

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 14 December 2012 in the Executive Meeting Room, The Guildhall, Portsmouth.

Also present:

Councillor David Horne
Councillor Donna Jones
Councillor Luke Stubbs
Councillor Phil Smith

46. Apologies (AI 1)

There were no apologies from members. Lindy Elliot, Library Services Manager and Julia Holberry, Julia Holberry Associates had tendered their apologies.

47. Declaration of Members' Interests (AI 2)

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

Councillor Lee Hunt altered the order of business as members expected to attend the meeting and make deputation had been delayed in traffic.

48. Portsmouth's Big Library Card (AI 5)

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

Stephen Baily, Head of City Development and Cultural Services presented the report as the Library Services Manager was not able to attend the meeting. He informed the Cabinet Member that Portsmouth was a trailblazer and had already issued library cards to 23,000 school children and that this initiative was now part of a national campaign.

In response to a question from Councillor David Horne, Stephen Baily confirmed that pre-school children received a series of start packs to encourage reading and added that the school library services was a significant contributor to the high numbers of school children who are members of the library.

Councillor Lee Hunt welcomed the report and stated that he was looking forward to hearing the results of the evaluation of the initiative next year.

DECISIONS:

- (1) That the Library Service continues to issue library cards to Local Education Authority Reception pupils on an annual basis to ensure that all school age children have direct access to library services.**

- (2) That Portsmouth Libraries will participate in the Arts Council funded scheme to shared best practice and lessons learned based on 2012 project delivery.**

49. Findings of the study exploring the transfer of Cumberland House to the third sector (AI 3)

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

Dr Jane Mee, Museums and Records Service Manager, introduced the report and reiterated that Julia Holberry had apologised that she had not been able to attend the meeting. She informed the Cabinet Member that Option 4 outlined in the report, needed funding and that the head of finance had commented on the report.

Ward Councillor Luke Stubbs welcomed the very thorough report and stated that he agreed with the recommendations including that a Cumberland House as a standalone trust would probably not work, although he was reserving judgement about a Canoe Lake Trust. He added that although the Friends of Cumberland House had not had a meeting to discuss the report, he was aware that there was broad support for the recommendations.

Councillor Lee Hunt also welcomed the report and stated that the level of expertise shown indicated the need to bring in experts to provide this type of advice to community groups.

DECISIONS:

- (1) It was noted that none of the options save the council money and that it is a common misconception that a transfer to a trust will do so.**
- (2) It was noted that whatever option is chosen Cumberland House needs capital investment.**
- (3) It was noted that Cumberland House is unlikely to be viable as a standalone trust without maintaining revenue funding at present, in fact slightly uplifted, levels.**
- (4) That officers pursue Option 2, as an interim measure, increasing the involvement of volunteers at Cumberland House in frontline roles to free up paid staff to focus on events and exhibition programming and the development of the museum offer.**
- (5) That officers further investigate Option 4, to explore the creation of a wider trust incorporating the attractions and facilities of the Canoe Lake Park. There is no budget for this work and the costs associated with the proposal have yet to be identified. A further report to update the Cabinet Member will be brought forward when more detailed information is available.**

(6) That Julia Holberry be thanked for her excellent options appraisal report.

50. A BMX Track for Portsmouth (AI 4)

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

Chris Richard, Community Projects Officer introduced the report.

Ward Councillor Donna Jones offered her full support to the recommendations in the report adding that with the other initiatives taking place in the area, Hilsea was becoming a sporting mecca in the City. She added that she had had initial concerns about parking but that she had been reassured that it would not be a problem following research into usage of BMX tracks.

Councillor Lee Hunt stated that he was hopeful that funding for the regional level track could be obtained from British Cycling, Sports England and local supporters.

DECISION: The Cabinet Member for Culture Leisure & Sport authorised the next stage of the BMX project to explore the proposals to develop a BMX track on the land south of the creek near to Hilsea Lido.

Items for Information only

No decisions were made on the following items and they were not therefore subject to call in:

51. The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection (AI 6)

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

The report was introduced by Claire Looney, Partnership & Commissioning Manager and Michael Gunton, Senior Archivist. They confirmed that the cataloguing of the collection would be complete by April 2013.

Councillor David Horne welcomed the good news contained in the report.

Stephen Baily said that the level of volunteering involved in the project was exemplary and had involved a huge amount of work over the past 8 years.

Councillor Lee Hunt asked that his thanks be conveyed to the volunteers once again as he was very appreciative of their efforts on the collection.

52. Audio Book Download Service (AI 7)

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

Stephen Baily introduced the report and confirmed that the number of titles had increased from 700 to 1030 since the service was launched and that 400 library card holders had downloaded 1200 books to date. He added that the test to provide access to magazines was also going well.

53. Update on Get Involved! Volunteer Project (AI 8)

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

Dr Jane Mee and Rob Davis, project partner from Museum of English Rural Life (MERL) introduced the report and outlined the goals and sustainable outcomes from the project.

The meeting concluded at 2.10pm.

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Councillor Lee Hunt
Cabinet Member for Culture Leisure and Sport