

Executive Committee

9th April 2013

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Bill Hartnett (Chair), Councillor Greg Chance (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Rebecca Blake, Carole Gandy, Phil Mould, Mark Shurmer, Luke Stephens and Debbie Taylor

Also Present:

Councillors Andrew Brazier and Gay Hopkins

Officers:

J Bayley, J Cochrane, K Dicks, C Flanagan and H Mole

Committee Services Officer:

I Westmore

178. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

179. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

180. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements from the Leader.

181. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 12th March 2013 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

182. ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE TASK GROUP - FINAL REPORT

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Chair

The Committee received a presentation from the Chair of the Arts and Culture Centre Task Group, Councillor Gay Hopkins, to accompany the final report of the Group. Councillor Hopkins explained the background to the review, including the decision to co-opt former Councillor Malcolm Hall, a keen supporter of the arts locally, onto the Task Group.

The meeting was informed that a number of regional arts venues had been visited during the course of the review to experience what could be achieved. The outcome of the consultation with local residents and arts groups was outlined for the Committee, demonstrating widespread theoretical support for an arts venue amongst the public and a rather more lukewarm response from the local arts community who were, for the most part, keen to retain their established local ties and venues. Following on from the consultation, an audit was undertaken of the opportunities for partaking in the arts in the Redditch area and it was apparent that the overwhelming majority of the activities in which consultees wished to indulge were already available through existing provision.

In conclusion, the Group did not feel that there would be enough enthusiasm and business expertise available locally to establish and run an arts centre from a single, dedicated venue. It was clear that the Borough Council had no resources to establish such a Centre and it would require substantial work from a dynamic community group to realise this ambition. The make-up of the current groupings supporting the arts in Redditch was briefly outlined for the benefit of Members. The Group instead considered that promotion of existing arts groups and activities through an Arts Map and Arts Trail could be both achievable and positive.

The Executive Committee commended the Group on the report it had produced and there was a general consensus in favour of the recommendations which had been advanced. The focus on highlighting existing provision and providing access points for information on local arts activities was endorsed. It was considered that bringing together both information about the arts and also members of the arts community itself, without the need for an established central venue, was an achievable and worthwhile objective.

RESOLVED that

the following recommendations should be implemented in the short or medium term:

- 1) the Arts in Redditch Network, and the benefits to be accrued from membership of the network, should be promoted to local arts groups;**

(RECOMMENDATION to the Arts in Redditch Network).

- 2) the Arts in Redditch Network should maintain a list of existing arts groups in Redditch on their new website;

(RECOMMENDATION to the Arts in Redditch Network).

- a) the Council should continue to maintain a link from the local authority's website to the new Arts in Redditch Network website;
- 3) an online Redditch Arts Map, including an arts trail, outlining the location of public art works and venues in the Borough and linked to an icon on the new information kiosks in the town centre, should be introduced;

(RECOMMENDATION to the Arts in Redditch Network and to Choose How You Move, Worcestershire County Council).

- 4) art exhibition space, where local artists can display their work, should be introduced at the Palace Theatre and the Abbey Stadium;
 - a) the Arts in Redditch Network should promote opportunities to display local artists' work;

(RECOMMENDATION to the Arts in Redditch Network).

- 5) the Council should continue to provide support and advice to any community group aiming to introduce a new arts group in the town. In addition:
 - a) action should be taken to increase public awareness of the support and advice provided by the Council to community groups with an interest in the arts;
 - b) any new enquiries should be signposted to the Arts in Redditch Network to facilitate the formation of new arts groups;
 - c) a new logo be created for the arts in Redditch;
- 6) the evidence gathered by Members during the course of the review and the information contained in the Arts and Culture Centre Task Group's final report should be taken into account by Officers when producing the new Redditch Arts Strategy;

the following recommendations should be implemented in the long-term:

- 7) in an ideal world an arts centre would be established in Redditch by a community group. However, in order for this objective to be achieved the community group needs to be aware of and to address the following barriers:
- a) the extent to which local arts groups would make use of an arts centre;
 - b) the financial costs involved in establishing and maintaining an arts centre;
 - c) funding application requirements;
 - d) creating a sustainable business case;
 - e) legal liability and accountability issues;
 - f) availability of volunteers to operate the centre; and
 - g) management arrangements for the centre;

(RECOMMENDATION to the Arts in Redditch Network that this proposal be noted).

- 8) the Council should provide the following support and advice to any community organisation that aims to establish an arts and culture centre in the town:
- a) guidance on how to complete funding applications for grants;
 - b) advice on how to produce a business case; and
 - c) signpost groups to relevant expert contacts for further specialist help; and
- 9) the 'Creative Redditch' artwork should be prioritised for use on the next bus shelter that is installed in Redditch town centre.

183. BECOMING A SYSTEMS THINKING ORGANIZATION

Officers provided the Committee with a presentation on Systems Thinking and how this approach was being adopted to improve services across the authority. It was explained that Systems Thinking was a different approach to improving services to those adopted previously in that it sought to achieve improvement through the removal of waste steps from systems. Members were informed that staff were now embracing these new ways of working as knowledge of the process increased and the initial fear of change

was overcome. Many staff welcomed the increased empowerment with which they were provided and Officers added that steps were actively being pursued to promote similar, dynamic ways of working at the Council's partner organisations.

Members were keen to support the process that was being undertaken, recognising the good work that had been achieved to date and the opportunities for saving money through working smarter and also for sharing our learning with other public sector organisations. It was also recognised that the present developments were achieving improved outcomes over time for local residents and businesses. Officers were clear that the systems thinking approach was a continuing challenge and that further service improvements would be sought over time as new ways of working were rolled out.

RESOLVED that

the following means of involving Members in the Systems Thinking approach be adopted:

- a) **Practical Orientation Sessions of up to a day and half;**
- b) **Interventions – visiting services to see how improvements are planned and implemented;**
- c) **Portfolio Holders – discuss with Head of Services visiting interventions;**
- d) **“Seminars” – updates from interventions / presentations from service teams (2 or 3 a year); and**
- e) **potentially utilising the Shared Services Board to share learning with all Councillors.**

184. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The minutes of a recent meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee were received by the Committee.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 5th March 2013 be received and noted.

185. WORCESTERSHIRE SHARED SERVICES JOINT COMMITTEE

The minutes of the most recent meeting of the Worcestershire Shared Services Joint Committee were received by the Committee.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Worcestershire Shared Services Joint Committee held on 21st February 2013 be received and noted.

186. MINUTES / REFERRALS - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, EXECUTIVE PANELS ETC.

There were no minutes or referrals to consider under this item.

187. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

A report on the activity of the Committee's Advisory Panels and similar bodies was considered. It was reported that the Economic Advisory Panel was meeting as originally intended on 15th April and the next meeting of the Climate Change Advisory Panel had been rescheduled for 15th May 2013.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

188. ACTION MONITORING

The Committee received the latest Action Monitoring report and were informed that the Council's Housing Strategy team were seeking to develop their own protocol for the provision of accommodation for homeless people.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 8.09 pm

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Chair