

## **RISK COMMITTEE OF THE BARBICAN CENTRE BOARD**

**Wednesday, 24 July 2019**

Minutes of the meeting of the Risk Committee of the Barbican Centre Board held at Committee Rooms, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Wednesday, 24 July 2019 at 10.00 am

### **Present**

#### **Members:**

Deputy Tom Sleight (Chairman)	Deputy Wendy Hyde
Deputy Dr Giles Shilson (Deputy Chairman)	Alderman David Graves
Russ Carr (External Member)	Judith Pleasance

### **In Attendance**

#### **Officers:**

Sir Nicholas Kenyon	- Managing Director, Barbican Centre
Sandeep Dwesar	- Chief Operating & Financial Officer, Barbican Centre
Matthew Lock	- Head of Internal Audit and Risk Management
Sarah Wall	- Group Accountant, Barbican Centre
Laura Whitticase	- Organisational Development & Policy Manager, Barbican Centre
Cornell Farrell	- Property Facilities Manager, Barbican Centre
Sheree Miller	- Deputy Head of Audience Experience & Operations, Barbican Centre
Nick Adams	- Senior Policy & Communications Manager, Barbican Centre
Leanne Murphy	- Town Clerk's Department

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Alasdair Nisbet.

#### **2. DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF ANY PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA**

There were no declarations.

#### **3. MINUTES**

The public minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2019 were approved as a correct record.

#### **4. EDITORIAL GUIDANCE ON USE OF POTENTIALLY OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE**

The Committee received a report of the Artistic Director providing an update on guidance for staff around the organisation's approach to use of potentially offensive language in the editorial and copy that the Barbican publishes. The following comments were made:

- Members were advised that there had previously been no set process for managing the use of offensive language which had now been

developed through research of the codes of practice of other organisations.

- Guiding questions had been developed to identify if the context of the use of offensive language was justifiable. The process would also now ensure that use of stronger language, e.g. swear words and derogatory language, would be signed off by Senior Management or the Managing Director if necessary.
- A Member requested an example of a situation where offensive language was an issue. Members were advised that the Rolling Stones biopic Cocksucker Blues was shown at the Barbican and an alternative title was used in some instances due to the offensive title.
- Members agreed that a consistent and objective framework was needed to ensure the risks from offensive language were identified and well-managed.
- A Member voiced concern regarding the overall context of the use of offensive language, e.g. from a political view, stating that the Barbican needed to be careful not to be seen as promoting certain views in a time of increasing strong views even from an artistic point of view. It was noted that the list of questions all concerned the context of the use of language and how the words were being used.
- In response to a query regarding the involvement of performers in the decisions regarding offensive language and potential push back as the artist may not understand the potential issue, Members were advised that everything would be agreed between all parties and signed off before anything was published.
- A Member noted that fundraising, which had been discussed by the Committee in the past, received lots more publicity and queried whether the procedure was still adequate to manage this risk. Members were advised that Barbican provisions were adequate, but it was agreed that this could become an increasing issue in the future particularly with regards to what gifts were acceptable. It was noted that the Gift Advisory Committee provided advice on what the Barbican should be doing and asking concerning major extreme gifts.

**RESOLVED** – That Members agree the suggested guidance and provide feedback suggesting any necessary amendments.

## 5. **INTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Head of Audit and Risk Management providing an update on Internal Audit activity undertaken at the Barbican Centre since the last report made in January 2019.

- Members were advised that there were currently no outstanding live red priority recommendations.

- Officers agreed to update Appendix 4 to provide Members with the live green priority recommendations.
- In response to a query regarding the draft report concerning the audit of Financial Monitoring, Members were advised that the report had been finalised and ready to be circulated.
- It was noted that the main recommendation was for the 5-year plan, which had always been circulated internally, would now be shared with Members of the Committee and the Board.
- It was highlighted that the views of the Committee were important, and Members were encouraged to provide risk input throughout the planning process.

**RESOLVED** – That Members note:

- the delivery position for the 2018-19 Internal Audit Plan, including audit review outcomes for recently finalised audits;
- the outcome of Barbican-related fraud investigations;
- live high priority recommendation details;
- planned audits for 2019-20.

**6. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

**7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

There were no urgent items.

**8. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED – That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

**Item No.**

10-14

**Paragraph No.**

3

**9. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

The non-public minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2019 were approved.

**10. INTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE (NON-PUBLIC APPENDIX)**

The Board received a non-public appendix to be read in conjunction with Item 5 concerning the Internal Audit update.

11. **PROGRAMMING RISK REGISTER**

The Committee received a report of the Artistic Director concerning potential risks associated with forthcoming programmed activities at the Barbican Centre along with a Programming Controversial Risk Register.

12. **RISK UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Operations and Buildings advising Members of the risk management system in place at the Barbican and updating on the significant risks that have been identified and outlining measures for mitigation of these risks.

13. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

14. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

There were no urgent items.

**The meeting ended at 10.45 am**

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Chairman

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