

## **SPECIAL BUSINESS AND TRANSFORMATION SCRUTINY PANEL**

**THURSDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 4.00PM**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Bainbridge (Chair), Councillors Alcroft, Allison, Mrs Birks, Mrs Bowman, Dr Tickner, Mitchelson and Paton.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Ellis, Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder  
Councillor Nedved, Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder  
Councillor Mrs Finlayson, Vice Chair of the Health and wellbeing Scrutiny Panel (observer)

**OFFICERS:** Deputy Chief Executive  
Corporate Director of Finance and Resources  
Health and Wellbeing Manager  
Property Services Manager  
Overview and Scrutiny Officer

### **BTSP.53/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of the Town Clerk and Chief Executive.

### **BTSP.54/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

### **BTSP.55/20 PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**RESOLVED** – It was agreed that the items of business in Part A be dealt with in public and Part B be dealt with in private.

### **BTSP.56/20 PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**RESOLVED** – That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Public and Press were excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph numbers (as indicated in brackets against the minutes) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Local Government Act.

### **BTSP.57/20 THE SANDS CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT – FINAL CONTRACT SUM AND COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS** (Public and Press excluded by virtue of Paragraph 3)

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted an update on the progress made in the development of the Sands Centre Redevelopment Project. The update included a revised estimated final contract budget which included COVID-19 implications for the project together with an appraisal of project costs and other factors affecting the final budget.

The Deputy Chief Executive detailed the progress that had been made on the project since June 2019 including the conversion of the former Newman Catholic School into a temporary health and wellbeing facility; provision made for an NHS Musculoskeletal treatment service; a fully accessible temporary events centre reception at the Sands Centre and the development of the Main Contract design, works and sum ready for completion. In addition the Deputy Chief Executive gave an overview of the challenges and project impediments which had been addressed during the time, some of which, including the Covid-19 pandemic, had caused a delay in preparations for the conclusion and signing of the Main Contract. The report also included an update Sands Centre strategic risk register.

The Corporate Director of Finance and Resources set out the financial implications for the redevelopment, including Covid-19 cost implications. An addendum to the report had been circulated and provided the Panel with further information regarding the revised business case.

In response to Members questions the Deputy Chief Executive and the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources clarified the following:

- the contract had a fixed price and the contractor would take the responsibility for any increase in costs. The contract allowed for Wates to make a claim for compensation if a proven cost could be shown, Pick Everard had been engaged as contract administrator and one of their roles was to independently review any claims for compensation and the value of that claim;
- contingency costs had been included in the business case and would not be used for any increase in the revised estimated final contract budget;
- expert external advice would be sought to determine the scale of the required works on the roof and to establish the best time to undertake the work;
- the business case had been updated to include the impact of Covid 19 on the project in comparison to the figures agreed by Council in 2019;
- the Council had an excellent working relationship with GLL and had developed an open book approach to support GLL financially if required. In addition GLL had submitted a request to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) for money to be provided to the industry as well as applying for support from Sports England. Prior to the pandemic GLL had reported a surplus in their 2019 finances which showed that the demand for the services was there;
- GLL were part of the Project Team and were aware of the impact of Covid-19 on the project, the impact to any subsidy had been discussed with them;
- GLL had seen a predicted decrease in membership as a result of Covid-19, however, they reopened in the new temporary facility and had seen an increase in the use of facilities by members. GLL were actively promoting their facilities and held an open weekend to encourage new membership;
- a claim for additional support for expected costs due to Covid-19 had been submitted to the MHCLG.

RESOLVED –That the Panel had reviewed the project update contained within report CS.22/20 together with the updated capital costs, expenditure profile and funding proposals for delivering the Sands Centre redevelopment main contract and supported the Executive in moving forward with the redevelopment project.

(The meeting ended at 5.54pm)