

SCRUTINY BOARD (INCLUSIVE GROWTH, CULTURE AND SPORT)

WEDNESDAY, 14TH FEBRUARY, 2018

PRESENT: Councillor A Lamb in the Chair

Councillors J Bentley, R Grahame,
M Harland, K Maqsood, K Ritchie,
M Robinson, R. Stephenson, C Towler,
K Wakefield and N Walshaw

60 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests declared at the meeting.

61 Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors G Hyde, J Illingworth and S Lay.

Councillors J Bentley, K Ritchie and C Towler were present as substitutes.

62 Minutes - 17th January 2018

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2018 be confirmed as a correct record.

63 Update on the position of the Carriageworks Theatre

Following recent media coverage about the use of the Carriageworks Theatre by the Leeds Community Arts Network, the Chair had requested that the Board received an update from the Chief Officer for Culture and Sport on this matter. The Chair of the Leeds Community Arts Network had also been invited to update the Board.

The following were in attendance:

- Cluny Macpherson – Chief Officer, Culture and Sport
- Matt Stirk – Chair of Leeds Community Arts Network

Cluny Macpherson informed the Board of discussions that had been held between the Council and the Leeds Community Arts Network. These had focussed on the following four issues:

- Rentals for rehearsals.
- Dates for use, with particular issues relating to potential clashes with the annual pantomime performance.
- Use of storage space.

- Hours of use.

However, it was reported that the above issues had been broadly resolved.

Matt Stirk informed the Board of the Community Arts Network's use of the Carriageworks. The network had fourteen groups based there covering activities such as opera, drama, dance and creative writing. There were approximately 20 performances a year from the network's groups. Concerns had arisen following the network being given notice that they would no longer be able to use the workshop space and an increase in the cost of room hire. This would have had a significant financial impact on the groups that used the Carriageworks and their ability to put on performances. Discussions with the Council had since been positive and an agreement in principle had been reached. Thanks were made to the officers who had been involved.

Further to comments and questions from Board Members, key areas of discussion included the following:

- Increases in rental charges – it was reported that these would be initially increased £10 per hour following recent negotiations.
- The annual pantomime brought in significant income for the running of the Carriageworks. This unfortunately caused potential clashes with community groups wanting to use the facilities at the same time but a positive solution was anticipated.
- Groups were looking at different ways of improving their revenue to meet the increased costs.
- Leeds Community Arts Network received funding through the Arts at Leeds programme, which would help alleviate some of the financial pressures.
- Potential alternative means of increasing income at the Carriageworks – suggestions had included opening of the bar to community group members and more public events such as open mic evenings.
- Future planning for any further rises
- Development of a business plan for the Leeds Community Arts Network.
- Ways in which the network can continue to work in partnership with the Council.
- Ensuring that lessons learnt from this recent experience are being used to inform how the Council moves forward in engaging with other community arts groups too.

RESOLVED – That the report and discussion be noted.

64 Culture Strategy Delivery Plan

The report of the Director of City Development provided the Board with an interim update on the development of the Culture Strategy Delivery Plan following the adoption of the new Culture Strategy for Leeds 2017-2030 and outlined the implications of recent events relating to the city's bid for European Capital of Culture.

The following were in attendance for this item:

- Councillor Judith Blake, Leader of the Council
- Cluny Macpherson – Chief Officer, Culture and Sport
- Leanne Buchan – Principal Officer, Culture and Sport
- Sam Nicholls – Senior Lecturer, School of Film, Music and Performing Arts, Leeds Beckett University
- Wendy Denman – Community Engagement Manager, Bruntwood

Key issues highlighted included the following:

- Links between the strategy and the bid for the Capital of Culture.
- The new strategy was in place and was now at the delivery stage.
- The year-long celebration of culture that would be held in 2023 following the cancellation of the bid for the European Capital of Culture.
- Impact on the delivery plan following the cancellation of the bid.
- The delivery plan of the strategy would be ongoing up to and including 2023.
- Engagement with local people and how to get their projects and ideas on board.
- Work with other Council departments to ensure best use of public resources.
- Wendy Denman gave the Board a brief overview of the role of Bruntwood Property Management and how they could provide support to the arts and culture. The company had developed their own culture strategy and owned 4 properties in Leeds which could be utilised for cultural activities. Bruntwood had also supported the Leeds bid.
- Sam Nicholls informed the Board of the Music:Leeds project. The project had already overseen a number of successful events including carrying out a mapping exercise of all music business activity in Leeds.

Further to comments and questions, the following was discussed:

- Use of buildings and open spaces – part of the strategy included several values including that of generosity which could include the provision of spaces and facilities.
- Music mapping exercise – targeting activities in localities out of the City Centre. It was hoped to be able to list all venues across the city that staged live music.
- Culture within planning. Getting public realm interventions as part of developments. There was work ongoing with colleagues across planning and asset management.
- Business engagement – there was a challenge to keep businesses involved throughout the delivery of the strategy. There had been a number of businesses linked to the Capital of Culture Bid.
- Support for smaller events including those held outside of the city centre.
- Engagement with schools and how to get arts and culture into the curriculum.
- How to demonstrate the value and relevance of culture to all communities in Leeds

- Funding for cultural activities and how to help groups develop their skills to raise funds.
- Economic impact of culture.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the plan for a year-long celebration of culture in 2023 as a direct legacy of the city's bid for the title of European City of Culture be noted.
- (2) That the contribution and legacy of the European Capital of Culture bid enabling a more ambitious Culture Strategy Delivery Plan over a longer timeframe be noted.
- (3) That the revised timescale for developing the Culture Strategy Delivery Plan to Autumn 2018 in light of the European Commission decision be endorsed.
- (4) That the extension of the timeframe for the Culture Strategy Delivery Plan to cover a six year period of 2018-23 be noted.
- (5) That the continuation of the projects that have already begun as part of the Culture Strategy Delivery Plan be endorsed and supported.
- (6) That the continuation of the co-produced approach to the Culture Strategy Delivery Plan, as set out in the report, including the creation of an open source online platform to host it be endorsed and supported.
- (7) That a further progress report be brought back to Scrutiny later in the year.
- (8) That a draft Statement of the Board reflecting its views in relation to the Culture Strategy is brought back to the next meeting for consideration and approval.

65 Work Schedule

The Head of Governance and Scrutiny submitted a report which invited Members to consider the Board's work schedule for the 2017/18 Municipal Year.

The Board was informed that the next meeting would be the last scheduled meeting of the 2017/18 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED – That the work schedule, as presented at Appendix 1 of the report, be agreed as the basis for the Board's work for the remainder of the 2017/18 municipal year.

66 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 14 March 2018 at 10.15 am (Pre-meeting for all Board Members at 10.00 am).

(The meeting concluded at 12.20 pm)