Nottinghamshire County Council

Culture Committee

Tuesday, 19 April 2016 at 14:00

County Hall, **County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP**

AGENDA

1	Minutes of the last meeting on 8 March 2016	3 - 6
2	Apologies for Absence	
3	Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers:- (see note below) (a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (b) Private Interests (pecuniary and non-pecuniary)	
4	Service Update for the Period 22 February to 28 March 2016	7 - 8
5	Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre and Country Park - Progress Update	9 - 12
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Notes

(1) Councillors are advised to contact their Research Officer for details of any Group Meetings which are planned for this meeting.

(2) Members of the public wishing to inspect "Background Papers" referred to in the reports on the agenda or Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act should contact:-

Customer Services Centre 0300 500 80 80

(3) Persons making a declaration of interest should have regard to the Code of Conduct and the Council's Procedure Rules. Those declaring must indicate the nature of their interest and the reasons for the declaration.

Councillors or Officers requiring clarification on whether to make a declaration of interest are invited to contact Peter Barker (Tel. 0115 977 4416) or a colleague in Democratic Services prior to the meeting.

(4) Councillors are reminded that Committee and Sub-Committee papers, with the exception of those which contain Exempt or Confidential Information, may be recycled.

(5) This agenda and its associated reports are available to view online via an online calendar - http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/dms/Meetings.aspx

Nottinghamshire County Council

minutes

Meeting	Culture Committee
Date	8 March 2016 (commencing at 10.30am)

Membership
Persons absent are marked with an 'A'

COUNCILLORS

John Knight (Chairman)
Pauline Allan (Vice-Chairman)

Chris Barnfather
Alan Bell
John Clarke
John Cottee
Maureen Dobson
Sybil Fielding
Tom Hollis
Roger Jackson
Mike Pringle

Ex-officio (non-voting)
A Alan Rhodes

OTHER COUNTY COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE

David Martin

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Pete Barker	-Democratic Services
Ian Bond	-Team Manager, Learning and Skills
Peter Gaw	-Group Manager, Libraries, Archives & Information
Sally Gill	-Group Manager, Planning
Emily Gillott	-Community Archaeologist
Derek Higton	-Service Director, CFCS
Philippa Milbourne	-CFCS
Ursilla Spence	-Archaeology Leader
Heather Stokes	-Conservation

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

That the minutes of the last meeting held on 26 January 2016 were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Martin declared a non-pecuniary interest in the item on 'Response to Petition: Save Our Services – Jacksdale and Selston Libraries' as he is a member of Selston Parish Council, which, with the permission of the Chairman, did not preclude him from speaking on that item.

COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY- PRESENTATION

The Chairman reminded the Committee of their responsibilities regarding the quasi-judicial nature of Town and Village Green decisions.

RESOLVED 2016/014

That Committee notes and comments on the presentation.

HERITAGE TOURISM REVIEW

RESOLVED 2016/015

That the extension of the fixed term contract for the Senior Practitioner Heritage Tourism post, as set out in paragraph 8 of the report be approved, and the future work streams as set out in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the report also be approved.

SERVICE UPDATE FOR THE PERIOD 4 JANUARY TO 21 FEBRUARY 2016

RESOLVED 2016/016

That the update on a range of initiatives being undertaken to improve and enhance the quality of life for Nottinghamshire people be noted.

RESPONSE TO PETITION: SAVE OUR SERVICES – JACKSDALE AND SELSTON LIBRARIES

RESOLVED 2016/017

That the Committee confirms the Authority has no plans to close Jacksdale or Selston Libraries, as outlined in the report, and that the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

PERFORMANCE REPORTING (1 APRIL – 31 DECEMBER 2015)

RESOLVED 2016/018

That the Committee notes the performance of the Council's cultural services during the period 1st April – 31 December 2015.

COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS AT RUFFORD COUNTRY PARK

RESOLVED 2016/019

That approval be given for the commencement of a procurement exercise to select an appropriate partner to manage Rufford Country Park's commercial operations with effect from January 2017.

