

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**COMMONWEALTH GAMES, CULTURE & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
O&S COMMITTEE**

1330 hours on 7th October 2020, Online Meeting – Action Notes

Present:

Councillor Mariam Khan (Chair)

Councillors: Alex Aitken, Morriam Jan, John Lines, Zhor Malik, Hendrina Quinnen, Ron Storer and Martin Straker Welds

Also Present:

Karen Cheney, Head of Service, Neighbourhood Development and Support (NDSU)

Symon Easton, Head of Cultural Development

Martin Green, Chief Creative Officer for Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Organising Committee

Cat Orchard, Head of Community Partnerships, Commonwealth Games Project Team

Ceri Saunders, Acting Group Overview & Scrutiny Manager

Amanda Simcox, Scrutiny Officer

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chair advised that this meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site (www.civico.net/birmingham) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

2. APOLOGIES

None.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

4. ACTION NOTES

(See document No. 1).

RESOLVED:

The action notes for the meeting held on the 2nd September 2020 were agreed.

5. COMMONWEALTH GAMES CULTURAL PROGRAMME

Martin Green, Chief Creative Officer for Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, Organising Committee and Symon Easton, Head of Cultural Development attended for this item.

Martin Green explained that he leads the team that will bring together the opening and closing ceremonies; the culture programme; the Queen's Baton Relay; live sites that will deliver free to enter spaces, where people can engage with the games and culture; the medal ceremonies for the winners; the welcome ceremonies for each country and territory as they arrive into Birmingham; the learning programme that seeks to reach at the very least 1 million young people in the West Midlands and sport presentations.

Members were informed that the ambition for the cultural programme is simple. The cultural programme will be run from the middle of March 2022 until the beginning of September 2022 and will operate across Birmingham and the West Midlands.

The team has spent approximately 18 months researching what they could possibly do. This included reaching out to community groups and the creative sector and spending a lot of time liaising with Symon and his team within BCC. The findings from this were "that not enough people know how creative this place is, so let's show them".

It was highlighted that they have completed the research and they released at the beginning of the Summer some curatorial guidelines. For example, they want to see work that has an honest conversation about the Commonwealth and really interrogate this controversial and complex subject. They have requested that the cultural community approach them and discuss projects.

Simultaneously they are raising funding for the cultural programme, as this is the only part of the Games that comes unfunded and they will know how much funding they have raised by the end of year. Therefore, by the beginning of next year they can start to see about funding and commissioning the projects they will have been approached about.

In course of the discussion and in response to queries raised by Committee Members the following points were made:

- There is a proposal going to Cabinet next week for the Council to invest £2m into the whole of the cultural programme and they are seeking to raise funding from other organisations, such as the Arts Council England.
- The proposed £2m from the Council will only be used for the Creative Communities Programme.

- They are currently mapping what already exists so they can work with and build on what is already there. They can also then look to fill the gaps.
- Symon informed members that they had a small amount of funding through the Arts Development budget, that the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Culture agreed to allocate to community groups working with arts organisations. The deadline for this is 16th October 2020 and it is hoped that the outcome will be proposals that will be application-ready for the cultural programme bid.
- The best way to bring communities together is through community groups.
- There are contingency plans and they will bear in mind what it will look like if social distancing is still in play. They also need to be mindful as to whether the cultural organisation will still exist if funding does not continue to be provided.
- It is important that there is equitability across the city and a fair spread of the funding.
- This is one part of the jigsaw and there will be a lot of activity in delivering the Games, such as the volunteering and learning opportunities and the mass casting for the opening ceremony.
- The Councillor network will be invaluable in reaching communities and members were encouraged to contact Martin with details of strong cultural organisations in their wards.
- Members were assured that they will be contacted when there are other opportunities, such as the mass casting for the ceremonies etc.
- They will be an enabling force and not a producorial force, as they know that everything they need is already in the city. Therefore, there will be a legacy for the organisations delivering the festival. This includes knowledge transfer and ambition building and they should be stronger for this.
- Also, through the Council's Creative Communities Programme there will be communities making their first application for funding and this will prove a helpful experience and help them to apply for other funding elsewhere.
- The legacy of memory of being part of the festival is an incredibly important legacy, as is an increase sense of pride.
- There is no city better than Birmingham to host the Commonwealth Games, as so many of our communities will find a connection with it from a heritage perspective. Two of the curatorial lines are the Commonwealth and collaboration and bringing communities and celebrating specific cultures within the context of the city and the Commonwealth.

Drawing the discussion to a close the Chair thanked those attending and requested they keep the Committee updated on developments, be this via e-mail or more formally via attending another committee meeting. Officers confirmed they were happy to do this.

RESOLVED:

The update was noted and members to contact Martin Green, Chief Creative Officer for Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Organising Committee with details of strong cultural organisations in their wards.

6. COMMONWEALTH GAMES COMMUNITY FUND WARD FUNDING

(See document No. 2).

Cat Orchard, Head of Community Partnerships, Commonwealth Games Project Team and Karen Cheney, Head of Service, Neighbourhood Development and Support Unit (NDSU) attended for this item.

Cat Orchard delivered a presentation which set the scene as to the organisations delivering the Games and the £6m Community Fund.

Members were informed that the funding becomes available from April 2021 and is ringfenced to Birmingham residents. There are three parts:

- Creative Communities is the cultural element and a report will be going to Cabinet next week.
- Celebrating Communities is the ward level funding.
- There is c.£2m still to be allocated and there are a number of programmes under development, such as the stronger communities programme.

Examples were given under the draft proposals for the Celebrating Communities funding under three themes: Getting Active; Ready, Steady, Fun; and Celebrating Cultures.

It was highlighted that the allocation of the funding has not been finalised and they have been asked by Cabinet to ensure it will be equitable and take into account such things as deprivation levels across the city and whether wards have one or two Councillors.

In response to queries raised by Committee Members the following points were made:

- They will be utilising the ward networks etc, as soon as they have a defined offer and the funding package for each ward confirmed. This is likely to be early next year.
- The Learning Programme is in development and they are trying to find the funding for this.
- They are developing the Stronger Communities Programme and there is a plan around recognising the linguistic diversity around the city and English as a second language.
- There is a need to encourage different wards and areas of the city to mix and work across ward boundaries and bring communities together.
- They are engaged with the Children's Trust and are having active discussions around funding and children in care.
- The funding allocation will be made per ward and Ward Councillors will be very involved and this will start in the next financial year 2021/22.

- The current timeline is for this is there will be a report to Cabinet towards the end of the year. The allocation per ward will be known January or February 2021 and the funding will be available April 2021.
- It is anticipated that they will be working with Councillors through a couple of funding rounds and there may be one in April and one at the end of the year 2021.
- It will be good to use ward forum meetings to discuss locally and to use ward plans and priorities.

RESOLVED:

The update was noted.

7. WORK PROGRAMME

(See document No. 3).

The Chair confirmed that at the next meeting Members will be discussing community engagement in the Commonwealth Games and this will be a good opportunity to refocus how the Committee can continue the piece of work that commenced before the pandemic.

8. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

The date of the next meeting on the 4 November 2020 at 1.30pm was noted.

9. REQUEST(S) FOR CALL IN/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION/PETITIONS (IF ANY)

None.

10. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

11. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

Agreed.

RESOLVED:

That in an urgent situation between meetings the Chair, jointly with the relevant Chief Officer, has authority to act on behalf of the Committee.

The meeting ended at 14:52 hours.