

EXECUTIVE 5 February 2019

Future of the Heritage Service

The Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee met on 22 January 2019 and considered a report on the Future of the Heritage Service.

The Committee supported the recommendations to conduct public consultation on proposed changes to the Council's Heritage service based on a move to a Cultural Enterprise Model, (7 votes in favour and 1 against) and agreed to pass on the following comments to the Executive.

- The Committee supported the proposals to conduct a consultation and seek ideas from the public on how the Heritage Service could develop in the future. The Committee highlighted that they were keen to ensure the public had the opportunity to comment and input into the proposals to help shape potential future developments.
- The Committee queried the level of consultation which had taken place with the City of Lincoln Council over the proposed change of use for the Usher Art Gallery. Officers confirmed that they had kept local District Councils fully informed on the proposals, but highlighted that no agreements had been made due to the desire to undertake a public consultation prior to final proposals being approved.
- The Committee acknowledge that whilst the provision of heritage services was not a statutory duty, these proposals identified a model which would enable continued public access to heritage, art and culture in a self-sustaining and affordable way. Officers confirmed that a change of model was required to enable a more aggressive commercial approach to continue to provide quality museums, galleries and attractions.
- The Committee commented that the proposed changes were bold and ambitious and welcomed the commitment to develop a service which enables the broadest range of audiences to engage with a wide range of heritage experiences.
- The Committee highlighted the need to work across the public and private sector to consider public transport as a key part of these proposals. The Committee identified accessibility to public transport as a key weakness for Lincolnshire when competing with other major tourist destinations across the UK. Officers confirmed additional work was required to review destination management options and the how the heritage offer could further promote Lincolnshire as a destination.

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