

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held at 2.00 pm on Tuesday, 7 November 2023

Present:

Cabinet Members: Councillor G Duggins (Chair)
Councillor A S Khan (Deputy Chair)
Councillor L Bigham
Councillor R Brown
Councillor K Caan
Councillor P Hetherton
Councillor J O'Boyle
Councillor P Seaman

Non-Voting Deputy
Cabinet Members: Councillor S Agboola
Councillor P Akhtar
Councillor G Hayre
Councillor A Jobbar
Councillor G Lloyd
Councillor S Nazir

Non-Voting Opposition
Members: Councillor S Gray
Councillor G Ridley

Other Non-Voting
Members: Councillor N Akhtar
Councillor R Lakha
Councillor C E Thomas

Employees (by Service):

Chief Executive J Nugent (Chief Executive)

Business, Investment and
Culture D Connelly, J Hunt, D Nuttall,

Finance B Hastie (Chief Operating Officer, Section 151 Officer)

Law and Governance O Aremu, J Adams, S Bennett, D Blackburn, A Chowns,
L Nagle, T Robinson

Transportation, Highways
and Sustainability C Knight (Director of Transportation, Highways and
Sustainability)

Apologies: Councillor L Harvard
Councillor C Miks
Councillor K Sandhu
Councillor R Singh
Councillor D Welsh

Public Business

41. Declarations of Interest

Councillor G Ridley declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the matter contained in Minute 44 below relating to 'Amendment of the City Centre Public Spaces Promotion Order (PSPO)'.

Whilst not a voting member of Cabinet, Councillor Ridley left the meeting for consideration of this item.

42. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2023 were agreed and signed as a true record.

There were no matters arising.

43. Approval of the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS)

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Business, Investment and Culture seeking approval to the Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) for Coventry, a copy of which was appended to the report, and which was an evidence-based technical document that outlined the City's approach to promoting and enhancing playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities. The Strategy's primary objective was to ensure the provision of high-quality, accessible, and sustainable playing pitches for various sports throughout the City.

Coventry last adopted the PPOSS in October 2014 as part of the first city wide Sports Strategy in over a decade. As part of national guidance, the PPOSS was recommended to be refreshed by local authorities and was an essential document to help understand the demand for playing pitches and outdoor sports across the local authority boundary. The previous PPOSS had been a useful document to help the Council, and its partners such as local community clubs, and education establishments. It had also helped to address the deficit of 3G artificial pitches in the North-East of the City with new facilities being installed as part of the Strategy. In addition, the impact on Cricket locally had seen investment in artificial wickets across the city and in cricket nets in Edgwick Park. The drive towards increasing physical activity across the City had also helped with securing investment in fitness equipment and accessible walking/running routes, alongside sporting provision, within local parks.

The Strategy had also helped to secure Section 106 contributions linked to housing developments, to protect against the loss of playing fields, and had helped to guide the investment from national funders such as the Football Association, Football Foundation and England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).

The new PPOSS for Coventry had been developed with specialist sports consultants Knight, Kavanagh & Page (KKP) after extensive research and consultation with relevant local, regional, and national stakeholders. This

comprehensive Strategy aimed to address the current and future needs of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities across Coventry.

The PPOSS assessed the existing supply and demand for different types of pitches, such as football, rugby, cricket, and hockey. The assessment identified any deficiencies or areas of quality improvement required to enhance, secure, and develop the pitches and ancillary facilities. The Strategy outlined the key objectives and priorities for the development, maintenance, and management of playing pitches in Coventry. It included recommendations for facility upgrades, construction of new pitches, maintenance standards, and partnerships with sports clubs and organisations to enable this to be delivered.

The Strategy was delivered in accordance with Sport England's National Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance (for playing pitch sports) and Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (for "non-pitch" sports). The study area comprised the whole of the Coventry City Council administrative area.

The new, proposed PPOSS would work towards delivering strategic objectives for the City including:

- A vision for the future protection, improvement and development of provision
- A series of sport-by-sport recommendations and scenarios
- A series of strategic recommendations
- A prioritised area-by-area and site-by-site action plan that prioritised and could address key issues

The report outlined in detail the extensive consultation undertaken on the PPOSS with a series of stakeholders. This included the establishment of a steering group comprising of national partners from all the appropriate National Governing Bodies of Sport. Consultation was also undertaken with local clubs, groups, organisations, and educational establishments, which was one of the most important parts of PPOSS development, to ensure the local voice of key organisations contributed to the development of the Strategy.

