



Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3)

Time and Date

2.30 pm on Wednesday, 4th November 2020

Place

This meeting will be held remotely. The meeting can be viewed live by pasting this link into your browser: <https://youtu.be/6QBoBb8PYXc>.

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 23rd September 2020
 - (b) Matters arising
4. **Very Light Rail Progress Update** (Pages 9 - 12)

Briefing Note of the Director of Transportation and Highways
5. **Coventry Local Air Quality Action Plan** (Pages 13 - 14)

Briefing Note of the Director of Transportation and Highways
6. **Work Programme 2020/2021** (Pages 15 - 18)

Report of the Director of Law and Governance
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

Julie Newman, Director of Law and Governance, Council House, Coventry
Tuesday, 27 October 2020

Note: The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is Michelle Salmon, Governance Services, Tel: 024 7697 2643, Email: michelle.salmon@coventry.gov.uk

Membership:

Councillors L Bigham, G Hayre, M Heaven, T Jandu, R Lancaster, P Male, C Miks (Chair), E Ruane and B Singh

By invitation:

Councillor J O'Boyle (Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration)

Councillor P Heatherton (Cabinet Member for City Services)

Councillor G Lloyd (Deputy Cabinet Member for City Services)

Councillor K Caan (Cabinet member for Public Health and Sport)

Councillor R Ali (Deputy Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport)

Michelle Salmon

Governance Services

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Agenda Item 3

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3)
held at 2.00 pm on Wednesday, 23 September 2020

Present:

Members: Councillor C Miks (Chair)
 Councillor L Bigham
 Councillor G Hayre
 Councillor M Heaven
 Councillor T Jandu
 Councillor R Lancaster
 Councillor P Male
 Councillor E Ruane
 Councillor B Singh

Other Members (by invitation):

Councillor J O'Boyle (Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration)
Councillor Maton (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills)
Councillor P Hetherton (Cabinet Member for City Services)
Councillor G Lloyd (Deputy Cabinet Member for City Services)

By Invitation: I Old, Job Centre Plus

Employees (by Service):

Education and Skills K Mawby
Law and Governance V Castree, G Holmes
Transportation and Highways J Shore

Apologies: There were no apologies

Public Business

41. Declarations of Interest

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests.

42. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th February 2020 were agreed as a true record.

Further to minute 34/19, Councillor Bigham requested a that a copy of the 'Trees and Development Guidelines Supplementary Planning Document' be sent to her.

There were no further matters arising.

43. **Public Realm Projects**

The Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) received a briefing note of the Director of Transportation and Highways that provided an update on progress with key City Centre Public Realm Projects. The Cabinet Member for City Services and the Deputy Cabinet Member attended for this item.

The Cabinet Member for City Services introduced the item indicating that the Public Realm works in the City were important to the regeneration of Coventry. The City Centre would flow better, there would be more trees and greenery and the experience of going to the City Centre would be improved.

Jo Shore, the Council's Head of Public Realm, gave a presentation to the Board which highlighted the following:

- The challenges which included; transforming the City ready for City of Culture 2021; creating plans that people could support; changing perceptions of Coventry; ensuring the city stayed open for business while the work was underway; creating a place all could be proud of and combining the best of the old and best of the new.
- Highlighted opportunities including City of Culture 2021 and the Commonwealth Games, which had helped with accessing grant money. An improved public realm would be an important tool for regeneration to accelerate change and maximise investment.
- A number of specific schemes were highlighted including Upper Precinct; Smithford Way and Market Way and Bull Yard. Upper Precinct was on schedule for completion in March 2021.
- Significant work was being undertaken to ensure the Heritage of the City was showcased through the public realm works.
- Lighting was being enhanced to include the Whittle Arches, the Three Spires and Greyfriars Green.
- A number of projects were in development including Greyfriars Lane, Pepper Lane, Canal Tow Path, Bayley Lane, Pool Meadow, Hertford Street and Unity Lawns.
- Wayfinders were being developed to get the City ready for visitors.
- Protective and security measures were being put into place in readiness for City of Culture.

