

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CULTURE & LEISURE SCRUTINY PANEL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Economic Development, Culture & Leisure Scrutiny Panel held on Wednesday, 23 March 2016 at 5.15 pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Jennie Brent (in the Chair)

Councillors David Tompkins
Scott Harris
Lee Hunt
Julie Swan
Matthew Winnington

1. Apologies for absence (AI 1)

None, with all members being present.

2. Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 2)

There were no declarations of members' interests.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting - 24 November 2015 (AI 3)

RESOLVED the minutes of the previous EDCL scrutiny panel meeting held on 24 November 2015 were approved as a correct record to be signed by the Chair.

4. Review 'Widening Student Opportunities in the City' - sign off of the report (AI 4)

The panel members were pleased with the approach that had been taken to have a conference style event to bring people together who worked in similar fields and it had high-lighted the importance of co-ordinating volunteering in the city. The recommendations had also incorporated the suggestion that had arisen from discussions at the event for an awards event to celebrate the young volunteers in the city. They were also keen to expand the geographical area for volunteering opportunities which were traditionally near the university in the city centre. The review had showcased some of the good work being undertaken by young people (not only the university but college students and school children) for the benefit of the wider community, which they hoped would help counter negative stereotype images. The University of Portsmouth was also recognised as a major economic contributor to the city.

The panel wished the good work to continue and recognised the importance of publicity through a shared website such as for Portsmouth Together (which came out at the top of results in on-line searches for volunteering opportunities in Portsmouth).

Bernie Topham, on behalf of the University of Portsmouth, had welcomed the opportunity to show what students do in the city and had been impressed by their enthusiasm in giving back to their host city. The university would be celebrating the activities (and held awards events) and it was reported that ward councillors would be making more links with UoP's Volunteering in Portsmouth representatives to get involvement in events like the Fratton Big Local.

The Chair reported that Clare Martin would like to hold a similar event at the football club, involving Portsmouth Together and other participants from the event. Young volunteers would also be invited to help with the City Council's local history project in Allaway Avenue through the museum service (for UoP students this would depend on their availability/time of year), which had arisen from the previous review by the EDCL scrutiny panel.

The panel members were keen to sign off this report, for the recommendations to be taken forward to Cabinet for endorsement. This would be presented at the Cabinet by the Chair and a response report by the appropriate directors would accompany it. The panel members thanked Cllr Jennie Brent for her chairing skills and use of her expertise in taking forward this review and she and all of the members had enjoyed participating in this process.

RESOLVED - the panel officially signed off their report 'Widening Student Opportunities in the City' for onward submission to the Cabinet.

The meeting concluded at 5.32 pm.

Councillor Jennie Brent
Chair