



Leicester
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the
ARTS, LEISURE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Held: WEDNESDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2003 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Clair - Chair
Councillor Mrs Maw - Conservative Spokesperson
Councillor Sandringham - Liberal Democrat Spokesperson

Councillor Green
Councillor Hall

Councillor Vincent (for Councillor Keeling)
Councillor Fitch (for Councillor Seare)

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25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any interests they may have in the business to be discussed, and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to them.

There were no declarations made.

35. CULTURAL QUARTER UPDATE

The Corporate Director of Cultural Services & Neighbourhood Renewal presented a report providing a summary of progress made on the development of the Cultural Quarter in St Georges South in the City Centre.

It was reported that work on the Performing Arts Centre was progressing to plan, with the exception of an application by the Victorian Society to English Heritage seeking to list 74 - 76 Rutland Street. It had previously been planned to demolish the building to make way for the Centre. It was confirmed that the Victorian Society had been consulted, both in June 2002 and March 2003 regarding the design proposals for the Centre and no comments had been received from them at the time. In addition, English Heritage and the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment had written to the Council during the consultation to support the proposals. The outcome of the Victorian Society's application for the listing would be known within 4 weeks. Should the application be successful the designs would have to be amended to retain 74 - 76 Rutland Street. Architects were already considering alternative designs, the costs of which would be contained within the original budget. However, the frontage of the building would be shortened and dance studios

and rehearsal areas would have to be relocated and reduced in size.

Members were also advised that construction work on the Creative Industries Workspace and Artists Studios continued and confirmation of the funding towards the Creative Industries Regeneration Team and Business Support programme had now been secured. Members were also updated on funding options for the Film and Media Centre.

Members were concerned at the affect the potential listing of 74 – 76 Rutland Street would have on the project and felt that planning managers had not been involved enough in the planning of the project. Options were briefly discussed for the building, should the listing be successful. However it was agreed to wait for the result of the application before full consideration was given to this. In addition, some concerns were voiced about the size of the theatre and its ability to attract larger productions of the type that take place in London.

The Corporate Director of Cultural Services & Neighbourhood Renewal confirmed that planners had been fully involved in drawing up the Cultural Quarter proposals and explained that should 74 – 76 Rutland Street become listed consideration would be given to what use other departments could make of the property before possibly offering it for sale. It was also explained that feasibility work in the planning stage had shown that the size of the theatre would be sufficient for local productions, which was what the facility was designed for. De Montfort Hall would continue to offer the larger scale productions.

Councillor Vincent, seconded by Councillor Fitch, moved the following:

That the Cabinet considers ensuring that any future project management teams have senior planning management representation as a matter of course.

The matter was put to a vote and was carried.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that the report be noted; and
- (2) that the Cabinet considers ensuring that any future project management teams have senior planning management representation as a matter of course.