

Derry City and Strabane District Council

Open Minutes of Business and Culture Committee Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Guildhall, Derry on Tuesday 11 June 2019 at 4.00pm.

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

Non-Committee Members: Alderman Hussey, Devenney, Kerrigan; Councillor Donnelly.

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).

BC67/19 Notice and Summons of Meeting

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

BC68 /19 Member Attendance and Apologies

The Director of Business and Culture completed the roll call and recorded apologies for Councillor Farrell and Alderman Ramsey.

BC69 /19 Declarations of Members' Interests

Councillor Kelly and Alderman Warke declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 13: Rural Development Programme Update.

Open for Decision

Chairperson's Business

BC70/19 Welcome Message

The Chair welcomed Members to the first meeting of the Committee for the new term. She commented that this was one of the popular committees as Members get to oversee exciting projects for the City and District and she looked forward in particular to the resurrection of the Factory Girls Sculpture project. She referred to a number of projects for the youth in particular to become engaged in. She encouraged Members to contribute towards serving the community in the most positive way for all citizens throughout the City and District.

BC71/19 Confirmation of the Open Minutes of the Business and Culture Committee held on Tuesday 12 March 2019.

The Open Minutes of the Business and Culture Committee Meeting (BC43/19-BC57/19) held on Tuesday 12 March 2019 were confirmed.

BC72/19 Matters Arising

BC46/19 – International Appalachian Trail

The Head of Culture clarified for Alderman Hussey that the above event had only taken place the previous week and an update report would be provided at a future meeting.

Councillor McCann discussed the treatment of the Cherokee Indians in North America and their history with the Appalachian Trail. He requested that future events should acknowledge this history.

BC49/19 – Smyth's Mill – Fire Damage

The Director of Business and Culture in response to Alderman Hussey clarified that the above issue had been addressed through the Environment and Regeneration Directorate. He agreed to forward the action point to the relevant Officer.

BC50/19 – Annual Service Plan 2019/2020

Councillor McLaughlin referred to the above item and ongoing discussions regarding City Deal and expressed concern that Members had not been involved from the outset. She congratulated those Officers involved in the business process, however alluded to the fact that it was a modest amount of funding towards regeneration activity. She emphasised the necessity for Members to be given a more hands on approach in the development of the plans.

The Director of Business and Culture advised that reports would be presented through the GSP Committee at this stage and once projects were agreed they would then be reported through the relevant committee.

The City Deal Project was not exclusively related to Business & Culture but spanned all committees of Council. Individual projects would subsequently be reported in through the relevant committee.

Councillor Logue joined the meeting at this stage.

Alderman Hussey said that he empathised with the previous speakers comments and expressed concern in relation to the inclusiveness of the entire District Council area.

Councillor Duffy expressed congratulations to the Officer team on the work achieved to date in reaching this stage of the City Deal announcement. She encouraged continued work in engagement with stakeholders and emphasised the need for inclusiveness of City and District in going forward.

BC51/19 – Christmas Switch On Date Change

Councillor Carr requested the provision of a Christmas Tree at Strathfoyle. Councillor Logue requested a report outlining the criteria to be met for provision of Christmas Trees in various locations throughout the City and District. The Director of Business and Culture agreed to forward action to the relevant Directorate.

BC53/19 – Halloween 2019

The Head of Culture in response to Alderman Hussey clarified that a full report on the outcome of the consultation would be presented at the next meeting.

BC54/19 – Sperrins Future Search Update

The Head of Culture clarified for Councillor Kelly that the public would be notified once the launch date of the above initiative was agreed after which regular meetings would also be coordinated.

BC73/19 Appointments to Internal Bodies/Working Groups

The Director of Business and Culture presented the above report the details of which had been previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to seek Members recommendations on the composition and method of appointment of elected Members to individual internal bodies/working groups associated with this Committee.

The Committee

Recommended that Members agree to defer appointments to Internal Bodies/Working Groups until Full Council meeting on 27 June 2019.

BC74/19 Cultural Grant Aid Programme

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 Members approval to roll out the proposed Cultural Organisation Funding Programme, Access Improvement Programme, Heritage Animation Programme, Headline Events Funding Programme, Community Festival Funding Programme and Artist Award Programme.

To secure Member approval in principle for the continuation of the proposed subvention programme for one off national event with detailed paper to follow.

The Chair welcomed the report and congratulated those Officers involved.

Councillor Logue also welcomed the report and in particular the Community Festivals Programme.

Alderman Hussey thanked the Officers for the report. He welcomed in particular the Cultural Organisation Fund. However he expressed concern over the collapse of Mourneberg Partnership and queried if there had been engagement with the group. He also highlighted the need for continued engagement with groups from the wider rural area as there was concern that the perception was that the larger events were being hosted in the City and that towns/villages were not considered.

Councillor R Barr said that he fully endorsed the previous speakers comments.

The Director of Business and Culture assured Committee that whilst officers always encouraged events to utilise the entire Council area, this was not always possible depending on the event. .

The Head of Culture advised Alderman Hussey that they were aware of the current situation regarding Mourneberg Partnership and discussions were ongoing with relevant Officers in relation to the long-term action.

Councillor Kelly referred to the Cultural Organisations Fund and the eligibility criteria that required at least one full-time paid member of staff. He said that whilst he appreciated the funding programme was relevant to high-end professional based organisations mostly based within the City, he was concerned that those organisations based within the Tyrone boundaries that do not have paid staff employed would not be eligible.

