

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee held at 11.00 am on
Wednesday, 25 November 2020

Present:

Members: L Kelly (Deputy Chair)

Councillor A Andrews
Councillor J Clifford
Councillor L Kelly
Councillor C Miks
Councillor G Ridley
Councillor K Sandhu
Councillor R Singh

Apologies Councillor N Akhtar
Councillor G Duggins
Martin Reeves, Chief Executive

Employees: C Booth, Business, Investment and Culture
A Burn, Housing and Transformation
V Castree, Law and Governance
G Holmes, Law and Governance
D Nuttall, Business, Investment and Culture
G Quinton, Deputy Chief Executive
A Williams, Business, Investment and Culture

City of Culture 2021 Martin Sutherland, Chief Executive
Chenine Bhathena, Creative Director

Public Business

37. Councillor L Bigham

Councillor L Kelly welcomed Cllr L Bigham on her appointment as Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) Chair

38. Declarations of Interest

There were no disclosable declarations of interest.

The Committee noted that Councillor L Bigham was a member of the Advisory Panel for EnV, an organisation who are partners with Coventry City of Culture Trust.

39. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 November, 2020 were agreed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

40. **City of Culture 2021 - City Readiness**

Martin Sutherland, Chief Executive of Coventry City of Culture Trust presented the committee with information about the plans for City of Culture 2021. The aim of the year would be that “We will reimagine the role of culture in a diverse, modern Britain, demonstrating that culture is a force that changes lives, moving Coventry and the region forward”. The presentation covered:

- Covid Impact and Response
- Programme information including
 - The Story of Coventry
 - Investing in Local Artists and the Sector
 - Celebrating our Difference
 - City Voices
 - Coventry is a Music City
- Six Months Milestones

Gail Quinton, Deputy Chief Executive of Coventry City Council and David Nuttall, Strategic Lead City of Culture, updated the committee on City Readiness. The presentation covered:

- Governance
- Capital Investment
- Public Realm Programme
- Cultural Capital Programme
 - Daimler Powerhouse Developments
 - Herbert Art Gallery and Museum
 - Belgrade Theatre Development
 - Draper’s Hall
 - St. Mary’s Guildhall
 - Unique Visitor Stay Places – Accommodation
 - Cathedral Project
 - The Box at Fargo
 - FarGo Village Remodel
 - Digital Gallery
 - Charterhouse – Heritage Visitor Attraction and Venue Development
 - Coventry Visitor Information Provision
- Wider Cultural and Heritage Capital Works

Following the presentation, Members raised a number of questions and issues, and received the following responses:

- The risks and threats to the capital and cultural programme were impossible to extract from the risks of Covid. The impact on capital projects and focusing on legacy were being managed closely. Also, the impact of Covid on vulnerable and excluded communities had brought the focus on inclusion even more to the fore.
- The London Rd Cemetery project would work with Historic Coventry to make sure that the stories of local heroes were included in this and the wider programme. There would be a call out to writers and storytellers for the cemetery project. A list would be circulated in the new year so any omission could be flagged to make sure all the key people are covered.

- Although The Walk project would focus on the story of unaccompanied child migrants there would be opportunities throughout the wider programme to recognise the history of immigration from around the world in the city
- The shared ticketing system had been tested with the ice rink at the Cathedral and had so far been a success. More widely joined up communications and What's On guide would be live from February 2021. Venues at the moment were firefighting and not announcing new events. There was a shared approach to communications across the City.
- The River of the World project was focused on SEND schools, but there would be a programme of other work with schools across the city which would be announced in the new year
- There were plans for public art. These may not be the traditional sculptures and statues. There were curators and other artists working with the public realm team to create fixtures in a functional way that would attract visitors to the city. There it was noted that there needed to be an understanding of how public art can create a lasting legacy. There would be more announcements in the new year.
- Work was being done on St Mary's tapestry to ensure that it could be brought to the forefront of the history of the Guildhall. Work on the reinterpretation would be connected to the digital offer and links with the tapestry in the Cathedral would be explored.
- The lasting legacy of the City of Culture would be considered in more detail at a future meeting and would focus not just on the capital projects but on the community as well. This would include the skills legacy through apprenticeships, volunteering, leadership programmes and neighbourhood collaborations. There would also be a growth in inward investment through increased visitor and tourism economy. The legacy would also include biodiversity and sustainability.

RESOLVED that:-

- 1) **The City of Culture 2021 Advisory Panel be requested to review;**
 - **Public art installations**
 - **Cross partnership digital communications**
- 2) **A future report be submitted to the Committee on the City of Culture to focus on legacy of the programme.**

41. Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee Work Programme 2020/2021

The Committee considered and noted their Work Programme for 2020/21. They requested that an item on Brexit be considered at a future meeting at an appropriate time.

42. Any Other Items of Public Business

There were no items of urgent public business.

(Meeting closed at 12.10 pm)