



NOTICE OF MEETING

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CULTURE AND LEISURE SCRUTINY PANEL

THURSDAY, 16 MARCH 2023 AT 1.00 PM

**THE EXECUTIVE MEETING ROOM - THIRD FLOOR, THE GUILDHALL,
PORTSMOUTH**

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If any member of the public wishing to attend the meeting has access requirements, please notify the contact named above.

Membership:

Councillor George Fielding (Chair)

Councillor Stuart Brown

Councillor Abdul Kadir

Councillor George Madgwick

Councillor Lee Mason

Councillor Gemma New

Standing Deputies

Councillor Charlotte Gerada

Councillor Tom Coles

Councillor Ian Holder

Councillor Mark Jeffery

Councillor Leo Madden

Councillor Robert New

Councillor Benedict Swann

(NB This Agenda should be retained for future reference with the minutes of this meeting.)

Please note that the agenda, minutes and non-exempt reports are available to view online on the Portsmouth City Council website: www.portsmouth.gov.uk

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for absence**
- 2 Declarations of Members' Interests**

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 9 February 2023 (Pages 3 - 10)

Recommended that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2023 be agreed as a correct record

4 Consideration of Evidence and recommendations (Pages 11 - 32)

The panel will consider the evidence received throughout the scrutiny process and consider any recommendations.

Members of the public are now permitted to use both audio visual recording devices and social media during this meeting, on the understanding that it neither disrupts the meeting or records those stating explicitly that they do not wish to be recorded. Guidance on the use of devices at meetings open to the public is available on the Council's website and posters on the wall of the meeting's venue.

Agenda Item 3

EDCL Evidence Gathering Meeting 1:30pm 9 February 2023 Activity Room, City Museum

Present

Panel

Councillor Stuart Brown
Councillor George Fielding
Councillor Lee Mason
Councillor Abdul Kadir

Apologies

Councillor Gemma New
Tony Sammut, Spinnaker Tower

Witnesses

- Claire Looney, Seafront Services
- Lydia Mellor, PCC Events Team
- Sarah Lindley, Community Centres
- Ross Fairbrother, D-Day Story
- Matthew Sheldon, National Museum of the Royal Navy & Representing Mary Rose Trust
- Jane Singh, Portsmouth Museums Service
- Joanne Bushnell, Portsmouth Cultural Education Partnership
- Nicola Clannachan, Head of Housing Community Services

PCC Officers

- Clare Watkins, Business Development & Projects Manager
- James Daly, Cultural Development & Projects Officer

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 30th January were reviewed. One typo in was noted and apologies had been received from Cllr Stuart Brown. The minutes were signed off as a correct record.

3. Witnesses

The panel received presentations from each of the witnesses in turn and after each presentation was given an opportunity to ask questions, the answers to which are summarised below:

Jane Singh, Portsmouth Museums Service

Jane attended to present on Tourism and Marketing and also as acting head of the Museums. In relation to Tourism and Marketing, less expensive and free activities are actively marketed as much as possible. Jane had brought along documents that are already in the public domain to consider.

In relation to Museums there had been consultation work carried out on engagement with museums. The City Museum is free and has a wide range of visitors. Cumberland House museum is also free and has a good local following. The Charles Dickens birthplace is open at weekends.

The service has a wide range of offer and a lot of free activities and talks to engage with people across the city.

Jane outlined the main strategic objectives of the service. to be more relevant, to be more in the thick of it and to be more environmentally sustainable. Already started some activities with a new exhibition opening in the summer all about the seashore with co-production and involvement of local people in the decisions being made.

The service has a new engagement officer and there are activities planned to reach out to young people and those who don't currently use the service.

The service has a range of volunteering activities and has engaged with the Kickstart programme - some of whom now work for PCC.

Work is underway to move collections online in order to make them more accessible.

The service aspires to create a focus group to ensure more engagement.

Response to questions from Members

- All Portsmouth museums are free to residents apart from the D-Day museum
- The Conan Doyle collection held in the Central Library has an extensive volunteer programme to work with the collection. The collection was bequeathed to PCC and they are currently considering how to archive the more than 60,000 objects. The collection is being used to upskill adults with learning disabilities which has proved very successful. This empowers people and gives them confidence and transferable skills.

Jo Bushnell, Portsmouth Cultural Education Partnership and Aspex

The service has been in the city for 42 years - Jo provided the panel with the Impact Report 2022. The service operates gallery space in the Vulcan building at Gunwharf and see to create activities and projects to bring together different elements. Their mission is to create an arena of collaborative community. They also work regionally

and nationally. They are a National Portfolio organisation supported by PCC and the Arts Council. 50% of visitors are from Portsmouth with a total of 20,000 - 25,000 visitors in the exhibition space.

Their learning activities have a community reach such as Family Saturdays which are free drop-in sessions. Portsmouth HAF work with the Portsmouth museum.

They have community engagement at key events and take their mobile arts studio out and about into the community such as the community parties at Hilsea, Cosham and Somerstown. They also attended the Mayfair and the Festival in Victoria Park and the Kite Festival which has huge numbers covering a broad demographic. They also attend Victorious festival every year.

The service works with schools, further education and higher education in Portsmouth and across the region. Running since 2005 is involvement with people with dementia and a carers support group. The service is reflective encouraging creativity from early years to a later point in life.

The service works with volunteers and took part in the Kickstart scheme.

They are part of the Cultural Education Partnership.

