

CORPORATE CULTURAL SUB-COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Corporate Cultural Sub-Committee held on Monday 4 August 2008 in the Council Chambers, Municipal Buildings, Station Road, Dumbarton at 2.05 p.m.

Present: Provost Denis Agnew and Councillors George Black, Gail Casey, Ronnie McColl, Marie McNair and Iain Robertson.

Attending: Bill Clark, Executive Director of Social Work and Health; David Connell, Head of Finance and ICT; Alan Douglas, Manager of Legal Services; Lynda McLaughlin, Manager of Commercial Operations; Ken Graham, Manager of Lifelong Learning; Billy McCabe, Section Head – Events and Halls; Gill Graham, Section Head – Culture; Joe Cox, Public Relations & Marketing Officer and Craig Stewart, Committee Officer.

Provost Denis Agnew in the Chair

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair, Provost Agnew, welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that Bill Clark was attending in place of Terry Lanagan, Executive Director of Educational Services, who was currently on annual leave.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Corporate Cultural Sub-Committee held on 20 March 2008 were submitted and approved as a correct record, subject to the following:-

With reference to the item under the heading 'Proposed Utilisation of Capital Proceeds of Thomas Hill Painting', the Manager of Legal Services was heard in respect of the requirement to consider whether or not to confirm its decision on the utilisation of the disposal proceeds of the painting, in light of there being no previous minuted decision of Council. Thereafter, Members re-affirmed the previous decision of the Sub-Committee that the proceeds of the Thomas Hill Painting would be used to acquire paintings by female artists, both from the local area and Scotland wide.

With reference to the items under the headings 'Exhibitions/Visuals Arts Programme 2008', '2008 Events Progress Report' and 'Creation of a Memorial Wall in Clydebank', after hearing the Head of Finance and ICT it was noted that it would not be appropriate to allocate monies from the Culture Sub-Committee budget for 2007/2008 for use in the projects previously referred to, and carried forward for use in the next financial year 2008/2009.

With reference to the item under the heading '2008 Events Progress Report', the Sub-Committee noted that, in addition to the budget allocation of £25,000 from the Culture Sub-Committee budget within the 2008/09 Revenue Estimates to allow the 2008 RSPBA Championship event to be staged successfully, an additional £10,000 would be allocated to assist in the promotion of the event.

DELEGATED POWERS FOR CORPORATE CULTURAL SUB-COMMITTEE

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services requesting that the Sub-Committee notes the delegated powers which have been given to the Corporate Cultural Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

BUDGETARY MONITORING 2008/2009

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services providing a list of budget headings for consideration to allow the Sub-Committee to agree which budgets it considers relevant for future reporting and monitoring.

After discussion, the Sub-Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve monitoring of all budget headings detailed in the Appendix to the report as relevant for monitoring purposes; and
- (2) that the financial monitoring reports would be submitted to the Sub-Committee on a regular basis.

CULTURAL GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Corporate Services:-

- (a) providing an update on the budget position of cultural grants to voluntary organisations; and
- (b) providing details of grant applications put forward for approval by the Sub-Committee.

After discussion and having heard the Head of Finance and ICT in elaboration and in answer to Members' questions, the Sub-Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that, to avoid any undue delay to the organisations following the cancellation of the meeting of the Sub-Committee that had been scheduled for 26 June 2008, the undernoted grants had been approved under delegated authority, following prior consultation with the Chair, Provost Agnew:-
 - (a) Lomond Folk Festival - £6,000;

- (b) The Lennox Literary Society - £700; and
 - (c) West Dunbartonshire Festival Association - £9,000.
- (2) that in respect of Clydebank Pipe Band, a grant to meet the final instalment of loan in the sum of £1,975.80 be approved.

2008 EVENTS PROGRAMME UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development advising of the progress and outcomes to date of the 2008 Council Events programme.

After discussion and having heard the Section Head – Events and Halls in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, it was agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report;
- (2) to congratulate everyone involved for their hard work and dedication in ensuring the success of the Live at Loch Lomond '08 event which had taken place over the weekend of 2/3 August;
- (3) that, notwithstanding (2) above, to note the concerns raised by Members in respect of the initial delay in entry to Balloch Park on Saturday, 3 August and that further information be obtained from the Event Commander as to the precise circumstances of risk involved that had necessitated the delay;
- (4) to note the verbal update given regarding correspondence received from the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (RSPBA) requesting sealed bids from organisations in respect of offers to stage the Pipe Band Championships for a three year period from 2010. It was agreed that the development of a Council submission would be led by the existing Pipe Band Member/Officer Working Group chaired by the Provost, and that a further report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee in this regard;
- (5) that a report on the financial performance of the 2008 Scottish Pipe Band Championships be brought to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee;
- (6) that, with regard to membership of the Pipe Band Member/Officer Working Group, an invitation be extended to all Members on the Sub-Committee to participate subject to individual diary commitments; and
- (7) that a full report outlining proposals on the financial implications of a Hogmanay event would be submitted to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee in due course.

APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING FOR 2009 – YEAR OF HOMECOMING

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development advising of the outcome of funding applications for 2009 – Year of Homecoming. In this connection, it was noted:-

- (a) that the application from the Events & Halls section for funding in support of the 2009 Classical Music Event had been unsuccessful and this event would not therefore receive funding from the Homecoming 2009 fund;
- (b) that the application from the Events & Hall section for funding in support of the 2009 Loch Lomond Highland Games had been unsuccessful and this event would not therefore receive funding from the Homecoming 2009 fund; and
- (c) that the application from Regular Music Ltd. for a Scottish contemporary music festival on the final Saturday in August 2009 headlined by a major Scottish band had been partially successful in that this event would receive 40% of the level of funding applied for. Members had previously noted a comment by the Section Head – Events and Halls that this event would not now be proceeding due to a shortfall in funding.

After discussion and having heard the Section Head – Events and Halls in elaboration and in answer to Members' questions, the Sub-Committee agreed to note the terms of the report with disappointment.

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURE IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services seeking approval for the establishment of a member/officer short life working group to make recommendations for the strategic development of cultural activities within West Dunbartonshire.

After discussion and having heard the Executive Director of Social Work and Health, the Sub-Committee agreed:-

- (1) to the establishment of a Member/Officer Working Group to develop a strategic approach to culture across the Council with the aim of maximising the opportunities for inward investment, tourism and economic growth;
- (2) that an invitation be extended to all Members on the Sub-Committee to serve on the Working Group, which would be chaired by Provost Agnew, whilst ensuring that all sections of the Council which currently had responsibility for culture, tourism, twinning, events and economic development and regeneration should have officer representation on it;
- (3) that, in view of (2) above, the Corporate Management Team would consider officer representation on the Member/Officer Working Group; and

- (4) that the Working Group would be asked to report on its progress to future meetings of the Sub-Committee as appropriate.

INDUSTRYUS HERITAGE LOTTERY PROJECT

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services advising of Heritage Lottery Funding awarded to West Dunbartonshire Council's Heritage Project IndustryUS. In this connection, it was noted that the aims and benefits linked to the strategic aims of the Council's Cultural Strategy were to:-

- (a) Conserve, interpret and celebrate our culture and heritage;
- (b) Promote West Dunbartonshire's cultural identity locally, nationally and internationally;
- (c) Increase access and participation in cultural activity for all citizens;
- (d) Recognise and promote the role of culture to cross-cutting agendas including Economic Development, Social Inclusion, Regeneration, Lifelong Learning and Health among others; and
- (e) Develop handling/loans collections of artefacts for school and community use and establish cultural links with other Council's to share information.

After discussion and having the Section Head – Culture in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Sub-Committee agreed to note the terms of the report including the aims and objectives of the WDC IndustryUS project.

ANTONINE WALL WORLD HERITAGE SITE PROPOSAL: TWINNING/PARTNERING OPPORTUNITIES

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services informing on progress of the proposal to UNESCO from the U.K. Government to include the Antonine Wall as part of the 'Northern Frontiers of the Roman Empire' World Heritage Site and seeking approval for officers to investigate the potential of twinning/partnering arrangements for West Dunbartonshire, particularly between museums, schools and youth groups.

After discussion and having heard the Manager – Lifelong Learning in elaboration and in answer to Members' questions, it was agreed:-

- (1) to note, with satisfaction, that the bid for World Heritage status had been successful;
- (2) to congratulate the Manager – Lifelong Learning, and other involved parties, for their dedication and commitment which had helped to ensure the success of the World Heritage proposal;

- (3) that the Manager of Lifelong Learning would initiate discussions with the Chair and appropriate officers within West Dunbartonshire Council, partner local authorities/agencies on the Antonine Wall 'management plan' working group, relevant voluntary sector agencies and potential international partners with a view to maximising the benefits for West Dunbartonshire Council of the new status;
- (2) that a further report containing proposals for the way forward should be presented to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee before any decisions are made; and
- (3) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

In relation to a point raised by Councillor Black, it was also agreed that consideration be given to the possibility of promoting Old Kilpatrick as the historic birthplace of St Patrick, including the possibility of an event or festival taking place in his commemoration, particularly in view of the inherent links to Roman heritage in Old Kilpatrick.

DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING, ETC.

Having heard the Chair, Provost Agnew, it was agreed that the date of the next meeting of the Sub-Committee would be communicated to Members in due course. It was also agreed that the next meeting would be held in the Council Chambers, Clydebank Town Hall and the venue for the Sub-Committee would be in rotation with the Council Chambers, Municipal Buildings, Dumbarton.

In thanking everyone for their attendance at the meeting the Chair, Provost Agnew, expressed the hope that the Stephen Conroy paintings that have been taken down in the Council Chambers, Municipal Buildings, Dumbarton, on a temporary basis due to water ingress, would be reinstated to their former positions in the Chambers as soon as possible.

The meeting closed at 3.25 p.m.