

Cabinet

Dear Member,

You are invited to attend the meeting of the Cabinet to be held as follows for the transaction of the business indicated.

Miranda Carruthers-Watt
Proper Officer

DATE: Tuesday, 24 March 2020

TIME: 10.00 am

VENUE: Salford Suite, Salford Civic Centre, Chorley Road, Swinton

In accordance with 'The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014,' the press and public have the right to film, video, photograph or record this meeting.

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Declarations of interest
- 3 Minutes of the previous meeting (Pages 1 - 2)
To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 25 February 2020.
- 4 RHS Bridgewater (Pages 3 - 14)
- 5 Any other urgent business

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Cabinet

Held on Tuesday 25 February 2020

Present

John Merry, CBE	Deputy City Mayor (in the Chair)
Paula Boshell	Statutory Deputy City Mayor

Lead Members:

Bill Hinds	Lead Member for Finance and Support Services
David Lancaster, MBE	Environment and Community Safety
Gina Reynolds	Adult Services, Health and Wellbeing
Derek Antrobus	Planning and Sustainable Development

Executive Support Members (at the invitation of the City Mayor):

Mike McCusker	Planning and sustainable Development
Barbara Bentham	Workforce and Industrial Relations
Sharmina August	Equalities, Communities and Social Impact
Stephen Coen	Culture, Leisure and Sport

Officers:

Debbie Brown	Strategic Director, Service Reform
Muna Abdel Aziz	Director of Public Health
Miranda Carruthers-Watt	City Solicitor
Charlotte Ramsden	Strategic Director, People
Ben Dolan	Strategic Director, Place
Sam Betts	Assistant Director
Joanne Hardman	Chief Finance Officer
Chris Mee	Strategic Finance Manager
Karen Berry	Democratic Service Manager

The Deputy City Mayor welcomed Sian Roxborough to Cabinet.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Paul Dennett, City Mayor, Councillors Kelly, Jones, Walsh and Hamilton, and from Jim Taylor, Chief Executive.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of proceedings

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2020, were approved as a correct record.

4. Approval of Schools Budget 2020/21

Councillor Merry, Deputy City Mayor and lead Member for Children's Services introduced this item, and in doing so explained that government has allocated the dedicated schools grant (DSG) for 2020-21 and the Salford schools funding formula has been applied to each school and academy.

Special schools and pupil referral units are funded from the high needs block using a different methodology and are not included within this report.

RESOLVED: THAT, the Deputy City Mayor in consultation with Cabinet approved the school budget allocations for 2020-21.

5. Any other business.

No items raised.

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR PLACE

TO CABINET ON

24 MARCH 2020

TITLE: RHS Garden Bridgewater update

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Cabinet:

1. Note the contents of the report.
-

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report provides an update on progress with delivering the various elements of RHS Garden Bridgewater, which will open on 30 July 2020 on the site of the former Worsley New Hall.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

N/a

KEY DECISION: N/a

DETAILS:

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In December 2015 the City Council unanimously endorsed the proposed creation of RHS Garden Bridgewater at the former Worsley New Hall site. RHS Bridgewater is anticipated to be one of the leading visitor attractions in the North West by 2030, attracting around 700,000 visitors per year and contributing around £13.8m annually to the Greater Manchester economy. It will also create over 300 direct and indirect jobs, 20 apprenticeships per annum, volunteering opportunities for local residents and a range of community outreach activities to enhance neighbourhoods, upskill local

residents, embed horticulture, science and the arts within the learning curriculum and promote the health benefits of gardening.

- 1.2 The RHS recently announced their intention to open on 30 July 2020. This report provides key highlights in terms of progress with the development along with the RHS's work in starting to deliver on the social value outcomes envisaged.

2.0 Development update

The Garden development

- Phase 1, comprising a new Welcome Building, renovation of the Walled Garden, car park and internal infrastructure, a new lake and streamside garden, restoration of half of the existing lake, woodland management, path works and the planting of approximately 100,000 plants is due to be complete for 30 July 2020 in line with the opening event.
- Phase 2, comprising planting of the Nesbit terraced gardens, restoration of the remainder of the existing lake and development of an arboretum in the north-west corner of the site is, subject to funding, anticipated to be built by around 2024.
- Phase 3, comprising a glasshouse on the site of the former Worsley New Hall and a Northern School of Horticulture is, subject to funding, anticipated to complete on site by around 2028.

