

Growth and Regeneration Scrutiny Commission Supplementary Information



Date: Thursday, 28 January 2021

Time: 5.30 pm

Venue: Virtual Meeting - Zoom Committee Meeting
with Public Access via YouTube

7. Temple Quarter Member Working Group – Chairs’ Report

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Temple Quarter and St Philip's Marsh Cross Party Working Group Chairs' Report (this group is co-chaired by Cllr Nicola Beech and Cllr Paula O'Rourke)

The group met for the first time on Friday 22 January 2021

Present

Councillor Nicola Beech; Councillor Tom Brook; Councillor Mark Weston; Councillor Gary Hopkins; Councillor Paula O'Rourke
Stephen Peacock; Nuala Gallagher; Colin Molton

Topics on the agenda

1. Review of Terms of Reference and confidentiality

Members agreed the ToR with some amendments.

- Minutes will be taken.
- A section on community engagement will be added.
- These meetings will be confidential as proposals are draft.

2. Governance and partnership working

Members were given an overview of the governance structure, with the understanding that this is still fluid. Officers and members agreed that achieving good democratic oversight on these developments was important. Governance will be monitored in further meetings.

The Memorandum of Understanding, which has not yet been signed, was agreed.

Members asked to understand what each of the parties (for instance Network Rail, Homes England) bring to the partnership and more detail on this will come to future meetings.

Members' insight into effective lobbying was sought and their contributions will be acted on.

3. Phase 1 Funding Bid explained and discussed

Members were told of delays and changes being made to funding from Central Government. Officers explained that they had been invited to 'co-design' the bid with partners including Homes England which they believe will make the bid fit for purpose. We were told that there is 'strong ministerial support' for the bid. The fund is all grant and there is no need for match funding.

4. Members were given an update on all schemes

- **University of Bristol:** despite challenges of Covid, Bristol University is still very committed and construction contracts are still being mobilised. It was acknowledged that the effect of Covid on universities must carry some warning.
- **Silverthorne Island:** Following planning consent granted in 2020 it was called-in by the Environment Agency and the inquiry is scheduled for May.
- **Temple Island:** negotiations with L&G are on-going. It had been expected that G&R Scrutiny would receive a report for the commission meeting on 28th but this was not possible, as the complexity of the legal matters means that contracts are not signed; it would be inappropriate for L&G to present proposals that are not legally agreed. It is now expected that L&G's proposed approach to engagement and consultation will be taken to a Scrutiny meeting in March. The disposal agreement will be brought to a closed briefing of members before then.
- Members were assured that the contract with L&G would allow BCC time to review post-COVID office use before committing to the 'wrapper' being an office block.
- It is expected that the briefing and the scrutiny meeting will take place before the election period begins, subject to the conclusion of the negotiations.
- **Station improvements:** Work has started on the roof and Network Rail are working on the detail of the Eastern Entrance.

5. Vision document and engagement strategy

Members reviewed the draft "Vision for the Future", which is the information being presented to citizens as part of the next engagement phase. Members were able to question officers and the Cabinet member and offer suggestions on how to make the publication more accessible and engaging. Members welcomed being able to influence matters at this early stage.

Members offered advice on how to improve engagement.

6. Next meeting

The group is intended to meet quarterly, however, the Co-chairs, on reflection after the meeting, believe that it would be useful to have another meeting sooner to discuss the delivery strategy in more detail.