

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR RESOURCES

QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT (1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 2016)

Purpose of the Report

1. This report updates Culture Committee on performance progress made during the third quarter of the 2016/17 financial year, covering activities from 1st October to 31st December 2016.

Background

2. The performance data for the period 1st October to 31st December 2016 is set out in the dashboard at **Appendix A**. This provides a summary across all cultural service activities for the third quarter of this financial year.
3. The activities, key performance indicators and service level indicators which are reported in the dashboard have been identified by cultural services managers to provide information on key cultural service activities planned for 2016/17.
4. The performance dashboard includes a number of indicators which are included in the Council's Strategic Plan 2014 – 2018. These will also be reported to Policy Committee.

Report on Progress

5. The following activities are proceeding on schedule:

Sherwood Forest Country Park

- a. Culture Committee approved in July 2015 an agreement for the Council to partner with the RSPB to design, build and operate a new visitor centre at Sherwood Forest Country Park and to decommission the existing facilities. During this quarter, the County Council has supported Newark and Sherwood District Council's planning application process, with planning permission being granted in January 2017. The RSPB is planning to commence preparatory works during 2017. It is expected that the new centre will open for business in April 2018.

Rufford Abbey Country Park

- b. The project outcome is to achieve a long-term, sustainable future for Rufford Abbey Country Park, to conserve (protect and enhance) the heritage of the historic abbey buildings and the surrounding parkland and to develop a modern and attractive visitor offer. The County Council appointed Parkwood Leisure Ltd as the preferred partner

on 1st November 2016 and the contract commenced on 1st February 2017. The Council will continue to be responsible for maintaining the Park.

Bestwood Country Park

- c. During this quarter, negotiations have been undertaken with Gedling Borough Council with a view to the grounds maintenance and on site management of Bestwood Country Park being provided by them. Negotiations are proceeding and a report regarding future management arrangements is also on the agenda of this Culture Committee meeting for approval, with a view to Gedling Borough Council taking management responsibilities from 1 April 2017.

Cultural Strategy

- d. Culture Committee agreed on 6 September 2016 to review the County Council's Cultural Strategy 2011 – 2021. Work has been progressed on this review and the revised strategy was considered at Culture Committee on 24 January and will be presented to Policy Committee for approval in March 2017.

Community Partnership Libraries

- e. Preparatory work to develop the Community Partnership Libraries at Lowdham, Gotham, Selston, Edgewood and Sutton on Trent continued during this quarter and is being reported to Culture Committee as appropriate.

Modernise public libraries

- f. In April 2016 Inspire took over the provision of the Council's library service. Inspire has developed a programme of investment to modernise public libraries on behalf of the Council which will develop a range of cultural and learning services. Work commenced to transform Beeston library in October 2016 at an expected cost of £1million. Planning for the refurbishment of Keyworth and Mansfield Woodhouse libraries will follow in 2017.

Modernise virtual offer for cultural and learning services

- g. Inspire is developing an improved virtual offer providing increased access to cultural and learning services without the need to visit a specific building. During this quarter, a new Inspire website went live in November 2016 and includes online events and course booking and payments for the first time. Further developments to the library service gateway and digital heritage site are due for implementation before March 2017.

Other Options Considered

- 6. The process for presenting performance information set out in this report is in line with corporate guidance, which has itself been established following an appropriate analysis of alternative options.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

7. To ensure opportunities for effective and proportionate performance management are provided to Culture Committee on a quarterly basis as requested by Members and as set out in the constitution.

Statutory and Policy Implications

8. 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

- 1) That the Committee notes the performance of the Council's cultural services during the period 1st October to 31st December 2016.

Jayne Francis-Ward
Corporate Director Resources

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Matthew Garrard
Team Manager, Performance, Intelligence and Policy
T: 0115 9772892
E: matthew.garrard@nottsc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments

9. Constitutional Comments are not required as this progress report is for noting only.

Financial Comments (TMR 08/02/17)

10. There are no direct financial implications arising 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 direction for Cultural Services – report to Culture Committee on 24 January 2017

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.