

Time Commenced – 6:00 pm
Time Finished – 7.43 pm

Regenerating Our City Overview and Scrutiny Board

21 February 2017

Present: Councillor Bayliss (Chair)
Councillors Stanton and West

Councillor Hussain

Officers Present: Claire Davenport, Peter Ireson, David Gartside, Greg Jennings,
Wayne Sills, Verna Bayliss, Paul Clarke, Catherine Williams,
Chris Morgan, Clare Harrison

19/16 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Dhindsa, Grimadell, Hassall, Marshall, Naitta and West

20/16 Late Items

There were no late items.

21/16 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

22/16 Minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2016

The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

23/16 Cultural Offer and Assembly Rooms Update

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director of Communities and Place which updated the Board on the city's cultural offer and the feasibility work done on a new performance venue for the city. The Board was asked to provide comments for officers to consider during the further development stages of the cultural offer programme and new venue project.

It was reported that a City-Wide Events Strategy was formally adopted by Cabinet in 2016 which has the remit of maintaining and developing a broad, balanced and diverse programme of major events across the city. Further to this, the City-Wide Events Strategy Implementation Group (CWESIG) has developed a Partnership Framework which has helped to formalise and recognise the City Council's involvement and importance in the increasing programme of events for the city.

Members were informed of a number of events that Derby Live has been able to maintain and deliver events by working in external partners, including a large scale celebrity classical concert event at Donington Park and working with sponsorship partners to secure the provision of the Christmas Ice Rink in the Market Place for both 2017 and 2018. It was further reported that Derby LIVE has also worked to support and facilitate an increasing programme of mass participation sporting events such as the Ramathon, Derby 10 Mile, 10K, the Jenson Button Trust Triathlon, Race for Life, Pretty Muddy and the British National BMX Championships.

Members queried if enough events had taken place at the Arena to manage the costs associated with running the venue, or if more events are needed to break even or make a profit. The Board was informed that as more events such as the Panto are held at the Arena, its profile as a venue is raised. It was reported that although there is a bit more capacity for events to be held at the Arena, there is a need to not adversely affect its partnership arrangements and sporting programme.

Members also queried the figures for people traveling from Derby to attend the Donington classical concert. Officers did not have these to hand but agreed to distribute them to the Board by email, however reported that the officers thought the number of Derby attendees was lower than at Darley Park Concert.

Officers recapped the phases and proposals for a new performance venue for the city for the Board and informed Members that an outline business case for the preferred option for a new performance venue would be taken to Council Cabinet for a decision over the next couple of months. It was reported that if this was agreed the next phase (covering the next 12 months) would involve the procurement of an operator, the development of next stage designs and the delivery of a full business case to submit for a decision by Council on whether to start building a new venue.

Members queried if a third party was expected to run the venue and were informed that the Council would go out to the market to procure an operator, but would also submit a shadow bid alongside this. Members also asked how stages of the delivery of a new venue would be communicated to the public following several years without one. Officers commented that it has been difficult to communicate progress publicly to date because of the nature of the problem and lack of funds to deliver, but reassured the Board that once the outline business case had been agreed they would be able to go public with some of the detail. Members suggested that posters or banners on or around the Assembly Rooms building, telling the story and communicating updates could be one way to keep the public more involved and updated with timelines and proposals. The Board was informed that there would be publicity and consultation around the eventual design of the replacement venue at the right time.

The Board also asked what kind of shows the new venue would expect to attract and were informed that the range would probably be comparable to the Assembly Rooms except without the musical touring productions such as ballet, opera and classical concerts.

Members queried if going for the 'full monty' option could operate without subsidy, but were informed that the issue with this option is more in relation to the capital outlay, which is an additional £20m more than the music and performance venue. It was reported that officers would be looking again at the lyric theatre option business case to ensure the right option will be taken forward.

The Board resolved to suggest to officers that posters or banners on or around the Assembly Rooms building, telling the story and communicating updates could be one way to keep the public more involved and updated with timelines and proposals.

24/16 Leisure Facilities Strategy report - Leisure Facilities & Pool Update

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director for Communities and Place updating members on progress made towards replacing the Council's aging leisure facilities with new, modern and fit for purpose venues, which would meet the future needs and aspirations of the City.

It was reported that the Leisure Facility Strategy proposed a hub and satellite approach on a phased basis over a five year plan, and that Phase 1 was to develop the Derby Arena hub which is now open. Phase 2 was to develop a 50 metre swimming pool hub, which is currently being progressed as a priority and forms the basis of this update; Phase 3 was to develop satellite swimming pool facilities.

It was further reported that all the next steps reported to the Regenerating Our City Board at the 18 August 2015 meeting have been developed significantly and furthermore, excellent progress has been made to date on the feasibility study requirements for the whole site and for the Swimming Pool complex, the facility mix options, the Swimming Pool configuration options and the outline designs for the new venue.

