

CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LIBRARIES COMMITTEE

Monday, 17 July 2023

meeting of the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee held at Committee Room 3
- 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Monday, 17 July 2023 at 11.00 am

Present

Members:

Munsur Ali (Chairman)
John Foley (Deputy Chairman)
Emily Benn
James Bromiley-Davis
John Griffiths
Wendy Hyde
Wendy Mead
Ian Seaton
Dawn Wright

Eamonn Mullally
Deborah Oliver
Alpa Raja
Anett Rideg
Ian Seaton
Mark Wheatley
Dawn Wright

Also present: Deputy Ann Homes (Chief Commoner)

In Attendance

Officers:

Rachel Levy	- Community & Children's Services
Jayne Moore	- Town Clerk's Department
Emma Markiewicz	- London Metropolitan Archives
Will Gompertz	- Barbican Centre
Charlotte Dos Santos	- Innovation and Growth
Luciana Magliocco	- Innovation and Growth
Laurie Miller-Zutshi	- Innovation and Growth
Yousra Salem	- Innovation and Growth
Damian Nussbaum	- Innovation and Growth
Kate Poulter	- Innovation and Growth
Rob Shakespeare	- Environment
Simon Glynn	- Environment
Andrew Buckingham	- Town Clerk's Department
Mark Jarvis	- Financial Services
Emily Rimington	- Legal Services
Matthew Cooper	- Town Clerk's Department
Kate Whitbourn	- Innovation and Growth
Susana Barreto	- City Surveyor's Department
Steven Chandler	- Surveyor's and Property Services

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Alderman Bronek Masojada and Irem Yerdelem.

The following Members observed the meeting online: Deputy Madush Gupta, Caroline Haines, Elizabeth King, Judith Pleasance, Antony Manchester, and Jeanette Newman.

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

Deborah Oliver declared the following interests (in respect of item 9): Barbican library member, member of Barbican Association, member of a Barbican house group.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED, That the public minutes of the meeting of 22 May 2023 be approved as an accurate record of the proceedings.

4. **MINUTES OF KEATS HOUSE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Committee noted the minutes of the 23 June 2023 meeting of the Keats House Consultative Committee.

5. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

The Committee noted the report of the Clerk.

On action 3, Members asked whether an update was available on an Officer working group and whether clarification on cultural strategy leadership and timetable might be available, noting the Committee's Terms of Reference that referenced cultural strategy leadership and the Culture, Heritage & Libraries (CHL) Committee's primacy in determining that strategy.

The meeting heard that plans for a working group were under way, that a draft outline paper for it had been shared informally with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Policy & Resources (P&R) Committee, and that the paper was expected to be forwarded to the executive leadership ahead of presentation to the CHL Committee in the autumn time. In response to Member queries about why CHL Committee was not sighted on that documentation ahead of the autumn time, the meeting heard that the draft was being discussed upstream of its submission to the CHL Committee in order to ensure that the contents and recommendations were appropriate. The meeting heard that a recommendation of the draft paper was that the strategies themselves were to be submitted to the CHL Committee in the first instance, to be subsequently shared with the P&R Committee for information.

Members asked that the Chair and Deputy Chair of CHL be involved in such discussions in future.

6. **FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee noted the Forward Plan

7. **DESTINATION CITY OVERVIEW**

Members received a presentation providing an overview of the Destination City programme. The main points covered in the presentation were as follows:

- A recap of the Destination City programme, its purpose and vision;
- An overview of the core Destination City priority programmes;
- The core Destination City marketing and events calendar;
- Priority audience segments; and
- The adjacent Destination City workstreams, delivered across the Corporation.

