

One City Economy Board Minutes – 17/09/2019

Attendees:

Name	Organisation	Attended
Cllr Craig Cheney (CC)	Deputy Mayor with responsibility for Finance, Governance and Performance	Attended
James Durie (JD)	Director, Bristol & West of England Initiative	Attended
Mike Jackson (MJ)	Executive Director for Resources and Head of Paid Service, Bristol City Council	Attended
Alice Peacock (AP)	President, Bristol Junior Chamber	Attended
John Chaplin (JC)	Special Projects Director, Bristol Port	Attended
Ameeta Virk (AV)	International Trade Specialist, Department for International Trade	Attended
Ben Shorrocks (BS)	Managing Director, Techspark	Attended
Sado Jirde (SJ)	Director, Black South West Network	Attended
Fiona Francombe (FF)	Site Director, Bottleyard Studios	Attended
Ben Wright (BW)	Managing Director, Bristol 24/7 and Better Bristol	Attended
Guy Orpen (GO)	Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Bristol	Attended
John Hirst (JH)	CEO, Destination Bristol	Attended
Nick Lee (NL)	President, Law Society	Attended
Simon Face (SF)	Regional Director, IOD	
Nigel Costley (NC)	South West Regional Secretary, TUC	Attended
Paul Baker (PB)	President, Bristol Property Agents Association	Attended
Sam Holliday (SH)	Development Manager, FSB	Attended
Nina Skubala (NS)	Initiative Manager, Bristol & West of England Initiative	Attended
Andrea Dell (AD)	Head of City Office	Edward Rowberry (Andrea's Job Share) attended in her place.
Annabel Smith (AS)	Operations and Stakeholder Engagement Manager, City Office	Attended
Nuala Gallagher (NG)	Director, City Growth, Investment & Infrastructure, Bristol City Council	Attended
Anesa Kritah (AK)	Economic Development Manager, Bristol City Council	Attended
Ryan Carlin (RC)	Economic Development	Attended

	Apprentice, Bristol City Council	
Chris Hackett (CH)	Economic Strategy Manager, Bristol City Council	Attended

Apologies:

Name	Organisation
Andy Street	Chair, City Funds
Deborah Fraser	South West Director, CBI

1) Introduction – Chairs:

Introduction and welcome from the Co-Chairs. JD gave an overview of the purpose of the board; which aims to bring together a set of representatives from a broad range of organisations to address some of the challenges that impact on Bristol's economy. The range of representatives will help to provide new energy and add value to the board. It was proposed that the board may want to consider representatives from additional organisations going forward and it was agreed that consideration should be given to a rep from the night time economy board and BASA.

a) Actions from introduction:

Action for AS – Consider a rep from the night time economy board.

Action for AS – Consider a junior economy rep from BASA.

2) Overview of the One City Plan – Edward Rowberry:

The One City Plan is a key tool of the One City approach; it is about how we harmonise a number of strategies towards a common goal/ambition. The plan aims to provide structure, focus and clarity, supporting the city to operate in a more systemic way. The One City Plan includes six themes including Economy, which is the focus of this board and consideration needs to be given to how this board interacts with the Plan. The themes are designed to be cross cutting and should also be taken into consideration.

The One City Plan is currently going through a refresh and in terms of this timeline the Economy Board has until January 2019 to provide input, although some of the actions will have an organic timeline.

JC recognised the hard work that has gone into the One City Plan to date and the scale of complexity. He described the Plan as iterative and as a starting point for a shared approach between the boards.

3) Operations Update – Edward Rowberry:

a) Terms of Reference:

The terms of reference sets out the constitution of the Economy Board and starts to describe how this board will operate.

NL raised an issue around confidentiality of board discussions. ER offered to circulate legal advice, and explained that the advice given is that as this is not a statutory board there is not a need to disclose and publish the business of the board, but in view transparency may want to consider publishing the board minutes.

ER explained that the Environment Board had decided to publish their minutes and asked if the principle of transparency was a good one for this board. MJ advised that in line with transparency minutes should be published.

JD gave feedback from the LEP Board where there had been a similar discussion around transparency. The Economy Board must find the right balance and recognise that at times discussions may need to be taken off line.

GO raised a concern where board members are representing a network of organisations and not an individual organisation.

It was agreed that minutes should be published, however, if there are wide ranging discussions the board may decide to have informal sessions which do not require formal minutes. If board members do not wish specific discussion points to be minuted then they should make that clear to the Chairs.

