



Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3)

Time and Date

10.00 am on Wednesday, 12th October, 2022

Place

Committee Room 3, Council House, Coventry

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 7th September 2022.
 - (b) Matters arising
4. **Bus Update** (Pages 9 - 12)

Briefing note of the Director of Transportation and Highways
5. **City Regional Sustainable Transport Settlement** (Pages 13 - 14)

Briefing note of the Director of Transportation and Highways
6. **Work Programme and Outstanding Issues 2022/23** (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, 4 October 2022

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

Membership: Councillors A Hopkins, T Jandu, A Jobbar, R Lancaster, A Masih, R Simpson, B Singh, R Singh (Chair) and A Tucker

By invitation Councillors P Akhtar, L Bigham, J O'Boyle

Public Access

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**Caroline Taylor, Governance Services,
Email: caroline.taylor@coventry.gov.uk**

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3)
held at 10.am on Wednesday, 07 September 2022

Present:

Members of the Board: Councillor R Singh (Chair)
Councillor T Jandu
Councillor A Jobbar
Councillor R Lancaster
Councillor A Masih
Councillor R Simpson
Councillor B Singh
Councillor A Tucker

Employees (by Service):

Law and Governance V Castree, G Holmes

Business, Investment and Culture S Weir, G Famiglietti Pipola

Property Services and Development A Hunt

Transportation and Highways J Seddon

Apologies: Councillor A Hopkins
Councillor J O'Boyle (Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change)
Councillor P Hetherton (Cabinet Member for City Services)
Councillor G Lloyd (Deputy Cabinet Member for City Services)

Public Business

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2022 were agreed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

3. Overview of the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) Portfolio

The Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) received a presentation on an overview of the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) Portfolio.

The presentation highlighted the following:

- Economic Development Strategy
 - A new five year strategic framework to shape economic development in Coventry to 2027 was under development which succeeded the Economic Growth & Prosperity Strategy
 - It was one of key strategies for delivering One Coventry Plan which aimed to increase economic prosperity and tackle the causes of inequality and climate change
 - It closely aligned with the new Skills Strategy
- 2014 – 2020 European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme
 - This programme would run until 2023. There were four principles strands; CW Business Support Programme; CW Innovation Programme; CW Green Business Programme and the CW Skills 4 Growth Programme.
 - This programme will be replaced by the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) but overall less funding would be available. The fund was not operational at the time of the meeting but would be awarded by the West Midlands Combined Authority area.
- West Midlands Gigafactory
 - Outline planning permission had been achieved and would create 6,000 well-paid, highly skilled jobs and thousands more in the wider supply chain.
 - It would help to protect 105,000 jobs in the automotive industry and contribute £434 million per annum in GVA to the UK economy
 - It would further establish Coventry and Warwickshire as the centre of excellence for UK battery manufacturing
- Inward Investment
- Social Value
- Strategic City Centre Regeneration and Development Projects
 - Friargate
 - A new office led, mixed use district for the city next to Coventry Station. The site was approximately 15 hectares, and the development was being led by the Friargate Joint Venture which the Council was a 50/50 partner in
 - City Centre South
 - Significant private and public sector investment would transform a key part of the city centre. There would be approximately 1300 new homes, new retail and commercial space and new public spaces.
 - The Council were working with the developer and WMCA (£98m of grant funding) to bring forward delivery arrangements and the major developer
 - Progress was demonstrated through almost £15m of expenditure on land assembly, demolition, Planning and Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) activities to date
 - The developer anticipated being on site in late 2023.
- Transport and Innovation

- Transport Strategy Team were responsible for the Coventry Transport Strategy and policy framework, scheme development, business cases and securing funding.
- There were a number of innovative schemes being developed including Coventry Very Light Rail; Electric / Zero Emission Vehicles; Connected and Autonomous Vehicles and New transport technology
- Development Management
 - Development Management considered the transport impacts of new development, Design Standards and Development related transport schemes
 - There were a number of Major Developments which were underway including Eastern Green – A45 Junction / cycle routes; Keresley – Link Road / cycle routes; City Centre regeneration projects; University of Warwick Masterplan 2030 and the Gigafactory / Airport
 - The team were responsible for design standards including the Transport Design Guide for new development and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems
 - There was a Section 106 Programme which had secured £7.5 million for schemes with more in pipeline when triggered.

