



Leicester  
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CULTURE AND TOURISM SCRUTINY  
COMMISSION

Held: WEDNESDAY, 6 FEBRUARY 2013 at 5.00pm

P R E S E N T:

Councillor Waddington – Chair

Councillor Bhatti – Vice-Chair

Councillor Bhavsar   Councillor Cassidy  
Councillor Chaplin   Councillor Chowdhury  
Councillor Naylor   Councillor Porter

Also in Attendance

Sir Peter Soulsby   – City Mayor  
Councillor Clair   – Assistant City Mayor (Heritage, Leisure and Sport)  
Councillor Dempster – Assistant City Mayor (Children, Young People and  
Schools)  
Mike Dalzell   – Head of Economic Regeneration  
Margaret Libreri   – Director, Learning Services  
Kerry Gray   – Interim Head of Service, Adult Skills & Learning Service  
Nigel Stephenson   – Greig & Stephenson Architects  
Adam Parker   – Greig & Stephenson Architects  
Jerry Connolly   – Member Support Officer

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**67. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Shelton.

**68. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were asked to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary or Other Disclosable Interests they may have in the business on the agenda.

Councillor Chowdhury declared an Other Disclosable Interest, as he had worked with Multi-Access Centres (MACs), and had been contacted by

Highfields MAC with regards to Appendix B on the agenda.

Councillor Chaplin declared an Other Disclosable Interest as she had been contacted by Highfields Community Centre with regards to Appendix B on the agenda, but had not responded to a telephone message that was left.

In accordance with the Council's new Code of Conduct the interests were not considered so significant that they were likely to prejudice Councillor's judgement of the public interest. Members were, therefore, not required to withdraw from the meeting during discussion of the business on the agenda.

## **69. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Councillor Chowdhury asked that the minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2012 be amended to reflect his attendance at the meeting.

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Economic Development, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Commission meetings held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2012 and 20<sup>th</sup> December 2012, be agreed as a correct record, subject to the amendment above.

## **70. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

### Minute 42 – Scrutiny Review of Grants to Curve, Phoenix and De Montfort Hall

The Chair had received correspondence from Chris Maughan, Consultant, who had asked for feedback from Scrutiny Commission Members on the review process and work undertaken by Chris and his team. Chris stated in his letter that there had been little precedent on the study of value for money of arts organisations in receipt of public sector support and was interested to know how the work had been received.

Members' feedback was positive on the whole, though they stated the misinformation of data during a presentation was regrettable, and had not helped discussion, though a full amendment and amplification had been received. Members also said that future research projects should have information on what other work is being done by the Council or any other organisation locally to avoid duplication. Members said the review had raised questions that needed to be worked on over time, and that information on the three venues should be brought to future Scrutiny Commission meetings to be assessed as to whether the review was productive.

Members asked that the results from the ODI Team's project also be brought to a future meeting of the Scrutiny Commission.

The Chair summarised Members' responses by stating there was an enormous amount of data that required careful analysis by departments, and that recommendations in the final report needed to be looked at by venues and department in terms of the agreements and arrangements and service level

contracts with two of the venues, and the more direct relationship with De Montfort Hall. She added that following on from the report, all three venues had been asked to each develop a three-year business plan, and an action plan was required to reach out to under-represented groups and out of county residents through the development of the tourism offer in the city. The Chair said further work to look at the expenditure of County residents was required, as the subsidy the city council provided to county residents was not met by county residents' expenditure.

Jerry Connolly, Members Support Officer, said that a huge methodology had been put in place over the course of the work. He added that the review had got the three venues talking to each other in a way they hadn't done previously.

#### **71. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS OR STATEMENTS OF CASE**

It was reported that no questions, representations or statements of case had been received.

#### **72. PETITIONS**

It was reported that no petitions, in accordance with the Council's procedures, had been received.

#### **73. LEICESTER MARKET REDEVELOPMENT**

Mike Dalzell, Head of Economic Regeneration, made a presentation on where the market redevelopment proposals were, on which consultation was scheduled to run until 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2013. Also present at the meeting were Nigel Stephenson and Adam Parker from Greig and Stephenson Architects. The presentation is attached to the minutes for information.