Response to questions from Members

- The service does not run studio spaces but they have one free of charge for a short term residence. They disconnected from Arts Space Portsmouth in 1991 and the upstairs of the premises is not used by them. Jo noted that space is limited and at a premium. Their offer is different from similar organisations.
- Jo agreed to send in a list of organisations they work with and details of the demographics from the Kite Festival.
- Aspex, Victorious and Portsmouth Creates are successful collaborations. They add value to any activity and had a huge audience at Victorious. Collaborations has also allowed them to take activities around schools in the city so those who could not attend Victorious could still take part.
- They created a film and presented it as part of We Shine on a wall which attracted a large audience. There were lots of visitors from North of the City at the school in Cosham, Court Lane with good conversations with parents and children who all came down to the wall outside of Astoria and were proud to see their work on display.

Lydia Mellor, PCC Events Team

Seafront services has supported over 200 events along the stretch of the seafront including large scale free events, such as the Kite Festival all attended by residents in the City.

The service supports commercial organisations, charities, schools, businesses and individuals. The programmes encourage people of all ages, genders and abilities to come together. The event spaces across the seafront are quite flat making them very accessible to all.

Lydia provided an example of events bringing communities such as the Jubilee street parties - applications were received from every ward across the city. The service supported organisers by providing PCC public liability insurance and with street closures. Lydia noted that the appetite for people to come together was huge especially after Covid. The forthcoming Coronation should have the same impact.

The service also puts on large scale events in Victoria Park which is quite a central local with good public transport access.

The service has also supported free community parties in Hilsea and Cosham which provided local residents the opportunity to engage with a range of different groups.

In relation to health and fitness there are events such as the Great South Run, and other walking and running local events.

This year will see Commonwealth day as an opportunity to celebrate all the cultures and religions across the city.

In relation to commercial events the service work with them to ensure free input across the city. They are hoping to expand the Band Stand events across the city along with the 60+ festival. The Southsea food festival allows support for local business prioritising Portsmouth based business.

Response to questions from Members

- The service has no concrete plans as yet on the relocation of the annual fireworks normally held in Cosham.
- The service will consider holding some events in Baffins such as Picnic events as the only event currently is a car boot in the summer.

Sarah Lindley, Community Centres

Community centres hire out their spaces to local groups - this is their core business. This helps promote social values.

There are barriers to access in the North of the city - the accessibility to services is not as good as in the south of the city. A volunteer hub has just been agreed to be set up in the Cosham community centre and there is a uniform swap shop in Paulsgrove library.

In the south of the city the barriers noticed are in trying to reach the BAME community and a new multicultural group for women is being set up.

The service is always looking for ways to work with other services in the city and has non-activity space that can be rented by commercial businesses to help with the costs of running the buildings.

The facilities in the North of the city are old and not fit for purpose so the service is in the process of looking at alternative options.

Response to questions from Members

- There are limitations with the buildings with the building in Cosham only having gone large room so it is a struggle with ad-hoc events coming in.
- In relation to affordability, the service has reviewed hire prices, when it was last reviewed Paulsgrove was bought down to the same as Cosham and honored arrangements that are already in place.
- In relation to the impact of the change over from the Cosham community area to a new building is they run the risk of it not properly being established and groups may go elsewhere and not return.
- Sarah agreed to supply the demographics of community use in the North of the city once ready.

Claire Looney, Seafront Services

Wide ranging public space which is very accessible for residents in the area and is free at the point of access. During the pandemic the use of the public open space increased by over 200% and the service has not seen a drop off since with people using it for lots of different reasons. Not having housing right up to the shore is a huge asset for the city.

Clare noted the ongoing coastal defence work ongoing which is currently impacting on public areas and will be ongoing for the next few years. She discussed the bus options for the seafront including the vintage buses that run during the summer.

In relation to water safety there are seasonal lifeguards indicating safe areas from July to September. The service works closely with the lifeguard volunteers and RNLI.

Beach huts are available to hire on a weekly basis for which leisure card holders can receive a discount - the use of this has increased.

In relation to accessibility for all to the beach and water, Clare updated on the design and issues with the ramps and matting being trialled. She highlighted the problems with the shifting shingle on the beaches which mean there is no easy solution to the problem. Disabled parking is available close to the matting.

Response to questions from Members

- There are plans to acquire extra beach huts with consideration being given to more accessible beach huts. There are plans for decking from the beach huts to the promenade.
- The issue of water quality sits under the environmental teams but the service is very aware of the problems.
- In relation to the sea defence work, consideration has been given to accessibility issues.
- The service has two wheelchairs to hire for getting into the water but there are problems getting back out. The wheelchairs were trialled but the practicalities of getting back out of the water mean that further risk reviews are needed.
- The affordability of parking on the seafront comes under the Parking service.
- The wooden area next to South Parade Pier comes under the Planning department and is an enforcement issue within their service.

Ross Fairbrother, D-Day Story

The D-Day Story is managed by PCC. The museum had received two lottery funded grants one for the Landing Craft and one to fully redevelop the museum.

The Museum has a target to re-engage with a new and younger demographic of visitors.

The Museum offers volunteering options and currently have over 30 volunteers as part of the team - there is a wide demographic within the volunteer community. The Museum took part in the Kickstart programme and have employed people through this avenue and for some this is their first experience of working.

In relation to accessibility, the building is completely accessible due to its flat design. They full range of accessibility options can be found here <https://thedaystory.com/plan-your-visit/accessibility/>

The Museum holds a number of different events during the year and have an active social media presence.

For schools, there are specific workshops held in November and March which are hugely popular.

The service offers discount to Leisure card holders.

