

15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Angus Ellis

16. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were none.

17. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2024

The minutes of the meetings held on 9 September 2024 were agreed as a correct record subject to the amendment that Councillor Ali was not present at the meeting.

18. PETERBOROUGH MUSEUM AND ARTS GALLERY TRUST – PROPOSAL TO SEEK AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Shareholder Cabinet received a report regarding the Peterborough Museum and Arts Gallery Trust. Peterborough City Council was the sole trustee for the Trust and the current scheme of governance dated from 1968 and required to be substantially updated. It was important that the work was undertaken independently from the Council as sole trustee and therefore the proposal was for the Charity Commission to be invited to undertake the work.

The report also sought to recommend the confirmation of the appointment of Councillor Alan Dowson to the Trust by Cabinet.

During discussion of the report members:

- Questioned whether the Trust would be self-sufficient and whether a merger with an organisation such as Nene Park Trust had been considered as it had experience in the area. It was explained that the report sought to address the governance issues at the Trust and those structures needed to be in place prior to any such discussions.
- Questioned why a move to becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation was not being made now. The presenting officer explained that it was not possible, under the current governance structure, to demonstrate that decisions were being taken in a fully transparent manner and in the best interests of the Trust which would be a requirement of the Charity Commission for such changes.
- Noted that the report had been drafted in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and that during the time that the Charity Commission process would take some time to resolve, there would be decisions that would need to be taken, such as the appointment of Councillor Dowson, and it was preferred that such decisions be made in as wide an arena as possible.
- Requested an example of where decisions were unable to be taken because of the status of the governance arrangements. Officers explained that the transfer of operations to Peterborough Chill as there was no clear way that the Trust could give its consent currently. There would also be issues with applications for grant funding as an established governance process would need to be demonstrated.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It was resolved to:

1. Recommend that Cabinet confirms the continuing appointment of Cllr Alan Dowson to represent the interests of Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery Trust to the Council
2. Recommends to Cabinet that the Charity Commission be invited to draw up a new Scheme for the management of the Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery Trust

19. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC RECOMMENDATIONS

It was resolved to:

Exclude the press and public from the meeting for the following items

- Item 6, Opportunity Peterborough
- Item 7, Monitoring Actions and Recommendations Report, Appendix 1

On the grounds that the item contains exempt appendices which include information under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and that it would not be in the public interest for this information to be disclosed. (Relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person).

20. OPPORTUNITY PETERBOROUGH

A report was presented that sought Shareholder Cabinet to recommend the winding up of Opportunity Peterborough to Cabinet.

During discussion of the report, members:

- Noted that the brand was strong and well regarded within the city. The costs of running the company were in the region of £30k per annum. There would be around £20k of costs that would return to the Council and a saving of £10k. There was a need to consult with the bond holders on the proposal and members were informed that a workshop had been arranged to undertake this. There was also an intention to review the offer made to bond holders that could result in an increase to the current £100 fee. This was a risk as fewer bond holders would be willing to contribute, especially directly to the Council rather than a subsidiary not for profit organisation. However, assurance was provided that the workshop would address such concerns.
- Commented that the report was a tidying up exercise as the majority of services had been brought back in house.
- Questioned how many members the organisation had at its peak. The presenting officer advised that there were around 80 members currently and this was increasing. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic there were around 120 members, however small businesses were struggling at the time and events could not take place. At its peak there were approximately 240 members, although there was no membership fee at that point.
- Urged caution and emphasised the importance of demonstrating the benefits of membership. The presenting officer agreed and informed members that bond

holders would be engaged with in a positive manner.

- Noted the broad range of members from a variety of small to medium sized businesses across a range of different activities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It was resolved to:

Recommends to Cabinet that Opportunity Peterborough Limited be wound up.

21. MONITORING ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

Members received the monitoring actions and recommendations report that provided an update on actions arising and previously agreed recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It was resolved to:

Considers the progress on actions and recommendations made at previous meetings as attached in Appendix 1 to the report and provides feedback including whether further monitoring of each recommendation is required.

Chair

Started 10:02 and ended at 10:51