

Birmingham City Council

Report to Cabinet Committee – Group Company Governance

15 July 2020



Subject: Birmingham Museums Trust - Company Pen Portrait
Report of: Alison Jarrett, AD Commercial and Development,
Finance & Governance
Relevant Cabinet Member: Councillor Brigid Jones
Relevant O &S Chair(s): Councillor Sir Albert Bore
Report author: Alison Jarrett

Are specific wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – All wards affected
If yes, name(s) of ward(s):		
Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, add Forward Plan Reference:		
Is the decision eligible for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential :		

1 Executive Summary

Birmingham Museums Trust (BMT) is to present to Members on the private agenda. This report provides Members with a pen portrait of the Trust.

2 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to note the information provided

3 Background

3.1 BMT was set up in 2012 as a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee to manage the Council's historic houses, cultural sites and collections on behalf the City Council. The Trust has a trading subsidiary Birmingham Museums Trading Ltd which contributed £644k to BMT in 2019 and its subsidiary charity, Thinktank Trust. It should be noted that Birmingham has the largest civic museum service in England.

3.2 The collections are displayed and stored in nine venues including Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery which operates as the head office for the BMT. The collection contains approximately 1 million objects. Much of it is designated by Arts Council England (ACE) as being of national importance and many collections are of international significance. Only 1% is on display or on loan at any one time. The collection is stored in 2 locations; BMAG and the Museum Collection Centre (MCC), Dollman Street, Nechells.

3.3 Charitable Objectives

- To advance education by the operation, maintenance, development and promotion of museums, galleries and libraries in Birmingham, together with associated facilities and related programmes of outreach and research, fostering knowledge, understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the arts, history, science and technology by residents and visitors to the city of Birmingham.

3.4 Vision

- To reflect Birmingham to the world, and the world to Birmingham.

3.5 Core purpose

- To showcase our outstanding collections and venues to inspire learning, creativity and enjoyment for people of Birmingham and visitors to the region.

3.6 Guiding Principles

- Inclusivity - Birmingham Museums Trust is for everyone
- Excellence - We strive to be leaders and innovators, offering great experiences to our customers
- Working Together - We work in partnership and support each other to achieve more for our audiences
- Trust - Birmingham Museums Trust can be trusted to deliver on our promises and plans
- Sustainable - We are entrepreneurial and put sustainability at the core of our practices.

3.7 Aims

- Leading in excellence
- Developing the collection and venues
- Growing and diversifying audiences
- Building a sustainable business
- Investing in people

3.8 The company received a fixed fee payment for services from BCC of £3.183m in 2019 and 2018 plus a variable performance based fee of £2.0m in 2019 (£2.1m 2018); Thinktank Trust has received loan finance of £11.5m and a grant of £1.4m to assist with property lease payments. During 2019 the Trust employed an average FTE of 179 together with the services of over a thousand volunteers.

3.9 In July 2018 Cabinet considered options for the relocation of the BMAG and its stores during proposed refurbishment works within the Council House complex. Subsequently however, the council rescheduled the timing of any works on the property for consideration after the Commonwealth Games in 2022. As a consequence, the publicised closure of the BMAG during these works and plans for the development of a new site were also postponed. BMT retain their ambitions to redevelop the museum at a new site sometime after 2022.

3.9 Key personnel and board members within BMT are:

Neils De Vos – interim Director of Birmingham Museums Trust

Toby Watley - Director of Collections

Rachel Cockett - Director of Development

Alexandra Nicholson-Evans - Commercial Director

Janine Eason - Director of Engagement

Richard Paterson - Finance Director and Company Secretary

Trustees

Ian Grosvenor (Chair)

Councillor Muhammad Afzal

Randal Brew

Eamon Mooney

Tracey Stephenson

Jonnie Turpie MBE

Chrissie Twigg

Mohammed Ali MBE

Claire Williamson

Luke Southall

John Diviney

Dr Louise Brooke-Smith OBE, FRICS, MRTPI

Liam Byrne MP

4 Options considered and Recommended Proposal

4.1 This report provides information to Members on PBL and will assist in the exchanges and discussion on the presentation within the private agenda.

5 Consultation

5.1 The Chair of the Committee has been consulted on the attendance of PBL.

6 Risk Management

6.1 This report provides an outline of the company and background for discussion of company performance with the company representatives.

7 Compliance Issues:

7.1 How are the recommended decisions consistent with the City Council's priorities, plans and strategies?

The Council provides services to community through a number of different vehicles. This report provides information on PBL, a major provider of cultural services and events within the city.

The recommended decision supports the Birmingham City Council Plan 2018-2022, outcome 4: Birmingham is a great city to live in through priority 8, we will enhance our status as a city of culture, sports and events.

7.2 Legal Implications

The Council's Section 151 Officer has a duty to ensure the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, requires the Council to have effective arrangements for the management of risk.

7.3 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications directly arising from this report but Members should consider any questions or considerations arising from this report for discussion during the private agenda.

7.4 Procurement Implications

There are no procurement implications directly arising from this report.

7.5 Human Resources Implications

There are no human resources implications directly arising from this report.

7.6 Public Sector Equality Duty

There are no equality duty or equality analysis issues relating to the proposals set out in this report.

8 Background Documents

None.