Members congratulated Destination City (DC) on the presentation and made the following points:

- There is benefit in further information on how targets were expected to be met
- Details of the steering group's membership would be welcome
- More information on the extent to which the plan aligns with City of London (CoL) core objectives would be helpful
- It is important to provide advance notice of events (for key stakeholders including CoL tour guides, Guildhall Art Gallery, students, and small businesses)
- There is merit in utilising the CoL Common Council to nurture brand partnerships
- There are further opportunities to reach out to the wider public via election communication material
- It is important to mesh cultural strategy and DC activity, ensuring that culture underpins all activity
- There are further opportunities to streamline strategy communications with corporate partners and City BIDs
- Proactive engagement with City of London Police, residents, business, BIDs, educational institutions and embassies (including for unique events such as the Lord Mayor's Show) is vital
- Some of the targets and spend given appeared to be low

The meeting heard that a meta-model and business intelligence dashboard could be shared with the Committee, together with supporting strategies, and that stakeholder involvement and consistency with CoL objectives was core to DC's strategy with further detailed information on those strategies to be submitted to future Committees. The meeting heard that DC liaised closely with City of London Police, and that further opportunities to interact with CoL membership, corporate partners, and electoral services were being explored, noting the opportunities and challenges of involving brand partners and noting also the recent City BID strategy meetings and planned resident surveys. The meeting heard that many baseline assumptions and figures in respect of targets were pre-pandemic, and that part of DC's remit was to grow audience and engagement following pandemic disruption.

In response to a question around timelines for further information, the meeting heard that DC was feeding into the CoL communications team strategy and that the timeline was subject to that schedule.

More detailed information on the steering group's membership was to be shared in a private session for confidentiality reasons.

8. KEATS HOUSE ACTIVITIES PLAN 2023/24

Members congratulated the Keats House team on their work, and commented that there was merit in further integrating the CoL's assets into Keats House activities and its website.

RESOLVED, That the Keats House Activities Plan 2023/24 be approved.

9. BARBICAN LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM

The Committee received the report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.

A Member sought clarification on when the subsidised residents' rate would be known, commenting also that some Barbican residents might be disappointed that fees were being charged. The meeting heard that fees had not yet been set and that the same model would be used as that of the Artizan St library - and that any hire would be managed as a library space rather than a community space.

In response to questions on whether the deterrent effect of late fees would be lost if late fees were reduced or removed, the meeting heard that libraries across the country were reviewing their policies on late fees, and that evidence suggested that late fees generally did not impact significantly on returns.

Members commented that hospitality services were expected at such venues, noting the restrictions inherent in their provision because of the nature of the building and noting that library staff time would be a factor.

10. REVENUE OUTTURN 2022-23

The Committee noted the revenue outturn for 2022/23 (showing an overall unfavourable variance to final budget of £0.614m), noting also that there are no carry forward requests for 2023/24 in relation to the CHL Committee.

Commenting that budget underspends would eventually be coming to an end, a Member sought clarification on that for the future and also on "reduced income".(as per section 3.1 of the report). The meeting heard that further reviews would take place in the autumn period, including that of the annual allocation and of income levels (relating particularly to Monument).

A Member asked whether a contingency fund was available for the CHL Committee. The meeting heard that contingency funds were held at Finance/P&R level and that each Committee was awarded an annually-

approved fund allocation. No decision on those budget estimates has been finalised.

11. 'MAKERSPACE' IN ARTIZAN STREET LIBRARY & COMMUNITY CENTRE - CHARGES

A Member asked whether unwaged customers and/or JSA recipients might benefit from further reductions. The meeting heard that such users would be considered for lower rates.

In response to a question on further resident engagement, the meeting heard that further wider-scale resident engagement was planned that would include a community sewing group and a festival of making.

RESOLVED, That Members agree to the proposed fees as per Option 3 as set out in section 10 of the report of the Director of Community & Children's Services, to include discounts for unwaged and JSA-receiving users.

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

There were no questions.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

There was no other business.

14. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED, that – under Section 100(A) 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 I of the Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

15. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

RESOLVED, That the non-public minutes of the meeting of 22 May 2023 be approved as an accurate record of the proceedings.

The Committee noted that a Blue Plaque application (Royal National Lifeboat Institution) had been declined due to slavery connections and the lack of a clear CoL policy on the subject.

16. CITY ARTS INITIATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE

Destination City confirmed (in response to a question) that cultural trail-type installations were being actively explored alongside funding opportunities for such trails.

