

Derry City and Strabane District Council

Open Minutes of Business and Culture Committee Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Derry Road, Strabane on Tuesday 9 July 2019 at 4.00pm.

Present:- Councillor Cusack (in the Chair); Alderman Warke; Councillors J Barr, R Barr, Duffy, Farrell, Kelly, Logue, McCann, McLaughlin.

In Attendance:- Director of Business and Culture (Mr S Gillespie), Head of Business (Mr K O'Connor), Head of Culture (Ms A McCarter) PA to Director of Business & Culture (Ms J Galloway-Doherty) and Committee Services Assistant (Mrs J Short).

BC85/19 Notice and Summons of Meeting

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

BC86/19 Member Attendance and Apologies

The Director of Business and Culture completed the roll call and recorded apologies from Councillor Carr.

BC87/19 Declarations of Members' Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

Open for Decision

Chairperson's Business

BC88/19 Rewire Festival

The Chair congratulated all involved with the recent launch of the Rewire Festival that featured events to celebrate youth culture throughout the City and District over a 12 day period (26 June – 7 July 2019). She added that this was an excellent opportunity for the youth to develop their skills and build relationships.

BC89/19 Confirmation of the Open Minutes of Business and Culture Committee held on Tuesday 11 June 2019

The Open Minutes of the Business and Culture Committee Meeting (BC67-BC82/19) held on Tuesday 11 June 2019 were confirmed.

BC90/19 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

BC91/19 Update on the Investment Service Activities and Work Plan

The Head of Business presented the above report details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to update Members on the delivery of the Investment Service and international relations activities. To seek Members' approval for the forward work plan for 2019/2020 and associated budgets.

The Head of Business in response to Councillor McLaughlin clarified that as outlined within the report the sponsorship costs would be met from existing Business and Culture budgets and the NW Development Fund.

Councillor McLaughlin further referred to the statement within the report that alluded to a total of 5,096 jobs announcement in the DCSDC area since April 2015, and sought clarification regarding the statement as she felt this was somewhat misleading. The Head of Business clarified that the Council's business team mapped out job announcements from the various agencies and primarily through Invest NI and the information was based on Companies yearly action plans.

Councillor McLaughlin commented that whilst she endorsed the report she was not entirely convinced that this was the most accurate mechanism to apply in terms of job creation throughout the City and District.

Councillor Cooper referred to the impending City Deal funding and the need for Council to lobby central government and Invest NI for increased resources and power to promote the North West.

Councillor McCann concurred with the previous speakers. He added that the job announcement figures could be misleading and somewhat aspirational and required more clarity as to the exact number of jobs created throughout the City and District.

The Head of Business in response to Members advised that it was a competitive scenario in terms of provision of accurate figures from the various companies. He added that the most accurate process was to review the NISRA and unemployment rate since 2015, that reflected a significant reduction in unemployment figures.

Councillor McCann referred to the human rights situation in China factories and in particular the treatment of the Weigao people which was concerning. He asked were possible that Officers relay the concerns when in discussions with key representatives of the global business market.

The Committee

Recommended that Members i) note the range of investment service and international relations activities and associated outputs. ii) approve the programme of activities for the coming financial year 2019/2020. iii) that Council writes to the Department and Invest NI to request increased resources and power to promote the North West in light of impending City Deal funding.

BC92/19 Market Trading Opportunities at Derry/Londonderry Halloween Festival

The Head of Business presented the above report a copy of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to seek Members' approval on the proposed Market Trading Opportunities for the Derry/Londonderry Halloween Festival 2019.

Councillor McLaughlin welcomed the report and commented that the proposal was more effective in meeting the needs of the local traders.

Councillor Kelly sought clarification in relation to the longterm strategic approach in terms of the creation of linkages and the promotion of food producers that existed in the City and District.

The Head of Culture assured Members that the emphasis was entirely on ensuring that local produce was to the forefront and that was the key ethos of the food strategy and to encourage the connection of local suppliers with local restaurants in going forward.

The Committee

Recommended that Members endorse the proposal set out for Market Trading Opportunities at Halloween 2019.

BC93/19 Harbour Square Redevelopment Project

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 a proposed application to the Department for Communities (DfC) regarding a redesign of Harbour Square including the installation of a new public artwork within this space.

The Director of Business and Culture in response to queries/comments advised Members that the Department had indicated support of the project to completion. He further advised that in terms of timescale for progression of the project that it would take approximately 6 months to receive a Letter of Offer (LOO). Following the receipt of the LOO a tender process to appoint a design team would have to take place to appoint a design team. He assured Members that the Department were a willing partner and the timeframe was normal procedure. He also clarified that there would be no impediment with the project due to devolved Government and Council had a solid procurement strategy in place to ensure that the legacy project was delivered to the citizens of DCSDC.

Councillor McCann availed of the opportunity to request that Council writes to Ms Helen Cammock to express congratulations and recognition of her recent achievement in being shortlisted for the prestigious Turner Prize 2019.

The Committee

Recommended that Members approve the £10,000 contribution to costs regarding the appointment of an Integrated Consultancy Team (ICT) tasked with the delivery of the Harbour Square Redevelopment project as part of the proposed funding application to DfC.

BC94/19 City of Derry Jazz & Big Band Festival 2019

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 outcome of the 18th City of Derry Jazz and Big Band Festival and also to seek approval from Members to progress the programming and promotion of the 19th City of Derry Jazz and Big Band Festival in May 2020.

