

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee held at 10.00 am on
Wednesday, 12 January 2022

Present:

Members: Councillor N Akhtar (Chair)
Councillor M Ali (Deputy Chair)
Councillor R Bailey (Substitute for Councillor G Ridley)
Councillor L Bigham
Councillor J Clifford
Councillor R Lakha (Substitute for Councillor C Miks)
Councillor J Lepoidevin
Councillor R Singh

Other Members: Councillor P Akhtar (Deputy Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities)

Employees (by Service Area):

Human Resources: S Fry, G Haynes

Law and Governance: S Bennett, G Holmes

Public Health and Wellbeing V De-Souza, J Mann

Streetscene and Regulatory Services: G Hood, H Proctor

Apologies: Councillors J Innes, C Miks, G Ridley
Councillors P Hetherton, AS Khan, G Lloyd

Public Business

38. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

39. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 November, 2021 were agreed and signed as a true record.

There were no matters arising.

40. **Monitoring Report Following the Implementation of Parking Charges at the War Memorial Park**

Further to Minute 45/20, the Committee considered a Briefing Note of the Director of Streetscene and Regulatory Services which provided details of monitoring undertaken in relation to the impact of potential displacement parking following the introduction of charging at the War Memorial Park. The Committee had requested this information following consideration of a call-in of the original decision to introduce the charging.

The Briefing Note outlined the methodology and detailed the review and monitoring undertaken of on- street parking and traffic volumes which included:-

- Impact on displacement parking
- The use of alternative modes of transport and impacts on climate change
- The impact of the introduction of charges on blue badge holders

The following key findings of the monitoring were outlined:-

- The total numbers of vehicles counted across all zones were consistent for before and after the implementation of charges
- No impacts of displacements were witnessed by the monitoring team following the introduction of charges
- No formal complaints had been received in relation to parking issues caused from displacement parking following the introduction of charging

The Briefing Note also detailed work undertaken by the City Council on a new Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, which will set out in detail plans to achieve net zero by 2041, or earlier if possible. The City Council is also working on a new Transport Strategy and a draft of the Strategy had recently been approved for public consultation in early 2022.

In relation to alternative modes of transport, the Briefing Note outlined the success of the West Midlands Cycle Hire scheme, which was launched earlier this year. By September 2021 the docking station in the park nearest the main car park was ranked in the top 10 docks in the city by origin and destination and the most popular outside the City Centre.

In addition, sustainable travel to the city's parks is promoted via the Travel Assistant journey planner which has been embedded within the War Memorial Park website to assist visitors with route information depending on the form of travel they wish to use. The Park and Ride service is an alternative method available from Kenilworth Road car park and, as proposed, discounted parking for users of the service had been introduced. For stays over 3 hours, the parking fee is reduced to £1

The Committee asked questions, sought assurances and made comments in relation to a number of issues including:-

- The cost of installing the charging equipment and income achieved (It was noted that this information was not originally requested as part of the review and monitoring)
- Further data on the usage of the cycle hire scheme at the park (It was noted that this information would be provided to the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) as part of their consideration of the Cycling Strategy)
- The benefits of the increased and improved security of the car park, including the fact that there had been no Traveller incursions since the introduction of the charges and equipment
- How the introduction of the charges had helped to ensure that parking was available for residents across the City to use the park, which was the objective of the scheme

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee:-

- 1) Notes that there has been no significant impact on displacement parking since the introduction of car park charges at the War Memorial Park**
- 2) Notes the steps taken to support alternative methods of transport to car usage**
- 3) Notes the steps taken to improve parking facilities for blue badge holders**
- 4) Notes and welcomes the success of the scheme in achieving its objective**
- 5) Requests that information regarding the costs of installation and income achieved in a 12 month period be circulated to the Committee**

41. Proposed New Equality Objectives 2022-2025

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing, to be considered by the Cabinet Member of Policing and Equalities at his meeting to be held on 17 January, 2022. The report indicated that Coventry City Council is committed to fulfilling its duties as a public authority under the Public Sector Equality Duty. As part of this general duty, the Council is required to comply with a specific duty to publish a set of equality objectives which will further the aims of the general duty.

The current set of equality objectives were set in 2020 for a period of two years and will therefore expire at the end of March 2022. The report, together with a presentation at the meeting, detailed key highlights of progress made against those objectives:-

Objectives 2020-2022

- Create a foundation to drive improved access to service through better use of equalities data

- Develop and deliver in partnership a whole-city approach to “Building a Coventry that works for all”
- Increase the diversity of our workforce at all levels so that we are more representative of the communities we serve and better able to meet their diverse needs
- Increase the number of 18-24 year olds getting into employment
- Increase the number of disabled residents taking part in sporting and cultural activities in the City

The Committee noted that, in some cases the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent emergency response required by the Council impacted on the delivery of some of the actions identified for each of the objectives.

Analysis of the progress made since 2020 with the current set of equality objectives has informed the development of the proposed following set of equality objectives for 2022, further details of which were provided in a presentation at the meeting :-

Proposed Objectives for 2022-2025

- Create a foundation to drive improved access to services through better use of equalities data
- Develop better understanding of our diverse communities in order to shape and deliver the Council’s Integration policy and practice for the City and its residents
- To increase year on year the percentage of applications for employment received and appointments made to candidates who are either LGBT+, declare a Disability or are from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds
- Increase the effective delivery of Council services in key areas
- Increase participation from residents and visitors with disabilities in sporting and cultural activities, including events in the City

The report detailed consultation on the above proposed objectives, details of which were appended to the report, and indicated that the results of the consultation will be fed into the development of action plans for each equality objective and the issues raised will be addressed through this approach.

The Committee asked questions, made comments and sought assurances on a number of issues including:-

- The introduction of the Tribepad recruitment system, which has enabled job applications to be anonymised (the success of which was noted and welcomed) and work being undertaken/planned to provide support and skills for interviews
- The disappointing response to the Consultation process and work undertaken in this regard to increase involvement and feedback (Minute 42 below also refers)
- Placement opportunities for Graduates from the 2 Universities in the City
- How the objectives for 2020-2022 have been performance managed

- Increasing diversity within the City Council's senior management and ensuring that the Council's workforce reflects the community it serves
- The promotion and celebration of diversity and inclusion across the Council, including the Diversity and Inclusion calendar
- The importance of sharing good practise with other employers across the City (It was noted that Anchor Alliance was included in the Committee's Work Programme of items to be considered in 2022/23)

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee:-

- (1) **Supports and endorses the report, including the adoption of the new equality objectives for the Council for 2022-25**
- (2) **Recommends that the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities be requested to ensure that the Council recognises Equality Day on 14 April and that the Diversity and Inclusion calendar includes the National day for Atheism**

42. Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee Work Programme and Outstanding Issues 2021-22

The Committee considered their Work Programme for the current Municipal year. Further to Minute 41 above, the Committee discussed issues relating to the City Council's consultation processes.

RESOLVED that the City Council's consultation processes be added to the Work Programme.

43. Any Other Items of Public Business

There were no other items of public business.

(Meeting closed at 11.50am)