



Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3)

Time and Date

2.00 pm on Wednesday, 28th June 2023

Place

Diamond Rooms 1 and 2 - 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 8th March 2023

(b) Matters arising

4. Bus Update (Pages 9 - 10)

Briefing Note of the Director of Transportation and Highways and the Scrutiny Co-ordinator

(Note: Representatives of Transport for West Midlands, National Express and Stagecoach have been invited to attend the meeting for this item)

5. Work Programme 2023-24 (Pages 11 - 16)

Report of the Scrutiny Co-ordinator

6. 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, Chief Legal Officer, Council House, Coventry

Tuesday, 20 June 2023

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 F Abbott, P Akhtar, P Hetherington (By Invitation), T Jandu, A Kaur, G Lloyd (By Invitation), A Masih, J McNicholas, J O'Boyle (By Invitation), R Simpson, B Singh and R Singh (Chair)

By invitation:

Councillor J O'Boyle – Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration, and Climate Change

Public Access

Any member of the public who would like to attend the meeting in person is encouraged to contact the officer below in advance of the meeting regarding arrangements for public attendance. A guide to attending public meeting can be found here: <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/publicAttendanceMeetings>

Michelle Salmon

Governance Services

Email: michelle.salmon@coventry.gov.uk

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3)
held at 10.00 am on Wednesday, 8 March 2023

Present:

Members of the Board: Councillor R Singh (Chair)
Councillor J Blundell (substitute for Councillor R Simpson)
Councillor T Jandu
Councillor A Jobbar
Councillor A Masih
Councillor B Singh

Other Members (invited): Councillor J O'Boyle - Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change
Councillor P Hetherton - Cabinet Member for City Services

Employees (by Service):

Law and Governance G Holmes, M Salmon

Transportation and Highways I Lewis, R Smith

Apologies: Councillor R Simpson

Public Business

24. Declarations of Interest

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests.

25. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2023 were agreed and signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

26. Cycling and Walking Update

The Business, Economy, and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) received a presentation and briefing note of the Director of Transportation and Highways, that provided the Board with an update on the Council's plans to encourage walking and cycling, including how the Council was engaging with the public to promote the benefits of cycling.

Coventry's Transport Strategy (CTS), adopted in December 2022, set out how the Council aimed to deliver a safe, sustainable, and reliable transport network for the City of Coventry. The promotion of walking and cycling for local journeys within the city was fundamental to achieving the objectives of the Strategy which were

supporting the city's economic recovery and enabling long-term growth; delivering a sustainable, low carbon transport system; ensuring equality of opportunity; and maximising health and wellbeing.

The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), set out detailed policies and infrastructure requirements necessary to support walking and cycling in the city. Currently a West Midlands LCWIP identified a strategic regional cycle network, that included the Binley Cycleway currently under construction. The LCWIP, developed in 2019, formed the basis for investment planning in new cycle routes at a regional level.

National Context: Active Travel England

The executive agency was sponsored by the Department for Transport. It was responsible for making walking, wheeling and cycling the preferred choice for everyone to get around in England. The objective was for 50% of trips in England's towns and cities to be walked, wheeled or cycled by 2030. By making every-day journeys simple, easy and fun, Active Travel England was working to give people the choice to leave their car at home.

Active Travel England worked alongside councils to fund new, protected routes and junctions, quieter roads & neighbourhoods and ensure that government investment on active travel delivered to new high national standards. It was a Statutory Consultee to embed active travel into major new developments.

Network and Route Development

Networks and routes should be Coherent; Direct; Safe; Comfortable and Attractive. On busier and faster highways, most people would not be prepared to cycle on the carriageway without protection, physically protected space for cycling would enable most people to cycle. On quiet residential streets, most people would be comfortable cycling on carriageways if speeds and traffic volume were low. Traffic calming and traffic management could help reduce motor vehicle speeds and volume (as in Liveable Neighbourhoods). Motor traffic free routes away from the highway could form useful links as part of the overall network.

Work was continuing, following the adoption of the CTS, on a local LCWIP for Coventry that would drill down into more local detail and enable the identification of the local cycling network necessary to complement the regional network that has already been identified. Engagement with the public, local communities and the business community on the development of the LCWIP was planned with the aim that the LCWIP would be adopted by the end of 2023.

The LCWIP would identify improvements to existing cycling facilities or the installation of new facilities. As well as dedicated cycle facilities on key routes, it would also identify areas where wider traffic management was appropriate due to lower traffic speeds and flows, such as the Liveable Neighbourhood approach, which could create a safe walking and cycling environment. The LCWIP would also consider walking, recognising the vast majority of journeys made by anyone would involve an element of walking or wheeling. It was important to ensure there was proper investment in the walking network, and to make sure that local and district centres provided high quality public realm for residents and visitors.

