

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.

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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