Access and transport infrastructure

- A new signal-controlled junction into the site from Leigh Road (A572) is now built and operational.
- Improvement works to the two roundabouts at junction 13 of the M60 started on 13 January 2020 and will complete by June 2020. The works will rectify existing issues such as drainage, resurface the two roundabouts and also provide additional capacity.
- A scheme to improve walking and cycling links to the site, from Worsley, Boothstown and Walkden, has in principle approval from the GMCA and a full business case is due to be submitted to the GMCA in March 2020. A decision is expected by July 2020 and, if approved, the works should be complete by summer 2021.

3.0 Entrance to the Garden

- The RHS recently announced the fantastic news that a 12-month pilot will be undertaken between July 2020 and July 2021 whereby the following will have free access to the Garden:
 - All Salford residents will have free access on Tuesdays.
 - Under 5s.
 - School children on guided and self-guided school visits.
 - Adult education and special education groups.
 - Colleges and further educational establishments with a focus on horticulture.
 - Carers with a disabled visitor.
 - Blue Peter Badge Holders.
 - Coach drivers when bringing coach parties, group leaders, Tourist Information Centres, group organisers pre-visit.
 - Press / journalists / photographers.
 - Armed forces personnel on Armed Forces Day.
 - Affiliated societies will be entitled to one visit per year.

- Should the pilot be successful this may be extended in future.

4.0 Social value in construction

- 33% of principal contracts (by value) were won by Salford companies. In addition to this a number of significant sub-contracts have been won by Salford-based companies.

- 19 apprentices have worked on construction activities at RHS Garden Bridgewater. These have covered roles such as setting out, civil engineering, bricklaying, health and safety and various roles in construction of the Welcome Building.

- 11 students or unemployed people have gained work experience on site. We are aware that one youth offender who undertook work experience on site has since gone on to gain employment.

- A number of university projects and students have been hosted to help with their research and to gain employability skills.

- Across the principal contracts around 60% - 70% of employees live within either the Greater Manchester area or within a 20-mile radius of the Garden.

5.0 Employment and training update

- 32.5% of current RHS staff are Salford residents, (13 out of 40 people).
- A further 3 out of 6 management positions being recruited to currently will also be filled by Salford residents. This will bring the total Salford residents employed by the RHS to 35%. These jobs are all management or specialist skilled posts such as horticultural positions.
- A further 50 staff will be recruited over the next few months ahead of opening in entry level positions in catering, retail and horticulture. The RHS are working closely with the City Council's Skills and Work team and its delivery partners to support the targeted recruitment of local residents. The RHS are very supportive of this approach and are keen to take advantage of any pre-employment training support to help enable Salford residents to access RHS jobs. As such it is anticipated that as many as 50% of RHS staff at opening on 30 July 2020 could be Salford residents.
- Support delivered to date has included:
 - Allocation of a dedicated Salford City Council Skills and Work resource to provide account management support, co-ordination and to act as a single point of contact for RHS recruitment.
 - Agreement for specific RHS vacancies to be circulated and shared through Salford City Council, SEARCH and partner agencies (including SCC social media, LinkedIn, Neighbourhood pages, My City Salford, and a network of information, advice and guidance (IAG) providers in the city).
 - Meetings held with RHS and Salford City College to discuss Pre-Employment Training opportunities.
 - A monthly RHS Recruitment Partners Group, held at the RHS Bridgewater site.
 - Liaison is taking place with local schools – the RHS held an employability event and site visit for New Park Academy, and supported students from St Ambrose Barlow and Salford City Academy with mock interview sessions.
- Over time, as the Garden and visitor numbers grow, it is expected there will be around 180 staff employed directly on site, with a further 140

jobs created via the RHS' supply chain and local economic multiplier effects.