The Board questioned officers, received responses, and discussed the following issues:

- The vision was to build connectiveness between the City Centre and the rest of the City. Work was being undertaken with Public Health to maximise the benefit of the Wayfinders and encourage people to walk/ride into the City Centre. The changes at Junction 7 would be the first example of this taking place.
- It would be great to make imaginative use of the ring road, however there were restrictions due to funding and highways regulations.
- The Coventry Point site, now clear, would be used initially for a logistics and storage area for other work taking place in the City Centre. It would then be opened up and resurfaced in line with the improvement works in Smithford Way. This would be complete by March 2021.

- An update would be provided to Members on the number of pieces of permanent public art which would be installed in the City Centre and minutes of the Public Art Gateway meeting would be requested and circulated if appropriate.
- There were plans to review vehicle access to roads which had been closed due to Covid-19, including the High Street. An update on the outcome of these discussions would be provided to Members.
- There were plans to dress the concrete blocks on The Burges.
- The flow and style of new buildings were subject to the planning process.
- The new fountains in the City Centre would be subject to a schedule of works and maintenance programme. Light and colour had been built in but not music as that required the purchase of licences at an additional cost.
- Officers would feedback to West Midlands Transport colleagues, issues around the readability of the wayfinding posts at the station.
- An App was in development to make the City accessible ahead of City of Culture. Ensuring those who do not use Apps are not excluded, was noted.
- Welcoming signs across key arrival points were being considered.
- It was challenging to get the message to residents about the work in the City Centre and the Team used a range of media to get communications out.
- There were ongoing discussions about the use of murals in the City Centre.

The Cabinet Member for City Services highlighted the importance that the public could envisage the end vision for the City Centre and that the Wayfinders would be important for helping people get the best from the City.

The Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration indicated that the City Centre needed to evolve, to get the best of the old and the best of the new, including St Mary's Guildhall and the Telegraph Hotel. The current project was the biggest capital scheme the City had seen, and others were watching us to see what we achieved.

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

- 1) Notes the contents of the briefing note and the presentation.**
- 2) Recommends that Cabinet Members further develop communication with residents on the end vision for public realm and that all Members support the dissemination of that information.**
- 3) Requested that the Board be provided with the following:**
 - a) Information on the number of public art installations which had been approved.**
 - b) The minutes of the Public Art Gateway.**
 - c) An update on the potential permanent closure of the High Street to vehicles.**

44. Employment, Skills and Training

The Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) received a Briefing Note of the Director of Education and Skills that introduced a document - Coventry Employment and Skills Priorities: Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic. The

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and a representative from Job Centre Plus attended the meeting for this item.

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills introduced the item and highlighted that the current pandemic had shown the importance of skills, including digital skills, for the population to enable them to gain employment. He reported that Coventry was well regarded by the West Midlands Combined Authority for its work on the employment, skills and training agenda.

Kim Mawby, the Council's Head of Employment and Skills, Steven Weir, the Council's Head of Economic Growth and Iona Old, gave a presentation of the Board based on the document. The presentation included the following:

- 'Coventry Employment and Skills Priorities: Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic' had been written in collaboration with key partners in the city and set out agreed employment and skills priorities for Coventry in response to Covid 19.
- Coventry's economy started in a relatively strong position when the pandemic hit with an employment rate of 77.2%, in line with the national average. Levels of youth unemployment were significantly lower than the national average and by far the lowest within the West Midlands Combined Authority area.
- The scale of job losses in the city due to the pandemic had been significant: nearly 8,000 new Universal Credit claimants, youth unemployment doubling from 2.8% to 5.7%, and 38,700 workers furloughed.
- Key challenges for the City were a high youth population that had been disproportionately affected by job losses, a low skills base and lower than average wages as well as a number of areas of deprivation.
- The document outlined priorities and actions. The priorities were; Young People (16-24); 50+ Age Group; Supporting BAME communities; Rapid Response to Redundancy; Long Term Unemployed; Supporting Those with Complex Barriers; Enabling Digital Inclusion and Mental Wellbeing and Social Isolation.
- The approach being taken to deliver action on the priorities were:
 - 1) A ONE Coventry Approach
 - 2) Flexing Resource
 - 3) Labour market tracking and rapid innovation
 - 4) Framing the Learning Landscape for the 'New Normal'
 - 5) Helping employers survive and thrive