ADULT AND COMMUNITY LEARNING SERVICE STRATEGIC AIMS AND OBJECTIVES AND FEES POLICY 2016/17

RESOLVED 2016/020

1) that the Skills for Employment and Adult and Community Learning Services' delivery and outcomes for 2014/15 be noted

2) that the Nottinghamshire Community Learning and Skills Service's Strategic Aims and Objectives for 2016/17 be approved

3) that the expenditure of the anticipated grant allocation from the Education Funding Agency and the Skills Funding Agency against the priorities identified be approved

4) that the Fees Policy for 2016/17 be approved.

WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED 2016/021

That the committee's work programme be noted.

The meeting closed at 11.55am

CHAIRMAN

Nottinghamshire County Council

Report to Culture Committee

19 April 2016

Agenda Item: 4

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE

SERVICE UPDATE FOR THE PERIOD 22 FEBRUARY TO 28 MARCH 2016

Purpose of the Report

1. To update the Committee on a range of initiatives being undertaken to improve and enhance the quality of life for Nottinghamshire people.

Information and Advice

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES, ARTS, INFORMATION AND COMMUNITY LEARNING

Annesley Woodhouse Community Partnership Library

2. The re-opening of Annesley Woodhouse Library in its new location within The Acacia Centre on Saturday 19th March 2016 marked the third Nottinghamshire Library to become a Community Partnership Library and the first within a community centre. The library moved from its old premises within a church hall and reopened in its new, shared and refurbished premises after just one week of a closure period.

3. The Library Service has invested in new shelving, carpeting and some library furniture, all of which have increased the accessibility of library materials and enhanced the overall customer experience. In addition customers using the new library are able to sit in warm comfortable surroundings with full access to The Acacia Centre's facilities which include a café, public toilets, Wi-Fi and a range of learning and leisure activities.

4. On the opening day over 75 people visited and by the end of its first full week of opening the numbers of new members equalled 76% of the library's 2014-15 total. There have been very many positive comments including:

   - "*It's lovely to be able to borrow our books at the same time as visiting the centre*" (parent of 2)

   - "*It's so nice to have the library here, it's warm and friendly and I can meet my friends, choose my books and have a cup of tea too!*" (older lady visitng the library for the first time).

5. This move will save on building maintenance costs and reduce staffing expenditure as the library will open on a day to day basis with volunteers supported at arm's length by a library manager and a dedicated phone line.

COUNTRY PARKS AND GREEN ESTATES

6. Easter is traditionally the start of the main season at Rufford Abbey and Sherwood Forest Country Parks, but visitor numbers at this time of year are extremely weather dependent, especially when Easter falls in March rather than April. Weather at Rufford Abbey and Sherwood Forest Country Park was sunny on Good Friday, but turned colder and wetter for the remainder of the Easter weekend.

7. At Rufford Abbey the main event was the family Easter Egg Trail. Nearly 1,000 trails sold on Good Friday, but numbers dropped to a maximum of 350 per day on the wetter days. Car park figures followed a similar pattern – a busy pre-Easter week, peaking on the sunny Friday with around 1,500 cars, followed by slower days. Trading at cafes and shops on Good Friday was exceptionally busy; Easter Saturday was very poor but income boosted by two pre-booked weddings. Easter Sunday was average and Easter Monday was poor. In general, results illustrate the seasonal and often unpredictable demand at outdoor tourist attractions.

RECOMMENDATION

1) That the update on a range of initiatives being undertaken to improve and enhance the quality of life for Nottinghamshire people be noted.

Derek Higton
Service Director, Youth, Families & Culture

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Derek Higton
Service Director
Youth, Families & Culture
T: 0115 9773498
E: derek.higton@nottscc.gov.uk

C0807

Nottinghamshire County Council

Report to Culture Committee

19 April 2016

Agenda Item: 5

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE

SHERWOOD FOREST VISITOR CENTRE AND COUNTRY PARK – PROGRESS UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report and the accompanying joint presentation by the RSPB and the Council is to provide the Committee with a further update on progress following Committee approval in July 2015 to enter into legal agreements with the RSPB as partner to a) design, build and operate a new visitor centre at Sherwood Forest Country Park and b) decommission the existing facilities.

Information and Advice

Background

2. Culture Committee approved the commencement of a procurement exercise at its meeting on 1 July 2014 to seek a partner to develop, build and operate a new visitor centre for Sherwood Forest Country Park, and to manage Sherwood Country Park.

