

CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT

THE RECORD OF DECISIONS taken by Councillor Lee Hunt, Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure & Sport, at his decision meeting held at 1.15pm on Friday 23 March 2012 in the Executive Meeting Room, Floor 3 of the Guildhall.

Councillor Hunt welcomed Councillor David Horne, labour group spokesperson and officers to the meeting. He apologised for the delayed start which had been caused by his attendance at a funeral.

Also present

Councillor Ken Ellcome
Councillor Steven Wylie

11. Apologies (AI 1)

No apologies had been received.

12. Declaration of Members' Interests (AI 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

Councillor Lee Hunt altered the order of business in order for Item 5 – Relocation of Paulsgrove Library – to be heard first as a member of the public was present to make a deputation.

13. Relocation of Paulsgrove Library (AI 5)

(TAKE IN REPORT BY THE HEAD OF CULTURAL SERVICES)

Councillor Lee Hunt made a statement about the administration's determination to commit resources to a publicly funded and progressive library service and stressed the importance of maintaining the book fund and of ensuring that libraries are located in high footfall locations such as shopping centres in order to help address the issue of literacy and learning in the city.

Lindy Elliot, Library Service Manager introduced the report adding that she would like to table an amendment to recommendation 2 and the addition of a third recommendation. The new recommendations to read:

- (2) That the rationale for relocating Paulsgrove Library to the Allaway Avenue site be agreed based on the information provided in this report.
- (3) That a further report will be prepared for a future decision meeting of the Cabinet Member for Culture Leisure and Sport to confirm the proposed next steps and to seek authority to proceed.

Mrs Elliott added that:

- The relocation plan aimed to address issues identified in the 2006 Library Review including the location, physical limitations of the current building, lack of visibility of the library from the road and accessibility.
- The new location, although smaller, would offer a more flexible space, would provide sufficient accommodation for a class of children and would be more accessible, particularly to parents and children from the primary school.
- The library service had been striving for years to improve book issues and attendance at Paulsgrove Library, that the Library issued on average 19 books per hour (while the Central Library issued 69 and Southsea 58 books per hour on average).
- The service will consult local residents about opening hours.
- There would be a further report to propose next steps and to seek authority to proceed.

Mrs Russell made a deputation against the recommendations including that:

- Access was not a barrier to the use of the current library.
- There was no need to spend the money on moving the library when a smaller amount could be used to refurbish and signpost the existing facility.
- There were concerns about the future of the cafe if the library was moved.
- Paulsgrove is not like Southsea and the two locations cannot be compared.
- Many people affected had not seen the 2006 Library Review and thought that further survey of local residents should have been done.
- The shopping centre in Paulsgrove needs more variety of shops not a library.
- Literacy was a problem which was firstly the responsibility of parents, secondly by schools and only then the concern of libraries.
- The relocation of the Community Wardens from 147 Allaway Avenue to King Richard's School had been a retrograde step and moving them to the current library would have been a better idea.
- Parents might visit the library in the morning and evening with their children in the new location but Marston Road is constantly busy.
- The Community Noticeboard signposts residents to services.
- The council should look to improve Paulsgrove in other ways.

Stephen Baily the Head of Cultural Services stated that the announcement by the Local Data Company that UK shop vacancy rates had risen to its highest level since June 2008 (23 March 2012) was of concern. This combined with news from Deloittes that four out of 10 shops will have to shut in the next five years as consumers turn their backs on traditional stores in favour of online shopping has added to the sense of unease about the longer-term outlook for Britain's high streets. The library may therefore support retailers and help independent shop owners remain open.

Councillor Lee Hunt confirmed that there was no threat to the Community Centre.

Councillor Steven Wylie confirmed that he and the Housing portfolio opposition spokespersons had been briefed and that the relocation allowed for a more efficient use of assets.

Councillor David Horne, Paulsgrove Ward Councillor and opposition spokesperson for the labour group, included the following points in his representations:

- Although the 2006 Library Review had been accepted by Full Council, Paulsgrove Ward Councillors had objected to the section relating to this library at the time and continued to do so now.
- There had been many changes to the area over the past 6 years and people were accepting of change when it improved matters.
- The unit at 147 Allaway Avenue was only available due to the relocation of the Community Wardens and that this was another example of services for Paulsgrove residents being downgraded.
- If the library moves, it too will be downgraded.
- The current library had character and was larger than the proposed shop unit by some considerable margin.
- Despite being the smallest in the city, the current library held 79 items per square metre (79/m²), compared to Southsea which held 32/m².
- A 10% increase in footfall and issues would only increase usage from 4.5% to 4.8% and this was not worth the expense the move would attract.
- The first floor of the Paulsgrove Housing office, which was empty, would be a better and larger space.

Councillor David Horne stated that he supported the proposed relocation of the library in Cosham and the new library in Drayton but asked that this decision be deferred until a more suitable location could be identified.

DECISIONS:

- (1) That a survey and financial exploration be undertaken to determine the feasibility of re-locating Paulsgrove Library from its current location in the Paulsgrove Community Centre to 147 Allaway Avenue in the Paulsgrove shopping precinct.**
- (2) That the rationale for relocating Paulsgrove Library to the Allaway Avenue site be agreed based on the information provided in this report.**
- (3) That a further report will be prepared for a future decision meeting of the Cabinet Member for Culture Leisure and Sport to confirm the proposed next steps and to seek authority to proceed.**

Agenda items 3 (Annual Seafront Report) and 4 (Portsmouth Tennis Pilot Initiative) were information items. No decisions were taken and they were not therefore subject to call in.

14. Annual Seafront Report (AI 3)

(TAKE IN INFORMATON REPORT BY THE HEAD OF CULTURAL SERVICES)

David Evans, Seafront Manager introduced the report.

Councillor Lee Hunt thanked David Evans and his teams for all their work to improve the seafront and to leverage in additional funding to contribute to these improvements.

15. Portsmouth Tennis Pilot Initiative (AI 4)

(TAKE IN INFORMATON REPORT BY THE HEAD OF CULTURAL SERVICES)

Seamus Meyer, Parks and Recreation Manager introduced the report.

Councillor David Horne sought clarification on the use of tennis courts at Southsea Tennis Club. It was confirmed that the 10 most westerly courts would be improved as part of this scheme with the courts at the northern end of the site presenting an opportunity for alternative uses. Mr Meyer also confirmed that the tennis courts at Cosham had been refurbished recently and that he would forward further information about the investment on the courts at King Richard's School to Councillors Lee Hunt and David Horne for information.

Councillor Lee Hunt commended Seamus Meyer and his team for the demonstrable benefits their work was having in raising confidence among national bodies such as the Amateur Swimming Association, British Cycling as well as the Lawn Tennis Association.

Councillor Lee Hunt, Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport made decisions on the following items:

16. Drayton Library (AI 6)

(TAKE IN REPORT BY THE HEAD OF CULTURAL SERVICES)

Lindy Elliot introduced the report. She stated that a number of potential sites had been identified and that a further report would be forthcoming to identify next steps. She added that, she would like to table an amendment to the recommendations along the lines of the amendment made to the Paulsgrove Library item (see minute number 2012/13 above).

Ward Councillor Ken Ellcome was present, welcomed the report and asked to be kept informed of developments.

Councillor Lee Hunt thanked Councillor Wylie as Cabinet Member for Housing, Jo Bennett, Leasehold and Commercial Services Manager and officers from Asset Management for their assistance with the Drayton and Paulsgrove library initiatives.

