

## **PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

3 September 2014

**PRESENT** – Councillor Long (in the Chair); Councillors Carson, Cossins, Culley, Lawton, EA Richmond and Wright. (7)

**APOLOGIES** – Councillors Baldwin, Harman and L Hughes. (3)

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE** – ( )

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE** – Mike Crawshaw, Head of Culture, Steve Petch, Place Strategy Manager, Barry Pearson, Environmental Health Manager and Karen Graves, Democratic Officer.

**P10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Councillor Long reported an interest in Minute P17/Sep/14 below as a Board Member of Theatre Hulaballo.

**P11. MINUTES** – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of meetings of this Scrutiny Committee held on 18 June 2014.

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

**P12. MATTERS ARISING** – There were no matters arising.

**P13. SCRUTINY – WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15** – The Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the work programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during the current Municipal Year.

It was also emphasised that the work programme was a rolling programme and any Member of this Scrutiny could request an item to be included provided that a Quad of Aims had been submitted to the Scrutiny Committee prior to ensure that it contributed to the strategic aims of the Council.

The submitted report outlined the original Work Programme and requested Members to reconsider the Work Programme to accommodate further issues that needed to be included.

Discussion ensued on two special meetings of Place Scrutiny Committee convened to give consideration to the Durham Tees Valley Airport Master Plan and Local Plan housing allocations feedback.

It was reported that Emergency Planning would be considered at the next ordinary meeting of Scrutiny and that in relation to Wheeled Bins implementation information would be made available to Members in due course.

**RESOLVED** – (a) That the current status of the Work Programme be noted.

(b) That the Work Programme be updated to reflect the decisions of this Scrutiny Committee.

**P14. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT – RESOLVED** – That this item be deferred to the next ordinary meeting of Scrutiny.

**P15. PUBLIC EVENTS SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP (PESAG)** – The Environmental Health Manager submitted a briefing note (circulated at the meeting) which explained the role, terms of reference and operation of the Darlington Public Events Safety Advisory Group (PESAG).

Scrutiny was advised that the police had requested the establishment of a multi agency group to consider public events in Darlington. PESAG has no statutory role and is not accountable to any body or organisation. Core members of PESAG included representatives from the emergency services (Police, Fire and Rescue Service, Ambulance NHS Trust) and Council services (Highways, Traffic Management, Building Control, Environmental Health and Licensing).

Details were supplied the main objectives of PESAG which were to promote high levels of safety and welfare at events, promote good practice in safety and welfare planning for events and ensure events cause minimal adverse impact. There is no obligation on organisers of events to consult PESAG or follow its advice.

It was stated that contrary to popular belief the Police had no authority to approve or ban events and the powers to regulate traffic for planned events were limited. Examples of events were provided as well as the number of requested received annually since 2010.

Information relating to PESAG is available on the Council's website and organisers of events are advised to read the 'Guidance for Organisers on Public Events' prior to submitting an Event Application Form. Although there is no charge for this service there are administrative costs incurred.

Discussion ensued on the implications of holding events, public awareness of the Group, responsible person/body of any event and the implications of operating as a virtual group.

**RESOLVED** – (a) That a Task and Finish Review Group be established to consider the work of PESAG.

(b) That a Quad of Aims be completed and forwarded to Monitoring and Co-ordination Group.

(c) That the first meeting of the Group be arranged in conjunction with the Democratic Officer

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**P16. MARKETS REVIEW GROUP – FINAL REPORT**– The Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) to present the outcome and findings of the Review Group established by this Scrutiny Committee to ensure promotion of Darlington as a vibrant Market Town.

Members of the Review Group met on five occasions and a wide number of issues were discussed and considered at those meetings. Several Members of the Group also spoke to Indoor Market Stallholders individually in order to gain their views.

Discussion ensued on the importance of a structural survey being undertaken of the Indoor Market Hall, the heritage of Darlington as a market town being promoted and funding streams being explored to renovate and invigorate the Market Hall.

**RESOLVED** – That this Scrutiny Committee approves the following recommendations of the Review Group and forward to Cabinet for its consideration:-

- (a) that a Statement of Commitment to the retention and maintenance of the buildings be developed and approved;
- (b) that Cabinet be requested to prioritise the capital bid for the refurbishment of the Covered Market and that the funding be released when available to enable the essential works to be undertaken within the near future;
- (c) that Members await the options appraisal for the future design of the building, however, its continued use as a food hall is a key anchor and that any future use should also be linked with the current economic vision for Darlington, including integration into the night-time economy;
- (d) that the position in relation to the current location of the outdoor market be noted and monitored as Town Centre developments progress;
- (e) that the Officers develop and continue to explore the use of social media to promote both the indoor and outdoor markets and encourage shoppers;
- (f) that the Officers be requested to work with the existing traders to look into and publicise signage to identify local car parks and collection points for the ease of shoppers; and
- (g) that the Officers continue to work with the Heritage Lottery Fund to identify any possible grant options for the restoration of the Old Town Hall and the Clock Tower.

**P17. CULTURAL REVIEW GROUP – FINAL REPORT** – The Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) to present the outcome and findings of the Review Group established by this Scrutiny Committee to understand the issues around provision of culture for Darlington and to identify potential solutions and make appropriate recommendations to Cabinet on appropriate governance models for the future of Cultural Services in Darlington.

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Members of the Review Group met on eight occasions and a wide number of issues were discussed and considered at those meetings.

Discussion ensued on the Minutes of Creative Darlington Board being submitted to future meetings of Place Scrutiny Committee and to the Chair of Scrutiny updating members following attendance at that Board meeting. It was also reported that Creative Darlington was undergoing a change and the governance model was being explored.

**RESOLVED** – That this Scrutiny Committee approves the following recommendations of the Review Group and forward to Cabinet for its consideration:-

- (a) The Cultural Review Group did have value as a conduit for information and were kept informed on developments in relation to the future of the Arts provision in Darlington; and
  - (b) The Cultural Review Group notes that the strategic roles for arts within the Town has now passed to Creative Darlington and is within the remit of the Director of Economic Growth however, it is important that a close interest in Creative Darlington and its governance model be taken and it is recommended that this be done via regular reporting to the Place Scrutiny Committee.
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