



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING : Monday, 28th January 2019

PRESENT : Cllrs. Coole (Chair), Ryall (Vice-Chair), Hawthorne (Spokesperson),
Dee, Finnegan, Haigh, Hampson, Hilton, Lewis, Morgan, Pullen,
Taylor, Toleman and Walford

Others in Attendance

Councillor Lise Noakes, Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure
Corporate Director (Service Transformation)
Chief Executive Officer, Marketing Gloucester
Visitor Experience Manager
Democratic and Electoral Services Team Leader

APOLOGIES : Cllrs. Wilson

133. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

133.1 There were no declarations of interest.

134. DECLARATION OF PARTY WHIPPING

134.1 There were no declarations of party whipping.

135. MINUTES

135.1 **RESOLVED that:-** The minutes of the meeting held on 7th January 2019 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

136. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

136.1 There were no public questions.

137. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES)

137.1 There were no petitions or deputations.

138. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME AND COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
28.01.19

- 138.1 The Committee considered the Work Programme. The Chair brought to Members' attention that the Matson and Podsmead Estate Regeneration Draft Supplementary Planning Document for Consultation would be considered at the February meeting of the Committee. Members discussed and agreed to hear from residents and the relevant ward councillors.
- 138.2 The Chair advised that, while Universal Credit would have been in place for a year at the end of February, it was necessary for Officers to be afforded time to collate relevant information to contribute to the review. As such, it was agreed that the meeting would be held when the relevant information was available which was likely to be from April onwards.
- 138.3 Councillor Haigh raised the matter of Task and Finish groups. It was noted that the High Strength Alcohol group had concluded and was due for review. Councillor Haigh suggested that there should be consultation with Officers and the public with regard to what topic to explore by way of a Task and Finish Group.
- 138.4 Members noted that the group on Homelessness had not met for some time and that such matters and the context had changed significantly. Members also stated that it was necessary for further Task and Finish groups to have a precise scoping and forensic focus. It was agreed that the Homelessness group be closed and that a consultation on a new group would take place.
- 138.5 In respect of the Gloucester Railway Station being on the Forward Plan, Councillor Hilton asked that a briefing on the design and the project as a whole be provided when the project was at such a stage.
- 138.6 **RESOLVED that:-** (1) The implementation of Universal Credit in the City review take place when information for the year has been collated and is available; (2) The homelessness Task and Finish Group be closed and a consultation take place seeking topics for a new Task and Finish Group; (3) A briefing on the Gloucester Railway Station project design be provided to the Committee when the project has progressed to the appropriate stage and; (4) The Overview and Scrutiny Committee **NOTE** the Work Programme.

139. FESTIVAL AND EVENTS PROGRAMME

- 139.1 Councillor Noakes, Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure, presented the report and highlighted key aspects. She outlined the establishment of a strategic events programme and confirmed that the Council would continue to fund directly the History Festival.
- 139.2 Councillor Noakes informed Members that the annual Carnival would be taking place on 13th July 2019 which was before the school term finished and that numerous schools would be involved. Additionally, to

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
28.01.19

mark the 50th anniversary of the moon landing, there would be a Festival of the Moon which would include a temporary 'museum of the moon'.

- 139.3 Councillor Lewis noted that, in the report, provision for key Civic events was referred to but queried whether holders of Civic office required more day-to-day support. Councillor Noakes agreed that the report covered specific events and the Corporate Director advised that administrative report was provided throughout the year.
- 139.4 Councillor Hilton shared his view that the events commemorating the 1100th anniversary of the death of Æthelflæd had been impressive, that St. Oswald's Priory had been a good space for the events and could be used for further events. He also suggested that more use could be made of Hillfield Gardens. Councillor Hilton queried whether anything was planned for the Docks when the Tall Ships Festival was not happening.
- 139.4 The Chief Executive of Marketing Gloucester (MGL) stated his belief that the Æthelflæd events had been delivered well and that considerable work had gone into them. He advised that, with the Business Improvement District (BID), an event had been planned at St. Oswald's Priory but this would have conflicted with other events at Llanthony Priory. Joint events were being considered for the future.
- 139.5 With regard to the Tall Ships Festival, the Chief Executive stressed the need to achieve a good financial return. He advised that, in 2019, the Royal Navy would attend and that residents would receive a considerable discount upon presentation of a GL1 card. He informed Councillor Hilton that he would take his suggestion of greater use of Hillfield Gardens back to MGL.
- 139.6 In response to a further query from Councillor Hilton regarding a possible monument to Æthelflæd, the Chief Executive outlined that numerous options were being explored.
- 139.7 Councillor Haigh stated that it would be useful to be furnished with a comprehensive suite of events. It was agreed that this would be circulated.
- 139.8 Councillor Haigh queried why an outside organisation was engaged to organise King's Jam and whether there was confidence in the organisation. She further queried how it would raise the additional £50k cited in the report.
- 139.9 Councillor Noakes advised that, following the review of the previous year, King's Jam was a target event and that the Music Works was a very successful organisation. The Corporate Director outlined the fact that part of the cultural strategy was growing other organisations in the City, that Music Works sought to operate in the City and was well regarded by numerous funding bodies.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
28.01.19

- 139.10 Councillor Pullen noted that para 6.3 showed the Council's contribution to events but not the total cost. He stated that it would be useful to know this and it was agreed that this would be included in the final report.
- 139.11 Councillor Pullen stated that he did not see aims and targets for the events which could assist in evaluation. The Chief Executive of MGL advised that some metrics were available such as footfall and spend but that other measures were less tangible.
- 139.12 Councillor Dee concurred with the idea that a narrow boat festival could be held in years when the Tall Ships Festival was not taking place and that similar events had been successful elsewhere. He also suggested that there was a market for a high quality hotel in the City.
- 139.13 The Chief Executive of MGL advised that he had spoken with the Canal and Waterways Trust previously and there would be difficulties in holding a narrow boat event due to the location of the Docks but he would examine the case again. With regard to a hotel, the Chief Executive advised that, by 2025 it was predicted that there would be a shortage of hotel rooms and that if this was not remedied, the number of visitors staying over in the City would flatten out.
- 139.14 Councillor Morgan queried where the proposed further £10k income would be generated from. Councillor Noakes advised that more stalls and fireworks during key events such as the Tall Ships Festival could see further income generation.
- 139.15 **RESOLVED that:-** (1) The total costs of events included in the report be included in the report to Cabinet; (2) A full suite of events be circulated and; (3) The Overview and Scrutiny Committee **NOTE** the report.

140. TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE RELOCATION

- 140.1 Councillor Noakes, Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure, introduced the report and brought key aspects to Members' attention. She thanked the Committee for its recommendation to site new Tourist Information provision at two existing venues and advised that this was the proposal contained within the report.
- 140I.2 Related to the relocation of the Tourist Information Centre, Councillor Pullen suggested it was crucial to improve the frontage of the Guildhall as part of the development plan. The Corporate Director advised that this would be part of any development plan and that a number of wide ranging options were available.
- 140.3 Councillor Morgan stated that the location of the Tourist Information Centre was important as was its signage. The Corporate Director

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
28.01.19**

advised that there would be both fixed and digital signage to direct visitors appropriately.

140.4 **RESOLVED that:** - The Overview and Scrutiny Committee **NOTE** the report.

141. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

141.1 25th February 2019 at 6.30pm in the Civic Suite, North Warehouse.

Time of commencement: 6.30 pm hours

Time of conclusion: 7.40 pm hours

Chair