

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

PORTFOLIO AREA: HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Date of Meeting:	28th October 2002		
Public			
Key Decision:	Yes	Recorded in Forward Plan:	Yes
Outside Policy Framework			

Title: COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – VIEWS ON TULLIE HOUSE OPTIONS FOR FUTURE MANAGEMENT

Report of: Town Clerk and Chief Executive

Report reference: TC 207/02

Summary:

The report gives the committee's response to the Executive's request for its views on Executive Minute EX 218/02 and report LCD 22/02.

Recommendations:

The Executive considers the views and responds.

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2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At their meeting on 10th October 2002 the committee considered Executive Minute EX 218/02 and the Director of Leisure and Community Development's report LCD 22/02 which had preceded the Executive's decision.

2. THE COMMITTEE'S VIEWS

Initiating Body

Members raised two aspects, firstly the present position on formation of this body and secondly whether a largely self-selecting body was an appropriate mechanism. The (draft) minutes in relation to this are as follows: -

A Member questioned the present position as regards the formation of an Initiating Body.

The Director advised that it was a well-established process and expressions of interest had been received. It should be noted, however, that the Initiating Body would not necessarily form the Board of the Trust, rather it was a mechanism to get the process started.

A Member commented that the Friends of Tullie House were an extremely capable body and were enthusiastic as regards the possible transfer to Trust status. In those circumstances she believed that everyone should work together to try to achieve that goal sooner rather than later.

Corporate Impacts

Concern was expressed relating to these and the (draft) minutes in relation to this are as follows: -

At the invitation of the Chairman, the Portfolio Holder for Health and Well Being commented that he shared the Member's concerns. Tullie House absorbed considerable central administration charges and central services would face the challenge of further reductions in costs. However, he felt that Tullie House should be given the freedom to manage its own budget and this was one way of doing that. He therefore believed that the principle was correct and expressed the hope that the Committee would agree that the proposal should be investigated fully.

The Principle of Trust formation

A Member expressed serious fundamental concerns over the proposal for a trust. He felt it differed from the Leisuretime Externalisation which had been a competitive process undertaken with a range of interested parties. He did not see how this proposal would benefit citizens as users of this facility, or be in the interests of Tullie House or the Council. The (draft) minutes in relation to this are as follows: -

Another Member expressed serious concerns at the proposal. He did not feel assured that this was the best option for Tullie House nor, indeed, the right time to do it. He believed that the whole issue required to be investigated much more thoroughly.

A Member responded by stating that initially similar reservations had been expressed with regard to the Leisuretime, but now people could see the benefits. The transfer could only benefit the people of Carlisle and should proceed.

The Committee's resolution

The above points were brought forward in consideration of the matter and at the conclusion of their deliberations the committee resolved as follows: -

RESOLVED – That as the creation of an independent Trust to manage Tullie House represented a significant change in Council policy it was noted that the approval of the full Council would be required, and that there should be full consideration by Overview and Scrutiny at all stages.

3. CONSULTATION

This report represents the committee's response as consultee.

4. STAFFING/RESOURCES COMMENTS

N/A

5. CITY TREASURER'S COMMENTS

N/A

6. LEGAL COMMENTS

N/A

7. CORPORATE COMMENTS

N/A

8. RISK MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT

N/A

9. EQUALITY ISSUES

N/A

10. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

11. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

N/A

12. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive considers the views and responds.