

Lancashire County Council

Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 12th May, 2015 at 10.00 am in Cabinet Room 'C' - The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston

Agenda

Part I (Open to Press and Public)

No.	Item
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1.	Apologies
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2.	Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Interests
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Members are asked to consider any Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests they may have to disclose to the meeting in relation to matters under consideration on the Agenda.

3.	The Harris Museum and Art Gallery (The Harris) – Shared Services Initiative	(Pages 1 - 8)
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4.	Urgent Business
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5.	Date of Next Meeting
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The next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee will be held on Friday 19 June 2015 at 10:30am at the County Hall, Preston.

I Young
Director of Governance,
Finance and Public Services

County Hall
Preston

Agenda Item 3

Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Tuesday 12 May 2015

Electoral Division affected: All

The Harris Museum and Art Gallery (The Harris) - Shared Services Initiative (Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

Dave Gorman, (01772) 534261, Legal and Democratic Services

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Executive Summary

On 28 April 2015, the Cabinet Member for Environment, Planning and Cultural Services considered a report on 'The Harris Museum and Art Gallery (The Harris) - Shared Services Initiative'. The Cabinet Member made a decision to:

- (i) Authorise expenditure of up to £120,000 as the County Council's contribution to the cost of appointing a Centre Manager for a fixed term period of three years;
- (ii) Approve the scope and objectives of the initiative as detailed in the report.

Following requests from five County Councillors in accordance with the "Call In" procedures, the Chair has called a meeting to consider calling in the decision.

Recommendation

In accordance with the Call In procedures contained in Procedural Standing Orders (Standing Order 23 and Appendix 3) the Committee is asked to consider:

- (i) Whether or not to request the Cabinet Member for Environment, Planning and Cultural Services to reconsider the decision made on 28 April 2015 to approve the recommendations set out in the report;
- (ii) If so, to determine the grounds on which the request is to be based.

Background and Advice

On 28 April 2015, the Cabinet Member for Environment, Planning and Cultural Services received a report on the Harris Museum and Art Gallery Shared Services Initiative. The Cabinet Member made a decision to approve the recommendations in the report as follows:

- (i) Authorised expenditure of up to £120,000 as the County Council's contribution to the cost of appointing a Centre Manager for a fixed term period of three years;

- (ii) Approved the scope and objectives of the initiative as detailed in the report.

The report to the Cabinet Member is attached as Appendix 'A'.

On 30 April 2015, the Chief Executive received a request, signed by five County Councillors, for the Scrutiny Committee to consider whether that decision should be the subject of a Call In.

The request was received in accordance with Procedural Standing Orders from County Councillors Atkinson, Cheetham, Driver, Smith and Stansfield. The decision cannot now be implemented until the call-in procedure is completed.

The reason for this request as submitted by the above Members is:

"It's an unbudgeted proposal on an item which is the responsibility of Preston City Council. There is a lack of detail re the proposed staffing"

To assist the Committee, the Call In procedures contained in Procedural Standing Orders (Standing Order 23 and Appendix 3) are summarised below:

- Any five county councillors may, within three days of an executive decision being published, request that a special meeting of the relevant O&S committee is convened to consider that decision.
- That executive decision shall not be implemented until the Call In procedure is completed.
- An O&S Committee may request that an executive decision made but not yet implemented be reconsidered by the Decision Maker, or request that the Full Council decide whether to ask the Decision Maker to reconsider.
- The Committee must decide at the meeting whether or not to exercise its Call In powers.
- Any such request for reconsideration shall include the grounds upon which the request is based.
- Once the Committee has determined to make such a request, the request and the grounds upon which it is based must be registered with the Chief Executive in writing within three clear working days of the O&S Committee meeting.
- If a request is made the Decision Maker must then reconsider the decision having regard to the grounds upon which it is based. The Decision Maker can affirm, amend or rescind their decision.
- The Decision Maker shall publish their response to a request for reconsideration and the reasons for their decision by writing as soon as is reasonably practicable to the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

- The Decision Maker can only be required to reconsider the same decision once.
- An Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall not exercise its functions;
 - (1) where the decision has been designated by the Decision Maker as being urgent in that any delay in its implementation could adversely affect the efficient execution of the County Council's responsibilities; or
 - (2) in respect of day-to-day management and operational decisions taken by officers.

Of particular relevance in the above provisions are the requirements that the Committee must determine at the meeting whether or not to request that the decision be reconsidered, and if so to determine the grounds upon which the request is based.

