

CULTURE, LEISURE & TOURISM PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

26 July 2011

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

Present:

Councillor Hilary Thompson (Culture, Leisure & Tourism Portfolio Holder)

Officers: John Mennear, Assistant Director, Community Services
Graham Jarritt, Library and Community Manager
Jeff Mason, Head of Support Services
Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Officer

6. Tees Archaeology Monograph: A Royal Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Streethouse, Redcar and Cleveland
(Director of Child and Adult Services)

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To report on a collaboration with Redcar and Cleveland Council to publish the archaeological report on 'A Royal Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Streethouse, Redcar and Cleveland' and to obtain consent for publishing said volume as part of the Tees Archaeology Monograph series.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

Tees Archaeology is a shared service of Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton-On-Tees Borough Councils with Hartlepool as the lead authority. A number of monographs have been published usually with significant elements of external funding with income from the publications used to assist in the publication of the next volume. In 2005 an Anglo-Saxon Cemetery was discovered at Streethouse during a research excavation. 109 graves were excavated and artefacts including gold jewellery, silver coins and iron knives discovered. The materials found are currently on display at Kirkleatham Museum. It was now proposed to publish 'A Royal Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Streethouse, Redcar & Cleveland' as the latest Tees Archaeology Monograph. The volume would be written by the excavator of the site and costs would be fully covered by Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council. Publication would cost approximately £8,000 - £10,000 for 500 copies and was estimated for Spring 2012.

The Portfolio Holder was pleased to approve the collaboration and publication and looked forward to seeing the finished volume.

Decision

That the inclusion of 'A Royal Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Streethouse, Redcar & Cleveland' in the Tees Archaeology Monograph series be approved.

7. Loan: Lucian Freud “Head of a Woman” (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To seek authorisation to temporarily loan a painting from the Museum Collection to an international touring exhibition.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

Cultural Services had been approached by Blain/Southern to request the temporary loan of the painting 'Lucian Freud: Head of a Woman' for inclusion in their exhibition "Lucian Freud: Drawing". This exhibition will open in London in February 2012 before travelling to New York for April-June 2012. All associated costs would be covered by the individual galleries, including insurance costs. As a condition of the loan facility reports for both galleries would be provided

The Portfolio Holder highlighted the topicality of the request in light of the recent passing of Lucian Freud. She was pleased to note Hartlepool Museum had been included with paintings from the British Museum and Victoria and Albert Museum. She noted that all aspects related to the safety of the painting during the loan had been covered but queried whether an insurance valuation had been provided. The Assistant Director confirmed that a guide valuation had been provided however this might increase due to the recent death of the artist.

Decision

That the loan of "Lucian Freud: Head of a Woman" for the "Lucian Freud: Drawing" exhibition be approved.

8. Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Departmental Plan Monitoring Report – April 2010 to March 2011
(*Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*)

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the progress made against the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Departmental Plan 2010/11 over the period April 2010 to March 2011.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report outlined the progress against the key actions and performance indicators contained in the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Departmental Plan 2010/11. All actions had been achieved however 3 of the 6 indicators were noted as not achieved as follows:

The percentage of footpaths and rights of way that are easy to use by the public – 77% against a target of 90%

Resident satisfaction with parks and open spaces in Neighbourhood Renewal areas – 66% against a target of 76%

Bathing water quality (previously reported)

The Portfolio Holder queried whether the Playbuilder project had been resumed. The Head of Support Services confirmed that it had, following a short delay. The Portfolio Holder asked if there were costings available for repairs to footpaths and rights of way. The Head of Support Services did not have those at hand but would be able to provide them. However he clarified that they would be covered by existing budgets. With reference to resident satisfaction with parks and open spaces in neighbourhood renewal areas officers were unable to explain precisely why this target had been missed. However being a survey based indicator the Assistant Director commented that the problem may be one of public perception.

Decision

That the year end position of key actions and performance indicators be noted along with the latest position in regard to risks

9. Hartlepool Exercise on Referral Scheme – Annual Report 2010-2011 *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To inform and update the Portfolio Holder of the outcomes of the Hartlepool Exercise for Life Programme (HELP) over the period of 2010/11.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The HELP scheme is supported and 50% funded by NHS Hartlepool. Over the years various funding partners have offered their support including City Challenge and the PCT. This has enabled the Sports Development Team

to expand on the level of provision and continue to have a major positive impact on the health of Hartlepool residents. The primary aim of the programme is to encourage and motivate individuals to lead a more active lifestyle long term. The Annual Report for 2010/11 was appended to the report. This showed that referrals are currently received from a broad range of health professionals and community organisations. Targets for the year were set at 300 completions and 50% retention in physical activity. After the first 6 months the team achieved 323 completions and 62% retentions. 840 referrals were made during April 2010-March 2011 with all referring agencies receiving feedback on their clients progress. At present 50% of the programme costs are provided by NHS Hartlepool but the continuation of this was open to question in light of future plans regarding GP commissioning. The Phase IV Cardiac Rehabilitation Programme, included as part of the programme, was funded by Working Neighbourhoods until the end of March 2011. Following the loss of this funding underspent health funding was reallocated in order to sustain the programme during 2011/12. Further reductions on the overall programme had to be made to allow the continuation of the work in light of the reduced availability in funding. Unless further funding could be sourced the future of the programme for 2012/13 was in doubt.

The Portfolio Holder asked that her congratulations be passed on to the team for their achievement in this area during 2010/11 particularly the positive retention rates. She noted the number of comments within the annual report equating physical well-being with mental well-being and felt it would be an absolute tragedy if this good work were stopped due to lack of funds. She urged officers to explore every avenue available to aid in the continuation of the programme.

Decision

That the report be noted

10. Cultural Services Venues Achieve VAQAS Accreditation in 2011 *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To update the Portfolio Holder on the findings of the recent Visitor Attraction Quality Assurance Scheme (VAQAS) assessment of Cultural Services venues.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

VAQAS is an independent endorsement of the quality standards expected in a visitor attraction, coordinated by the England Tourist Board. Hartlepool Art Gallery and the Maritime Experience had recently been assessed for the sixth time with both assessments resulting in the achievement of accreditation of "Quality Assured Visitor Attraction". Details were given

within the report of the comments made by inspectors in relation to both attractions and areas for improvement highlighted. The Portfolio Holder was pleased to note the very positive comments, particularly in relation to the Art Gallery, and again asked that her congratulations be passed on to all those who had played a part in achieving the high standards.

Decision

That the report be noted

11. Hartlepool Library Reference and Information Service Matrix Standard Accreditation; June 2011
(Director of Child and Adult Services)

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the recent achievement of Hartlepool Library Reference and Information Service in maintaining Matrix Standard for Information, Advice and Guidance Services accreditation.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Matrix Standard is the government quality Standard for organisations that support and enable individuals to make informed choices. Accreditation is for 3 years and Hartlepool Reference Library first gained Matrix accreditation in 2008. The assessment process is based on interviews with clients and delivery staff, observation and review of policies rather than paper based evidence. Maintenance of Matrix Accreditation costs £740 per annum. A copy of the Review Report was appended to the report.

The Portfolio Holder was pleased to note the accreditation achievement particularly given the many individual facets of the review. She noted that the recommendations made in the 2008 review report had been actioned and was confident that this would continue in the future. The Portfolio Holder complemented the Reference Library staff on this achievement which she felt was testament to their competence and to management leadership.

Decision

That the achievement of Matrix Standard accreditation by the Reference Library Service be noted.

The meeting concluded at 10.25 a.m.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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