

Time commenced - 6.00 pm
Time finished - 7.50 pm

CULTURE AND PROSPERITY COMMISSION 5 DECEMBER 2005

Present: Councillor Travis (in the Chair)
Councillors Dhamrait, Graves, Jackson, Rawson, Troup and West

27/05 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Willitts.

28/05 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

Councillor Travis introduced a late item requesting that the Commission urge the Council to include the Playhouse in consultation and discussions relating to the Westfield development.

The Commission rejected the proposal on the grounds because a majority of members did not feel it was appropriate for the Commission to support the Playhouse on this issue.

29/05 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Travis declared a personal interest on the above late item on the grounds that she was on the Playhouse Board.

30/05 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2005 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

31/05 Minutes

To note the minutes of the Special Joint Meeting of the Scrutiny Management Commission and the Culture and Prosperity Commission held on 31 October 2005.

32/05 Call-in

There were no call ins.

Items for Discussion

33/05 Quad Update

The Commission considered a report from the Director of Development and Cultural Services that gave an update on the progress of the Quad project. Peter Mount – Project Director for Quad - reported the planning certificate had been issued on 25 November and that consultation with the market place would take place on 12 December 2005. It was noted that a contractor would be appointed in May 2006 and construction would begin in August 2006. It was reported that Quad would be based around five themes:

- The Galleries
- Participation, Production and Education
- The Cinemas
- The Media Pods
- The Box

Options for sustainable energy sources were discussed including the possibility of boreholes, wind turbines or photovoltaic cells.

To note the report.

34/05 The Future of Libraries

The Commission considered a report from the Director of Development and Cultural Services that invited Members to give consideration to the future of Derby's libraries following the failure of the PFI bid. David Potton – Head of Library Services - considered that despite the failure of the bid, the vision of adding a further five libraries to the network and replacing or refurbishing some of Derby's existing libraries remained. It was reported that funding for libraries had been rejected for many years by the Lottery; however they were proposing a new funding stream that focused on community and lifelong learning for June 2006. It was hoped that Derby would be able to submit a bid for this funding.

Councillor Rawson asked if the Council could submit a further PFI bid. David Potton responded that no further PFI round had yet been announced, although in recent times funding had been released every two years. However the feedback received from the DCMS suggested that another bid based on our vision would probably fail because it would be for several small libraries with the largest being for £10 million, whereas the DCMS was looking for landmark developments of at least £20 million.

Councillor Rawson asked if there were any figures on library usage. David Potton responded that nationally and locally book borrowing was down but visits to the Central library for all purposes, including books, IT and the meeting suite, were up by more 50,000 in 2004/05 compared with the previous year..

Resolved

- 1. to note the report**
- 2. to endorse the continuing search for alternative to PFI as a funding mechanism to achieve the vision.**

35/05 East Midlands Museum Hub

The Commission considered a report from the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Cultural Services that set out the draft Renaissance East Midlands business plan 2006-08, received by Council Cabinet on 8 November 2005.

Anneke Bambery – Head of Museums explained that Renaissance was the government programme for improvement and development of museums in the nine English regions. Within each region the programme is led and managed by a partnership of the leading museums – ‘the hub’ – together with the regional agency for museums, libraries and archives. It was reported that the East Midlands Museums Hub consisted of Derby, Nottingham City, Leicester City, Leicestershire, and Lincolnshire museum services. Derby Museums and Art Gallery would gain £313,000 investment from the 2006-08 business plan, in comparison with £173,000 in 2004-06.

It was considered that Renaissance was about engaging audiences with collections and one of the targets of the programme was to reach ‘hard to reach’ groups by taking artefacts to community schools.

Resolved to note the report.

36/05 Performance Eye

The Commission received a presentation from Anneke Bambery – Head of Museums - on the number of pupils visiting museums and galleries in organised school groups, performance indicator BV170c. It was reported that attendance was up 20% on the spring term of 2004 and the summer term attendance in 2005 was up by 100%. A target of a 5% increase in usage had been established when the business plan was completed, however the attendance target had been readjusted to 9,000 pupils as the previous target had been exceeded.

It was reported that seven members of staff were undertaking outreach to schools by visiting them with artefacts. Councillor Graves raised concerns that if staff were visiting schools the number of visitors to the museum would decrease. Anneke responded that the Audit Commission now allowed outreach children to be included in figures of attendance and that at some point Neighbourhood Renewal funding would be used to do workshops at the museum so people would have to visit.

Resolved to note the presentation.

37/05 Quad – Energy Costs

The Commission considered a report from the Chair of the Culture and Prosperity Commission that set out options for incorporating more 'green' energy saving measures into the Quad building.

Councillor Graves considered that following the previous item on Quad – minute number 33/05 – there would need to be a compromise between the building that was desired or the 'green issue',

Resolved

- 1. to thank the Cabinet member for meeting with members of the Culture and Prosperity Commission and for agreeing to ask officers to explore the possibility of incorporating more 'green' energy saving measures in the Quad building**
- 2. to urge the Council Cabinet to support the Council Cabinet member for Leisure and Cultural Service and to explore the options for incorporating more 'green' energy saving measures in the Quad building.**

38/05 Work Plan for 2005/06

The Commission considered a report from the Director of Corporate Services that set out topics for possible review by the Commission in 2005/06.

The Commission also considered a report from the Vice Chair of the Culture and Prosperity Commission suggesting that the Commission conduct a review of sponsorship and fundraising to support the Arts and Events programme in Derby.

Resolved to ask the Coordination Officers to draft a scoping report on sponsorship and fundraising in order to support the Arts and Events programme in Derby.

39/05 Retrospective Scrutiny

There were no items.

40/05 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

The Commission considered the Council Cabinet Forward Plan and agreed to consider the following item at the most appropriate time.

41/05 Responses of the Council Cabinet to any reports of the Commission

Report of Call In

The Commission considered a minute extract from Council Cabinet on 8 November 2005 responding to a joint report of the Scrutiny Management and Culture and Prosperity Commission's Call In of the prioritisation of Heritage Lottery Projects in Derby and St Helens House. Council Cabinet confirmed their decisions and asked the Director of Corporate Services to prepare documentation confirming that, in the event of St Helen's House being sold, the Council would underwrite costs incurred on the feasibility study carried out by the Trust up to a maximum of £50,000.

Resolved to note the report.

Best Value Review of Markets Update

The Commission considered a minute extract from Council Cabinet on 8 November 2005 responding to a report from the Culture and Prosperity Commission that set out recommendations following an update on the Best Value review of markets. Council Cabinet suggested that the Commission carry out a specific review of Derby Markets as part of its 2005/06 work plan.

Resolved to

- 1. note the report.**
- 2. not carry out the suggested review at this time as it had resolved to investigate sponsorship of arts and events programmes in Minute 38/05.**

42/05 Matters Referred to the Commission by the Council Cabinet

There were no items.

MINUTES END