

CULTURE, LEISURE & TOURISM PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

15 December 2009

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Victor Tumilty (Culture, Leisure & Tourism Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Graham Jarritt, Borough Librarian
David Worthington, Museums and Heritage Manager
Angela Hunter, Principal Democratic Services Officer

17. Update on National Reviews and Reports relating to Public Library Services 1) Department Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) Review, 2) All Party Parliamentary Group Report – Director of Child & Adult Services

Type of Decision

Non key

Purpose of Report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the current position regarding the DCMS public library review and the content of the recent All Party Parliamentary Group Report on public library services and also to draw attention to the findings of the recent Wirral Inquiry which has relevant implications.

Issues for Consideration by Portfolio Holder

The DCMS review of library services commenced in 2008. The report is expected to be published in early 2010 and will be the principal Central Government policy guidance for public libraries. An additional matter relevant to the review was the DCMS inquiry into the proposal, (subsequently withdrawn), by Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council to close a number of libraries in 2009. The combined reports are important they help provide clearer definition of the statutory level and standards of library provision required. The Portfolio Holder was also informed of the recommendations of the All Party Parliamentary Group inquiry into public library services,

published in October 2009.

The Portfolio Holder commented on the vast range of services now provided within the library service and sought clarification on how it was ensured that the needs of the community were met. The Borough Librarian responded that due to recent surveys and the involvement of the public, he believed that the needs of the public were being anticipated and met as far as possible.

The Portfolio Holder commented that the central library was extremely accessible and provided a warm and friendly facility which had formed a focal point in the town as a meeting place. The importance of local branch libraries was also reiterated.

The Borough Librarian added that further challenges lie ahead including responding to developments in IT and the possibility of providing more online services.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the recommendations of the report and looked forward to an update from the Borough Librarian as soon as the report of the DCMS review is published.

18. Proposed Charges for Hartlepool Maritime Experience April 2010 – March 2011 – *Director of Child and Adult Services*

Type of Decision

Non key

Purpose of Report

To propose an increase in charges for Hartlepool Maritime Experience for 2010/11 season. These proposed increases have been discussed with the Trustees of the Trincomalee. They will also need ratification by the Chair of Trustees.

Issues for Consideration

The report outlined the current and proposed increase in charges for the Hartlepool Maritime Experience which was the North East's premier maritime attraction, having been awarded the North East Large Visitor Attraction of the Year. It was recommended that a modest percentage increase was implemented to help to maintain increases in income to offset rising costs. A price freeze had been implemented in 2008/09 and 2009/2010 and increased income is targeted via marketing activity.

The Portfolio Holder commented on the concessions provided for local people and questioned how this was publicised. The Museums and Heritage Manager confirmed that all publicity material and press releases provided details of the concessions available, however he indicated that additional awareness raising of this would be examined further.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder approved the increased entrance charges for Hartlepool Maritime Experience for the 2010/11 season (1 April 2010 – 31 March 2011)

The meeting concluded at 10.40 am.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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