

Derry City and Strabane District Council

Minutes of Meeting of the Business and Culture Committee (Open) held in the Council Chamber - Strabane Council Offices on Tuesday 17 April 2018 at 4.00 pm

Present:- Members of the Committee - Councillor Logue (Chair); Aldermen Ald R Hamilton, Hussey, Ramsey and Warke; Councillors Boyle, Cooper, Cusack, Fleming, McMahon, McGuire, O'Reilly and Reilly.

In Attendance:- Mr S Gillespie (Director of Business and Culture) and J Galloway (Administration Assistant); Mrs J Shortt (Committee Services Assistant)

BC75/18 Notice and Summons of Meeting

The Director of Business and Culture read the Notice and Summons for the meeting.

BC76/18 Member Attendance and Apologies

The Director of Business and Culture read the Notice and Summons for the meeting.

BC77/18 Declarations of Members' Interests

Councillor McKnight declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 12: Foyle Maritime Festival and Clipper 2017-18 Race Stopover.

Alderman Hussey declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 19: Bishop Street Car Park Lease from Masonic Order – Rent Review.

BC78/18 Chairperson's Business

The Chair had no business to discuss on this occasion.

BC79/18 Confirmation of the Open Minutes of the Business and Culture Committee held on Tuesday 13 March 2018

The Open Minutes of the Business and Culture Committee Meeting held on 13 March 2018 (BC52/18-BC66/18) were agreed.

BC80/18 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting.

BC81/18 Annual Service Plan 2018/19 - Business & Culture Directorate

The Director of Business and Culture presented the above report a copy of which had been previously circulated to Members. He explained that the purpose of the report was to seek Members' approval to adopt the above Service Plan, however Members had only received the information the previous day and suggested an extension of time for Members to submit comments by Monday 23 April 2018.

The Director of Business and Culture clarified for Alderman Hussey, that Officers would follow-up with the relevant Companies to build upon momentum and mentoring was provided so to encourage job retention and an increase in the workforce in going forward. He also clarified that the Future Search initiative was included in the detail of the Service Plan and an update report would be presented at a future Committee meeting.

The Committee

Recommended that Members submit comments on the Business and Culture Annual Service Plan 2018/19 by Monday 23 April 2018.

BC82/18 Digital Innovation Programme

The Director of Business and Culture presented the above report details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to update Members on the Digital Innovation Programme that is currently being scoped out for submission to Invest NI and the ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme (2014-2020) under the SME Development and the Growth Local Economic Development element.

Councillor Fleming welcomed the report and commented that the Digital Innovation Programme was a potential compliment to the Economic Development Strategy for the City and District.

The Director of Business and Culture clarified for Councillor McGuire that the programme offered training for all businesses in terms of development of digital skills to assist in business growth.

The Committee

Recommended that Members endorse the scoping of the Digital Innovation Programme.

BC83/18 Northern Ireland Woman in Enterprise Challenge 2018-2021 (Final)

The Director of Business and Culture presented the above report details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to seek approval to collaborate in the NI Woman in Enterprise Challenge 2018-2021, an initiative between the 11 local Councils, Invest NI and Woman in Business to promote and support female enterprise.

Councillor McKnight welcomed the report and expressed excitement with the initiative. She commented that it was a fantastic opportunity to support female entrepreneurs in making their business more successful.

Councillor Cusack also endorsed the report.

The Director of Business and Culture in response to a comment by Alderman Hussey, assured him that the funding contribution to be split amongst the 11 Councils would be challenged so to ensure that each Council area received an equal amount of funding to participate in the initiative.

The Committee

Recommended that Members approve DCSDC participation in "The NI Woman in Enterprise Challenge 2018-2021" at a cost of £6162 in Year 1. Following an assessment of Year 1 outputs and impact a decision to progress in subsequent years will be brought to this Committee for further consideration.

BC84/18 Business Boost

The Director of Business and Culture presented the above report details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to provide Members with a progress update on Business Boost.

The Committee

Recommended that Members note the report.

BC85/18 Cultural Venues Fund 2016/17 - Impact Report

The Director of Business and Culture presented the above report details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to inform Members of the impact of the Cultural Venue Fund 2016/17.

Alderman Hussey referred to the cultural venues investment made by DCSDC. He highlighted that funding support was only provided to city based cultural venues and queried if work was being done to encourage applicants from the rural areas. The Director of Business and Culture clarified that the funding related to cultural venues of scale and therefore naturally tended to favour the City. However, many of the successful organisations have rural outreach programmes which serve to encourage participation in the rural areas.

The Committee

Recommended that Members note the update report on Culture Venues Fund 2016/17 Impact Report.

BC86/18 Foyle Maritime Festival Race Stopover

The Director of Business and Culture presented the above report details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to update Members regarding the planning and programme development of the Foyle Maritime Festival 2018.

The Director of Business and Culture in response to Councillor McKnight, clarified that Officers would continue to work closely with the Traders in advance of the event to ensure that they made the necessary preparations to make a profit from the increased footfall to the City. He also clarified that it was anticipated that the outcome from the funding application submitted to TNI would be confirmed by end of April 2018.

The Chair welcomed the report and said that she looked forward in anticipation to the event this year.

The Committee

Recommended that Members note the contents of the above report.

Councillor's Boyle and O'Reilly and Alderman M Hamilton joined the meeting at this stage.

BC87/18 Two Loughs Scoping Study Report: Development of Recreational & Tourism Based Opportunities at Moorlough & Lough Ash

The Director of Business and Culture presented the above report details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to present the completed study and outline next steps.

Councillor McMahan welcomed the report. He said that it was important to maximise the tourism potential that Moorlough and Lough Ash offered and to continue collaboration with the relevant walking and fishing fraternity.

The Committee

Recommended that Members note the contents of the above report.

The meeting ended at 4.55 pm

The Meeting went into Confidential Business