Mike said a number of sessions were being held directly in the Market Square, talking to traders and to shoppers and explaining the scheme. Detailed one-to-one discussions with food hall traders and the architects had explored what traders' requirements were when they moved into the new hall. Details of the meetings and the formal consultation process could be found on the website, at <http://www.leicester.gov.uk/consultation/>

Given the nature of the scheme, Mike said a lot of stakeholder engagement was being undertaken. He added that a positive meeting with the Chair of the Civic Society had been held, and the scheme would be taken to the next Conservation Advisory Panel meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2013. Regular updates had also been presented to Market Forum meetings on which traders were represented. Mike said officers had spoken with English Heritage who were less enthusiastic about the scheme as they liked the Market Corner, with the side of the Corn Exchange exposed. Officers were waiting to receive feedback from them. They had asked if the existing footprint could be used to house the food hall traders, but the suggestion would mean the loss of the new square, and traders would have to be decanted into temporary accommodation, which would be expensive. The City Mayor said English Heritage were consultees,

and it was a matter for the Planning Committee to decide the validity of English Heritage concerns. With regards to the work required on the Corn Exchange, the City Council owned the Freehold and a discussion was required with the tenant as to who would pay for the works. Nigel Stephenson added that a conversation with the brewery who owned Molly O'Grady's was very positive.

Mike discussed the design of the new building and subsequent development of the new square. The East facade had been requested to be re-aligned with the line of the Corn Exchange by Conservation Officers. The roof of the new build would be in scale with the existing roof line, and materials used would be sustainable. Mike said solar glass would be used to provide a comfortable environment inside the building.

Ongoing discussions were being held with planners, as the rear of the Corn Exchange housed the services for Wetherspoons, including fire escape, air conditioning units etc. Nigel Stephenson added there was an option for the west facade facing the new square to have an extension for A3 use, or for extending Wetherspoons, but it would be necessary to create a screen to accommodate Wetherspoons' services.

Mike said the scheme was still subject to change, and at the end of the consultation a report would be given to the City Mayor, after which it was hoped a planning application would be submitted early March. Mike said by the end of 2013 the new Food Hall will be constructed, and the scheme would be complete within two years under the timetable.

Councillor Porter stated the Market Corner had cost £600,000 to develop, and people had been pleased that the side of the Corn Exchange had been opened up, but the new building would result in the loss of the view. He added the new contemporary building would contrast negatively against the old Corn Exchange, and the design should work and blend with the Corn Exchange. Councillor Porter asked if the traders could be housed in the short-term in a temporary facility at the back of the Corn Exchange. Nigel stated that the traders had survived in dire circumstances, and they should only have to move once, as they would not survive if they had to be moved twice.

The Chair thanked the architects and officer for the presentation.

Councillors Naylor, Porter and Clair, and the City Mayor left the meeting at this point and were not present for the remainder of the meeting.

#### **74. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - EMPLOYMENT ISSUES**

#### **75. LEICESTER ADULT SKILLS AND LEARNING SERVICE**

The Director, Learning Services submitted a report which outlined a proposal to reconfigure the Multi-Access Centre service in order to align with the Leicester to Work initiative and achieve efficiencies, progress on ESOL developments, and Community Learning purposes and priorities. The report was presented by Kerry Gray, Interim Head of Service, Adult Skills and Learning.

Kerry updated the Commission on the current position of the eight Multi-Access Centres (MACs) in the city, and since April 2012, following the end of Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF), the MACs had been funded out of the Skills Funding Agency Community Learning grant. Six of the centres were directly managed by the City Council, and the MACs in Braunstone and Highfields were sub-contracted. Kerry said the £119,000 funding for Highfields included admin support and accommodation for adult learning courses, which was different to Braunstone's contract.

She said it was proposed to consult on a service organisational review in two phases to achieve £416,000 of savings in staffing reductions and a further £92,760 in other efficiency savings. She added that the target date for implementation was the end of July 2013 for Phase 1, and September 2013 for Phase 2.