Response to questions from Members

- The D-Day yellow plaques around the city were popular and a example of their interactive approach.
- The Museum has an international visitor market due to being the only Museum dedicated to D-Day. It is known across the UK. The Museum is free on some occasions such as Armistice Day.
- The Overlord Tapestry is still on long-term loan to the Museum.
- Discounts are available for veterans and the armed forces.

Matthew Sheldon, National Museum of the Royal Navy & Representing Mary Rose Trust

Matthew advised that he was also representing the Mary Rose Trust.

Both Museums had recently applied for an Arts Council grant but were not shortlisted.

In August 2021, they combined on a joint venture to market both Museums. They are separate Trusts, and they rely on self-generated income and although they have received some help from PCC, they receive no revenue funding. Covid and inflationary pressures have impacted on their incomes. There have been 470,000 visitors to the Historical Dockyard in the year to date.

The Trusts rely on admission fees but do discount quite heavily and there are targets for social benefit. Local residents are offered a discount from December to March which also includes some SO postcodes. Naval base employees receive a discount

as does the Portsmouth Leisure card but there is not a huge take up for this. The Trusts liaised with PCC on refugee discounts.

Matthew updated the meeting on the pilot project in conjunction with PCC to design a scheme to for families that would struggle to afford entry. Free annual tickets for 2 adults and 2 children were offered to all families in Portsmouth entitled to Pupil Premium in liaison with PCC education. Between mid-July and end of December, 2048 tickets were issued and 48% have been used. The tickets were used multiple times resulting in 7500 visits. Take up was strongest in PO1 and PO2 and weakest in the North of the City. The project will be reviewed in the coming months.

Response to questions from Members

- Jane Singh advised that when the scheme went live some schools put it on their website resulting in submissions from families that were not eligible. Proper targeting through Education is key. For larger families (e.g. with three or more children) this is not suitable which may impact on why there was not a larger take-up.
- The new 4D theatre at the Mary Rose will be opening soon.

The meeting concluded at 2:50pm

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Agenda Item 4

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CULTURE AND LEISURE SCRUTINY PANEL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Economic Development, Culture and Leisure Scrutiny Panel held on Monday, 20 January 2020 at 5.30 pm at the Civic Offices, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor George Fielding (in the Chair)

Councillor Frank Jonas BEM

1. Apologies for absence (AI 1)

These had been received from Councillors Hugh Mason, Jeanette Smith and Robert New.

2. Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 2)

None.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting - 19 August 2019 (AI 3)

RESOLVED that the Chair sign these minutes as a correct record of the meeting of 19th August 2019.

4. New Review - Access to Culture and Leisure/Engagement with Culture & Leisure - widening social participation in Portsmouth (AI 4)

i) Scoping Document for the review

The expanded title for the review was seen as acceptable and discussion took place on the draft scoping document, which was revised to have additional witnesses and venues for the topic.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the title of the review be agreed as 'Engagement with Culture and Leisure - widening social participation in Portsmouth';
- (2) that the draft scoping document, as amended, be approved for this review.

ii) Receiving Evidence

The Chair welcomed all the witnesses and Stephen Baily, Director of Culture, Leisure & Regulatory Services introduced his team, with Claire Looney, Partnership and Commissioning Manager, James Daly, Cultural Development and Projects Officer and Jane Mee, Museums & Visitor Service Manager attending.

Stephen Baily welcomed this subject being reviewed due to the huge difference culture and leisure could make in the lives of residents, and this would be backed up with evidence of health and wellbeing, social and

economic benefits. He gave background to the current model of delivery, as pre-2005 his department's service had been fragmented and now there was research into who is using the services (with work undertaken by the Audience Agency) and how to reach families in need and make the services accessible (as seen with redevelopment of Cumberland House Museum). Price sensitivity was also an important factor which was being examined (and was considered by Victorious festival for ticket prices). Projects to encourage participation were also being developed, such as the Summer Reading Challenge at the 9 Portsmouth Libraries, and the removal of fines for both adults and children.¹ The other barriers to be examined would include transport costs and how buildings appear/perceptions of intimidation.

The Portsmouth Leisure Card had just under 3000 users. BH Live also have a scheme to target and support those harder to reach potential users, and wish to increase participation and improve access. Increased numbers of participants are seen in the Great South Run and park runs, with a supportive environment. There is also a programme of free events, such as Live at the Bandstand concerts. Mr Baily quoted 173k participants in events in the city² The socio-economic context was that the average salary in Portsmouth is lower than for the wider region³. Claire Looney and James Daly were therefore working with the Audience Agency to look at theatre and museum participation, informing audiences of programming and using information to support funding applications (which were vital when government grants had been cut) and to income generate. Development work was also taking place including on digital access such as during the Dickens 200 Community Archive Project⁴.

Claire Looney expanded on the longitudinal and demographic profiling work commissioned with the Audience Agency, with 2018 being the last report (this was available as background information for members of the panel). The full report is currently being updated. Opportunities were then provided for the participating organisations to better understand their own data and to look at targeted work which is then reflected in the SLAs the Council has linked to revenue funding e.g. Looked After Children.

The Chair asked officers if any other key witnesses needed to be added to the scoping document to invite evidence from? Suggestions included:

- the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO) where they have worked specifically with adults with both learning & physical disabilities
- Colleagues who saw the health benefit and wellbeing by involvement in the arts, such as Mavis Ames in Adult Social Care.

