

# **Brexit, Infrastructure and Legislative Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Wednesday 17 July 2019**

## **PRESENT:**

Councillor Churchill, Vice-Chair in the Chair.

Councillor Mavin, Vice Chair.

Councillors Mrs Aspinall (substitute for Councillor Morris), Buchan (Substitute for Councillor Stevens), Sam Davey, Drean, Riley, Ms Watkin and Wheeler.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Morris and Stevens.

Also in attendance: Paul Barnard (Service Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure), Tracey Beeck (iMayflower Project Manager), Councillor Bowyer (Shadow Leader), Paul Brookes (Interim Chief Executive – The Box), Caroline Cozens (Strategic Projects Manager), Councillor Dann (Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene), Kat Deeney (Head of Environmental Planning), David Draffan (Service Director for Economic Development), Councillor Evans OBE (Leader), Kate Farmery (Head of Business (The Box)), Lindsey Hall (Real Ideas Organisation), Nigel Hurst (Head of Contemporary Arts (The Box), Josh McCarty (NMP Project Advisor), Kevin McKenzie (Policy and Intelligence Advisor), Nicola Moyle (Head of Heritage, Arts and Film), Helen Prendergast (Democratic Advisor) and Nina Sarlaka (Enterprise and Inward Investment Manager).

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 4.55 pm.

*Note: At a future meeting, the Panel will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.*

### **11. Appointment of Vice-Chair**

The Committee agreed that Councillor Mavin be appointed as Vice-Chair for this particular meeting.

### **12. To Note the Appointment of the Vice Chair**

The Committee noted the appointment of Councillor Churchill as the Vice-Chair for the forthcoming municipal year 2019/20.

### **13. Declarations of Interest**

In accordance with the code of conduct, Councillor Buchan declared a personal interest in minute 16, as follows –

- her daughter had completed the 'Future Make' programme ran by the Real Ideas Organisation;

- a family member employed by Plymouth College of Art.

14. **Minutes**

The Committee agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 June 2019 are a correct record.

15. **Chair's Urgent Business**

Councillor Churchill (Chair) advised that whilst it was not a Brexit issue, it had been brought to his attention that residents were experiencing problems in being able to access prescribed medicines.

Councillor Mrs Aspinall (Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee) advised that she would look into this issue and report back to the Committee.

16. **The Box Update**

Councillor Evans OBE (Leader), Councillor Bowyer (Shadow Leader), David Draffan (Service Director for Economic Development), Caroline Cozens (Strategic Projects Manager), Paul Brookes (Interim Chief Executive – The Box), Nicola Moyle (Head of Heritage, Arts and Film), Nigel Hurst (Head of Contemporary Arts (The Box) and Kate Farmery (Head of Business (The Box)) presented the update on the Box together with a presentation which highlighted the following key areas –

- (a) The Box brought together a unique combination of cultural partners and heritage collections including the City Museum and Art Gallery, the Plymouth and West Devon Record Office and the local historical collections of the Central Library;
- (b) the project would create a major cultural statement and would make a step change for Plymouth's cultural sector; it would provide a new cultural attraction that supported the targeted increase in tourism for both the City and the region, increasing visitor numbers from 80,000 to 250,000 per annum;
- (c) four community projects were currently underway and were designed to target a range of key Plymouth audiences and community groups which included the Maker Memories, Plymouth After Dark, Your Recipes, Your Heritage and Plymouth Roots;
- (d) the conservation of the figureheads was the most significant of its kind in a generation and not only secured the future of the Devonport figureheads but identified The Box as a centre of excellence and innovation for the preservation and display of maritime heritage, with one of the largest collections in the UK;