- The RHS are currently in discussions with Salford City College regarding sourcing their first local apprenticeship provider outside of the RHS's core apprenticeship programme. Apprenticeships will be offered in hospitality, visitor services and catering and it is anticipated 4 apprentices will be working at the RHS at opening in July 2020 and a further 3 will be recruited in September 2020. There may be scope to employ further apprentices early on but details still need to be confirmed. Over time it is expected that as many as 20 apprentices will be undertaking training at any one time from the RHS staffing numbers.

6.0 Volunteering update

- To date over 700 individuals have volunteered at RHS Bridgewater, around a quarter of whom are Salford residents.
- Of these there are 127 'active' volunteers, 46% of whom live in Salford, in keeping with their strategy of prioritising applications from those who live closest to the garden to build local ownership and excitement. Of these active volunteers around 23,000 volunteer hours has been dedicated to the project, equating to around £383,000 of volunteer work.
- Volunteers have gained a breadth of experience and developed skills in a range of areas, including:
 - Volunteer tour guides
 - One-off garden clearance volunteers who join occasional Friday volunteering groups
 - Regular garden clearance volunteers who attend weekly, for three months at a time
 - Career-changing garden clearance volunteers, who have taken on a supervisory role for other volunteers
 - Volunteer manager, who has helped to develop the volunteering strategy and set up the volunteering system, and administer group volunteering, and tours and off site presentations.

- Pig keeping volunteers, including young people studying animal husbandry at the local college.
- Building volunteers, who help deliver smaller renovation projects to existing buildings
- Admin volunteers, with particular skills around communications and photography; and data processing and analysis
- Brick-laying volunteers.

7.0 Community outreach

- The RHS have been undertaking a variety of community outreach activities to embed themselves within local communities, with a specific focus on areas of deprivation. Their current focus is Langworthy and Little Hulton wards. However, as the Garden opens and the RHS has a fuller complement of staff their community outreach activities will expand.
- A selection of local projects as part of their 'Greater Manchester Greening Grey Britain' initiative are outlined below:
 - Developing plans to improve **Peel Park in Little Hulton** and undertaking activities including clearing the woodland, creating new footpaths and regenerating the old rose garden. The project is being delivered in partnership with local people, Salford City Council, Little Hulton Big Local, CommUnity, Sale Sharks Young Programme, and the Youth Justice service. A Pocket Parks bid has just been submitted for £25,000 to further improve the park.
 - Creating a food-growing programme at **Loaves and Fishes in Pendleton** to enable service users to develop new skills and confidence and provide crops for the community café. Loaves and Fishes are hoping to establish a social enterprise to utilise some of the produce grown.
 - Working in partnership with ForHousing to support **Kenyon Residents Association** to create a food growing area to the rear of their centre and renovating the Peel Patches community allotment on Old Lane.
 - Working in partnership with Salford City Council's Green Spaces Team, Langworthy Cornerstone, Langworthy In Bloom, Larkhill and

Willow Tree Primary Schools, and Harris Bugg Associates (designers of the Kitchen Garden at RHS Garden Bridgewater) to regenerate areas of **Chimney Pot Park in Langworthy**. To date, this has included creating colourful tree pits, painting the bowling pavilion and planting new specimen trees. Initial feedback from local residents has been very positive, and the group plans to continue to develop the park in 2020, with a focus on developing new 'wild play' and outdoor education opportunities in the space.

- Working with Salford Foundation and Green Teach at the **St Mary's Women's Centre in Eccles** to renovate the overgrown garden area (around the centre) into a calming social space with year round colour.
- The RHS have launched a Grow Well Fund administered through Salford CVS with match funding from the NHS Salford Clinical Commissioning Group. Salford-based voluntary and community organisations who want to transform 'unloved pieces of land' through a greening project (such as food growing, floral displays and community gardens) can apply for grants of up to £2,000
- 68 local residents helped to plant thousands of purple crocus bulbs down the entrance road as part of Worsley Rotary Club's 'Purple Pinky' programme.
- The RHS have also committed to help greening route 29, formerly known as No Wrong Door, helping young people aged between 12 – 17 who are in care or on the edge of care.