¹ A report would be taken to Culture and City Development portfolio on 31 January 2020 to look at the impact of removing overdue fines

² PCC internal estimate of the numbers attending free events during the 2018/19 financial year

³ ONS -

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/datasets/placeofresidencebylocalauthorityashetable8>

⁴ A NLHF funded community project in 2012 to mark the bicentenary of the birth of Charles Dickens in Portsmouth

- The University of Portsmouth could also be approached about expanding community access to their buildings and facilities
- Victorious Festival regarding their development fund and use of their event equipment which benefitted the local community.
- Andrew Simpson at the Portsmouth Outdoor Centre.

Councillor Frank Jonas commented on the extensive Culture & Leisure offer in the city for both residents and visitors to enjoy, and it was important to ensure that it was well publicised. There is a lot for Portsmouth to be proud about. Some of the historic buildings could be potentially off putting due to their military architecture.

The panel then heard from Adrienne Pye and Dan Cowley from the Audience Agency. They were now working on their fifth report for Portsmouth City Council (PCC). There were variables with not always the same set of organisations taking part each year for comparative data on who is attending and what percentage of the population of the city they represent. This was to ensure that people are not excluded due to transport, cost or pre-conceptions. The longitudinal studies were to analyse trends and see where there is the opportunity for more targeted work, such as family-friendly projects and access works (e.g. with 'Post Industrial Families' which came out some of the early research).

Dan Cowley explained the Mosaic analysis PCC now use, which compares audiences/ participants with the Portsmouth population to see where there is under-representation. The Mosaic model is built on demographics including employment, income, home and car ownership. Another tool is the Audience Spectrum, which uses some of the same data but is more culturally aligned, regarding how likely people are likely to participate and how often. Where there is under-representation identified, barriers are investigated - such as childcare, transport etc.

The Audience Agency's 2018 report, when looking at the adult population of Portsmouth, compared with that of the South East had found, in its summary:

"Amongst the organisations for whom we have collected data so far, Trips & Treats, Experience Seekers and Dormitory Dependables were the most prominent Audiences Spectrum segments in the profiles.

Among Arts (Aspex, BSO, NTR, Guildhall, BH Live) audiences Trips & Treats, Experience Seekers and Dormitory Dependables were also the most prominent. Among Museum (D-Day, Cumberland, Portsmouth City Museum) audiences, Experience Seekers, Trips & Treats and Home & Heritage were the most prominent.

In amongst these organisations, we saw an increase in the percentage of visitors matched to the following segments, compared to the profiles in the March 2018 report:

- Trips & Treats
- Commuterland Culturebuffs

- Dormitory Dependables
- Experience Seekers

Mosaic

Amongst the organisations for whom we have collected data so far, O Rental Hubs, H Aspiring Homemakers and J Transient Renters were the most prominent Mosaic groups in the profile.

Among Arts audiences O Rental Hubs, H Aspiring Homemakers and J Transient Renters were also the most prominent.

Among Museum audiences O Rental Hubs and H Aspiring Homemakers were the most prominent.

In amongst these organisations, we saw an increase in the percentage of visitors matched to the following groups, compared to the profiles in the March 2018 report:

- H Aspiring Homemakers
- J Transient Renters
- O Rental Hubs
- G Domestic Success (smaller increase)
- I Family Basics (smaller increase)"

It was explained that for 'Trips and Treats', which was of medium engagement, it was likely to be mid to younger age groups, including families, attending mainstream entertainment, but for the 'Up our Street' there was lower engagement.

It was reported that their next report was due within the next couple of months. Adrienne Pye clarified that the audiences were not just drawn from the city but from further afield, with those from just outside of the boundary (who have transport) coming in for higher end events in particular. She would be meeting with each participant organisation to discuss the results and to look at projects to encourage participation.

It was agreed that there is a need to challenge perceptions of arts only being for certain people and it was important to make visitors to venues feel welcome. The panel felt it would be important to visit different venues as part of the review process.

A summary of background information discussed will, where possible, be sent to the panel members before visiting venues across the city, such as the number of Leisure Card holders, events attendance figures etc.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.

5. Date of next meeting (AI 5)

As only 2 members were present a date for a future meeting was not set at this time but would be organised by Democratic Services.

The meeting concluded at 6.10 pm.

Councillor George Fielding
Chair

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CULTURE AND LEISURE SCRUTINY PANEL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Economic Development, Culture and Leisure Scrutiny Panel held on Tuesday, 25 February 2020 at 5.30 pm at Southsea Library.

Present

Councillor George Fielding (in the Chair)

Councillors Frank Jonas BEM
Hugh Mason

6. Apologies for absence (AI 1)

These had been received from Councillors Jeanette Smith (work commitments) and Robert New (who was unwell).

7. Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 2)

Councillor Hugh Mason declared that he holds his ward surgeries at Southsea Library; this was not a pecuniary interest in relation to this meeting.

8. Minutes of Previous Meeting - 20 January 2020 (AI 3)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the EDCL Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 20 January 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

9. Review: Engagement with Culture and Leisure - widening social participation in Portsmouth (AI 4)

Prior to the formal meeting, the panel members were given the opportunity to have a tour of Southsea Library with Lindy Elliott, the Library and Archive Services Manager at 5pm. Members were familiar with the public areas of Southsea Library but were taken to see the first floor climate controlled storeroom, which was mainly archive area with a space for volunteers to work and the quarantine room. This stored many of the City's historical records, including minute books, newspapers, military and other records (the photographic store was off-site) with the cataloguing facility being based at the Central Library. These were a useful resource for researchers. Consideration was being given to how to preserve digital records. The Museums and Archives Services work in collaboration.

