

CABINET

6.00 P.M.

3RD NOVEMBER 2015

PRESENT:- Councillors Eileen Blamire (Chairman), Janice Hanson (Vice-Chairman), Abbott Bryning, Darren Clifford, Karen Leytham, Richard Newman-Thompson, Margaret Pattison and David Smith

Also Present:

Councillor Caroline Jackson (Minute 44)

Officers in attendance:-

Mark Cullinan	Chief Executive
Sarah Taylor	Chief Officer (Governance) and Monitoring Officer
Mark Davies	Chief Officer (Environment)
Andrew Dobson	Chief Officer (Regeneration and Planning)
Andrew Clarke	Financial Services Manager
Liz Bateson	Principal Democratic Support Officer

40 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6th October 2015 were approved as a correct record.

41 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE LEADER

The Chairman advised that there were no items of urgent business.

42 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made at this point.

43 PUBLIC SPEAKING

Members were advised that there had been no requests to speak at the meeting in accordance with Cabinet's agreed procedure.

44 CALL-IN REFERRAL REPORT FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Cabinet received a report from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to advise Cabinet of the outcome of the call-in of the Cabinet decision with regard to the Storey – Tasting Garden (Cabinet Minute 37) and to request Cabinet to consider the recommendation of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to this matter. The report was presented by Councillor Jackson, a nominee of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and signatory to the Call-in.

The recommendation of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was as follows:-

(1) *That Cabinet considers approving the following decision:*

Consider that restoration of the artwork is not a high priority for the Council, but nevertheless a minimal amount of officer time will be provided to clarify the governance issues necessary to enable the Friends group to apply for major grant funding to restore the artwork as the lead partner with the Council. This funding would need to include a reasonable sum to cover appropriate project management of the restoration, plus insurance and future maintenance costs of the artwork to minimise any future liability on the Council's budget. Following the clarification of governance issues and clear permission to proceed, the Friends group to be given 12 months to raise the necessary funds. If fundraising is unsuccessful in this timescale, the Council to revert to the alternative masterplan option of improving the gardens without restoring the artwork.

Councillor Newman-Thompson proposed, seconded by Councillor Blamire:

“That the recommendation, as set out in the referral report from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, be approved with a report back to Cabinet in twelve months if the Friends fail to secure the necessary funding.”

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That restoration of the artwork is not a high priority for the Council, but nevertheless a minimal amount of officer time will be provided to clarify the governance issues necessary to enable the Friends group to apply for major grant funding to restore the artwork as the lead partner with the Council. This funding would need to include a reasonable sum to cover appropriate project management of the restoration, plus insurance and future maintenance costs of the artwork to minimise any future liability on the Council's budget. Following the clarification of governance issues and clear permission to proceed, the Friends group to be given 12 months to raise the necessary funds. If fundraising is unsuccessful in this timescale, the Council to revert to the alternative masterplan option of improving the gardens without restoring the artwork and this will be reported back to Cabinet.

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Chief Officer (Environment)

Reasons for making the decision:

The decision enables the Friends group to have the opportunity to raise the necessary funds to restore the artwork in order that the Tasting Garden can be enjoyed by our citizens and complement the wider business plan of the Storey Institute and allows for a report back to Cabinet in a year's time if the fundraising efforts are not successful. The decision also makes clear the level of officer support to be allocated.

45 MANAGEMENT OF ARTS INVESTMENTS

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Clifford)

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Officer (Regeneration & Planning) which provided an up to date position regarding Arts commissioning and options for consideration in terms of support for Arts in the district.

The options, options analysis, including risk assessment and officer preferred option, were set out in the report as follows:

	Option 1: Arts commissioning is not undertaken at the present time - current arts investment arrangements continue	Option 2: Arts commissioning is undertaken and initial work begins as soon as possible
Advantages	<p>Current arrangements deliver a good return and value for money for the Council</p> <p>Current arrangements are robust and well managed</p> <p>Current arrangements are consistent with criteria agreed as part of the Arts Commissioning Framework</p> <p>Less uncertainty created for Arts organisations with current SLA's</p> <p>No additional costs are incurred to meet resource requirements</p> <p>Allows time for funding and sectoral issues to stabilise</p> <p>No statutory requirement for the Council to introduce commissioning</p>	<p>Provides a refresh of current investments</p> <p>Additional information may be obtained from consultation/engagement with Arts sector and audiences</p> <p>Potentially new initiatives can be supported within the overall budget</p> <p>Provides longer term planning opportunities for successful delivery partners</p> <p>Provides a robust framework in which to secure continuous improvement and VFM, in accordance with statutory requirements</p>
Disadvantages	<p>Flexibility to invest in new initiatives is limited to any other budgets that may be available from time to time.</p> <p>Does not address potential gaps in service provision</p>	<p>Insufficient internal capacity at present, therefore additional costs will be needed to provide the resources required to develop and deliver Arts commissioning (subject to redirection away from other council priorities)</p> <p>The Council's investment may (or may not) be distributed differently creating uncertainty and risks for organisations with existing SLA's</p>
Risks	Risk of underperformance – very low and managed as part of the	Other priority areas of work may be affected as impact on