Significant improvements to infrastructure were already taking place and more were in development with the most significant length of new active travel infrastructure provided along the Coundon and Binley Cycleways. These were two-way cycle tracks, that had adjacent footways, segregated from motor vehicle traffic by kerbs, directly serving local centres with shops and community facilities and were within a 15-minute ride of the city centre. The routes could also widen travel horizons for active commuting and people walking and wheeling had also benefitted from new crossings at side roads along these routes.

Busy junctions could be a barrier to active travel, in this regard, improvements were already being made to crossings on the Ring Road including Junction 7 and Junction 9. Junction 9 formed part of a segregated cycle route from Upper Well Street to the Canal Basin which then connected with the walking and cycling route towards Radford and the leisure route National Cycle Network 52 along the canal towpath.

A high-level plan highlighted cycle schemes at different stages of development, including where routes met and connectivity. More existing and potential routes would be refined through the LCWIP.

The West Midlands Cycle Hire Scheme usage was the best in the region with 47 local docking stations; 282 pedal bikes and 50 e-bikes; 173,643 pedal bike rides since launch; 41,959 e-bike rides since launch; an average hire duration of 14 minutes; and an average distance travelled of 1.95km.

Access to bicycles in the city had improved since the introduction of the West Midlands Cycle Hire Scheme. Residents of wards with the greatest health need had been able to apply for free minutes to use on the scheme through separate grant funding. As the bike docks were not in every ward the grant funding also supported a public bike giveaway initiative through the Cycling for Everyone Project, which was similarly targeted at areas of greatest health need. Residents who had surplus bikes had the option to donate them for recycling through local organisations and via the Recycling and Disposal Centre. Support had also been provided to organisations to upskill volunteers in cycle maintenance with a view to increasing the capacity to recycle bikes. There had also been free cycle skills training for residents, with a focus on delivering activity in areas of health need.

Walking maps and guides were available which covered various areas of the city, but a number of these were in areas of greater health need.

In considering the presentation and briefing note, the Board questioned officers, received responses, and discussed the matters summarised below:

- The purpose of the initiative was to give people more choice of methods of travel and to provide equality of opportunity, not to remove options
- The importance of consulting the public on proposals and designs for cycle routes and listening to their needs – the Cabinet Member for City Services and officers worked closely with residents on proposals to install cycle lanes
- The Cabinet Member for City Services had received many thanks from cyclists for the installation of cycle lanes, making them feel safer on their journey
- Hollyfast Primary School had benefitted from the Coundon Cycle lane with many children now opting to travel by bike along the route to school safely

- The importance of locating benches along walking routes to enable rest points for those that need it
- Kenilworth Road Cycleway – improvements to signage, road markings and promotion of the route's availability were needed, which was recognised by the Cabinet Members
- City Centre area – reckless and erratic cycling, particularly by food delivery companies, causing many near misses and making pedestrians feel unsafe
- Inconsiderate cycling at pedestrian crossings in the central area – near misses with pedestrians
- Reckless riding - addressed by the Police, or in the City Centre, by the Council through the use of their Public Space Protection Order
- What constitutes an electric cycle - many different forms and speeds dependant of battery size, some motorised bikes should be classified as mopeds
- Current consultation proposing restricted vehicular access e.g., taxis, buses, emergency vehicles, on High Street and the Burges/Hales Street/ Trinity Street loop
- Ring Road Junction 9 – work almost complete on the cycleway, no plans for improvement of the Canal Basin bridge at present
- Ring Road Junctions 1,2,3,4 and 9 access improvements - proposals scoped and discussed with consultant
- Final section of cycle lane from Bablake School to city centre – being progressed. Consideration being given to making this area a low traffic neighbourhood
- Monitoring of cycle lanes – includes usage of lanes and where vehicles use private driveways and side roads that cross lanes
- Bike libraries – ensures cycling option available for all. Inclusion very important. The Council's Holiday Activities and Food Programme also offered cycle borrowing as part of their scheme
- Work being undertaken on cycling education e.g., recent meeting of the Cabinet Member for City Services with local community leaders in Foleshill to discuss, with a particular focus of educating women in the area. Education meeting for women cyclists also held for the Coundon area.
- Cannon Park Cemetery – issues with use of cycle lane and funeral vehicles near the cemetery. Urban traffic cameras will go in to monitor, after the scheme has completed
- Road Surfaces – dilapidation surveys carried out on road surfaces to ensure they are fit for the purpose of a cycle lane
- Bike donations – can be made through local organisations, including City Mission and via the Recycling and Disposal Centre. Suggest initiative that requests bike recycling by promotion of recycling/donation facilities available in the city
- Section 106 – Moving towards developers now including monies for cycle routes in Section 106 agreements
- North and East of the city – expansion of the West Midlands cycle hire scheme would be investigated, particularly for the University Hospital and Binley Business Park and Shopping Centre areas, subject to further funding
- Money secured through 106 Agreements for cycle routes covers whole routes including where they are cross border with neighbouring local authorities

