

[These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting of the sub-committee  
Scheduled to be held on 26 July 2016.]

## **Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee**

**28 June 2016**

Present: Councillor S Day (Chair)  
Councillors G Bell, L Bell, J Cassidy, N Craven, D Drummond,  
K Lee, P McIntyre, D McMeekan, A Newman and P Oliver.

Also Present: Councillor E N Darke, Cabinet Member responsible for Leisure,  
Culture and Tourism.

### **CL01/06/16 Substitute Members**

There were no substitute members reported.

### **CL02/06/16 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest reported.

### **CL03/06/16 Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 February 2016 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

### **CL04/06/16 St Mary's Lighthouse and Visitor Centre**

The Sub-Committee was presented with an overview of the proposals for St Mary's Lighthouse and Visitor Centre and outline project plans to meet HLF development targets in preparation for the Stage 2 HLF bid submission.

St Mary's Lighthouse was founded in 1898. The building was listed Grade II on the Statutory List of Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest and was situated on a tidal island in the St Mary's Conservation Area.

The Restoration of the Lighthouse and Keepers' Cottage meant that the project would ensure the survival of the buildings, both the Lighthouse Tower and the Keepers' Cottages, through a programme of capital works including localised repairs to flat and pitched roofs, hopper heads and soil pipes; investigations and repair of external cracking of visitor centre elevations; repair to tower head; repair/replace of windows; replace damaged glazing to lantern windows; external repairs and decoration. Internal works included general internal refurbishment; remodelling of visitor centre; corrosion treatment; and electronics.

The Lighthouse and Visitor Centre served as an iconic tourist attraction, a heritage museum and a key education and learning centre. It contained an historic collection of artefacts, documents, memorabilia relating to sea navigation and the maritime history of the island and North East Coast. A renewal and modernisation of interpretation would enhance both learning and visitor experience at the venue. The project would also install the original Victorian Optic into the base of the tower as an exciting new visitor attraction.

Recent progress included the successful outcome following submission to Heritage Lottery Fund allocating initial £164.3k for Stage One Development Phase of the project.

The HLF bid for St. Mary's Lighthouse had been re-submitted to meet the 11 February 2016 deadline, following some adjustments to the scheme following HLF guidance. This did not change the level of agreed Council commitment but, through the inclusion of the investment in causeway repairs, increased the proportion of Council contribution to the overall project.

Immediate work to deliver the project and meet HLF targets for Stage 2 bid submission required all development work to be completed by the end of May 2017. A list of next milestones was set out in the report.

In terms of completion of the stage two bid and supporting documentation between January – February 2017, based upon a specification agreed by HLF and the Council, partner organisation Capita would be appointed to undertake the initial development work. An Officer team consisting of officers from the Council and Capita had been meeting regularly to steer the project, ensure that timescales were met and appropriate consultation undertaken. This group would meet through the development stage and report progress to HLF.

It was **agreed** that the information set out in the report and outlined in the presentation be noted.

### **CL05/06/16 Draft Library Strategy 2016-2021**

The Sub-Committee received a report which summarised the priorities in the Draft Library Strategy 2016-2021 and the process for consultation before final approval by Cabinet.

In 2011 Cabinet had agreed a five year strategy for libraries in North Tyneside. During the five year period the service had been modernised; vibrant public spaces that were flexible and welcoming had been created; and opportunities for people to meet and participate in the social and cultural life of their community had been extended.

The Draft Strategy followed on from the review of library provision, undertaken by the Sub-Committee, with subsequent recommendations agreed by Cabinet on 13 April 2015. The priorities outlined in the Draft Library Strategy 2016-21 had been considered by the Culture and Leisure sub-committee on 27 October 2015.

The priorities build upon existing practice and experience in North Tyneside and took into account the emerging national strategy for libraries as articulated through the Department for Culture, Media and Sport [DCMS].

The final Strategy would take account of the conclusions of the Leadership for Libraries Task Force that had been established as a result of a Government commissioned review of the public library service in England.

Major improvements to library provision in North Tyneside had already been put in place over the past five years. The aspirations for the development of the service over the next five years were set out in the following six priorities:

- Books for the best start in life
- Reading to improve life chances
- Digital literacy

- Information for life
- Learning throughout life
- Libraries for a healthier life

The priorities reflected those of the Society of Chief Librarians, Arts Council England and the National Libraries Task Force.

Public engagement would be programmed over the summer to test these priorities with customers in North Tyneside subject to approval by Cabinet at its meeting on 11 July 2016. The outcomes from the public engagement process would inform the final Strategy to be considered by Cabinet in October 2016.

The process of public engagement, followed by the adoption of a new Library Strategy, would ensure that the Authority would continue to meet its statutory obligation, to deliver a “comprehensive and efficient” library service, as required under the terms of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964.

The Chair welcomed the draft Strategy and looked forward to receiving feedback following the consultation period.

It was **agreed** that the information set out in the report be noted.

#### **CL06/06/16 Work Programme 2016-17**

The sub-committee gave consideration to a range of suggested topics for inclusion in its work programme for 2016/17. The suggested topics had been received from a variety of sources and discussed with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the sub-committee when they had been categorised as being suitable for in-depth investigation (to be undertaken by a sub-group) or as monitoring reports that could be dealt with during committee meetings.

In determining which topics should be prioritised for in-depth investigation, the sub-committee were advised to consider the following factors:

- Is it timely?
- Will it duplicate any other work ongoing within the Council or the NECA scrutiny work programme?
- Will it add value/contribute to policy development?

The proposed work plan was set out in Appendix A to the report.

The Chair proposed that in terms of policy development, a sub group be established to undertake an in-depth study into proposals for the development of a Cultural services plan.

It was **agreed** that (1) the sub-committee’s work programme, set out in Appendix A to the report, be approved, and the development of a cultural services plan be the subject of an in-depth investigation; and

(2) Members of the Sub Committee be invited to suggest specific areas that could be investigated as part of the in-depth study, and a report on the proposed scope of the in-depth study be submitted to the next meeting of the Sub Committee on 26 July 2016.

#### **CL07/06/16 Dates and Time of Meetings**

The sub-committee was asked to determine the start time and confirm the dates of its remaining meetings in the 2016/17 municipal year to be held on:

26 July 2016  
27 September 2016  
25 October 2016  
29 November 2016  
31 January 2017  
28 February 2017  
28 March 2017

It was **agreed** that dates of the sub-committee's meetings be confirmed and they begin at 6.00pm.