
EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE HELD ON 8 NOVEMBER 2010

EX.178/10 TULLIE HOUSE TRUST GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS (Key Decision)

Portfolio Performance and Development

Subject Matter

Pursuant to Minute EX.170/10, the Strategic Director submitted report GD.43/10 concerning the project currently in place to transfer Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery to a Trust which emanated from a decision taken by the Executive on 14 April 2009 (EX.068/09). The City Council had, on 14 July 2009, approved a budget of £150,000 to support the work programme.

The Strategic Director outlined the background to the Council's deliberations regarding the establishment of a Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery Trust, reminding Members that a Project Group had been established; various work streams initiated; and a 'critical friend' appointed with relevant experience to offer advice and assistance to the Council in relation to the project. Key to those work streams was the preparation of a Business Case to support the Trust proposal and, following a recruitment process, Armstrong Watson were engaged to produce the document, a copy of which was set out at Appendix 2 to his report. He then outlined the rationale for the Business Case, pointing out that the establishment of a Trust also brought financial and structural benefits such as relief from business rates. In addition to the financial opportunities outlined, the Business Case also brought the proposed arrangements into the Council's Transformation Programme.

A Shadow Trust Board had been established and, after a rigorous recruitment process, Mr Roger Cooke had been appointed as the Chair. He had subsequently gone on to appoint Mr Alan Niekirk (Charities Lawyer and ex-Chair of the Friends of Tullie House) and Mr Andrew Smith (background in Accountancy) as fellow Shadow Board Members.

Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery was a very important part of the cultural offer available in the Carlisle City Region and the Tullie House Trust would play a vital role in safeguarding and enhancing the Museum's status. To that end, it was felt important that, in establishing a Trust, the Council identified its vision for the future of the institution as it became established and moved forward. The Assistant Director (Community Engagement) had worked with the Shadow Board and had produced the draft Vision Statement included at Appendix 1 to the report.

Details of the financial and legal context were also set out within the report.

In conclusion, the Strategic Director reported that the Business Case prepared by Armstrong Watson indicated that the establishment of a Trust was a viable way forward for the Museum and the City Council. The Executive would, however, wish to come to its own view on the Business Case and, to assist in that process, it should be reviewed by the Council's Community and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panels; with their comments being fed back to the Executive at its meeting on 13 December 2010 in order that a recommendation could be made to Council on 14 December 2010.

The Local Environment Portfolio Holder commented upon the exciting nature of the report referring, in particular, to the Vision which stated that "Tullie House will be the leading and most influential arts and cultural institution in Cumbria, providing a vibrant and proactive centre for heritage and the arts in Carlisle". He added that without the work undertaken and establishment of a Trust the Council could not move forward. It would therefore prove to be beneficial.

The Economic Development Portfolio Holder referred to the draft Vision Statement and was heartened by the references to the economy and to employment contained therein.

The Community Engagement Portfolio Holder was very pleased to see the focus placed on support for local artists and to note that the cultural aspects of the Tourism offer were also covered.

The Performance and Development Portfolio Holder considered the report to be excellent, adding that the process had created a buzz around the staff and Friends of Tullie House. Accordingly he wished to move the recommendations set out in the report.

The Leader informed the meeting that a considerable amount of work had gone into the process. He added that it was important that a Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery Trust was created and set free from Council bureaucracy. It would also prove to be a success in terms of how Carlisle Leisure moved forward.

In conclusion, the Leader emphasised the significance of Tullie House to Carlisle and its status as the leading and most influential arts and cultural institution in Cumbria.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Executive:

1. Noted the content of Report GD.43/10, together with the draft Vision Statement and Business Case appended thereto.
2. Referred the draft Vision Statement and Business Case to the Council's Community and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panels (25 November and 7 December 2010 respectively) for scrutiny and comment. Such comments being referred back to the Executive for its meeting on 13 December 2010.

Reasons for Decision

So that the Executive and Council had the opportunity to consider and evaluate the proposed Vision Statement and Business Case for the externalisation of Tullie House to a Trust.