The Board questioned officers, received responses, and discussed the following issues:

- Officers would review the unemployment data and provide information on whether particular groups, for example women, had been disproportionately affected by redundancy.
- Kickstart was a scheme for 16 to 24 year-olds, which was funded by the Department for Work and Pensions and involved a six-month placement with an employer. To apply the young person must be claiming universal credit. 163 employers had expressed an interest in participating in the scheme and there was confidence there was sufficient money to fund any employers who wanted to join. The jobs created had to be new posts and the young person

- would go through an application process. Information on confirmed placements would be circulated to Members of the Scrutiny Board.
- Digital access was a challenge – some libraries had bookable computers but there was a need to support community centres to provide digital access, including high quality WI-FI too, not only for job seekers, but also for young people needing access to online learning resources.
 - It was not possible to predict how many job losses would occur in the next six months, but it was anticipated there would be a restructuring of the labour market. An example was the move from care in care homes, to care being provided in people's homes which would require a different set of skills, which the Council and Partners would support people to gain. Office for National Statistics were predicting 15% of those on furlough would be made redundant. Unemployment figures in the City had risen from 6000 in March 2020 to 17,000 in September 2020. Regionally there were also 90,000 on furlough in Warwickshire.
 - It was anticipated that a replacement furlough scheme would be announced.
 - Schemes to support people with education, skills and training and into employment were shared throughout the City using a network of partners.
 - Additional resource had been placed in the Economic Development Team to analyse the possible outcomes of Brexit, including a no-deal.

RESOLVED that, following consideration of the Coventry Employment and Skills Priorities: Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic document, the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3):

- 1) **Supported the identified priorities and actions within the paper.**
- 2) **Requested a breakdown of unemployment data to enable Members to establish whether women had been disproportionate affected by redundancy.**
- 3) **Requested detailed information on Kickstart Scheme placements.**
- 4) **Agreed that a further update be provided to the Board during the Municipal Year 2020/2021.**

45. **Work Programme 2020/2021**

The Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) notes the Board's Work Programme for 2020/2021 and the scheduling of proposed issues for consideration at future meetings of the Board.

RESOLVED that the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) notes the Board's Work Programme for 2020/2021 and agrees that the relevant Scrutiny Board be asked to consider the inclusion of the following on their Work Programme for future meetings:

- 1) **Gigafactory**
- 2) **Climate Change**

46. **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.

47. **Outstanding Issues**

There were no outstanding issues.

(Meeting closed at 4.30 pm)

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

Date: 4th November 2020

Subject: Very Light Progress Update

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To provide the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) an update on Very Light Rail Progress since the last report in December 2019.

2 Recommendations

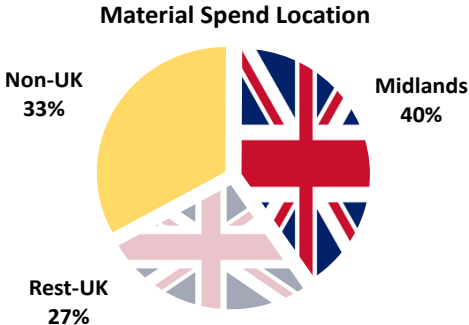
- 2.1 The Board are recommended to:
- 1) Support the ongoing delivery of the VLR Programme.
 - 2) Identify any recommendations for the Cabinet Member

