

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

14 November 2024

7.00pm – 8.35pm

**PRESENT**

**Committee Members**

Councillor Tony Durcan (Chair)

Councillor Tony Edwards

Councillor James Griggs

Councillor Matthew Siggers

**Officers**

Rory Davies, Playhouse Director

Oliver Gillard, Deputy Programme Manager

Nicole Parker, Corporate Support Officer

David Sellings, Regeneration Programme Manager (Town Centre)

Benjamin Simanowitz, Local Government Graduate Programme

Suzanna Wood, Housing Development and Regeneration Manager

**Other Attendees**

Andrew Murdoch, Director of TTP Consulting

Tom Willcox, Counter Culture

6. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

7. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Matthew Siggers declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 7 as his son is a Harlow Youth Councillor.

8. **NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes from the previous meeting held on 21 August 2024 were noted.

9. **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Councillor Siggers noted that in the terms of reference, it needs to be noted that this is a sub-committee in which will report its findings to the Scrutiny Committee. This would adhere to the Local Government Act 2010. Councillor Siggers and Councillor Tony Edwards can liaise on the terms of reference to ensure they are fully correct.

10. **COUNTER CULTURE - BUSINESS MODELLING FOR BLOCK E**

Tom Willcox – Counter Culture, presented a presentation on the business modelling for Block E. The presentation slides would be distributed after the meeting by Rory Davies, Playhouse Director.

Councillor Tony Durcan had asked Rory Davies if he felt the Playhouse's benchmarks were similar to those in the presentation, Rory Davies advised he did feel they were.

The stakeholders in the report had been consulted. Rory Davies had also spoken to other stakeholders who were interested in what the Playhouse could offer them. Rory Davies asked the panel to send him other potential stakeholders or groups in which they feel could benefit from consultation.

Councillor Durcan had asked if funding models had been explored as well as financial models. Tom Willcox advised that the report could include something on this.

Tom Willcox advised that the full report would be sent in a few weeks to scrutinise the three-year financial model predictions. This would be added to the agenda on the next meeting for discussion and review and for him to come back to the meeting with the relevant Cabinet member for discussion.

11. **VEHICLE TRACKING UPDATE - TTP - SCHEME VEHICLE CONSULTANTS**

Andrew Murdoch, Director of TTP Consulting, presented an update and presentation on vehicle tracking for the Harlow theatre.

He asked the panel to send him a list of any additional questions.

The Panel wanted clarity required on how vehicles would move safely in the area and the implications. Andrew Murdoch said he would send a comprehensive list to the panel which could be reviewed at the next meeting.

David Sellings - Regeneration Programme Manager (Town Centre), advised Councillor James Griggs, he would send him updated details on the plans included within the plans.

Following the meeting additional tracking had been undertaken and the panel was emailed the information.

12. **CULTURAL STRATEGY PRESENTATION**

Suzanna Wood - Regeneration Programme Manager (PMO), gave a presentation on the Harlow Cultural Strategy.

David Sellings noted to the Committee that this strategy was for the whole town, not just the arts and cultural quarter, and aimed to secure future funding. It would be monitored and updated over time.

Interviews had been taking place consulting groups across the town by groups for feedback, and these were being held by Benjamin Simanowitz – Local Government Graduate Programme and the team. Councillor Griggs had asked who had made the interview selection and who had been interviewed. Suzanna Wood advised the list was extensive and was happy to share this with Councillor Griggs and would be happy to take on any recommendations on other people/groups to be interviewed for their feedback.

Councillor Durcan noted that there is no need to bring this back to the panel for discussion in the future, as this piece is separate to the works of this panel and would need to be in place regardless for shaping future funding across the whole of the town.

CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE