

# Public Document Pack

## SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Meeting of Business, Culture & Tourism Working Party

**Date: Wednesday, 16th December, 2020**

**Place: Virtual Meeting - MS Teams**

**Present:** Councillor K Robinson (Chair)  
Councillors S George (Vice-Chair), B Ayling, A Thompson, C Walker  
and N Ward

**In Attendance:** R Harris, S Dolling, T Forster, M Murphy and N Spencer.  
S Gwynne (Hemmingway Design).

**Start/End Time:** 6.00 - 8.05 pm

#### **1 Apologies for Absence and Substitutions**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Davidson and Jarvis (no substitutes).

#### **2 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest at this meeting.

#### **3 Short Video - Culture Vision**

The Working Party noted that a short video had been produced with interviews from local people on their views on the vision for the cultural future of Southend-on-Sea. The link to the video is below:

[www.southendculture.co.uk](http://www.southendculture.co.uk)

Resolved:

That the video be noted.

#### **4 Southend Pier Brand**

The Working Party received a PowerPoint presentation from Sophie Gwynne setting out progress to date and the next steps in the development of the Southend Place branding. The aim was to define the core values that describe Southend-on-Sea and the aspirations and vision for the future.

The Working Party asked a number of questions which were responded to by officers.

Resolved:

That the progress and next steps in the development of the Southend Place branding, be noted.

## **5 Pier Trains and Pier Development Update**

The Working Party received and considered a brief update from Mark Murphy on the new Pier Trains and the development works scheduled for the Pier.

The Working Party asked a number of questions which were responded to by officers.

Resolved:

That the update on the Pier Trains and development works at the Pier, be noted.

## **6 Notice of Motion: Twenty-One site conversion into Cycle Hub and Cafe**

The Working Party considered a report of the Director of Culture and Tourism responding to the Notice of Motion referred by Cabinet held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 (submitted to Council on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020), concerning the Twenty-One site conversion into Cycle Hub and Café.

The Working Party asked a number of questions which were responded to by officers. In general the Working Party felt that in order to maximise the opportunities the Twenty-One site should be used as a multi-use facility to provide a year round offer as a cultural space for community groups and performers. Given the financial viability the Working Party agreed that the venue should not be limited to solely providing a base for cycle hire as well as bike repairs and sales due to financial viability and sustainability.

The Working Party also noted that there was the potential for a catering provider to provide a café at the site.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet be recommended that as part of the procurement process, the potential for the Twenty-One as a multi-use facility providing a year round cultural space for a range of activities be explored, including the potential to offer bike hire during the day but not to provide bike repairs and sales.

## **7 Notice of Motion - Southend Illuminations Festival of Light**

The Working Party considered a report of the Director of Culture and Tourism responding to the Notice of Motion referred by Cabinet held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 (submitted to Council on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020), concerning the resurrection of Southend Illuminations by creating a free to the modern public festival of light event.

The Working Party asked a number of questions which were responded to by officers. In general the Working Party felt that a festival of light was a good idea and noted that discussions were taking place with the Business community. Officers also drew attention to a proposal to add an illuminations trail along Western Esplanade.

The Working Party suggested that as part of the ongoing development and discussions concerning illuminations the potential for digital illuminations and lighting, including the associated costs and sponsorship, should be explored.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet be recommended that the provision of illuminations across the Borough continue to be explored as part of the revised Destination Southend Tourism Strategy, including the potential for a public festival of light.

## **8 Notice of Motion - Covid-19 Local Recognition Scheme**

The Working Party considered a report of the Director of Culture and Tourism responding to the Notice of Motion referred by Cabinet held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 (submitted to Council on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020), concerning the creation of a local recognition scheme to honour our local community heroes who went above and beyond during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Working Party asked a number of questions which were responded to by officers. In general the Working Party felt that some form of local recognition scheme was a good idea and should be investigated further in collaboration with partners.

Resolved:

That Cabinet be recommended to acknowledge the recognition work that has already taken place and that officers explore further in collaboration with partners, the potential for a Covid-19 local recognition event for local people who went above and beyond during the Covid-19 pandemic.

## **9 Notice of Motion - EasyJet Hub Closure**

The Working Party considered a report of the Director of Culture and Tourism responding to the Notice of Motion referred by Cabinet held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 (submitted to Council on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020), concerning the closure of the EasyJet hub at Southend Airport requesting the Council to engage with EasyJet to explore the possibility of reversing the decision to close the hub.

The Working Party asked a number of questions which were responded to by officers. The Working Party noted that officers and the Leader of the Council had engaged with EasyJet to retain the hub at Southend Airport which had been unsuccessful. Officers highlighted that following the closure of the Hub a range of support packages had been put in place for affected EasyJet staff, including a redundancy task force.

Resolved:

That Cabinet be recommended to note the work by officers to engage with EasyJet to retain the hub at Southend Airport and the packages of support that the Council has put in place to help affected EasyJet staff.

**Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_