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

- The replacement for the European Social Fund would result in less funding being available to the City. The new fund would be commissioned by WMCA. The Council was making a case to WMCA as to how funding should be allocated. It was expected that the WMCA commissioning process would begin before the start of the year.
- The majority of Coventry Airport sits within Warwick District.
- Social value was measured through the TOMs tool (themes, outcomes and measures) which has a list of suggested interventions.
- Green Business Programme was accessible for community interest companies but charities would not meet the criteria of a small or medium sized enterprise. The team supported businesses to use grants to reduce their energy usage.
- Outline planning permission for Gigafactory was for battery production any other usage would require additional planning permission.
- It was important to engage people and communities with the climate change consultation.
- Further information on the inward investment achieved over the past five years was requested, although it was noted that was difficult to identify to level of influence Coventry City Council had in achieving inward investment.
- Demolition timescales for buildings in the Friargate district were not available as that was the responsibility of the Joint Venture company. .
- The car parks behind Central Six would be developed in accordance with market conditions.
- The hotel at Friargate would be 100 beds.
- It wasn't possible to say whether the CPO enquiry would result in plans for City Centre South (CCS) to be amended to include social housing at this point.
- An updated Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) for CCS would be published in time for the CPO enquiry in January.

- Friargate 1 and 2 were connected to Heatline. Where buildings brought forward by joint venture on the Friargate development, there was agreement they would be connected to Heatline.
- Whether other areas of the City would be redeveloped other areas of the City Centre were discussed. There were no other significant schemes planned, but it was expected that the development of City Centre South would be a catalyst for other improvements.
- Network Rail were looking at updating the design for the proposed platform 5 at Coventry Station.
- There was a feasibility study taking place to consider 4 possible new stations across the City.
- Midlands Connect had done two studies – one on a Coventry/ Leicester/ Nottingham line and the other one KNUCKLE. It was felt both studies merited further investigation but funding was needed from central government to develop the business cases. It would take approximately 10 years for a direct line to Leicester to be developed but a slower alternative (but faster than the current provision) could be implemented in the meantime if that was something the rail authorities decided to do.
- An explanation was given as to how Very Light Rail (VLR) would share space with other highway users. It was hoped developers would be on site in 2023 and vehicles operational in 2024 for initial testing but this was subject to change.
- The programme of on street electric charging points was to enable people to charge vehicles without the need to run cables across the street.
- Legislative changes for E-scooters were expected late 2023 or early 2024.
- The e-scooter pilot scheme at Warwick University was being expanded to connect from the University through designated routes to the station and city centre. The existing operator contract was due to end in November 2022.
- There were around 250-300 hire cycles in the City. The scheme was being expanded on a commercial basis.
- Work would be undertaken with Rugby Borough Council on Ansty Park transport improvements.
- A question was asked regarding bus ticketing and making it easier to purchase tickets between companies which could be considered in more detail in the item at the next meeting.
- It was noted that there were benefits of having drinking water fountains and cycle repair tool kits on cycle paths to help encourage people to use them.

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

- 1) **Note the content of the presentation**
- 2) **Identify further questions for officers**
- 3) **Identify the following for consideration for inclusion on a Scrutiny Work Programme**
 - a. **City Centre South**
 - b. **Assessment of ring and ride bus service and cyclical bus routes**
 - c. **Culture Based Jobs**
 - d. **Local cycling walking infrastructure plan**
 - e. **Climate Change**
 - f. **Impact of average speed cameras**
- 4) **Request the following be circulated to the Board**

- a. **Timescales for City Centre South including key points for Member engagement**
- b. **Information on overseas Inward Investment over the last 5 years including case studies**
- c. **Information on how the CPO Enquiry would link through to Planning Committee**

4. **Work Programme and Outstanding Issues 2022/2023**

The Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) received a report of the Scrutiny Co-ordinator that detailed the issues carried over from the Board's Work Programme 2021/2022 and suggested for meetings of the Board in 2022/2023.

Members had suggested items for the Work Programme in Minute 3 above.

RESOLVED that the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) note the issues carried over from the Work Programme for 2021/2022 and suggested for meetings of the Board in 2022/2023.

