



## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**MEETING** : Monday, 30th January 2017

**PRESENT** : Cllrs. Coole (Chair), Ryall (Vice-Chair), Pearsall (Spokesperson), Hilton, Lewis, Morgan, Wilson, Haigh, Dee, Hampson, H. Norman, Finnegan, Hawthorne and Smith

### **Others in Attendance**

Councillor Paul James, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy

Councillor Lise Noakes, Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure

Councillor David Norman MBE, Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources

Jon McGinty, Managing Director

Anne Brinkhoff, Corporate Director

Jonathan Lund, Corporate Director

Anthony Wilson, Head of Planning

Colin Parkin, HR Representative

Rhys Howell, Democratic Services Officer

**APOLOGIES** : Cllr. Melvin

### **72. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **73. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **74. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)**

There were no questions from the public.

### **75. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)**

There were no petitions or deputations.

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**76. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME AND COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN**

The Chair outlined the Overview and Scrutiny work programme to the Committee and provided an update regarding the planned special Overview and Scrutiny Committee to receive a verbal update on the deployment of resources from the Community Safety Partnership and the Chief Constable. He informed the Committee that an invitation had been sent to the Chief Constable and Community Safety Partnership to attend a meeting in March and that responses were awaited. The Chair noted that the Chief Constable had recently announced her retirement so it could not be guaranteed that she would be available for the meeting.

The Committee discussed inviting community group representatives to attend the special meeting, so they could share experiences and concerns with the Community Safety Partnership. There were differences of opinion on this matter. Some Members viewed that extending this invitation would detract from the purpose of the special meeting and lead to an unfocussed meeting. Other Members stated that inviting the community group representatives would enable the experiences of local citizens to be expressed and provide a greater opportunity to scrutinise public safety. The Chair stated that due to the obvious strength of feeling from Members on this topic, a decision on the matter would be made once the date and attendance for the special meeting had been agreed.

**77. PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY**

The Chair welcomed Councillor Paul James (Leader of The Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economy) and Anthony Wilson (Head of Planning) to share the proposal that the draft "Gloucester Public Realm Strategy 2017" be approved for a six week period of public consultation.

Councillor James explained the importance of the Public Realm Strategy and urban environment to attracting private investment into the City. He said that key to the strategy was a consistent approach to both the quality and appearance of the public realm throughout the City. He said that as the public realm would be part funded by the Council and part funded by the private sector, the Council would consult stakeholders for input during the six week consultation. He said that after this consultation, the Public Realm Strategy would become part of supplementary guidance to the City Plan.

Anthony Wilson informed the Committee of an amendment to the document in the agenda. He explained that Section 3.8 of the Public Realm Strategy had been removed from the strategy and added to an action plan to be acted upon in the short term.

Councillor Dee stated that the linkages to the City Centre were of great importance and that he had concerns that the linkage beside the old prison was not mentioned in the Public Realm Strategy. He stated that as this was one of the flatter linkages, it needed to be developed in an attractive manner. Councillor James noted Councillor Dee's comments and explained that this linkage would be part of the Blackfriars redevelopment.

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Councillor Lewis praised the City's current provision of seating but requested this be expanded, as this would be of particular benefit to older members of the community and would make the city appear busier. He stated a preference for seating made from warm materials rather than cold materials such as stone.

Councillor Haigh asked for clarification regarding Paragraph 4.1 of the report, as she said that this paragraph did not meet its stated purpose of addressing ABCD considerations. Councillor James stated that it referred to the public having a say on the document, not suggesting they install the public realm themselves.

Councillor Hawthorne stated that the maps contained within the Public Realm Strategy required clarification and that the lack of landmarks and road names made it difficult to orientate oneself. The Chair agreed with this and Councillor James said this would be looked into.

