

Place and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 19 April 2017

PRESENT:

Councillor Bowie, in the Chair.

Councillor Ball, Vice Chair.

Councillors Carson, Sam Davey, Fletcher, Fry, Mavin, Penberthy and Storer.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Churchill and Morris.

Also in attendance: Paul Brookes (Executive Director History Centre), Councillor Bowyer (Leader), David Draffan (Assistant Director for Economic Development), Charles Hackett (Chief Executive Mayflower 400), Ross Jago (Lead Officer), Councillor Jordan (Cabinet Member for Culture), Amanda Lumley (Chief Executive Destination Plymouth), Gareth Simmons (Strategic Projects Director) and Helen Wright (Democratic Advisor).

The meeting started at 3.00 pm and finished at 4.30 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.

Please note that this meeting will be webcast and can be viewed at –
<http://council.webcast.vualto.com/plymouth-city-council/home/?EventId=20003>

44. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made by Councillors in accordance with the code of conduct.

45. **Minutes**

The Committee agreed that the minutes of the meetings held on (see below) are confirmed as a correct record –

- Select Committee Review – Council Tax Support Scheme (11 January 2017);
- Select Committee Review – Parking Modernisation – 18 January 2017;
- Budget Scrutiny (26 January 2017);
- Place and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 1 March 2017.

46. **Chair's Urgent Business**

The Chair advised that the deadline for members of the public to register their interests to be called as a witness for the Plan for Libraries Select Committee Review had been extended until Wednesday, 26 April 2017.

(In accordance with Section 100(B)(4)(b) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Chair brought forward the above item for urgent consideration because of the need to inform Members).

47. **History Centre**

Councillor Bowyer (Leader), Councillor Jordan (Cabinet Member for Culture), David Draffan (Assistant Director for Economic Development), Gareth Simmons (Strategic Project Director) and Paul Brookes (Executive Director History Centre) presented the report on the History Centre.

The key areas of questioning related to –

- (a) the one off revenue cost of £4.15m which would be largely funded through the Heritage Lottery Fund;
- (b) the impact of the fall in sterling and inflationary pressures on the overall cost of the project and the current skills shortage;
- (c) the potential impact of 'Brexit' on the project and the measures put in place should the contingency fund be used and additional funding required;
- (d) the likelihood of securing funding through the National Portfolio Organisation grant from the Arts Council and the risks associated with this if the Council was not successful;
- (e) the feasibility of re-applying for funding from the Clore Foundation for the provision of an education room to promote culture in education.

The committee noted the report and agreed to recommend –

- (1) to Cabinet that the arrangements for the development of the History Centre project remain on target and that the risks are being carefully considered;
- (2) that Cabinet recognise the effects of inflation in the construction market place and pressures that have been caused by technical survey and the issues encountered.

48. **Mayflower 400**

Councillor Bowyer (Leader), Councillor Jordan (Cabinet Member for Culture), David Draffan (Assistant Director for Economic Development), Charles Hackett (Chief Executive Mayflower 400) and Amanda Lumley (Chief Executive Destination Plymouth) presented the Mayflower 400 report.

The key areas of questioning related to –

- (a) whether there was sufficient hotel accommodation for the anticipated number of visitors for this event;
- (b) concerns that the road infrastructure would not be sufficient to deal with the anticipated volume of traffic;
- (c) whether the education package would include the story of this historic event being told from different perspectives;
- (d) the legacy of volunteering and how this would be achieved.

The committee agreed to include the Mayflower 400 on its work programme.

The committee further agreed to –

- (1) support the continuing delivery of the Mayflower 400 programme in Plymouth and nationally;
- (2) support the required bids into grant funding opportunities to secure additional funding for the overall programme;
- (3) support the release of capital funding for the Mayflower Trails and associated Mayflower public realm improvements in Plymouth;
- (4) support the work growing international relationships up to and beyond 2020 for the long term economic and community benefit of the city.

49. **Rail Connectivity Briefing**

The key area of concern related to the lack of progress made relating to the Peninsula Rail Task Force strategic outputs; whilst it was acknowledged that some of the information provided related to the medium term strategy 2024 – 2029, there was a lack of progress with the short term strategy 2017 – 2019.

The committee agreed to include rail and transport infrastructure on its work programme for the forthcoming municipal year 2017/18.

50. **Tracking Decisions**

The Lead Officer (Ross Jago) advised that –

- (a) with regard to minute 23 (7 December 2017) he would obtain a response and circulate it to committee members;
- (b) with regard to minute 39 (People Strategy) this would be included on the committee's work programme for the new municipal year 2017/18.

The committee noted the progress of its decisions.

51. **Work Programme**

The committee agreed to include the following items on its work programme –

- (1) select committee review – traffic/road works;
- (2) select committee review – Council Tax Support Scheme (including Universal Credit);
- (3) employment in the City;
- (4) allotments;
- (5) Mayflower 400.