

Growth and Regeneration Scrutiny Commission

28th February 2022



Report of: John Smith – Director Economy of Place

Title: Western Harbour update

Ward: Hotwells and Harbourside

Officers Presenting Report: Abigail Stratford – Head of Regeneration
Emily Price – Regeneration Manager

Recommendation

Note the community engagement undertaken to date that has helped to co-create the vision for Western Harbour.

Note the next steps for consulting on the Western Harbour vision and taking it to Cabinet for endorsement in June.

Summary

This report and presentation provides an update on the community engagement that took place between September and December 2021 on the future of Western Harbour and sets out the next steps for consulting on the vision document and taking it to Cabinet for endorsement.



Policy

1. 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 mixed and inclusive community with a diversity of land uses, providing opportunities for new homes, workspace, leisure and services.

Consultation

2. Internal

A variety of internal departments took part in one of the visioning days as part of the engagement programme.

3. External

A full report on the engagement will be made available on the Harbour Hopes website before 10 March 2022.

Context

4. From September – December 21, the council embarked on a community engagement programme under the banner of ‘Harbour Hopes’ to consider the future of Western Harbour. It set out to:

- Engage - meaningfully and creatively to inspire and capture diverse voices from across the city
- Listen – sensitively and openly to understand a wide range of views and aspirations about the future
- Co-Create – build skills, shape plans, test ideas and spaces that meet future needs
- Collaborate – connect, share and bring together ideas and opportunities among council, stakeholders and communities

5. During this time the team has:

- Run over 20 workshops, listening labs, and visioning days with local residents, businesses and history groups and city-wide groups
- Hosted a month-long interactive exhibition capturing people’s ideas for ‘Place Principles’
- Generated online engagement with 4687 unique visits to HarbourHopes.co.uk and set up an Instagram channel
- Worked with 5 Bristol based Creative Ambassadors who captured what this part of the Harbour means to people through stories, portraits, film and illustration.

6. The feedback received has been distilled into a draft vision for Western Harbour which will be shared in full with the city when the consultation starts on 10 March 2022. The summary is as follows:

“The western end of Bristol’s Floating Harbour is primed for a new phase in its long history of transformation. In response to the challenges of our time and inspired by the hopes of an active community, its future will build on the area’s heritage and identity shaped by pioneers such as Isambard Kingdom Brunel and Sylvia Crowe. With nature at its heart and infrastructure running through it, Western Harbour will become a climate exemplar supporting both community living and innovation. As a gateway and connection point, the area will be both edge and centre. This is a vision for Western Harbour, this is the story for its next chapter”.

Proposal

7. Note the engagement completed to date.
8. Note the planned 6-week consultation on the draft vision for Western Harbour will run from 10 March – 22 April 2022.
9. Note that it is anticipated that Cabinet will consider the vision on 7 June 2022 along with a proposal for the next stage of the work for Western Harbour that will include a procurement strategy, funding strategy and headline community engagement plan.

Other Options Considered

10. N/A

Risk Assessment

11. N/A at this stage

Summary of Equalities Impact of the Proposed Decision

12. An equalities impact assessment has been completed and informed our approach to community engagement.

Legal and Resource Implications

None

Financial

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Finance advice provided by Kayode Olagundoye

Land

Not applicable

Personnel

There are no HR implications evident.
(Personnel advice provided by Celia Williams, HR Co)

Appendices:

None

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

None