Councillor Hawthorne asked for further details regarding engagement with vulnerable groups, as outlined in section 4.9 of the Public Realm Strategy. He particularly wanted to raise concerns regarding the impact upon people with dementia of new and modern street furniture which can compound the confusion they experience. Councillor Hawthorne asked for clarification on what considerations had been given to this and how the disability user audit in section 4.9 of the strategy would be undertaken. Councillor James explained that vulnerable groups would be consulted on a project by project basis to assess the impact and necessary adjustments required. He explained that the Council would be guided by Officers with knowledge of the sector, in order to ensure consultation was undertaken with a wide range of groups. Anthony Wilson reassured Councillor Hawthorne that there was a network of groups which were consulted, but that he was always looking to widen this network. He asked for Members to share any details with him of organisations which would add to this network.

Councillor Wilson stated that it would be beneficial if a summary leaflet could be produced, as the strategy document was large and may not be accessible to all. Councillor James said he would be happy to look into this.

Councillor Haigh highlighted the need to be aware of the impact of hidden disabilities and to take these into account when designing the public realm. She also asked for details regarding the organisations which are regularly consulted. Councillor James said he didn't have this information to hand but would be happy to circulate it after the meeting.

Councillor Haigh highlighted the need for better lighting in the city centre and for street surfaces to be as non-slip as possible. Councillor James noted these comments and said the City Council had been in talks with the Highways Agency about street lighting.

Councillor Hilton commended the Public Realm Strategy document but said he had a number of comments regarding it. He commented that the strategy mentioned surfaces as a concern but an area which particularly needed to be looked at for both this and general regeneration was outside Shire Hall. He particularly highlighted the need to make the mural at Shire Hall viewable again, as it was currently obscured by foliage. He also wanted to make it clear that any public realm

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work should be aware of potential impact on car parking availability in surrounding areas. Councillor James noted these comments from Councillor Hilton.

Councillor Hilton explained to the Committee that he had seen decorative drain covers in Salamanca, which drew upon the history and culture of the city. He suggested that Gloucester could follow a similar model and use the covers to inform residents and visitors of the rich history and culture of Gloucester. Councillor James noted this and requested Councillor Hilton send him further information regarding the drains in Salamanca for consideration.

Councillor Morgan commended the report for its thoroughness and suggested an increase in mosaics throughout the city, to add to the public realm and emphasise the Roman history of the City. Councillor James noted this response but shared that mosaics required a large amount of upkeep and the cost of this may be prohibitive.

The Chair thanked Councillor James and Anthony Wilson for their presentation.

**RESOLVED – That the report be noted**

**78. FESTIVAL AND EVENTS PROGRAMME**

The Chair welcomed Councillor Lise Noakes (Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure) and Jonathan Lund (Corporate Director) to present the report which proposed the 2017-18 Festival and Events Programme to the Committee.

Councillor Noakes shared details of the 2016-17 Festival and Events Programme and commented how incredible it had been. She said that the 2017-18 programme would continue this trend. She informed the Committee that Marketing Gloucester Limited (MGL) remained a key partner in delivering events for the City and that they had begun to monitor events to gauge their success, as shown in the report. However, she informed the Committee that due to financial constraints, Gloucester City Council would be reducing their contribution to MGL by £100,000 for 2017-18. Due to this, MGL would be given greater flexibility in deciding how to spend the funding it received and would not be given expected spends for individual events, but would be given direction as to what was required at each event. Councillor Noakes concluded her presentation by stating that the Council was aiming for UK City of Culture status for 2025 and as part of working towards this had recently submitted a bid for Great Place Scheme, which would bring £1.5 million of funding into the City over 3 years. She explained that the results of this bid were expected by the end of March 2017.

Councillor Hampson welcomed the monitoring of events and that their success was being measured. He queried the details of paragraph 3.12 in the report and asked for clarification for how the Summer Sound event had been scheduled against Gloucester Quays food festival. Councillor Noakes explained that Gloucester Quays had rescheduled their event, as the weekend was a key weekend for footfall. She explained that clashes like this should be avoided in future as a shared diary had been put in place.

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Councillor Wilson asked why some events in the report were marked TBC. Councillor Noakes apologised for this, as these were now confirmed but the information in the report was from before Christmas 2016.

