

# Growth and Regeneration Scrutiny Commission

28<sup>th</sup> January 2021



**Report of:**

**Title:** Western Harbour Update

**Ward:**

**Officer Presenting Report:** Nuala Gallagher /Abigail Stratford

**Contact Telephone Number:**

**Recommendation:**

- To note the Council intends to produce a Placeshaping Vision for Western Harbour

**The significant issues in the report are:**

None



## 1. Summary

The Council informed by conversations with the Western Harbour Advisory Group ('WHAG') are seeking to appoint an organisation or consortium with urban design, creative engagement and place making expertise to lead, commission and deliver a programme of local and city-wide creative engagement with Bristol citizens and stakeholders to inform the production of the following:

- Inclusive creative engagement programme
- Co-Created Placeshaping Vision for Western Harbour
- Mapping of Ideas and opportunities
- Suggest approach to Future Engagement

The co-created Vision will set out the aspirations of the community, city and council for the future of Western Harbour. The Vision will then underpin the next design phase of the project and its future delivery.

## 2. Context

### Initial Engagement

In 2019 Bristol City Council embarked on early engagement into possible approaches to changing the road network at Western Harbour. The existing road network is in need of significant investment and it was seen as an opportunity to start discussions, understand the art of the possible and whether different road solutions could open up the area.

Some useful themes have emerged from previous engagement. Concerns have been expressed around; the protection of existing homes and businesses, preservation of and impact on both the heritage value and the natural environment, the need for sustainable growth including travel, flood risk, housing climate change and the impact of so much work on their everyday lives.

### A Renewed Approach to Engagement

To ensure we listen to the views of both local residents, stakeholders and the wider city on their aspirations for the future of Western Harbour, the Council wishes to take an inclusive, collaborative, creative art-led approach to the next phase of engagement.

Our aim is to build trust, capture diverse voices and engage inclusively to harness the passion, knowledge and ideas of Bristol citizens to shape a vision for the area. To achieve this we believe that engagement should be underpinned by the following four key foundations:

- Engage - meaningfully and creatively to inspire and capture diverse voices
- Listen – sensitively and openly to understand a wide range of views and aspirations
- Collaborate –connect, integrate and share ideas and opportunities
- Co- Create –build skills, shape plans, test ideas and spaces that meet needs

It is hoped these foundations will continue to inform our approach to engagement over the lifetime of the project.

The Council is seeking to appoint an organisation or consortium with urban design, creative engagement and place making expertise to deliver the following

- **Inclusive/Creative Engagement Programme:** that seeks to
  - Provides clear information and messaging about a complex project
  - Uses creative ways to engage and capture a diverse range of voices from target audiences
  - Commissions and works with a diverse range of established Bristol based arts, creative and community anchor organisations from across Bristol to enable and inspire inclusive engagement
  - Employ local people to assist with engagement
- **Western Harbour Place shaping Vision:** A shared vision for Western Harbour which has broad support from both the local and citywide community, and aligns with Bristol City Council's corporate aspirations and policies.
- **Mapping of Ideas and Opportunities** (to be incorporated as part of Vision) A method / product for capturing the ideas, assets and opportunities identified through the engagement programme that is easily understandable to multiple stakeholders and particularly the general public.
- **Engagement Plan for the future;** An engagement plan which sets out recommended engagement principles and a clear framework for an ongoing dialogue with local residents, stakeholders and citizens across the city as the Western Harbour project develops.

### Meanwhile Use

In conjunction with this commission Bristol City Council intends to simultaneously commission an organisation to curate, operate and deliver a meanwhile use project within the area.

The meanwhile use project will seek to transform the space to create a new destination. It will seek to test new ideas and uses in Western Harbour and help the city reimagine the future of the place.

### Programme

It is anticipated the place shaping vision will be completed in Autumn 2021. Thereafter work will progress on procuring a multi-disciplinary team to develop the next design phase of the project.

### **3. Policy**

Western Harbour has been identified as one of the Growth and Regeneration Areas identified in the Bristol Local Plan Review (2019). The draft Local Plan Review sets out the intention to develop the area as a new city quarter, creating a mixed and inclusive community with a diversity of land uses providing

opportunities for new homes, workspace, leisure and services.

#### **4. Consultation**

##### **a) Internal**

The following departments have been consulted and helped shape the proposal - City Design/ Culture and Creative Industries/ Communications & Engagement

##### **b) External**

Western Harbour Advisory Group have been consulted on the proposals

#### **5. Public Sector Equality Duties**

- 5a) Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:
- i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
  - ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --
    - remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
    - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
    - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
  - iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
    - tackle prejudice; and
    - promote understanding.
- 5b) An equality impact assessments will be undertaken to inform the engagement strategy and programme delivery stage

**Appendices:**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**Background Papers:**