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EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES – 5TH SEPTEMBER 2022

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

MONDAY, 5TH SEPTEMBER, 2022

PRESENT: Councillor J Lewis in the Chair

Councillors S Arif, A Carter, D Coupar,
S Golton, M Harland, H Hayden, J Pryor
and M Rafique

APOLOGIES: Councillor F Venner

35 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED – That, in accordance with Regulation 4 of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following parts of the agenda designated as exempt from publication on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information so designated as follows:-

- (A) That appendices 1 and 2 to the report entitled, 'Bid to Host the Eurovision Song Contest 2023', referred to in Minute No. 38 be designated as being exempt from publication in accordance with paragraph 10.4(3) of Schedule 12A(3) of the Local Government Act 1972 and considered in private on the grounds that the information within those appendices relates to the business affairs of the UK Host City selection process for the Eurovision Song Contest which has been established by the BBC as a confidential process between the BBC and the cities and other partners involved. It is therefore deemed that in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the confidentiality of that information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

36 Late Items

Due to the short timescales of the bidding process and to ensure that the bid submission deadline was met, the meeting had been convened at short notice, under the provisions of the Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rule 2.2.

For the same reasons of urgency, the Key Decision being recommended within the submitted report was being proposed via the 'Special Urgency' provisions and similarly, appropriate urgency provisions were being used in relation to the required notification regarding the consideration of information designated as being exempt from publication (Sections 2.6 and 2.3.4 of the Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rules refer respectively).

Further details regarding such matters were included within the submitted report, including, as required, confirmation that the relevant Scrutiny Board Chair was in agreement that the consideration of such matters was urgent and could not reasonably be deferred.

37 Declaration of Interests

There were no interests declared at the meeting.

ECONOMY, CULTURE AND EDUCATION

38 Bid to Host the Eurovision Song Contest 2023

The Director of City Development submitted a report which presented the context and the progress made to date regarding the bidding process for the hosting of the 2023 Eurovision Song Contest. In doing so, the report specifically sought approval to the submission of Leeds' bid together with the associated financial contribution towards the Song Contest.

In presenting the report, the Executive Member for 'Economy, Culture and Education' provided an overview of the current position regarding the bidding process, highlighting that it was with deep regret that Ukraine, having won the 2022 Contest, was not in a position to host the event in 2023. However, it was emphasised that Leeds, if selected, would look to deliver an outstanding event on behalf of Ukraine and its people.

The range of factors as to why Leeds was in a unique position to successfully host the event were highlighted. These included:-

- How the proposals were consistent with the supportive work and acts of solidarity which continued to take place with Ukraine, including the large Ukrainian population in West Yorkshire. Specific reference was made to the recent proposals regarding the twinning of Leeds and Kharkiv;
- How the proposals would complement both the 'Leeds 2023' and 'Bradford 2025' cultural initiatives and how, with continued liaison with relevant partner organisations, the developing infrastructure for those initiatives would help to successfully deliver this event;
- Emphasis was placed upon Yorkshire's wide-ranging musical and cultural heritage, and how this event would look to build upon that, whilst also celebrating the rich cultural heritage of Ukraine;
- Leeds' previous experience of hosting major events of national and international significance was highlighted, both in terms of those hosted from within the First Direct Arena and also those which had been delivered on a citywide basis.

In discussing such matters, Members endorsed the comments which had been made and confirmed support for the submitted proposals. The Board specifically endorsed the approach being taken by Leeds, in that if the bid was successful, the Contest would be delivered on behalf of Ukraine and its people.

Members also highlighted the huge economic impact that the hosting of an event on this scale would have, with specific reference being made to the benefits which would be felt by the hospitality and retail sectors, amongst others.

With regard to the First Direct Arena, Members noted how it had been designed primarily as a venue for large scale music events such as this, and as such it was felt that the arena would be an excellent venue to deliver the Eurovision Song Contest.

Following consideration of Appendices 1 and 2 to the submitted report designated as being exempt from publication under the provisions of Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(3), which were considered in private, it was

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the submission of Leeds' bid to host the Eurovision Song Contest 2023, be approved;
- (b) That the Councils' financial contribution to Eurovision, as detailed within the exempt appendices to the submitted report, be approved, with approval also being given to the delegation of the necessary authority to the Director of City Development to enable the Director to agree the final composition of the funding mix, in consultation with the Chief Officer Financial Services and with the Executive Members for 'Economy, Culture and Education' and 'Resources';
- (c) That approval be given for the decisions taken by the Executive Board from the submitted report, as resolved above, be exempted from the Call In process due to the short timescale of the bidding process and to ensure that the associated submission deadline is met.

(The Council's Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rules state that a decision may be declared as being exempt from the Call In process by the decision taker if it is considered that the matter is urgent and any delay would seriously prejudice the Council's, or the public's interests. In line with this, the resolutions contained within this minute were exempted from the Call In process, as per resolution (c) above, and for the reasons as detailed above and as set out within sections 32 - 33 of the submitted report)

DATE OF PUBLICATION: WEDNESDAY, 7TH SEPTEMBER 2022

LAST DATE FOR CALL IN OF ELIGIBLE DECISIONS: NOT APPLICABLE

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