

**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE
HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY PANEL
HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER 2020**

HWSP.71/20

TULLIE HOUSE BUSINESS PLAN

(Public and Press excluded by virtue of Paragraph 3)

The Vice Chair welcomed Andrew Smith – Chairman, Andrew Mackay – Director and Board Member, Katie Proud – Head of Finance and Board Member and Anna Smalley – Head of Collections and Engagement, from Tullie House.

The Health and Wellbeing Manager presented private report CS.31/20, the purpose of which was to introduce and allow consideration of the Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery Trust 2020/21 Business Plan in order that the Council may, in due course, agree core funding for the Trust. That was in line with Section 5 of the Partnership Agreement between the Council and Tullie House Trust, which stated that the Business Plan submitted by the Trust should be used as the basis for agreeing future years funding.

Details of the background position; core grant; lease arrangements; building and collection financial implications; impact of COVID-19 and impact of the proposals put forward by Tullie House Trust were provided within the report.

The Executive had considered the matter on 12 October 2020 (EX.121/20 refers) and referred the report to the Panel for their review and recommendations.

Mr Smith, Chairman, informed the Panel that Tullie House had recently been awarded £494,800 as part of the Government's Culture Recovery Fund to help face the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic, this resulted in the proposals for core funding to remain almost as they had been in the previous year.

Mr Smith reminded the Panel of the commitment to Project Tullie and reported that reserves had been set aside to support the Project. Tullie House had been successful in attracting funding and this had supported the reserve and been invested into the new Costume Gallery. He set out the importance of the Project to both Tullie House and the Council and drew the Panel's attention to some maintenance issues within the building.

Mr Mackay, Director, updated the Panel on how Tullie House had responded to the Covid-19 pandemic, the impact to Tullie House income and detailed the exhibitions and community work that had been undertaken in the last twelve months.

Ms Smalley, Head of Collections and Engagement, detailed the Community and Wellbeing Programme for Tullie House.

The Panel acknowledged the outstanding exhibitions and community engagement that Tullie House undertook and congratulated them on securing exhibitions such as Turner and Rembrandt.

The Panel discussed Project Tullie and the capital investment and felt that any decision should be delayed until further consideration of the Business Case and potential impact on future revenue could be investigated further.

The Panel questioned Tullie House representatives on their commercial strategy, how they were addressing climate change issues and the timescales for Project Tullie and any capital investment.

The Leader commented that it was a very uncertain time for the Council, who were in a difficult financial situation, any capital investment and revenue savings had to be investigated thoroughly and taken through the correct decision making process. He added that he was keen to ensure a continuation of the good dialogue with Tullie House regarding Council support for their future plans.

The Deputy Chief Executive clarified the Council's role in the building and collection maintenance at Tullie House and assured the Panel that the preservation of the collection was a priority.

RESOLVED – 1) That the Panel had considered the funding proposals made by Tullie House Board, in the context of the information that they provided regarding challenges and opportunities set out in their Business Plan contained in report CS.35/20.

2) The Panel recommend to the Executive that they revisit the Business Case for investment in Project Tullie.

3) That Mr Smith, Mr Mackay and Ms Smalley be thanked for their presentations and for their detailed answers to the Panel's questions.