- (e) the construction contract had recently been rephrased due to construction delays from abnormal conditions on the site which had required additional work to St Luke's Church, as well as the former museum and library buildings; this had resulted in sections being handed over to enable the fit out programme to start whilst separate construction areas remained safely active;
- (f) 'Reload' was the programme of activities planned over the last 12 months of the programme, leading up to the opening in 2020; this would be a challenging part of the programme, as the collections would be moved from their current locations into the new facility;
- (g) a comprehensive plan for the opening of the new facility had been drawn up which would ensure The Box was ready in Spring 2020; the plan focused on 'our visitors', 'our staff', 'our income' and 'our building';
- (h) the latest approved budget for The Box was £44.452m and reflected an ambitious investment in the City for growth, culture and innovation; whilst the project remained within its current funding envelope, abnormal site conditions continued to be found causing additional pressure on the remaining contingency, such as a significant amount of asbestos and needles found in the ground to the south of St Luke's Church which required specialist removal;
- (i) the Council was currently holding the project risks whilst the build programme and fit out of the galleries and other spaces within the building were completed; the largest risk was the pressure on the current agreed funding for the project; there was also a reputational risk of the outcome of the project not meeting expectations; however this had been mitigated with a very strong cross party member involvement in the programme, throughout its design and now the construction period;
- (j) the driver for the programme was to open the visitor experience in the spring 2020, in time for the Mayflower celebrations; this was a fixed deadline that imposed constraints to the contract delivery of the buildings and exhibitions.

The main areas of questioning from Members related to –

- (k) what measures had been taken to rectify the culvert issue;

- (l) how much asbestos had been found on site and how had this delayed the project;
- (m) whether the marketing of The Box was being undertaken with particular focus on the cruise ships due to visit the City in 2020;
- (n) seeking an assurance that the disabled access to The Box had been well designed including the provision of parking; currently the Regent Street car park was not fit for purpose for disabled users;
- (o) what measures had been undertaken to mitigate anti-social behaviour in the outside space;
- (p) whether the demographics of people visiting the new facility would be pro-actively monitored, to ensure engagement across all communities;
- (q) how the volunteers would be supported and whether any consideration had been given to accrediting this role;
- (r) how Councillors could support the long term sustainability of community engagement, in particular the 12 'cold spots' that had been identified as having the lowest engagement.

The Committee noted the report and agreed the Plan for Learning and Engagement.

The Committee requested that all Ward Councillors be briefed on the Plan for Learning and Engagement, in order to assist with the areas identified as having low engagement (the 12 'cold spots').

#### 17. **The iMayflower Project**

Councillor Evans OBE (Leader), David Draffan (Service Director for Economic Development), Tracey Beeck (iMayflower Project Manager), Nina Sarlaka (Enterprise and Inward Investment Manager) and Lindsey Hall (Real Ideas) presented the iMayflower project which highlighted the following key areas the –

- (a) iMayflower Project was funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sports (DCMS), through the creation of the Cultural Development Fund (CDF) and administered by the Arts Council (ACE);
- (b) Devonport Market Hall (Listed Building) was being repurposed to become an immersive technology centre which would support

Plymouth's creative talent to bring to life world class heritage and shape the new journeys in its diverse communities;

- (c) the project proposed to take a systematic/ecological approach to stimulating growth in and demand for the region's creative and cultural industries; the funding would provide the ability to collectively grow various key strategic elements of the cultural and creative industrial ecology in and around Plymouth;
- (d) the iMayflower project was only one of five successful applications from around 100 across England; the Cultural Development Fund was a new initiative which arose out of the Industrial Strategy and the recently announced Creative Industries Sector Deal; the success of the application had been down to the exceptional nature of the bid, the ambition and achievements to date;
- (e) the total value of the project was £5,958,617 which was funded through a grant of £3,497,301; match funding of £2,461,316 was being provided by the six delivery partners; the Project would run for three years April 2019 to March 2022;
- (f) two aspects of the project would focus on employment and skills;
- (g) the public launch (Ignite: a Festival of Creativity) of the project had been well attended; the launch to the wider business community would take place in July 2019.

The key areas of questioning from Members related to –

- (h) how the Council could help to encourage people to stay in the City, in particular graduates;
- (i) how people could access funding through Creative England;
- (j) what measures were being taken to ensure that the FAB City concept added real value to the efforts being made to promote sustainability and also tie in with the climate emergency;
- (k) how the project could ensure graduate retention whilst also engaging with people who were resident in the City.

