

Cabinet

Held on Tuesday 24 March 2020

Present

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

Lead Members:

Bill Hinds	Lead Member for Finance and Support Services
Gina Reynolds	Adult Services, Health and Wellbeing
Derek Antrobus	Planning and Sustainable Development
Tracy Kelly	Neighbourhoods and Housing

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
John Walsh	Education and Learning

Officers:

Jim Taylor	Chief Executive
Debbie Brown	Strategic Director, Service Reform
Miranda Carruthers-Watt	City Solicitor
Charlotte Ramsden	Strategic Director, People
Ben Dolan	Strategic Director, Place
Sam Betts	Assistant Director
Joanne Hardman	Chief Finance Officer
Karen Berry	Democratic Service Manager

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Jones, Lancaster, Coen and Hamilton, and from Muna Abdel Aziz, Andrew Snowdon and Michael Sheehan

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of proceedings

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2020, were approved as a correct record.

4. RHS Bridgewater

Ben Dolan provided a detailed overview of the key highlights in terms of progress with the development along with the RHS's work in starting to deliver on the social value outcomes.

The RHS recently announced their intention to open on 30 July 2020.

The following aspects of the report were highlighted:

- There are no reported delays with any aspects of the development, subject to funding, anticipated to complete on site by around 2028;
- RHS Bridgewater is anticipated to attract around 700,000 visitors per year and contribute around £13.8m annually to the Greater Manchester economy;
- 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 - 32.5% of current RHS staff are Salford residents, (13 out of 40 people).
- 33% of principal contracts (by value) were won by Salford companies. In addition to this several significant sub-contracts have been won by Salford-based companies;
- 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;
- The RHS are currently in discussions with Salford City College regarding sourcing their first local apprenticeship provider;
- To date over 700 individuals have volunteered at RHS Bridgewater, around a quarter of whom are Salford residents;
- The RHS have been undertaking a variety of community outreach
- Activities and it is anticipated that these activities will expand;
- The RHS have launched a Grow Well Fund administered through Salford CVS with match funding from the NHS Salford Clinical Commissioning Group;
- 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;
- The RHS announced a 12-month pilot will be undertaken between July 2020 and July 2021 allowing free access to the Garden as detailed in the report.

The report prompted the following observations:

- Request to review certain 'volunteer roles' to ensure they are carried out by qualified individuals and remunerated accordingly;
- An ask for The RHS to organise some free access/events sometime in the future for NHS staff, key workers and carers taking care of the sick and vulnerable, and from other front line service organisations who are providing a valuable resource;
- Concerns were raised about public transport accessibility to the gardens from some parts of the city.

Members requested they be kept up to date with timescales.

RESOLVED: THAT, the City Mayor in consultation with Cabinet noted the 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.

5. Any other business.

5.1 Spirit of Salford.

Debbie Brown, Strategic Director informed Cabinet that as of today the City Council has launched the [Spirit of Salford helpline](#) in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Any residents that have to self-isolate (stay at home) for any length of time and need assistance, or any carers that need advice and support, should visit the [Spirit of Salford helpline](#) page or call 0800 952 1000 between 8.30am and 6pm (Monday to Friday).

5.2 Ingleside Birth and Community Centre.

Councillor Merry, Deputy City Mayor and Lead Member for Children's and Young People's Services informed Cabinet of the temporary relocation of births at Ingleside Birth and Community Centre to the Princess Anne Maternity Unit at Royal Bolton Hospital.