

AT A MEETING of the CULTURE, COMMUNITIES AND RURAL AFFAIRS  
SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle,  
Winchester on Tuesday, 20 November 2012.

**PRESENT**

Chairman:  
p Councillor Elaine Still

Vice-Chairman:  
p Councillor Alan Rice, TD

Councillors:

p Alan Broadhurst	a Peter Mason
p Peter Chegwyn	p Alexis McEvoy
p Peter Edgar	p Frank Pearce
p Michael Geddes	p Jenny Radley
p Ron Hussey	p Thomas Thacker
p Roger Kimber	

Also in attendance: Councillor Keith Chapman, Executive Member for Culture and Recreation.

124. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Peter Mason, who was attending a meeting of the Police Authority.

125. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3, Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Non-Pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

126. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Culture, Communities & Rural Affairs Select Committee Meeting held on 21 June 2012 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

127. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman reported that as agreed at the previous meeting, the Income Generation Panel had re-convened to consider progress against the income generation recommendations on 7 November. Members were pleased to learn there had been good progress in increasing income in cultural and recreational services in the first two quarters of this financial year. A report on income generation was due to be provided to the whole committee for the January meeting.

The Chairman went on to inform Members regarding the threat posed by the fungal disease Charlara Fraxinea affecting Ash trees. To date there was no sign of the disease in Hampshire, but the County Council was carefully monitoring the condition of its own trees. This included monitoring its highway Ash trees which were estimated as comprising 7% of the overall highway tree stock. Press releases and information had been made available on the County Council's website with guidance given on how to report suspected cases to the Forestry Commission.

128. **HAMPSHIRE ARTS AND MUSEUMS SERVICE – TOWARDS A FULLY INTEGRATED MERGER WITH SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL (ARTS AND HERITAGE) AND WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL (MUSEUMS): UPDATE**

The Director of Culture Communities and Business Services gave a verbal update to the committee regarding the potential for a merger of the three authorities museums services to form a charitable trust. It was noted that the committee had been due to pre-scrutinise the business case for the merger at this meeting. Members heard that the business case was not yet at a point at which all three partners could agree, therefore further work was needed. It was noted that it was hoped a decision would now be taken in the new year.

RESOLVED:

The Committee requests to pre-scrutinise the business case prior to any future Executive Member Decision.

Pre scrutiny of the merger business case remain on the work programme for consideration at a future meeting.

129. **GRANT ALLOCATION PROPOSALS: PRE-  
SCRUTINY OF DECISION**

The Director of Culture Communities and Business Services gave a presentation to introduce the report regarding grant funding for culture and community organisations in Hampshire for 2013/14 (see Item 6 in the Minute Book). It was noted that Members of the committee had undertaken a review of grant allocation to culture and community organisations in 2011, which had resulted in recommendations regarding the criteria by which applications were assessed, and to increase consistency in processes across different grant streams. This had also coincided with a corporate review which had resulted in a single grant application process for grants allocated across the County Council.

It was highlighted that the grant allocations presented in the report related mainly to the Culture and Recreation Investment Fund and the Community Investment Fund. Members were informed that the remainder of the grants budget for 2013/14 would be allocated among the other grant streams, with approval of the Executive Member for those grants expected at a decision day in early 2013. It was noted that work was ongoing to review the strategy for investing in dance, the outcome of which could be reported to the committee in 2013.

Members asked questions to clarify points, and considered the proposed allocations outlined in Appendix two and three of the report. The following Members declared non-pecuniary interests in relation to this debate:

Cllr Tom Thacker declared he is Director and a Trustee of Whitchurch Silk Mill Trust

Cllr Peter Chegwyn declared he was involved with the Wickham Community Association

Cllr Alan Broadhurst declared he was Cabinet Member for Leisure at Eastleigh Borough Council which funded The Point

Cllr Elaine Still declared she was Cabinet Member for Communities Sport & Culture at Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council which funded the Whitchurch Silk Mill

A query was raised regarding the proposed grant allocation to The Point in Eastleigh, which had requested £50,000, however the recommended allocation was £18,000. The Member commented that the newly developed Berry Theatre was being administered through The Point, which was why additional funding was sought this year. Officers clarified that there had been no mention of the Berry Theatre in

Investment in Dance be considered for a future update

the application received from The Point. Members took the view that the application made by The Point should be revisited, to establish the link with the Berry Theatre and any implications this may have for the funding allocated.

