

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CULTURE & LEISURE SCRUTINY PANEL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Economic Development, Culture & Leisure Scrutiny Panel held on Tuesday, 13 September 2016 at 5.00 pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Hannah Hockaday (in the Chair)

Councillors Steve Hastings
Yahiya Chowdhury
Lee Hunt

Also in attendance

Councillor Lee Mason, Cabinet Member for Resources
Claire Upton Brown
Nick May

9. Apologies for absence (AI 1)

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Matthew Winnington and Alicia Denny.

10. Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 2)

There were no declarations of members' interests.

11. Minutes of Previous Meeting - 27 June 2016 (AI 3)

The minutes of 27 June 2016 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

12. New Review: Smart Cities Agenda (AI 4)

Councillor Lee Mason was present as the Cabinet Member for Resources with an interest in this subject due to overlaps with his Resources portfolio, such as the provision of the internet and customer services at PCC.

Purpose of review: Claire Upton-Brown reiterated that Smart Cities was a concept for the cities to shape themselves to be as competitive as possible and the process would be to look at the evidence and decide whether it would be viable to visit other cities. As this was cross-portfolio there was a lot to explore. A report would be taken to the Cabinet following the Panel's report on the evidence heard.

Councillor Hockaday as Chair asked whether the Panel had looked at the information that had been circulated regarding other cities in the email round to the Members and she reported that contact had been made with Manchester City Council who were amenable to meeting to explain what they were doing.

A verbal presentation was made by Nick May, Head of Information Solutions regarding PCC's **Digital Strategy**. He had been asked to look at this and would be tying in with other partners and was aware of the capabilities. He wanted to give an overview to the Panel at this meeting and his points included:

A digital strategy was a wide open concept awaiting focus;

The government had started digital strategy centrally and were embracing the digital technology;

Other digital strategies were not just focussed on IT but more about people in the street interacting with local authorities so the emphasis was on utilising public services and embracing technology eg sensors in bins.

Questions were then raised by the Panel, on the topics below:

Tourism- how could this be linked to the aspiration of Portsmouth being a weekend destination break city? Nick responded that it is about customer expectations; use of Smart phones and tablets to give information about what is available to visitors, so the facilities need to be available to enable this to happen. There was therefore a need to ensure there is a digital presence of PCC services. There would be a need to look at landing pages for the PCC website to ensure there were links to relevant information eg to the ferries. The key attractions, such as the museums, need to utilise digital technology and link in with the infrastructure funded by PCC which provides good coverage for 4G and connectivity. Claire Upton-Brown reported that Gunwharf is looking at 'apps' to show offers at the venues. It was felt there was an opportunity to look at a 'Visit Portsmouth app' to ensure visitors access information. It was noted that the University of Portsmouth is keen to be involved in this and there is also a need to involve local businesses.

Infrastructure - it was reported that Virgin Media would look at commercial opportunities and it was noted that the biggest cost was digging up roads. New companies were coming in looking at other solutions with fibres in the ground for easier provision and also microwave connection between buildings.

For **residents**, free public access to Wifi is important. It is already in 80 PCC owned properties and there could be an investigation if this needed to be expanded and if so how this would be financed. PCC has pursued '**Channel Shift**' to give residents the opportunity for residents to report things to PCC directly.

Businesses want better broadband coverage and whilst this is not within PCCs remit, PCC can be involved in helping to facilitate this.

Nick May would be interested in continuing to be involved in the Panel's review to help get a steer for the production of the digital strategy.

Councillor Mason reported that My City Wifi had been paid for through a bid for funding but the Guildhall Trust had not taken this up and it was only in the PCC parts of the Guildhall. He was also pleased to report that My Portsmouth app worked well to report problems in the city and Channel Shift had saved money for the Council. There is the opportunity to look at extending this to cover parking in parts of the city which had not yet been implemented.

The way forward for the Panel: members would be interested to look at what was happening in other cities and consider inviting experts to attend a future meeting as well as officers from the various departments that would have a Smart City input. They were keen to ask other cities how the city agenda had been used to attract more visitors and how they were working to improve IT skills of residents. It was decided the best way forward was to look at what PCC provided and then what was possible and happening elsewhere to help in the formation of the digital strategy.

The **next meeting** should take place in 3/4 week's time. A representative from Transport Management would be asked to attend.

Scoping document for the Smart Cities Review

the four objectives for enquiry were agreed as -

- (1) To understand how Portsmouth City Council (PCC) is becoming 'smarter' in providing access to information for residents and visitors;
- (2) To consider examples from elsewhere of Smart Cities and Future Cities;
- (3) To investigate sources of funding for extending Smart Cities type initiatives;
- (4) To review accessibility and skilling issues to enable residents, students, visitors and businesses to access and engage with council services on the provision of digital services.

The meeting concluded at 6.00 pm.

Councillor Hannah Hockaday
Chair