

Chairman - Councillor E G R Jones

Present (for all or part of the meeting):-

Councillors:

R P Cooke	A S Harp
I E Davies	J Hood
M G Dodson	A J Perkins
A T A Godfrey	D B Price

Cabinet Member - Councillor F A Finlay - Environment and Health Portfolio  
Cabinet Member - Councillor R M Smith - Leisure Portfolio

Also Present - Councillors L B Bakker-Collier, J A Barron, F Beatty,  
B M Cross, J W Farnham, P M M Farrington,  
M E Jennings, P W Jones, W J Kemp, A M Loughran,  
J M Pert, G O Rowlands and R M Sutherland

Freedom Leisure Representatives:-

Mr I Horsefall-Turner	-	Managing Director
Mr J Rowe	-	Regional Director
Mr M Worsnop	-	Head of Business Development and Active Communities
Mr M Farley	-	Gatehouse Theatre Manager
Mrs E Hulse	-	Events Manager

Officers in attendance:-

Mrs S Heath	-	Contract Services Manager
Mr M Thornewill	-	Cultural Services Manager
Mr A Bailey	-	Scrutiny Officer

#### RSC23 **Minutes**

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 8 November 2018, having been published in Digest No 249, were submitted and signed.

#### RSC24 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R J Draper (Substitute R P Cooke), R A James, P Roycroft (Substitute D B Price) and K S Williamson - Resources Portfolio.

## RSC25 **Leisure and Cultural Partnership - Update from Freedom Leisure**

Considered the joint report of the Cultural Services Manager and the Contract Services Manager which provided an opportunity for Freedom Leisure to update Members on the not for profit trust and its work in the delivery of Stafford Borough Council's Leisure and Cultural Services (V1 30/11/18).

According to the Regional Director, Freedom Leisure, made a presentation to the Committee which covered the following areas:-

- Background
- Their Vision
- Partnership working
- Financial summary
- Service delivery and performance
- Future developments and improvements

The Committee discussed the following aspects of the presentation with the Managing Director, Regional Director and Gatehouse Theatre Manager from Freedom Leisure and Stafford Borough Council's Cultural Services Manager and Contract Services Manager:-

- Staff turnover during the last year
- Cultural challenges and the need to protect the annual Shakespeare Festival during poor Summer weather
- Clarification of where Arwyn fitted into Freedom Leisure's portfolio
- An update on forthcoming performances at the Gatehouse Theatre
- Provision of the Annual Service Plan
- The need to improve the cleanliness of the female changing rooms at Alleyne's swimming pool
- The need to improve the Freedom Leisure web site, particularly information related to the cost of season tickets
- Concessionary schemes and how eligible people were informed
- The future of the Cardiac Rehabilitation hub
- The need to consider heritage and tourism activities holistically across the Borough
- Confirmation that costs were in line with expectations
- The need to target the Borough's grey population
- Clarification that the Council promoted tourism across the Borough through its Economic Development and Planning function

In summary, the Chairman thanked the representatives from Freedom Leisure for their presentation and confirmed that Members would receive further information related to the following:-

- The Presentation
- Current Staffing levels
- The Cardiac Rehabilitation Hub

- The Service Specification
- The Concession Deed

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the powers delegated to the Committee:-

- (a) the representatives from Freedom Leisure be thanked for their attendance and presentation;
- (b) the presentation by Freedom Leisure be noted.

CHAIRMAN