Following a question on the timescale for a resolution on the issue of the proposed Shakespeare folio sculpture, the meeting heard that resident feedback had been largely resistant to the original concept and that there a more ambitiously-scoped response to commemorate the anniversary was now being considered, to include interactive options - with no timescale currently available.

Members commented that the distinctive and popular 'Wild Table of Love' sculpture by Gillie and Marc did not feature on the illustration on p.75 of the agenda pack, and recommended that it be retained.

RESOLVED, That the Committee approve the City Arts Initiative's recommendations in relation to proposal 1: Philip Colbert Studio – Lobster Sculpture Trail – reject as the aesthetics of the lobster sculptures are unlikely to enhance the public realm and unsuitable site locations proposed.

17. IMPLEMENTING CORPORATE CHARITIES REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS - KEATS HOUSE (1053381)

Members noted that, if the resolutions are approved, they would be signed on behalf of the City of London Corporation, as written resolutions, by an officer under the terms of the delegated authority sought at recommendation 3.

In relation to the current negotiations for the renewal of the licence for use of the Keats Library (the building adjacent to Keats House (KH)), Members noted that this was a separate workstream. However, the recommendations in this report would facilitate improved and longer-term arrangements for the library building.

In response to a question on the timescale, the meeting heard that there was an expectation that the resolutions could be implemented ahead of the anticipated expiry of the licence for the library in April 2024.

RESOLVED, That Members, collectively acting for the City of London Corporation as trustee of Keats House (1053381) and being satisfied that it is in the best interests of the charity and its beneficiaries,:

- note the report and approve the resolution in the form presented in Appendix A in the exercise of the Trustee's powers under section 280 of the Charities Act 2011 to effect administrative changes for the charity's governance to support effective charity management and administration;
- authorise Bates Wells to file the section 280 resolution (per Appendix A) with the Charity Commission, the resolution being a variation to the governing document of the charity; and
- authorise officers, and the external legal advisors, Bates Wells, to take any other relevant or appropriate action to support and implement this approval.

18. BARTHOLOMEW FAIR UPDATE

The Committee received and noted presentation providing an overview of the Bartholomew Fair programme and plans that took into account previous CHL recommendations. The main points covered in the presentation were as follows:

- Aims and Objectives for Bartholomew Fair
- Programme Concept and Planned Activity
- Stakeholder Engagement

- Marketing and Communications Plan
- Partnerships
- Measurement and Reporting

The meeting noted that the steering group (referenced at item 7) comprised CHL Members, CoL BIDs, key CoL attractions, and CoL officers - and that engagement with CoL livery companies was ongoing, particularly for the 2024 iteration.

Members noted that the budget presented to the Committee in May 2023 was unchanged, and that 55% of the spend was on artistic programming, 30% on event management and marketplace elements, the remainder being on marketing.

Noting the short lead time, the meeting heard that updates and briefings would be provided to a stakeholder group that included CHL members (including the Chair and Deputy Chair of the CHL Committee) ahead of the 31 August start date, with minutes of those meetings available on request. Members also noted that the DC executive had lost a key staff member recently that had impacted on delivery.

Members commented that there were fruitful opportunities for engagement (ahead of future iterations) with a broader range of entities including the Barts Guild, St Bartholomew Hospital Museum, the Barbican library, the Barbican Centre, City of London guides, and groups representing young people.

Several Members expressed disappointment that the matter was being discussed in the non-public section of the meeting, notwithstanding the restrictions and confidentiality requirements around media and publicity. Members also expressed concern that media considerations appeared to be a rationale for items being moved to the non-public sections of meetings, noting also the need to carefully manage the media release schedule to ensure clarity, consistency and accuracy.

19. THE CITY'S CARRIAGES - CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

The Committee noted the report of the City Surveyor.

A Member noted an earlier budget overspend on the City's carriages, and asked whether the same contractor was being used. The meeting heard that the choice of contractor was not finalised as the work was of a different nature.

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

There were no questions.

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

There was no other business.

The meeting ended at 1.20 pm

Chairman

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