
Minutes of the meeting of the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee, that was held in Committee Room 1, County Hall, Chelmsford on Thursday, 20 April 2023

Present:

Members:

Councillor S Crow	
Councillor J Fleming	
Councillor D Land	
Councillor R Moore	
Councillor J Newport	
Councillor M Skeels	
Councillor M Steel	Chairman
Councillor M Vance	
Councillor S Barker	Substitute

Officers:

Louise Fitton	Head of Culture, Heritage and Green Space
Erica Gilson	Marketing and Business Development Manager
Justin Long	Senior Democratic Services Officer (clerk to the meeting)
Emma Hunter	Democratic Services Officer

Cllr Graham Butland, Cabinet Member for Devolution, the Arts, Heritage and Culture

Cllr Mark Durham, Deputy Cabinet Member for Devolution, the Arts, Heritage and Culture

Welcome and Introduction

Cllr Mike Steel, the acting Chairman of the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee, welcomed those in attendance.

1. Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

The report on Membership, Apologies and Declarations was received, and it was noted that:

1. The membership of the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee was as shown in the report.
2. Apologies had been received from Cllr D Blackwell, Cllr P Gadd, Cllr A Goggin and Cllr H Whitbread. Cllr S Barker was substituting for Cllr A Goggin and Cllr M Steel was chairing the meeting in his absence.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 23 March 2023 were approved as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

The Matters Arising report and the following points were noted:

- An update had been requested on the proposed LHP 'tracking tool' and planned LHP member training.

3. Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

4. Work Programme

The updated Work Programme was noted.

5. Arts, Culture and Creative Sector including the new Cultural Strategy

Cllr Graham Butland introduced the report (PSEG/09/23) and a presentation which can be found [here](#).

Members were invited to ask questions and provide comment. Key points raised during this discussion included:

- The Council was looking to work with education establishments to promote BFI (British Film Institute) courses.
- KPIs for the Cultural Strategy would be developed with current targets focused on participation numbers and attracting match-funding.
- A 'mapping process' of cultural hubs and venues was planned.
- In response to concerns about the spatial pattern of the projects awarded funding under the Arts and Culture Fund (Year 2), it was confirmed that work was underway to address this and support those organisations that had not received funding (including smaller organisations).
- The criteria for awarding funding were outlined including how the bids supported the Everyone's Essex strategy and the 'Levelling-up' agenda.
- It was reported that the quality of applications to the Fund was extremely high, and this meant only 10% of applicants had received funding. Feedback had been given to those organisations that were not successful.
- It was agreed that officers would report on progress to support arts and culture outside of established clusters (e.g., around cities) including in more rural and disadvantaged communities.

- The work of the Film Office was outlined, and it was noted that there were huge opportunities in the sector including an ambition for a Film Studio in Essex.
- A budget of £1.5m had been in place since 2021 to support the arts and culture in Essex over the next 5 years. This was being delivered through the Arts and Cultural Fund, a newly formed Cultural Development Team and the Essex Film Office.
- It was agreed that going forward County Councillors would be asked to help promote and distribute information on the Arts and Cultural Fund.
- It was noted that location filming could bring significant benefits and the Council had worked closely with various production companies including TOWIE (The Only Way is Essex).

6. Date of Next Meeting

The Committee noted that the next scheduled meeting would take place on Thursday 18 May 2023, 10:30am at County Hall.

7. Urgent Business

No items were raised.

Chairman