

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CULTURE & LEISURE SCRUTINY PANEL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Economic Development, Culture & Leisure Scrutiny Panel held on Monday, 27 June 2016 at 4.30 pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Hannah Hockaday (in the Chair)

Councillors Alicia Denny & Steve Hastings

5. Apologies for absence (AI 1)

Apologies had been received from Councillor Chowdhury who was away and from Councillor Harris who was represented by standing deputy Councillor Hastings.

6. Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

7. Minutes of Previous Meeting - 23 March 2016 (AI 3)

As there was no common membership with those present and those attending the previous meeting the minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2016 could not be approved at this meeting.

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

Stephen Baily, the Director of Culture & City Development was accompanied by his Assistant Director, Claire Upton-Brown. He explained the wide and diverse grouping of his directorate which covers:

Culture, Museums, Libraries & Archives
The Seafront
Events
Community Centres
Revenue clients (including theatres, galleries and the forts)
Monuments & memorials
Licensing Regulations
Cemeteries
Planning, Economic Development, Building Control & Contaminated Land
City Deal and the Retail Centres
Visitor Services

Joanne Wildsmith from Democratic Services reported on the topics that had been covered by the EDCL scrutiny panel over the last few years:

- Widening student opportunities (with a focus on volunteering)

- Revitalising local high streets
- Pathways into work for young people
- Making community ownership work for Portsmouth
- Skills review of the resident workforce

It was noted that there had been a focus on economic development with these and discussion took place regarding possible areas to explore on the cultural side and Mr Baily updated the panel on work already in progress in some of these areas.

A major piece of work was taking place regarding the sports centres contract re-procurement, and this would not be complete until the end of the year for the appointment of a new operator. There were also discussions taking place with Sport England on sports facilities. An Events Strategy was being drawn up.

It was reported that the Museums Team was busy on the redevelopment of the D-Day, with the museum due to close in September and reopen in June 2017.

For Libraries work was taking place on a community development model.

Therefore he would suggest the scrutiny panel look at areas with greater potential to take forward ideas for growth which were:

Creative Industries in the City

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.

Copies of the 'Creative Census' brochure were distributed to members, which showed the successful redevelopment of the Hot Walls and the Cell Block in the Dockyard which had been converted into artist studios. Other spaces in the city were being considered for conversion to support local artists. The creative industries were also important for retention of graduates in the city (e.g. design of gaming). The creativity industry was therefore a potential strong growth area for the city, and may attract Arts Council funding.

There would also be the potential to look at the use of city owned buildings and bring into use some older, vacant units.

Other forms of creativity could also be looked at and the panel suggested encouraging the participation of young people in music events.

Smart City Agenda

To consider the use of the digital market to support economic growth in the city. This will include looking at sources of government funding and examples from elsewhere such as Glasgow which was a pilot area for 'Future Cities'. This will also link to sustainable cities and the importance of attracting investment. There would be consideration of skilling people to use technology and access points provided by the council as well as encouraging accessibility of council services through digital applications.

Potential witnesses for this could include Airbus and the University of Portsmouth.

RESOLVED:

The panel agreed the following priority order for topics to be forwarded to Scrutiny Management Panel of 8th July:

- 1. The Smart City agenda**
- 2. Encouraging Creative Industries in the City**

The meeting concluded at 5.10 pm.

Councillor Hannah Hockaday
Chair