The Head of Culture advised that they were aware of the issue and that the funding programme was relevant to organisations of a particular scale and were mostly City based. She however referred to the Artist and Cultural Practitioner funding programme that would hopefully attract wider City and District participation.

Discussion ensued after which the Committee

Recommended that Council approves the roll out of the proposed Cultural Organisation in year Funding Programme 2019/20 and the full 2020/21 Cultural Funding Programme as outlined.

BC75/19 Market Trading Programme 2019/20

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 approval for the Walled City and Strabane Market Trading Programme for 2019/20.

Councillor Duffy welcomed the report, however was not supportive of the tender proposal for individuals/organisations to develop and deliver market trading at the Halloween and Christmas markets as in her opinion this approach would lose the input from local traders.

Councillor McLaughlin agreed with the previous speaker. She queried if the tender had conditions in place to provide protection for local traders.

Alderman Warke and Councillor's McCann and Carr concurred with the previous speakers comments.

The Head of Business explained that the reason for the proposal for a third party organisation to deliver market trading was primarily due to the expansion of the Halloween Market in particular, which is a seven day event and had grown beyond what the Council could currently resource. He further explained that another reason to open up market trading was to support the local traders and the event provided an opportunity to provide income beyond the monthly market arrangement. He added that the existing Council resource would be redirected to support the local markets to develop market trading programmes with a view to sustain trading throughout the year.

Councillor Kelly requested more detail in terms of Strabane market and the reason for its decline and the implications imposed on traders.

It was agreed to defer the decision on this issue to the following month with a more detailed paper being brought for members' approval.

BC76/19 Update on Procurement for Marketing

The Head of Culture presented the above report details of which were previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to inform Members of the outcome of a number of procurement exercises undertaken by the marketing team.

Alderman Hussey referred to the delay in the erection of boundary signs throughout the District. Councillor Donnelly also queried if this was due to Council not having a Language Policy in place and hence the delay in erection of signage at the Brandywell Stadium.

The Director of Business and Culture advised that the aforementioned issues were not within the remit of the Business and Culture Directorate. He agreed to forward to the relevant Directorate for action.

The Committee

Recommended that Council notes the content of the report and approves the appointed suppliers for the annual marketing tenders.

BC77/19 Stewarding and Crowd Control Management – 3 Year Annual Tender

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 tender process for acquiring stewarding and crowd control management services for the annual events programme from April 2020 to March 2023 and to seek approval to move forward with the process.

The Committee

Recommended that Council approves in advance the appointment of suppliers for

the tenders as outlined within the report and Officers will inform Members of the results of this assessment at a subsequent Committee for information.

BC78/19 Sperrins Sculpture Trail 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 Sperrins Sculpture Trail project and request approval to proceed with the initial findings and recommendations of the technical study including approving additional non-funded project costs through rates allocated tourism/culture revenue budgets for the current financial year.

The Head of Culture advised Members that it will be the intention to present a report to outline proposals to raise the profile of other public art throughout the City and District.

The Committee

Recommended that Council approves the site selection and procurement strategy outlined in the report and approval to proceed with appointment of the artist subject to adherence to all of Council policies and procedures. Members are also asked to support and approve the request to increase Councils' financial contribution towards the Sperrins Sculpture Trail project subject to partner contributions as described being confirmed.

Open for Information

BC79/19 Rural Development Programme Update

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 provide an update to Members on the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.

The Head of Business in response to Councillor Kelly agreed to provide an update on the Rural Broadband Scheme and where the Department of Economy is in terms of market programme delivery.

The Committee

Recommended that Council notes the contents of the report.

BC80/19 Business Boost Update

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 provide Members with a progress update on Business Boost up to 30 April 2019.

The Committee

Recommended that Council notes the contents of the above report.

BC81/19 Education & Skills – Collaborative Actions

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 Members with an update on the work of the Education and Skills Delivery Group and note the ongoing work being undertaken with key partners through governance structures including; the Education &

Skills Delivery Partnership, the Sub Groups, the ESF Forum and the Employability NI Programme Board.

Councillor McLaughlin welcomed the report and commended the work of the Education and Skills Partnership. She however referred to the urgent need to progress the Post Grad Medical School for the City. She added that this was key within the City Deal and it was critical that representation be made with key government officials as a matter of urgency.

Councillor Duffy advised that the Mayor would convene a meeting with internal Officers and Party Leaders on Thursday 13 June 2019, to discuss the issue before progressing to meet with key government officials.

Councillor Carr expressed concern that he had not received any notification of a meeting to be convened by the Mayor. He stated that as Independent Members they had a mandate and were entitled to be included in discussions. Councillor Donnelly concurred with the previous speaker.

The Director of Business and Culture agreed that this was an important issue and assured Members that the Chief Executive was actively engaged with civil servants in order to secure the project and it was a priority in terms of the Community Growth Plan and City Deal.

The Committee

Recommended that Council notes the ongoing work being undertaken with key partners through governance structures including; the Education & Skills Delivery Partnership, the Sub Groups, the ESF Forum and the Employability NI Programme Board.

BC82/19 ESF Match Funded Projects – Year 1 Report

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 Members with a year 1 report (April 2018-March 2019) on five ESF projects, match funded by Council to deliver services to those who are unemployed/economically inactive.

The Committee

Recommended that Council notes the contents of the report.

The meeting went into confidential business.

The meeting ended at 6.00pm.