

# Bristol City Council Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

27 June 2016 at 5.00 pm (reconvened meeting)



## Members present:-

**Councillors:** Charlie Bolton, Nicola Bowden-Jones, Tom Brook, Geoff Gollop, Brenda Massey, Olly Mead, Steve Pearce, John Goulandris and Gary Hopkins

### 1. Welcome to reconvened meeting and safety information

The Chair welcomed members to this reconvened meeting.

### 2. Draft minutes of OSM Board (adjourned meeting of 15 June 2016)

Noted.

### 3. Combined authority and devolution proposals

The Board noted that the 29 June Cabinet and Full Council reports had been pre-circulated.

Presentations were made by the devolution team covering:

1. Present review deal and financial implications
  - Appropriate functional economic market area.
  - Current governance is complex.
  - Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) most efficient arrangement to provide transparency, efficiency and accountability.
  - Engagement with a range of key stakeholders to inform development of the review.
  - Devolution deal brings resources and powers to address evidenced issues affecting the area's productivity and sustainability (social, economic and environmental).
  - Finance:
    - New government grants - £30m x 30 years.
    - New revenue streams – supplementary business rate



- New powers over existing money – transport and skills; allocation by the MCA; protection for unitary authority revenue.
- Protection for existing City Deal funds.
- Risks identified in securing Gain Share, allocating transport budgets and viability of FE colleges; mitigations developed.

## 2. Present scheme and consultation

- Scheme sets out the logistics of how the CA and Mayor will operate.
- Aim of more efficient delivery of economic development and transport.
- Four CA members; mix of voting arrangements.
- No removal of UA powers or resources, nor imposition of liabilities.
- Robust public scrutiny.
- If scheme is approved, consultation would start on 4 July for six weeks; online and hard copy.
- Consultation on scheme to inform Secretary of State creation of statutory order.

## 3. Decision making process

- Executive decision with opportunity for Full Council debate.
- Cabinet will meet to make a recommendation to Full Council. Cabinet will adjourn to allow a Full Council debate and will re-convene to decide in light of the Full Council debate.
- No ability to call-in the decision as this will have been debated at scrutiny and Full Council, as well as Cabinet.

### **OSM comments for submission to Cabinet and Full Council:**

OSM noted that the recommendations set out in the Cabinet and Full Council report will be determined / voted on as a “package” of interrelated recommendations.

Full Council will also consider any amendments proposed, setting out any additional points that Cabinet are asked to consider.

Having discussed all of the above, OSM

**RESOLVED - that, in considering the Combined Authority and Devolution proposals, Cabinet and Full Council be asked to note and endorse the following comments:**

- Robust scrutiny** – it will be essential to ensure that robust scrutiny is put in place, is ongoing, and appropriately resourced by each of the authorities. It is noted that there will be legislative backing for the scrutiny role (currently this is not the case at a West of England level).
- Impact of reduced EU funding** – following the EU referendum result, it is important to note that there will be a potential impact resulting from reduced EU funding.



- c. **Environmental protection and equalities considerations:** whilst recognising the vital importance of securing ongoing economic growth, it is also essential that reducing environmental impacts and inequality are central to the devolution agreement, and are key elements within the economic model.
- d. **Metro-Mayor concerns:** whilst noting that the Metro-Mayor is a requirement of the deal, there are concerns and reservations about the need for this governance solution, and on the processes around the appointment and powers of the Metro-Mayor.
- e. **Consultation responses:** if the scheme is approved, OSM wishes to meet in early-mid August to give consideration to the public consultation responses, and in light of that further consideration, may wish to submit further comments to the Secretary of State by the closing date of 26 August. OSM also suggested that a provisional Extraordinary Full Council could take place before final consent is given by Cabinet if necessary.

#### **4. Mayor's forward plan - 29 June Cabinet report on supporting capital development of culture venues**

The Board discussed this Cabinet report.

The report outlined the proposed future funding arrangements for three of the key cultural venues in the city: Bristol Old Vic, St George's and the Colston Hall, brought to OSM for comment since it was the only scrutiny meeting in the appropriate timeframe.

The report set out how the proposed BCC support would allow the venues to meet the threshold for further funding support from organisations such as the Arts Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

In discussion, members were supportive of the report and recognised the importance of cultural investment and the significance of the three venues, both locally and on a wider, global level.

Although being supportive of the proposals, members were keen to emphasise the significance of the Music Trust as an integral organisation in terms of the City's cultural offer. Members also highlighted the importance, with particular reference to the Colston Hall in particular, of ensuring that the lease arrangements were negotiated and concluded in the most appropriate and sensible manner.

#### **RESOLVED -**

**That the above comments be forwarded to the 29 June Cabinet.**

**CHAIR** \_\_\_\_\_



