

**Bristol One City Culture Board**

**Minutes**

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| **Date/time** | | Tuesday 15 September 2020, 15.30-17.00 | **Venue** | Zoom Call |
| **Co-chairs** | | Craig Cheney (Deputy Mayor of Bristol) & Lynn Barlow (Assistant Vice Chancellor Cultural and Creative Industries Engagement, UWE) | | |
| **Minutes** | | | | |
| 1) | The Co-Chairs Cllr Craig Cheney (CC) and Lynn Barlow (LB) introduced themselves and welcomed everyone to the meeting.  All of the attendees then introduced themselves by name and which organisation they were representing. | | | |
| 2) | One City Approach / Economic Renewal Strategy Update  **Ed Rowberry (ER) provided a brief overview on the One City Approach:**  Using One City vision and plan to solve the issue of hundreds of unaligned city strategies by building a sequence of activity up until 2050 trying to bring focus and prompt debate in the city.  The One City Plan establishes a city leadership framework outlining that this is a shared journey, and the City Office acts as an administrative and enabling body and is part of a wider partnership.  Objective is to harness the collective power of various partners  There is a City vision of hope and aspiration and elimination of inequality, with zero or low carbon by 2030. Currently have 6 city partnership boards with over 100 organisations represented.  6 themes go into city plan:  Connectivity, Economy, Environment, Health and Wellbeing, Homes and Communities and Learning and Skills.  The importance of measuring against UN sustainable development goals was also discussed as it is vital to be able to influence change more widely and see how Bristol is contributing to the bigger picture.  One City Plan is a partnership effort across the city which is why it is so important to bring together different voices from across the city.  Outlined the City Office key achievements to date.  Discussed the importance of thinking about how culture and arts goals fit into the global goals.  **Cllr Craig Cheney provided an update on the One City Economic Renewal Strategy:**  CC provided an update on the work of the Economy Board to date.  Economy Board is part of the One City approach with the first meeting being held just after lockdown began. Weekly meetings followed thereafter to discuss the recovery and how to build back better which is the overarching theme.  The Economy Board have undertaken a number of workshops, webinars and surveys and have been collecting data to inform their decision making.  A statement of intent was provided in May/June and can be viewed online which sets out the remit for how economic recovery might work and how it is aligned to SDGs, the first draft of the strategy will go out for comment to the One City Boards, including the Culture Board on Wednesday 16 September for review. The first iteration will then be launched on 16 October.  The second iteration will then be published in March 2021, therefore its ongoing development takes into account the fact that the data on the economic impacts of Covid-19 is continuing to emerge each day.  John Finch (JF) Head of Culture at Bristol City Council provided an overview on how the cultural and creative industries have contributed to the development of the strategy to date, including webinars on Night Time Economy and Tourism.  Specific challenges for the sector include events cancelled and many workers not entitled to government grants, with many redundancies taking place or likely to in the short to medium term.  It was noted that the sector if facing significant challenge and will continue to do so for a long time as it was one of the first to close and may be one of the last to reopen. Significant amount of work has been undertaken in the sector to understand the depth of the challenge  Discussed a number of key issues identified at city level which include:   * Limited amount of business support available * Reopening models need to be developed, have been engaging with sector on best practise * Consumer confidence has been significantly affected * Need to think of new ways of working * Need to leverage government funding   Currently speaking with government on the challenges being faced in the sector to ensure gaps are identified and addressed, which will require significant evidence to support the conversations. | | | |
| 3) | **Vision Setting for the Board (Lynn Barlow & Cllr Craig Cheney)**  The focus for the board is to concentrate on enabling the sector’s economic recovery from the pandemic and the reopening of the cultural and creative sector.  The board is also asked to support the 2021 refresh of the One City Plan.  Discussion regarding the representation on the board, as the objective is to make the board as representative as possible. To enable this it is requested that members commit to 12 months and the role of chair will be rotated. In addition, limited funding is available to allow freelance colleagues to be paid to represent their network. | | | |
| 4) | **Terms of Reference (Cllr Craig Cheney)**  All board members received a copy of the draft Terms of Reference when they were invited to be part of the board and again when the agenda was circulated.  CC requested all members to review the Terms of Reference and feedback any comments to One City Office and Annabel Smith will coordinate. | | | |
| 5) | Discussion around achievement goals for the board in the next 12 months, comments included:   * Concern was raised regarding why culture was not specifically included in the first draft of the One City Plan and it was noted that this was due to culture being an intrinsic part of all activities undertaken, however it was not explicitly clear in the first plan. * A suggestion of mapping how culture feeds into the different areas was made * Culture can create the way for hybrid experiences and how people engaged during lockdown * Discussed the importance of undertaking projects which leverage the Bristol brand * Discussion about the balance of trying to think big enough in the longer term whilst also trying to deal with the immediate challenges in the very short term * Agreed need to put people at the heart of communities and connecting people through culture is a way to enable this * Discussed the current struggle of artists and practitioners in the city and the challenge to ensure there are support networks in place, particularly as the furlough scheme is due to end and redundancies are likely * The need to operate differently was discussed including commissioning creatives to offer alternative options which could include semi-digital live experiences * Suggestion of using the city streets as a canvass * Broadcasting sector are struggling to make enough programmes, and discussed if there are different ways to cooperate on projects, or offer alternative training and support * Concerns that freelance community and young people may leave the city to other areas if they feel limited support or opportunities * Need to offer support so young people feel they have a future in the city * Discussed the diversity of the offering by larger organisations and if this could provide opportunities * There is a disconnect between Bristol’s outstanding international reputation and its national reputation * Important to address inclusion and focus on what Bristol is already good at and passionate about * Need an ecology of talent in the city and a way for those which are not mainstream to be included in the mainstream * Discussed a potential celebration of the city next year, Culture Festival 2021 * Important not just to focus on city centre but the whole city * Suggestion to work in small groups from different sectors to focus on specific areas of the city, however agreed that would need to address the principles of the city before projects are started   **ACTION**: Board members are asked to review the minutes of the board meeting and bring suggestions of what the board should aim to achieve in the next 12 months to the next board meeting on 22 October.  **ACTION**: Clare Reddington and Anna Rutherford to consider a potential speaker / change agent for the next board meeting to talk about systematic change. | | | |
| 6) | LB and CC thanked all board members for attending and confirmed that the next board meeting is scheduled for Thursday 22 October. | | | |