

Bristol City Council

Audit Committee

27 November 2015

Report of: **Service Director - Finance**
Service Director - Bristol Futures

Report Title: **Bristol 2015 Ltd – Progress Report and Financial Update**

Ward: **Citywide**

Officers presenting report: **Peter Gillett / Stephen Hilton**

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RECOMMENDATION

That the Audit Committee note the progress reported, the update on the allocation of public funds and external sponsorship to Bristol 2015 Ltd and the arrangements being made for end of year reporting.

SUMMARY

This report provides a progress report relating to Bristol Green Capital 2015, a summary of activity for the remainder of the year and an update on the latest financial position for Bristol 2015 Ltd. It also sets out the arrangements for end of year reporting.

Key items included in the report are:

- An update on progress by Internal Audit
- An update on programme activity to date
- A summary of key programme elements during the remainder of 2015
- An update of the allocation of public funds received from Department of Energy and Climate Change
- The latest estimate of private sector sponsorship achieved by Bristol 2015 Ltd, both in terms of financial support and value in kind
- Arrangements for end of year reporting

1. Introduction

- 1.1 At the Audit Committee meeting on 24th April 2015, Members noted the governance arrangements in place in relation to Bristol 2015 Ltd and the financial update on the allocation of public funds and external sponsorship to Bristol 2015 Ltd.
- 1.2 This report provides an update on progress by Internal Audit, details of 2015 Ltd programme delivery to date and activity for the remainder of the year, updates on allocation of public and sponsorship funding and arrangements for end of year reporting.

2. Internal Audit

- 2.1 Since the Audit Committee meeting in April Internal Audit have carried out the first and second stage of their review of Bristol 2015 Ltd.
- 2.2 Stage One focused on the following:
 - Overall Governance and Operating environment of Bristol 2015 Ltd
 - Regulations, policies relating to financial control, procurement and adherence
 - Adherence to financial reporting requirements in line with Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU)
 - Internal financial reconciliations between Bristol 2015 Ltd & Bristol City Council
- 2.3 On completion of Stage One Internal Audit reported that acceptable controls are in place. The level of corporate risk of this area is evaluated as impact marginal, likelihood possible, and falls in the green area on the Corporate Risk Management Grid.
- 2.4 Stage Two focused on the following:
 - Budgetary control and review.
 - Providing assurance that the Business & City Leadership Summits will proceed as planned.
 - Regulations, policies relating to financial control, procurement and adherence.
- 2.5 On completion of Stage Two Internal Audit reported that good controls are in place. The level of corporate risk of this area is evaluated as impact significant, likelihood unlikely, and falls in the green area on the Corporate Risk Matrix.

3. Programme Activity to Date

- 3.1 We are now past the half-way point of the year and Bristol 2015 Ltd have delivered a number of key events and activities, as set out in the contract. Attention is drawn to key programme elements including:
 - Official **opening events** in January, with a series of tailored events for EU

and international visitors, and an opening public show.

- Launch of **Go Green** business engagement scheme. This provides support to businesses across all sectors and sizes in a programme that will extend beyond 2015.
- Opening of the **Lab Space** at the Bristol 2015 Ltd offices on Bristol Harbourside, providing a base for a number of events and activities during the year, such as the Sustainable Shaun the Sheep game and education programme.
- 1000 young people attended **Green Youth Day** on 20th April to discuss the science of climate change; protecting wildlife and the oceans; human rights; the clothes we wear; equality; successful campaigning and why questioning the establishment is essential.
- The **Digital Challenge Award** winner was announced at Green Youth Day. Crocodile, the winning team, will develop an app that will enable parents to identify a walking bus route, book their child a place, check progress and confirm that their child has arrived at school safely.
- **Neighbourhood Arts Projects** have been commissioned across the City.
- The Bristol 2015 **Schools Programme** launched on 1st May. This is a three year programme of work which will be available to schools nationally. An online platform will be launched later in the year to provide teaching resources.
- The **European Green Capital Awards for 2017** took place in June, with the award being presented to Essen. We welcomed over 150 delegates from across the EU to Bristol and hosted the team from the European Commission.
- July saw the launch of a free online game, **Sustainable Shaun**. A key element of the national schools programme, designed by the Bristol 2015 education team and created by Aardman Animations. The game has subsequently been nominated for a national award.
- August saw a Green Capital presence at the Bristol International Balloon Fiesta with the launch of the first certified **Solar Air Balloon**, a hybrid aircraft, partially powered by the sun and partially powered by a conventional propane burner.
- September saw the launch of **Refill Bristol**, an initiative aiming to make drinking water available on every city centre street within six months through a voluntary network of cafes, retailers, hotels and local businesses.
- October saw the **Business Summit** and **City Leader Summit** at the Passenger Shed with a range of speakers including the Astronomer Royal.
- Ongoing **public engagement** has continued throughout the year with the Do15 Campaign.
- November will see the last two projects funded by an **Arts Council Exceptional (ACE) Award**, Theaster Gates' *Sanctum* and the *Festival of the Future City*. The other ACE funded projects were Luke Jerram's *Withdrawn*, Richard Long, *Time and Space*, Arcadia *Spectacular* and *The Bristol Whales*.