5. **Any Other Items of Urgent Public Business**

There were no other items of public business.

(Meeting closed at 12.40pm)

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Coventry City Council

Briefing note

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

Date: 12th October 2022

Subject: Bus Update

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To brief the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) on issues and projects affecting bus services within Coventry and the West Midlands. This report provides a brief overview of the subjects to be presented, in more detail, to the Board by way of presentation at the meeting. Officers from both Coventry City Council and Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) will be present at the meeting.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) receives this update and provides any comments and recommendations to Council and Transport for West Midlands officers.

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 Bus services within Coventry are operated by private bus companies, with overall policy direction being given by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), which is the Strategic Transport Authority for the West Midlands, including the Coventry area. Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) undertakes this duty for the WMCA, and representatives of TfWM will attend the meeting to provide a briefing to Scrutiny Board 3.
- 3.2 The past two years have been a challenging time for the bus industry, but a number of projects are underway that will support the revitalisation of the bus network within Coventry and the West Midlands. This report, backed by presentations at the meeting, will provide an overview of these projects.

4 All Electric Bus City (AEBC)

- 4.1 The WMCA has been awarded £50 million for the Coventry All Electric Bus City programme, which will see all buses operating public bus services within Coventry become fully electric by the end of 2025. This builds on the Ultra-Low Emission Bus Scheme project which saw the introduction of 10 electric buses into operation within the city in August 2020. Those buses operate primarily on the number 9 service linking the University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire with Finham via the city centre.
- 4.2 TfWM are managing the AEBC programme in partnership with the City Council, Warwickshire County Council (as the programme includes all cross-boundary bus services), and bus companies. National Express, as the main bus company operating services within the city, have ordered the first tranche of 130 electric buses, and the first of these will be introduced into operation from October 2022. In total, around 300 new electric buses will be purchased by National Express and Stagecoach, although the precise

number will be determined following the bus service network review that is referred to later in this report.

- 4.3 Charging infrastructure is also being procured by National Express for installation at the Coventry Bus Depot, and discussions are continuing between the Council and National Express over the potential need for the Cox Street Car Park site to be utilised as a charging facility.

5 Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme

- 5.1 An Enhanced Partnership Plan is in place between the WMCA and bus companies setting out the framework for bus services within the West Midlands, including the commitments made by each party towards improving bus services. This is a statutory requirement and was approved by the WMCA Board in 2020. The EPP Scheme sets out more specific commitments relating to individual projects and schemes, and the latest variant of the EPPS, which is in draft form at present, covers the requirements relating to the AEBC programme that all buses operating public bus services within Coventry will be fully electric from 2025.

6 Bus Service Improvement Plan

- 6.1 TfWM has been awarded £88 million in grant funding from Government for the implementation of the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) for the West Midlands. This funding is for three financial years (2022-25) and is intended to support a package of measures that will enhance bus services in the West Midlands and attract more people to use these services.
- 6.2 The BSIP has four key objectives, these being:
- To provide a more sustainable and attractive service offer, including to motorists
 - To provide consistent, good delivery of the service offer
 - To ensure a good passenger experience for all
 - To reduce environmental impacts.
- 6.3 The main elements of the BSIP package are:
- Network design and integration – provide a bus network that meets the needs of the people of the West Midlands, which is better integrated with other modes of transport, and which provides a stable network that performs reliably, and which users can have confidence in. This will include further trials and integration of On Demand Transport services and ring and ride, which is covered in more detail below.
 - Increases in bus priority and bus rapid transit – within Coventry, this specifically relates to schemes such as the Foleshill Transport Package, Coventry South Transport Package, and City Centre Traffic Management scheme which include measures that will improve bus service reliability through reducing traffic congestion, including, where appropriate, bus priority in the form of bus gates.
 - Lower simpler fares and ticketing – working with bus companies to simplify the fares and ticketing structure, maintain fares at a low level to make bus travel a more attractive option, and facilitate “tap and go” payment options that automatically deliver the best value fare for journeys made by the customer. Government has announced a cap on bus fares nationally of £2 per individual journey for January to March 2023. The current fare for a single journey in Coventry is £2.20, so there will be a 10% saving on fares for passengers travelling during this period.