Officers provided the Board with highlights of the feasibility study for the whole site and for the Swimming Pool complex, which included the facility mix options which aim to complement the pool offer, the Swimming Pool configuration options, configuration of teaching water and the outline designs for the new venue.

Members raised concerns which had arisen from past experiences in relation to the Queens Leisure Centre and other leisure facilities around project management and governance. It was reported that a formal governance structure for Phase 2 of the Leisure Facilities Strategy has been put in place which will ensure that there is accountability for the success of the delivery of a new swimming pool complex.

It was further reported that MACE and Faulkner Brown have been appointed who have experience of delivering similar facilities and that the Council is working with Sport England and the Amateur Swimming Association and have appointed a project manager that has worked on every 50m pool development in the UK. Members were reassured that lessons had been learnt from the past and that everything was being done to ensure that a fit for purpose quality accessible facility would be built.

The Board thanked officers for the update and resolved to note the report.

25/16 Derby-Nottingham Metropolitan Strategy

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director of Communities and Place to update members on progress on the developing “Metro” Strategy with Nottingham.

It was reported that a successful consultation exercise had been carried out with over 150 responses received. Responses showed strong support for the aims and underpinning principles of the strategy, and the approach outlined to achieve these aims. Transport and connectivity came out strongly with the public.

It was further reported that following the consultation, work is continuing to refine the strategy and action plan, and to support this, a Delivery Board (comprising representatives of the two City Councils) has been established. The first meeting was scheduled for late December 2016, and the Strategy and consultation response will be officially launched Spring 2017.

Members were informed that an action plan has been developed which includes a number of actions that relate to the urban challenges faced by the two cities within the D2N2 area. It is proposed to establish a Strategic Advisory Group drawn from key stakeholders from the universities and the business sector, in order to draw in wider expertise and engagement as the strategy develops. It was also explained that alongside the Strategic Vision, a Key Actions document is being developed as the need for clearer actions was also a strong request coming through from the consultation. The Key Actions document will set out the priorities and be a key document for communication and engagement.

The Board resolved to request a further update and an opportunity to examine the Key Actions document at a future meeting.

26/16 HS2 and Implications for Derby

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director of Communities and Place to update members on the on-going assessments for the ‘HS2 A52 Corridor Connectivity’ to Derby.

It was reported that unless the 8.5 mile gap can be reduced in terms of connectivity, then the benefits of HS2 for Derby when it opens in 2033, and the social economic case that underpins HS2, will not be fully realised. Members were informed that the local authorities adjoining the HS2 East Midlands Hub area had agreed to support Toton as the preferred location., however, from Derby’s perspective this was on the basis that investment would be needed to improve transport connectivity to Toton. It was further reported that in response to the connectivity issues, Derby City Council has set out a broad connectivity strategy which includes the following proposals:

- New rapid transit link
- Road based access/A52 widening/M1 junction improvements

- Heavy rail shuttle service
- High quality cycle route
- Protection of existing passenger rail network

The various options for transport and highways improvements were explained to Members. The Board was informed that the next stage would be to consider the A52 Highway Connectivity study and the other feasibility connection studies; provide broad engineering based option improvements; and develop a detailed transport economic business case and preferred connectivity strategy to Toton, which the HS2 Growth Strategy Group will present to Government.

Members were informed that the funding for this work will primarily come from Midlands Connect, and that the East Midlands HS2 Connectivity Strategy has been identified as an important part of the wider Midlands Connect strategy.

The Board thanked officers for the update and resolved to note the report.

26/16 Former Celanese Acetate Site, Spondon

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director of Communities and Place to update members on progress on the former Celanese Acetate Site, Spondon.

It was reported that the Local Plan Part 1 (Core Strategy) identifies the former Celanese site as a significant brownfield regeneration opportunity and that the Council is continuing to work with the landowner to identify a strategy to secure the successful regeneration of this site.

It was further reported that there are a number issues involved with redevelopment of the site following those that have already been dealt with through decommissioning of the site, including: the site being located in a flood risk area; site remediation issues; highways access issues; and other surrounding uses. However, it was suggested that opportunities may present themselves through the development of new communities and the relationship of the site to rail services and the future HS2 station. Officers also explained that close proximity to the railways may also cause accessibility difficulties due to the introduction of level crossings no longer being supported and the high costs associated with building bridges.

It was explained to the Board that due to the scale and complexity of the works, and because the site is not allocated for employment or housing uses within the current Local Plan period, an estimated timescale of 10-15 years for the completion of site re-development was realistic. It was further stated that it was likely this site would come forward in a future Local Plan period.

The Board was informed that the Council's role in this site going forward will be to facilitate this work, in partnership with the site owner, consultants and potential developers, to continue to lead the site partnership and to identify funding opportunities for the work that needs to be done.

It was highlighted that there is currently no financial commitment from the Council at this stage, although there is a commitment of officer time and resources and the Council will be applying for external funding to drive the project forward.

The Board thanked officers for the update and resolved to request a further update in early 2018 or at an appropriate time when further information is available.

MINUTES END