The report indicated that the implementation of the PPOSS would contribute to a healthier, more active population, enhanced community engagement, and a sustainable sports infrastructure. The Strategy would serve as a blueprint for the development and maintenance of playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities in Coventry, meeting the needs of current and future generations. It would then inform the subsequent refresh of the Coventry Sports and Physical Activity Strategy. The PPOSS had been supported across various Council departments and was supported by Sport England. The adoption of the PPOSS would also support planning decisions to protect playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities and to inform future S106 investments in the City to maintain and develop facilities that enabled people to lead active lifestyles in their local communities.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- 1) Approves and adopts the Coventry Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) attached as Appendix 1 to this report.**

- 2) **Delegates authority to the Director of Business Investment and Culture, following ongoing consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport, to take all necessary, incidental or ancillary actions deemed appropriate to implement the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS).**

44. **Amendment of the City Centre Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Legal Officer which indicated that there had been a visible increase in the number of e-bikes, cycles and e-scooters using pedestrian areas of the city centre, namely, Broadgate, Upper Precinct, Market Way, Smithford Way, Shelton Square, Hertford Street and Bull Yard. This had led to concerns being raised by people feeling unsafe.

The level of concern had been raised particularly due to the volume of e-bikes and motorcycles that looked like bikes being used by delivery teams. Some people had also been observed to be riding recklessly and in a dangerous manner and the speed of some of e-bikes, e-scooters and cycles makes some pedestrians feel unsafe.

The report indicated that the Council wanted to ensure that people felt safe when visiting the city centre and to mitigate against any potential accidents whilst also recognising the importance of enabling cyclists to travel around the city.

One option which could potentially help to manage this emerging issue was an amendment to the current City Centre Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) requiring people on bikes to dismount in defined pedestrian areas of the city centre. To understand what city centre users felt about this proposal a comprehensive consultation was undertaken into the stopping of e-bikes, e-scooters and push cycles being ridden in the pedestrianised area of the city centre. The report outlined the outcome of that consultation, details of which were contained in appendices to the report, and which supported a proposal to amend the current PSPO to require e-bike and scooter riders to dismount when entering the designated area within the pedestrian area.

The report indicated that enforcement would be a key element of the proposed amended City Centre PSPO and as such ensuring the right controls was essential. Feedback as part of the proposal to consider amending the City Centre PSPO had raised concerns about the effectiveness of enforcement to date. Therefore, a multi-agency engagement, intervention and enforcement approach to support the amended PSPO, if approved, had been agreed with partners, details of which were contained in the report. If the proposed Order was made, during the first three weeks of its operation, it was intended to focus on engagement and raising awareness of the controls, following which enforcement would begin.

It was proposed to have a communications plan in place to reinforce the message to cyclists, pedestrians and local businesses. Public signage would be updated one week prior to the go live date and the Order would be publicised in accordance with the Act and the Regulations. Communication would be sent to delivery platform operators and businesses who used their delivery services so that they could make their employees aware of the restriction operating in the city centre and a City Centre Cycle Map that they could use to navigate around the city

centre. Officers would also be speaking to delivery cyclists congregating outside businesses.

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee had considered the report at their meeting on 6th November 2023 and a Briefing Note detailing their consideration had been circulated to Cabinet. Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee:

- 1) Supported the intentions of the Recommendations in the report.
- 2) Recommended that Cabinet support the Recommendations as in the report.
- 3) Recommended that Cabinet notes Scrutiny Co-ordination's concerns about enforcement of the PSPO.
- 4) Recommended that the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities writes to both the Police Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner requesting a higher policing presence in the city centre and that they use their powers to seize illegal e-vehicles and asked that a copy of that letter be circulated to the Committee.

The Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities indicated that he had attended the meeting of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee on 6th November 2023 and accepted the Recommendations outlined above.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:

- 1) Notes the consultation outcome and accompanying Equality Impact Assessment.**
- 2) Approves an amendment of the current City Centre PSPO (as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report). This amendment would require e-bike and e-scooter riders to dismount when entering the designated area within the pedestrianised area which is shown in Appendix 2b of the report.**
- 3) Notes that anyone riding dangerously or recklessly on a bike of any kind could be subject to a fixed penalty notice.**
- 4) Authorises officers to bring the Order into effect from 20th November 2023.**
- 5) Notes Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee's concerns about enforcement of the PSPO.**
- 6) Notes that the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities will be writing to both the Police Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner requesting a higher policing presence in the city centre and that they use their powers to seize illegal e-vehicles and that a copy of that letter will be circulated to the Committee.**

45. Outstanding Issues

There were no outstanding issues.

46. Any Other Items of Urgent Public Business

There were no other items of urgent public business.

(Meeting closed at 2.40 pm)