

## **Derry City and Strabane District Council**

**Minutes of Meeting of the Business and Culture Committee (Open) held in the Council Offices, Derry Road, Strabane on Tuesday 6 February 2018 at 4.00 pm.**

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

**In Attendance:- Director of Business and Culture (Mr S Gillespie), Head of Business (Mr K O'Connor), Head of Culture (Ms A McCarter), Marketing Manager (Ms J Peoples) and Committee Services Assistant (Mrs J Short).**

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### **BC25/18 Notice and Summons of Meeting**

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

### **BC26/18 Member Attendance and Apologies**

Apologies were recorded for Councillor Boyle.

### **BC27/18 Declarations of Members' Interests**

Councillor McKnight declared an interest with Agenda Item: National Event Scheme for 2018/19.

Councillor Cooper declared an interest with Agenda Item: DCSDC tourism Strategy 2018-2025.

Councillors Fleming, Logue, McGuire and Alderman Warke declared an interest with Agenda Item: Business Boost Update.

Councillor Reilly declared an interest with Agenda Item: PEACE IV Programme Update.

### **BC28/18 Deputations - Millennium Forum Update (to be tabled)**

The Chair introduced Mr Bradley, Chairperson and Mr McLaughlin, Chief Executive of Millennium Forum. Mr Bradley proceeded to update Members on progress of the Millennium Forum and provided the following information:

**Original Objectives:**

- Sufficient scale to cater for a multi-disciplinary programme of arts and entertainment events.
- Capable of accommodating major touring events to help position Derry as a Cultural City.
- Promote community participation in the arts and entertainment, by drawing attendances from all sections of the community facilitating both local amateur and professional productions.
- Enhance the regeneration of the City Centre.
- Positively and effectively contribute to the City's role as the regional capital.
- Be socially inclusive.

**Strategic Aims:**

- To develop the Millennium Forum as the regional theatre of choice for the people of the North West.
- To promote the highest standards of production affordable and to introduce the audience to programming which extends their interest in and understanding of the arts.
- To engage with and support the local art community and those organisations working in the area of community arts. To work with the other arts venues in the City, NI's regional theatres and audience development initiatives to build the audience case for the arts.

Mr Bradley reported that the capital funding package equated to £13,500,000. He referred to the organisation employment statistics that resulted in a total of 107 employees for 2017/18. He also reported on a comparison turnover from 2001/2002 of £1,347,334 to £3,245,404 in 2016/2017, which showed an increase of 141% since the facility opened.

Mr Bradley further reported that the Millennium Forum was a pro-active forward thinking organisation and to be part of the access and inclusion project for cultural venues ensured the delivery of the following:

- First Theatre in Ireland to provide a relaxed performance of the pantomime in 2013. Relaxed performances are designed to create an enjoyable and relaxed atmosphere for young people with learning and sensory difficulties and their families to experience the Theatre.
- First Theatre to provide a quiet area to be used for all Access needs – Foyle room in the Piazza.
- Funding applied for to provide a 'changing place' and adaptation of backstage dressing rooms/toilets into fully accessible en-suite dressing facilities.
- 25 Forum staff completed Autism Impact Training and there are 2 Autism Champions who have achieved the Autism Impact Award.

Mr Bradley also reported that in 2015, they were the first theatre in Ireland to introduce Dementia Friendly performances. The Millennium Forum recognised and embraced the challenges that a life with dementia presented to people and their support. He added that in 2016 Dementia Singing Sessions were introduced and in 2017 had become a Dementia champion and the Millennium Forum won the dementia friendly organisation of the year.

Mr Bradley in conclusion referred to current productions and reported that the Millennium Forum had toured in-house productions to every City throughout Ireland, such as the 10,000 Seat Odyssey Arena and some major UK venues. He referred specifically to the Titanic dance showcased at the China International Arts Festival in Qinghai in August 2016 where it was viewed by a live TV audience in excess of 750m.

The Chair thanked the representatives for the informative update on the success of the Millennium Forum. She then invited Members to express their views or seek points of clarification if they so wished.

Members expressed their appreciation for the update on the progress of the Millennium Forum and wished Officials continued success in the future. They also referred to the impending 20th anniversary of the Millennium Forum in 2021 and looked forward in anticipation to the celebratory programme of events.

The presenters left the meeting at this stage.

**BC29/18 Chairperson's Business**

The Chair had no business.

**BC30/18 Confirmation of the Open Minutes of the Business and Culture Committee held on Tuesday 16 January 2018**

The Open Minutes of the Business and Culture Committee Meeting held on 16 January 2018 (BC01/18-BC19/18) were agreed and signed by the Chair.

**BC31/18 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Councillor McKnight left the meeting at this stage.

**BC32/18 National Event Scheme for 2018/19 Award**

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 an assessment of an application received for the National Events Subvention Fund as outlined and agreed in a previous report to Committee and to seek approval to award the successful applicant subject to confirmation of final budget.

The Committee

**Recommended that Council approve funding to Event A (as outlined within the report) and potentially to reallocate the remaining budget of £15,000 into the Headline Events fund.**

Councillor McKnight returned to the meeting.

**BC33/18 International Relations Activities**

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 ongoing international activities to date and seek approval to proceed with proposed programme of work in City of London and approve the visit to Dalian, China.

Councillor Cooper welcomed the report. He said that it was important to establish contacts and to raise the profile of the City and District and that he looked forward to progress being achieved through the international visitations planned.

