

Culture - Asset Review Task and Finish Group

24th January 2022

Present: Councillors Alan Walters, Gale Waller, Ed Baines and Nick Begy.

In Attendance: Councillor Marc Oxley, Portfolio Holder for Communities, Environment and Climate Change

- Marc Oxley had been invited to the first part of the meeting to advise the T&F group on a number of areas within culture where it appeared there was a direction of travel being undertaken, the detail of which the group was not fully aware of.
- Marc was able to confirm ongoing discussions around consultants (specialists might be a better word) working on the Heritage Lottery Funding regarding the roman villa find and a potential 3D virtual attraction.
- Marc was able to confirm the levelling up grant funding which was going through further viability and other considerations.
- Marc confirmed that the latest discovery at Rutland Water was the property of Anglian Water who would likely have some say on its future display arrangements.
- Marc confirmed the potential for third-party display of some existing artifacts. Marc was unable to confirm any consideration of a refreshment facility being provided within the museum.
- Marc suggested that the role of scrutiny would likely “come further down the line”, after officers and consultants had a clearer picture.
- Members were unsure whether to accept this or to suggest that scrutiny should be involved at an earlier stage.
- **Marc was invited to leave the meeting.**

- Consideration was given by members whether to stop the T&F review at this stage, or to continue whilst awaiting further detail.
- On balance it was determined to ask the director of places for further information on the bid details for the levelling up culture grant, and for further details of the asset review relating to the museum and any other culture assets before making a determination on how to proceed.
- Given the current uncertain position with several directions of travel being assessed by officers scrutiny is asked to advise the T&F Group:
 1. Do we stop the T&F review pending further information and then potentially restart with revised terms of reference?
 2. Does the group continue under the same terms of reference but in the knowledge that circumstances have changed?
 3. Regardless of the above should the delegated member (Cllr Baines) continue to seek advice from educational establishments as to how the culture offer can be of most benefit to students, and how they might become more involved?
- Details were requested from the Director on the same evening 24th January with a copy to the portfolio holder and a response is expected in due course.
- There was no clear consensus from group members on the evening, with one member suggesting the group continues and awaits that information before making a recommendation to scrutiny on the way forward but the lead/chair suggests that given the closeness of the elections the group should stand down and a new group with revised and more relevant TOR be appointed after May.