

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3)
held at 10.00 am on Wednesday, 30 November 2022

Present:

Members: Councillor R Singh (Chair)
 Councillor A Hopkins
 Councillor T Jandu
 Councillor A Jobbar
 Councillor R Lancaster
 Councillor R Simpson
 Councillor B Singh
 Councillor A Tucker

Other Members: Councillor G Hayre (Deputy Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport)
 Councillor P Hetherton (Cabinet Member for City Services)
 Councillor K Caan (Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport)

Employees:

Environmental
Protection: N Chaplin

Law and Governance: V Castree, C Sinclair

Transportation and
Highways: G Raleigh, J Seddon

Apologies: Councillor G Lloyd (Deputy Cabinet Member for City Services)

Public Business

12. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Bigham was in attendance and declared an interest in the substantive item as she was the Chair of the WMCA Transport Delivery Committee Members Engagement Group for Air Quality, Congestion & Environmental Impact.

13. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2022 were signed as a true record with the following additions:

Minute 8 – Bus Update:

The Chair asked that the minutes be amended to say that officers from neighbouring authorities worked together to streamline the current processes to improve the student experience in respect of bus passes.

Minute 9 - City Regional Sustainable Transport Settlement:

The Chair asked that the minutes be amended to suggest that Members have a proactive role in projects and that they are consulted at the first stage.

Matter Arising:

Minute 8 – Bus Update:

Reassurance was given that the Board would receive an update on the proposed school bus route withdrawal in due course.

14. **Coventry Local Air Quality Action Plan**

The Board considered a briefing note and received a presentation which provided an update on the Coventry Local Air Quality Action Plan (CLAQAP).

The Board had previously been briefed on the CLAQAP, most recently in March 2020. The briefing note provided an update on progress with the implementation of the CLAQAP approved by the Council's Cabinet in December 2020, and as subsequently included by Government in the Environment Act 1995 (Coventry City Council) Air Quality Direction 2021, issued in May 2021. The Direction made it clear that the Council's preferred package of measures, as approved by Cabinet, was to be implemented.

Government had also approved grant funding of £24.5 million for the implementation of the Action Plan. This had been complemented by grant funding secured from the West Midlands Combined Authority towards the Spon End scheme, the Foleshill Transport Package, and towards Liveable Neighbourhoods. The briefing note also summarised the funding sources that had been secured for the CLAQAP package.

The preferred option comprised an engagement programme aimed at reducing the number of local journeys made by car and encouraging alternative, sustainable, modes of travel such as walking, cycling and public transport to be used for these journeys.

The Briefing Note included details on the following:

- Significant investment in a segregated cycle route between Coundon and the city centre providing a high-quality route that will provide an attractive alternative to driving along the Holyhead Road corridor.
- A series of highway improvements aimed at reducing the volume of traffic on Holyhead Road, where NO₂ levels were at their greatest.
- The opening-up of Upper Hill Street onto the ring road at Junction 8 and alternative option.
- A further package of traffic management measures were proposed for Foleshill Road, with the aim of removing extraneous through traffic and reducing traffic flows, congestion, and NO₂ emissions on this route into the city centre from the north.
- The change control request process.

The Board questioned Officers and received responses on a number of matters arising from the presentation including the following:

In respect of the Coundon Cycle way, Members asked that officers investigate the height of dropped kerbs (citing Barker Butts Lane as an example) as the current height seemed to make it difficult to exit driveways.

In response to a Member's question, Officers clarified that Ward Councillors could seek residents suggestions for uses for the salvage brickwork from the site of the former Black Horse public house and they would facilitate discussion between the contractors and residents on that matter.

RESOLVED that the Board note the content of the report and presentation and recommend that officers:

- **Ensure continuing engagement with the public to raise awareness of ongoing works and the expected benefits for the City.**
- **Focus on a city-wide campaign to encourage cycling with information on access to engaging with changes, for example, how to source less expensive bicycles**
- **Bring back to this Board, the plans for Upper Hill Street at the consultation stage.**

The Board also agreed to receive the following:

- **Information on new Government Nitrogen Dioxide limits as soon as they were available.**
- **Details of bike hire uptake to be included in the item already on the work programme entitled "Local Cycling and Walking Plans."**

15. Work Programme 2021/2022 and Outstanding Issues

The Board noted the Work Programme and also noted that the Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee had agreed that the Board be invited to the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee meeting when they considered the Climate Change Strategy.

16. 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.

(Meeting closed at 12.20 pm)