

Derry City and Strabane District Council

Minutes of Meeting of the Business and Culture Committee held in the Chamber, Guildhall, Derry on Tuesday 16 January 2018 at 4.00 pm.

Present:- Councillor Logue (Chair); Alderman R Hamilton, Hussey, Ramsey and Warke; Councillors Boyle, Cooper, Cusack, Fleming, McKnight, McGuire, O'Reilly and Reilly.

In Attendance:- Mr S Gillespie (Director of Business and Culture), Ms A Mc Carter (Head of Culture) and Mr K O'Connor (Head of Business), Mrs J Shortt (Committee Services Assistant).

BC1/18 Notice and Summons of Meeting

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

BC2/18 Member Attendance and Apologies

Apologies were recorded for Councillor McMahon.

BC3/18 Declarations of Members' Interests

Councillor Fleming and Logue declared an interest in the following agenda items:

- Rural Development Programme – Update and Latest Awards
- Rural Development Programme – Broadband

Councillor's McKnight, Reilly and Boyle and Alderman Ramsey declared an interest in the following agenda item:

- Peace IV Local Action Plan Update

Councillor's Cooper, Logue and Alderman Hussey declared an interest in the following agenda item:

- Cultural Grant Aid Programme

BC4/18 Chairperson's Business

The Chair had no additional business to discuss on this occasion.

BC5/18 Confirmation of the Open Minutes of the Business and Culture Committee held on Tuesday 5 December 2017

The Open Minutes of the Business and Culture Committee Meeting held on 5 December 2017 (BC230-BC246/17) were agreed and signed by the Chair.

BC6/18 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

BC7/18 Halloween 2017

The Head of 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 success of the Halloween Festival in 2017 and to outline plans for development of the Halloween Festival 2018 and to seek approval to move forward with procurement processes required.

Councillor Cooper thanked the Head of Culture for the comprehensive update report on the Halloween Festival for 2017. He said that it was encouraging to note the recommendation to set-up a wider Halloween planning group for this year's event. He added that in terms of performance the previous year, the event had exceeded all expectations of success rate. He also referred to the ongoing discussions with Tourism NI as referred to within the report and stated that he hoped TNI Officials would continue to provide assistance to ensure a successful application for International Event Funding so to attract international markets to the City and District.

Alderman Hussey thanked the Head of Culture for the comprehensive report. He referred to the proposed extension to the dates of the programme (31 October – 3 November 2018) and queried if consideration was given towards the Castledearg Apple Fair event, scheduled to take place the previous weekend (26 October 2018).

The Head of Culture explained that Officers were mindful of the date of the Castledearg Apple Fair and would ensure that this event would be

promoted as the first event to lead into the main Halloween Events scheduled the following weekend.

Councillor O'Reilly also thanked the Head of Culture for the detailed report. He acknowledged the involvement of all staff in the Halloween Event, not only in the planning stages but during delivery of the event on the ground. He welcomed the proposed extension of representation on the planning group to include Members and queried the nomination process.

The Head of Culture explained that an informal request for representation on the advisory group would be made to all Members of Business and Culture committee in due course.

Councillor Reilly concurred with the previous speaker's remarks. He further referred to the development of the programme and suggested the inclusion of Council facilities for example, St Columb's Park as a location for a Ghost Story trail.

The Chair echoed the sentiments from Members. She said that it was encouraging to note that the event had international recognition. She referred to the previous year community events that had been delivered to an excellent standard and looked forward to this year's programme of events.

The Committee

- Recommended**
- i) that a wider Halloween planning group be set up to include Members as outlined.**
 - ii) that the procurement processes outlined within the report be approved in order to allow successful contractors to be engaged and commence work to meet the deadlines required for the event. Council are asked to pre-approve the appointment of selected organisations or companies, subject to all the existing procurement processes of Council. Officers will report back with an update report and record in the register of decisions. Other smaller items will be procured by way of quotation request**

subject to existing policy and procedures. All other items listed are covered on current annual tenders.

BC8/18 Guildhall Organ Festival

The Head of Culture presented the above report details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to inform Members on the successful inaugural Guildhall Organ Festival which took place from 19 – 21 October 2017.

Alderman Hussey referred to the timing of the programme during the lunchtime period and commented that certain groups may prefer to attend the event during the evening time due to work commitments.

The Committee

Recommended that Council agree i) for the Museum and Visitor Service start planning delivery of the second Guildhall Organ Festival in 2019. ii) for Officers to continue to develop the existing partnership with the Royal College of Organists Ulster University, Viscount Organs as well as looking for other partnerships and research additional funding opportunities.

BC9/18 Sperrins Future Search Update

The Head of 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 current progress of the Sperrins Future Search initiative.

Councillor McGuire expressed his delight that progress was being achieved to discuss the development opportunities of the Sperrins in partnership with the other Councils. He said that he would hope that regular discussions continued so to retain the momentum on what had already been achieved. He added that it was important to continue with driving the initiative forward as the Sperrins provided a vital tourism asset for the District.

Alderman Hussey concurred with the previous speaker's comments. He further added that the Sperrins was an area of outstanding beauty and that the surrounding settlements complemented the area. He referred to the delivery model and the administrative input and urged that all Councils involved would ensure that budgetary resources be made available to progress the continued delivery of the Future Search Initiative.

The Committee

Recommended that Council support the continued delivery of the Sperrins Future Search initiative including: additional workshops where deemed necessary and Future Search update event proposed for the New Year.