Another Member sought an update on the Leigh Park Community Association, which had previously been reported to be in financial difficulty. Members were pleased to learn that a budget recovery plan was in place and progressing well. As a result it was hoped the Association could achieve a balanced budget by the end of the financial year.

**RESOLVED:**

The committee supported the proposed grant allocations to the Executive Member, subject to the issue raised regarding The Point/The Berry Theatre being investigated prior to the final decision on this grant application.

The views of the Committee to be noted by the Executive Member in relation to this decision

130. **THE OLYMPIC LEGACY**

The Director of Culture Communities and Business Services gave a presentation (see Item 7 in the Minute Book) regarding the success of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and how Hampshire intended to make the most of the Olympic legacy.

It was highlighted that 32 Olympians and 12 Paralympians were from Hampshire, and many had received funding support from the County Council at some point in their sporting journey. Members were also pleased to learn that crime dropped by 16% in Hampshire during the Olympics.

The big screen in Winchester for the public to watch the Games had been well received, and the Torch Relay very well supported when it came through Hampshire. Hampshire would also have a lasting legacy attached to the Games, as the trees used in the Olympic Park came from Hampshire. The Games had also had a significant impact on the Hampshire economy, due to the boost to local businesses as a result of people spending while out to watch the torch relay, and the contracts Hampshire businesses had won in connection with the Games.

The Olympics and Paralympics had been embraced by Hampshire schools, 491 of which had participated in the 'Get Set' Network. A survey of teachers suggested the Games influence had a positive effect on morale,

motivation and attainment. Consideration was being given to what could be learned from this so this positive impact could be continued.

It was reported that the Paralympics had a positive impact on the public perception of disability. Members commented on the potential to use Paralympians locally to inspire children about disabled sporting opportunities, and to continue to promote the positive image generally of disability.

It was also highlighted that girls dropping out of school sports was an issue, and particularly with Public Health responsibilities passing to Local Authorities in April 2013, the County Council was keen to use Hampshire based female Olympians as role models.

Members heard that a Hampshire London 2012 Legacy Strategy was being developed, based on a pyramid structure from supporting general fitness in the Hampshire Community through to supporting Hampshire Olympians and Paralympians. The intention of the strategy was to look at what the County Council could do to encourage a fitter, healthier Hampshire.

Members were pleased to hear about the success of the Games and the impact in Hampshire, and requested that these positive messages be communicated more widely. Members also wished to record their appreciation for the efforts of the Hampshire London 2012 Coordinator over the past two years.

Members commented that not all secondary schools gave children access to swimming opportunities, and requested that this be encouraged. It was noted that the County Council could not require schools to offer swimming, but did encourage schools to share swimming facilities where possible.

RESOLVED:

That the Officer be thanked for the presentation.

131. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chairman invited Members to comment on the Committee's Work Programme (Item 8 in the Minute Book).

It was noted that an update on income generation would be presented to the January Meeting, and that a further update on the museums merger proposal could be provided in January, with an opportunity for the

Consideration be given to publicising more widely the impact of the Olympics and Paralympics

committee to pre-scrutinise the proposals prior to any decision to be scheduled (which may require an additional meeting to be convened depending on timing, to be confirmed). It was also indicated that a further update on Olympic Legacy plans could be provided to a future meeting of the committee.

Members also wished to take the opportunity to note their thanks to the Culture Communities and Business Services Department for a recent Member tour of the Record Office and Manor Farm which Members found useful.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Committee's Work Programme be approved, subject to any amendments raised at this meeting.

The Work Programme be updated

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Chairman, 21 January 2013