The public meeting commenced at 5.30pm in the café area, with the Chair welcoming members of the public who were present and they were given the opportunity to participate. Some library users had commented that they had not been able to attend due to the time of the meeting and some had sent their comments in to be reported by a fellow user. The Chair explained that this was one of several culture and recreational sites due to be visited by the

panel and the intention was not to look at closing the library (as some users were worried about in their representations) but to look at wider social access to culture and leisure facilities.

Lindy Elliott, Library and Archive Services Manager, explained that she job-shares with David Percival. Ms Elliott gave a presentation, firstly setting out the Southsea Library Weekly timetable (which was illustrative and not typical of all the libraries), which included events such as:

- Rhyme times in English, Spanish, French and with the Vision & Hearing Team
- Mah-Jong, Scrabble
- Knot and ropework, Art Club (in liaison with Highbury College), Crochet
- lunchtime writers (once a month)
- Storytime (run by volunteer June)
- Coding Club and IT class
- Councillor Ward Surgeries

The library tries to facilitate what the public wants and additional activities include:

- Friends of Southsea meetings and events
- charity events (including the Stroke Association)
- Children's activities every half term
- Meetings and production of a children's newspaper
- 3 reading groups (meeting every 4 weeks) - with over 30 supported reading groups through all the libraries

Value and Purpose

These include:

- Early child development and parenting support
- School Readiness (including speech development)
- Literacy (and sometimes English is not a first language)
- Lifelong Learning
- Health and Wellbeing (PCC's Health & Wellbeing fund wellbeing books)
- Social and community cohesion, bringing people together
- A city of cultural breadth, innovation and aspiration

Core Library and Archive Offers

There are 3 main strands:

i) School Library Service

This is a traded service with schools to supply their libraries through the book loan collections and project collection supports the curriculum.

This also includes:

- Digital Books and services
- library set up and support
- Additional incentive – Reader development, encouraging children's progress

ii) Archive and History Centre

The Library Services is accredited by the National Archives and statutory service, and is a statutory service.

Security of Collections - a repository for the history and memories of the city.

Conservation of collections - with the need to ensure storage is in the right climate for maintaining records (and are not subject to mould etc)

Access to collection - it is a challenge to keep archives secure but be able to be used and accessed without being damaged (such as parish records) - there is a move towards digitalising but this is a huge task.

iii) Public Libraries

Providing a statutory service for all ages abilities and cultures for:

- Universal Offers defined by Libraries Connected
- Reading
- Culture and Learning
- Information and digital - more reference books were now on-line and access to computers was a key role in a community building
- Health and wellbeing

This all showed how the role of the library had evolved in a digital age and whilst there were still some quiet areas, the aim was to encourage all ages to use the facilities.

The service was involved in **events** such as the Portsmouth Book Awards (3500 children take part with a presentation event at the Kings Theatre). There are also literature quizzes, a programme of meet the authors and involvement in BookFest and running the Summer Reading Challenge to encourage reading 6 books over the summer holiday, with the winners being invited to Southsea Castle.

The Archive and History Centre also has public involvement through digitalisation, public lectures and in supporting people with genealogy, tracing their family trees

Volunteering and Conan Doyle

Ms Elliott reported that there are over 200 volunteers- which is the equivalent of 10 full time staff, who give a range of assistance across the libraries helping with cataloguing, at events, delivery of books to the house-bound. Some offer their own activities - such as story time, rhyme time in different languages. The library also has a Friends Group, whose members are great advocates of the library offers.

Laura Weston, Education and Outreach Officer for the Conan Doyle Collection then explained how volunteers have been involved since the Sharing Sherlock Project started in 2013. The initial target was to recruit 20 volunteers to help catalogue the vast collection, and with Heritage Lottery

funding 28 were engaged to deliver a diverse programme of events. 3 of the volunteers still remained working with her.

The benefit of volunteering was two-way with development of skills (such as computing and coding) and gaining confidence (some had mental health and learning difficulties) before leaving to find paid employment elsewhere. The Lily and Lime café at the Central Library trains people with learning difficulties. The opportunity also gave a sense of routine and combatted social isolation. Volunteers could be shared between library sites. One case study highlighted was of an individual who catalogued magazines and had improved his literacy through the placement. Some volunteers were linked to the University of Portsmouth, with social media students gaining experience and could get a reference as an outcome. Volunteers could also develop to become members of staff.

Working with volunteers also need staff input to managed and ensure they feel supported for their development to education or employment. There is liaison with the Waterfront Garden Centre which has volunteer gardeners, to look at working up a more formal programme of supportive development.

Access

There is a good geographical spread - there are 9 libraries with only parts of Drayton, Anchorage Park and Eastney which are over 20 minutes' walk away from a site. There is a mobile library which covers these areas.

No Fines and Reservation fees - these had been removed for children for several years and now extended to adults to make book use as easy as possible. There had been a trebling of the number of books moving around the city.

Web presence - the library service is developing its own website.

Digitisation and virtual offers - this includes audio books being available on line and music streaming. There is a move in how the services are used with access to these overnight.

At Home Library services - delivering books to the housebound.

Support for different abilities and Autism Hampshire have a presence in the Central Library as well as Dementia information being available there.

There is **targeted support** for the vision impaired with braille services, visually impaired reading and self-help group and helpline. There is also Eye2Eye Newsletter and supportive technology assistance.

There is a new **homelessness officer** in post through Adult Social Car, who helps signpost to other support available, working in partnership with other agencies.

