

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CULTURE & LEISURE SCRUTINY PANEL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Economic Development, Culture & Leisure Scrutiny Panel held on Friday, 15 September 2017 at 4.30 pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Steve Hastings (in the Chair)

Councillors Alicia Denny
Yahiya Chowdhury
Lee Hunt

5. Apologies for absence (AI 1)

Councillor Scott Harris (Vice-Chair) and Councillor Matthew Winnington had both submitted their apologies for absence.

6. Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 2)

There were no declarations of interests.

7. Minutes of Previous Meeting - 16 August 2017 (AI 3)

A matter arising from the Smart Cities review: it was reported that the Digital Strategy was due to be published in October 2017.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the EDCL Scrutiny Panel held on 16 August 2017 be approved as a correct record, to be signed by the Chair.

8. Discussion of Future Topics for Review (AI 4)

The following topics were discussed as potential areas for review for the current municipal year:

i) The University of Portsmouth

The effect of having a growing university in the city, to encourage a cohesive relationship between students and residents, to balance perceptions with the economic benefits. This would include links with schools and students from the local area to raise academic expectations and increase the sub-regional skill-base. (It was noted that a previous EDCL review had included the University as a witness in the Volunteering Opportunities review.)

ii) Fire Safety and the economic effect of the post Grenfell Tower safety measures

Whilst there was concern raised about the need to ensure appropriate responses to fire safety in high-rise property in the city, it was acknowledged that there is work already been carried out in this area which is being reported through other channels, such as Cabinet, the Cabinet Member for Housing

and there had been recent investigation at the Governance & Audit & Standards Committee, and if a topic was taken forward this would be in the remit of the Housing & Social Care Scrutiny Panel.

iii) The Port

To receive an update on what is happening at the Commercial Ferry Port, including the city as an attraction/cruise destination, inviting the new Port Manager Mike Sellers to attend as well as navy, business and tourism representatives. This would also include the wider 'port' such as Flathouse Quay. To investigate the importance of the port to the local economy and the panel would invite key businesses to attend, such as MMD.

iv) Creative Industries

This had been the reserve topic from the previous municipal year, for which the remit had been:

"To look at the economic value of creativity in the city and its potential as a strong growth area. To consider Arts Council funding opportunities and the expanded use of council owned buildings to expand on the success of projects such as the ARTches and to encourage the participation of young people in community arts events."

It was **AGREED** that the three favoured topics, in order of preference, for consideration by SMP would be:

- i. The Port
- ii. The University of Portsmouth
- iii. Creative Industries

The panel members wished to stress that all three topics would include the theme of local employment and connecting to investment in jobs in the city (which had been requested by Cllr Winnington in his message to the panel).

The meeting concluded at 5.00 pm.

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Councillor Steve Hastings
Chair