
EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE HELD ON 1 JULY 2013

EX.069/13 ARTS CENTRE DEVELOPMENT
(Key Decision – KD.015/13)

Portfolio Culture, Health, Leisure and Young People

Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel Community

Subject Matter

The Culture, Health, Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder submitted report CD.37/13 concerning the potential development of an Arts Centre for Carlisle.

The Culture, Health, Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder commented upon the long history of exploring the idea of a mid-scale Arts Centre and performance venue in Carlisle, adding that the Carlisle Plan provided a pledge for the development of an Arts Centre within the City.

It was proposed that a venue be identified for an Arts Centre which could:

- bring a new performing arts and entertainment focus into the Carlisle, delivering an offer to the city and its wider hinterland.
- deliver exciting and developing programmes of quality arts and entertainments, aimed at building and broadening audiences.
- offer a varied range of opportunities for Carlisle residents as participants, creators and performers.
- stimulate local talent and build the profile of Carlisle and Cumbria's creative and digital industries sector. That would include supporting emerging, Carlisle based, commercial artists and designers.
- contribute distinctively to Carlisle's visitor offer, linking into, and being a resource for, festivals, events, projects and cultural providers.
- provide the foundation for future developments in arts and entertainment.

Having considered potential venues in Carlisle, the former Fire Station in Rickergate (a substantial building with straight forward structure on a prominent corner site on the edge of the historic quarter) was proposed as the preferred option.

Details of the proposed format; market potential; management and programme aspects; design concept and capital costs; and the anticipated timetable were provided.

In conclusion, the Culture, Health, Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder moved the recommendations which were duly seconded by the Deputy Leader and Economy

and Enterprise Portfolio Holder. The Deputy Leader commented that there had been positive feedback regarding the proposals following press coverage and the proposals met the aspirations of the City and would drive economic regeneration.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Executive:

1. Approved the Warwick Street Fire Station for development as an Arts Centre for Carlisle
2. Approved the increase in the capital programme from £586,000 to £1,064,500 for recommendation to Council, noting that the increase will be funded from additional capital receipts generated from the Asset Review Programme.
3. Approved the release of the current budget and re-profiling of the overall scheme, subject to Council approval above, with £50,000 being incorporated within the 2013/14 Capital Programme and £1,014,500 in the 2014/15 Capital Programme.
4. Delegate authority to the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Health, Leisure and Young People in consultation with the Director of Community Engagement to produce and progress the plans to deliver the Arts Centre as detailed in report CD.37/13.
5. Make report CD.37/13 available for consideration by the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

Reasons for Decision

Carlisle had a recognised weakness in 'mid-scale' arts and entertainments programmes and, in line with the aim of the Carlisle Plan, now sought to develop a sustainable facility which would act as a focal point for creative arts complementing and supporting the existing offer in and around the City. That was in line with the vision and actions in the Carlisle Plan