

Time commenced - 6.00 pm  
Time finished - 9.00 pm

**CULTURE AND PROSPERITY COMMISSION  
27 SEPTEMBER 2004**

Present: Councillor Repton (in the Chair)  
Councillors Gupta, Latham, Marshall, Smalley, Tittley  
and Travis

Also in attendance: Councillor West

**12/04 Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Jackson.

**13/04 Late Items Introduced by the Chair**

The Chair introduced the following late items:

- 1 Change of Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination Officer

The Commission was informed that David Romaine would no longer be the Culture and Prosperity Co-ordination Officer as Katherine Taylor had been seconded to the Overview and Scrutiny team for a period of six months.

**Resolved to thank David for the excellent work he had carried out on behalf of the Commission.**

- 2 Next Meeting of the Commission

**To note that the date of the next meeting of the Commission had been changed to Tuesday 16 November 2004 at 6pm.**

**14/04 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations on interest.

**15/04 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2004 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

## Items for Discussion

### 16/04 QUAD – Project Update

Ray Rippingale - Assistant Director of Cultural Services presented a report from the Director of Development of Cultural services, providing an update on the QUAD project. He confirmed that the original target of £13.7 million was not achievable and had triggered work on scaling down the project.

He reported that a new options appraisal based on a budget of £7.75 million would be carried out and said that the original vision of a cinema and a visual arts exhibition space would be retained. The chosen architect, considered that an iconic, worthwhile building could still be achieved with the reduced budget. Ray Rippingale reported that the Council was considering a range of sites in addition to the Market Place, and that it may be possible to use Council owned land.

Commission members were concerned that with the reduction in the budget it would not be possible to deliver a project of sufficient scale and impact for the city, and that it would be too much of a compromise. Ray Rippingale reported that the Arts Council of England was still encouraging the Council and would want it to achieve its original vision.

Commission members were of the view that the city needed an Arts Centre, but they remained concerned that a scaled down version of the original plan would not achieve this and that it may not result in an economically viable project. Councillor West told the Commission that he had visited FACT in Liverpool, which was a centre like that proposed for QUAD, which worked with arts groups in the City. He understood that they had spent just over £7.7 million on the project, and now had an impressive building in the middle of Liverpool. He was of the opinion that the Arts Centre would bring people into Derby and said that people needed to have foresight and vision to carry out such a project. He said that sponsorship from the private sector may be considered as a way of funding the new project.

Ray Rippingale outlined the timetable for the bidding process. He said that the bid to EMDA would be submitted by the end of October 2004 and it was anticipated information would be received back from them in November 2004. Details of the proposed building would be considered by the Council Cabinet before the end of November 2004. He emphasised that if the Council did not place the commission with the Architect this year it risked losing the money from the Arts Council of England.

Members expressed concern that if the project did not go ahead, the Council would need to consider the future accommodation for arts groups like Metro and Q Arts.

Councillor West assured the Commission that all of their concerns had been considered. He said that he wished to proceed with the scaled down project, but assured those present that the Council would only go ahead if the project was seen as something positive that would benefit the City.

**Resolved to note the report.**

## 17/04 Culture in Derby – Action on Recommendations

The Commission considered a report from the Director of Development and Cultural Services, setting out a detailed account of developments, which had taken place in response to the Commission's recommendations arising from its Review of Culture in Derby.

**Resolved to request a further update of progress against the recommendations at a future meeting of the Commission.**

## 18/04 Call-in

There were no items to consider.

## Council Cabinet Forward Plan

### 19/04 Review of Sport and Leisure Grant Aid Scheme Criteria

The Commission noted that the Review of Sport and Leisure Grant Aid Scheme Criteria (Ref 151/03) had been withdrawn from the Forward Plan pending the outcome of the Best Value Review of Sport and Leisure.

### 20/04 Forward Plan Items for Consideration

The Commission asked to consider the following item in the forward plan at the most appropriate time:

29/04 Three Cities Festivals Consortium.