Evolving Access - for future consideration

a) Locations

Libraries need to be in places people gather - this had traditionally been retail centres, but it was asked is the role of libraries to support shopping areas? There is a movement towards **co-location**, looking at suitable services.

b) Facilities

Libraries provide toilets, baby changing facilities, need to welcome breast feeding, have comfy chairs - all of which will encourage people to meet there, to be social hubs. Some include café areas (Central Library and Southsea Library).

c) Partnerships

There is partnership with other Culture & Leisure services as well as inviting partnerships with external cultural providers. There are bid opportunities to mutually benefit such as 'Portsmouth Creates' which has been supported by PCC and Victorious. Relationships with schools is also important to the future of the library.

Feedback from residents

As this was a public meeting, 'Nick' made a representation on behalf of himself and other users who had contacted him to be a spokesperson (as the timing of the meeting meant some could not attend); the points raised included:

- A lot of parents come to Southsea Library to get to know each other and it can be respite for parents and carers who can be stressed or feel isolated
- It is a social meeting point, regardless of income, with access to computers and bringing their children into contact with books and encouraging children to socialise too
- One mother commented on the library bringing life to the precinct, especially at a time when 2 major stores had closed
- Rhyme time helps children develop their English language
- Books on parenting were available and the staff made families feel welcome; it is a happy, friendly place
- People of all ages and nationalities mix here

'June' also wished to pay tribute to Angela Gonzalez as the library manager (and manager of the South Group Libraries of Southsea, Beddow and Alderman Lacey libraries) for bringing enthusiasm and enabling such a range of activities to take place, as well as hosting charity events. Councillor Mason commented that the Southsea Library's strength is that is a community facility.

The Chair thanked the public, Lindy, Angela and Laura for their input, and asked if there are **barriers to access**? It was felt that Southsea Library is a good example of how libraries can work. The staff help facilitate the community to use the services. Decisions should be based on how services are located and co-located to be places for people to gather.

Not all families want to be engaged in reading and there are parts of the city that are less successful in this social inclusion such as Paulsgrove and

Charles Dickens. At Paulsgrove there are physical constraints with the library building and so it has more limited facilities. Some of the library buildings suffer from being less modern and can feel more intimidating. The panel members were aware of more modern community facilities that were well used such as the John Pounds Centre and felt that this should be replicated in existing buildings that people are using, where possible. The Southsea Library was seen as a template for what can be achieved as a community hub.

The meeting concluded at 6.50 pm.

Chair

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CULTURE AND LEISURE SCRUTINY PANEL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Economic Development, Culture and Leisure Scrutiny Panel held on Thursday, 12 January 2023 at 1.00 pm at the Portsmouth Gymnastics and Tennis Centre, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor George Fielding (in the Chair)

Councillors Abdul Kadir
George Madgwick
Lee Mason

1. Review: Engagement with Culture and Leisure - widening social participation in Portsmouth (AI 1)

Present

Cabinet Member
Cllr Steve Pitt

Witnesses

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- Paul Tilley - University of Portsmouth (Ravelin Centre)
- Hermione Granger - Andrew Simpson Sailing Centre
- Rob Cunningham, BH Live

PCC Officers

- David Moorman - Strategic Development Manager, Sports and Leisure, PCC
- David Evans - Seafront Manager, PCC on behalf of the Sports Council
- Mark Woolnough, PCC recreation

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The panel received presentations from each of the witnesses in turn and after each presentation was given an opportunity to ask questions, the answers to which are summarised below:

Hermione Granger - Andrew Simpson Sailing Centre

- Approximately 20-25% of users received some form of subsidy or were fully funded to attend.
- Means testing was not undertaken by the centre but the centre worked with schools for referrals based upon the 'pupil premium'. In addition the relationship that the centre had with PCC was key, in particular 'HAF Fun Pompey'.
- The foundation gave direct grants to some users.
- 2022 had seen a drop in self funders. 2021 had been a particularly good year for self-funders attending and this reflected the UK leisure

industry generally as people were out of covid lockdown restrictions but could not go abroad.

- Transport was a barrier and the centre had one minibus which whilst primarily for schools use was used outside of term time for other groups. Additional minibuses would assist given the location of the centre.
- Geographically, the children who attended came from all over the city.
- It was acknowledged that more could be done to promote the centre, particularly to the BAME community. The centre tried to advertise as much as possible and agreed that promotion through the council's 'Flagship' magazine would be good.
- Once there was engagement with a user who was keen to continue there were good pathways for them to do so in a subsidised way, but the initial engagement and contact was key.
- The foundation had a Fundraising Manager who worked across all sites.

Rob Cunningham, BH Live

- Three month referrals for medical reasons were subsidised at a concession rate but the remainder was self-funded. Often the three month period was as an initial test period and the referral at the concession rate continued for a time thereafter. These members received full membership. After the referral period some converted to full membership and a lot also continued on a 'pay as you go' basis.
- A full analysis of pool use across the city encompassing all pools at the given time for both the pre and post pandemic world would be circulated to the panel so that it could assess the overall take up of swimming.
- The Portsmouth Leisure Card entitled a 40% discount off all prices.
- All Portsmouth schools could use the BH Live facilities free of charge. 58 schools used the Mountbatten Centre.
- The panel requested the geographic background of schools using the facilities to assess whether there were any transport issues.

