

MINUTE of MEETING of the CULTURE AND LEISURE POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL of WEST Lothian Council held within Council Chambers, West Lothian Civic Centre, on 13 October 2016.

Present – Councillors Dave King (Chair), Cathy Muldoon, Carl John, Frank Toner, Jim Walker, David Dodds substituted for Jim Dixon

Apologies – Councillor Jim Dixon

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 5 (Community Arts Performance Report) – Councillor Jim Walker declared a non-financial interest in this item of business in that he was a Director with the Regal Community Theatre, Bathgate.

Agenda Item 6 (Library and Heritage Services Performance Report) – Councillor Frank Toner declared a non-financial interest in this item of business in that he was the Book Bug Champion.

2. MINUTE

The panel confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 25 August 2016 as a correct record. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. COMMUNITY ARTS PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) providing an update on Community Arts activities and performance since the previous report in April 2016 and highlighting notable achievements and developments.

The report provided the following appendices:-

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| Appendix 1 | Community Arts Performance Report (April 2016 to October 2016) |
| Appendix 2 | Firefly Arts Ltd Report (April 2016 to October 2016) |
| Appendix 3 | Regal Community Theatre Report (April 2016 to October 2016) |

Appendix 1 to the report provided a summary of the latest performance figures and notable achievements across the main services activities of arts venues, Youth Music Initiatives, Arts and Learning, Arts and Wellbeing, Public Art and supporting the voluntary arts sector. Information on the performance and achievements of Firefly Arts Ltd, and the Regal Community Theatre in Bathgate was also included.

The Performance Report demonstrated the impact of the service and how it contributed to the relevant Single Outcome Agreement outcomes.

The report recommended that the panel note the report.

Decision

To note the content of the report.

4. LIBRARY AND HERITAGE SERVICES PERFORMANCE

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services providing an update on performance and activities since the previous report in April 2016. Appendix 1 also provided an update on the progress of the transfer of Heritage Services

The full performance and activity report was included in Appendix 1 to the report. The report provided a summary of the latest performance figures, key achievements and delivery from Library and Heritage Services.

The report went on to advise that it had been agreed at Council Executive that Archives and Records Management Services would transfer to Corporate Services, Museum Services would transfer to Almond Valley Heritage Trust and the Local History Library would become part of the general library offering.

The Head of Housing, Building and Customer Services concluded that the service delivered on key outcomes of access to reading, learning and information and continued to work in an integrated way to deliver council information services in all communities.

The report recommended that the panel note the performance and activities of the Library and Heritage Service over the six month period from April 2016 to October 2016.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

5. LEARN TO SWIM PLUS UPDATE

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on progress on the implementation and delivery of the Learn to Swim Plus (LTS Plus) programme.

From May 2015 to April 2016 a total of 2229 P4 or P5 children were assessed and 623 were identified as non-swimmers, 219 took up the offer of LTS Plus lessons and after completion of LTS Plus lessons an additional 112 children could swim at level 3 or above.

The Head of Education (Learning, Policy & Resources) explained that a small underspend from the swimming budget enabled a 6 week curricular swim programme to be delivered to P5-7 pupils at Winchburgh Primary

School. The school had a high number of non-swimmers identified through their LTS Plus assessment in 2015.

Through the 2015-16 LTS Plus Assessment a further 4 primary schools were identified as having a high percentage of P5 non-swimmers and would receive the offer of a 6 week block of curricular swimming in 2016-17. The four schools were Harrysmuir, Howden St Andrews, Knightsridge and Riverside.

In conclusion the report advised that 2229 children were assessed through the Learn to Swim Plus programme and that a curricular swim programme would be delivered to children from 4 targeted schools which had a high percentage of non-swimmers.

The report recommended that the panel note the Learn to Swim Plus Programme.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

6. WEST Lothian's GRASSROOTS PUBLIC ART GRANT PROGRAMME

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) advising of the relaunch of the West Lothian Grassroots public art grant programme. Appendix 1 to the report contained a copy of the funding application form and guidance on funding criteria.

The report advised that West Lothian Grassroots Public Art Grant was the council's first grant scheme for public art. Funded by developer contributions, it enabled four local community groups in Armadale, Dedridge, Uphall & Broxburn and Boghall to improve their local environment through public art.

The four projects were developed in partnership with local communities to commission artists to create original public art works and were supported by a series of public engagement activities.

The Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) explained that lessons learned from the original Grassroots grant programme of 2010 would provide an improved and streamlined application process by:

- Making applications a one-stage process rather than the original two stages
- Allowing for a maximum of up to £20,000 per award
- Awarding up to two grants per year in order to maintain a manageable project delivery timeframe within current resources
- Place more emphasis on partnership working and a higher requirement for match funding

The report concluded that the West Lothian Grassroots Public Art Grant Programme would build on the success of the initial Grassroots programme in 2010 and would allow local communities to access funding to create new public art for their area which was based on community consultation and engagement.

The report recommended that the panel note the draft Grassroots Public Art Grant Funding Guidance and Application form 2016 and in particular note that:

- Funding would be made available to constituted groups in West Lothian
- Up to a maximum of two awards would be made each years
- Awards of up to a maximum of £20,000 would be made

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

7. UPDATE ON FIVE PUBLIC ART DEVELOPMENTS: ARMADALE, BOGHALL, LINLITHGOW, LIVINGSTON & TORPHICHEN WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM WEST LOTHIAN PUBLIC ART FUND

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) providing an update on progress of five public art developments in Armadale, Boghall, Linlithgow, Livingston and Torphichen and advising that additional funding would be sought from the Public Art Fund towards the restoration of the Cross Well in Linlithgow.

The report advised that the council had a commitment to provide public art within its revised Public Art Strategy (2014/18) and the adopted West Lothian Local Plan (2009). Developer contributions leveraged by the adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) for Public Art (revised 2014) funds were accrued to West Lothian Public Art Fund.

The majority of the West Lothian Public Art Fund was reserved for specific developments including the relaunch of the Grassroots Public Art Grant fund. 10% of the fund was set aside for maintenance and conservation following a programme of annual inspections. In April 2015 council approved a small proportion of the fund to be used to support small projects identified by the Public Art Strategy Group (PASG). Five public art developments were identified by the PASG in 2015 and a budget of £50,000 from the Public Art Fund was used as leverage match funding.

The report went on to provide details on each of the five identified projects in Armadale, Boghall, Linlithgow, Livingston and Torphichen.

The report concluded that funding from the Public Art Fund had not only supported the five projects, but also enabled the council to leverage in

significant additional funding from various other sources. The continued engagement and involvement of the local community in the design, creation and maintenance of public art works made a valuable contribution to West Lothian's natural and built environment.

The report recommended that the panel:-

1. Note the update report; and
2. Agree that a recommendation was made to Council Executive for an additional £12,500 from the council's Public Art Fund towards the cost of restoration of the Cross Well, Linlithgow.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report.
2. To agree to forward to Council Executive with the recommendation that it be approved.

8. WORKPLAN

The panel considered a list of items that would form the basis of the panel's work over the coming months.