

TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE & LEISURE COMMITTEE

Thursday, 2 September 2021

Present:

Councillor H Cameron (Chair)

Councillors	M Booth	B Kenny
	A Brame	C Spriggs
	P Cleary	KJ Williams
	P Gilchrist	S Williams
	J Johnson	G Wood

22 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed attendees and viewers to the meeting and reminded everyone that the meeting was webcast and retained on the Council's website.

23 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

24 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests.

25 MINUTES

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meeting of the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee held on 27 July 2021 be approved and adopted as a correct record

26 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

There were no questions, statements or petitions from the public or Members.

27 UPDATE ON PROGRESS & FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF WIRRAL MUSEUMS SERVICE

Andy McCartan, Assistant Director for Leisure, Libraries and Customer Engagement, and Jo Burns, Museums Manager, spoke to this report, which detailed the challenges and opportunities facing the service on reopening the Williamson Art Gallery and Birkenhead Priory to the public. Ventilation, to

make the buildings Covid safe, and catering were particular issues which were being tackled, and consultation on the cultural strategy was to start toward the end of 2021.

Members questioned the officers and established:

- The opening hours had been changed since before the lockdown and would allow weddings to be hosted in the evenings. Increased staffing would allow more opening hours
- Catering offers would develop over time and would include card payments
- There were aspirations for the Wirral Transport Museum although it was volunteer operated
- Staff capacity had limited opportunities for income generation until the issues around ventilation allowing greater visitor numbers had been resolved. Updates would be provided as works and solutions developed
- The temporary exhibition programme was to start before Christmas 2021
- The digital offer was being enhanced to enable more searches online
- Decarbonising was being tackled in different ways including investigating bus services and active travel.

Resolved:

That the contents of this report be noted and the ongoing work to increase high quality cultural engagement with Wirral Museums Service for residents and visitors be supported.

28 **QUARTER 1 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT**

Sarah Cox, Senior Finance Business Partner, presented this report which set out the financial monitoring information for the Committee as at quarter 1 (Apr – Jun) of 2021-22. There had been an income shortfall largely due to public events not taking place but some of the shortfall could be covered by Covid-19 additional funding. Planned savings were on track to be achieved. Capital schemes were listed and their finances were in a favourable position due to delays in commencing works.

Members questioned the detail of the report and established:

- The review of leisure facilities should be presented to Committee in November and could inform future spending
- Revenue expectations were reduced in line with reduced possible attendance at venues.

Resolved:

That

- (1) the projected year-end revenue forecast position of £0.328m adverse, as reported at quarter 1 (Apr – Jun) of 2021-22 be noted**

- (2) progress on the achievement of approved savings and the projected year end forecast position at quarter 1 (Apr – Jun) of 2021-22 be noted**
- (3) the reserves allocated to the Committee for future one-off commitments be noted**
- (4) the projected year-end capital forecast position of £4.914m favourable, as reported at quarter 1 (Apr – Jun) of 2021-22 be noted.**

29 **WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee was responsible for proposing and delivering an annual committee work programme. This work programme was to align with the corporate priorities of the Council, in particular the delivery of the key decisions which were within the remit of the Committee.

The Chair asked that a report be brought regarding part (b) of the Terms of Reference ((para 7.2(b) in Part 3(B) of the Constitution) i.e. community engagement, incorporating the Council's approach to equalities, inclusion communities, neighbourhoods and the voluntary and charitable sector, community wealth building and social value) possibly towards the end of the financial year.

Resolved -

That the work programme for the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee for the remainder of the 2021/22 municipal year be agreed subject to the addition of a report concerning part (b) of the Committee's Terms of Reference.