3. Following a detailed procurement exercise, the RSPB was selected as the preferred bidder. Culture Committee, at its meeting on 21 July 2015, approved the Council entering into legal agreements with the RSPB as its partner.

4. Contracts were signed with the RSPB on 16 November 2015. A presentation to the Culture Committee on 8 December 2015 highlighted the progress made and the next steps with this project and this presentation provides a further update.

Other Options Considered

5. The report is for noting only.

Reasons for Recommendations

6. The report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

7. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and legal advice sought on these issues as required.

Implications for Service Users

8. The impact on service users (visitors) will be positive as the new visitor centre will provide a much needed “fit for purpose” visitor experience.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1) That Culture Committee notes the progress made on entering into legal agreements with the RSPB as partner to design, build and operate a new visitor centre at Sherwood Forest Country Park, to decommission the existing facilities, and the next steps.

Derek Higton
Service Director, Youth, Families and Culture

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Derek Higton
Service Director, Youth, Families and Culture
T: 0115 9773498
E: derek.higton@nottscc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments

9. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (SS 31/03/16)

10. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Future of Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre – report to Culture Committee on 1 July 2014 (previously published)

Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre and Country Park – future development and management arrangements – report to Culture Committee on 21 July 2015 (previously published)

Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre and Country Park – progress update – report to Culture Committee on 8 December 2015 (previously published)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0802

Nottinghamshire County Council

Report to Culture Committee

19 April 2016

Agenda Item: 6

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE

RESPONSE TO PETITION: SAVE OUR FUNFAIR - EDWINSTOWE

Purpose of the Report

1. This report informs Committee of the Council's response to a petition presented at Full Council on 25 February 2016.

Information and Advice

2. A petition with 969 signatures was presented to Full Council on 25 February 2016 by Councillor John Peck. The petition stated "Despite purchasing 2 fields specifically for the site of the new visitor centre the County Council has now decided that the preferred location for the visitor centre is forest corner which is the current location of the funfair. The funfair has been given notice that the Council will now renew their licence when it expires next year. The only land that the Council has offered the funfair to relocate to is the field across the road. This location is not suitable because the deterrent of the busy road for children would potentially make the funfair unsustainable. As no other suitable site has been offered this could mean that we will lose the funfair forever." The petition was compiled in December 2015.

3. Members will recall that following a public procurement exercise the County Council has contracted with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) to design, build and manage a replacement visitor centre for Sherwood Forest Country Park, and manage the Country Park on a long term basis on behalf of the Council.

4. The RSPB is currently part way through the design and planning stage of its work to establish the replacement visitor centre. The RSPB's chosen location for the new centre is the Forest Corner site. Public and stakeholder consultation on the design concept for the new centre is currently underway.

5. It is the case that the selected location of the replacement visitor centre will require the Funfair to be re-sited. The Funfair currently holds an annual licence, operative from March-October, to operate from the Forest Corner site. The licence is required to be renewed each year. The replacement visitor centre is due to be operative from the winter of 2017/18. 2016 will be the final year the Funfair will operate from its current location.

6. As part of this consultation process, RSPB and Council officers are in contact with the Edwinstowe Funfair operators regarding the future location and operation of the Funfair. Both the County Council and the RSPB have publically committed to support the Funfair to effectively relocate its operations. To this end, an initial meeting with the Funfair operators took place on 18 March. A further meeting is scheduled for 29 April. The initial meeting

was constructive, and focused on how the funfair might operate sustainably from a site integrated within the replacement visitor centre's customer parking area on Naish's Field. This site offers access to a greater number of potential customers, would provide the Funfair with sufficient and appropriately designated space and access to necessary utilities. Issues of access and road crossing will be addressed by the RSPB and the Council through the formal planning process for the replacement visitor centre.

Other Options Considered

7. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

8. To inform Committee of the Council's response to a petition presented at Full Council on 25 February 2016. The Committee's decision will be reported to the next available meeting of the Full Council.

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

1) That the Committee notes that discussions are ongoing with Edwinstowe Funfair operators regarding the future location of the Funfair, and that the Council remains committed to supporting the effective relocation of the Funfair, and the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

Derek Higton
Service Director, Youth, Families and Culture

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Derek Higton
Service Director, Youth, Families and Culture
T: 0115 9773498
E: derek.higton@nottscc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (SMG 02/04/16)

10. The proposals set out in this report fall within the remit of this Committee.

Financial Comments (SS 31/03/16)

11. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0811

Nottinghamshire County Council

Report to Culture Committee

19 April 2016

Agenda Item: 7

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE

LAUNCH OF INSPIRE

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Culture Committee on the establishment and launch of Inspire.