No further comments on the Terms of Reference and they were agreed by the board.

b) Vote on Chairs:

It was formally agreed that James Durie and Cllr Craig Cheney would be Co-Chairs of the Economy Board.

c) Planning for Refresh of the One City Plan – Edward Rowberry:

ER gave some background context regarding the Environment Board, where a sub group had been convened to undertake a deep dive into the action plan for the Environment theme; specifically reviewing actions for the first 10 years, some work on longer term actions, and implications on actions and timelines for other themes.

ER asked if the Economy Board would consider a similar approach and gave an overview of the plan refresh timeline (although accepted that some of these dates may be subject to change) –

- i) 21st October – all boards to draft their revised timelines and interdependencies,
- ii) November/early December – all boards to sign off their final timelines,
- iii) 4th December – Multi-board final review of the Plan,
- iv) 6th December – Final draft goes to design team,
- v) 13th December – Last chance for any final comments on the Plan,
- vi) 17th December – City Leaders Group where the final draft will go forward,
- vii) January 2020 – City gathering where the Plan will be published.

NS confirmed that the deep dive workshop for the economy theme has been booked for 1st November and they would like a smaller group of board members to be involved in the deep dive process.

The second Economy Board meeting has been scheduled for 2nd December 9-11am and the aim is to present the outcome of the deep dive session back to the board at this meeting.

ER explained that this could be used as a prioritisation session, identifying areas that merit additional collaboration/publicity, where the One City approach could help to accelerate actions.

JD updated the board that there are 3 priorities for One City approach:

- (i) Poverty
- (ii) Affordable Child Care
- (iii) Knife Crime

NC asked if the board may be impacted by the outcome of the Brexit negotiations and how do we feed in local intelligence/impact on business?

MJ agreed that it may be a credibility issue if we issue a plan in January without considering the impact of Brexit and suggested including preparation plans within the One City Plan.

NC responded that there may be other areas where a rapid response is required to support businesses and the economy.

JC explained that that Bristol Port sees Brexit as an opportunity not a threat.

The following board members volunteered for the Economy Board Deep Dive:

- (i) Jane
- (ii) Fiona Francombe
- (iii) Ameeta Virk
- (iv) John Hirst
- (v) Paul Baker
- (vi) Ben Shorrocks
- (vii) Ben Wright
- (viii) Cllr Craig Cheney
- (ix) James Durie

4) Inclusive Growth Strategy – Chris Hackett:

CH explained the Inclusive Growth Strategy is ready and waiting for the Economy Board to be set up. The groundwork was completed by Arup, who took on a stakeholder consultancy to ensure engagement on the strategy took place.

The purpose of the Inclusive Growth Strategy was for Bristol to have a strategy which informed the regional Local Industrial Strategy. The strategy focuses on how the city could be more productive if it was more inclusive/sustainable, the system also aims to ensure that when wealth is generated it is shared across the city.

The strategy also looks at the nature of employment across the city, aims to address in work poverty and how jobs are beneficial to people's health and well-being, including a key measure around reducing the gap in life expectancy across the city.

CH explained that the strategy currently includes crude measures to set targets, but there is an extensive evidence base from Arup which he is happy to share with board members.

JD asked what status the strategy will have once it is agreed.

CH explained that the strategy will be going to the Council's Cabinet to be adopted by Bristol City Council and it is a statement by the city on how the economy should be taken forward.

JH asked for more details on the costs included in the action plan and CH explained that these refer to the Council's budget.

MJ explained that with regard to the status of the strategy, the Council's Cabinet will adopt it but it is not statutory. It is really up to the board to review and decide to what extent it will commit to the strategy.

JD asked board member how they felt about the strategy.

PB stated that if the strategy makes sense the board will get behind it and promote it.

NG recognised how difficult it is to measure inclusive growth and explained that while the Council has a number of levers (for example planning obligations); the City needs to take ownership too.

ER explained that the One City approach will start to look at businesses and their incentives, and how businesses can start to focus on social and environmental issues.

Technology will impact on growth in the future and the city needs to consider how this will impact on jobs and skills needs going forward.

SJ explained that we need to consider how we are addressing inequality and prioritise communities that are impacted. This needs to be fed into the strategy.

ER said that the Economy Boards needs to be cautious about over promising and under delivering, therefore in terms of the feedback not everything may be included. Cllr Cheney concluded that feedback on the strategy would be helpful.

Action from the Inclusive Growth Strategy:

It was agreed that the Economy Board members should review the strategy and send any comments to NG and AK (Nuala.Gallagher@bristol.gov.uk / anesa.kritah@bristol.gov.uk)

5) A.O.B:

AV gave a brief update from the International Strategy Board, explaining that a trade delegation had visited Boston to attract inward investment.