- Customer information and infrastructure – upgrading passenger information systems, including the Real Time Bus Information system at bus stops, to ensure that passengers can access the most accurate and up to date information on services, and improving bus stop infrastructure, interchanges and bus stations. Within Coventry, of course, there has been recent investment in improvements at Pool Meadow Bus Station, whilst a new Bus Interchange has been constructed at the Railway Station.
- Modern Buses and Decarbonisation – the AEBC programme outlined above achieves this objective within Coventry, but other proposals to upgrade the bus fleet elsewhere in the West Midlands are being delivered.
- Customer experience and passenger safety – a Bus Passenger Charter will be developed for the region, and initiatives such as improved driver training undertaken to enhance the passenger’s experience. In addition, improved security in the form of enhanced CCTV coverage, improved lighting, and increased patrols will be implemented to enhance passenger safety.

7 WM On Demand / Ring and Ride

- 7.1 Over the past two years, the WM On Demand service has been operating within eastern and southern Coventry. Jointly funded by TfWM, the University of Warwick, and the City Council, this service has provided door-to-door journeys for people travelling within the area for whom conventional bus services do not meet their journey requirement.
- 7.2 TfWM propose to expand the WM On-Demand service to serve the full Coventry area, and to incorporate the Ring and Ride service within the operation. All vehicles will be fully accessible, and the aim will be to provide a more attractive and reliable service for Ring and Ride users and, by sharing drivers and vehicles with the On-Demand service, do so in a more cost-effective way.
- 7.3 The new combined service would commence in early 2023 and would operate for a pilot period of one year initially before being reviewed. Measures of success will include increased patronage levels, improved customer satisfaction, and journey reliability. Critically, it is recognised that the existing ring and ride service has low levels of satisfaction amongst users, and the aim will be to improve the customer experience for those users.

8 Bus Network Review

- 8.1 Prior to the pandemic in 2020, the majority of the bus service network within Coventry was operated on a commercial basis by the bus companies, and a relatively small number of bus services were operated under contract to TfWM. Post-pandemic, bus patronage levels have settled at around 80% of pre-pandemic levels, which equates to a reduction in revenue of around 20% for bus companies. This has a consequential impact upon the commercial viability of the bus service network.
- 8.2 During the pandemic, the Government invested heavily in supporting essential public transport services, and this enabled a stable bus network to be provided with service reductions kept to a minimum. That grant support has been extended through to March 2023, but a bus service network review is now urgently required to enable planning to take place for the shape of the new commercial bus network.
- 8.3 TfWM is working with local authorities and bus companies to identify priorities for future bus services, and over the next three months this bus service network review will be completed. TfWM officers will be in attendance to outline the process being undertaken, and to highlight how engagement with bus passengers, local authorities and other stakeholders

will take place. One factor for consideration during this process will be the impact of any service changes upon travel to schools and colleges.

- 8.4 The aim will be to have a fully costed bus service network proposal identified in early 2023 for implementation from April 2023.

John Seddon
Head of Transport and Innovation
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Coventry City Council

Briefing note

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

Date: 12th October 2022

Subject: City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To update the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) on the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) are recommended to consider the information contained in this report and make and comments and recommendations on the content.

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 As reported to Cabinet on 30 August 2022, the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) submitted a bid to Government's City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) for a £1.05 billion package of transport schemes for the period 2022-27. The Department for Transport (DfT) has subsequently confirmed the CRSTS funding award for the WMCA.
- 3.2 For Coventry the CRSTS programme includes the following schemes:
- Coventry Very Light Rail (CVLR) - £54 million
 - Coventry South Sustainable Transport Package - £17 million
 - Foleshill Transport Package - £4.5 million
 - Regional Park and Ride including Tile Hill Station - £4.5 million (as part of a TfWM Strategic Park and Ride programme)
- 3.3 The WMCA is the accountable body for the CRSTS funding and has put in place a Single Assurance Framework (SAF) process that will need to be followed to draw down the funding. This requires the preparation and submission of business cases that will require WMCA approval. Due to the scale, and innovative nature, of the project, the CVLR scheme has been designated a retained scheme, which means that the DfT will need to approve the business case in addition to the WMCA.
- 3.4 The £80 million CRSTS capital investment will be supplemented by up to £23 million match funding which is a mix of public and private sector investment, taking the total programme value to £103m for the 4 schemes.
- 3.5 In addition, £30.6 million funding is allocated to Coventry within the five-year CRSTS programme for Highway Maintenance and our Local Network Improvement Plan. This funding allocation is not subject to the Strategic Assurance Framework process managed

