

CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

WEDNESDAY, 30 MARCH 2016

PRESENT: Councillors Samantha Rayner (Chairman), Clive Bullock (Vice-Chairman), Marius Gilmore, Asghar Majeed and Shamsul Shelim

Officers: Simon Fletcher, Shilpa Manek, Kevin Mist and Mark Taylor

WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jesse Grey and Simon Werner. Councillor Shamsul Shelim was substituting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest received.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2016, unanimously agreed.

LIBRARIES, ARTS AND HERITAGE SERVICE SUCCESSFUL VOLUNTEERING

Mark Taylor, Head of Libraries, Arts and Heritage, went through the report highlighting certain points as below:

- Point 4 in the report summary looks at the numbers of volunteers and how many hours they had given. Mark Taylor highlighted that the figures in the report would be exceeded and would be more closer to 12000 in a year. Mark Taylor explained that the approach taken was to encourage residents to do more and this approach had delivered 18% more, £86K in the revenue budget. The borough were selective, looking for the right skills to assist the borough to deliver our service. We look for active support, focussing on the retention and generation of goodwill.
- Councillor Stretton added that the officer who currently lead on volunteering stated as a volunteer themselves. Currently five volunteers joined the borough as officers. The lead officer matches people to what they want to do. The borough has many young volunteers that actively volunteer for their Duke of Edinburgh Awards.
- Other services provided include the home library function where books are delivered to housebound people. This function is very rewarding for the volunteers and the housebound people.
- Mark Taylor explained that the report had also been considered by the Big Society Panel where a few questions had been raised and could be answered at this Panel today.
 - The questions asked at the Big Society Panel were as follows:
 - What was the breakdown of age groups:

- 18-25 years – 80
- 35-45 years – 50
- 55-75 years – 100

To note, 20-24 year olds are busy in life but the borough has a few volunteers in this age group.

- How do volunteers find out about volunteering?
 - Through friends, users of the service, browsing the borough website and the young , generally at school and through youth clubs.
- Councillor Shelim asked how schools were approached. Mark Taylor explained that schools were informed through the reading challenge. Councillor Shelim suggested that it would be great to convince and encourage sixth form students to volunteer and get involved with the community as it would be good on their CV's.

The Chairman thanked Mark Taylor and his team on providing an amazing service to residents, always sustaining and improving the services.

WORK PROGRAMME

The Clerk went through the work programme and a few amendments for the next meeting were made.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Members noted the dates for future meetings.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

DRAFT INDOOR SPORT AND LEISURE STRATEGY

The meeting, which began at Time Not Specified, finished at Time Not Specified

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....