

AGENDA ITEM 8

WEST OF ENGLAND JOINT COMMITTEE

4 OCTOBER 2019

COMMENTS FROM COMBINED AUTHORITY BOARDS

Meetings of the Combined Authority Boards were held in September 2019; comments from the Boards about items included on 4 October Joint Committee agenda are set out below.

WEST OF ENGLAND PLACEMAKING PROJECT (agenda item 13):

Comments from the Planning & Housing Board - meeting held on 9 September 2019:

Key points raised / noted by the Board in discussion:

Design review service:

1. It was noted that under the proposal, a design review service would be established, operating in each of the 4 West of England unitary authority areas, under the shared banner of 'Design West' and with the key aim of ensuring an independent and regionally consistent design review service.
2. It was noted that the service would be developed in close consultation with each of the individual West of England unitary authorities in order that the design, development and policy priorities of each authority were fully understood and taken account of in taking the proposed local panels forward. On this basis, Members were supportive of the proposal progressing, noting also that a review would take place after 12 months.

Process for appointing a West of England Placemaking Champion:

1. Members noted the proposed role of the Placemaking Champion, noting also that the aim was to provide a significant opportunity to have an independent, local advocate of high quality placemaking.
2. In discussion, it was agreed that it would be appropriate for the role of the Placemaking Champion to be progressed after the design review panels are up and running.
3. It was also agreed that further work should take place to clarify the expressions of interest / appointment process. Important considerations included:
 - * establishing clear criteria for the assessment of candidates.
 - * ensuring that any potential conflicts of interest were avoided.

* the shortlist / assessment of candidates should be shared in due course with this Board and Mayors and Leaders; the ultimate decision on the appointment should be taken by the West of England Joint Committee.

Process for developing a West of England Placemaking Charter:

1. It was noted that:

* the proposed charter would be developed over the next 12 months with consultant support.

* the charter would essentially be a “high-level” aspirational statement of intent and commitment around placemaking, with a view to it being used by Mayors and Leaders to inspire buy-in from across the built environment sector and local communities to the region’s priorities for inclusive and sustainable growth.

2. In discussion, Board members agreed that it would be appropriate for the draft charter content to be appropriately consulted on with stakeholders/public as part of its development, noting that the envisaged launch date was August 2020.

Proposed training and development to support unitary authority members and officers in the context of the Placemaking project:

- Board members generally supported the proposed training and development programme.