Information and Advice

2. Members will be aware that over the past two years work has progressed to establish Inspire, a new, fully independent community benefit society intended to manage, on the Council's behalf, a range of cultural and learning services. These include:

- the public library offer
- the archives service
- the adult and community learning service
- the records management unit
- the youth and community arts offer
- the education music and library services.

3. Culture Committee has received a number of reports offering progress updates, and has also been instrumental in shaping the governance arrangements for Inspire, and the nature of the contractual arrangement that will exist between the Council and Inspire.

4. The contract was completed and executed at the end of February 2016, and took effect from 1 April 2016, when Inspire assumed responsibility for the services set out above. Approximately 630 staff (full and part time) TUPE transferred to Inspire on 1 April. The overall contract value is approximately £9.7million in 2016/17. The key features of the contract are as follows:

- it is for an initial term of five years, with an option to extend for both parties
- it includes detailed service and performance requirements for each constituent service
- it sets out the cost and performance expectations for a range of Council support services (such as HR) that Inspire will continue to purchase from the Council over the next 2-5 years
- it enables the Council to retain control over key decisions impacting upon constituent services (for example, library opening hours)
- it enables the Council to adjust its financial support for Inspire in future years through an annual contract review
- it ensures that the Council retains ownership of all properties used by Inspire to deliver services

- it ensures that effective arrangements are in place to ensure that key cultural services are safely and effectively delivered and managed.

5. The contract with Inspire will be managed directly by a new post of Cultural Services Commissioner and Contract Manager. Monthly contract management and monitoring meetings are already in place, and Culture Committee will continue to receive quarterly performance reports on the services delivered by Inspire.

6. The new arrangement will deliver approximately £450,000 of direct revenue budget savings to the Council through the generation of National Non-Domestic Rate (NNDR) rate relief for Inspire operated buildings. More critically though, the new arrangement will enable the public to develop a different, stakeholder based relationship with Inspire, which will see all Inspire members (over 20,000 people have now joined) have a direct stake in the governance of the Society through elected Board members. This changed customer relationship will support, in the long term, increased philanthropic donations and voluntary contributions to Inspire. At the same time, the financial and commercial freedoms that Inspire will enjoy as an autonomous entity should release an "entrepreneurial dividend" that will enable it to access and utilise new income streams to support its core mission of delivering sustainable and high quality cultural services for Nottinghamshire.

7. In broader governance terms, Inspire is currently establishing its Board. Potential members have been identified and shortlisted, with the Board expected to be fully operational by Summer 2016. It is anticipated that the Board will be chaired initially by the Chair of the Culture Committee, with the lead opposition Culture spokesperson also being a member.

Summary

8. In establishing Inspire, the County Council has generated an innovative model for the long term safeguarding and enhancement of Nottinghamshire's key cultural and learning services. Culture Committee will be kept informed of Inspire's performance and organisational progress on a regular basis.

Other Options Considered

9. The report is for noting only

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

10. The report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

1) That the update on the establishment and launch of Inspire be noted.

Derek Higton
Service Director, Youth, Families and Culture

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Derek Higton
Service Director, Youth, Families and Culture
T: 0115 9773498
E: derek.higton@nottscc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments

12. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (SS 31/03/16)

13. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Libraries, Arts, Archives, Information and Community Learning Services: new operating model – progress update – report to Culture Committee on 26 January 2016.

Change to staffing establishment for Cultural Services – report to Culture Committee on 26 January 2016.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0810

Nottinghamshire County Council

Report to Culture Committee

19 April 2016

Agenda Item: 8

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE

BESTWOOD COUNTRY PARK – FUTURE MAINTENANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval to progress negotiations with Gedling Borough Council over a landscape management contract for Bestwood Country Park.

Information and Advice

Background

2. Bestwood Country Park is an area of informal recreation and nature conservation, comprising 690 acres, in an urban fringe location. It is well used by Nottinghamshire people, and enjoys the support of two active Friends groups.

