

CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LIBRARIES COMMITTEE

Monday, 4 September 2017

Minutes of the meeting of the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee
held at Guildhall

Present

Members:

Graham Packham (Chairman)	Ann Holmes
Vivienne Littlechild (Deputy Chairman)	Deputy Wendy Hyde
Munsur Ali	Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark
Alexander Barr	Andrew Mayer
Deputy John Bennett	Jeremy Mayhew
Peter Bennett	Sylvia Moys
Deputy David Bradshaw	Barbara Newman
Tijs Broeke	Deputy Dr Giles Shilson
Deputy Michael Cassidy	Jeremy Simons
Thomas Clementi	Mark Wheatley
Anne Fairweather	
Deputy, the Rev Stephen Haines	
Graeme Harrower	
Prem Goyal	
Deputy Tom Hoffman	

In Attendance:

Bridget Sawyers – Public Arts Consultant, Thames Tideway (for item 7)

Officers:

Peter Lisley	-	Assistant Town Clerk/Cultural Hub Director
Julie Mayer	-	Town Clerk's
Andrew Buckingham	-	Town Clerk's
Nick Bodger	-	Town Clerk's
Carol Boswarthack	-	Community and Children's Services
Colin Buttery	-	Director of Open Spaces
Bob Warnock	-	Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Christopher Earlie	-	Department of Open Spaces
Simon Glynn	-	Department of the Built Environment
Geoff Pick	-	Culture, Heritage and Libraries Department
Sara Pink	-	Culture, Heritage & Libraries Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Deputy Kevin Everett, Alderman Sir Roger Gifford, Alderman John Garbutt, Caroline Haines, Wendy Mead (Chief Commoner), Judith Pleasance and Deputy Richard Regan.

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Mark Wheatley declared a general, non-pecuniary interest in respect of agenda item 18 (Outdoor Arts Programme) by virtue of his position as an independent

(non-Trustee) Director of 'Baby Fun Trading'; a company associated with Tommys.

3. **MINUTES**

The public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting of 10 July 2017 were approved.

Matters arising

- Members noted that the public scanner at the Barbican Library was now working after a lengthy delay. The Chairman was concerned that the IS Department must understand that they retain responsibility for the quality of services even if they are outsourced to a 3rd party. The Chairman of the IT Sub Committee, who is also a Member of this Committee, advised that he had arranged to meet with the IT Director this week and would raise this issue.
- In response to a query about the Pocket Book, the Director of the LMA advised that the first copy had been produced in 1788 and this early edition was available at the meeting.

4. **KEATS HOUSE PREMISES LICENCE APPLICATION**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces in respect of the Department's forthcoming application for a Premises Licence for Keats House. During the discussion and questions, the following points were noted:

- Officers had engaged with the Licensing Team at the City of London Corporation at an early stage and this had been very helpful in drafting the application.
- Consultation would be both statutory as well as engagement with neighbours; i.e., advising them how and where to submit comments etc.
- The application would be prescriptive in terms of use of the House and Garden, off sales and regulated entertainment. Members noted that both the House and Garden had hosted successful events, with no complaints.
- Officers planned to follow the good practice used by Tower Bridge in events management.
- Conditions on the Licence would emerge as the application progressed.

RESOLVED, that – the submission of an application for a Premises Licence, to the London Borough of Camden, be approved

5. **KEATS HOUSE ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS FUNDED BY CAMDEN COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) FUND**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces in respect of the House's successful grant application for £58,000 of CIL funding. Members noted that this project was low risk and therefore likely to take a faster route through the City of London Corporation's Project Gateway

Procedure. The Assistant Town Clerk/Cultural Hub Director advised that the Officer Scheme of Delegation was currently under review and this would include revisiting thresholds. The report would be presented to the Projects Sub Committee on 7th September and there should be no risk to timescales. RESOLVED, that – the project be progressed via the Corporate Project Procedure.

6. **CENTRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME - INSPIRING LONDON THROUGH CULTURE: RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LIBRARIES COMMITTEE**

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Town Clerk/Cultural Hub Director in respect of the second round of grant applications under the Central Grant's Programme's '*Inspiring London through Culture*' funding theme.

In response to a question about providing a brief description of projects for which grants are NOT recommended for support by the Officer Panel, Members noted that it is current practice in City Corporation grant reporting for this information not to be included. Officers agreed to investigate whether it would be possible to include descriptions of projects not recommended for support in public reports going forward or if this would necessitate the report being moved to the non-public session.

RESOLVED, that:

1. The recommendations for applications under the '*Inspiring London through Culture*' funding stream, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, be approved.
2. The Change of Use application from the London Symphony Orchestra be approved.

7. **PROPOSED ARTWORKS FOR BLACKFRIARS EMBANKMENT FORESHORE**

The Committee received a presentation and model in respect of the proposed artworks for Blackfriars Embankment Foreshore. The Public Arts Consultant for Thames Tideway was in attendance to demonstrate the model and take questions from Members. Members noted that the proposal would be subject to an application to the City Arts Initiative (CAI) later in the year.

