

**MINUTES OF THE PLAYHOUSE, ARTS AND CULTURAL QUARTER TASK  
AND FINISH GROUP  
HELD ON**

21 August 2024

6.00 - 7.34 pm

**PRESENT**

**Committee Members**

Councillor Tony Durcan (Chair)

Councillor Tony Edwards

Councillor James Griggs

Councillor Sue Livings

Councillor Matthew Sagers

**Officers**

Alan Evans, Interim Strategic Director

Justin Hopwood, Pets Corner Manager

James Gardner, Assistant Director - Regeneration

Hannah Marriott, Governance Support Officer

Suzanna Wood, Housing Development and Regeneration Manager

Oliver Gillard, Deputy Programme Manager

David Sellings, Regeneration Programme Manager (Town Centre)

1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Tony Durcan be elected as Chair.

2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Emma Ghaffari.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Tony Durcan declared a non-pecuniary interest as ward councillor for Town Centre and Little Parndon.

Councillor Sue Livings declared a non-pecuniary interest as a trustee of Harlow Art Trust.

Councillor James Griggs declared a non-pecuniary interest as the Chair of the Playhouse Trust and a trustee of Raised Roof.

4. **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

- To understand the current model of Revenue Funding for the Playhouse and the Arts.
- To explore the revenue implications of the development of the Cultural Quarter.

- To consider whether the current Harlow Arts Policy/s are fit for purpose.
- To explore the approach of other Council's e.g. Colchester, Stockton, Stevenage refunding and promoting the Arts.
- To make proposals to Cabinet re potential revenue funding models
- To make proposals to Cabinet regarding an Arts Policy for the Town.

## 5. **KEY DISCUSSION AND ACTION POINTS**

Officers gave a short presentation on the levelling up fund bid and a programme and delivery update.

Councillor James Griggs raised concerns over whether there would be enough room for the large trucks the service the Playhouse through the new cultural quarter. The Task and Finish group also noted that it would also be important to keep the Playhouse open as best as possible during construction of the project.

The Task and Finish group noted that consultants, Counter Culture, would be submitting their final report in October 2024. The group would like Counter Culture to attend to give a presentation on their report.

Alan Evans, Interim Strategic Director, and James Gardner, Assistant Director – Regeneration and Commercial Development, agreed to put together a map for the group.

The group noted that Councillors may wish to meet outside of the session to discuss the Terms of Reference. The group also wanted to create a portfolio of documents which included the presentation from the meeting.

Finally, the group noted that a site visit to another cultural quarter, such as Colchester, could be worthwhile.

CHAIR OF THE TASK AND FINISH GROUP