

CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT

RECORD OF DECISIONS taken by Councillor Lee Hunt, Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure & Sport, at his decision meeting held at 1.00pm on Friday 12 October 2012 in Conference Room B, Civic Offices, Portsmouth.

Also present:

Councillor David Horne
Councillor Lee Mason
Councillor Les Stevens

35. Apologies (AI 1)

There were no apologies.

36. Declaration of Members' Interests (AI 2)

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

37. Allotment Charges from November 2013 (AI 3)

(TAKE IN REPORT BY THE HEAD OF TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT)

David Moorman, Assistant Parks Manager was present to introduce the report and stated that officers would continue to work with the allotment associations to establish additional cost savings.

Scott Patterson presented a written representation from Moneyfields Allotments & Gardens Association CIC. On behalf of the Association, he objected to the proposals to increase fees for allotments from November 2013 and also to a proposal for allotment association self management be investigated. He also mentioned the consultation process, statutory obligations of the council to provide allotments and the willingness of allotment holders to discuss reductions in service provision.

Councillor Les Stevens said that allotments provided a leisure activity 365 days per year for many people and that he had not received any complaints about the proposed increases in fees.

Councillor David Horne asked for more information about subsidies and asked that these be considered when charges are set in the future.

Councillor Lee Mason agreed that officers should continue to work with the associations to identify further costs savings and supported the proposal that self management be investigated.

Councillor Lee Hunt stated that officers would continue to work with the associations to eliminate costs so that increases in charges could be reduced in the future. He also stated that self management would help with this.

DECISIONS:

- (1) That approval be given to set allotment charges due in November 2013 as detailed in Option 1 (section 4.1) of the report.**
- (2) That approval be given to investigate the transfer of allotment management to the allotment associations, as detailed in Option 2 (section 4.2) of the report.**

Councillor Lee Hunt changed the order of business so that members of the public present to make representations could be heard first.

38. Portsmouth Cultural Trust Annual Update Report (AI 5)

(TAKE IN REPORT BY THE HEAD OF CITY DEVELOPMENT
AND CULTURAL SERVICES)

Claire Looney, Partnership and Commissioning Manager introduced the report.

Representations were heard from Mark Smith, Chairman of the Portsmouth Cultural Trust, Andy Grays, Chief Executive and Sharon Hammond, Head of Operations of the Trust. The aim to reduce the council subsidy in the future, plans to improve the range and variety of musical performances, improvements to the building and more joint working with other cultural organisations in the city were mentioned as ambitions for the future.

Stephen Baily, Head of City Development and Cultural Services stated that the Guildhall has a good reputation in the city due to customer service improvements following the hard work of staff and trustees at the Trust.

Councillor Lee Hunt asked that his thanks be conveyed to the board of Trustees and the staff at the Guildhall.

DECISIONS:

- (1) The update report on the work of Portsmouth Cultural Trust 2011/12 was noted including the delivery against key performance and reorganisation targets.**
- (2) The success of the initial transition year was noted and that formal thanks were given to Portsmouth Cultural Trust for the delivery of a successful transfer.**
- (3) That further effective monitoring of the Partnership Agreement with Portsmouth City Council and the provision of information by the Portsmouth Cultural Trust supported future reports being brought to this meeting on an annual basis.**

Councillor Lee Hunt reverted to the order of business given on the agenda.

39. Designation of a number of Open Spaces as Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) (AI 4)

(TAKE IN REPORT BY THE HEAD OF CITY DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL SERVICES)

The report was introduced by Peter Roberts, Hilsea Lines Ranger who stated that the new designation would help portray a positive image of the sites, would help encourage more volunteers and could help attract external funding. He also provided clarification that Hilsea Splashpool is included in the Hilsea Lines area and that the Portsdown Hill site abuts the city boundary.

DECISIONS:

(1) The Cabinet Minister approved the designation of the land listed below as local nature reserves:

- **Portsdown Hill**
- **Farlington Triangle**
- **Hilsea Lines**
- **Milton Common**

and delegated authority for the formal act of designation to the Head of City Development and Culture/Head of Culture, in consultation with the Head of Legal Services and the Head of Asset Management in relation to the Council's land holding powers.

(2) The Cabinet Member approved the recommendation of the report to designate the land named above as Local Nature Reserves, subject to diligence work being undertaken by the Council's Asset Management and Legal Services teams to ensure that there would be no incompatibility between land holding powers and designation.

40. D-Day+70 (AI 6)

(TAKE IN REPORT BY THE HEAD OF CITY DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL SERVICES)

Dr Jane Mee, Museums and Records Service Manager, introduced the report. She provided a correction to the recommendations stating that the match-funding ratio was 40:1 not 4:1 as given. She added that the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid was a two-stage process and that although both stages were competitive she was hopeful of success and that if the funding was secured the new museum would open in 2015. Dr Mee confirmed that a capital bid for £100,000 had also been submitted.

Councillor Lee Mason stated that he was proud to support the report adding that he was pleased to see the potential for city twinning links to be enhanced, notably with the Caen Peace Museum.

DECISIONS that the report be approved and the general principles set out for D-Day+70 are welcomed and:

- (1) That the Cabinet Member notes the bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has been submitted**
- (2) That a capital bid be submitted for £100,000 to match-fund the scheme. HLF funding, if secured, will be at a ratio of 40:1. In the event that the capital bid is unsuccessful, funds would need to be identified from another source and a further report detailing the options brought to Members.**

41. Portsmouth City Council Leisure Card (AI 7)

(TAKE IN REPORT BY THE HEAD OF CITY DEVELOPMENT
AND CULTURAL SERVICES)

Josie Dalling, Business Support Manager introduced the report and confirmed that the card could be used to obtain discounts at many council run facilities as well as a number of commercial organisations.

Councillor Lee Hunt expressed his support for the card stating that access to culture and leisure was an important way to increase wellbeing and health while acknowledging that there would be budgetary implications if too many people joined the scheme.

Councillor Lee Mason asked that men be targeted specifically as they have a lower life expectancy but do not take advantage of the discounts the card offers to access sport and leisure facilities.

Ms Dalling said that she would forward data for Charles Dickens and Central Southsea wards which had been left off the map in the report in error.

DECISIONS:

- (1) That the Cabinet Member noted the contents of the report.**
- (2) That the Cabinet Member agreed to continue to support the Leisure Card within existing budgets.**
- (3) That the Cabinet Member agreed to the current rationale for the Leisure Card.**
- (4) That the Cabinet Member agreed to widen non sporting activities expanding the existing scheme and making it more attractive to potential users.**

42. Community Centres Policy (AI 8)

(TAKE IN REPORT BY THE HEAD OF CITY DEVELOPMENT
AND CULTURAL SERVICES)

Rod McLean, Community Support Officer, introduced the report and stated that the policy aimed to encourage flexibility and adaptability and to increase utilisation.

DECISION that the Community Centre purpose and policy statement be formally approved.

43. Milton Common Memorial (also known as the ‘People’s Memorial’) (AI 9)

(TAKE IN REPORT BY THE HEAD OF TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT)

Paul Fielding, Assistant Head of Transport and Environment, introduced the report.

Two written representations had been received, were circulated to members at the meeting and were taken into consideration by Councillor Lee Hunt before the decisions were made.

Councillor Lee Mason said that he was chair of the Langstone Harbour Board at the time the informal decision to grant permission for the memorial was made, and confirmed that it did not pose a threat to navigation. He also stated that some people had taken comfort from the memorial and that it had reached out to a number of groups.

Councillor David Horne noted that the only people to write in about the memorial objected to it and that no representations of support had been received.

DECISIONS:

- (1) The retrospective permission granted on 20 October 2011 was approved and confirmed.**
- (2) This permission allows the memorial to remain on Milton Common and Langstone Harbour foreshore provided the extent of works and their boundary do not exceed those recorded on Drawing MCM-02 dated 26 October 2011.**
- (3) The city council is to survey the site on an annual basis to ensure the conditions of approval are adhered to.**
- (4) The city council is to monitor the site to ensure vermin are not encouraged by irresponsible feeding of other wildlife (birds).**
- (5) The city council and Coastal Defence Partnership continue to monitor the site and maintain the city council’s duty of care to the general public. Should the memorial structure show signs of risk of collapse at any time in the future, that authority be given to take all reasonable steps to maintain that duty of care.**

No decisions were taken on the following items and they were not subject to call in.

44. Portsmouth 2013: Home of Great Writing (AI 10)

(TAKE IN INFORMATION REPORT BY THE HEAD OF CITY DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL SERVICES)

Dominic Kippin, Literature Officer introduced the report.

Councillor Lee Hunt said that this was a good report and celebrated the rich literary heritage in the city. Councillors Lee Mason and David Horne also supported the information given in the report.

45. Visitor numbers for Libraries, Museums and Records and Recreation Services (AI 11)

(TAKE IN INFORMATION REPORT BY THE HEAD OF CITY DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL SERVICES)

Josie Dalling introduced the report.

Councillor Lee Hunt congratulated cultural services on the achievements highlighted in the report although he recognised the challenges ahead as budgets continued to come under pressure.

Councillors David Horne and Lee Mason congratulated Councillor Lee Hunt for his stewardship of cultural services and officers for achieving so much against on-going budget cuts.

.

The meeting concluded at 2.50pm.

.....
Councillor Lee Hunt
Cabinet Member for Culture Leisure & Sport