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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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