

Bristol City Council

Minutes of the Extraordinary Overview and Scrutiny Management Board



24 April 2017 at 4.15pm

DISCLAIMER

The attached Minutes are DRAFT. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information and statements and decisions recorded in them, their status will remain that of a draft until such time as they are confirmed as a correct record at the subsequent meeting

Members Present:-

Cllrs Charlie Bolton, Nicola Bowden Jones (arrived at 16.30), Tom Brook, Jude English, Geoff Gollop, John Goulandris, Gill Kirk, Brenda Massey, Olly Mead, Anthony Negus.

1. Welcome, Introductions and Safety Information

The Chair welcomed all members to the meeting and explained the evacuation procedure in the event of an emergency.

2. Apologies for absence.

None received

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Chairs' Business

There were no announcements from the Chair

5. Public Forum

The Board received seven Public Forum statements in relation to item 8 –Hengrove Park and Hartcliffe Campus Community Engagement Strategy. Copies of the statements are held on public record by the Democratic Services team and can be viewed by emailing democratic.services@bristol.gov.uk.



6. Minutes and Actions from the Previous Meetings

The minutes and action sheets from the meetings listed below were approved as a correct record;

- Overview and Scrutiny Management Board - 9th Feb 17
- Overview and Scrutiny Management Board - 13th March 17
- Call In Sub Committee - 27th March 17

7. Financial Monitor – P10

Members received an introduction from the Service Director – Finance, in which she advised there was a financial position of £11.6m forecast outturn deficit at the end of January 2017, which had increased by £0.7m from the Period 9 forecast. It was explained that this was largely due to an increase in forecast expenditure within the People Directorate although a number of mitigating measures were being undertaken to bring the General Fund position closer to balance.

Following the introduction, Members went on to consider the information provided and ask for additional details in a number of areas. The discussion was as follows;

- The overspend in the People Directorate was primarily due to Adult Social Care but demand management and debt recovery strategies were being developed with targeted intervention to improve the situation.
- Year-end figures were expected to be available by the end of May 2017 and it was anticipated that the current financial position would be held.
- Members should consider whether there were other areas of overspend they wished to review in detail and decide whether these matters should be picked up by individual Commissions or OSM.

RESOLVED: That the P10 Finance Update be ‘Noted’

8. Hengrove Park and Hartcliffe Campus Community Engagement Strategy

Members welcomed Councillor Paul Smith, Cabinet Member for Housing and Councillor Tim Kent who had joined the meeting to participate in the discussion.

The Board noted that the request for a Community Engagement Strategy for Hengrove Park and Hartcliffe Campus had originated at a meeting of the Call-in Sub Committee on 27th March 2017 (see here for additional information [Call-in Meeting Papers](#)).

Following an introduction from Councillor Smith, Members of OSMB and Councillor Kent went onto to comment on the information provided. There was consensus that the approach outlined by Councillor Smith should be supported, with the following additional measures in place;

- That due to the importance of the development the consultation period be extended from six weeks to 12 weeks.
- That during the consultation process, some opportunities for residents to engage be scheduled for the evenings to accommodate those who worked.



- That the Bristol Walking Alliance be included in the consultation process.

Councillor Smith agreed to accept the suggestions listed above. The Board thanked him for listening to their views.

RESOLVED: That the Hengrove Park and Hartcliffe Campus Community Engagement Strategy be noted, subject to revisions listed above.

9. Scrutiny Structures and New Ways of Working – Outcomes from the Hothouse

Members received the report detailing outcomes from the Scrutiny Hothouse that had taken place on 5th April 2017. Following a brief introduction from officers, the Board went on to comment on the proposals and agree next steps. The discussion was as follows;

- The need to review Scrutiny had originated from Members who were concerned that new ways of working should be explored in order to secure the best outcomes.
- The hothouse format was a useful tool for exploring topics in a new way and would be a good model from some scrutiny work streams in the future. Opportunities for better use of technology should also be explored.
- The financial context should be a key consideration in all future Scrutiny activity, both the economic pressures faced at local and national level, but also the need to ensure the work programme delivers the best outcomes for the residents of Bristol.
- OSM needed to take a firmer control of the work programme in the future to ensure resources were directed where they would be the most effective.
- A number of questions remained following the hothouse including how to fulfil the ‘overview’ role of Scrutiny and how to ensure there was an appropriate amount of scrutiny resources allocated to health related matters, many of which were statutory.
- The need for Scrutiny to engage earlier if it were to play a meaningful part in policy development was widely acknowledged and supported by the Mayor. Many of the proposals emerging from the hothouse would facilitate this.
- Separate to the Scrutiny review Members were reviewing the City Council’s Constitution and a report of proposed changes would be considered by Full Council in due course.

Whilst there was broad consensus that it was right to conduct the review, it was important not to rush the decision therefore interim measures should be implemented until a full report of recommendations can be prepared for consideration at Full Council, potentially in September 17. Therefore formal meetings of the existing Commissions should be set up for July 2017, in line with usual practices.

RESOLVED;

- That a second hothouse event be scheduled for mid-May 2017
- That a report of recommendations in relation to the Scrutiny review should be scheduled for Full Council around September 17
- That, as an interim measure, formal meetings of the existing Scrutiny Commissions should be scheduled for July 2017



10. Mayor's Forward Plan

The Forward Plan was noted. Members were advised that steps were being taken to populate the Forward Plan more fully and an update would be provided in due course.

RESOLVED; That the update be noted.

11. Work Programme

Members noted the updated Work Programme

RESOLVED; That the update be noted.

12. Scrutiny Tracker

The trackers detailing progress on meeting resolutions, Inquiry Day recommendations and Full Council actions were noted.

RESOLVED; That the update be noted

13. Date of the Next Meeting

Members confirmed that the next (extraordinary) meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board would take at 4pm on 18th May 2017.

The Meeting ended at 6.15pm

CHAIR _____