Councillor McCann welcomed the report and said that the festival was an excellent event for everyone. He referred to the contribution that Gay McIntyre made to the Jazz festival and suggested that if possible officers considered renaming the Jazz Festival for one year in honour of Gay McIntyre's contribution.

After debate among the members, it was agreed that officers should consider ways to acknowledge the contribution of Gay McIntyre to the jazz in the city.

The Head of Culture agreed to bring back a paper with options for members consideration.

The Committee

Recommended **that Members i) note the contents of the report and approve the programming, financial and procurement arrangements for the Jazz Festival in 2020.**

ii) note that a report would be presented to outline proposals for Council to identify the contribution that Gay McIntyre has made to the Jazz music industry through the Jazz Festival.

BC95/19 Halloween 2019

The Head of Culture presented the above report a copy of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to update Members on proposals for the Halloween Festival 2019 and to advise on the procurement processes to date.

The Chair welcomed the report, expressed excitement with the impending Halloween Festival activities for the City and District and thanked the Officers and team for the report.

Councillor Cooper welcomed the report. He referred to the increase in visitor numbers since 2015 that had resulted in the growth of the scale of the Halloween festival to international and major event level. He also referred to the economic benefit that the event provided to the City and District.

The Head of Culture in response to Councillor Farrell clarified that the funding contribution from Tourism NI would be match funded by Council and that sustained the development of the Halloween event.

Councillor Barr suggested that a themed busking event be considered for Strabane town in August and the reinstatement of the St Patrick's Day parade to the Melmount Road to facilitate participation by the residents at the care homes.

The Head of Culture advised Members that Officers were currently reviewing the Summer Jamm and looking at specific themes for the event and busking could be considered. If Council were to look at delivering a specific separate event in August, it would require additional budget and resources. She also advised that any organisation who wished to run such an event could consider applying to Council's Community Festival or Headline Events Funds. She referred to the suggestion of rerouting the St Patrick's Day parade in Strabane and agreed to present options to Committee in the Autumn.

The Committee

Recommended that Members approve financial and procurement arrangements as set out above and note the contents of the report.

BC96/19 DCSDC Public Artwork Portfolio Maintenance

The Head of Culture presented the above report details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to provide Members with details concerning the recommissioning and ongoing maintenance requirements for the public artwork portfolio in the DCSDC area and to highlight the budget implications for the full implementation of a proposed maintenance schedule.

To seek Member approval to approach relevant government departments to seek a recurring contribution to maintenance costs for the Public Artwork portfolio within the Derry City and Strabane District Council area.

The Committee

Recommended that Members i) note the cost implications for the ongoing upkeep and maintenance of the public artwork portfolio.

ii) agree for Council to approach relevant government departments to seek a contribution to costs for ongoing maintenance of the public artwork portfolio in the DCSDC area. Members will be presented with a subsequent paper detailing the outcome of these negotiations.

BC97/19 Hosting of Clipper 2019-20 Race & Foyle Maritime Festival 2020

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 regarding the contractual agreement between Council and Clipper Ventures that will result in the City hosting the Clipper 2019-20 Race in July 2020 and to outline key milestones regarding the planning delivery of the Foyle Maritime Festival in July 2020.

The Head of Culture reported that the dates of when the City would host the Clipper event were released earlier that day and would take place on Saturday 25 July to Sunday 2 August 2020.

The Committee

Recommended that Members note the contents of the above report.

BC98/19 Education & Skills Update on the Phase 2 Apprenticeship Marketing Campaign

The Head of Business presented the above report details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to update Members on the phase 2 Apprenticeship Marketing Campaign hosted by Council's Skills Team and to note the progress

made on delivering one of the key outcomes of the Strategic Growth Plan: - 'promote the importance of educational pathways and promote the apprenticeship framework'.

The Committee

Recommended **that Members note the progress made by the Skills team on delivering one of the key outcomes of the Strategic Growth Plan:- 'promote the importance of educational pathways and promote the apprenticeship framework'.**

BC99/19 Strabane Market Trading

The Head of Business presented the above report details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to update Members on the progress of the development of a Market Trading Offering in Strabane Town.

Councillor Kelly expressed his disappointment with the outcome of the above review. He suggested that Officers consider promoting market trading on the same dates when the larger events be hosted in the town as a trial period. His comments were noted accordingly.

The Committee

Recommended **that Members note the contents of the above report.**

BC100/19 Rural Connectivity - Overview of current Policy Interventions

The Head of Business 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 and planned initiatives being rolled out by Central Government, UK Government and organisations with responsibility for Broadband provision and digital connectivity.

The Committee

Recommended **that Members note
the contents of
the above report.**

BC101/19 Update on Procurement of Marketing for Digital Marketing Support

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 of the outcome of a tender exercise for the Provision of Digital Marketing Support undertaken by the marketing team.

The Committee

Recommended **that Members note
the contents of
the above report.**

BC102/19 Rural Tourism Project 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 progress of a number of tourism projects being delivered by the Business and Culture Directorate.

The Head of Culture referred to the previous nominations made to the Sperrins Future Search Board and explained that 4 nominations were inadvertently agreed when it should have been 2 and as a result Alderman Hussey and Councillor J Barr were content to act as reserves and Councillor Kelly and Alderman Bresland would be represented on the Board.

The Committee

Recommended **that Members note
the contents of
the above report.**

The meeting went into confidential business.

The meeting ended at 5.50pm.