
Scrutiny Management Committee

15th September 2008

Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services

Cultural Quarter Ad Hoc Scrutiny Committee – Co-option

Summary

1. This report asks Members to consider formally co-opting Sir Ron Cooke onto the Cultural Quarter Ad Hoc Scrutiny Committee.

Background

2. At the initial meeting of the Cultural Quarter Ad Hoc Scrutiny Committee held on 21st July 2008, the Committee suggested that Sir Ron Cooke be invited to join the Committee as a co-opted Member.
3. Sir Ron Cooke is the former Vice-Chancellor of York University and he is currently the Chair of 'Without Walls'; the Local Strategic Partnership. He was also Vice Chair of [York@Large](#) when the original idea of a Cultural Quarter was proposed.
4. Sir Ron Cooke is also very involved with the York Civic Trust and has recently written a book for them entitled 'York: A Special Place' which sets out a vision for a vibrant city.
5. Constitutionally, Scrutiny Management Committee has the power to make appointments to its established Scrutiny Sub-Committees.
6. Sir Ron Cooke, if appointed as a non-voting co-optee, will be eligible to claim travel and subsistence expenses for any meetings he attends and will of course, contribute, through his advice and expertise, to the work and final report of the Sub-Committee.

Consultation

7. Members of the Cultural Quarter Ad Hoc Scrutiny Committee are pleased to be able to benefit from the expertise of Sir Ron Cooke and would welcome his formal co-option. It is in keeping with the spirit of scrutiny reviews being informed by relevant 'experts'.
8. Whatever Members of the Cultural Quarter Ad Hoc Scrutiny Committee decide to recommend in relation to the Cultural Quarter will need the support of partners from 'Without Walls.'

Options

9. Members can either approve or reject the proposal to co-opt Sir Ron Cooke in a non-voting capacity for the remainder of the existing review.

Analysis

10. The benefits of inviting Sir Ron Cooke to become a formal co-opted Member are considerable. His expertise in this field and his knowledge of the local area and the proposed Cultural Quarter are essential to the progress of this review.

Corporate Strategy & Improvements

11. Although not directly relevant to the current identified corporate improvements, it would be beneficial to the Council and this particular scrutiny to maximise the technical knowledge and expertise available to it.

Implications

12. There are no known financial, HR, legal, crime & disorder or other implications associated with this report or the recommendation below.

Risk Management

13. There are no risk management implications in relation to this matter

Recommendations

14. That Members consider formally appointing Sir Ron Cooke as a non-voting co-opted Member for the duration of the Cultural Quarter Ad Hoc Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

Reason: In keeping with other existing co-option practices.

Contact Details

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Report Approved **Date** 12th August 2008

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected: Guildhall, Holgate & Micklegate

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Annexes: None