- Water stations – explore possibility of locating stations along cycle routes
- The possibility of promoting Bike Hire and Docking Stations – via automated messages on buses and at bus stops to encourage use and advise of options for travel
- Encouraging take-up of cycle hire scheme - free minutes or reduced cost for first use of scheme

The Board requested that the Presentation slides be circulated to them. They also requested that officers be requested to explore the possibility of locating water stations along cycle routes.

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

- 1) **Notes the cycling and walking update.**
- 2) **Makes the following recommendation to the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities:**

The Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities be recommended to use the enforcement powers provided by the City Centre PSPO to address the issue of reckless riding of e-bikes and motorised cycles in the City Centre, to improve the safety of pedestrians.

27. **Work Programme 2022/23**

The Business, Economy, and Enterprise Scrutiny Board received a report of the Scrutiny Co-ordinator, that detailed items that had been considered by the Board during the Municipal Year 2022/23 and the proposed issues to be included on the Board's Work Programme for 2023/24.

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

- 1) **Notes the issues considered at meeting of the Board for the Municipal Year 2022/2023 and the proposed issues to be included on the Board's Work Programme for 2023/24.**
- 2) **Requests that a further item headed 'Gigafactory' be added to the proposed issues to be included on the Board's Work Programme for 2023/24.**

28. **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 12.15 pm)

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Coventry City Council

Briefing note

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

Date: 28th June 2023

Subject: Bus Update

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To inform the Business, Economy, and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) of the scope of the item Bus Update at their meeting on 28th June 2023.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Business, Economy, and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) are recommended to:
- 1) Consider the information presented in this briefing note and at the meeting.
 - 2) Identify areas and issues of concern from bus users to be considered as key lines of enquiry at the meeting on 27th September 2023.
 - 3) Identify case work or representatives of groups to be invited to the meeting on 27th September 2023.

3 Background and Information

- 3.1 Members had raised concerns about bus service provision in Coventry, especially for vulnerable user groups such as school children and older people. It should be noted that bus services within Coventry are operated by private sector companies within a legislative framework set by national government. The West Midlands Combined Authority is the Strategic Transport Authority with responsibility for the Bus Service Improvement Plan, a responsibility that is discharged through their transport delivery arm, Transport for West Midlands (TfWM).
- 3.2 It was agreed by the Chair that it would be useful to invite representatives of those groups to a meeting where representatives of TfWM and bus operators could be present to respond to concerns and questions.
- 3.3 In order to prepare for that meeting, it was agreed that an item on 28th June 2023 would be used as an initial scoping item, where Members could be briefed on the current position of bus services, as well as identify key areas and issues for further consideration at the meeting on the 27th September 2023.
- 3.4 Members are invited to identify any case work as examples of concerns or groups and organisations who would be able to provide evidence for the key lines of enquiry.

4 Current Bus Provision

- 4.1 Bus services within Coventry are primarily operated by National Express and by Stagecoach. Those services operated by Stagecoach are primarily cross-boundary services linking Coventry with communities within Warwickshire. Those operated by National Express are primarily those that operate within the city boundary or which provide cross-boundary services to Solihull and Birmingham. Both companies have been invited to attend this Scrutiny Board meeting.
- 4.2 TfWM have the day-to-day responsibility for setting the bus policy framework for the West Midlands. That includes the preparation and implementation of the Bus Service Improvement Plan. TfWM have also been invited to attend the Scrutiny Board meeting to brief Members of the Board on TfWM's role and responsibility,
- 4.3 The bus industry is facing significant challenges at present, with patronage remaining below pre-pandemic levels and costs having escalated significantly. These means that fewer bus services are now commercially viable, and that greater public subsidy will be required to maintain the bus service network at its current level. Colleagues from TfWM and the bus operators will brief Scrutiny Board Members on these challenges at the meeting.