The Committee noted the report.

18. **Plymouth Sound National Marine Park**

Councillor Dann (Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene), Paul Barnard (Service Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure), Kat Deeney (Head of Environmental Planning) and Josh McCarty (NMP Project Advisor) provided a presentation on Plymouth Sound National Marine Park which highlighted the following key areas –

- (a) why should we create the Plymouth Sound National Marine Park -
  - Plymouth Sound and the Tamar Estuaries Marine Protected Area covered five times the size of the City;
  - Plymouth was home to one of the largest fish markets in the UK and an incredibly important asset for the UK fishing industry;
  - the waters were currently managed collaboratively by the Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum that brought together the 18 organisations with statutory responsibilities for the waters;
  - HMNB Devonport, the largest naval base in Western Europe was located within the Sound;
  - the marine sector in Plymouth employed over 7,100 people;
  - like the National Parks on land, there was a huge level of support for and interest in the marine environment with 116 million day trips to the UK coast recorded in 2017;
- (b) a legacy we can create together;
- (c) engagement -
  - 60 face to face meetings had been held;
  - 160 individuals and organisations contributed to the first engagement exercise providing detailed comments, views and challenges;
- (d) proposed objectives to -

- establish the UK's first national Marine Park in Plymouth Sound;
- develop Marine Citizenship – increasing ownership, understanding and use of the marine environment, utilising this enhanced engagement to improve community health and wellbeing;
- create a greater sense of public and business engagement and pride in the waters around Plymouth, and enhance and celebrate the natural beauty and wildlife in and around our coastal waters;
- promote truly sustainable use of Plymouth Sound, carefully balancing social, economic and environment needs to deliver a world-class environment that had a positive impact for everyone;
- develop a framework for National Marine Parks that can be replicated across the UK, not just in the far South West, leading to a network of these special places;

(e) next steps included -

- translate the work and commitment from the City and surrounding communities into a meaningful declaration in the autumn;
- continue to undertake all work collaboratively with those who live, work, protect and enjoy Plymouth Sound as we develop and embed the National Marine Park;
- develop a business plan for the National Marine Park within the first year that would set a sustainable future for the Park;
- continue to work with others at a national level to ensure that Plymouth Sound was the first in a network of National Marine Parks.

The key areas of questioning from Members related to –

- (f) whether Plymouth would be in the first in the country to establish a National Marine Park;

- (g) whether the National Marine Park would be a legal entity;
- (h) what mechanism was in place to ensure the engagement of all the relevant agencies and organisations, in order to establish the Marine Park;
- (i) whether engagement had been undertaken with the other local authorities (Cornwall Council, Devon County Council and South Hams District Council);
- (j) what measures would be put in place to effectively manage the balance between social, economic and environmental needs of this area;
- (k) whether there was a conscious effort, within this process, to connect residents of the City to the Park.

whether there had been a conscious effort, within this process, to connect the residents of the City to the Marine Park.

The Committee noted the report and the assurance that all Councillors would be provided with the results of the current consultation exercise.

#### 19. **Work Programme**

The Committee agreed to include an update on the iMayflower project on its work programme (and schedule at an appropriate time, in consultation with officers).

Councillor Mrs Aspinall noted that the Visitor Plan 2020-2030 was due to be scrutinised by the Committee in November 2019 and asked how disabled groups, such as Plymouth Area Disability Action Network (PADAN) could become involved in this process.

The Chair advised that the relevant officers involved with the Visitor Plan 2020-2030 would be made aware of this issue.

#### 20. **Tracking Decisions**

With regard to minute 8, a response was still awaited relating to the possible link of mortality rates (due to air pollution) specifically related to the five areas contained within the AQMA.



Councillor Wheeler considered that whilst the cycle path from Plymouth to Yelverton had not been included within tranche 2 of the Transforming Cities Fund, this scheme should be included in the next tranche of the fund and as such Councillor Coker, the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure should be urged to progress this issue.

The Committee noted the progress of its tracking decisions.