

Question: PQ22.01

Cabinet – 1 September 2020

Re: Agenda item 22 – Watershed Phase 1 Redevelopment

Question submitted by: Stephen Layland

QUOTE: While Watershed has two distant [distinct?] phases of work, this report only relates to Phase 1 for which a conditional approval has been granted by WECA. Watershed has confirmed that Phase 1 is a standalone project, and that it is critical to their financial resiliency plan, regardless of Phase 2 going ahead or not. For the avoidance of doubt, it should be noted that the Councils support and underwriting the Phase 1 Grant does not constitute approval or support for the Phase 2 proposition.

PREAMBLE: to rehearse the point I may at one of the public consultations - held within the Watershed's Pervasive Media Studios - while presented as two distinct phases of work, the external expression to intrusion of the saw-like upper-profile of the proposed tower of Phase-2 into the surrounding city-scape would be over-determined - fixed - by any decision to approve the terms of Phase-1 - vis: by effectively foreclosing the adaption of the roof of Phase-1 shed [say to provide a alternative platform on which to establish a more extensive array of photovoltaic-cells, as if behind [totally obscured] a upstand/facade, on which a digital display of forthcoming attractions would add to the media-like atmosphere of the local district] in keeping with the commitments listed below.

Q: Please highlight a few of the substantive ways - if any - in which that decision on the Business Case for Phase 1 - the supposed subject of the report/recommendations to the Mayor and Cabinet - can sensibly held not to have predetermined/overdetermined that subsequent decision on Phase-2, by foreclosing any sensible architectural alternatives to the most obvious or prominent characteristic features of Phase-2 and which, I might add, seems symptomatic of many of the very worst aspect of planning in Bristol - vis: allowing the internal determinants [architectural form follows internal function] to uglify Bristols city scape [witness the "Concentration Camp" architectonic of the array of "Control Towers" [a.k.a. Car Park Exhaust Vents] that emerge and loop over the nearby Millennium Square.

- To extend the new construction into and over part of Transit Shed W
- To construct new space in an area that will generate least disruption to the existing business
- To generate the opportunity to rearrange the circulation through the building
- To create a new entrance from Anchor Road
- To extend the street level frontage of Watershed
- To provide a livelier foyer area on the ground floor
- Use the new building to demonstrate and advertise the expanding work of Watershed
- To create additional workspace for talent development, incubation and early stage growth
- To ensure that the development is a demonstrator in sustainable principles
- Develop an architectural solution which is respectful to the listed building and appropriate to the location
- Take full advantage of this busy and lively location to encourage new and more diverse audiences to Watershed
- Generate improved public realm to Anchor / Canon's Road
- Explore the use of emerging sustainable technologies
- Optimise potential for PV energy generation
- Target low embodied carbon in the construction materials

