

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

COMMONWEALTH GAMES, CULTURE & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

O&S COMMITTEE – PUBLIC MEETING

1400 hours on Wednesday, 2 November 2022, Committee Room 6, Council House

Action Notes

Present:

Councillor Jack Deakin (Chair)

Councillors: Bushra Bi, Deborah Harries, Darius Sandhu, Rinkal Shergill and Ron Storer

Also Present:

Cllr Jayne Francis, Cabinet Member, Digital, Culture, Heritage & Tourism

Dawn Beaumont, Head of Library Services Chief Librarian

Symon Easton, Head of Cultural Development & Tourism

Chris Jordan, AD, Neighbourhoods

Amelia Murray, Overview and Scrutiny Manager

Kate Reynolds, AD, Lifelong Learning & Employability

Amanda Simcox, Scrutiny Officer

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chair advised that this meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's meeting You Tube site (www.youtube.com/channel/UCT2kT7ZRPFCXq6_5dnVnYlw) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

2. APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed Cllr Deborah Harries to the Committee and apologies were received on behalf of Cllr Marcus Bernasconi.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

4. ACTION NOTES AND ACTION TRACKER

(See documents No. 1 and No. 2)

RESOLVED:

The action notes of the formal meeting held on 12 October 2022 were agreed and the action tracker was noted.

5. CABINET MEMBER FOR DIGITAL, CULTURE, HERITAGE AND TOURISM

(See documents No. 3 and No. 4)

Cllr Jayne Francis, Cabinet Member, Digital, Culture, Heritage & Tourism, Chris Jordan, AD, Neighbourhoods, Kate Reynolds, AD, Lifelong Learning & Employability, Symon Easton, Head of Cultural Development & Tourism, and Dawn Beaumont, Head of Library Services Chief Librarian were in attendance for this item.

Cllr Jayne Francis gave the presentation and the main points included:

- Cabinet had approved the Visitor Destination Plan in June 2022.
- The Birmingham International Dance Festival 2022 had been successfully delivered.
- The new Cultural Strategy 2023-2033 was scheduled to be developed.
- The following reports were scheduled to go to Cabinet:
 - The Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery (BMAG) closure for repairs in December 2022.
 - The new Heritage Strategic Planning Document (SPD) in January 2023.
 - The Arts Funding report in February 2023.
 - Film Birmingham Office in Spring 2023.
- The Council had continued to commission annual cultural projects.

- Libraries were working as part of the Council's response to the cost of living crisis, and with Adult Education to support delivery of the Council's Digital Inclusion Strategy.
- The Library of Birmingham continues to host and support the Youth Hub in partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).
- The Commonwealth Games Legacy included supporting the development of a new annual festival.

During the discussion and in response to queries raised by Members, the main points included:

- Information was given on Film Birmingham Office and the location service they provide.
- There were dedicated organisations, such as Creative Alliance, that assist people who want to be involved in the creative and media sector.
- Digital inclusion and translation provision was discussed.
- Cabinet agreed at the 23 September 2022 meeting to allocate £1.5m towards the annual festival next year.
- The production of a new Heritage Strategy, including the Heritage SPD and an independent Heritage and Conservation Panel, and the need to ensure heritage join-up between development and culture was discussed, and contact details for the conservation officer will be provided to Cllr Deborah Harries.
- The public arts strategy was out of date and this was scheduled to be refreshed and statues and monuments would be included in this.
- A report on the Museum and finances was requested, especially in light of increasing costs. Members were informed that officers had quarterly contract monitoring meetings with the Museum, as well as monthly officer group meetings, and a report was scheduled to go to the Cabinet Committee – Group Company Governance, which will be shared with this Committee.
- Symon Easton agreed to report back on the increased financial pressures arts and culture organisations will be facing.
- The Cabinet Member, Digital, Culture, Heritage & Tourism assured Members the Council was doing all it could to support arts organisations.
- There was a list of libraries and leisure centres that would be used as warm space hubs, which would be built on.

RESOLVED:

- The update was noted.
- Contact details for the conservation officer responsible for the Heritage Strategy and Heritage SPD to be provided to Cllr Deborah Harries.
- The report on the Birmingham Museum Trust scheduled to go to the Cabinet Committee – Group Company Governance to be shared with this Committee.

- Symon Easton agreed to report back on the increased financial pressures arts and culture organisations will be facing.

6. COMMONWEALTH GAMES LEGACY

The Chair asked Members how they wanted to shape the future approach to the legacy of the Commonwealth Games for the work programme.

The discussion and suggestions included:

- The Committee acknowledged it may take some time to understand the nature of the Commonwealth Games legacy.
- Whether anything new came out because of hosting the Games could be captured, and the need to ensure the energy doesn't fade was discussed.
- The Task & Finish Inquiry: Promoting Health and Wellbeing – a Commonwealth Games Legacy would include information from Sport Birmingham and Adults Social Care Directorate.
- The Committee should focus on the arts and culture elements, for example, the festival, including how successful the engagement was, both in and outside the City Centre, and how this could be kept going forward with the annual festival.
- How the visitors numbers could be retained for arts and cultural organisations/events, including school engagement and accessibility.
- The Committee highlighted that due to financial pressures it was felt that arts and culture organisations would need to increase their engagement with less money.

RESOLVED:

- The work programme to be updated accordingly.

7. WORK PROGRAMME

(See document No. 5)

The use of parks for physical activity and events, and visitor numbers following parking levies to be scheduled on the work programme.

RESOLVED:

- The work programme to be updated accordingly.

8. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

Noted the date of the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, 7 December 2022 at 1330 in Committee Rooms 3 & 4.

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

None.

10. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

11. AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS

RESOLVED:

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 15.15 hours.