DECISIONS:

- (1) That potential sites for locating a library in Drayton be investigated with delegated authority to the Head of Asset Management Service and Section 151 to enter into negotiations subject to approval.**
- (2) That the rationale for locating a Library to the Drayton area is agreed based on the information provided in this report**
- (3) That a further report will be prepared for a future decision meeting of the Cabinet Member for Culture Leisure and Sport to confirm the proposed next steps and to seek authority to proceed.**

17. Volunteering in Portsmouth Libraries (AI 7)

(TAKE IN REPORT BY THE HEAD OF CULTURAL SERVICES)

Lindy Elliott, introduced the report stating that it was intended to clarify the position regarding the deployment of volunteers in the library. She added that positive discussions had been held with the unions and that the charter on volunteers which had been agreed by the Trade Union Congress (TUC) and Volunteering England would be adopted by the council.

In response to a question from Councillor David Horne, Mrs Elliott added that the library services would be able to extend the volunteering offer to people wishing to enrich their lives or get work experience from volunteering. She confirmed that the offer would be open to people of all ages including some of school age and that there was no upper age limit.

DECISIONS:

- (1) That the library service extends its range of volunteering offers to:**
 - Return to work and job experience schemes that provide time limited employment offers to volunteers in order to learn transferable skills and obtain workplace experience.**
 - Individuals seeking to support a specific library or area of work on an ongoing basis**
- (2) That the volunteering contributions enhance and support the library offer but do not displace paid staff members in the delivery of core services, or undercut their pay or conditions of service.**

18. Portsmouth BookFest – The Future (AI 8)

(TAKE IN REPORT BY THE HEAD OF CULTURAL SERVICES)

Clare Forsyth, Service Development Manager introduced the report.

Councillor Lee Hunt welcomed the report and offered his thanks to Ms Forsyth and Dominic Kippin, Literature Officer, for their work on this project and its role in improving literacy in the city.

DECISIONS that:

- (1) The existing partnership of the Library Service, Schools Library Service, Literature Development Officer, Visitor Information Services and the Hayling Island Bookshop continues as key deliverers of the Festival.**
- (2) The new mission statement, which focuses on developing Portsmouth as the home of great writing by promoting reading for pleasure and inspiring new audiences, detailed in point 3.2 of the report, should be adopted for future festivals.**
- (3) That funding options for BookFest after 2012 continue to be explored.**
- (4) That BookFest consults with the local community by inviting focus groups and/ or community representatives to feedback on proposed events. This consultation should be embedded in the development of BookFest.**

19. Portsmouth History Centre (AI 9)

(TAKE IN REPORT BY THE HEAD OF CULTURAL SERVICES)

Jackie Painting, Assistant Library Service Manager introduced the report confirming that the long term aim was to improve accessibility including through online access which had the additional benefit of preserving the original records.

DECISIONS:

- (1) To relocate more frequently used archives to the Central Library first floor store. These works to be funded through existing budgets.**
- (2) To explore the relocation of the remaining archive to more accessible space to be determined in agreement with the National Archive Council. Options, feasibility and costings will be delivered as a future report and be informed by issues of security, safety, access and cataloguing requirements.**

- (3) To develop an outreach programme within existing budgets to broaden the awareness and use of the History Centre by people of all ages, abilities and cultures. This will be delivered by existing staff or in partnership with existing outreach teams**
- (4) To develop a conservation programme for archive and local history materials by identifying priorities and funding within the existing budget.**
- (5) To develop a collections acquisition and disposal policy jointly with Libraries and Museums for the benefit of the Portsmouth History Centre collections.**

Councillor Lee Hunt altered the order of business as Mrs Kathleen Lewis, representing the Friends of Cumberland House, was present.

20. Development Plan for Cumberland House (AI 12)

(TAKE IN REPORT BY THE HEAD OF CULTURAL SERVICES)

Dr Jane Mee, Museums and Records Service Manager introduced the report and offered her thanks to Mrs Lewis and the Friends of Cumberland House for all the work they do to support the museum. She confirmed that the garden at the house would be included in the Canoe Lake area Heritage Lottery Bid application.

Mrs Lewis thanked Dr Mee for an excellent report which the Friends of Cumberland House supported.

