

OSMB Referral to the Cabinet Meeting on 9th March 2021

At the OSMB meeting on 5th March 2021 Members agreed to refer the following comments and information to Cabinet;

Bristol Holdings Group Business Plan (Goram Homes) and Goram Homes Land Disposal

Members felt unable to fully scrutinise the Goram Homes Land Disposal and Business Plan items due to insufficient time to consider the published papers. The timing of the availability of Cabinet items has been previously raised.

Members affirmed their support for the objectives around commitments to new housing but expressed concern over the achievability of the suggested timescales.

Members supported the proposed model that aimed to bring longstanding sites into development more quickly.

Further and ongoing Scrutiny around this item would be welcomed.

Bristol Beacon

Members were extremely concerned about the additional spend identified, emphasising the 100% increase of costs.

The hard work of officers in identifying the issues and moving the project forward was recognised and appreciated.

Members raised concerns over how the project reached this stage and felt that there were significant lessons to be learned. Consequently the Board suggested that Bristol City Council establish an Inquiry to review what had been discovered.

Despite concerns Members reiterated that they were unanimous in their support of proceeding with the project.

Social Value Review

Statement from Chair of Resources Scrutiny Commission – Social Value Review Task and Finish Group:

The Social Value Task and Finish Group was charged with looking at a refresh of the Social Value Policy which was in place in Bristol City Council. When originally implemented following a similar task and finish group it had been a ground-breaking and innovative policy and we considered that it remained so. However, as might be expected, during implementation of the policy, a number of areas had been identified where it could usefully be clarified and amended. That was the purpose of the group.

Membership of the group was drawn largely from the Resources Scrutiny Commission and all attendees are thanked with particular thanks to Councillors Threlfall, Gollop and Brook.

Excellent support was received from officers including Jo Holmes, Lucy Fleming, Bronwen Falconer and Dan Berlin of Democratic Services, and wise and expert guidance from Denise Murray. Steve Sandercock and especially Matthew King gave us excellent practical advice around the details of the policy and did much preliminary work before our session began.

The group started by re-considering the background and utility to Social Value and looked at what had been implemented in other Councils. It also reviewed in detail the current policy line-by-line and made suggestions for amendments.

We attempted to set out in the policy how Social Value (as a concept) could be applied to areas of decision making within BCC other than just procurement.

We commend the policy that has emerged from this consensual process and really hope that Bristol City Council will remain at the forefront of this emerging area which we consider is vital to gathering all the benefits we can gain as a council from our spending decisions.

Stephen Clarke

Chair of Social Value Task and Finish Group.

Advertising and Sponsorship Policy

Members welcomed the policy as a good starting point, and expressed a desire to see the policy strengthened in the future to reflect concerns about current advertisers and sponsors.

Additional supplementary questions regarding the policy were raised as part of Public Forum which could not be addressed at the time; it was agreed to refer these to Cabinet and as such have been appended to this document.

Bristol City Council Corporate Business Plan

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board considered the Bristol City Council Corporate Business Plan at a workshop between Scrutiny Members and Officers in February 2021. The Board welcomed this pro-active engagement with Scrutiny.