Kerry said the service was looking to reduce the staffing working on 1:1 consultations in the six MACs under the control of the Council, and the staffing reductions referred to advisers and managers in the service; admin staff were not included in the review. The Chair asked for a report to be presented to a future meeting of the Commission on proposals for spend of the remaining WNF money held by the Council.

Kerry, responding to Members' questions, said all options had been considered. She said completely stopping the support for the unemployed by the Adult Skills and Learning Service would not be desirable, but it was important to focus activity and the available funds on the most effective parts. Kerry added the service was looking at the impact of the services delivered, and it was proposed to redesign and rebrand the Workclubs to provide regular contact with an adviser and rapid response if required - for example if a person needed advice for a job interview. Kerry said advisers would be qualified to at least NVQ Level 3.

Margaret Libreri, Director, Learning Services, said there had not been a sufficient overarching strategic view of initiatives, and the report presented to the Commission had begun to tackle the big issues. As stated in the report the previous management review which had begun in May 2011 would not have achieved the savings required, and the proposed staffing structure would not have been fit for the the service needs, therefore the decision had been made to stop the review. Margaret said the move of the Adult Skills and Learning services to Learning Services was a pragmatic decision to address immediate operational issues, and the service would look at where LASALS best fit. Margaret said that wherever the service sits its connections with other sections in the Council were important, i.e. the Economic and Neighbourhood agendas. Mike Dalzell added that Economic Development had the broad responsibility for the Learning to Work programme, though it was a corporate initiative.

Councillor Chaplin left the meeting at this point.

The Chair said the Council was moving in the right direction in terms of how

adult education was dealt with by the authority, and asked for information on the proposed staffing structure, and the expertise required. Members also requested information on employment and requested a presentation on the Leicester to Work programme.

Kerry then presented information on ESOL services, which covered the volunteer ESOL tutor project as reported at the November Scrutiny Commission meeting, the central referral mechanism and citywide ESOL database, and publicity.

Kerry informed Members that partners to the project, including Leicester College, VAL and Unionlearn, would each develop one part of the volunteer ESOL tutor training course, and the service was confident training would be piloted at the beginning of May 2013. VAL and Unionlearn would recruit the participants.

Kerry said the LeicesterShire Learning Network (LSLN) would close at the end of the financial year 2012-13. She added that as previously reported, there was not much enthusiasm by other providers of ESOL for the Begin model as used in Nottingham, which would require significant resources. Kerry added, however, that the Skills Funding Agency held significant amounts of data on ESOL participation, and she had requested information from them and would analyse the position of ESOL supply and demand against census figures later in the year.

Kerry said that with regards to publicity, learners usually engaged through word of mouth, not printed materials. She said that marketing ideas would be launched at the start of the next academic year,

The Chair said Nottingham had a more co-ordinated approach and there was no infrastructure in Leicester. Kerry responded that progress had been made with mapping providers and services to avoid duplication in the city.

Kerry then reported on the Community Learning Funding which had been confirmed for the next two academic years. The report contained information on community learning enrolments, and stated the service was on target to match enrolment numbers on 2011-12. Kerry drew Members' attention to the issues that were to be addressed in the report, and the table of figures on how the money was spent previously.

Councillor Dempster, Assistant City Mayor for Children, Young People and Schools informed the meeting that the Head of Finance (Financial Strategy) had focussed recently on the general fund, but would look at the corporate recharges for Adult and Skills and Learning, as the Council needed to know what was being provided with the budget.

The Chair asked it be recommended the budget be looked at closely, as there were concerns over the percentage being taken from the budget in charges.

The Chair thanked the officers and Councillor Dempster for the information.

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That a report be brought to a future meeting of the Commission on proposals for spend of the remaining WNF money held by the Council.
3. That information on the proposed staffing structure and expertise required be brought to a future meeting of the Commission.
4. That employment figures from the MACs be presented.
5. That a presentation on the Leicester to Work programme be delivered to the Scrutiny Commission meeting.

**76. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 7.34pm.