
Meeting	Decision Session - Executive Member for Culture, Leisure & Tourism
Date	27 November 2015
Present	Councillor Ayre (Executive Member)
In Attendance	Councillor K Myers

13. Declarations of Interest

At this point during the meeting the Executive Member was asked to declare if he had any personal, prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests in the business on the agenda. He declared that he had none.

14. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the Decision Session held on 23 October be signed and approved by the Executive Member as a correct record.

15. Public Participation

It was reported that there had been one registration to speak under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

Sue Galloway spoke regarding the agenda item on volunteering. She asked that the Council take a common sense approach in relation to volunteer insurance and gave a number of examples in the community. She stated that in the one case of the Foxwood Community Centre café, a resident run scheme, that health and safety inspections had inspected them as a commercial operation.

This had felt disproportionate in comparison to commercial ventures and had put off volunteers that had already received training and gained a qualification. Litter pickers had also been asked to undertake training and again she felt this was disproportionate in relation to the complexity of the task.

She also felt that there was some confusion as to what the Council's insurance covered in relation to volunteering and the Resident Association cover that is set to cover up to 5 events per year.

She asked that Council's insurance policies to be reviewed in order to have one overarching policy to cover volunteers in one organisation in whatever activity that they choose to carry out.

16. Volunteering and the Council

The Executive Member asked Officers whether other external voluntary sector organisations that had an interest in volunteering, were involved within the Volunteer Managers' Network, as he felt some of the smaller voluntary organisations could pick up knowledge by being part of the network. It was stated that the network was currently an internal forum but membership could look to include external organisations.

He added that volunteering was an untapped resource and that he wished to double the number of Local Authority staff volunteers and to simplify the process of volunteering.

In response to comments raised by the public speaker in relation to insurance for volunteering, Officers informed the Executive Member that that there may be confusion in relation to the council's cover for those that volunteer for the council, and the Residents Association Federation had an insurance policy that covered Residents Associations and they would seek to clarify this.

Resolved: (i) That the new Volunteering Policy, as set out in Annex 2 of the Officer's report, for the City of York Council be adopted.

(ii) That the Volunteer Managers' Network workplan be approved.

(iii) That the Executive Member receive an update report on progress in 12 month's time.

Reason: To ensure compliance with the York Charter for Volunteering and to enable the Council to offer and promote a strong volunteering culture for its employees and residents.

Councillor N Ayre, Executive Member
[The meeting started at 3.30 pm and finished at 3.40 pm].