



Minutes of the meeting of the **Housing, Communities, Culture and Sport Panel** held in Committee Room 1, East Pallant House on Thursday 2 November 2023 at 9.30 am

Members Present: Mr D Betts (Chairman), Ms J Brown-Fuller, Mrs E Hamilton, Ms O Hickson, Mrs D Johnson and Mr C Todhunter

Members not present: Mrs T Bangert, Mr G Evans and Mrs S Sharp

In attendance by invitation:

Officers present all items: Mr A Alempour (Democratic Services Officer), Mr M Bristow (Housing Delivery Officer), Ms P Bushby (Divisional Manager for Communities and Customer Services), Mr L Foord (Divisional Manager for Communications, Licensing & Events), Mrs J Hotchkiss (Director of Growth and Place), Mrs S Peyman (Divisional Manager for Culture), Mrs L Rudziak (Director of Housing and Communities), Ms K Standing (Divisional Manager, Revenues, Benefits and Housing) and Ms L Williams (Housing Enabling Officer)

34 **Chairman's Announcements**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Tracie Bangert & Cllr Sarah Sharp.

35 **Approval of Minutes**

RESOLVED:

1. That the minutes of the meeting held on the 13 July 2023 be agreed and approved as a correct record.

36 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Jessica Brown-Fuller declared her interest as a trustee of Chichester Festival Theatre.

37 Chichester Festival Theatre Annual Report & Funding Agreement

Cllr Brown-Fuller introduced Mrs Katherine Bourne from Chichester Festival Theatre.

Mrs Bourne introduced the report and provided an overview of the information collected, explaining how the organisation has been performing over the course of the last year.

Mrs Bourne detailed the theatre's ongoing programmes and provided updates on the various projects, such as The Charity Programme, The Chichester Warms Project, and The Youth Acting Programme. Mrs Bourne advised that the theatre actively works alongside schools and the local community, with 70 volunteers that work in the theatre every week. In addition to this, staff are working on digitizing the theatre's archives to improve services.

Mrs Bourne explained that the theatre also offers relaxed and dementia friendly performances, stating that it's important that the theatre continues to support vulnerable communities. Furthermore, the theatre will continue to identify areas of support, alongside the Council, to enhance the local economy.

Members agreed the importance of the work that the theatre conducts, and the widespread benefit provided to the local community.

Cllr Hickson enquired as to how the theatre reaches out to refugees, and whether contact has been made with the residents at Chichester Park Hotel.

Mrs Bourne advised that the theatre will reach out to the residents via Sanctuary and is currently in the process of making contact.

Cllr Johnson welcomed the effort the organisation makes to ensure opportunities are offered diversely and enquired as to how the theatre connects with people who are tutored at home.

Cllr Johnson also highlighted ticket prices and asked whether there can be section of the theatre allocated for people on lower incomes, as this would offer a great opportunity to those who can't usually afford a ticket.

Mrs Bourne advised that the theatre offers tickets for £5 for ages 16-30, there are also offers on most performances for £10. Mrs Bourne highlighted that these low prices are incredibly important and that they will continue to support this.

With regards to connecting to different backgrounds, such as those who have been home tutored, Mrs Bourne advised that there are home school cohorts and programmes in place to ensure that individuals from different communities can develop their skills.

Members acknowledged the incredible work that the theatre has provided and the positive impact on the local community.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Panel note the report contents and recommends to Cabinet that the funding agreement is extended for a further year until 31 March 2025 to allow for the results from the social and economic impact assessment to be fully considered.

38 Pallant House Gallery Annual Report & Funding Agreement

Mr Simon Martin from Pallant House Gallery introduced the item and gave Members a review of how the gallery has expanded. With the first full year of uninterrupted service since covid, the gallery saw significant increases in guest attendance.

Mr Martin highlighted the increase in attendance from jobseekers, carers and children, as a result of the free entry offered by the gallery.

With regards to the different events hosted by the gallery, Mr Martin advised that the summer exhibition in 2022 received a great deal of international press coverage. Mr Martin advised that there were 42,000 visits for their exhibition, which is their most visited exhibition ever.

Mr Martin also highlighted The Community Programme, stating that during 2023, the gallery has had 200 regular participants, which equates to approximately 1,600 participants across all the sessions hosted. The organisation has also recently hit the 20-year mark. One of the celebrations included projects that worked alongside the Culture Spark programme, Chichester College and local charities.

Mr Martin explained how much of their staff have been recruited from the local area, including local schools, colleges and from different programmes within these organisations, such as the programme Counter and Create. This features different workshops which are based around different themes of art. The gallery has received positive feedback from these workshops. Additionally, 244 volunteers are from the local area, demonstrating the strong presence in the local community.

