members heard from and questioned representatives from Transport for West Midlands (TfWM), National Express and Council officers.
- 3.3 Members questioned the officers and representatives on a number of issues and responses were provided. Matters raised included:
 - Although bus usage had flatlined in Coventry over recent years, there had also been a considerable population increase during this time so was the service meeting expectations
 - Clarification about the impact of the Council's decision relating to the removal of bus lanes
 - The impact of climate change and the need to introduce improvements to the service to encourage more people to use public transport
 - The requirement for additional measures/ services in relation to the expected
 2.5m visitors coming to Coventry during City of Culture 2021
 - Information about the role of the West Midlands Combined Authority
 Transport Delivery Group
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- An update on the Ring and Ride Service
- The suggestion that re-regulation would allow for improved services and how could the Council contribute to the current review
- A suggestion that bus travel needed to be more convenient than making a car journey.
- 3.4 Following discussions at the meeting, Members requested further information on:
 - Framework of options under the Bus Services Act 2017 and how Coventry could input into the current review
 - Breakdown of the levy, i.e. the specific costs for Coventry
 - Detailed statistics for the recently introduced platinum bus service (12/ 12x)
 - Infrastructure solutions to assist bus travel to be more convenient than the car.
- 3.5 At the meeting on 19th February, Members will also receive a presentation covering the following:
 - Opportunity to improve services frequency/routes
 - Opportunity to reduce the environmental impact of buses
 - Opportunities to increase use of digital for improved customer service and links with 5G
 - Innovation
 - Work being undertaken with City of Culture

Gennie Holmes Scrutiny Co-ordinator 024 7697 1857 gennie.holmes@coventry.gov.uk

Agenda Item 5

SCRUCO Work Programme 2019/20

19th February 2020

Please see page 2 onwards for background to items

19th June 2019

Health and Well-being Strategy – consultation

17th July 2019

Introduction to Coventry's Climate Change Strategy

One Coventry Plan Annual Performance Report 2018-19

Draft Scrutiny Annual Report 2018-19

16th October 2019 (moved from 9th October)

City of Culture 2021

WMCA - Mayors Question time

6th November 2019

"Keeping young people safe in our city"

4th December 2019

Community Safety Partnership Action Plan

West Midlands Police Updated

18th December 2019

Culture Coventry Trust

Commercial Activities Supporting Parks Infrastructure

8th January 2020

Proposed Equality Objectives 2020-2022

Friargate Development Progress Update

5th February 2020

Bus provision in Coventry

LGA peer challenge recommendations

19th February 2020

Bus Innovation in Coventry

4th March 2020

City Centre South -progress

Climate Change Emergency

25th March 2020

Culture Coventry Trust

1st April 2020 (additional date)

Hate Crime Strategy Action Plan

Modernising Domestic Violence Abuse Services and Sexual Violence and Abuse Services

Briefing note updates - not required at a meeting

Prevent Strategy

Emergency Planning and Resilience - 2021 and climate change

2020-21

Improving consultation and engagement with residents

FGM

Outside Bodies

Private Rented Sector

Welfare Reform Working Together Group – progress report

City of Culture – security arrangements and emergency planning

City of Culture 2021

Selective and Additional Licensing

St. Michael's PSPO (July 2020)