3 Background and Information

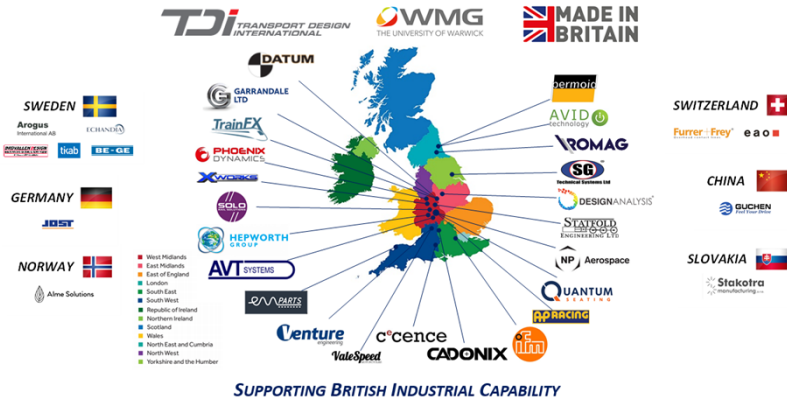
- 3.1 Since the last report, significant progress on VLR has been made, despite the challenges posed by COVID 19 and working from home.
- 3.2 This reports sets out progress made against the following work streams
- Vehicle
 - Track
 - First Route
- 3.3 Vehicle assembly is underway at NP Aerospace. Vehicle assembly commenced in July 2020 and Cllr O'Boyle visited the build site together with partners on the 19th August. The photo below shows progress made at that time:



- 3.4 The vehicle will be ready for Factory Acceptance Tests to commence in December and will move to Dudley in February 2021 to undertake 8 weeks of Site Acceptance Testing. The Dudley Innovation Centre Test Track facility and a workshop is currently under construction and is expected to be ready to receive the vehicle in early February.
- 3.5 The innovations and design within the vehicle are subject to Patent Applications which are currently underway.
- 3.6 It should be noted that TDI have sourced 67% of the supply chain for the prototype vehicle from the UK, as demonstrated by the image below:



- 3.7 The following image shows where the supply chain is located within the UK and overseas:



- 3.8 A key aspiration for the project is to ensure the product develops the manufacturing capability within the region. This will be key to the manufacturing strategy for both the vehicle and track form.

4 Track

- 4.1 Significant progress has been made on the track workstream. COVID 19 did delay the start to the track R&D whilst the partners ascertained how we would work together from remote locations. However, we were able to get into contract with our innovation partners WMG and Ingerop in May.
- 4.2 Since May, significant work has been undertaken to reach an agreed concept to take forward to detailed design. The concept to be progressed was approved at the end of September and is now in the detailed design phase, which is expected to be complete by May 21. Once the design has been approved, component testing will be initiated.

- 4.3 The track concept is subject to a Patent Application which is underway.
- 4.4 In order to build a Test Track of the new trackform to initiate integrated system testing, further funding is required. A bid to DfT is being developed to put forward a case for £8.8m investment to achieve Proof of Concept and progress the route workstream.

5 Route

- 5.1 CCC continue to progress the route workstream to develop the first route to University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire. Utilities and drainage surveys are currently underway to assess route alignment options and the team are about to commission a package of work to progress the outline design concept.
- 5.2 In addition, further feasibility work to explore a potential extension to Ansty Park has been commissioned as a Park and Ride facility could increase the Benefit to Cost Ratio of the proposed first route.
- 5.3 In parallel to the above, CCC are progressing work to develop and confirm city-wide transport objectives and future transport needs, taking into consideration last mile solutions (such as cycle super highways and e scooters) and how this will integrate with VLR. A VLR network plan will be developed over the coming months.
- 5.4 Funding to continue progress on the route workstream is required and will form part of the DfT bid, which is due to be submitted in late January 2021. To support the submission to DfT, an outline Economic Impact Assessment (EIA) detailing the benefits that VLR will deliver, through enabling R&D, mobilising a new manufacturing sector in the region and providing an attractive affordable rail based system for small cities, has been commissioned.