### 21/04 Response of the Council Cabinet to any reports of the Commission

There were no items.

## Matters Referred to the Commission by the Council Cabinet

### 22/04 Best Value Review of Sport and Leisure

The Commission received a report from the Director of Education, which had been considered by the Council Cabinet at its meeting on 7 September 2004. The report set out details of the Best Value Review of the Sport and Leisure Service. Lesley Whitney, Assistant Director of Education and Andrew Beddow, Head of Sport and Leisure addressed the Commission. The review had been undertaken in order to examine the significant challenges faced by the service over the previous years and

in the foreseeable future. An external consultancy, Strategic Leisure Limited, was contracted to conduct the review and a copy of their Executive Summary was attached at Appendix 2 of the report. The improvement plan, which included 29 recommendations, was attached at Appendix 3 of the report.

At its meeting on 7 September 2004 the Council Cabinet agreed to provisionally set aside £98,000 from the 2004/05 budget for sport and leisure to support the costs of implementing the review's recommendations pending a final Council Cabinet decision after it had considered the comments of the Culture and Prosperity Commission.

Councillor Latham commented that she did not consider that the £98,000 set aside from the 2004/05 budget would cover the recommendations set out in the covering report. She stated that money would need to be invested in the buildings and facilities to improve the Sports and Leisure Service.

Lesley Whitney explained that the recommendations to which Councillor Latham referred were the recommendations arising from the Commission's recommendations on the 2003/04 Sport and Leisure Service budget and were not part of this Best Value report. She said that the £98,000 was to take forward the 29 recommendations arising from the Best Value Review.

Lesley Whitney said that the Council first needed to establish a strategy for the provision of Sport and Leisure throughout the city. Having agreed its strategy, which would encompass all provision of sport and leisure facilities in the city, the Council would then be in a position to determine the appropriate management option for the sports centres. She said that the Sport and Leisure Service lost income when it was forced to close facilities, because of plant breakdowns and that without significant capital investment this problem was likely to continue. She said that having agreed the strategy, the Council would be in a better position to determine which of the management options identified by the consultants it should pursue in order to release capital investment for the sports centres.

Councillor Smalley pointed out that some of the 29 recommendations in the review appeared to be duplicated by others and said that he found the report confusing. This view was supported by other members of the Commission.

Andrew Beddow said that the majority of the Sport and Leisure staff were committed to the improvement plan, but emphasised that there would be no quick fixes. He said it would be difficult to find the £3.8m funding, which the review concluded would be needed to bring the service up to standard. He told the Commission that the £98,000 needed to implement the proposed improvement plan would be used for a number of activities, which included:

- Writing a physical activity strategy
- Producing a facilities strategy for the City
- Depending on the strategy adopted, possibly undertaking a procurement exercise.

Councillor Repton pointed out that Derby spent much less per head on sports and leisure facilities than other authorities in the region and said that priority was often given to funding other services over the sports budget. He expressed concern that the quality of facilities and activities provided was poor and needed to be considerably improved.

There was further discussion of the content of the Consultants' report and basis for the recommendations. Councillor Smalley said that he could not recommend that Council Cabinet accept the report. After a vote the Commission resolved not to recommend Council Cabinet to adopt the recommendations contained in the report.

**Resolved to recommend that the Council Cabinet should not approve the final report and improvement plan of the Best Value Review of Sport and Leisure.**

## Work Plan

### 23/04 Work Plan 2004/05

The Commission considered scoping reports that had been prepared on the proposed reviews of

- a) Community Centres
- b) The World Heritage Site in Derby

The commission agreed that because of the work that had already been carried out by the Education department there would be little to be gained by conducting a review of Community Centres. The Commission therefore decided that as its first review of 2004/05 it would consider the way in which the Council was promoting the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site in Derby.

**Resolved to conduct a review of the way in which the Council promotes the World Heritage Sites in Derby as the first of the Commission's reviews for 2004/05.**

MINUTES END