

Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee

30 January 2018

Present: Councillor S Day (Chair)
Councillors L Bell, L Darke, D Drummond, N Huscroft,
D McMeekan T Mulvenna, A Newman and A Waggott-Fairley.

Also Present: Councillor E N Darke, Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture
and Tourism.

CL24/01/18 Apologies

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors J Cassidy, P Oliver and K Osborne.

CL25/01/18 Substitute Members

Pursuant to the Council's Constitution, the appointment of the following substitute member was reported:

Councillor T Mulvenna for Councillor K Osborne.

CL26/01/18 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest reported.

CL27/01/18 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 November 2017 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

CL28/01/18 St Mary's Lighthouse HLF bid update

The Sub-committee received an update report of steps to be taken following the refusal of planning permission for redevelopment at St. Mary's Lighthouse.

At its meeting on the 21 November 2017, the Planning Committee refused an application for the redevelopment of St. Mary's Island on the grounds that:-

"The proposed external viewing platforms would cause undue noise and disturbance to wildlife. Insufficient information has been submitted to mitigate the adverse impact to biodiversity contrary to the advice in National Planning Policy Framework and policies S5.4, DM5.5 and DM5.6 of the North Tyneside Local Plan 2017."

The Committee further refused Listed Building Consent on the grounds that:-

"The proposed design and materials of the viewing platforms would adversely affect the character and appearance of a Grade II listed building and the St Mary's Conservation Area

contrary to the advice in National Planning Policy Framework and policies S6.5, DM6.6 and AS8.15 of the North Tyneside Local Plan 2017.”

The immediate impact of this decision was that the submission to Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), which was scheduled to be considered at its Trustees meeting on the 12 December 2017, was withdrawn. The application would have had no chance of success without appropriate planning consents.

A revised planning application was being prepared and would include mitigation for all of the environmental concerns raised by the Planning Committee and would be submitted to a future Planning Committee, as indicated in the timetable below.

A revised Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid would then be submitted for consideration at a future HLF Board of Trustees meeting, as indicated in the timetable below.

Given the reasons for the refusal of planning consents it was considered advisable that a revised planning application would not include the viewing platforms as part of the proposed development.

Following discussions with HLF a revised timetable for submission was agreed, as follows:-

- February 2018 - resubmission of revised planning application
- June 2018 – resubmission of revised bid to HLF
- June 2018 – consideration of revised application by Planning Committee
- September 2018 – consideration of revised bid by HLF Trustees

As the revised submission was required to have a new Environmental Impact Assessment, there was a 16 week statutory consultation period; therefore it was not possible to accelerate the above timescales.

Should the submission to HLF be successful it was anticipated that work on site would begin in Spring 2019, thus effectively moving the original redevelopment schedule back by one year.

A Member asked if the external viewing platforms and the proposed design and materials were integral to visitors and whether there would be an impact. It was explained that any diversion from the revised scheme would be a judgement call and that it was not about viewing, it was about having a proper plan in place so that lots of people were properly managed with no real impact.

It was **agreed** that the update on St Mary's Lighthouse Heritage Lottery bid be noted.

CL29/01/18 Budget Implications for Culture and Leisure

A report was received which provided the context for a presentation regarding the implications of the Council's proposed budget for the main services within by the Committee's remit.

At its meeting of 27 November 2017 Cabinet considered its initial budget proposals in relation to the 2018-2020 Financial Planning and Budget Process. The Budget Engagement process, following Cabinet's initial considerations, began on the 28 November 2017 and was scheduled to conclude at the end of January 2018.

On 9 January 2018 Overview and Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee considered the results of its review of the 2018-2020 Financial Planning and Budget process.

At its meeting on 24 January 2018 Cabinet considered its draft Council Plan and Budget proposals for 2018-2020, taking into account feedback received as part of Budget Engagement.

On 1 February 2018 Cabinet was due to submit to Full Council details of its estimates of amounts for the 2018-2020 Financial Plan and 2018/19 Budget and Council Tax levels, and Council Plan.

Steve Bishop, Senior Manager, Cultural Services, and Paul Youlden, Senior Manager, Sport and Leisure, gave a presentation covering the main budget implications for Cultural and Leisure services.

The presentation provided Members with an overview of how the proposals, which formed part of the budget and financial planning process, would impact upon the delivery of the main services within the remit of the Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee.

In summing up officers noted that despite the proposed efficiencies, North Tyneside Council would continue to provide a strong cultural and leisure offer and a real commitment to the health of the Borough, despite tough competition. This included an Active North Tyneside scheme in Partnership with Public Health.

Members were then given an opportunity to make comments and observations on the proposals outlined. During questioning Members examined:

- the proposed reduction in opening hours of selected libraries and whether there was a president for these to be reinstated subject to budget availability and policy decision;
- the use of branch libraries by community groups and whether this could be a viable option in the future subject to costs being offset by community group contributions;
- the relevance to footfall in relation to Saturday morning opening of branch libraries.

It was **agreed** that the impact of the Council's budget proposals on delivery of the main Cultural and Leisure Services be noted.