

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCILSPECIAL CABINET15 JULY 2020Present:

Councillor Joe Harris - Chair

Councillors -

Tony Dale	Jenny Forde
Andrew Doherty	Lisa Spivey
Mike Evely	

Observers:

Councillors Julian Beale, Gina Bloomfield, Patrick Coleman, Nikki Ind,

Apologies:

Councillors Rachel Coxcoon and Clive Webster

CAB.14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest under the Code of Conduct for Members although the Leader reminded Members that they should declare any hospitality received from the Barn Theatre through the Gifts and Hospitality rules.

There were no declarations of interest under the Code of Conduct for Officers.

CAB.15 BARN THEATRE – MEDIA PROPOSAL

The Leader introduced this report and explained that over the lockdown period there had been a good working relationship with the Barn Theatre in Cirencester, who had provided facilities for the Council to host CDC Live responding to live questions from the public immediately. Other groups had also been taking the opportunity to live stream from the Theatre, such as the Cotswolds MP, Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown. The Theatre had approached the Council to continue the relationship that had developed through the Covid-19 Pandemic. The proposal from the Theatre would be for a trial period of 1 year to continue the CDC live shows, which were a positive way to engage with the residents of the Cotswolds, and to produce up to 6 professionally, directed and produced videos for specific purposes such as the budget consultation.

The Interim Chief Executive explained that a question had been raised regarding the compliance of this proposal with the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity. The code applies in relation to all decisions by local authorities relating to paid advertising, leaflet campaigns, publication of free newspapers and news sheets and maintenance of websites. It sets out seven principles against which publicity by local authorities should be assessed. It was considered that this proposal was not about publicity in the way it was defined in the code, but about communication and engagement with the public. She reassured Members that the proposal had been assessed against the code and was confident that it complied.

The seven principles in the code were met by this proposal, which in the opinion of herself and the S151 Officer provided value for money and would be cost effective for the Council, residents and businesses, and there would be no advertising involved in the CDC live broadcasts.

The Cabinet Member for Finance highlighted that the funds were available for this project, with £35,000 in the communication budget for this year. The proposal would be for one year and would continue to a more formalised tendering process afterwards if there was a desire to continue with the initiative. He considered that it was good value for money. The revised MTFS would reflect the contributions to this project.

Members of the Cabinet considered that this was a valuable opportunity to continue with a very successful format in reaching residents and businesses of the District and supported the proposal.

The Business Manager, Corporate Responsibility reminded Members that particular care should be taken with the livestreaming of CDC Live during the election period and Purdah.

RESOLVED that:

- (a) the proposal from the Barn Theatre to provide ongoing media support to the Council for a trial period of one year at a cost of £20,000, be approved;**
- (b) a contract waiver for this transaction be put in place.**

Record of Voting - for 6, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 2.

CAB.16 BARN THEATRE – CINEMA PROPOSAL

The Leader introduced the report highlighting that Cirencester had been without a cinema for a number of years. Over the intervening years, since the cinema in Lewis Lane had been demolished, there had been attempts to bring a cinema back to Cirencester, but nothing had materialised. This was an opportunity to support a local charity, and to put the infrastructure in place to deliver a cinema in the Barn Theatre. Financial support had been requested by the charity, which would aim to open the cinema in September.

The Cabinet Member for Finance highlighted that this was an exciting opportunity. He recommended that resolution (a) include the words 'up to' before £20,000, as the charity may not need all the money allocated. A grant of £10,000 would be met by way of £6,500 from the earmarked reserve for rural cinema equipment and £3,500 from the Community Project Fund.

Members supported this project and were keen to support the charity to provide the facility for the district. They were also assured, by the Chief Finance Officer, that due diligence would be carried out before any monies were paid.

RESOLVED that:

- (a) that the request from the Barn Theatre for financial assistance towards the costs of opening the theatre as a cinema and provide a grant of £10,000 and a loan of up to £20,000 towards this;**

- (b) delegated authority to agree the terms of the loan, be given to the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance.**

Record of Voting - for 6, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 2.

CAB.17 PAVEMENT LICENCES (TABLE AND CHAIRS)

The Cabinet Member for the Economy and Skills introduced this item. The Business and Planning Act 2020 was expected to come into force with immediate effect on 20 July 2020. This would enable businesses to apply for a licence to provide tables and chairs on pavements where necessary, and specifically states that District Councils should be issuing the licences. The applications for licences would need to be processed extremely quickly and issued within 14 days, following consultation with relevant bodies. The rationale behind this Bill was to promote the recovery of businesses throughout the District.

A fee of £100 per licence was proposed and following discussion on whether a fee should be charged, it was considered that this needed to be applied as it was felt that businesses should be aware of what they are applying for, and a fee would discourage multiple applications, also recouping the cost of the service.

Due to the short timeframe within which licences needed to be processed, consultation should be with relevant Cabinet Members in order to speed up the process, if one Cabinet Member was not available, another Cabinet Member would be able to make a decision.

Following discussion it was clarified that recommendation (c) in the report should be deleted as existing tables and chairs placed outside premises may be on land that belongs to the business.

RESOLVED that:

- (a) the responsibility for granting, refusal and revocation of licences be delegated as set out in 6.1 of the report, in consultation, on a rota basis, with relevant Cabinet Members.**
- (b) fees be set at the maximum permitted level of £100 in order to recover as much of the cost of issuing licences as possible;**
- (c) that the duration of licences will be to 30th September 2021, unless revoked.**

Record of Voting - for 6, against 0, abstentions 0, absent 2.

The Meeting commenced at 10.30 am and closed at 12.00 noon.

Chair

(END)