by the WMCA and is being allocated direct to the Council. Allocation of this funding to deliver a prioritised programme of highway maintenance, traffic management and road safety schemes will be undertaken using the same prioritisation process as that used in recent years, as reported to Cabinet on 15 March 2022 in the 2022/23 Transport and Highways Maintenance Capital Programme report.

- 3.6 The WMCA has also been awarded revenue funding through CRSTS for scheme development. The Council has already been awarded £0.6 million from this award, and it is anticipated that further revenue funding will be made available during 2022/23. This funding is intended to assist with the cost of developing a pipeline of new schemes that can come forward as and when additional funding becomes available. This also helps to create contingency in the event that any schemes in the CRSTS programme are delayed.
- 3.7 Work is underway on the preparation of Business Cases to draw down the capital funding allocations for each of the Coventry projects, whilst delivery of the highways maintenance and Local Network Improvement Plan programmes is already underway.

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Agenda Item 6

Business, Economy and Enterprise (3) Work Programme 2022-23

Last updated 30th September 2022

Please see page 2 onwards for background to items

7th September 2022
Portfolio overview and work programme
12th October 2022 (moved from 19th)
Bus Update City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement
30th November 2022 11th January 2023
Tourism Strategy and Destination Coventry – progress report
8th March 2023 Suggested items for 2022-23
Friargate/Station progress (potential visit) Transport Innovation Local Transport Plan – Area Plan for Coventry Levelling Up Fund/ Shared Prosperity Fund UKBIC Local Air Quality Action Plan City Centre South Gigafactory School Bus Services Culture based jobs and businesses Local Cycling and Walking Plans

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
7th September 2022	Portfolio overview and work programme	An opportunity to consider the areas covered by the Board's portfolio and identify items for the work programme 2022-23	Adam Hunt, John Seddon, Steve Weir Cllr O'Boyle, Cllr Hetherton
12th October 2022 (moved from 19th)	Bus Update	To monitor progress on the all-electric bus city to also include ring and ride, circular bus routes	Cllr O'Boyle John Seddon
	City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement	To look in more detail at the projects funded through the grant agreement	Cllr O'Boyle John Seddon
30th November 2022			
11th January 2023	Tourism Strategy and Destination Coventry – progress report	At their meeting on 8 th December the Board considered an item on the Tourism Strategy. Members requested that consideration be given to future representation on the Board, and promotional materials, to ensure that the cultural diversity of the city is reflected and represented	David Nuttall Cllr O'Boyle
8th March 2023			
Suggested items for 2022-23	Friargate/Station progress (potential visit)	To include, new station, drone airport, and new buildings at Friargate site. Potential joint meeting with SB1	
	Transport Innovation	To include VRL, EV, and Bus Service Improvement Plan	
	Local Transport Plan – Area Plan for Coventry	Following their meeting on the 9 th March the Board agreed to consider further the details proposed as part of the area plan for Coventry	TfWM John Seddon Cllr O'Boyle

Business, Economy and Enterprise (3) Work Programme 2022-23

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
	Levelling Up Fund/ Shared Prosperity Fund	To consider how the Council is maximising economic opportunities provided by the funding opportunities available.	Steve Weir/Kim Mawby Cllr O'Boyle
	UKBIC	To consider what the Council is doing to support jobs and local economy	Cllr O'Boyle Steve Weir
	Local Air Quality Action Plan	Progress on implementing the Local Air Quality Action Plan	Cllr O'Boyle John Seddon
	City Centre South	To consider progress on the development of City Centre South including the 1300 residential properties	
	Gigafactory	To consider progress on a battery Gigafactory in Coventry	
	School Bus Services		
	Culture based jobs and businesses	To look in more detail at what the legacy of the City of Culture	
	Local Cycling and Walking Plans		

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