

CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LIBRARIES COMMITTEE

Monday, 16 September 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee held at Dr Johnson's House, Gough Square, EC4A 3DE on Monday, 16 September 2024 at 11.00 am

Present

Members:

Munsur Ali (Chairman)	Deputy Alpa Raja
John Griffiths (Deputy Chairman)	Anett Rideg
Suzanne Ornsby KC	David Sales
John Foley	Ian Seaton
Jaspreet Hodgson	Deputy Dawn Wright
Wendy Hyde	Aaron Anthony Jose Hasan D'Souza
Wendy Mead OBE	Brendan Barns
Deborah Oliver	

In Attendance

Officers:

Elizabeth Scott	- Head of Guildhall Art Gallery, Town Clerks
Steven Chandler	- City Surveyor's Department
Damian Nussbaum	- Director of Innovation & Growth
Rob Shakespeare	- Keats House, Open Spaces Department
Jayne Moore	- Town Clerk's Department
Rachel Levy	- Community and Children's Services
Omkar Chana	- Innovation and Growth
Andrew Buckingham	- Town Clerk's
Jen Beckermann	- Private Secretary to the Chairman of Policy and Resources
Gregory Moore	- Deputy Town Clerk

1. APOLOGIES

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

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED, That the public minutes of the meeting of 15 July 2024 be approved as an accurate record of the proceedings.

4. CULTURE STRATEGY - DEVELOPMENT AND UPDATE

Members heard an update on the culture strategy.

5. **GUILDHALL LIBRARY TRANSFORMATION**

The update on the Guildhall Library transformation was deferred.

6. **UPDATE ON DR JOHNSON'S HOUSE**

The meeting received an update on Dr Johnson's House by its Director.

7. **FLEET STREET QUARTER BID**

The meeting viewed a presentation on the Fleet Street Quarter Bid.

8. **BARBICAN AND COMMUNITY LIBRARIES UPDATE**

The Committee noted the report of the Executive Director, Community & Children's Services, that provided an overview of Barbican and Community Libraries since 2023.

Members noted the wide variety of events, activities and projects offered by the service to support both the learning and development and economic needs of people in the communities who use them, noting also the steady increase in post-pandemic visits and issues as the services continues to support the wider work of the sector through collaboration with other departments, other boroughs and national organisations.

9. **CAI UPDATED TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The meeting considered the report of the Director of Innovation & Growth and of the Head of Profession (Culture).

RESOLVED, that the amendments to the updated City Arts Initiative Terms of Reference for 2024- 2025 be approved.

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

11. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

12. **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.

Item	Paragraph

13. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED, That the non-public minutes of the meeting of 15 July 2024 be approved as an accurate record of the proceedings.

14. UPDATE ON MONUMENT VISITOR CENTRE PROPOSALS

15. UPDATE ON STATUES

16. DESTINATION ADVISORY BOARD - UPDATE

Members received an update on the Destination Advisory Board, noting the following:

- The appointment of 2x senior roles on the Destination Hub and the Head of Profession for Culture, continuing the implementation of the recommendations from the Martin Review previously agreed at CHL and P&R;
- the appointment of Emma Markiewicz as the Culture SRO;
- the appointment of Jen Beckermann, previously the Policy Chair's Executive Director and Private Secretary, as the Destination City SRO;
- the 2-way split as follows:
 - Emma Markiewicz providing 0.2 FTE focused on Culture
 - Jen Beckermann providing 0.5 FTE focussed on Destination

Members noted that the new set-up would enable the two SROs to focus on their areas, with some intentional overlap, and that the Culture SRO would bring delivery plans to the Committee once the approach has been considered. Members also noted that a Destination Director post is vacant funded from the CHL budget of £1.7M that would be transferred to the Culture SRO – one option being for that post to remain a senior post fully dedicated to the culture agenda.

17. RELOCATION OF BANKSY ARTWORK (COLP SENTRY BOX) - REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN

Members noted the report of the Clerk.

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

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

The Deputy Chairman made the following statement in the non-public part of the meeting:

“Members may recall that at our last meeting back in July, discussion got quite heated and, in my case, I allowed certain frustrations to boil over. My behaviour and language were inappropriate and disrespectful, for which I unreservedly apologise, to you Chair, to Members and, of course, to our officers. I honestly believe this was out of character. It will certainly not happen again.

As we will hear shortly, with the appointment of a new SRO for Culture, the Committee is at a really important and exciting juncture. It is a great opportunity to reset relationships and introduce a new positivity to the Committee's work. Thank you.”

20. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

The meeting ended at 1.20 pm

Chairman

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