Councillor Wilson praised some of the smaller and cheaper occurrences around the City, such as the installation of pianos in the city centre, and asked why this was not mentioned in the report. Councillor Noakes said that this had been an initiative of MGL and was not a Council event so was not in the report.

Councillor Hilton asked for clarity as to the ambition of the festivals over the following years. He stated that although all the events added vibrancy to the City, he was concerned that they did not act as an attractor for visitors. He asked if the Council should be looking to expand the scope of the festivals, to a potentially global audience. Councillor Noakes explained that part of the Great Place Scheme's remit was linked to growing festivals and linking to heritage. She explained that as such the Gloucester History Festival was a key component of the Council ongoing festival programme and there were hopes to expand it further. She drew the Committee's attention to paragraph 3.50 of the report, which outlined the desire to bring another event to the City during the years that the Tall Ships were absent.

Councillor Dee praised the events calendar and suggested that more be made of the City's canal history. He suggested approaching the Inland Waterways Trust to arrange a canal festival, as he said this had been a great success in the past and could fill the gap during years without the Tall Ships. Councillor Noakes said she would pass the information onto MGL.

Councillor Morgan suggested a festival focussed on caravans, as this could be a revenue generator. Councillor Noakes said she would pass it onto MGL.

Councillor Ryall asked for clarification as to whom applied for grants and how the Council planned to maintain momentum with its plans. Councillor Noakes explained that the Gloucester Culture Trust (GCT) had been created and that the newly appointed director would be starting in post on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March. She explained that the GCT would be the main applicant for future funding and grants and the new director would be the predominant writer of future applications. She thanked Jonathan Lund for the work he had put into the Great Places Scheme bid. Jonathan Lund stated that part of Gloucester City Council's Culture Strategy was to develop GCT and to move away from being based around the work of officers in the docks and towards the contributions of a wider range of partners and stakeholders.

Councillor Hampson asked for clarification regarding what score was deemed a good score, in the table in paragraph 3.28 of the report. Jonathan Lund stated that the scores were intended to provoke a debate about the events, rather than dictating if the event had been worthwhile. He appreciated that the monitoring required further amendments to improve its efficacy. Councillor Hampson agreed that the monitoring system needed amending but welcomed the monitoring itself.

Councillor Haigh raised concerns that the focus for the programme appeared to be solely on the City Centre and failed to reflect the multi-cultural diversity of the City. She stated that events in other wards would also benefit from support. Councillor

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Noakes agreed with Councillor Haigh that events in other wards were also important and highlighted Strike-A-Light Theatre Company's work in Matson and the upcoming Hucclecote Show. She said that due to financial constraints it was necessary to have a focussed approach but that this would widen over time.

The Committee shared different ideas for events with Councillor Noakes, including Barton Fair, Partnership with the Showman's guild and using other city's successful events as a template for Gloucester's events. Councillor Noakes thanked the Committee for these and asked them to send any suggestions to Jason Smith at MGL.

The Chair thanked Councillor Noakes and Jonathan Lund for their presentation.

**RESOLVED – That the report be noted**

**79. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the following items of business on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public are present during consideration of this items there will be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended for Agenda Item 10 and as defined in Paragraph 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended for Agenda Item 11.**

**80. EXEMPT MINUTES**

The exempt minutes of the meeting of the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2016 and the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**81. "TOGETHER GLOUCESTER" RESTRUCTURE UPDATE**

The Chair welcomed Councillor David Norman (Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources), Jon McGinty (Managing Director) and Colin Parkin (HR Representative) to share an update with the Committee regarding details of the "Together Gloucester" restructure.

The Committee received the report and discussed the proposals.

**SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 6**

**On the motion of the Chair, and in accordance with the Constitution, the Committee resolved that the meeting be extended beyond two hours.**

The Chair thanked Councillor David Norman, Jon McGinty and Colin Parkin for their presentation.

**RESOLVED – That the update be noted.**

**82. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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27 February 2017 at 6.30pm

**Time of commencement: 6.30 pm hours**

**Time of conclusion: 8.35 pm hours**

**Chair**