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TOURISM, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE & LEISURE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 8 March 2022

Present: Councillor H Cameron (Chair)

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

63 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.

64 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Chris Spriggs

65 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to consider whether they had any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or any other relevant interest in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state the nature of the interest. No interests were declared.

66 MINUTES

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meeting of the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee held on 18 January 2021 be approved and adopted as a correct record.

67 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

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

68 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

68.1 Statements and Petitions

69 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

70 **BIRKENHEAD CULTURE AND HERITAGE STRATEGY AND WIRRAL MUSEUMS SERVICE STRATEGY**

The Assistant Director – Chief Regeneration Officer and the Senior Manager for the Culture Strategy presented a report which presented the final versions of the Culture and Heritage Strategy for Birkenhead, alongside the Assistant Director for Leisure, Libraries and Customer Engagement and Museums Manager who presented the Wirral Museums strategy.

The report sought approval to take the aims and priorities of the strategies and an endorsement of the joint action plan as set out in appendix 3. The strategy and action plan plays a key role in delivering tourism and culture outcomes for the Council.

Members commented that the report was overall very positive and remarked on engagement with the public and the numbers responding to public consultation. Members also queried funding from external sources. Officers commented that external agencies did seem keen to undertake further work with the Council and do want to get on board. In regard to consultation, Members were informed that this was largely target at certain groups. Challenges were noted in terms of infrastructure, but growth and public interest was increasing. Members also queried ventilation and increasing capacity as well as costing out the strategy.

Resolved, That

(1) the existing policies and procedures for the management of Wirral's art and museums collections be approved;

(2) the draft Culture and Heritage Strategy for Birkenhead (Appendix 1) be approved;

(3) the draft Wirral Museums Service Strategy (Appendix 2) be approved; and

(4) the action plan set out at Appendix 3 be endorsed.

Resolved, That

(1) the existing policies and procedures for the management of Wirral's art and museums collections be approved;

(2) the draft Culture and Heritage Strategy for Birkenhead (Appendix 1) be approved;

(3) the draft Wirral Museums Service Strategy (Appendix 2) be approved; and

(4) the action plan set out at Appendix 3 be endorsed.

71 **GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

The Assistant Director for Leisure, Libraries and Customer Engagement presented the report which provided Members with an update on Grassroots Football Development, specifically those which had taken place since the last report to Committee in November 2020.

Members were reminded that Wirral was an area of strategic focus for Cheshire Football Association (FA) and the Football Foundation, and that the programme of work supported recommendations made within the Wirral Plan, Wirral's Local Football Facilities Plan and Wirral's Playing Pitch Strategy.

Members queried the quality of older grass pitches and anti-social behaviour, and were assured that liaison work was being undertaken, as well as engagement with clubs and stakeholders. Officers did note the significant demand for pitches and also confirmed that potential sites had been identified and work was being undertaken on the viability of the sites. The Chair raised a query about defibrillators being placed in pavilions. The Modernisation Manager for Neighbourhoods advised that there was a specific fund facilitated by the FA as well as a location map for existing defibrillators. This was noted as a priority.

Resolved, that –

1. The progress made in the development of the Grassroots Football Programme be noted.

2. The ongoing development and management of the Grassroots Football Programme be supported.

72 **BUDGET MONITORING QUARTER 3**

The Senior Business Partner presented the report of the Director of Resources which set out the financial monitoring information for the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee as at quarter 3 (Apr – December) of 2021-22.

The report provided Members with an overview of budget performance to enable the Committee to take ownership of their specific budgets and provide robust challenge and scrutiny to Officers on the performance of those budgets.

Resolved, that –

- 1. The projected year-end revenue forecast position of £0.026m favourable, as reported at quarter 3 (Apr – Dec) of 2021-22 be noted**
- 2. Progress on the achievement of approved savings and the projected year end forecast position at quarter 3 (Apr – Dec) 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 £4.258m favourable, as reported at quarter 3 (Apr – Dec) of 2021-22 be noted**

73 **WORK PROGRAMME**

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 invited the Heritage Champion, Councillor Jerry Williams to update Committee on heritage achievements over the 2021/22 Municipal Year. Councillor Williams updated Members on activities regarding the Battle of Brunanburh, conservation area appraisals, blue plaques, Tranmere tunnels, Woodside Waterfront and Wirral History Fair.

The chair thanked Councillor Williams for his work over the year and requested that The Community Safety strategy be kept on the work programme.

Resolved – That,

The content of the Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure Committee work programme which is proposed in this report for the remainder of the 2021/22 municipal year be agreed.

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