Name of Author: Nicola Small
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Briefing note

To: Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board 3

Date: 4th November 2020

Subject: Coventry Local Air Quality Action Plan

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To update Members of the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board on the Coventry Local Air Quality Action Plan.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board are recommended to:
- 1) Consider the content of the briefing note
 - 2) Make recommendations to the appropriate Cabinet Members to be considered as part of the Cabinet Report

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 The City Council is under Ministerial Direction to “implement the local plan for NO₂ compliance....so that compliance with the legal limit for nitrogen dioxide is achieved in the shortest possible time”. This Direction, issued in February 2020, is entitled the *Environment Act 1995 (Coventry City Council) Air Quality Direction 2020*. The Direction also requires that a Full Business Case for the local plan be submitted to the Secretary of State by 19th June 2020, although the Government’s Joint Air Quality Unit (JAQU) has agreed, in writing, to the date for FBC submission to be moved back to 31st October 2020. The information submitted at the end of October will be a draft, subject to Cabinet approval in December. This will enable JAQU to instigate their internal review processes ahead of submission of the final FBC.
- 3.2 Schedule 1 of the Direction sets out the detailed package of measures that the Minister is instructing the City Council to implement. This reflects the Council’s preference not to proceed with a Clean Air Zone. The package of measures includes a segregated cycle route between the city centre and Coundon, engagement measures with schools, businesses and local communities aimed at encouraging active and sustainable travel, and a series of highway schemes aimed at reducing congestion and facilitating dynamic traffic management on the routes into the city centre from the west. This includes Holyhead Road, where NO₂ levels are at their highest.
- 3.3 The Government has provided £24.5 million in grant funding for the implementation of this package. In addition, the Council has secured a further £5.8 million in grant funding from the West Midlands Combined Authority’s Transforming Cities Fund for the B4101 Spon End scheme, which forms one of the highway schemes within the package.
- 3.4 Engagement work undertaken on the A4600 corridor in 2018-20 (funded through early measures from JAQU) resulted in increased active travel and mode shift. In schools, car journeys for school travel reduced by 8.5%, transferred to walking, cycling and scooter. Local residents reduced single occupancy car trips by 11%, with an increase in walking and bus trips of 9%.

- 3.5 There are a range of other projects that complement this package of measures by encouraging the uptake of zero emission vehicles. These include the installation of one of the most extensive networks of electric vehicle charging points in the country, with around 250 charging points installed to date and funding being secured for a further 100. The Council has also worked with National Express and Transport for West Midlands to secure funding for ten electric buses, which entered operation within the city in August 2020. This project includes the installation of solar panels and battery storage at the bus depot, meaning that the power used to run the buses is generated on site. With regard to commercial vehicles, the Council has also secured funding from Highways England for the E-Fleet project, and is in the process of procuring 70 electric vehicles, mostly vans, that will operate as part of the Council's fleet, but will also be available for local businesses to borrow and trial on a "try before you buy" basis.
- 3.6 The main LAQAP package was approved by Cabinet on 21st July 2020 (papers <https://edemocracy.coventry.gov.uk/documents/s47594/Coventry%20Local%20Air%20Quality%20Action%20Plan.pdf>). Since then, officers have been working on the delivery programme of the package, and significant progress is being made. This can be summarised as follows.
- 3.7 The Coundon Cycle Route has been to consultation, and on 7th September 2020 the Cabinet Member for City Services approved that it be taken forward. Preparatory works are underway, and a substantive start on scheme construction is programmed for November 2020. The first phase of the scheme will be open in mid-2021.
- 3.8 The engagement programme is in development. Clearly, the impact of COVID-19 upon the operation of schools and businesses has meant that the original plan of starting the engagement programme in September 2020 has been delayed. The engagement programme will fully commence in early 2021 and will run through to March 2024, beyond compliance, to ensure behaviours are embedded for the longer term.
- 3.9 With regard to the highway schemes, Balfour Beatty has been appointed as the programme manager for these works and design work has commenced. Once detailed designs have been prepared, then there will be consultation with local communities, and at that stage there will be the opportunity for a review of the proposals and any amendments to the package of measures to be made. Substantive changes to the package will require to be submitted to Government as a variation to the package that the Council has been directed to deliver, and any such submission will need to have a robust evidence base demonstrating that the amended local plan will still achieve compliance with NO₂ legal limits within the shortest possible time.
- 3.10 The target date for delivery of the measures outlined in the local plan is March 2024, although the infrastructure measures are planned for construction well in advance of that date, with the Coundon Cycle Route being completed in mid-2021 and the remaining highway measures by late 2021 or early 2022. This timetable is dependent upon the successful completion of a range of statutory processes including land acquisition and Traffic Regulation Orders, as well as on the outcome of the consultation in early 2021.
- 3.11 In summary, the City Council is making good progress with the delivery of the package of measures contained in the local plan, in line with the Ministerial Direction. There are significant risks to the programme for delivery, and there may be a need to request approval from Government for changes to the package as the design and consultation progresses on individual schemes. The submission of the Full Business Case does, however, represent a significant milestone in the delivery of the Local Air Quality Action Plan.