3. Roughly two thirds of the land is owned by Nottinghamshire County Council and one third by Gedling Borough Council. Both councils manage their land independently of the other (i.e. each Council independently carries out grounds maintenance, management of park buildings such as toilet blocks, and supports the activities of community Friends groups operating on the site).

4. The County Council staff team at Bestwood comprises a site manager, two rangers, two grounds maintenance operatives and a temporary part time janitor.

Current Budget Position

5. The annual revenue cost of Bestwood Country Park to the County Council is approximately £250,000. Full Council has previously agreed an Outline Business Case (OBC) for Bestwood that requires an annual revenue saving of £50,000 to be delivered through the exploration and establishment of alternative delivery models for the Park. The saving is required from 2016/2017. There is little commercial activity at Bestwood, and little realistic prospect of significant commercial activity in the medium term future.

Country Parks Service Transition

6. Members will be aware that the other two large country parks operated by the Service are currently in transition to alternative management arrangements. A contract has been signed with the RSPB to manage Sherwood Forest Country Park and to build the new Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre. Members have also agreed to procure a third party partner

or partners to manage commercial activity at Rufford Abbey Country Park, with new arrangements expected to be in place in early 2017.

7. Work to explore ways in which the revenue costs for Bestwood can also be reduced has therefore taken place within this context, and against an anticipated long term reduction in managerial capacity for the Country Parks Service.

Options Explored

8. Given the need to achieve a well maintained Park on reducing budgets, two possible ways forward were explored. These were:

Option i)

Grounds maintenance works to be undertaken by the County Council Landscapes and Cleaning teams, rather than by the onsite Country Parks team. County Council Landscapes and Cleaning teams manage other sites nearby, with plant and machinery at hand, so economies of scale were perceived to be achievable.

Option ii)

Gedling Borough Council to extend its management to the whole park (under contract to the County Council), absorbing relevant staff into its own Parks Division via TUPE transfer. Gedling has a strong grounds maintenance team, a community ranger team and a Parks Development Officer, so possesses appropriate managerial and direct service delivery experience. Under this arrangement, it is important to stress that the Country Park would remain the responsibility of the County Council, and the land would continue to be owned by the County Council.

9. Work to establish the potential cost savings under Option i) identified annual savings of approximately £20,000. This would be insufficient to meet the budget reduction target. Nor would there be any additional indirect significant savings (such as reduced building maintenance responsibilities).

10. Initial work with Gedling Borough Council officers to establish the potential savings delivered by Option ii) has identified up to £64,000 of annual revenue savings. It would also offer additional indirect savings in terms of management costs and buildings maintenance responsibilities, for example.

11. In view of this, it is recommended that officers be given authority to pursue more detailed contractual negotiations with Gedling Borough Council, with a view to a) confirming the potential savings set out above, and b) establishing the detailed terms of a legally binding contract with the Borough Council for the Park's medium term management arrangements. The final terms of the contract would be subject to agreement by Culture Committee in the Autumn of 2016, with new management arrangements commencing in April 2017.

Other Options Considered

12. Several other options have been considered:

- maintaining the status quo - a site team based full time at Bestwood - is not viable in the present budget situation. In addition, a restructure of current ranger and warden staff is required to fit the transitional arrangements required by the changing situation at Rufford and Sherwood Forest. Staff will increasingly need to work flexibly across a number of sites, rather than being based full time on site at Bestwood Country Park.

- tendering out current functions to a leisure management company would be highly unlikely to attract market interest, given the very low level of actual and potential commercial activity at Bestwood. Bestwood Country Park is a local recreational amenity not a tourist destination, and has very limited capacity to generate income, as attested by two recent specialist studies by consultants.

- the option of handing over management of the Park to a community benefit organisation has been explored informally with the two Friends Groups and examined in depth by external consultants. The conclusion was that it would be a difficult and protracted process, and there is limited appetite in the community to take on such a major responsibility. Some scope exists however, for a limited asset transfer of the Winding Engine House complex, and this work will continue to be under consideration.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

13. To support the delivery of the existing OBC for Bestwood Country Park.

14. To ensure that the future arrangements for the management of the Park ensure that it is effectively, safely, and sustainably maintained, and that its current visitor offer is properly supported.

