
MEETING	EXECUTIVE
DATE	21 SEPTEMBER 2010
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS WALLER (CHAIR), AYRE, STEVE GALLOWAY, MOORE AND REID
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLORS MORLEY AND RUNCIMAN

PART B - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

75. THE BARBICAN AUDITORIUM

[See also under Part A Minutes]

Members considered a report which provided an update on progress with the formal procurement competition designed to bring the Barbican Auditorium back into public use.

Details of the procurement process were set out in paragraphs 9 to 13 of the report. Of the four bidders shortlisted, two had subsequently withdrawn, and formal tenders had been submitted by:

- Bidder A - a property developer with a proposal for a comprehensive redevelopment of the area, including the Kent Street site
- Bidder B - SMG Europe (Holdings) Ltd., an entertainments operator with a plan to refurbish and lease the Barbican and provide a programme of entertainments and conferencing.

Following an evaluation exercise carried out in accordance with the agreed criteria, SMG (Bidder B) had been identified as the preferred bidder. Details of the funding and revenue implications of the bid were set out in exempt Annex 4 of the report. Approval was now sought to proceed to an award of the contract and to carry out works to resolve an associated issue raised by the Highways section regarding the pedestrian refuge on Kent Street.

Officers at the meeting provided an update on the potential economic impact of the preferred bidder's proposal, which early calculations estimated could benefit the local economy by between £9m and £12m.

Having noted the comments of the Labour Group Spokespersons on this item, it was

RECOMMENDED: That Council approve the financial implications relating to the capital programme contained in exempt Annex 4 to the report.

REASON: To enable the Barbican Auditorium to be re-opened for public use.

76. CHANGING EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Members considered a report which presented the results of public consultation on changes to the Council's executive arrangements and sought a recommendation to full Council in respect of the new arrangements.

Details of the requirement to consult under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act had been reported to the Executive meeting on 6 July 2010. The consultation, carried out between 16 July and 1 September, had resulted in 52 on-line responses and one letter. 33 people had responded in support of a Leader and Cabinet Executive and 18 in support of an elected Mayor and Cabinet. Two had not formally expressed a preference. Details of the responses were provided in Annex 1 to the report.

The next stage was for Council to agree and publish its draft proposals. It must then formally resolve, at a special meeting, to change its governance arrangements. Draft proposals were presented in Annex 2, together with a timetable for implementation and transitional arrangements to cover the period between the local elections in May 2011 and the Annual Council meeting. It was noted that these arrangements must proceed, in accordance with existing legislation, despite the fact that the law was about to change.

Having noted the comments of the Labour Group Spokespersons on this item, it was

RECOMMENDED: (i) That Council propose to adopt the Leader and Cabinet model.

(ii) That the timetable should be as set out in Annex 2 to the report.

(iii) That Council not instigate a referendum.

(iv) That Council make provision in the Constitution for removal of the Leader during his or her term of office and adopt the transitional arrangements set out in Annex 2.

REASON: In accordance with legal obligations.

A Waller, Chair

[The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 3.10 pm].