

Time commenced - 6.00pm
Time finished - 7.30pm

**CULTURE AND PROSPERITY COMMISSION
28 JULY 2003**

Present: Councillor Repton (in the Chair)
Councillors Bolton, A Hussain, Jackson, Latham, Travis and Troup

9/03 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence were received from Councillor J Hickson.

10/03 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

The Chair requested that budget topics be considered under agenda Item 11 – Culture in Derby – Scoping Report of the Commissions 2003/04 review.

The Chair reported that this was Councillor Bolton's last meeting and thanked her for her contribution to the work of the Commission.

11/03 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations.

12/03 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2003 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Items for Discussion

There were no items for discussion.

Call-In

There were no items.

13/03 Forward Plan

Resolved to consider Derby City Libraries Framework for the Future, from the Forward Plan at the most appropriate time and to invite David Potton to give a brief update on this issue to the next meeting.

Matters referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet

There were no items.

Matters referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet

14/03 Museums Best Value Improvement Plan: Progress Report

The Commission considered a report from the Director of Development and Cultural Services which set out the progress made on the Museums Best Value Improvement Plan. It was reported that there had been 23 items to follow up, outlined in the Improvement Plan. The main issues highlighted were the rationalisation of the museums collection storage, which gave an opportunity to sort out and improve storage, as well as release some properties. A marketing strategy was now in place, which was developing attractions for mothers and toddlers, as well as responding to Derby Pointer Questionnaire results. The museum was part of the East Midlands Regional Hub with Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire. This should result in increased funding in 2006, some funding was in the pipeline for education development. The Commission thought that consideration should be given to:

- the development of signage
- provision of café facilities, as this would attract people into the museum, this should include all aspects, including franchise, as well as the possibility of an Internet café in the basement and possible development onto Museum Square, by means of an atrium.
- Sunday opening hours
- access to the museum, now that the main staircase had reopened, this resulted in increased visitor numbers and if there was a bid to improve the old main entrance access and have better, more accessible doors.

It was noted that a bid for PSA funding had not been as successful. Use of the museum by schools was roughly 50% by city schools and 50% of schools based outside the city. In relation to museum buildings, it was reported that buildings at Rowditch and Allestree Hall were being sold and therefore needed to be vacated.

Resolved to note the report.

15/03 Markets Best Value Review Action Plan: Progress Report

The Commission considered a report from the Director of Corporate Services, which set out progress on the Best Value Review Action Plan for the Markets Best Value Review. Dennis Wardle reported on the items which had been resolved since the last report, the main one being market cleaning and waste disposal contract with Commercial Services which would give both cost and operational improvements. The new arrangements were working well. It was noted that the ladies' toilets at the Eagle Centre have now been refurbished and it was hoped that the gents' toilets

could also be refurbished, but there was a backlog of maintenance work awaiting funding. A question was raised relating to signs and why these were waiting until Connecting Derby had been finished. It was reported that there was money available to put finger signs in place, but it was thought that the scheme should be completed in order not to duplicate what was planned. It was reported that it was difficult to get traders to take stalls at Allenton Market.

Resolved to note the report.

Work Plan

16/03 Culture in Derby – Scoping Report of the Commissions' 2003/04 Review

The Commission considered a report of the Chair which set out the scope of the topic the Commission was to review in 2003/04. It identified objectives of the review and the stakeholders which would be involved and set out the terms of reference for the review and draft timetable. A draft questionnaire, which would form part of the review, was set out as Appendix A to the report. Councillor Latham expressed concern about the proposal to spend £8,500 of the Commission's review budget on the questionnaire survey. The Commission felt that the questionnaire was an important part of the review and that it should go ahead, subject to financing being made available. Consideration was given to visits, which would need to take place as part of the review. The following suggestions were made:

- Yorkshire Sculpture Park
- Morcombe Bay
- Q-Arts
- Gateshead
- Leicester
- Mansfield.

The Commission thought that some of the venues would not require a visit as presentation material may be available. It was agreed that visits should be held during September. Consideration was given to lists of possible witnesses who could be interviewed for the topic review. These included:

- Hub Consultancy
- Derby New Theatre
- Derby Chamber Music Society
- Trinity Collective
- Roots Project
- Old Institute
- Surtal Asian Arts
- Red Earth Theatre Company
- Derby Estate Committee
- MAD

David Romaine also confirmed that meetings had been arranged with Senior Officers and with the Playhouse, Derby Dance Centre and the Metro cinema. It was agreed to add Viva to the list of possible witnesses.

Resolved

- 1 To approve the report setting out the scope of the topic review.**
- 2 To look at the pricing structures at leisure centres as part of the budget topic review process.**

Chair of the next ensuing meeting of the Commission
at which these minutes were signed