

Derry City and Strabane District Council

Open Minutes of Business and Culture Committee Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Derry Road, Strabane on Tuesday 15 January 2019 at 4.00pm.

Present:- Councillor Logue (Chairperson); Aldermen Hussey, Ramsey, Warke; Councillor's Cooper, Cusack, Fleming, M McHugh, McKeever, McLaughlin, McMahan, Mellon, O'Reilly.

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).

BC1/19 Notice and Summons of Meeting

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

BC2/19 Member Attendance and Apologies

The Director of Business and Culture completed the roll call and recorded apologies for Alderman R Hamilton.

BC3/19 Declarations of Members' Interests

Alderman Hussey and Councillor Cusack declared an interest with Agenda Item No. 8: Cruise North West Initiative.

Open for Decision

Chairperson's Business

BC4/19 The Chair welcomed Members to the first Meeting following the Christmas break. She expressed her appreciation to staff involved in the successful Christmas Programme of Events that took place throughout the City and District Council area.

BC5/19 Confirmation of the Open Minutes of the Business and Culture Committee held on Tuesday 4 December 2018.

The Open Minutes of the Business and Culture Committee Meeting (BC238/18-BC259/18) held on 4 December 2018 were confirmed.

BC6/19 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 4 December 2018.

BC7/19 SMART Cities Agenda Development

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 Council's role in the development of a SMART Cities Framework for the Council area and to recommend that Council entered a collaborative agreement with the University of Maynooth.

Councillor McMahon welcomed the report. He queried the key priorities in terms of collaboration with other cities and how they would benefit Council in going forward.

The Head of Business clarified that the development of a SMART Cities Framework for the Council area would create an opportunity to develop innovation by learning from collaboration with other Cities with a focus on saving resources. He added that the key focus was to connect with the outline vision document for City Deal and to deliver digital services in a more efficient and effective manner, and primarily at a competitive rate to our citizens.

The Head of Business further reiterated for Councillor McLaughlin that the bedrock for City Deal was innovation and to investigate the aspirations in terms of digital. He advised that the SMART Cities Framework alleviated major challenges and the key focus from Council's perspective was on the delivery of the data to entrepreneurs to encourage an export culture.

The Head of Business clarified for Alderman Hussey that the proposal for Council to embark in a consultancy service partnership with the University of Maynooth would continue to the end of 2019.

The Committee

Recommended that Council enters a collaborative agreement with University of Maynooth at a cost of £10,731 to be met within existing Business Budgets.

BC8/19 Cruise North West Initiative

The Head of Culture presented the above report, details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to advise Members of the continuation of the Service Level Agreement with Visit Derry to deliver services on behalf of the Cruise North West partnership for 2018/19 and 2019/2020 at an annual contribution of £5,000.00.

Councillor Cooper welcomed the report. He referred to the potential development of Greencastle Port as part of the North West infrastructural development plans and commented that this would encourage a more strategic approach in terms of the future development of the Cruise market for the North West.

Councillor McLaughlin concurred with the previous speakers comments. She added that the annual partnership fee for Cruise marketing activity of £5,000 was in her opinion modest in light of the significant increase in cruise calls from 2010 to 2019 and the marketing opportunities for the North West.

Alderman Hussy agreed with the previous speakers comments. He further referred to the report, wherein it stated that work would continue with partners to scope opportunities with Malin Waters and the Wild Atlantic Way to achieve alignment and added value to Cruise NW marketing activity and queried what tourist opportunities were being progressed within the DCSDC area to encourage linkages with passengers coming off the cruise ships.

Councillor M McHugh reiterated the previous speaker's query and expressed his reservation in relation to the naming of the 'Visit Derry' initiative. He said that it was important to embrace the whole of the District council area and in particular the beauty that existed in the hinterland of West Tyrone and the Sperrins.

The Head of Culture in response to previous comments advised that the benefits of the partnership was the securing of cruise calls and increased visitors to the whole Council area. She added that it was always the priority of Visit Derry to ensure wide access to the tourism product throughout the whole of the District Council area.

The Committee

Recommended **that Council i) continues with the annual investment of £5,000 for the Cruise North West partnership for the period 2018/2019 and 2019/2020.**

ii) continues to work with partners to scope opportunities with Malin Waters and the Wild Atlantic Way that achieve alignment and added value to Cruise North West marketing activity.

