



**Note of the meeting of the Advisory Board for Bath Neighbourhood CIL
held on Monday, 14th March, 2022
in Brunswick Room - Guildhall, Bath**

Meeting Attendance

In Attendance
Councillor Rob Appleyard
Councillor Colin Blackburn
Councillor Paul Crossley
Councillor Jess David
Dave Dixon
Mark Hayward
Councillor Joel Hirst
Councillor Manda Rigby
Councillor Mark Roper

Apologies Received from
Councillor Alison Born
Councillor Shaun Stephenson-McGall

1. Selection for the position of a Chair

Dave Dixon asked the panel members for nominations for the role of Chair.

Cllr Crossley nominated Cllr Appleyard for the position of Chair, the nomination was seconded by Cllr Blackburn. There were no other nominations, and the remaining Councillors were all in favour of this nomination.

Cllr Appleyard was asked to take over and to Chair the meeting.

2. Agreement of the Terms of Reference

The terms of reference were agreed by all Councillors that were present.

It was noted that Manda Rigby is not a member of the Advisory Board but will be a substitute when there are advance apologies for meetings.

3. Community Consultation Results

The Advisory Panel confirmed they had received the input through the online consultation and that the points raised will have been considered as part of the recommendations that are made.

4. Application 1 - Cleveland Pools Interpretation

The points raised by the Advisory Board were:

- The Cleveland Pools have received a number of large grants from the National Lottery and from B&NES Council. It was felt that the original budgets may have been maxed out and the request comes as a result of no funds being left over for this work.
- This application was seen as an add to the overall project and a nice to have item.
- There was no matched funding included as part of the application.
- The cost that was set out in the application appeared to be very high.
- The object of the overall project is to see the pools reopen, this is happening already, and this part of the project is seen to be an add on.
- The application does not feel like it is needed as a result of development and would not be high up the list of the needs for Bath.
- It was felt that the timing for an application may be more appropriate once the pools have been fully reopened and have evidence that they are running successfully. It was felt that this should not come back no earlier than two years' time.

The Advisory Board were all in agreement that this application would not be recommended for funding.

5. Application 2 - Voices Safe Space Centre for Bath

The points raised by the Advisory Board were:

- Everybody recognised that the support that will be offered through this project will be a valuable source of support for our communities.
- It was felt that the improvement to the lives of clients that receive support will have a positive impact.
- It was felt that it was a good use of funding to invest in the provision of infrastructure needed by the organisation in starting this work.
- It was understood that there are sensitive issues around the level of information that can be shared publicly on the location of where the service will be provided from. There is however a need for basic levels of information to be shared so that it is clear how the funding will be allocated.

- The panel asked that details be confidentially shared with the Council on the lease for the property and a clear breakdown of how the funding will be allocated.
- The panel asked that the grant agreement asks for adequate reporting after the first year of funding as a condition to the release of the second years funds.

The Advisory Board were all in favour of recommending this application as long as the requested information is shared by Voices. The panel will recommend that two payments of £23,607, the first in 2022 and the second in 2023 on the completion of year one's report.

6. Application 3 - Percy Centre Multi Use Games Area

The points raised by the Advisory Board were:

- Concerns were raised around the full amount that was being request. Although it was agreed that similar projects in other locations have required this level of funding.
- The application has not demonstrated a strong business case that shows how booking will improve for the site as a result of this work.
- It was recognised that the Percy Centre has a good throughput of activity and had obtained a bounce back loan to continue operating. The centre does reach out to some of the lesser well-off members of the community.
- There were concerns that the finances of this organisation were not able to demonstrate strong future commercial results. There is not an indication of the impact that would be felt should this work was carried out.
- The question was asked that if this project has been needed for a long time why is the request only coming forward at this time?
- The project itself was felt to be the correct use of funding in the right circumstances.
- No mention was made in the application about any new groups would be brought in to use the improved facilities.
- It was not clear if the applicant is a charity that would be exempt of VAT.
- There are concerns that Council are the building owners and no agreement on the long-term future lease has been agreed.

The Advisory Board was left unable to make a recommendation for any funding. The main issue that would have to be resolved is the long-term lease that would need to be in place for development to be able to be supported.

For this application to be reconsidered Percy Centre will need to address and clearly identify details on the issues around:

1. The security of tenure
2. Clarity of VAT status
3. Clarity of long-term financial position
4. Enhanced Community Usage

7. Application 4 - Komedia Bath Structure Improvements

The points raised by the Advisory Panel were:

- Komedia is a community run organisation that sold shares to community to fund the business.
- The building is well used, and the application indicates Komedia are supportive of community uses. The subsidised tickets and the difference venues like this make to local people is great.
- The business is a trading entity that have a commercial rent and a full repairing lease.
- There was feeling that as a commercial venture the responsibility for repairs to the property are part of business planning. There appears to have been no investment made to deal with the issues during the operation period from 2008.
- Repairs of this nature are a commercial decision that businesses would have a sinking fund for repairs.
- The board were mindful of the difficult two years that venues had to deal with and that some routes of funding support had been provided.

The decision was that the application would not be recommended for funding. Only two of the seven members were able to support the application.

8. Application 5 - Cleveland Pools Kiosk Canopy

The points raised by the Advisory Board were:

- The cost of the option that was included in the application were very high.
- It was felt that this addition to the reopening of the pools was not going to provide any help to the community.
- It was felt this addition was not needed by the community.
- The Board were mindful of the rising costs for materials and that other lower cost options may be available.
- The Board were mindful of the unique location where deliveries coming in by river have made the overall project more expensive.

- The Cleveland Pools have received a number of large grants from the National Lottery and from B&NES Council.
- There was no matched funding included as part of the application.

The Advisory Board agreed that they would not be able to recommend this application for funding.

9. Any Other Business

It was agreed that the application forms will be amended so that two additional questions are added.

- Are there any planned changes that will have an effect on the premises or location where your project is to be located?”
- Are there any planned changes in circumstances to your organisations operation that we should be aware of?”

10. Future Meetings

The Advisory Board will next meet 26th July 2022 6-8pm – The Guildhall Bath