

CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

RECORD OF DECISIONS of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Economic Development held on Friday, 5 February 2021 at 10.00 am as a virtual meeting.

Present

Councillor Steve Pitt (in the Chair)

Councillors Frank Jonas BEM
Stephen Morgan
Claire Udy

27. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

28. Declaration of Interests

Councillor Udy declared a personal, non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 3, as a customer of BH Live.

29. Eastney Swimming Pool & Wimbledon Park Sports Centre

David Moorman, Strategic Development Manager introduced the report.

David started by explaining that this report followed on from the report that came to the last cycle of meetings and followed up on the instruction to report back by early 2021 with an options appraisal, having consulted the users of the Wimbledon Park Sports Centre, Eastney Swimming Pool and the wider community.

Members were asked to refer to Appendix D which was presented to the Local Government Seminar on the future of sports and physical activity. The Appendix showed the operational performance over the past 5 years to 2020 and highlighted that only facilities that offer combined (wet and dry offers) were able to operate sustainably.

Following the consultation that was carried out in November and December which was conducted by an online survey, of the 1800 responses 63% were in favour of using the money that would have to be spent on Eastney Swimming Pool and Wimbledon Park Sports Centre for a new community centre at Bransbury Park instead.

In response to questions from the opposition members David Moorman confirmed that leaflets informing residents about the consultation were sent out to the whole city (all residential addresses) and that it was his understanding that they went through every door. He also said that he would get in touch with colleagues to see how this could be verified. The largest

response from residents was from the PO4 area which immediately surrounds the proposed site. David said he was aware of the concerns from some residents and emphasised that time would be taken to consult everyone involved. Responses had been given to residents who had made contact and David emphasised that this was very early in the process and that there would be plenty of opportunity for residents to have their feelings heard.

Councillor Pitt said that from this report and the previous report it is abundantly clear that the Eastney Swimming Pool cannot be reopened without an unsustainable amount of money being invested. Even with this investment Eastney Swimming Pool would continue to make a loss going forward.

DECISIONS:

The Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Economic Development agreed:

- 1. That officers undertake further focused consultation with facility users and sports clubs to determine the right facility mix for a new community leisure centre at Bransbury Park.**
- 2. That officers continue to work up a full financial appraisal for this project.**
- 3. That officers engage with Sport England to prepare a bid to their Strategic Facilities Fund to obtain up to a £2m grant to contribute to a new community leisure centre.**

30. Culture and Leisure Fees and Charges

The report was introduced by Claire Looney, Partnership & Commissioning Manager.

Claire clarified to members that the CPI increase that was detailed within the report under section 3.7 wasn't reflected in Appendix A, therefore the poster site charges will be increasing from £7.80 to £8.00 per week for the smaller number (5-9) and from £5.90 to £6.00 per week for the larger (10+).

DECISIONS:

The Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Economic Development approved the fees and charges in accordance with the attached schedules (Appendix 1 - Schedule A).

31. COVID 19 Local Restrictions Support (Open) and Additional Restrictions Grant Funds.

The report was introduced by James Fitzgerald, Group Accountant Corporate Resources and Services.

James advised that in addition to the ARG detailed within the report there will shortly be a slightly amended ARG to support taxi drivers only which will be a more simplified process for application. This means that after supplying the requested details a flat payment of £400.00 will be paid to drivers for all restriction periods that they have been affected by.

In response to questions Councillor Pitt clarified that this additional grant will not exclude taxi drivers from going through the full additional restrictions grant process or from applying for the self-employed grants that are available from the government.

DECISIONS:

The Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Economic Development noted that the Group Leaders approved the following at the SO58 meeting on 22 December 2020:

- 1. The LRSG (Open) scheme as attached in appendix one.**
- 2. The Additional Restrictions Grant Fund scheme attached in appendix two.**
- 3. The award of grants is delegated to the Director of Finance together with the Director of Regeneration or their representatives in accordance with the schemes attached at appendix 1 and 2 and following a technical multidisciplinary team assessment.**

32. Volunteering in Culture and Regulatory Services

The report was introduced by James Daly, Cultural Development and Projects Officer.

DECISIONS:

The Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Economic Development noted:

- 1. The important contribution of volunteers to Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services.**
- 2. The significant health and wellbeing benefits of volunteering.**

33. Economic Access to Culture and Leisure

The report was introduced by James Daly, Cultural Development and Projects Officer.

DECISIONS:

The Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Economic Development agreed:

1. The long-term development of a low-cost, high impact model in delivering culture, leisure and sports and its contribution to widening social and economic access.

2. An emphasis on social impact and social value in delivering culture, leisure and sports services going forwards.

34. Covid-19 Impact on Revenue Funded Organisations Update (Information report)

The report was introduced by Claire Looney, Partnership & Commissioning Manager.

Councillor Pitt added that whilst being closed, The Portsmouth Guildhall were taking the opportunity to make the necessary improvements to the building using the funds that have been allocated to them. The improvements included a new carpet being fitted in the main auditorium.

The Cabinet Member noted the report.

35. Summer Reading Challenge (Information report)

The report was introduced by David Percival, Learning & Engagement Manager.

Just over 1000 children completed the digital and paper based format which was around 44% down on the previous year. Although this is down on the previous year it is still relatively encouraging given that there were issues around digital fatigue by children and young people at the end of the summer term.

David added that Southsea Castle has been booked for 19th September 2021 for the winner's event and the planning for that was moving forward.

The Cabinet Member noted the report.

(Councillor Morgan had to leave the meeting at this point for another appointment)

36. Bookstart Update (Information report)

The report was introduced by Jacqueline Garrard, Digital Inclusion Librarian. She gave a short presentation showing all the Bookstart packs available.

The Cabinet Member noted the report.

37. Landing Craft Tank Update (Information report)

The report was introduced by Jane Mee, Museums and Visitor Services Manager. In response to a question about the small grants to groups Jane advised these were to Red Sauce Theatre Company, Tonic Music for Mental Health and the Parenting Network.

The Cabinet Member noted the report.

38. The D-Day Story Social Media Transformation Project (Information report)

The report was introduced by Felicity Wood, Public Participation Officer, D Day Story.

The Cabinet Member noted the report.

The Cabinet Member thanked officers for their reports.

The meeting concluded at 11.20 am.

Councillor Steve Pitt
Chair