15. To enable the Council to maintain ownership and control of its land holding, and provide a contractual mechanism for quality control.

16. To minimise the impact of financial constraints on local residents and Park users.

Statutory and Policy Implications

17. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

18. A saving of £50,000 is required to be made by the Country Parks Service budget for Bestwood Country Park beginning in 2016/17. In the current financial year (prior to contract start), one off revenue savings across the Country Parks Service will be generated to meet the required budget saving figure.

Human Resources Implications

19. The proposed contract would not create compulsory redundancies as TUPE would apply, and any staff displaced would be absorbed into the remaining Country Parks team.

Implications for Service Users

20. Previous discussions with Park users indicate that a staff team based on site full time is the preference. Given that this will be unsustainable in future, whatever option for change is chosen, there may be initial objection to new arrangements. These would see teams working on site daily but based elsewhere. This is the prevailing work practice in parks services, and in reality there will be little if any diminution in the service provided to Park users. Quality standards will be built into the contract arrangements and monitored closely by officers. The fact that Gedling Borough already manages a third of the Park means that the proposed supplier has good site and community understanding and is responsive to local needs. This reduces the prospect of disruption to service.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

21. Gedling Borough Council has experience in managing sites for nature, and care of Bestwood's nature habitats will be built into the contract.

RECOMMENDATION/S

1) That approval be given for officers to pursue more detailed contractual negotiations with Gedling Borough Council, with a view to a) confirming the potential savings set out above, and b) establishing the detailed terms of a legally binding contract with the Borough Council for the Park's medium term management arrangements. The final terms of the contract would be subject to agreement by Culture Committee in the Autumn of 2016, with new management arrangements commencing in April 2017.

Derek Higton
Service Director, Youth, Families and Culture.

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Derek Higton
Service Director, Youth, Families and Culture
T: 0115 9773498
E: derek.higton@nottscc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (LM 31/03/16)

22. The recommendations in the report fall within the Terms of Reference of the Culture Committee.

Financial Comments (SS 04/04/16)

23. The financial implications of the report are contained within paragraph 18 above.

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0809

Nottinghamshire County Council

Report to Culture Committee

19 April 2016

Agenda Item: 9

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE

ARTS IN LIBRARIES

Purpose of the Report

1. To update the Committee on the delivery of arts activity in libraries.

Information and Advice

Background

2. The options for change approved by Full Council in February 2015 outlined changes to the Arts service to meet the financial reductions required by the Council.

3. The residual arts function with a staff of 2.5 fte was embedded within the Libraries, Archives and Information service and will be included within the Council's contracting arrangements with Inspire due to go live in April 2016.

4. A key focus for the future service is supporting the integrated cultural and learning programme within Inspire.

5. Since September 2015 the Arts service has delivered a wide ranging programme of activities and exhibitions within libraries, engaging with a broad section of the community and enhancing the Library service's cultural offer.

Big Draw

6. The Big Draw is the world's biggest drawing festival involving over 20 countries. This international celebration of drawing is managed by an arts education charity, The Big Draw, which works with cultural and educational organisations, policymakers and businesses to promote 'visual literacy' and to demonstrate the social, economic and health benefits that the universal language of drawing can bring.

7. The festival provides thousands of enjoyable and free drawing activities run by galleries, museums, heritage and other cultural sites, schools, colleges, local authorities, libraries and other community agencies – individually or in collaboration. Based on the premise that everybody can draw given the opportunity, and that drawing can bring excitement and fresh thinking to any context, the festival aims to encourage people of all ages to explore ideas and express their creativity.

8. The Arts service leads on the Big Draw for Nottinghamshire. The theme for 2015 was '*Every drawing tells a story'.* A series of workshops was delivered in libraries either by artists or led by trained library staff with support from Arts service staff. Participants were encouraged to create drawings inspired by a story, place, memory or emotion. The common output was the creation of simple books which have now formed a touring exhibition. Currently on exhibit in Worksop Library gallery, and previously exhibited in Mansfield Central and West Bridgford libraries the exhibition will tour smaller library galleries later in 2016.