3.2 In the first half of the year Bristol 2015 Ltd estimated their reach had been:

- 200,000 people engaged with events, art and cultural activities
- 189 sustainable projects across the city supported by funding
- 7,000 school children engaged in Bristol's schools and 1,000 young people attending Green Youth Day

- 1,600 people and over 100 companies hosted at Venturefest, showcasing Green Technologies
- Over 800 businesses engaged with Go Green
- 87,000 unique visitors to the Bristol 2015 website
- 430,000 page views, 6k twitter followers, 4,800 Facebook likes

4. Activity during the Remainder of 2015

- 4.1 The key programme elements for the remainder of the year include:
- 18 – 20 Nov 2015: Festival of the Future City
 - 30 Nov – 11 Dec 16: Bristol hosting the Local Government Pavilion at COP21, Paris
 - 9th February 2016: Handover to Ljubljana (in Brussels)

5. Update on Allocation of Public Funds

- 5.1 BCC and Bristol 2015 Ltd have jointly reviewed the current allocation of funding from the Department of Energy & Climate Change in light of the emerging programme and the opportunities offered through commercial sponsorship. A small re-profile to the original budget allocation has been agreed with DECC. This sees an increase in allocations to the Schools Programme, Local Funding and Public Awareness. This has been enabled largely due to commercial support for VentureFest/GreenTech and the Bristol Method. The total forecast spend of DECC funding remains £7m. Full details are included in Appendix A to this report with Spend to Date reported in Appendix B.

6. Sponsorship

- 6.1 To date, £1.8m in financial sponsorship has been secured with major sponsors, including Skanska, KPMG, First Group and Arup.
- 6.2 In addition to the financial sponsorship, £2.1m has been contributed as Value in Kind.

7. End of Year Reporting Arrangements

- 7.1 We will be producing the following end of year reports:
- January 2016: Interim end-of-year report to the Department of Energy & Climate Change
 - March 2016: An end of year review which will be presented to the EU Commission and DECC, as well as local stakeholders
 - June 2020: Five year impact review, for local stakeholders and the EU Commission
- 7.2 An OSMB Enquiry Day is to be scheduled for March 2016, which will provide an opportunity to review the year and look at how the council can build on activity to ensure long term benefits

8. Equalities Impact Assessment

8.1 None necessary for this report.

9. Legal and Resource Implications

9.1 Legal – N/A

9.2 Resources - N/A

Appendices

- Appendix A – Forecast spend agreed with DECC
- Appendix B – Spend to Date

Appendix A – Forecast Spend of Department of Energy & Climate Change Funding

Workstream	Original	Reforecast	Notes
Summits	1,700,000	1,679,409	No significant change from original proposal, we have a strong summit programme and some budget allocated for COP21 in Paris
Green Tech/ Bristol Prize	1,400,000	561,253	Reduced. Plans for the Bristol Prize (a Clean Tech award) were scaled back. More modest prize monies were awarded as part of the Digital Challenge. The Green Tech Festival (particularly Venturefest) has attracted commercial support, therefore funds could be diverted elsewhere, in particular education and community engagement.
Schools Programme	1,000,000	1,111,134	Increased. We have listened to popular opinion which is that priority should be given to educating the future generation. Therefore we have increased the amount of funds available to our national Schools Programme.
Strategic/Small/ Neighbourhood Grants	2,000,000	2,000,000	No change
Local Funding & Neighbourhood Arts		611,124	Increased. In addition to the Grants Programme, we have placed emphasis on reaching neighbourhoods and communities through our Neighbourhood Arts Programme and by supporting the Green Capital Partnership.
Bristol Welcome	650,000		
- Volunteers		272,228	No change
- City Dressing/ Public Awareness		347,230	Extra funds have been allocated to our Public Awareness Campaign, which aims to reach all sections of the community, with a focus on inclusivity. For example, we have engaged a local youth organisation with strong ethnic diversity to increase our presence throughout the city.
- Welcome and Introductory Events		277,784	No change
Bristol Method	250,000	138,892	Reduced. Our evaluation programme attracted a significant amount of in-kind support, and we were therefore able to divert funds elsewhere.
	7,000,000	6,999,054	

Appendix B – Spend to Date

1. The table below summarises spend to date of the £7m funding awarded from the Department for Energy and Climate Change. The total forecast spend against this budget remains £7m ¹

DECC Funding	Forecast	Spend to date
Summits	1,679,409	979,153
Green Tech	561,253	536,825
Schools Programme	1,111,134	577,639
Neighbourhood Programme		
- Neighbourhood Arts Programme	349,273	254,245
- Local funding	261,851	201,468
- Strategic/Small/Neighbourhood Grants	2,000,000	1,935,637
Bristol Welcome:		
- Volunteers	272,228	166,505
- City Dressing/Public Awareness	347,230	277,692
- Welcome and Introductory Events	277,784	277,882
Bristol Method	138,892	87,575
Total	6,999,054	5,294,621

2. The table below summarised spend to date of the £1m funding provided by BCC. ²

BCC Funding	Forecast	Spend to date
Commissioned Partners:		
- Go Green	140,000	115,497
- Big Green Week	100,000	100,000
- Happy City	25,000	25,000
- Solar Balloon	80,000	76,314
Website & Digital	245,000	245,000
Support Costs	410,000	394,194
Total	1,000,000	956,005

¹ Spend to date as reported 30/09/15.

² As reported 30/09/15. Original figure was £1.2m - £200k specifically allocated to TreePips Project. Now known as One Tree Per Child, management of this funding is now through BCC and is reported through Neighbourhoods Directorate.