Paul Tilley - University of Portsmouth (Ravelin Centre)

- The University did not offer a discount for Portsmouth Leisure Card holders. It would not object to doing so, but the subsidy would need to be paid for by a body other than the university. A number of users had asked about a discount, but none had referred to the Portsmouth Leisure Card specifically. On these occasions they had signposted to the BH Live facilities.
- The Langstone Harbour pitches on the west side of the bus lane would remain and the hockey pitches would be upgraded. Rather than dispense with them the University really needed additional pitches, but additional locations had not been identified.
- The panel noted that the two cheaper membership options open to the public had sold out and asked whether there was the intention to offer more. In response it was confirmed that the centre was full in terms of capacity. This was 8,000 members. The make up of membership comprised more students and less public than expected. The

University heavily subsidised the facility and it would never be a venture for profit. In addition to the higher tier of membership the public could still use the facility on a pay as you go basis. There were approximately 3,000 pay as you go users.

- In terms of the geographic demographic of users the panel was informed that data and insight would be produced over the coming month and this data could be shared with the panel once it was available. Full analysis of the study would be available in the Summer of 2023.

David Moorman - Strategic Development Manager, Sports and Leisure, advised the panel that there were a number of useful resources that the panel may wish to look at.

These were:

[Sport England's Ten Year Strategy](#)

[Energise Me](#)

[Sport England's Future of Public Sector Leisure Report](#)

The panel requested more information on the take up of the Portsmouth Leisure Card.

The meeting closed at 2.24pm

The meeting concluded at 2.24 pm.

Councillor George Fielding
Chair

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CULTURE AND LEISURE SCRUTINY PANEL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Economic Development, Culture and Leisure Scrutiny Panel held on Monday, 30 January 2023 at 4.00 pm at the Executive Meeting Room, Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor George Fielding (in the Chair)

Councillors Abdul Kadir
Lee Mason

1. Apologies for absence (AI 1)

Apologies were received from Councillors Madgwick, New and Brown.

2. Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 2)

There were no declarations of interest

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting - 12 January 2023 (AI 3)

The minutes of the meeting on 12 January 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

4. Review: Engagement with Culture and Leisure - widening social participation in Portsmouth (AI 4)

Witnesses

- Susanna Collier - Groundlings Theatre
- Andy Grays - Guildhall Trust (attended)
- Paul Woolf - Kings Theatre (attended)
- Angela Parks - New Theatre Royal (attended) vice chair of art space portsmouth, run consulting business.
- Aysegul Epengin - Portsmouth Film Society (attended)
- James Ralls - Victorious Events (attended) Terri Ralls, Portsmouth Creates.

PCC Officers

- Clare Watkins, Business Development & Projects Manager
- James Daly, Cultural Development & Projects Officer

The panel received presentations from each of the witnesses in turn and after each presentation was given an opportunity to ask questions. The main points are detailed below.

Angela Parks - New Theatre Royal

- Across the whole company there is difficulty engaging with those from lower incomes or those with other barriers to access. The best way to engage people is by organisations they already have a link with.
- A central, detailed list of organisations to link with would be highly valuable to cultural organisations when trying to reach out to hard-to-reach parts of the community to encourage engagement.
- One challenge is finding an audience for events so a suggestion was made for a general Portsmouth City Council social media account to promote events and a 'What's On' in Portsmouth and Southsea (especially free events) which could be utilised by organisations running cultural events. This would help better promote events across the city.
- Two diverse characteristics that prevent people from accessing culture and leisure - one is income, the other is within certain communities/areas there is a feeling of 'this is not for them'. More could be done to encourage these sectors to feel comfortable or less intimidated in the different settings/venues. A Platform for cultural organisations to come together and promote opportunities with entry points lower down the scale (smaller events).
- There was awareness of the Portsmouth Card but discount was not given for this. However, free spaces are offered to the same groups of people eligible for the Portsmouth Card. If the Theatre has tickets left at short notice, particular organisations/charities are contacted, and the spare tickets offered for use by the organisation.
- The theatre offers concessions - details of which to be sent into the panel.
- Other events are run as free as possible especially for those who would struggle without a discount.
- The theatre tends to run professional productions rather than amateur productions. The tough financial period the theatre has just gone through limits the ability to offer discounts due to its own financial circumstances.
- A strategic away day had been held to define forthcoming objectives which included a special post dedicated to community projects. More details would be available in the next 6 months.

Actions

- Angela Parks to send in details of New Theatre Royal concessions/group discounts.
- The Operations Director, Sheena, to be asked to provide written answers to questions submitted.

James Ralls - Victorious Events

- As many local people and local organisations as possible are involved and engaged in Victorious events.
- Engagement is also with Portsmouth Creates, the Council and the University.

- In the last year, Portsmouth Creates involved 2.5 thousand people in projects across the city. These are not just in Southsea but across the city, including the North of the city.
- Issues arise with transport problems and moving people around the city; geographical issues and space.
- People in Portsmouth are keen to attend but don't often come out of their immediate living areas. Portsmouth is hungry for culture so trying to bring it to them instead of the other way around.
- Victorious are keen to have smaller events across the city - there is space but need the willingness and planning. They work all around the country and in Europe.
- 25% of local caterers are given a stall for free. Small stalls are filled with people making homemade items that come through either Portsmouth Creates who run the 'We Create' markets and local creatives.
- Victorious have 180 local bands involved and this year will be taking one local band from Portsmouth on a tour bus touring around - 'The Road to Victorious' and they will then record an album.
- Insurance cover required for businesses to attend events is signposted through their insurers to arrange a package just for that specific event.
- Victorious had not heard of the Portsmouth Card and do not offer discounts for it or for people on lower incomes. Victorious tickets start cheap and increase in price as the year goes on and the event date is closer.
- Victorious involves charities and provide free tickets for people with access needs. British Sign Language interpreters are at both main stages.

