



# SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

## BURNLEY TOWN HALL

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2015

### PRESENT MEMBERS

Councillor Tatchell in the Chair.

Councillors Birtwistle, Brindle, Cunningham, Ellis, W Khan, Kelly, Large, Malik, Reynolds, Royle and Sumner

### OFFICERS

Helen Seechurn - Director of Resources  
Tom Forshaw - Head of Chief Executive's Office  
Lukman Patel - Head of Governance, Law & Regulation  
Gerard Vincent - Chief Executive, Burnley Leisure  
Alison McEwan - Democracy Officer

#### 7. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Greenwood, Heginbotham and Stringer.

#### 8. Minutes

**IT WAS AGREED** That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2015 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### 9. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Cunningham and Tatchell declared an interest in Item 8 as Trustees of Burnley Leisure.

## **10. Notice of Key Decisions and Private Meetings**

The Notices of Key Decisions and Private Meetings for the August & September 2015 were noted.

## **11. Burnley Leisure Annual Report**

Mr Gerard Vinton, Chief Executive of Burnley Leisure, gave a presentation which outlined the challenges and achievements of the Trust in 2014/15, as well as looking forward to 2015/16 and beyond.

Members raised the following points related to the Annual Report:

- The average subsidy per seat for Theatre visitors had decreased. Would this be further reduced? Mr Vincent said that there had been a large reduction in subsidy over the past 10 years. The Trust was committed to reducing this further.
- Was the £218k support from the Council a one-off payment? Mr Vincent confirmed that this was a one off payment, and that the Trust had made savings and re-aligned the budget to reduce the risk of overspend. He explained that the Council held a small reserve on behalf of the Leisure Trust. Helen Seechurn explained that the Leisure Trust were expected to have a balanced budget, and also to achieve efficiency savings in future.
- What was the origin of the £40k Transformational Grant? Helen Seechurn explained that this was part of a Partnership bid to Central Government.
- What was the allocation from the Stocks Massey bequest for? This was an annual allocation to the Mechanics plus other grants which assisted with the production of shows aimed at young people. An additional sum was held on behalf of the 'HOME' project, as the Leisure Trust were acting as the Accountable Body for other grant funding. There was an additional query regarding the classification of the grant in the Accounts. Leisure Trust were to clarify the position with the Auditors, and would make any amendments required.
- Regarding a new submission to the Stocks Massey Bequest. The position would be clarified at a separate meeting with the relevant Officers.
- As part of the Get in 2 project, where were the indoor sessions being held in the Burnley Wood area? Some sessions were being held in the Sport Zone, and others were at the St Peter's Centre, with transport provided.

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- Having reacted well to the challenges of the past year, how were the Leisure Trust future-proofing their activities? Many new initiatives in the pipeline, a focus on quality and affordability. Focus on hospitality to provide support. For example, Christmas Show packages were 85% sold out prior to commencement of marketing.
  - Were there plans for a special event to continue the legacy of the Blues Festival? Due to economic restraints, it was impossible to continue, but that with consideration of likely audience and cost etc, something could be possible.
  - Following the success of the Bistro at the Mechanics, were there any plans for weekend opening? The Leisure Trust had been considering options which could allow weekend opening, whilst allowing for a balanced budget. This could involve closing on another day during the week in order to remain sustainable.

**IT WAS  
AGREED**

That the Burnley Leisure Annual Report be noted.

**12. Scrutiny Review Groups Update**

The Review Groups for both of the active Scrutiny Reviews had held an initial meeting, and members were undertaking research and would report back to the next group meeting.

**13. Scrutiny Work Programme 2015/16**

The Chair informed Members that an Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee could be required in September and Members would be notified of the arrangements shortly.