

The Executive

Minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2010

Present: Councillor Leese – In the Chair
Councillors Amesbury, Andrews, Battle, Cowell, Evans, S Murphy, S Newman, Priest, Stevens.

Also present as Members of the Standing Advisory Panel:
Councillors: Ashley, R Battle, Commons, Donaldson, Grant, Hassan, Keegan, A Khan, Longsdon, N Murphy, Pearcey, Ramsbottom, Shaw and Wheale.

Exe/10/01 Urgent Business

To receive a report from the Chief Executive on the provision of Council services during the prolonged period of wintry weather.

Exe/10/02 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the Executive meetings held on 16 and 23 December 2009 as correct records.

Exe/10/03 Call In of the 23 December decisions on the Future development of Grange, Ewing and Lancasterian Schools – response to statutory notices

Decision

To note that the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee has endorsed our decision of 23 December 2009 (Minute Exe/09/177).

Exe/10/04 Manchester International Festival 2009

At our meeting in September we received an initial report on the tremendous success of the 2009 Manchester International Festival (MIF) and noted the significant contribution it continues to make to raising the profile of the city and to the overall economic and social wellbeing of Manchester (Minute Exe/09/110). At that time we requested that a detailed evaluation on all aspects of the Festival be submitted to us at a later date.

A report was submitted by Chief Executive to provide the full evaluation of the positive outcomes of the Festival. The four objectives for the 2009 Festival were:

- To consolidate Manchester International Festival's position as the leading

festival of original, new work, created by a wide range of major international artists.

- To help secure Manchester's reputation as a leading cultural city and showcase its ability to deliver major large-scale events.
- To help build the creative potential of Manchester's different communities and artists through a series of innovative, high quality community-based commissions and creative development programmes.
- To ensure that the Festival is a sustainable event - financially and environmentally.

The report examined each of these to show how well the objective had been met. The report also showed how the Festival had exceeded the targets set for the number of performances, tickets sold, jobs created and overall economic benefit to the City. We recognise that the 2009 Festival has made an important contribution to the international standing of Manchester.

In looking forward to the Festival on 2011, we recognise that in order to continue the development of the plans for the Festival it is important that the balance of public funding is at least maintained. We agree that the current revenue support from the City Council of £1m per annum should continue along with the underwriting of a further £0.5m in the 2011/12 budget, subject to continuing financial support from other public sector partners, namely the Arts Council of England and the North West Development Agency.

Decisions

1. To note the substantial achievements of the 2009 Festival in achieving its objectives, particularly in relation to the growing international reputation of the Festival. Congratulate the MIF Team for a thorough set of evaluation reports.
2. To recognise the importance of maintaining funding commitments at 2009 levels from public sector partners which will be directly related to the Council's investment at the levels of last year.
3. To approve revenue support of £2m for Festival 2011 and the underwriting of a further £0.5m, subject to continuing support at 2009 levels from other public sector partners, namely the Arts Council of England and the North West Development Agency.
4. To request a further report from the Festival Director outlining a strategic plan for Festival 2011 that builds on the successes of 2009 to further transform the city's cultural, creative and commercial possibilities and establish the Festival as a global brand.

Exe/10/05 The National Football Museum Relocation to Urbis

In October 2009 we noted and welcomed the approach by the trustees of the National Football Museum (NFM) to relocate the museum from Preston to Manchester, at Urbis (Minute Exe/09/130). Since then the museum's trustees have

decided in principle to enter into a partnership with Manchester City Council. Also, the Millennium Quarter Trust (MQT), in their capacity as operators of Urbis on behalf of the City Council, has formally resolved that Urbis would become the National Football Museum.

The Chief Executive submitted a report to update us on the work to facilitate the relocation to Urbis. The report explained that a project team has been set up to lead on the different work streams. This is led by the Deputy Chief Executive (Regeneration) and includes officers from Strategic Cultural Projects, Corporate Personnel, Finance, the Capital Programme team and the Chairs of both the NFM and MQT. A preliminary review of the overall programme indicates that construction for the building modifications and installation of the new exhibits will take place in 2010 with Urbis to re-open as the National Football Museum in Summer 2011.

The report also set out the implications for staff at Urbis and explained the support being provided to those employees who might be at risk as a consequence of the transition works. A team of around 45 people will be retained to work on the transition to the NFM, to maintain the Outreach and Community Programme that is unaffected by the closure, and to staff the Modern Restaurant and shop. It was explained that the Urbis RECLAIM project will continue during the transition of Urbis to the NFM. The report also explained the steps being taken to help the relocation of Channel M who are currently tenants at Urbis.

In October 2009 we were told that the estimated cost of the building's conversion was £8 million, and we approved in principle the release of the capital to support the project. This latest report confirmed that the costs were still estimated at up to £8 million and we agreed to recommend the Council to increase the capital programme accordingly, whilst being aware that the Chief Executive is actively exploring additional funding opportunities with partners for a significant contribution to the capital costs of the refurbishment.

The recent work had also identified the need for an additional grant of up to £450,000 to cover the revenue costs of the transition. We agreed to this being funded from Corporate Contingency in 2009/10. Of this, £350,000 will be paid via MQT for costs incurred by Urbis, and £100,000 direct to the NFM, as a contribution towards storage costs for the collection at Preston, to be matched by North West Development Agency.

Decisions

1. To note the final decision made by the Trustees of the NFM to relocate to Urbis and the subsequent approval by the Millennium Quarter Trust (MQT), who operate Urbis on behalf of the Council.
2. To note the implications for the current staff at Urbis, the arrangements for a transition team during the closure and construction period for the new museum and the support arrangements in place for staff at risk.
3. To note that the Chief Executive is actively pursuing partnership funding for the capital conversion of Urbis.

4. To recommend to Council to increase the capital programme by £8m to be funded through the capital fund.
5. To approve an additional one-off revenue grant of up to £350k to MQT in this financial year to cover the transitional costs of the Urbis operation and a further £100k to be paid direct to NFM as a contribution to storage costs for the collection at Preston.
6. To note the significant progress that has been made on the development of the creative vision for the new museum and the delivery arrangements for the project, including future governance.
7. To note the status of positive discussions with Channel M in relation to their relocation from Urbis.
8. To delegate to the Chief Executive, with the City Solicitor, City Treasurer and Head of Corporate Property the approval, finalisation and execution of the lease, sub-lease, and funding arrangements for the new museum between the relevant parties.
9. To request a further report to our meeting in March including a report on the new Business Plan for NFM at Urbis, a progress report from the Project Board now established to deliver the capital project and progress on securing capital funding.

Exe/10/06 AGMA Executive Board

Decision

To receive the decision notices for the AGMA Executive meeting on 18 December 2009.

Exe/10/07 Response to the Wintry Weather

The Strategic Director of Neighbourhood Services gave an oral report on how the Council had responded to the prolonged period of wintry weather, and in particular after the heavy snowfall on Tuesday 5 January.

The report touched on the gritting of roads and pavements, stocks of gritting salt and government action to manage its rate of use, support for young people who had lost schools days close to their exams, and the help and support provided to the more vulnerable citizens of Manchester. We look forward to a report in the future reviewing the response and the lessons we will learn from this.

We wanted to formally record our thanks and appreciation for the Council employees and others who joined in the response, ensuring the delivery of council services in the difficult conditions of the past few weeks.

Decision

To note the report and to record our thanks to all who have helped keep the city working.