

COMMENTS FROM INFORMAL MEETING OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 7
OCTOBER 2022 AT 10:30AM

ITEM 8 – BRISTOL TEMPLE QUARTER

The O&S Committee broadly welcomed the recommendations but made the following points:

- It was noted that BCC Scrutiny members had visited the site had thoroughly scrutinised the project and had broadly welcomed the proposals;
- There was nervousness about inflationary pressures for the scheme;
- The need to consult businesses properly and the protection of employment in context of such a large regeneration project;
- The need to safeguard accessibility of the riverside and the opportunity to feed into the finer details of the regeneration project needed to exist;
- Officers confirmed that the majority of the land was in freehold with public authority ownership;
- The issue of Investment Zones was discussed and further details from Whitehall was awaited;
- The officer outlined that flood defence mitigation was a key part of the plan and fitted into the broader Bristol defence scheme strategy.
- The officer explained that in relation to housing that the plan was for around 40% affordable housing of which an element would be social housing. It was also planned that the housing provided would be a mix of family housing, mix of tenure and size of housing of high quality.

ITEM 9 – INVESTMENT FUND

Part A – HSTE A

- It was clarified that the full business case had already been approved for this project;
- The scheme was welcomed by the Committee and seen as very important as a development for the region, particularly some of the major employers in the region who will be active participants in the use of green hydrogen;

Part B – Arena Package

- Frustrations were raised in respect of the delays to the stations opening. Members did ask the Metro Mayor to use his best endeavours in bringing onside local MPs and others in exerting pressure on Network Rail;
- Officers confirmed that there were package measures supporting public transport;
- Committee were keen that ongoing dialogue existed with the developer around inflation risks and the potential for these to be shared, especially given the effect of inflation on fixed S106 contributions negotiated some years ago;

Otherwise the report was positively received by the Committee.