8.0 Education and young people

- 15 young people from Salford have been supported to take part in a range of activities across the garden through programmes such as the National Citizenship Service (in partnership with Salford Foundation) and the Princes Trust (in partnership with Salford City College). Activities included making bat boxes for the woodland, learning about the importance of plants and green spaces in relation to climate change, and foraging and cooking wild food. The National Citizenship Service participants designing a new blindfold trail for the wild play area at the garden.
- RHS Bridgewater are working with two Salford schools, The Co-operative Academy of Walkden and New Park Academy, who won the Best Garden and Pupil's Choice awards in the 2018 'Green Plan It Challenge' to create their garden designs in their school grounds. Each

school has received a grant of £2,000 to turn their plans into reality with the support of RHS staff and their horticultural mentors.

- 68 young people from 13 local schools took part in the 2019 'Green Plan It Challenge', with mentoring support by 13 horticultural industry professionals to design an 'amazing' garden for their school or community. The programme was also supported by staff from the University of Salford running workshops on 3D design and build, as well as a treasure hunt to explore neighbouring Peel Park
- Pupils from Willow Tree Primary School rejuvenated a small unloved space of land close to the school, with the support of the RHS, to turn it into a green oasis with planters, fruit trees and raised beds. This project completed in late 2019.
- Peel Patches, Salford are regenerating their community allotments with the support of the RHS to include creating a dedicated community bed for children at Care Chiefs Nursery to grow food and learn about healthy eating.

9.0 Health and social prescribing

- RHS Garden Bridgewater will include resources for local community groups to access including a Community Garden, Education Garden and a Wellbeing Garden. The Wellbeing Garden has been designed in consultation with local healthcare organisations and patients to ensure its benefits are maximised.
- Ahead of the garden itself opening, the RHS has recruited a Therapeutic Gardener who is leading a programme to support local residents' health and wellbeing through social prescribing.
- The RHS received Innovation Funding from Salford Primary Care Together to deliver and evaluate the project. After referral and assessment approximately 75 individuals from Eccles, Irlam and Swinton will have the opportunity to improve their health through volunteering placements on site. Over 40 people have taken part in the programme so far, all of whom are reporting benefits, with some showing dramatic improvements in their physical and mental health. The following is an indicative quote from one of the participants:

- *"I just felt totally useless when I first came here; I'd just packed in, basically, from day-to-day...It's given me a new spark. It has put a new spark into me that I didn't have before. This has been a turnaround for me, I must admit."*

- Ten people have been recruited as project volunteers and the impact on their health and wellbeing is also being measured. The mid-point evaluation showed that all those involved in the project (both volunteers and beneficiaries) were noticeably proud of what they had achieved and of having contributed to something much wider than themselves.

10.0 Conclusions

RHS Garden Bridgewater will open on 30 July 2020, with site works progressing well and on track to complete by the opening day. Over the past 30 months the RHS have been expanding and embedding their social value activities within their day to day work and this is already seeing a range of positive outcomes and benefits to Salford residents as detailed in this report. As the Garden opens and the RHS has a fuller complement of staff the range and breadth of RHS social value activities will expand to generate even greater benefits to the city.

KEY COUNCIL POLICIES:

Salford 2025 – A Modern Global City
The Great Eight

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND IMPLICATIONS: There are no direct equality impacts arising from this report.

ASSESSMENT OF RISK: Low – this report provides an update briefing only and does not contain any direct financial implications or commitments.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS: None.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: None.

PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS: None.

HR IMPLICATIONS: None.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS:

The RHS development will have a range of sustainable features on site to combat climate change, including a green roof on the Welcome Building, rainwater

harvesting to water all plants in the external plant sales area and groundwater heat pumps. In addition all soils utilised within the development have been re-used from on site, with no soils exported off site.

A number of sustainability benefits will be offered to people using sustainable modes of accessing the RHS, including discounted entry for people travelling by train, bus or bike. Sustainable travel to and from the RHS site will also be greatly enhanced should the RHS Waling and Cycling Links bid be successful.

OTHER DIRECTORATES CONSULTED: None.

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WARDS TO WHICH REPORT RELATES: Worsley

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