

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CULTURE & LEISURE SCRUTINY PANEL**

RECORD OF DECISIONS of the meeting of the Economic Development, Culture & Leisure Scrutiny Panel held on Tuesday, 8 October 2013 at 7.00 pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

### **Present**

Councillor Matthew Winnington (in the Chair)

Councillors John Ferrett  
Darron Phillips  
Steve Wemyss

#### **26. Declaration of Members Interests (AI 1)**

There were no declarations of interests.

#### **27. Update Report on previous review - Community Ownership (AI 2)**

The meeting took place immediately following the first 'COUP' (Community Ownership Unit Portsmouth) networking event with guest speaker Phil Tulba speaking on "Can community ownership revolutionise your neighbourhood?". He gave a very interesting presentation to local representatives interested in community ownership giving the example of Adrenalin Alley which is a very successful community project in Corby which had started from the idea of a mother wanting somewhere for her son to be safe to skate. This had grown since its opening in 2003 to have over 60,000 visitors per year and now employed 28 staff and 20 volunteers. The next networking session would take place on 4 November at 5.00 pm and the speaker would be Simon Frost from Parity Trust.

Discussion took place regarding the update report "Making community ownership work for Portsmouth" prepared by James Sandy, the Community Engagement Manager (CEM). Circulated amendments to pages 2 and 3 of the report were then discussed so that page 2 bullet point would call the unit the Community Ownership Team (the "team"). Secondly bullet point 4 would be amended to read "as interest grows we will keep the work of the team under review, including its resources, so that their responses to requests can remain appropriate and timely". Lastly on page 3 the title for Tom Southall should be corrected to read Corporate Assets Manager, Corporate Assets.

These amendments were agreed as this would reflect that the Community Ownership Team would remain virtual for the foreseeable future but that if interest grows this could be reviewed, whilst officers remained committed to responding to the interest. If there was a large demand the officers would come back to members to address this but currently the key officers would draw on resources of others in the various departments listed, all of whom have other duties for the city council, plus officers not listed could also be called on (e.g. Empty Properties Officer) where appropriate.

The Chair then asked members for their views on the two issues arising from the report regarding the need for a designated portfolio holder and the formation of a councillors' reference group.

The panel members agreed that

- (1) The Resources portfolio was the most appropriate with the wider ambit to encompass community ownership
- (2) For the councillors' reference group it was suggested that this could be four members including the chair plus one other member of his group and one other member from each of the other two parties at this time. These nominations would be made by the groups.
- (3) Regular update reports should be made available: a quarterly update report to be circulated by email to members of the EDCL panel but with a more formal report presented by officers on a six monthly basis to the EDCL panel. A proforma of the quarterly report would be drafted by the CEM and discussed with the Chair. It could reflect the number of requests and the level of involvement by officers.

James Sandy reported that the initial focus had been on the outcome of the review and there had been two or three approaches on community ownership projects and he believed this would evolve over time. Further partnership work was taking place with organisations in the city, and there had been some internal publicity to staff regarding their possible interest in mutualisation. Officers were also visiting other councils to see the work being undertaken there.

The update report was accepted by the panel.

The meeting concluded at 7.55 pm.

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Councillor Matthew Winnington  
Chair