

Minutes

Civic Quarter Liaison Group

Day/Date: Thursday 8 May 2025

Time: 4pm – 5.30pm

Location: Guildhall and MS Teams

Chair: Councillor Rosy Moore (RM), Executive Councillor for Climate Action and Environment

Attendees:

- A list of attendees who provided their name and organisation is included as an Appendix

Elected members in the room:

- Cllr Rosy Moore (Chair)
- Cllr Simon Smith
- Cllr Katie Porror
- Cllr Tim Bick

Cambridge City Council representatives:

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| - Ben Binns | Assistant Director, Development |
| - Tom Conlon | Senior Development Manager – Civic Quarter |
| - Sean Rossiter-Johnston | Technical Support |

Design Team:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| - David Roberts | Cartwright Pickard |
| - Oliver Deed | ECF |

Introduction:

- Rosy Moore (RM) welcomed introduced the session and outlined the agenda for the session. .

Presentation:

- Tom Conlon (TC) provided an update on the previous engagement process, and the steps that have been taken since the last liaison group meeting, including the various committee approvals achieved to date, the programme moving forward, and the process of bringing a contractor on to support the project.
- David Roberts (DR) ran through the updated proposals for the Market Square, Guildhall and the Corn Exchange. He previewed the information boards that would be available as part of the engagement process, and talked through how individuals and groups could provide their comments on the evolving proposals.
- The floor was then opened up for questions.

Questions:

- Where will the Changing Places toilets be located? Will they be located on the ground floor as to be accessible. A: Yes
- There were several questions asked about the Market Square:
 - Will traders be offered the opportunity to use more than one stall, as per the current situation? A: This is being worked through, but in principle, yes.
 - Will the demountable stalls be trialled and how will this be integrated into the consultation? A: Yes, which is due to take place at the end of May or in early June, for two weeks. We will ensure residents are aware this trial is taking place so they can see the stalls in action.
 - Which traders have been selected and how were they chosen? A: All traders were offered the opportunity to participate, and we have 8/9 that will be involved.
 - The inclusion of new greenery is great, but will traders still be able to navigate around the market? A: Yes, and vehicular movements have been modelled, and we have designed accordingly.
 - Why are you basing your assumptions on their being quieter days on the market, should we not be aiming for a thriving seven day a week market? A: The flexibility built into the project allows us to cater for all scenarios – we are all committed to a thriving seven day a week market, and we believe the proposals will increase footfall.
 - Are there efforts to increase footfall through marketing efforts, like a dedicated website? A: Yes, and the Economic Development team are working through this at the moment.
 - How will the decant process work? A: The traders have expressed a preference to be as close to the square as possible during the process, and

that is what we are working on currently. We will have to look closely at wayfinding, and awareness of the process when we get to this stage.

- What is the provision for cycle parking in the plans? A: This is still being worked on as we head towards a planning application.
- How is the Civic Quarter project knitting in with other projects coming forward in the area, such as Project Agora and Cambridge Arts Theatre? A: We are in regular contact with Gonville and Caius and other stakeholders to coordinate, particularly on logistics. We are also appointing a contractor who will help in this process.
- Is there still a proposal for a heritage facility within the Guildhall? A: This is being looked at by the Museum of Cambridge, particularly on funding. Space will be made available for this type of use, if we can find someone to take it.
- Is there enough information for the project team to launch a consultation at this stage, as key items like logistics have yet to be finalised? A: We are working through a process, towards a Stage 3 design and a planning application. Once a planning application is submitted there will be a statutory consultation through which residents will have an additional opportunity to provide their feedback on the full planning application.
- Will the proposals be Net Zero in operation, or in terms of whole life carbon? A: We are looking at embodied carbon, and at studies on new products that will help us achieve a good whole life carbon scenario.

Next steps

- RM outlined the next steps for the consultation process.

Attendees in the room:

- Cllr Tim Bick
- Cllr Katie Porrer
- Cllr Simon Smith
- Wendy Blythe
- John Preston
- Katie Preston

Online Attendees (as their Teams sign in):

- Frances Alderton
- Val Neal
- Sean Rossiter-Johnston
- Alistair Wilson
- Thomas Thurbon