BC9/19 Sperrins Sculpture Trail: Technical Study Contribution

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 Sperrins Sculpture Trail project and a request to uplift funding for a technical study from £5,556 each to £8,867 (in addition to previously approved £2,500 contribution for a green book economic analysis).

The Committee

Recommended **that Council supports and approves the request to increase Councils' contribution to £8,867.00 for the procurement of a technical study for the Sperrins Sculpture Trail project, subject to partner contributions confirmed.**

BC10/19 Cultural Grant Aid Programme 2019/20

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 Culture Grant Aid Programmes including Cultural Venues for 2019/20, Heritage Animation for 2019/20, Access Programme for 2019/20, Headline Events for 2019/20 and Community Festivals 2019/20.

The Chair welcomed the report. She commented that the allocation of funding for the Cultural Grant Aid Programmes would benefit all of the citizens throughout the whole of the City and District Council area.

Alderman Hussey also welcomed the report. He however expressed concern that the Headline Events Funding Programme in addition to the major events were all City centred. He said that whilst he appreciated that the funding was application based, there needed to be a greater effort made to encourage applications for major events to be held beyond the City.

The Committee

Recommended that Council i) approves the proposed award allocation outlined in the report for Cultural Venues, including an increase in the overall 2019/20 Cultural Venue Budget for Arts & Culture organisations from £142,000 to £168,179 subject to resources. This represented a potential total increase of £26,179.00.

ii) approves the roll out of the proposed 2019/20 Heritage Animation programme awards totalling £52,083 with the underspend allocated to the mentoring programme to support key heritage organisations.

iii) approves the roll out of the proposed 2019/20 Access Programme Awards totalling £111,639 from existing resources and additional external support once secured.

iv) approves the proposed award allocation outlined in the report for Headline Events 2019/20 programme awards totalling £206,000 .

v) approves the proposed award allocation outlined in the report for Community Festivals Events 2019/20 programme awards totalling £117,300 subject to confirmed funding support from the Department for Communities.

Open for Information

BC11/19 Update Report on the funding of further Software Fundamentals Course with NWRC

The purpose of the above report by the Head of Business was to update Members on the joint funding of a further Software Fundamentals course with North West Regional College to meet a skills need identified in conjunction with the ICT sector to start in January 2019.

Councillor McLaughlin welcomed the report. She expressed congratulations to the Officers involved in the initiative and said that she was impressed by the positive outcomes thus far. She added that collaborative initiatives were a vital component towards the growth of the ICT sector for the City and District.

Councillor Mellon concurred with the previous speaker's comments. She added that it was encouraging to note positive outcomes from the participants in the various courses and she looked forward in anticipation to an increase in participation by the business sectors.

The Committee

Recommended that Council notes the content of the report and the commitment of £13,330.00 for the financial year 2018/19 for which provision has been made through the business rates allocation under a £30k budget for Skills Academies.

BC12/19 Update on Implementation of PEACE IV Programme

The purpose of the above report presented by the Head of Business was to update Members on progress on the implementation of the £6,749,330 PEACE IV DCSDC Programme.

The Committee

Recommended that Council notes for information the above report.

BC13/19 Update on the work of the Education & Skills Delivery Partnerships Sub Groups

The purpose of the above report presented by the Head of Business was to provide an update to Members' on the work of the sub groups of the Education and Skills Delivery Partnership.

The Committee

Recommended that Council notes the content of the report and progress made to date on the achievement of the key education and skills actions outlined in the Strategic Growth Plan.

BC14/19 Enterprise Week 2019

The above report presented by the Head of Business provided Members with information on the dates and key events taking place over the upcoming Enterprise Week 2019.

Councillor McLaughlin welcomed the report. She suggested that consideration be given to the inclusion of a workshop to encourage female entrepreneurs to become involved in Public Boards. This was noted by the Head of Business.

The Committee

Recommended that Council notes for information the content of the above report.

BC15/19 Boston & Philadelphia Trade & Investment Mission Report

The above report presented by the Head of Business provided an update on the recent Trade and Investment Visit to Boston and Philadelphia on 12-16 November 2018.

The Committee

Recommended that Council notes for information the above report.

The meeting went into confidential business.

The meeting ended at 4.45pm.