BC10/18 Waterside Half Marathon & Strabane Lifford Half Marathon Update

The Head of 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 evaluation of the 2017 Waterside Half Marathon and to outline plans for this coming years Waterside and Strabane-Lifford Half Marathon in 2018.

Councillor Fleming thanked the Head of Culture for a detailed comprehensive report. He said that it was encouraging to note an increase in participants at the events. He also acknowledged the work of Officers in seeking additional funding to cover additional costs associated with increased safety and traffic management and welcomed ongoing discussions with the PSNI and An Garda Siochana in that regard. He referred to the budgetary aspect of the event in terms of the entry fee and queried if there was any increase in comparison to the previous year.

The Head of Culture clarified that the entry fee for the previous year event was £22.00 and had increased this year to £23.00. The Family Fun Run entry fee had also increased from £4.00 to £6.00 and the Team Relay event had no price increase.

The Head of Culture in response to Alderman Hussey, clarified that it was necessary to carry out a new procurement exercise and was not common practice to secure a multiple year contract.

The Committee

Recommended that Council i) agrees for the procurement processes outlined within the report be approved in order to allow successful contractors to be engaged and commence work to meet the deadlines required for the event. ii) pre-approve the appointment of selected organisations or companies, subject to all the existing procurement processes of Council. Officers will report back with an update report and record in the register of decisions. Other smaller items will be procured by way of quotation request subject to existing policy and procedures. All other items listed are covered on current annual tenders.

BC11/18 Cultural Grant Aid Programmes

The Head of Culture presented the above report, details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to secure Member approval for the allocation of funding for the following programmes:

- Cultural Venues for 2018/19
- Heritage Animation for 2017/18 and 2018/19
- Access Programme for 2017/18 and 2018/19
- Headline Events Funding for 2018/19.

Councillor Cooper thanked the Head of Culture for providing the detailed report and he expressed support of the recommendations as outlined. He said that it was important that all relevant groups be communicated with in relation to the funding programmes available. He also commented that some groups associated with the Heritage sector lacked the resources to assist in the completion of the funding applications and it was therefore important for Council officials to provide support and that capacity building was key in going forward.

The Committee

- Recommended**
- i) to approve the proposed award allocation outlined in the report for Cultural Venues including an increase in the overall 2018/19 Cultural Venue budget for Arts and Culture organisations from £142,000 to £158,103 subject to resources. This represents a potential total increase of £16,102.**
 - ii) to approve the roll out of the proposed 2017/18 and 2018/19 Heritage Animation programme awards totalling £71,614.30 and to develop options to allocate the underspend to further support animation and visitor servicing within the heritage sector either directly or indirectly possibly with a capacity building programme.**
 - iii) to approve the roll out of the proposed 2017/18 and 2018/19 Access Programme Award totalling £138,254 and should external funding be secured to extend this programme for further calls.**
 - iv) to approve the proposed award allocation outlined in the report for Headline Events 17/18 programme awards totalling £206,000.**

BC12/18 Public Art Rural Project

The Head of Culture presented the above report details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to secure Member approval to proceed in principle to scope a major public art project with significant tourism potential and to submit an expression of interest under the current Rural Tourism Scheme, opened by the Northern Ireland Rural Development Scheme.

The Committee

Recommended **that Council approve in principle to proceed with scoping of this project and to submit an expression of interest to the current Rural Tourism Scheme.**

BC13/18 Events Update - Guildhall Craft Fair, Culture Night

The purpose of the above report was to provide Members with an update on the outcome of the Guildhall Craft Fair and Culture Night 2017.

The Committee

Recommended **that Council notes for information the above report.**

BC14/18 Christmas Period Business Engagement Promotion

The above report provided Members with an update on progress of the Business Engagement Activity for Christmas 2018.

The Committee

Recommended **that Council notes the contents of the above report for information.**

BC15/18 Rural Development Programme - Update and Latest Awards

The purpose of the above report was to update Members on the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 which included recent funding allocated and future calls under the Rural Business Investment Scheme and the Rural Basic Services Scheme.

The Committee

Recommended **that Council notes for information the above report.**

BC16/18 Rural Development Programme - Broadband

The purpose of the above report was to provide an update to Members on the current status of the Rural Broadband Scheme, under Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 and implications of wider Broadband policy and funding.

The Committee

Recommended that Council notes for information the above report.

BC17/18 Peace IV Local Action Plan Update

The purpose of the above report presented by the Head of Business was to update Members on the implementation of Council's Peace IV Local Action Plan.

Councillor McKnight commented that it was encouraging to see the various projects associated with the Peace IV Programme underway.

The Committee

Recommended that Council notes for information the above report.

BC18/18 Business Boost Update

The purpose of the above report was to provide a progress update on the Business Boost Programme.

Councillor McKnight commented that it was encouraging to note that the job creation target had been reached, since the launch of the programme in September 2017.

The Committee

Recommended that Council notes for information the above report.

BC19/18 Autism Report

The purpose of the above report was to inform Members of the work to date and activity planned as part of the Access and Inclusion Project currently being delivered by Council with support from the Public

Health Agency in relation to Autism. The report was in response to a notice of motion at Council in September 2017.

Councillor McKnight expressed delight with the contents of the update report. She congratulated those businesses that achieved the Autism Impact Award. She said that she looked forward in anticipation for all businesses and venues throughout the City and wider District to become autism friendly.

The Committee

Recommended that Council notes the contents of the update report on Autism related activity.

The Meeting went into confidential business.

The meeting terminated at 5.25pm.