Councillor Reilly concurred with the previous speaker's comments. He referred to the previous presentation by the Millennium Forum and remarked that he was encouraged to note the relationships being built through product development with China.

The Head of Business clarified for Members that the planned visit to China was scheduled to take place early May and the Philadelphia visit at the end of June 2018. He further clarified that the linkage with Philadelphia was huge in terms of immigration and focused initially on education and existing cultural connections.

The Committee

**Recommended that Council i) approve an outward Mayoral led delegation visit to Dalian, China in 2018 ii) give approval for Officers to continue its economic outreach and investment work within the City of London.**

**BC34/18 SMART Cities Engagement, Development and Delivery**

The Head of Business referred to the above report, details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to update Members on Council's role in the development of a SMART Cities Framework for the Council area.

Councillor McGuire welcomed the report. However, he queried the future proof of the roll-out of funding by DCMS and whether the intervention of the Gigabit Voucher Scheme would minimise the responsibility to provide fibre networks for the rural businesses throughout the District.

The Head of Business advised that the Gigabit Voucher Scheme provided a satellite solution to acquire broadband immediately and the challenge area was city based. He further explained that the rationale behind the scheme was to enable businesses to grow in a global economy in cognizance of the wider strategy in terms of fibre broadband.

The Committee

**Recommended that Council i) note the contents of the report and agree a £10,000 allocation to the LpWAN SME Challenge Fund and £10,000 allocation for the All-Island SMART Cities Forum and Development of SMART Cities Framework and Plan.**

**BC35/18 Winterland and Market Update 2017 and Plans 2018**

The Head of Business presented the above report, details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to provide Member with an update on the Winterland Market 2017 and seek approval to scope the development of plans for 2018.

Councillor McKnight welcomed the report. She congratulated Officers involved with the event and commented that it proved popular amongst everyone and she looked forward to this year's event.

The Head of Business in response to Alderman Warke's suggestion of increasing the number of days that the market is held, advised that it was important to be mindful of the existing businesses within the City centre. He added that the main reason for the market was to increase the footfall into the city centre, so that existing businesses would benefit and to support other events being held throughout this period. He further advised that the event was at developmental stage and in terms of widening the product, it was essential to build upon existing capacity and support before extending the delivery time of the event.

Alderman Hussey also welcomed the report. However, he referred to the proposal to run the event from a Thursday to a Sunday, and commented that the Sunday may not attract as much support and suggested that consideration be given to changing the days from a Wednesday to a Saturday that week.

He also referred to the position of the trading stalls and for consideration to be given towards a walking route that would ensure that all of the stalls are within easy view point. He also suggested the inclusion of Santa's Grotto as part of the event, so to encourage families to visit the market.

The Head of Business referred to a recent Traders Meeting at which the traders had expressed the view that they were content with turnover from the previous year's event. He also referred to the bar offering and commented that it was well received and the fact that the bar closed at 10.00pm, encouraged people to move on and avail of the night-time economy within the city centre.

The Committee

**Recommended**

**that Council notes the content of the report and gives approval to scope out the 2018 Winterland Market as outlined within the report.**

**BC36/18 Lease of Foyle Valley Museum to Destined Ltd**

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 request approval from Members to alter the area leased to Destined Ltd at the site of the former Foyle Valley Railway Museum.

The Committee

**Recommended**

**that Council are asked to approve the alteration of the lease map for the former Foyle Valley Railway Museum to Destined Ltd, subject to confirmation from LPS re. the value of the extended area.**

**BC37/18 Proposed membership of Tourism NI Alliance**

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 from Council to become members of a newly created Northern Ireland Tourism Alliance.

The Committee

**Recommended that Council agree to join the Tourism NI Alliance and approve the associated membership fee of £2,000.**

**BC38/18 Quest Accreditation Award**

The above report informed Members of the Quest Accreditation Award which the Alley Arts and Conference Centre recently secured.

The Committee

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

**BC39/18 Meguk 2018**

The purpose of the above report was to inform Members of the MEGUK 2018 Conference scheduled to take place on 26-28 March 2018 in Derry-Londonderry, and to make Members aware of the support provided by DCSDC.

The Committee

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

**BC40/18 Business Boost Update**

The above report was tabled to provide Members with a progress update on Business Boost.

The Committee

**Recommended**      **that Council notes for information the progress update report on Business Boost.**

**BC41/18      PEACE IV Programme Update**

The above report was tabled to provide Members with an update on the implementation of the Peace IV Local Action Plan and timescales anticipated for the 'Re-bid' for potential remaining funds from SEUPB.

The Committee

**Recommended**      **that Council notes for information the above report and encourages the involvement of the wider population and local community and voluntary sector within the programme.**

**BC42/18      Update on Year 3 Q3 Kickstart to Work Project Funded from the European Social Fund**

The above report was tabled to provide Members with an update on the Year 3, Q3 Kickstart to Work Project.

The Committee

**Recommended**      **that Council notes the contents of the above update report.**

**BC43/18      NI Business Start-Up Programme Update**

The purpose of the above report was to provide Members with an update on the NI Business Start-Up Programme.

The Committee

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

**BC44/18 Designer Business Start-Up Programme**

The purpose of the above report was to provide an overview of the Designer Business Start-Up Programme.

The Committee

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

**The Meeting went into Confidential Business.**

**The meeting ended at 5.55pm.**