

Subject: Civic Awareness Commission: Update
Date of Meeting: 1 February 2011
Report of: Strategic Director of Resources
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Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The Civic Awareness Commission has been acting as a steering group with the remit to promote civic engagement and understanding within the city. The report provides an update on the work of the Commission in accordance with its agreed terms of reference.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the report.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 Following the approval of its terms of reference, the Commission has co-ordinated the commissioning of a portrait of Henry Allingham as a mark of respect for the former Freeman of the City. A commission brief was agreed and sent out to local artists and following an appraisal of submissions, local artist Mary-Jane Ansell was awarded the commission.
- 3.2 The portrait was completed by the end of October and a small ceremony with the Mayor, Leaders, members of the Commission, former carers of Henry Allingham and the artist was held at Brighton Town Hall to unveil the portrait on the 11th November.
- 3.3 The Commission is currently considering ways of highlighting civic engagement and increasing public awareness.
- 3.4 The Commission's terms of reference were approved by the Governance Committee in July 2010 and a revised version taking into account the restructuring of the council are set out below:

Civic Awareness Commission Terms of Reference

Membership

The membership of the Civic Awareness Commission will be as follows:-

- The Chairman of the Governance Committee and a Member from each of the other Groups represented on the council;
- Freeman, Aldermen and ex-councillors with an interest in civic awareness appointed by the Chairman of the Governance Committee following consultation with Group Leaders;
- Any other members co-opted by the Commission.

Role

- To promote civic awareness and civic engagement in the city and to encourage a greater appreciation of the civic history of Brighton and Hove.
- To seek appropriate resources from all avenues to assist with the promotion of civic awareness.
- The Commission will be supported by the city council and this will include project management and secretariat support.
- Lead Officers for the city council will be the Strategic Director for Communities, Commissioner for Culture and the Head of Royal Pavilion & Museums who will be in attendance at meetings in order to support the Commission.
- The Commission will engage with the various Directorates, Partner Organisations and community.
- There will be an initial scoping meeting to determine the work programme.
- The Commission will have both private and public meetings.

Reporting

- The Civic Awareness Commission is not a decision making body.
- Regular updates will be presented to the Governance Committee for the duration of the Commission on a six monthly basis.

The Commission will engage with all Directorates, partner organisations and citizens.

- 3.5 The Commission appointed Adam Trimmingham as its Chairman and has met on 9 occasions since October 2009.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 There has been no formal consultation as the report is for information and the political groups have representatives on the Commission.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The establishment of the Commission has no direct financial implications, however, any actions resulting from the work of the Commission and in the promotion of civic awareness will either need to have new resources identified or carried out from within existing budgets.

Finance Officer Consulted: Anne Silley

Date: 05/01/11

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 There are no legal implications arising from the report. The Commission is not a decision making body and any recommendations will be considered at the Governance Committee with full legal and financial implications at that stage.

Lawyer Consulted: Abraham Ghebre-Ghiorghis Date: 05/01/11

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 There are no equalities implications arising from the establishment of the Commission.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 The work of this Commission will take into consideration any sustainability issues affecting the council and the city.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 There are no crime & disorder implications arising from the establishment of the Commission.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 There are no risk and opportunity management implications arising from the establishment of the Commission; and any such implications arising from the work of the Commission will be taken into consideration.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 The establishment of the Commission will provide a specific focus for the promotion of civic engagement and civic history of Brighton and Hove.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

None

Documents in Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

None

