

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF SCRUTINY PANEL 2 - MUSEUM TRUST (PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY)

Monday, 23 May 2016

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillor Jamie Lane (Chair), Councillor Sally Beardsworth (Deputy Chair); Councillors Jane Birch, Brian Sargeant and Samuel Shaw

OFFICERS Julie Seddon, Director of Customers and Communities
Nick Gordon, Cultural Services Manager
Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer

Members of the Public Michael Jones, Ann Jones and Robert Moore

1. APOLOGIES

There were none.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3. DEPUTATIONS/PUBLIC ADDRESS

Michael Jones addressed the Scrutiny Panel and commented that he would like the Council to consider including the gardens, parkland and buildings which comprise Abington Park into the new trust of which the erstwhile Manor House is to be the centre piece. He added that his vision is to raise the whole experience of visiting Abington park to one similar to the best of National Trust properties where people are attracted by the house, enjoy the gardens and parkland and spend money through eating and shopping in ancillary buildings. Mr Jones concluded his address by advising that the Friends of Abington Park had previously submitted a vision document to the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member that set out the case for making the whole estate a Trust. The vision had been turned down as plans were already advance to make the Museum a Trust. Mr Jones referred the Scrutiny Panel to the summary contained within the vision. Mr Jones felt that the inclusion of the park in the Trust would lead to a much better park experience.

The Chair thanked Mr Jones for his address.

The Scrutiny Panel commented and heard:

- Abington Park is one of the town's premier parks.

- The proposal submitted by the Friends of Abington Park had been given a lot of consideration, however, the preferred option was that of a Museum Trust and Park Management Committees for the parks.

4. DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE SCRUTINY PANEL

It was proposed by Councillor Brian Sargeant and seconded by Councillor Samuel Shaw that Councillor Sally Beardsworth is elected the Deputy Chair of the Scrutiny Panel.

AGREED: That Councillor Sally Beardsworth is elected Deputy Chair of the Scrutiny Panel.

5. SCOPE OF THE REVIEW

The Chair presented the draft scope of the Review for consideration.

The Scrutiny Panel scoped its review, making suggestions and additions to the draft scope. The scope would be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 13 June 2016 for approval.

AGREED: (1) That the scope of this Scrutiny Review is presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 13 June 2016 for approval. A copy of the Scope is appended to the minutes.

The meeting concluded at 6:20 pm



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

SCRUTINY PANEL 2 – MUSEUM TRUST (PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY)

1. Purpose/Objectives of the Pre-Decision Scrutiny Activity

Pre-decision Scrutiny - Scrutiny of the establishment of the Museum Trust to ensure the best outcome for the future of the Museum Service and Cultural Quarter.

The purpose of the meetings is to:

- Help non-Executives understand the process of establishing a Museum Trust and the legal framework around the establishment of a Museum Trust.
- Enable non-Executives to meaningfully challenge the rigour and robustness of the process.

2. Outcomes Required

- To provide Scrutiny input, at the pre-decision stage, of the establishment of a Museum Trust

3. Information Required

- Background data
- Background reports
- Best practice data
- Evidence from expert internal witnesses
- Evidence from expert external witnesses (if applicable)
- Site visits (if applicable)

4. Format of Information

- Background data, including:
 - Presentation to set the scene
 - Relevant Legislation
 - Relevant data

5. Methods Used to Gather Information

- Minutes of meetings
- Desktop research
- Officer reports
- Presentations

6. Co-Options to the Pre-Decision Scrutiny Activity

No co-optees suggested for this pre-decision Scrutiny activity

7. Community Impact Screening Assessment

- A Community Impact Screening Assessment to be undertaken on the scope of the Pre-Decision Scrutiny activity

8. Evidence gathering Timetable

May 2016 – September 2016

- 23 May 2016 - Scoping meeting
- 20 June - Evidence gathering
- 14 July - Evidence gathering
- 15 September - Evidence gathering/Scrutiny comments

Meetings to commence at 6.00 pm

9. Responsible Officers

Lead Officers Julie Seddon, Director of Customers and Communities and Nick Gordon, Cultural Services Manager, following initial scoping meeting

Co-ordinator Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer

10. Resources and Budgets

Julie Seddon, Director of Customers and Communities and Nick Gordon, Cultural Services Manager, following initial scoping meeting, to provide internal advice.

11. Final report presented by:

Completed by September 2016. Presented by the Chair of the Scrutiny Panel to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and then to Cabinet.

12. Monitoring procedure:

Review the impact of the report after six months