

PUBLIC PROTECTION AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Future of the Heritage Service in Lincolnshire

The Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee met on 27 October 2020 to consider a decision report on the Future of the Heritage Service in Lincolnshire. The Committee supported the recommendations to the Executive (7 votes in favour and 1 against).

The Committee highlighted the following additional comments for consideration:

- A member of the Committee highlighted concerns in relation to aspects of the proposed approach for partnership working with private companies. The Councillor sought clarification that this did not constitute an outsourcing of running these services to private enterprises. The Executive Councillor reassured the Committee that there was no specific focus on private companies, but rather the opportunity to seek both public and private funding and investment from a wide range of partners.
- The Committee supported continued engagement with members of the public as part of developing a vision for heritage services. Officers confirmed that the aim of partnership working was about bringing in partners with different skills and not about handing over the assets to private operation.
- A member of the Committee proposed a motion that the Usher Art Gallery should continue to be included as part of The Collection supersite. The motion was not supported by the Committee. The Committee did however acknowledge that the Usher Art Gallery could be part of the future offer, but only as part of a sustainable solution.
- A member of the Committee supported the idea to bring in the Registration Service on to the upper floor of The Usher Gallery to support sustainable improvements for both services.
- The Committee acknowledged the Lincoln centric nature of the current heritage offer and highlighted the need to support wider heritage across the County. The Committee supported the need to develop a more central supersite for the whole of Greater Lincolnshire, and to work with other councils across Greater Lincolnshire to join up funding opportunities and pool marketing resources.

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