	monitoring and evaluation process	managerial time is inevitable Risk of underperformance – would be managed as part of the monitoring and evaluation process
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The Officer preferred Option was Option 1, which provides a good return on the Council’s investment in the Arts, avoids creating further instability in the Arts sector at a time when many changes are taking place and is manageable within existing staff resources.

The Council has invested in Arts in the district for many years and as a result of this and additional investment particularly by Lancashire County Council and the Arts Council, the district has a strong and growing arts and creative industries economy. This offer is an important part of the district’s “Place Offer” to those who wish to live and work here, to visitors, both local and from further afield, and it also makes an important contribution to quality of life for local communities.

The Council’s financial position is however under review as are the positions of other public sector funders to the arts, and it is difficult to justify investing in a commissioning strategy at this time until the future of these arrangements is determined.

Councillor Clifford proposed, seconded by Councillor Hanson:-

“That the recommendations, as set out in the report, be approved.”

Councillors then voted:-

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That the City Council’s existing Arts investment framework continues, subject to annual budget processes, until such a time as Cabinet determines that it wishes to take an alternative approach.
- (2) That, to ensure value for money and provide consistency, the commissioning criteria outlined in the Commissioning Framework and agreed by Cabinet in December 2012, as well as any relevant performance measures, be used as the basis of evaluation for the City Council’s investment in the Arts.

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Chief Officer (Regeneration & Planning)
 Chief Officer (Resources)

Reasons for making the decision:

Investment in the Arts supports the City Council’s Corporate Priority of Sustainable Economic Growth, contributing to the delivery of the corporate outcome “*The attractiveness and offer of the district, as a place to visit or invest in, will be improved.*”

SLA's were working well and it would be remiss to go down a route which would take away the City Council's commitment to that process.

46 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL MONITORING 2015/16 - QUARTER 2

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Newman-Thompson)

Cabinet received a joint report from the Chief Officer (Governance) and Chief Officer (Resources) which presented the corporate financial monitoring report for Quarter 2 of the 2015/16 monitoring cycle and provided an update on improvements being made in corporate performance management, monitoring and reporting and the effective use of business intelligence to inform decision-making.

No options were presented as the report was for comments and noting.

Councillor Newman-Thompson proposed, seconded by Councillor Clifford:-

"That the report be noted."

Councillors then voted:-

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That the report be noted.

Officers responsible for effecting the decision:

Chief Officer (Governance)
Chief Officer (Resources)

Reasons for making the decision:

The City Council's Performance Management Framework requires the regular reporting of operational, as well as financial performance.

47 URGENT BUSINESS REPORT

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Blamire)

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Officer (Governance) to advise Members of actions taken by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Members with regard to the City Council acting as an accountable body in connection with the Coastal Revival Fund.

Councillor Clifford proposed, seconded by Councillor Hanson:-

"That the recommendation, as set out in the report, be approved."

Councillors then voted:-

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That the actions taken by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Members in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, in respect of the following, be noted:-
- (1) *That the City Council agrees to act as the Accountable Body for the Venus and Cupid Arts Trust Coastal Revival Fund application.*
 - (2) *That a letter from the Chief Executive agreeing to act as the accountable body for the funding is written and sent to the Venus and Cupid Arts Trust at the earliest opportunity.*
 - (3) *That consultation is undertaken with a view to waiving call-in, in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny procedure rule 17, to enable the decision to be implemented immediately.*

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Chief Officer (Governance)

Reasons for making the decision:

The decision fulfils the requirements of the City Council's Constitution in advising Cabinet of urgent decisions taken by the Chief Executive in accordance with the City Council's Scheme of Delegation.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 6.25 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Liz Bateson, Democratic Services - telephone (01524) 582047 or email
ebateson@lancaster.gov.uk**

MINUTES PUBLISHED ON THURSDAY 5TH NOVEMBER, 2015.

**EFFECTIVE DATE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE DECISIONS CONTAINED IN THESE MINUTES:
FRIDAY 13TH NOVEMBER, 2015.**