Members acknowledged the high quality of service the gallery provides.

Cllr Hickson asked Mr Martin how the gallery deals with individuals who may have difficulty accessing the curriculum provided.

Mr Martin advised that the gallery focuses on promoting the curriculum through a wide variety of avenues, such as working alongside parents, setting up activities with local schools to create programmes that promote engagement with art. Additionally, these programmes are open to the local community, regardless of what school the children attend.

Furthermore, many projects have been uploaded online, so that schools can have access to this learning material for their own classes. This way, they can offer in person training, as well as digital content that can be delivered in a classroom.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Panel note the report contents and recommend to Cabinet and Council that the funding agreement for Pallant House Gallery is extended for a further year until 31 March 2025 to allow for the results from the social and economic impact assessment to be fully considered.

39 Sport & Leisure Management

Mr Stuart Mills introduced the report and provided Members with information on the various projects in operation, such as The Wellbeing at Work Programme, The Healthy Ageing Programme and The Healthy Children & Young People Programme.

Cllr Brown-Fuller asked whether the organisation works with local partners to offer services and activities that aren't offered in house.

Mr Mills stated that they regularly engage with the community to see what activities have high demand, they can then work with local organisations to create these programmes and events. More programmes will be introduced across Southbourne soon.

Cllr Hickson was concerned with the drop in membership at Bourne Leisure Centre and emphasised the importance of marketing in communicating the service these businesses provide. Cllr Hickson suggested that in future, there could be greater communications between the Council and the organisation to improve this.

Mr Mills advised that there are membership offers in place during peak times but agreed that there is room for improvement.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Panel receive the Annual Report from Everyone Active (Sport and Leisure Management Ltd) Appendix 1 and note the performance for 2022-23.

40 Government Anti-social Behaviour Consultation results and ASB action plan

Mrs Bushby introduced the report and advised Members on how the ASB policy has developed over time. Mrs Bushby asked Members to review the current ASB policy and to provide their feedback, which can be used for the revised policy.

Cllr Hamilton asked whether vandalism is included in the report, as this is a prevalent issue in the northern areas of Chichester.

Mrs Bushby advised that there are currently low levels of anti-social behaviour and this has reduced significantly over recent years. Vandalism is commonly placed amongst neighbour disputes. In these situations, the Council's approach is to mediate between all the parties involved. Graffiti is also a common issue across the district, but efforts are being made to address this.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Panel note the report and the Government's Anti-social behaviour Action Plan and make any comments on the refreshed Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) Policy.

41 Allocation and Expenditure of Commuted Sums for Affordable Housing

Mrs Williams & Mr Bristow introduced the report and advised Members on the proposals detailed within the report.

The Officers advised the Panel that the Policy will enable Officers to assess applications for funding fairly and consistently, whilst ensuring monies are directed to address the district's housing needs.

Cllr Hickson asked whether Members could review a timetable or spending schedule, as this would provide certainty on spending during the 3-year period. Further information on the size and requirements of the properties would also be beneficial.

Mrs Williams advised that there is a schedule in place that outlines where funds have been allocated and where expenditure lies. In addition, there's also housing data, which is updated monthly. Mrs Williams advised she will refer this information to Cllr Hickson.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Panel comment and provide feedback on the proposals detailed within this report in relation to the introduction of a Commuted Sums Spending Policy (Affordable Housing).

42 Policy on S37/157 Housing Covenants

Mrs Williams introduced the report and provided an overview of the Policy. The Officers advised that the objective is to ensure that rural homes that are sold under the Right to Buy are retained as affordable homes for local people.

Cllr Hickson asked whether it would be possible to prevent an individual letting their property out via Airbnb.

Mrs Williams advised that there are some properties that have restrictions on them, however it's not possible to determine what the status is of each property and what restrictions each property has.

Mr Bristow added that information listed on the property deed can provide further context for each property.

The Members discussed the Policy and agreed to support its introduction. The Members & Officers agreed to revise the recommendation accordingly.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Panel vote to note the contents of the report and to support the introduction of a policy for determining applications relating to properties subject to a restriction under Sections 37 and 157 of The Housing Act 1985, or any other restriction of this nature.

43 HCSP Draft Work Plan 2023/24

Mrs Hotchkiss & Mrs Rudziak introduced the Housing & Communities Work Programme 2023-2024 and updated Members on the current outlook.

The Members reviewed the items listed for upcoming Panel meetings.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Panel is requested to note the workplan.

44 Late Items

There were no late items.

45 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is 29 February 2024.

The meeting ended at 11.50 am

CHAIRMAN

Date: