

Meeting of the Culture and Visitor Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Tuesday, 22 June 2021, 10.00 am

Council Chamber - South Kesteven House,
St. Peter's Hill, Grantham. NG31 6PZ

Committee Members present

Councillor Judy Stevens (Chairman)
Councillor Penny Robins (Vice Chairman)

Councillor Paul Fellows
Councillor Nikki Manterfield
Councillor Hilary Westropp

Cabinet Members in attendance

Councillor Barry Dobson (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Leisure)
Councillor Rosemary Trollope-Bellew (Cabinet Member for Culture and Visitor Economy)

Officers in attendance

Ken Lyon (Assistant Chief Executive)
Karen Whitfield (Head of Leisure)
Ben Russell (Performance Lead)
Shelley Thirkell (Acting Principal Democratic Services Officer)
Jack Gardner-Javid (Democratic Officer)

1. Committee Membership

The Chairman noted that there was an error on the agenda, the Membership of the Committee should have included Councillor Judy Smith and Councillor Virginia Moran was no longer a member of the Committee.

2. Comments from Members of the Public

No comments were received.

3. Apologies for absence

Councillor Judy Smith had given her apologies for the meeting, with Councillor Hilary Westropp acting as substitute.

Apologies were received for Councillor Jill Thomas and Councillor Amanda Wheeler.

4. Disclosure of Interests

There were none.

5. Action Notes from the meeting held on 9 March 2021

The Action notes of the meeting held on 9 March 2021, were **AGREED** as a correct record.

6. Updates from the previous meeting

The Chairman spoke of the work that had been completed to appoint an artist in residence at Deeping Lakes, work was underway to complete a report to the Committee on the visitor economy.

7. Development of Sport and Physical Activity Strategy

The Council was committed to develop a Sport and Physical Activity Strategy. There was a need to discover how the Council could improve physical and mental wellbeing within the district, through physical activity.

LeisureSK Ltd were to develop key themes around sport and physical activity, that would form the basis of the Councils strategy.

It was noted that during 2018 – 2019, 41% of adults within the District did not meet the recommendation of 150 minutes of exercise per week and 46% of children did not achieve 60 minutes recommended daily activity.

Members spoke of the importance of local organisations and clubs in providing opportunities for participation in sport and physical activity. It was suggested that a directory of local clubs, could be created.

Members noted the work that had been completed and plans to improve the Leisure centres and arts centres within the District, Officers were thanked for their work in ensuring works could take place

The Committee raised the possibility of engaging with local schools to encourage children to take part in physical activity. The Head of Leisure spoke of the importance in engaging with children at a young age, to create positive behaviours.

The Deputy Leader highlighted the wide variety of activities that could take place within the leisure's centres. Member were keen to examine in greater detail activities like, cycling and walking. It was hoped that details of these would be included within the Visitor Economy report.

8. Corporate Plan Key Performance Indicators - 2020/21 Update

The Assistant Chief Executive presented the report to Members. It was the Council's belief that in measuring performance indicators, it would help achieve our vision "*To be the best District to live, to work and to visit*", with this committee having a particular impact on the "visit" elements.

The Assistant Chief Executive outlined a number of key successes and challenges within the remit of this Committee, including:

- South Kesteven Markets – South Kesteven Markets were a real success story in 2020/21, not only operating in an agile and flexible way to adapt to Government Legislation, enabling SK markets to keep operating throughout the year - but also performing nearly £60k better than budgeted financially.
- Tourism Strategic Framework - The Committee should be expecting a written update on the Tourism Strategic Framework following the verbal update at the last meeting. The report is now behind schedule and is a priority for the Cabinet Member
- Investment in Arts Centres – The expectation was that a full five-year plan would be presented by the end of 2020/21, although many immediate issues have been addressed – the five year plan has been delayed due to resourcing issues in the Property team. It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee spend time at a future meeting in understanding the proposed improvement programme.

The Chairman noted the work being undertaken to improve the Arts Centres and thanked Cabinet Members and officers in its achievement.

The Cabinet Member for Culture and Visitor Economy highlighted that the social restrictions provided the opportunity for the improvement works to take place, without disruption to events.

The Chairman congratulated officers for their work in supporting the districts markets during social restrictions, helping them adopt new ways of safely working during the pandemic. The Chair spoke of the increasing desire of residents to shop locally and the opportunities this could present to businesses within the district.

Members noted the contents of the report.

9. Work Programme 2021 - 2022

The Committee received and noted the Work Programme 2021 – 2022.

10. Any other business which the Chairman, by reason of special circumstances decides is urgent

There were none.

11. Close of meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10:44.