

SCRUTINY BOARD (SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY AND CULTURE)

TUESDAY, 15TH APRIL, 2014

PRESENT: Councillor M Rafique in the Chair

Councillors P Wadsworth, R Harington,
M Ingham, J McKenna, A Castle, A Khan
and B Anderson

107 Late Items

There were no formal late items of business to consider. However the Chair agreed to accept the following items as supplementary information:

- Minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2014 (agenda item 6) (Minute 110 refers)

108 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests declared at the meeting.

109 Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Cohen, with Councillor Anderson in attendance as a substitute, and from Councillors Chapman, Lyons and Marjoram.

110 Minutes - 1 April 2014

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2014 be confirmed as a correct record.

111 Scrutiny Inquiry - Cultural Organisations' Engagement with Communities

The Scrutiny Board conducted the second session of its inquiry on cultural organisations' engagement with communities. The main focus of the session was to hear evidence from arts organisations.

In attendance to address the Board and answer Members' queries were:

- Rebecca Walsh, Director of Education, Opera North
- Selina McGonagle, Director of Learning, Northern Ballet
- Keranjeet Kaur Virdee, Chief Executive, South Asian Arts UK
- Ian Rodley, Artistic Director, Dazl (Dance Action Zone Leeds)
- Pat Cochrane, Chief Executive, Cape UK
- Councillor Lucinda Yeadon, Executive Member, Leisure and Skills
- Cluny Macpherson, Chief Officer, Culture and Sport
- Matthew Sims, Head of Arts and Venues

The representatives from each of the external organisations made brief introductory presentations on the work of their organisations in engaging communities.

The following issues were raised in discussion:

- the expectations from the Opera North In Harmony project and its potential extension
- the health aspect of DAZL's work
- the transferable skills that young people develop through their participation in the arts
- feedback generated from communities
- extending access for those living in pockets of deprivation in more affluent communities
- examples of work with older people and disabled people
- examples of inter-generational work
- the role of neighbourhood networks
- examples of work done by the West Yorkshire Playhouse
- evidence from school councils of the need for free activities
- possible sources of funding from councillors' MICE money and through Area Committee funding
- the availability and distribution of free tickets for some events
- the provision of resources for school staff to support cultural activity
- issues of transport and access, including access to the city centre
- capacity issues for the arts organisations, and discussion of how audit and mapping exercises can help them to work more closely together as well as identifying gaps in provision
- the potential role of the new library hubs
- keeping members informed of what is taking place in their areas
- the need for funding to support excellent performance as well as promoting community engagement, and how to strike the balance between these aspects
- that those with experience from elsewhere agreed that there was lots of good practice in Leeds and that the networking and joint working was a particular strength
- pride in the offer available in Leeds and a desire to make the most of the range of opportunities for everyone's benefit

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for their contributions to the debate.

RESOLVED – That the issues raised by this session of the inquiry be noted.

(Councillor Wadsworth left the meeting at 11.40 am at the conclusion of this item.)

112 Tour de France

The Board considered a progress report on the preparations for the Tour de France Grand Depart in July.

In attendance to address the Board and answer Members' queries were:

- Councillor Lucinda Yeadon, Executive Member, Leisure and Skills
- Ed Mylan, Chief Officer Resources and Strategy
- Nicola Lockwood, Tour de France team

Members were provided with an update covering the following areas:

- Television coverage of the event
- Letters to residents and workshops for businesses
- Spectator hubs and estimated spectator demand
- Leeds highlights of the Yorkshire Festival
- Park and ride and park and cycle provision
- Centralised procurement and the refinement of each authority's requirements to control costs whilst ensuring a good, safe event
- The programme of roadworks
- City dressing
- The intention to provide an information pack for all councillors

The following issues were raised in discussion:

- The possibility of making some free tickets available for the Arena event for children and young people from disadvantaged communities
- Confirmation that the Area Committee Chairs group had received a presentation on the event, and had been invited to make any requests for local spectator hubs. In addition the team are maintaining an up to date list of planned community events
- It was also acknowledged that the nature of the event was such that many people would make their own arrangements with friends and family for viewing the race
- Endorsement of the proposed pack for members and a request to ensure members are informed of any events planned in their wards, including any updates once the pack has been issued

RESOLVED – That the progress in preparation for the Grand Depart and the proposals enclosed in the report be noted.

(The meeting finished at 12.10pm)