

## **NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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

**Monday, 20 June 2016**

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

**OFFICERS** Julie Seddon, Director of Customers and Communities  
Marion Goodman, Head of Customer and Cultural Services  
Nick Gordon, Cultural Services Manager  
Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer

**MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC** Robert Moore

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Cali.

#### **2. DEPUTATIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESSES**

There were none.

#### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING)**

There were none.

#### **4. MINUTES**

The Chair signed the minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2016 as a true and accurate record.

#### **5. PRESENTATION TO SET THE SCENE**

Nick Gordon, Cultural Services Manager, gave the Panel a presentation that set the scene.

Key points:

- A number of Museums services across the country are contracting but Northampton Museums are expanding
- The Vision for Northampton Museums and Art Gallery was highlighted
- The three core purposes of the Museum and Art Gallery
  - To enrich the lives of Northampton's people and visitors to the Borough
  - To be an internationally recognised 'centre for excellence' for shoes

- To be financially sustainable and of economic benefit for Northampton
- The reasons for considering Trust status were emphasised, along with the disbenefits
- There are four options for Trust status:
  - Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
  - Charitable Company limited by guarantee
  - Unincorporated association
  - Trust
- Legislation – Corporate and Unincorporated were provided
- The process for transfer and the monitoring and implementation were provided
- A report to Cabinet is scheduled for September 2016

The Scrutiny Panel asked questions, made comment and heard:

- 15,000 pairs of shoes, 7 photos of each
- 10-15% of the collections are on display at one time. Art collections are permanently rotated
- A very complete log of the art collections is kept
- Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) is the most flexible option. It is also the simplest option
- The Trust would be managing the Museum on behalf of the Council. A Museum Trust would be set up for the benefit of the Council and residents of Northampton
- The Trust would be set up so that it is strong and financially viable
- The Museum lost accreditation status for a period of 5 years and will be applying for accreditation in 3 years time. This would not affect it going for Trust status
- The Scrutiny Panel discussed the expansion of the Museum and the leather craft museum
- 78 Derngate is a charitable Trust and one of the Partners that the Trust would work with
- A Marketing officer for the Museum has been appointed recently

The Chair highlighted that at its next meeting the Scrutiny Panel needs to look at the business side of setting up a Museum Trust.

The presentation was noted and would inform the evidence base of this Scrutiny review.

## **6. COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

The Scrutiny Panel approved the Community Impact Assessment for this Review. The document would be published on the Scrutiny Webpage.

The meeting concluded at 7:00 pm