

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

CORPORATE SERVICES AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the **Corporate Services and Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in Committee Room 1, County Hall, Morpeth on Monday, 1 April 2019 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT

Councillor D. Bawn
(Chairman in the Chair)

COUNCILLORS

Beynon, J.
Cessford, T.
Grimshaw, L.
Parry, K.
Robinson, M.

Roughead, G.
Seymour, C.
Simpson, E.
Wilson, T.

PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Homer, C.
Wearmouth, R.

Culture, Arts and Leisure
Economic Development

OFFICERS

P. Johnston
N. Walsh

W. Scott
H. Smith

S. Nicholson

Interim Executive Director - Place
Service Manager - Culture, Heritage
and Libraries, AN
Cultural Development Manager, AN
Corporate Programmes and
External Funding Manager
Scrutiny Co-ordinator

Press: 1

Public: 1

52. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Services and Economic Growth OSC held on 4 February 2019, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

53. CABINET REPORTS PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE

The Scrutiny Co-ordinator advised members of Cabinet decisions regarding issues previously commented on and been subject of report by this Committee. (Report enclosed with the signed minutes as Appendix A).

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

54. SCRUTINY OF CABINET REPORTS

Members were advised that the following reports would be considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 9 April 2019. The Chairman would present the Committee's comments to the Cabinet when it considered those reports.

54.1 Northumberland Cultural Fund to support Great Northumberland 2019

This report outlined the proposed application process for a Northumberland Cultural Fund, which would be open for all Northumberland organisations and groups to apply for support as part of Great Northumberland 2019 (GN2019); an arts and cultural programme which would take place across Northumberland this summer. (Report enclosed with the signed minutes as Appendix B).

Following the presentation, the Committee sought clarification and made comment as follows:

- members requested that the Committee receive a report later in the year which would examine the impact that the fund had had on the county's cultural programme prior to the introduction of a further scheme in 2020/21;
- as the fund was for revenue support it would not duplicate similar requests from the Community Chest, which was for capital projects, although officers would monitor applications for both funds;
- it was assumed that applicants had the necessary Basic Disclosure Checks (DBS) where appropriate, but officers would ensure that this was the case;
- the decision making panel would include members and officers;
- applications should be judged on the lasting impact they may have on the community and environment in which they were held;
- there was no minimum grant, although members were advised that a typical award would be around £1-2,000;
- members agreed that the applicant should demonstrate that the organisation had a legal structure to give assurance that any award would be properly managed, and
- long established events would have to demonstrate that the grant would be to support something new that would not be achievable without an award.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet be advised that the Committee supported the recommendations, subject to the comments above.

54.2 Establishment of a Regeneration Development Reserve

This report sought endorsement for the establishment of a £2.55 million revenue Regeneration Development Reserve fund to be used for the development of priority regeneration and economic growth projects. (Report enclosed with the signed minutes as Appendix C).

Following the presentation, the Committee sought clarification and made comment as follows:

- the delegation amounts, as set out in the report, mirrored the Council's scheme which was substantially lower than that of the previous Administration;
- expenditure incurred by projects prior to the application process would not be claimed from the reserve, and business cases must meet the HM Treasury's Green Book standard, and
- the Council's Economy and Regeneration Service or if appropriate, Advance Northumberland, would oversee approved projects and support applicants to attract external funding.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet be advised that the Committee supported the recommendations, subject to the comments above.

55. REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATOR

Corporate Services and Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme and Monitoring Report

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee operates within a work programme which is agreed at the start of the Council year. As the Committee comes to the end of that year, members are requested to review the work it has done and to consider whether further examination of the issues is required in 2019/20. (Report enclosed as Appendix D).

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

56. INFORMATION REPORT - POLICY DIGEST

The Scrutiny Co-ordinator advised the Committee that the Policy Digest gave details of the latest policy briefings, government announcements and ministerial speeches which may be of interest to members. The report could be accessed through the service finder element of County Council's website at www.northumberland.gov.uk.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Chairman _____

Date _____