The Committee is required to meet within 7 working days of the request to consider the call in being received, and a special meeting has therefore been scheduled for Tuesday 12 May 2015 at 10am.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

There are no significant risk management implications arising from this report. However, any risk management and other implications associated with the decision are set out in Appendix 'A' to this report.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
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N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

Appendix 'A'

Report to the: Cabinet Member for Environment, Planning and Cultural Services

Submitted by: Director, Community Services

Date: 28 April 2015

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
Preston City

The Harris Museum and Art Gallery (The Harris) – Shared Services Initiative

Contact for further information:

Phil Barrett, (01772) 538222, Director Community Services

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Executive Summary

The Harris Museum and Art Gallery is owned by Preston City Council with Lancashire County Council leasing approximately 40% of the building for the Central Library. Leaders of both Councils have discussed informally the need to establish a vision for one shared facility at the heart of the city centre which would act as focal point for arts and culture and community activity and would be a regional draw for visitors from across Lancashire and beyond.

Delivery of such a vision will require a clear strategy and significant investment, with the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Arts Council likely sources of external investment.

The development of a strategic vision will need to be underpinned by both a viable business plan and change management framework and this will require a dedicated project lead officer.

This report seeks approval to part fund the cost of a lead officer and summarises the key next steps which will need to be taken by the two councils to begin the process of securing a shared and sustainable future for the Harris.

Recommendation

The Cabinet Member for Environment, Planning and Cultural Services is asked to:

- (i) Authorise expenditure of up to £120k as the county council's contribution to the cost of appointing a Centre Manager for a fixed term period of three years
- (ii) Approve the scope and objectives of the initiative as detailed in this report

Background and Advice

1. Background

- 1.1 The Harris Museum and Art Gallery (The Harris), a Grade 1 listed building, is owned by Preston City Council (PCC). Lancashire County Council (LCC) leases approximately 40% of the building to house the central library. Leaders of both Councils have discussed informally the need to establish a vision for one shared facility at the heart of the city centre which would act as focal point for arts and culture and community activity and would be a regional draw for visitors from across Lancashire and beyond. The development and implementation of such a vision will be vital to securing any national government and lottery funding and therefore the longer term sustainability of the Harris.

2. Heritage Investment

- 2.1. The development of the vision for the Harris is set within a wider cultural context for the City and the Harris has been identified as a primary target for future heritage investment. The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has been consulted on the potential for making a bid for a national award from the HLF including the concept of a shared and integrated service provided by the two councils for the art gallery, the library and the museum to create a more flexible use of the collections and the space the building affords.
- 2.2 In order to put together a competitive and credible HLF national bid, both councils would need to provide strong evidence that their partnership working was robust, structured and capable of being delivered expediently.

3 Proposed Centre Manager

- 3.1 It is considered that key to a successful bid is the appointment of a Centre Manager who will:
 - a) Develop a new vision for the Harris as an arts and cultural centre for the community and an important regional visitor destination;
 - b) Prepare a business case to support a new joint staffing structure;
 - c) Prepare a major bid for HLF and other funds to deliver the established vision; and,
 - d) Exploit commercial opportunities and efficiency savings to reduce the councils' revenue costs.
- 3.2 An Arts Council "Resilience" fund of £95,000 has been awarded which will provide specialist consultancy support to the Centre Manager.
- 3.3 It is proposed that the appointment of a Centre Manager is made, initially on a 3-year fixed term basis. The post would be managed by PCC. The 3-year cost of this position is estimated to be £120,000 for each council.

3.4 It is proposed that the county council's contribution is funded from earmarked reserves.

4 Governance

4.1 The Preston Collaboration Board will oversee the implementation of this initiative, supported by an officer programme board.

Consultations

Staff of the Harris Museum and Library services have received a briefing in respect of the proposals and further briefings and consultation will take place as the process evolves. The unions have also been advised on the progress to date.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk Management

Personnel – Unable to recruit a candidate of the required standard. Implications for current staff working in the Libraries, and staff utilised / shared across other libraries across the county. The officer programme board will oversee the delivery / implementation of these aspects, ensuring fully compliance with LCC / PCC policy and procedures.

Financial – Additional budget requirement to support initial resilience bid and / or further 2016 HLF bid. Ongoing funding for additional work will be reviewed as part of the detailed collaboration model.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
The Harris Museum and Art Gallery Report – Preston Collaboration Board	11 th Feb 2015	Phil Barrett – Director, Community Services - (01772) 538222