9. Key achievements include:

- 14 artist led workshops delivered in libraries and archives
- 30 self led workshops delivered by library staff
- distribution of Big Draw activity inspiration sheets and over 50 starter packs to groups around the County via the mobile library service to encourage wider participation
- 11 artist led outreach sessions delivered in partner settings with targeted groups
- 1,684 people took part in workshops with over 1,000 of these participating in library workshops
- 49 people received Award Winning Notts Art Service Big Draw training at five locations across the County to enable them to lead their own Big Draw events

10. Feedback was very positive from training sessions and workshops:

"Loved the day, fantastic trainers! Would thoroughly recommend the training to anyone working in the community. I am so excited to get my Big Draw planned and underway."

"Children loved having a focused activity and mixing with children of all abilities".

Exhibitions

11. A series of exhibitions are touring library galleries which have been created either as an Arts service commission in partnership with other organisations and initiatives or in order to demonstrate the art produced through the service's development work in libraries.

12. Exhibitions include:

- **Future Fields** – touring exhibition of 2D and 3D art works based on poppies to commemorate World War One following a series of artist led family workshops. Previously exhibited at the Archives and in West Bridgford, Worksop and Mansfield Central libraries, the exhibition will tour Arnold and Retford libraries later in the year.

- **MatEaster** – the exuberant paper cut-outs of Henri Matisse were the inspiration for a month of activities in libraries last March. A series of both artist led and library staff led workshops encouraged participants to draw with scissors. Over 760 people had fun with colour and shape in 34 libraries creating lots of bright, bold collages which has formed an exhibition that has toured Mansfield Central, Worksop and Beeston libraries and will visit Retford library later this year.

- **Inspired by Godfrey** – touring exhibition of work produced by artists in collaboration with community groups inspired by the work of artist Richard Godfrey shown in Arnold and Mansfield Central libraries and due to visit Retford library later this year.

13. In February 2016 artists took inspiration from Nottinghamshire Lace Heritage archives deposited with the County Archives service and working with both target groups and with families to produce two larger scale pieces of art work which will form the **Lovely Lace** exhibition to tour library galleries later this year. Fourteen workshops were held in libraries and at the Archives alongside a series of sessions with targeted groups including Mencap, Co-Production and five special Nottinghamshire schools.

Visual Literacy

14. Following training earlier in the year with artists, libraries and settings, three case study projects ran during the summer in Worksop, Hucknall and Newark libraries, exploring approaches to visual literacy with early years, schools and learning disabled groups. This project explored how a variety of creative approaches can help to develop individuals' ability to decipher the messages and the meanings behind the images we see. Work has been shared through social media and an exhibition of school children recreating old masters has been on display in Worksop library. The work will help to inform the education offer in development for Inspire.

Future Plans

15. An exciting range of events and exhibitions are planned for 2016-17 including a series of spring flower family art workshops in libraries which will create a touring exhibition – **The Inspire Garden** - to mark the launch of Inspire and a Roald Dahl themed exhibition and workshops to link in with this year's Dahl themed Summer Reading Challenge.

16. Research has shown that access to arts and culture supports local economic development, health and wellbeing, social development and education. Now with wider access to the communities within Nottinghamshire via the Library service's network of 60 libraries and the Archives, the experiences and opportunities provided by the Arts service has greater accessibility.

Other Options Considered

17. The report is for noting only.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

18. The report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

19. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Implications for Service Users

20. The Arts service is a County wide service available to all age groups.

RECOMMENDATION/S

1) That the update on the delivery of arts activity in libraries be noted.

Derek Higton
Service Director, Youth, Families and Culture

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Carol Newman
Team Manager Library and Arts Service Development
T: 0115 982 9040
E: carol.newman@nottscc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments

21. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (SS 15/02/16)

22. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All

C0784

Nottinghamshire County Council

Report to Culture Committee

19 April 2016

Agenda Item: 10

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, PLACE

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD ONLINE

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on work to enhance the Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record and to improve public access.

Information and Advice

2. The requirement to have an up to date Historic Environment Record (HER) is written in to the National Planning Policy Framework and the information on the HER is used by national agencies, local authorities, professional and amateur archaeologists, researchers, students and schools in addition to the County Council's own use.

3. Much of the data is held electronically and the database currently comprises over 18,000 records of archaeological sites and historic buildings, although the information held also includes maps, reports, photographs and slides, books, plans and surveys. In 2015, the Nottinghamshire HER database was moved on to an externally hosted system to bring it into line with surrounding local authorities, reduce the risk of the database failing and reduce the requirement for ongoing internal IT support.

