

Proposed Thameside Complex Review

Terms of Reference

Introduction

In January 2015, the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a report on the Thameside Complex. It was decided at this meeting that a cross party task and finish group could usefully support the detailed consideration of the options for the future of the services and the complex, building on an anticipated report of those options to Cabinet.

At its February 2015 meeting, Cabinet agreed the recommendations made through the first stage of the Options Appraisal which broadly encompassed the following points:

- The options identified for the Library, Museum, Registrars Office and Community/Voluntary Sector agencies should be worked up into outline business cases;
- The Theatre should be the subject of a more detailed appraisal focussing on four options:
 - Improving the existing theatre space;
 - Moving to a multi-venue operating model;
 - Creating a new, purpose built theatre on the same site; and
 - Creating a new, purpose built theatre on an alternative site.
- That a series of interim measures be taken to reduce the cost of the Thameside to the Council including reviewing budgets, moving all occupiers onto at least a cost recovery model and considering short term letting arrangements.

Linked to this work is the ongoing review into the future of the Library Service. Care will need to be taken not to undermine or predetermine the outcome of this review in respect of the Grays Library.

Purpose and aims of the Task and finish group

- Building upon the work completed to date, understand the current challenges and benefits of the Thameside Complex and providing services from it.
- Support the consideration of the future options for the services as outlined in the Cabinet report of February 2015, using witness sessions, consultation and other research to provide a balanced view of each.

- Provide a thorough and balanced report to Cabinet outlining the Group's consideration of each option.

Membership

Four councillors representing each political party in the Council, namely 1 Labour, 1 Conservative, 1 UK Independence Party and 1 Independent Member.

Activities

The Group will undertake the following tasks as a minimum. Other activities may be deemed appropriate as the review progresses:

- a) Receive the Stage One Options Appraisal report detailing the relevant statistics on the complex itself and the services contained therein, as well as information on future delivery options. (Meeting One)
- b) Agree the scope of work to be undertaken to develop the proposals for the Library, Museum, Registrars and Community/Voluntary sector agencies and to further explore the options for the Theatre. (Meeting One)
- c) Visit the Thameside Complex to view issues first hand.
- d) Undertake some form of consultation with visitors to the complex, for example, focus groups, walkabouts and scheduled meetings with local clubs and societies. (Between Meeting One and Two)
- e) Undertake a witness session with relevant service heads to understand the proposed future delivery models for the Library, Museum, Registrars and Community/Voluntary sector agencies and test the assumptions within any associated outline business cases.(Meeting Two)
- f) Undertake site visits and witness sessions to explore the identified options for the future of Theatre provision in Thurrock. For example, undertaking a witness session with managers/operators of other venues or visiting an alternative site where a service may be delivered in the future. (Meeting Two and between Meeting One and Two)
- g) Review findings from the various workstreams and recommend preferred routes forward for the implementation of proposals for the Library, Museum, Registrars and Community/Voluntary sector agencies together with the selection of a preferred option for future Theatre provision (Meeting Three)