



Minutes

TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE

Minutes from the meeting held on Tuesday 27 September 2016, in Mezzanine Room 2, County Hall, Aylesbury, commencing at 10.02 am and concluding at 12.25 pm.

This meeting was webcast. To review the detailed discussions that took place, please see the webcast which can be found at <http://www.buckscc.public-i.tv/>
The webcasts are retained on this website for 6 months. Recordings of any previous meetings beyond this can be requested (contact: democracy@buckscc.gov.uk)

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr D Carroll (Chairman), Mrs L Clarke OBE, Mrs A Davies, Mr P Gomm, Ms A Macpherson and Mrs J Teesdale (Vice-Chairman)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs M Aston, Ms N Glover, Ms J Hancox, Mrs R Page, Mr R De Peyer, Ms A Poole, Mr S Ruddy, Mrs K Sutherland and Ms R Wileman

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr Tim Butcher and Mr Brian Roberts.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th July were confirmed as a correct record.

4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS



There were none.

5 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reminded Members that they had been asked for their feedback on the Economic Development Inquiry, which had been well-received by Cabinet.

The Chairman extended his thanks to the Committee and Governance Adviser, Mrs Kelly Sutherland, for her work in support of the Committee.

6 BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM TRUST UPDATE

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Margaret Aston, Deputy Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Public Health, Mrs Ruth Page, Culture and Leisure Services Manager and Mr Richard de Peyer, Museum Director to the meeting.

The Committee received an update on the performance of the Bucks County Museum Trust which had delivered the county museum service on behalf of the County Council for the past two years. Mrs Ruth Page and Mr Richard de Peyer highlighted both successes and challenges for the Trust and in response to member questions and during subsequent discussions, the following main points were noted:

- A Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid in April 2016 to enable the extension of the Museum had been unsuccessful. A revised bid would be submitted in December 2016. If successful, this would secure £3.5million and the Trust hoped to raise a further £1million through other grants.
- The Trust was keen to extend the Museum to enable more of the collection to be put on display for the public. Meanwhile there were plans to promote Tours of the Museum Stores in Halton in a more profitable format.
- The Museum had some collections of national significance, including the McDowall collection of neo-romantic 20th Century art, the Embroiderer's Guild collection and artefacts belonging to the National Paralympic Heritage Trust. There were plans to exhibit these collections with a view to attracting a much wider audience to the Museum.
- The Trust's service level agreement (SLA) with Milton Keynes would end in April 2018. The Museum Director was confident that a further SLA could be negotiated with the Milton Keynes Museum Trust.
- School visits accounted for 14,000 of the Museum's 90,000 annual visitors, mainly servicing schools in Aylesbury Vale but also attracting schools from as far away as Leicester and Hampshire.
- The Museum varied its exhibitions to appeal to different sections of the community for example, the recent Friars Music Club and the Art of Islam exhibitions. A Wedding exhibition was being planned next year to appeal to younger adults.
- In relation to promotion through tourism, the Museum Director commented that links between the Museum's artefacts and where they were found or originated from, could be useful for generating interest in the Museum and additional income. Wifi hotspots at

certain sites, could enable access to online historical information, linked to artefacts. Similar Apps had been successful in Brighton and Bristol.

- There was a discussion about the possibility of rationalising the Museum's three sites – the Museum itself in Church Street, Aylesbury and its two stores at Halton and Great Missenden - in order to cut costs. In addition, the suggestion was made to sell all three sites and use the capital receipts, plus any HLF funding, to buy one larger building which would be fit for purpose. However, this was not a realistic option as none of the three sites were owned by the Trust.
- A feasibility study had been undertaken with a view to combining access and storage facilities for the Museum and the County Archives and a proposal had been developed for a new Cultural Hub (including Aylesbury lending library and study centre) on the Waterside North site in the centre of Aylesbury.
- Members were impressed with the Museum's recent achievements and plans for the future, but there was some criticism about the Museum's lack of visibility. The Museum Director explained that the marketing budget was small. The Museum's website had been improved, but the trustees were aware of a need to continue with website optimization and other promotional activities.

The Chairman thanked the Deputy Cabinet Member, Mrs Ruth Page and Mr Richard de Peyer for attending the meeting. It was agreed that the Committee and Governance Adviser would make arrangements for any interested Members of the Committee to visit the Museum's stores at Halton.

ACTION: Committee and Governance Adviser

7 BUCKINGHAMSHIRE AND SURREY JOINT TRADING STANDARDS SERVICE

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Margaret Aston, Deputy Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Public Health, Mrs Amanda Poole, Assistant Head of Trading Standards and Mr Steve Ruddy, Head of Trading Standards to the meeting. The Committee received an overview of the performance of the shared Trading Standards Service to date. In response to Members' questions and during subsequent discussions, the following main points were noted:

- The joint Buckinghamshire and Surrey Trading Standards Service went live in April 2015. The service was governed through a joint committee arrangement with equal representation from both local authorities. If the service underspends, then an agreed percentage of the savings would be returned to each Council.
- The joint service was created as a means of continuing to grow and develop, despite diminishing local government budgets. To date all savings outlined in the original business case had been met and a further 1.5% savings per annum had been agreed, which the service was on target to deliver.
- Primary Authority Partnerships (PAP) were a key way of generating income. Companies pay for assured advice and the joint service had a wide breadth of knowledge to deliver a quality service. In addition to PAPs with individual companies, the service also had PAPs with trade associations, such as the Association of Convenience Stores.
- The larger service allowed more innovation, for example, undertaking financial investigations to recover the proceeds of crime. This work had retrieved a significant

amount of money for victims and also monies for the service, which could then be used for community safety purposes in both Bucks and Surrey.

- The joint service had been recognised nationally – the Local Government Association (LGA) held up the service as an example of successful joint working in its Trading Standards Review, published in January 2016.
- Surrey County Council contributed 66% of the budget and Buckinghamshire County Council contributed 34%, therefore any savings were returned to the respective Councils proportionally. This reflected Surrey's larger population and demand for the service and also Surrey had more staff. However in terms of responding to issues in either county, the split of one third:two thirds was not applied rigidly in terms of staffing and a Risk/Harm matrix was used to allocate and prioritise resources.
- Doorstep crime remained a priority and the service had a seconded Police Officer working with them, which was helpful when attending doorstep incidents. The service was organising two conferences in conjunction with the National Scams team, bringing together the Police, Trading Standards and Local Authorities to discuss how to combat scams online, on the telephone and on the doorstep.

The Chairman thanked the Deputy Cabinet Member, Amanda Poole and Steve Ruddy for attending the meeting.

8 GROWTH IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

The Chairman welcomed Miss Rachel Wileman, Head of Strategic Plan and Infrastructure and Mrs Joan Hancox, Head of Transport Strategy to the meeting. Miss Wileman delivered a presentation about Growth in Bucks, which focussed particularly on the Aylesbury Vale Local Plan.

Members welcomed the presentation but wanted more time to be able to discuss the details of all the Local Plans in the County and the implications of the Growth agenda for the County Council's own services in the future. The Committee requested that an additional special meeting should be arranged to allow more time to consider this important topic. It was agreed that the Committee and Governance Adviser would organise an additional date which would also allow the Cabinet Members to attend.

ACTION: Committee & Governance Adviser

9 COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee noted the future work programme. A member suggested that the County Archives might be added to the work programme and also consideration of Asset Transfer.

10 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 15th November 2016 at 10am in Mezzanine Room 2, County Hall, Aylesbury. There will be a pre-meeting for members of the Committee only at 9.30am.

CHAIRMAN