Action

- Fuller details of charities and local organisations helped by Victorious. Details of literacy programme work and free infrastructure loans to be sent to the Panel.

Andy Grays - Guildhall Trust

- The Charitable Trust set up a learning participation programme in 2013 and the 'Get Involved' programme.
- The Trust have a close working relationship with the Portsmouth Music Hub.
- Parts of the building are given over free for community use with a close relationship with the Community Hubs.
- In 2018 started producing their own events such as Comic-con to engage with a wider demographic.
- Commercial events are run to maintain commercial viability and produce income to maintain the building and venue.
- The Trust go into schools to offer free workshops and content to give young people the opportunity to join in, not just with performance but

also with off stage skills such as stage management and lighting technicians.

- The Trust engaged with 40 schools in the first year, 62 schools in the second year and was due to engage with 72 schools (roughly 6000 young people) in 2023.
- There was awareness of the challenges in terms of cultural engagement in particular, the divide between the different parts of the wider city as well as for people from low income households.
- The Trust have £550k from the Arts Council for a creative space for young people which will offer free provision and free access for young people to come together, focusing on 14 - 25-year-olds.
- The Trust does not give discounts for the Portsmouth Card. Prices for the commercial events are set by the promoters. The Trust is working on a monthly pass with their events and ticketing partner, which will offer hugely discounted access to as many events as they would like in the Studio.
- The Trust offered a series of discounts depending in liaison with potential hirers.
- The main hall is offered free one day a year to the Lord Mayor and some discounts are offered to Portsmouth City Council. There is a free annual summer ball for those young people who cannot attend the usual summer balls.
- The toilets and basement are being refurbished.

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Susanna Collier - Groundlings Theatre

- The charity took over the operational running of the Theatre in April 2020 and the charity values are about community.
- There is a drama school, including for adults and productions are self-produced. This involves stage management and participation and engagement in the arts.
- The Theatre is run mainly by volunteers, and they put on local events for arts and crafts.
- The space is also hired out commercially to produce income. The charity survives on its own income and grants and has no ongoing funding.
- The theatre is located in the Charles Dickens ward with good engagement with the local community.
- Pricing is reviewed regularly and the recent panto was half the price compared to the other pantos in the area.
- If tickets are not all sold the theatre reach out to local communities to use the tickets.
- There are group pricing options available.
- Groundlings had not heard of the Portsmouth Card and did not offer reductions for this.
- They do provide concession ticket prices.
- There was a discussion about the Charles Dickens project which provides a 2 year pathway for young people with particular needs in

which they are able to use the Conan Doyle collection on a one to one basis.

- There is a challenge in terms of access to the upstairs areas for those with disabilities - fund raising is ongoing.
- The charity is hoping to employ a Community Lead Developer when funds allow. A grant has been applied for to deliver a bursary for drama scholarships. Drama school taster sessions are free.

Paul Woolf - Kings Theatre

- The charity has many challenges in terms of funding and the building repair, age and design that impacts on community work.
- Commercial events govern the prices to be charged.
- The annual Panto is the theatre's own programming allowing links to the community to be built with the ability to set prices and see a different demographic attending. 6500 seats are released at £10 a ticket.
- Community programming in the year includes two amateur dramatics productions who receive the benefit of professional resources. There is a scholarship available.
- The theatre reaches out to different parts of the community, more deprived areas. The Arts academy goes into schools.
- The charity is highly dependent on volunteers.
- Suggestion of working more collaboratively with the other venues in the city to all deliver at an affordable price.
- The Charity does not give discounts for the Portsmouth Card but noted they have given away over a thousand free tickets during the year. They will pick performances and give away tickets. Similarly, if there are unsold tickets they will go to organisations and give the tickets away.
- Seats are blocked out in the venue for disabled access in the stalls. This access is being considered in the regeneration scheme.
- Initiatives on discounted tickets have been tried with the Albert Road small traders.
- The venue was given over to the Dementia Singing Group who attended once and did not return, despite being offered it any daytime.
- The different pantos at the different venues appear to have different audiences so not competing on prices.

Action

- Detailed plans for the refurbishment of the shops to be sent in to the panel.

Aysegul Epenjin - Portsmouth Film Society

- The Southsea Community Cinema is 9 months old and fills the gap for less mainstream films.
- Looking for partners to share the building or investment to help with moving past the first hurdle.
- The Elden building screening room at the University has been offered to them free of charge which will help to reach as many people as possible.

- Challenge that people do not know the cinema exists. The venue is run by volunteers.
- Private screenings are offered, and the venue is good for family screening. Private hire helps with the funding.
- There is a training room available on the first floor for use by community groups. This is going to be used for a film making course.
- Discounts could be offered for Portsmouth Card but overall funding needs to be considered. Senior sessions were offered on a Tuesday afternoon but there was no take up.
- Preparations are underway for the outdoor cinema in the Summer (June, July) to generate income.
- There is disabled access with a disabled toilet next to the cinema room. All the furniture is moveable to allow for disabled access. The maximum wheelchair capacity is 4 - 5.
- The venue has given screenings to local schools. They engage on a one-to-one basis to show films for schools in the mornings. The space can also be used for educational purposes.
- There is production plan for March with a comedy show, magic show and live music programmed.

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The meeting concluded at Time Not Specified.

Councillor George Fielding
Chair