4. The move to the new system also provided an opportunity, however, to realise more ambitious aspirations to make the HER available online. Online availability of HERs has been seen as desirable by Government and Historic England for some years. Over 60% of HERs nationally are already available on-line through the Heritage Gateway, alongside the information held on the National Heritage List for England, and demand is increasing, with expectations from users of all types that such access is available.

5. In February 2016, a grant of £5,000 was secured from Historic England to enable the work to be carried out to make the Nottinghamshire HER available online. This work was completed by the 31st March 2016 and the Nottinghamshire HER can now be accessed via the Heritage Gateway, thereby improving the service for the majority of customers and particularly for communities and local groups who will be able to access information from their own location.

6. This is, however, only the start of the process to improve accessibility and work to make the information currently held on paper or as slides/ photographs available online, will be carried out as further funding becomes available.

Other Options Considered

7. The option to do nothing was considered but would not have enabled the County Council to provide improved access to the HER for its customers.

Reason for Recommendation

8. Access to an up to date Historic Environment Record is a requirement of the National Planning Policy Framework but there is also an increasing demand for access to the information held in HERs from members of the public, local interest groups, the education sector and others. The provision of access to the Nottinghamshire HER through the online national Heritage Gateway is in line with the County Council's Digital First programme.

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications
A grant of £5,000 was secured from Historic England to cover the cost of the work required.

Public Sector Equality Duty implications
The improvements to the HER will increase accessibility to the information for customers who are unable to travel to County Hall.

Implications for Service Users
The work carried out will significantly improve access for all users of the HER, providing 24 hour online access to much of the information held within it.

Ways of Working Implications
This is in line with the County Council's Digital First approach to customer services and is the start of an ongoing process of moving elements of the HER such as photographs and reports into a digital format, which can then be made available online.

RECOMMENDATION

1) That members note the work that has been undertaken to secure the Historic Environment Record and to improve accessibility for service users in line with national standards and guidelines and with the County Council's Digital First approach.

Tim Gregory
Corporate Director Place

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Heather Stokes, Team Manager Conservation (0115 9932592, heather.stokes@nottscc.gov.uk).

Constitutional Comments [SLB 24/03/2016]

10. Culture Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments [SES 01/04/16]

11. The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All

Nottinghamshire County Council

Report to Culture Committee

19th April 2016

Agenda Item: 11

REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES

WORK PROGRAMME

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the Committee's work programme for 2016.

Information and Advice

2. The County Council requires each committee to maintain a work programme. The work programme will assist the management of the committee's agenda, the scheduling of the committee's business and forward planning. The work programme will be updated and reviewed at each pre-agenda meeting and committee meeting. Any member of the committee is able to suggest items for possible inclusion.

3. The **attached** work programme has been drafted in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and includes items which can be anticipated at the present time.

Other Options Considered

4. None.

Reason for Recommendations

5. To assist the committee in preparing its work programme.

Statutory and Policy Implications

6. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Committee's work programme be noted, and consideration be given to any changes which the Committee wishes to make.

Jayne Francis-Ward
Corporate Director, Resources

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Pete Barker
Democratic Services Officer
T: 0115 977 4416

Constitutional Comments (HD)

7. The Committee has authority to consider the matters set out in this report by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (NS)

8. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

CULTURE COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME 2015-16

Report Title	Brief summary of agenda item	Lead Officer	Report Author
7 June 2016			
Service update	For noting	Derek Higton/Sally Gill	Various
Performance reporting (2015/16)	For noting	Celia Morris	Matt Garrard
Annual review of the County Council Cultural Strategy		Derek Higton	Derek Higton
Nottinghamshire Green Estate Development Strategy and Plan 2013 - 2023	For decision	Derek Higton	Derek Higton/ Gareth Broome
Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre update		Derek Higton	Derek Higton
National Water Sports Centre - annual update	For information	Derek Higton	Derek Higton
Review of library stock recovery procedures – six-month review		Derek Higton	Nick London
12 July 2016			
Service update	For noting	Derek Higton/Sally Gill	Various
To be placed			
Outcome of procurement process for Rufford Country Park Commercial Offer		Derek Higton	Derek Higton