5 Health Inequalities Impact

- 5.1 Health inequalities are linked to poverty and physical activity. Better walking, cycling and public transport links to employment centres are essential. Air pollution is also a concern, with traffic jams a major cause. Improved public transport is part of encouraging active travel and addressing health inequalities.

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Coventry City Council

Briefing note

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

Date: 28th June 2023

Subject: Work Programme 2023-24

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To provide Members of the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) an opportunity to discuss potential items for the work programme 2023-24

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) is recommended to:
- 1) Consider the draft work programme attached at Appendix 1
 - 2) Identify and agree any additional items for the work programme 2023-24

3 Background and Information

- 3.1 The work programme provides a schedule of items for meetings over the coming municipal year. The draft work programme for the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) for 2023-24 is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 Scrutiny work programmes are working documents and will adapt and change over the year to react to Members' requirements. Any item agreed at this meeting does not preclude any future amendments to the work programme.

4 Health Inequalities Impact

- 4.1 There is no impact on health inequalities for these recommendations, but Members may want to consider how identified work programme items may impact on health inequalities.

Appendix 1 - Business, Economy and Enterprise (3) Work Programme 2023-24

Gennie Holmes
Scrutiny Co-ordinator
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Last updated 13th June 2023

Please see page 2 onwards for background to items

28th June 2023
Bus Update Work Programme 2023-24
27th September 2023
Bus Services in Coventry Very Light Rail
15th November 2023
Economic Development Strategy/Skills Strategy
10th January 2024 7th February 2024
Rail Update Business Support
6th March 2024 Suggested items for 2023-24
Heatline Retrofitting and Energy Efficient Homes Transport Strategy delivery update (March 2024) For information only - New NO2 Limits Cycling and Walking Plan Local Air Quality Action Plan including Upper Hill Street/Holyhead Rd consultation Employer Hub 2024 Tourism Strategy and DMO model

Appendix 1 - Business, Economy, and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) - Work Programme 2023-24

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Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
28th June 2023	Bus Update	Latest position in terms of bus provision in Coventry	John Seddon Cllr O'Boyle
	Work Programme 2023-24	To consider items for the municipal year 2023-24	Cllr R Singh Gennie Holmes
27th September 2023	Bus Services in Coventry	An opportunity to raise questions, issues and concerns identified by bus users	
	Very Light Rail	Progress and plans for implementing VLR in Coventry – particularly the route proposals and consultation.	Colin Knight/ John Seddon/Nicola Small/ Janet Ford Cllr O'Boyle
15th November 2023	Economic Development Strategy/Skills Strategy	To update on implementation of the strategies agreed by Cabinet on 11 th October 2022	Cllr O'Boyle/Cllr Sandhu Kim Mawby/Steve Weir
10th January 2024			
7th February 2024	Rail Update	To update on proposals within Network Rail's 5 year plan that affect the city	John Seddon Cllr O'Boyle
	Business Support	To include the Growth Hub, Shared Prosperity Fund, as well as decarbonisation programme	Cllr O'Boyle Steve Weir/Parmy Singh
6th March 2024			
Suggested items for 2023-24	Heatline	Update on the use of Heatline, income generated, efficiency and best use of the resource, how it is contributing to net zero	

Appendix 1 - Business, Economy, and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) - Work Programme 2023-24

Date	Title	Detail	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer
	Retrofitting and Energy Efficient Homes		
	Transport Strategy delivery update (March 2024)	To include the TfWM Local Area plan for Coventry including rail links between Nuneaton, Kenilworth and Leamington	John Seddon, TfWM Cllr O'Boyle
	For information only - New NO2 Limits	A request for a briefing note on the governments new NO2 limits as soon as they are available	John Seddon
	Cycling and Walking Plan	Progress on implementation of the Plan (same agenda as LAQAP)	John Seddon
	Local Air Quality Action Plan including Upper Hill Street/Holyhead Rd consultation	Changes required as part of the LAQAP to address NO2 levels on the Holyhead Rd have been requested by the Board at the public consultation stage	John Seddon Cllr Caan/Hetheron/ O'Boyle
	Employer Hub	To cover the work of the Employer Hun and what support is offered to employers in the city to encourage new entrants to work to ensure young people from Coventry get access to good jobs.	Steve Weir/Kim Mawby Cllr O'Boyle
	2024 Tourism Strategy and DMO model	To look at the new Tourism Strategy beyond 2023 in more detail, including an update on the proof-of-concept model for the DMO.	David Nuttall Cllr O'Boyle Cllr Hetheron

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