John Seddon
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Agenda Item 6

Business, Economy and Enterprise (3) Work Programme 2020-21

Last updated 23/10/2020

Please see page 2 onwards for background to items

23rd September 2020
Employment, Skills and Training Public Realm Projects
4th November 2020
Very Light Rail Update on Local Air Quality Action Plan
2nd December 2020
International Trade and Overseas Markets
3rd February 2021
24th March 2021
Suggested items for 2020-21
Support to Small Businesses Retention of Graduates CWLEP Tourism Strategy 2019-2023 City Centre South Two Friargate Air Quality Strategy Action Plan Digital Skills

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
23rd September 2020	Employment, Skills and Training	To consider the priorities and actions identified to support employment, skills and training, particularly considering the effects of the coronavirus pandemic	Kim Mawby Cllr Maton
	Public Realm Projects	To look at the current public realm projects across the city, particularly in the city centre, in the lead up to City of Culture 2021 and the effects of the lockdown on progress	Jo Shore Cllr Hetherton/Cllr O'Boyle
4th November 2020	Very Light Rail	An update on progress on the development of a Very Light Rail system in Coventry	Colin Knight Nicola Small Cllr O'Boyle
	Update on Local Air Quality Action Plan	Progress on the LAQAP, including consideration of the business plan before Cabinet on 1 st December	John Seddon, Cllrs Caan, Hetherton, O'Boyle
2nd December 2020	International Trade and Overseas Markets	To include the conference reports for China and Hong Kong and Germany. To look at relationships with overseas trade, within context of Brexit. To include contribution from Chamber of Commerce	John Norton Cllr O'Boyle
3rd February 2021			
24th March 2021			
Suggested items for 2020-21	Support to Small Businesses	A further report be submitted to the Board providing an update on future funding. The report to include data on: the retention of students to live and work in the City on completion of their degree; graduate business start-ups and a measure of their success, particularly benchmarking against other cities; unsuccessful businesses and the reason for their failure, including	Stephen Weir Cllr O'Boyle

Business, Economy and Enterprise (3) Work Programme 2020-21

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
		what help the Authority gives to support them and whether there were further measures they could take to support them	
	Retention of Graduates	Representatives from Coventry University and Warwick University be invited to attend the meeting of the Board when the further report is submitted to explain what measures they take to encourage student retention for living and working in the city and the support they offer for graduate business start-ups.	Representatives from the Universities, Stephen Weir Cllr O'Boyle
	CWLEP	A further report be submitted to the Board providing an update on future funding, following the UK's departure from Europe.	Paula Deas Cllr O'Boyle
	Tourism Strategy 2019-2023	A follow up report from the meeting in July – to include information about Purple Flag status and further information on the work being undertaken externally on the promotion of the City.	Val Birchall Cllr O'Boyle
	City Centre South	Progress on development to be considered alongside the Tourism Strategy	Richard Moon Cllr O'Boyle
	Two Friargate	To consider progress on the plans for a second building at Friargate	Richard Moon Cllr O'Boyle
	Air Quality Strategy Action Plan	To keep the Board up to date on progress against actions agreed as part of the Air Quality Action Plan	John Seddon Cllr O'Boyle, Cllr Hetherington, Cllr Caan
	Digital Skills	To look in more detail at what plans are in place to increase the level of digital skills	Cllr Maton, Cllr Hetherington.

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