

[These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting of the Sub-Committee
Scheduled to be held on the 25 July 2017]

Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee

27 June 2017

Present: Councillor S Day (Chair)
Councillors L Bell, J Cassidy, N Craven, L Darke, D Drummond,
N Huscroft, D McMeekan, A Newman and A Waggott-Fairley.

CL01/06/17 Apologies

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillor K Osborne.

CL02/06/17 Substitute Members

There were no substitute Members reported.

CL03/06/17 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest reported.

CL04/06/17 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 February 2017 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

CL05/06/17 Work Programme 2017-18

The sub-committee gave consideration to a range of suggested topics for inclusion in its work programme for 2017/18. 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 was 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.

It was noted that the Cultural Development Plan sub group established in 2016-17 to undertake an in-depth study on 'how can the Council deliver an effective cultural offer in a shrinking financial environment' had been brought forward into this year's work programme. The sub-group would continue with its evidence gathering to include the summer programme activities/events and following analysis of this, contribute ideas that can be

taken into account during the budget and financial planning framework discussions for 2018-19. It was anticipated that the investigation would be completed in September 2017.

The sub-committee was advised that the current operating agreement with SMG Europe to run the Playhouse, Whitey Bay expired on 31st December 2024. There was a break point by either party giving nine months notice to expire, on 31st December 2019. This would mean a decision in writing to break the contract, should either party choose to do so, would be required by 31st March 2019. It was suggested that this could be considered as a suitable topic for in-depth investigation.

Members were also invited to submit any additional ideas within the sub-committee's portfolio for inclusion in the work programme to the Chair or the Democratic Services Officer.

It was **agreed** that the sub-committee's work programme 2017-18 as set out in Appendix A be approved.

CL06/06/17 Segedunum Developments

A report was received which provided an outline of the recent investment in Segedunum and proposals for the future.

Mr Iain Watson and Mr Geoff Woodward, Tyne and Wear Archive and Museums (TWAM), gave an overview of the investment to date, its impact so far and some initial thoughts on proposals for future development, which included:

- Northern Powerhouse funding
- Segedunum Masterplan
- Three-phase government investment plan and delivery
- Vision for the site – concept/aspiration

Members were given a tour of the key pieces on display as a part of the major Wall-wide exhibition spread across 10 museums of the 150-mile-long World Heritage Site 'Frontiers of the Roman Empire'. The exhibition was running from 8 April to 10 September 2017.

As part of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site, Segedunum Roman Fort, Bath House and Museum occupied a significant place in the tourism and heritage offer in North Tyneside. Marking the Eastern end of Hadrian's Wall, and the end of the Hadrian's Way trail for many walkers every year, gave Segedunum a profile beyond regional and national boundaries.

The investment undertaken since the Northern Powerhouse funding in 2015 had kick-started a process of raising the profile of Segedunum as part of the wider objective of increasing visits to Hadrian's Wall across the region.

The conservation and interpretation of the original bath house hidden for 200 years, had added to the offer of the museum along with the uncovering of the existing stretch of Hadrian's Wall on Buddle Street. These significant archaeological initiatives had been complemented by a range of measures to improve the site, including landscaping, seating and a play area.

The addition of public art to the site in the form of the Sentius Tectonicus sculpture by local artist John O'Rourke, had added a further dimension to the offer at Segedunum. A long

standing demand of walkers to have a marker to signify the end of the trail had been satisfied.

Following the presentation, Members of the sub-committee asked a series of questions of officers. During questioning members examined:-

- b) the installation of the Sentius Tectonicus sculpture by local artist John O'Rourke funded by North Tyneside Council and the extensive contributions made by local companies through partnership working;
- c) the marketing of pre-bookings and the meet & greet arrangements for cruise ship arrivals to guide visitors towards landmark attractions within the Borough, including Segedunum;
- d) the costing and investment strategy covering the Segedunum Masterplan with the targeted investment plans split into three categories:
 - i) Target investment 2015-16 illustrating the possible expenditure of the HM Treasury Grant;
 - ii) Medium term investment 2016 onwards, which included a whole range of possible improvements that could be made to enhance the visitor experience should the required funding be made available;
 - iii) Major infrastructure ideas that could only be carried by North Tyneside Council if the Authority wished to develop the site to match its true potential as a World Heritage Site.
- e) the overall total funding required for additional Bath House and main site further works 2017.

The Chair, on behalf of the sub-committee, thanked officers for attending the meeting and congratulated them on creating the new 'Frontiers of the Roman Empire' wall-wide exhibition, and ongoing plans for development of the Segedunum Masterplan.