

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL**

**Monday 23 July, 2012 at 6.00 pm in a Conference Room at the Council House**

**Panel members Present:** Councillor V. Woodruff (Chair)  
Councillor I. Azam  
Councillor B. Douglas-Maul  
Councillor K. Hussain  
Councillor L. Rattigan  
Councillor V. Whyte

**Other Members in Attendance:** Councillor A. Underhill

**Portfolio Holders present:** Councillor T. Ansell – Transport and Environment

**Officers in Attendance:** Keith Stone - Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods)  
Sue Granger - Head of Libraries, Heritage and Arts  
Stephen Snoddy - Director - The New Art Gallery  
Tracey Evans - Lead Accountant  
Craig Goodall - Scrutiny Officer

### **6/12 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C. Creaney and Councillor G. Illmann-Walker.

### **7/12 Substitutions**

Councillor V. Whyte substituted for Councillor G. Illmann-Walker.

### **8/12 Minutes**

#### **Resolved**

**That the minutes held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2012, copies having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.**

### **9/12 The New Art Gallery Working Group Recommendation Monitoring**

Members considered the draft Cabinet report that contained the response to the recommendations of the New Art Gallery (NAG) Working Group which were approved by the former Community Services Scrutiny and Performance Panel on the 10<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

The Director (NAG) informed Members of the proposed actions detailed in the draft Cabinet report (annexed)

The following are the principal points from the ensuing discussion:-

- Visitor figures were increasing to the levels experienced during the NAGs first year of opening. Members requested details of annual figures;
- It was acknowledged that there would be a cost to host the Turner Prize should Walsall make a successful bid;
- Based on current estimates it was thought that this cost could be met through existing budget savings at the NAG, corporate sponsorship, Art's Council funding and additional income from visitors;
- The proposal to work on Sundays was widely welcomed. Members expressed concern at the possibility that this would only be in place until March 2013. It was explained that the continuation of Sunday opening would be examined as part of the 2013/14 budget setting process;
- A discussion took place on the name of the NAG. A Member suggested that consideration should be given to dropping the word 'new' from the galleries name. Others thought that the 'new' should be retained as it was a good brand name and in terms of national art galleries it was still a new institution;
- Members were pleased with the level of engagement work that took place in schools and colleges. Art work of local students was displayed in the gallery;
- A programme was in place where local students can come in and learn about gallery operations;
- Most events at the NAG were aimed at under eighteens;
- Consideration was being given to relaunching a membership scheme in 2014 to coincide with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Garman-Ryan collection. There was an important decision to make in terms of whether the scheme would be income or relationship based.

## **Resolved**

### **That:**

- 1. the proposed response to the recommendations of the New Art Gallery Working Group be supported;**
- 2. a report be considered at a future meeting of the Panel to consider:**
  - a) an update in relation to the proposed Turner Prize bid;**
  - b) the New Art Gallery's Programme of exhibitions and events;**
- 3. Members be sent a copy of the programme currently being delivered at the New Art Gallery;**
- and;**
- 4. Members be sent details of visitor's figures at the New Art Gallery.**

#### 10/12 **Draft Revenue and Capital Outturn 2011/12 (Pre-Audit)**

Members considered the draft revenue and capital outturn position for the year ended 2011/12 subject to external audit for services within the remit of the Panel.

The Lead Accountant reported that there was a revenue overspend of £163,744 and a capital under spend of £420,000.

Following a question it was reported there was still a sum of money set aside to pay for the costs of dilapidations at Bryntysilio Outdoor Education Centre.

#### **Resolved**

**That the report be noted.**

#### 11/12 **Area Partnership Working Group – Membership**

#### **Resolved**

**That:**

1. **the following Members be appointed to an Area Partnership Working Group:**
  - a) **Councillor C. Creaney**
  - b) **Councillor I. Azam**
  - c) **Councillor V. Woodruff**
2. **the Area Partnership Working Group commence its investigation upon completion of the Litter Working Group.**

#### 12/12 **West Midlands Police Authority Co-operative Member**

*Mr P. Holmes JP left the room whilst the panel consider this item.*

#### **Resolved**

**Mr Philip Holmes JP be recommended to Council to become a non-voting co-opted member on the Community Services and Environment Scrutiny and Performance Panel until the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2012.**

### **13/12 Work Programme 2012/13 and Forward Plan**

Members considered their Work Programme for 2013 and the latest version of the Cabinet Forward Plan of key decisions.

#### **Resolved**

**That:**

- 1. the Work Programme 2012/13 be noted;**  
**and;**
- 2. the Forward Plan be noted.**

### **14/12 Date of Next Meeting.**

It was noted that the date of the next meeting would take place on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2012.

In closing the meeting the Chair announced that the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2012 meeting would be rearranged to take place on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

*The meeting closed at 6.50 p.m.*

Signed:

Date: