

SHAREHOLDER CABINET COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 4
9 NOVEMBER 2020	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Adrian Chapman, Service Director: Communities and Partnerships		
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Steve Allen, Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Recreation		
Contact Officer(s):	Pat Carrington, City College Peterborough	Tel. 01733 293891	

Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery update

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: <i>Adrian Chapman</i>	Deadline date
<p>It is recommended that Shareholder Cabinet Committee:</p> <p>(i) notes the progress of the transfer of the Museum and Art Gallery to City Culture Peterborough (part of the City College Peterborough Foundation).</p>	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to Shareholder Cabinet Committee as an annual update to the committee.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is

(a) to give an update on the transfer of services to City Culture Peterborough (part of the City College Peterborough Foundation)

(b) to update on the re-opening plans

(c) to update on the role of the service during and post the covid-19 pandemic

2.2 This report is for Shareholder Cabinet Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.3.2 (a), 'To monitor performance and financial delivery of the companies, partnerships and charities set out above in line with Cabinet approved business plans by means of monthly performance monitoring and scrutiny'.

3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 Transfer of Museums and Art Galleries to City Culture Peterborough (part of the City College Peterborough Foundation).
- 4.1.1 In June 2020, due to the long term effects of the Coronavirus pandemic, the Vivacity Trust confirmed that it would no longer be in a position to deliver services for the council. As a result, the Trust gave notice on June 18, beginning a 90-day transition period.
- 4.1.2 Closely supported by Vivacity, the council carried out a review of the services to consider how they might be delivered in the future and as a result successfully transferred services to City College Peterborough and Peterborough Limited, with Museums and Art Galleries transferring to City College Peterborough.
- 4.2 Progress of transfer to date
- 4.2.1 At the point of transfer to City College Peterborough, all but five staff were furloughed and the heritage and arts sites were closed.
- 4.2.2 During the early stages of the planning of the transfer, it was decided that it would not be appropriate to call Peterborough's Cultural Services City College Peterborough, as this would be confusing to members of the public and not fully represent what the services offered. Therefore, City Culture Peterborough was created, as part of the City College Peterborough Foundation.
- 4.2.3 The transfer of Vivacity services back to the council saw the uncoupling of sports and leisure from culture, with culture and heritage moving to City Culture Peterborough and sport and leisure transferring to Peterborough Limited and to ensure all aspect of the transfer were managed as smoothly as possible there have been twice weekly meetings between the Council, Peterborough Limited and City Culture Peterborough.
- 4.2.4 During this time, a bid was submitted to the Arts Council Culture Recovery Fund to support the reopening and financial recovery of Flag Fen, the Key Theatre and the Museum and Art Gallery over the next six months. The sites have been awarded the full amount requested, £493k. Existing grants as previously received by Vivacity have all now also been transferred to City Culture Peterborough.
- 4.2.5 As part of the transfer process, partners and stakeholders have been engaged and meetings have so far taken place with:
- Arts Council England
 - Historic England
 - Civic
 - Friends Groups
 - Peterborough Culture Forum
- 4.2.6 Transfer of services was successfully concluded on the 1 October 2020.
- 4.3 Next Steps
- 4.3.1 **The Museum**
As the new organisation responsible for the Museum and the collections, City Culture Peterborough are currently updating the archives and collections agreement with the Council, whilst updating governance details to ensure the Museum and Art Gallery maintains its accredited status, a UK industry standard for museums and galleries. We are also commencing the work again with the Towns Fund project team on the application for an extension to the museum which would significantly enhance the buildings facilities as well as provide a display and storage space for the internationally important Must Farm log boats and associated artefacts, for which we will need to secure additional match funding.
- 4.3.2 **Flag Fen**
As a key part of telling Peterborough's story, we are developing some ambitious development plans for Flag Fen. Investment in facilities, improved all-year-round access, and the development

of relevant and audience-led programmes will undoubtedly provide fantastic opportunities for families, schools, academics and residents alike in the future. Security of the site is being increased as it has suffered some vandalism, theft and recently there was a fire in which a teaching room and its contents were destroyed. A meeting has taken place with Francis Pryor, the archaeologist who discovered Flag Fen, to gather his ideas, support and advice for the site.

- 4.3.3 Historic England are very also excited about the emerging ideas for Flag Fen and they would like to work in partnership with City Culture Peterborough to help support the planning and development of this internationally important prehistoric site.

4.4 Opening Plans

- 4.4.1 Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery is planning to open its doors from Thursday 12 November 2020, welcoming visitors old and new, supporting the message that Peterborough is open for culture and leisure. We will launch the opening with a 'new artists' community exhibition in the art gallery alongside an exhibition in the temporary exhibition space looking at the culture service past, present and future.

- 4.4.2 Priority will be the health and wellbeing of staff, volunteers and visitors. As such, the re-opening will follow strict government guidance and is subject to any changes in local and national restrictions. There will be significant changes to the operation of the exhibitions and the building itself including a restriction on the visitor numbers in the building, sanitising stations and a limited Squires Café offer.

- 4.4.3 There will be a reduction in opening hours to enable additional cleaning to happen at the beginning and at the end of the day. Our new opening hours will be 10am - 4pm Tuesday - Saturday, 12pm- 4pm Sunday. We will continue to be closed on Mondays.

4.5 The role of the service during and post the covid-19 pandemic

- 4.5.1 It is vitally important to the City of Peterborough that it has a strong cultural sector that improves health and wellbeing, raises aspirations and contributes to a distinctive and attractive city that people want to visit, live and work in. Our role is to work collaboratively with local, regional and national partners to develop a transformative and strategic programme of a high quality that will attract inward investment and build sustainable audiences.

- 4.5.2 Moving forward, we will be working to develop a service plan that focuses meaningfully on several key areas such as developing resources, sustainable partnerships, audience development and community engagement.

5. **CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 Formal partnership management arrangements are in place between City Culture Peterborough and the City Council, via a new Partnership Board. Consultation has commenced with the Friends Groups and a plan is being formulated in which to consult with the local communities

6. **ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

- 6.1 To provide assurance to Members of the arrangements in place relating to the management of the Museum and Art Gallery.

7. **REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 To give an update on the transfer of services and in helping to improve service provision.

8. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 8.1 None

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 9.1 These are currently being identified and work is in progress to understand the costs of delivering these services both during the pandemic and in the longer term recovery of the City.

Legal Implications

- 9.2 None

Equalities Implications

- 9.3 The delivery and design of the future services will be carried out in such a way as to widen participation and be inclusive to all.

Carbon Impact Assessment

- 9.4 The assessment is based on the carbon impact post COVID-19 lockdown and transfer of the Museum and Art Gallery from Vivacity to City Culture Peterborough. Buildings will be re-opened with appropriate infection control interventions. There will be a reduction in the opening hours to the public, however additional time will be needed at the beginning and end of each day and therefore there will be a similar demand for energy demand and water consumption.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 10.1 None.

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 None.