

Birmingham City Council

Council Business Management Committee

7th June 2021



Subject: Proposal for establishing a specific Council House Complex Development Project

Report of: Director Digital and Customer Services

Report author: Peter Bishop

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential :

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline a proposal to establish a Cross-party steering committee to drive forward the development of the Council House Complex.
- 1.2 The purpose of the Steering Committee will be to provide strategic direction for the development of the Council House Complex beyond operational matters e.g. current refurbishment. It will operate on behalf of the Council Business Management Committee (CBM) and will report to it. It will cover the strategic oversight to the project, shaping and acting as a key advisor on the strategic direction of the Project.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That a steering committee is established to provide strategic steer and support, effective cross-party agreement and ambition from partners to this important project.

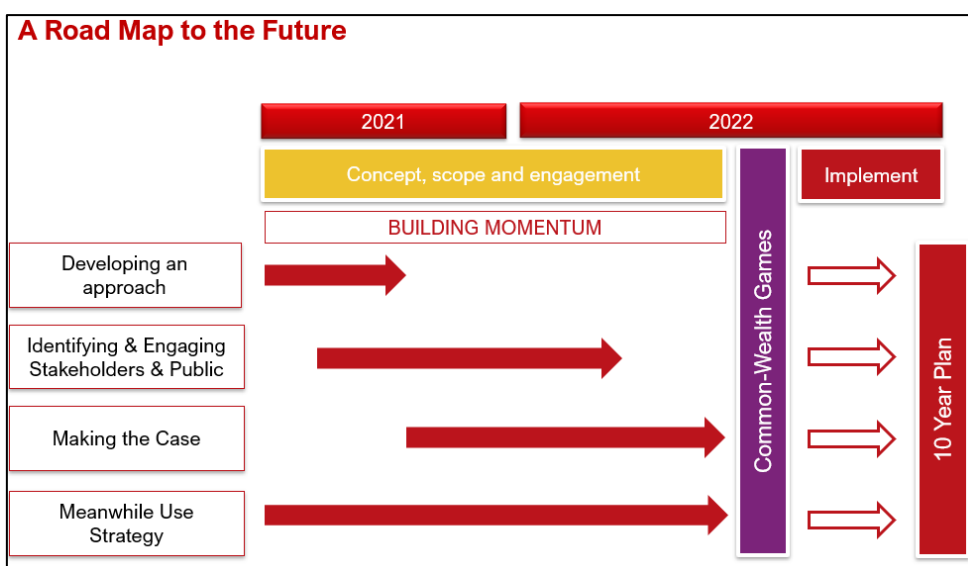
3 Background

- 3.1 The Council House Complex which consists of the Council House, Museum and the Margaret Street Extension, is a significant landmark in the centre of Birmingham. The City Council has recently committed to refurbish the Council House and Museum to ensure the electrical systems are fit for purpose and to redecorate key areas as we become "England House" in readiness for the Commonwealth Games in August 2022. However, the opportunity the Complex provides goes beyond it being a safe and usable space for the public, members and employees.

- 3.2 The City has launched a consultation called “Our Future City Plan”, and as we look forward to the next 20 years, the Future City Plan will incorporate the entire Central Birmingham area from city core to inner-city suburbs, going beyond the ring road to promote and link opportunities and investment that meets the growth needs of more communities. Central Birmingham 2040 will be a collection of successful, interconnected places, each having and developing their own identities yet supported by a much wider built, social and natural network.
- 3.3 The Council House Complex provides the City Council with an opportunity to create a truly accessible public building that is an iconic landmark as part of the city’s cultural, visitor and civic ambitions. In this ambition, it goes beyond its function as the embodiment of the city’s democratic functions, and a base for the Commonwealth games in 2022, but becomes a truly inspirational part of the city’s heritage as part of a vibrant forward-thinking international City.

4 Options considered and Recommended Proposal

- 4.1 A proposal has been developed that will see the Council House Complex developed in a more strategic manner to meet the ambitions the City should have for its civic centre. To achieved that ambition a project will need to be established which will operate to the following approach:



- 4.2 The establishment of a steering committee is pivotal to that approach providing the strategic steer and support, effective cross-group agreement and ambition from partners to this important project. The purpose of the committee is to provide strategic direction for the development of the Council House Complex beyond operational matters e.g. current refurbishment, and to challenge the status quo, inject ambition and drive into the future of the Council House Complex while remaining sensitive to its listed building status and its wider setting.

4.3 The following timing will operate:

Date	Action	Owner
By end of May	Agree draft proposal with Leader and Deputy Leader	Director Digital & Customer Services Director Inclusive Growth
By end of May	Engage on a cross party member basis the ambition and proposal	Director Digital & Customer Services Assistant Director Inclusive Growth
1 st June	Proposal agreed at Council Business Management Committee	Leader and Deputy Leader
Mid-June	Establish expressions of interest from external organisations who would wish to part of this Committee	Deputy Leader
Mid-June	Establish project team to drive forward the project	Assistant Director Inclusive Growth
End June	Kick off Project with inaugural meeting of Steering committee	Assistant Director Inclusive Growth

4.4 Further details and a Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee are listed in the appendix.

5 Appendix

- Appendix A: Proposal for establishing a specific Council House Complex Development Project reporting into a Cross-party Council Steering Committee chaired by the Deputy Leader