DECISIONS:

- (1) That the report is noted and that officers implement the Development Plan as described in Appendix 1 of the report.**
- (2) That the £50,000 allocated to Cumberland House is utilised without pursuing additional external funding at the present time.**
- (3) That the funding is carried forward to enable the work to be completed as planned during 2012.**

21. Celebrating the London 2012 Games in Portsmouth (AI 10)

(TAKE IN REPORT BY THE HEAD OF CULTURAL SERVICES)

David Evans introduced the report and confirmed that news relating to Pre Games Training Camps was likely in the coming weeks as athletes for many sports were still qualifying.

DECISIONS:

- (1) That the costs of the Olympic Torch Relay are incurred and reimbursed from contingency up to the value of £30,000 held in the 2012/13 contingency budget which was set aside for the hosting of the London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay in the event that Portsmouth was selected as a host venue. All additional costs, up to a value of £15,000, will be met by existing revenue budgets.**
- (2) That the additional funding of £17,000 required to support the programme of activity at the Big Screen during 2012/13 be funded from the Community Support budget within the Culture, Leisure and Sport portfolio.**
- (3) To continue our efforts in attracting Pre Games Training Camps (PGTCs) to Portsmouth.**

22. Reintroduction of Angling at Baffins Pond (AI 11)

(TAKE IN REPORT BY THE HEAD OF CULTURAL SERVICES)

Peter Burrard-Lucas, Landscape Architect, introduced the report and confirmed that the improved water quality in the pond had not only enabled the potential for angling once again but had also led to the reintroduction of many species of insect and a visit from a waterrail. He also confirmed that the number of licensed stations would be limited to 5 initially and that the Baffins Pond Association would be tasked with policing adherence to the conditions.

DECISIONS:

- (1) That permission be given for angling to be reintroduced at Baffins Pond but within a strict set of conditions.**
- (2) That a licence is prepared by Asset Management Service and a licence fee agreed to enable the Portsmouth and District Angling Society to fish at Baffins Pond.**

23. D-Day Museum update (AI 13)

(TAKE IN REPORT BY THE HEAD OF CULTURAL SERVICES)

Dr Jane Mee introduced the report.

DECISIONS that:

- (1) The work undertaken by Asset Management (AMS) to improve access and facilities for visitors with disabilities is noted.**
- (2) The upgrade of the lighting system for the Overlord Embroidery is noted.**
- (3) The improvements to the entrance of the building are noted.**
- (4) The appointment of Councillor Paula Riches as a council representative to the Overlord Embroidery Liaison Committee is approved.**

- (5) The updated marketing plan for the D-Day Museum is approved.**
- (6) Officers apply for Heritage Lottery Funding to support the costs of redisplaying the museum and re-telling the D-Day story in 2014 - the 70th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings.**

24. Loan of Oil Paintings by Benjamin Haughton (AI 14)

(TAKE IN REPORT BY THE HEAD OF CULTURAL SERVICES)

Rosalinda Hardiman, Museums Collections Manager, introduced the report.

DECISION: That the oil paintings are lent to the Broadway Art Festival for inclusion in the exhibition “Country Gardens” to be held between 8 and 17 June 2012. The exhibition will be held at Haynes Fine Art Gallery in Broadway.

25. Loan of Watercolour painting by JMW Turner AI 15)

(TAKE IN REPORT BY THE HEAD OF CULTURAL SERVICES)

Rosalinda Hardiman introduced the report.

DECISIONS:

- (1) That the watercolour is lent to the National Maritime Museum, London for inclusion in the exhibition “Turner and the Sea” to be held between November 2013 and April 2014.**
- (2) That the watercolour is lent to the Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts, USA as part of the touring exhibition from the National Maritime Museum “Turner and the Sea” to be held between June and September 2014.**

The meeting concluded at 4.00pm

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Councillor Lee Hunt
Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure & Sport