

Time Commenced – 6.00 pm  
Time Finished – 7.15 pm

## **Regeneration and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Board**

**21 April 2015**

Present: Councillor Stanton (Chair)  
Councillors MacDonald, Troup, Turner and Wood

### **50/14 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dhindsa, M Holmes and Jackson.

### **51/14 Late Items**

There were no late items.

### **52/14 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **53/14 Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings held on 24 February 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **54/14 Forward Plan**

No items were requested.

### **55/14 Future Cemetery Provision for Derby**

The Board considered a report which stated that in order to continue to provide burial provision in Derby past 2025, when it was estimated that Nottingham Road Cemetery would no longer be able to provide new graves, the need for a cemetery had been identified as medium to long term priority.

Consideration needed to be given to whether to have one central cemetery or several neighbourhood cemeteries. The various options would be fully costed and modelled and a further report prepared for consideration.

Members of the Board requested that public consultation be undertaken at the appropriate time.

**Resolved to request a further report once the various options had been fully costed and modelled.**

## 56/14 Cultural Offer and Assembly Rooms Update

The Board considered a report which stated that the Assembly Rooms had been closed since the major fire destroyed its plant room in March 2014. The Assembly Rooms was Derby's largest and most popular performing arts and entertainments venue, hosting hundreds of events and attracting attendances in excess of 200,000 each year. With the range of seating and standing formats and capacities ranging from 300 to 2,000, the closure of the venue had had a detrimental impact on the cultural offer, vibrancy and night time economy of Derby.

Since the closure, Derby LIVE had worked hard to reschedule and relocate a significant number of Assembly Rooms' performances and events to maintain as vibrant as possible a cultural programme for the city centre.

The Council had now started consultation on a new Derby City Centre Masterplan 2030 which described how the vision for a vibrant city centre could be realised.

In light of the Masterplan ambitions, the Council did not believe that the high costs associated with the refurbishment or repair of the current Assembly Rooms building presented value for money for local people. Hence the consultation included whether the Assembly Rooms site should be marketed for uses including retail, restaurants, bars, cafes and residential including a cultural offer. The Masterplan included the ambition for a new cultural venue for the city centre, with some potential sites identified. Work was progressing to scope the project requirements.

The opening of Derby Arena in March 2015 had provided Derby with a new large scale venue in which to present a cultural programme. In addition, Derby LIVE was continuing to deliver an interim programme and was exploring options for developing this further, during the absence of a large scale cultural venue in the city centre.

Members of the Board suggested that consideration needed to be given to what would happen to the historical elements and artefacts that were inside the Assembly Rooms. The cultural offer needed to be flexible and multifunctional. The optimum viable venue would be a 12 to 1500 seat, large scale lyrical theatre which could be adaptable for concerts and be multi purpose. There needed to be a sites options appraisal with footprint and access requirements to make it viable. There was concern that the cultural offer must not be eroded. The Arena was a fantastic venue but was not right for all events and was not a replacement for the Assembly Rooms.

The Board requested that thanks be given to the Derby LIVE staff for the customer care work they undertook immediately following the fire at the Assembly Rooms to refund tickets and relocate events where ever possible.

### **Resolved**

#### **1. To note the report.**

- 2. To thank the Derby LIVE staff for the customer care work they undertook immediately following the fire at the Assembly Rooms.**

## **57/14 Derby Outdoor Sports Strategy**

The Board considered a report which stated that the Council commissioned a city wide assessment of playing pitches and outdoor sports provision. The assessment, which would form Derby's Outdoor Sports Strategy covered the period 2014 – 2018 and would be used to identify the priorities to inform future outdoor sport provision and influence the development of planning policy for the Local Plan and the Core Strategy.

The strategy was a strategy for Derby not just the Council provision. It was noted that with the pressures on none essential services over the years it was important to get organised clubs to take a more active role and work with the Council to make savings.

It was noted that the Asterdale Sports Ground was a good example of where sports clubs had come together with a long term lease to benefit all the clubs. This allowed them to apply for sports lottery funding and put them in a strong position to negotiate deals on, for example, rent.

Members of the Board asked for broader consideration to be given to including other sports and outdoor activities that were complementary as well as including provision for minority sports. Consideration should be given to exploring the provision of sports hubs / clusters and the commercial viability of cross subsidisation.

### **Resolved**

- 1. To note the report.**
- 2. To explore the provision of sports hubs / clusters and the commercial viability of cross subsidisation.**

MINUTES END