Friargate Progress Report

Commercial Activities Supporting Parks Infrastructure

Equalities Objectives

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
19 th June 2019	Health and Well-being Strategy – consultation	Consultation on the draft strategy. Possibly to include SB5.	Debbie Dawson Cllr Caan
17 th July 2019	Introduction to Coventry's Climate Change Strategy	An overview of the Council's position in terms of action to address climate change.	Sarah Watson, Andy Williams Cllrs O'Boyle, Caan, Hetherton
	One Coventry Plan Annual Performance Report 2018- 19	The Council Plan, One Coventry, sets out Coventry City Council's vision and priorities for the city. Scrutiny Coordination Committee are asked to consider the Council's performance, identify any issues they may wish to raise to Cabinet and identify areas that Scrutiny Coordination Committee or other Scrutiny Boards may wish to address as part of this year's scrutiny work programme.	
	Draft Scrutiny Annual Report 2018-19	To receive, comment on, and approve, a draft of the Scrutiny Annual Report prior to it going to Council.	Vicky Castree, Gennie Holmes
16 th October 2019 (moved from 9 th October)	City of Culture 2021	To receive an update on plans for 2021, as agreed at the meeting on 27/2/19.	Cllr Duggins Martin Reeves David Nuttall
	WMCA - Mayors Question time	Feedback from Mayoral Question time.	Cllr Brown and Cllr Kelly
6 th November 2019	"Keeping young people safe in our city"	To look in more detail about how a partnership approach can reduce knife crime and gang culture – 6-month review of the Coventry Violence Reduction Board	Liz Gaulton/John Gregg/Kirston Nelson/ WMP
4 th December 2019	Community Safety Partnership Action Plan	To look in detail at the action plan for the Community Safety Partnership (Helen Kirkman), Kirstie (probation), Meenjit Panglie, Craig	Craig Hickin Cllr AS Khan
	West Midlands Police Updated	An update on progress on local policing.	Cllr AS Khan Craig Hickin Mike O'Hara (WMP)

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
1 st April 2020 (additional date)	Hate Crime Strategy Action Plan	To look at the detail of the Hate Crime Strategy Action Plan, as agreed at SCRUCO on 6th February 2019.	Craig Hicken
	Modernising Domestic Violence Abuse Services and Sexual Violence and Abuse Services	Further progress on the contract awarded in 2019. To include performance data.	Cllr AS Khan
Briefing note updates – not required at a meeting	Prevent Strategy	To receive an update on the Prevent Strategy and duties associated with it.	Chief Superintendent Danny Long Geoff Thomas
	Emergency Planning and Resilience - 2021 and climate change	Following the item in October 2017, SCRUCO requested that an item on Emergency Planning and Resilience is brought to the Board annual to enable them to review the arrangements in the city to minimise risks, respond to emergencies, ensure effective communication and provide reassurance.	Michael Enderby Cllr Duggins
2020-21	Peer Review Progress Monitoring	Following the agreement at Cabinet on the 8th January, it was agreed that Scruco would monitor progress on the delivery of the actions plan arising from the Peer Review. To brief Cllr Brown on action plan first.	Michelle McGinty Cllr Duggins
	Improving consultation and engagement with residents		Helen Shankster Si Chun Lam
	FGM	Progress report following last year's report	Liz Gaulton
	Housing First	Refer to SB4	
	Outside Bodies	Scruco can identify which of the Outside Bodies Members are appointed to that they have reports from	Adrian West
	Private Rented Sector	To cover issues raised as part of the One Coventry Plan including high rents, fuel poverty and freeing up of student	Cllr T Khan Adrian Chowns

SCRUCO Work Programme 2019/20

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
		homes for local families. Student housing – suggestion from member of the public.	
	Welfare Reform Working Together Group – progress report	To hear on the work of the WRWTG and their progress on mitigating the impact of welfare reform across the city	Tina Wukics
	City of Culture – security arrangements and emergency planning	As requested following their meeting on 16th October, the Committee wanted to look at security and emergency planning arrangements for the City of Culture 2021	Andy Williams Cllr Duggins
	City of Culture 2021	Following their meeting on the 16 th October, the Committee requested regular updates on progress	Andy Williams Cllr Duggins
	Selective and Additional Licensing	Following Scruco's input into the consultation process, Members requested a progress 12 months following implementation.	Adrian Chowns Cllr T Khan
	St. Michael's PSPO (July 2020)	Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee requested a progress report in 6 months-time, including data, to monitor the effectiveness of the order.	Craig Hickin Liam Nagel Cllr AS Khan
	Friargate Progress Report	Following their meeting on 8 th January 2020, Members requested a further update 2020/2021	Adam Hunt/ Richard Moon Cllr O'Boyle
	Commercial Activities Supporting Parks Infrastructure	A progress item to scrutinise progress on this following the meeting on 18.12.19.	Andrew Walster
	Equalities Objectives	Members requested to consider the annual report to the Cabinet Member on progress on the Equalities Objectives	Jaspal Mann/ Robina Nawaz Cllr AS Khan

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