

Adults, Leisure & Culture Select Committee

A meeting of Adults, Leisure & Culture Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 14th February, 2007.

Present: Cllr J A Fletcher (Chairman), Cllr M Cherrett, Cllr K Dixon, Cllr M Frankland, Cllr Miss B Inman, Cllr T Laing, Cllr J M Lynch, Cllr M Perry, Cllr R Rix, Cllr M E Womphrey, Mr A Maxwell (Diocesan Representative).

Officers: R Kench (CESC); G Birtle, T Harrison, S Johnson (LD).

Also in attendance: No other persons in attendance.

Apologies: Cllr M Smith, Cllr K Faulks, Cllr Mrs A Norton; Mr P Beach and Mr R Cash (Parent Governor Representatives).

1030 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Fletcher declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in relation to the item Review of Major Festivals (SIRF & BIFF), due to being a member of the Friends of Billingham International Folklore Festival.

1031 Minutes of the meeting held on 30th January 2007

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 30th January 2007 be agreed as a correct record and forwarded to the next Council Meeting for approval upon inclusion of the Scrutiny Officer's name in the attendance details.

1032 Market Traders Questionnaire Results

Members were presented with the results from the Market Traders Questionnaire carried out by Councillor Fletcher, Councillor Frankland and Councillor Smith on 7th and 10th of February 2007.

CONCLUDED that:-

1. The results of the Market Traders Questionnaire be noted.
2. A copy of the results be forwarded to the Chairman of the Markets Forum along with an explanation that question 9 of the questionnaire was included in order that the Committee could judge the extent to which all communication channels were used.

1033 Review of Major Festivals (SIRF & BIFF)

Members of the Committee were updated on the work undertaken by Councillors Fletcher and Laing in relation to the financial information of SIRF and BIFF. The Committee were informed that work on the financial information was to continue.

Members were presented with an evidence matrix for the review produced by the Scrutiny Officer. The officer explained that the matrix was a work in progress and only covered SIRF at that point. The officer advised Members that the evidence matrix may be a useful tool when the Committee formulated its recommendations.

Members of the Committee discussed the evidence collected so far for the review. Discussions centred around:

Both festivals

- BME communities
- Publicity
- Community engagement
- People with disabilities

SIRF

- Expenditure
- Value for money
- Beijing link
- Disruption to normal life

BIFF

- Expenditure
- Value for money
- Attendances
- Physical facilities
- Visas

Members discussed the positive links between Stockton Council officers and Beijing insofar as the previous exchange of advice and acts participating in Council festival events. Members agreed that with regards to the Beijing link it would be appropriate for the Authority to continue to engage constructively whilst individuals might make representations about human rights in the Chinese People's Republic.

Members discussed the remaining work to be carried out on the review and the time frame in which it had to be completed. The Committee requested that the Scrutiny Officer obtain written comments for the review from the following areas:

- BME communities
- People with disabilities
- The Diversity Team (Stockton Council)
- Bus operators and taxi operators (as agreed in the project plan)

Members were made aware that the extra evidence requested might have an impact on the timescale of the review.

CONCLUDED that:-

1. The Select Committee considers that it would be appropriate for the Authority to continue to engage constructively with regards to the Beijing link whilst individuals might make representations about human rights in the Chinese People's Republic.

2. The Scrutiny Officer would obtain written comments for the review from the following areas:

- BME communities
- People with disabilities

- The Diversity Team (Stockton Council)
- Bus operators
- Taxi operators