

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE**

**6.00 P.M.**

**9TH MARCH 2022**

**PRESENT:-** Councillors Richard Austen-Baker (Chair), Colin Hartley (substitute for Mandy King), Jack Lenox and Abi Mills

Apologies for Absence:-

Councillors Mandy King and Alistair Sinclair

Also in Attendance:-

Councillors Erica Lewis and Sandra Thornberry

Officers in attendance:-

Jenny Kay

Civic & Ceremonial Democratic Support Officer

**26 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022 were signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**27 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR**

There were no items of Urgent Business.

**28 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

**29 DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CABINET MEMBER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR ARTS, CULTURE, LEISURE AND WELLBEING**

The Chair welcomed Councillor Sandra Thornberry, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Arts, Culture, Leisure and Wellbeing to the meeting.

The Committee was given a detailed overview of Councillor Thornberry's portfolio which included :-

- Arts, Culture, Festivals and Events
- Museums
- Visitor Information Centres
- Sport and Leisure
- Community Health and Wellbeing
- Equalities & Social Justice Initiatives including age; disability; race; religion or belief; sex, gender or gender identity

It was reported that an Arts and Culture Strategy was to be developed this year focusing on the Council's priorities and the assets the Council owned in consultation with local people and organisations.

The Committee was reminded of the ongoing success of Salt Ayre Leisure Centre which continued to increase its capacity and offer. It was reported that the Spa had been nominated for a National award.

Councillor Thornberry advised Members of the many groups and committees she was involved with regarding Well Being despite the Council having little statutory responsibility for this area. It was noted that the portfolio was very large but difficult to separate with Well Being linking with other parts of the portfolio.

A number of questions were raised relating to Well Being, food clubs, the culture strategy, museums, joint working with local organisations, the Ashton Hall, twinned towns and accessibility.

The Committee went on to discuss the Council owned museums and how these could be improved if invested in. As the City Council had taken ownership of Museums from Lancashire County Council just prior to COVID, little development had been made over the time of the pandemic.

Finally, the Committee discussed the future of the Ashton Hall within Lancaster Town Hall. It was noted that it had been used for music concerts pre-COVID and it was hoped this would begin once again. It was suggested investment in a goods lift was essential as well as stage equipment, sound and lighting.

***Resolved :-***

That Councillor Thornberry be thanked for her attendance at the meeting.

**30 WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee was informed that a meeting to scope the Ethical and Sustainable Investment Policy Task Group was being set up but only one member had come forward to take part in the scoping.

Councillor Abi Mills offered to attend the scoping meeting.

***Resolved:-***

That Councillor Abi Mills takes part in the scoping meeting for the Ethical and Sustainable Investment Policy Task Group.

---

Chair

(The meeting ended at 7.35 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact  
Jenny Kay, Democratic Services - email [jkay@lancaster.gov.uk](mailto:jkay@lancaster.gov.uk)**