During the presentation and questions, the following points were noted:

- The artist sought to use a new space on the river; framing existing views and making new ones.
- The development would be outside the navigation channel and therefore unaffected by tidal flow. The artist had worked closely with the Environmental Agency and the Port of London Authority.

- The Reviewing Panel had requested a noise assessment but it was expected that, despite the proximity from Embankment, the river on the south side should mean that traffic noise would not be excessive. The area would be as open as possible, allowing plenty of access.
- As the area could take 1500 standing spaces; this new space would provide opportunities for events such as the Lord Mayor's Fireworks and '*Illuminated River*'.
- Future maintenance costs would be included as part of the agreement to proceed.

In concluding, the Chairman and Members commended an exciting project and inspirational model.

8. **SCULPTURE IN THE CITY 2107 UPDATE**

Members received a presentation from the Assistant Director, Department of the Built Environment, which included a short film showing public reactions to this year's 'Sculpture in the City' exhibition. Members noted that six new locations had been introduced this year, including the Lloyds Building.

- Members noted strong, positive responses to the exhibits; the opportunities presented by the educational component; i.e. 'Archikids' and enhancements to the public realm; all of which sought to attract talent and tenants to the City. International delegations had visited the exhibits as part of London Festival of Architecture and Open House tours.
- There was a lengthy discussion about conceptual art, which had featured strongly in this year's exhibits, and it was accepted that this might not be to everyone's taste. The officer confirmed that he was not aware of any complaints.
- There was a general agreement to the City not being prescriptive about the exhibits, given the spirit of goodwill which makes Sculpture in the City possible. Members noted that at the inception of Sculpture in the City, seven years ago, it was agreed that artists would be selected by an independent panel and not the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee.
- Members agreed that the gender diversity of artists should hopefully be more balanced next year but it was noted that this had been the case in previous exhibitions. It was also suggested that Embassies be approached for recommendations.

The Chairman and Members thanked the officer for an insightful and positive presentation.

9. **BARBICAN AND COMMUNITY LIBRARIES**

Due to time pressure on the agenda, it was agreed to defer this presentation to the next meeting.

At 12.50, Members agreed to suspend standing orders to conclude the business on the agenda.

10. **BARBICAN AND COMMUNITY LIBRARIES CUSTOMER SURVEY**

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of two recent in-depth surveys of users. Responses were received from 2898 adults and 309 children and Members commended the Head of Barbican Community Libraries and her staff for the excellent feedback.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

11. **CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION CULTURAL STRATEGY**

Members considered a report of the Assistant Town Clerk/Cultural Hub Director in respect of the Cultural Strategy, which would expire at the end of December 2017. The report sought Members' approval to the strategy, noting that the Committee had overall responsibility for the strategy but that given the cross-cutting way in which culture was delivered across the organisation, it would be presented to many City of London Corporation Committees during the autumn, before its final approval by the Policy and Resources Committee and Court of Common Council in December 2017.

During the discussion, Members made the following suggestions:

- Include references to public realm enhancements.
- Members asked for a final, marked up copy to be circulated, once the Strategy had been presented to the various committees. The Assistant Town Clerk/Cultural Hub Director advised that, if any substantial changes were made to the Strategy, Members could receive a further version at the next meeting.
- Members noted that there would be a breakfast briefing on Wednesday 6 September for the Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of those Committees receiving the Strategy.
- Finally, Members suggested that the Strategy should be 2018-2022.

RESOLVED, that – the Draft Cultural Strategy be recommended for formal adoption by the City of London Corporation.

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

In response to a question about the route of the IAAF Marathon, Members noted that Guildhall Yard was used for camera shots and the equipment had taken up a lot of space.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

- The Director of the LMA advised that the LMA had won the 2017 National Archive Volunteering Project of the Year award for its Speak Out (LGBT) project. The judging panel described it as 'exceptional in empowering partnership with the LGBTQ+ community, resulting in benefits for volunteers, staff skills and collections at LMA, and reaching a wide audience through an onsite exhibition and with a demonstrable sense of community recognition and value for participants.' The award is made by the Archives and Records Association (UK and Ireland).
- Members noted the success of the Londinium event and were encouraged to visit.

14. 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.

15 - 20

Paragraph No.

3

15. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

The non-public minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2017 were approved.

16. LICENCE FOR FRIENDS OF GUILDHALL ART GALLERY TO SITE DONATION BOXES ON GUILDHALL ART GALLERY PREMISES

Members considered and approved a report of the Assistant Town Clerk and Cultural Hub Director.

17. TEN KEATS GROVE, HAMPSTEAD (FORMERLY THE HEATH LIBRARY) PROPOSED LICENCE RENEWAL TO KEATS COMMUNITY LIBRARY (KCL)

Members considered and approved a report of the Director of Open Spaces.

18. OUTDOOR ARTS PROGRAMME (NEW CITY OF LONDON FESTIVAL MODEL): EVENTS FOR SPRING 2018

Members Agreed to defer this report to the next meeting of the Committee.

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

There were no questions.

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

There were no items.

The meeting ended at 13.10