

## **Art Galleries Committee**

### **Minutes of a meeting held on 8 February 2017**

#### **Present:**

Councillor Rahman– In the Chair

Councillors Andrews, Flanagan, N Murphy, S Murphy, S Newman and Priest

#### **Also present:**

Councillor Dar, Manco and Stogia

#### **Apologies:**

Councillors Battle and Leese

#### **AG/17/01 Minutes**

#### **Decision**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2016.

#### **AG/17/02 Manchester City Galleries' Report and Revenue Budget 2017/18**

The Committee considered a joint report of the Director of Manchester City Galleries and the City Treasurer which described Manchester City Galleries' performance during 2016/17 and outlined delivery proposals for 2017/18 within the context of City Galleries 3-year strategic plan. The report presented a draft revenue budget for 2017/18 which the Committee was asked to agree.

The Director of City Galleries introduced the report with a particular emphasis on performance in 2016/17. She highlighted the continued upward trend in visitor numbers with an increase of 14% visitors on the previous year, adding that the increase also included an increase in visitors of black, asian or minority ethnic origin. This was attributed to targeted work in particular parts of the city where residents had historically been less likely to engage with culture and which included outreach sessions, work with schools and socially inclusive volunteering programmes. She also spoke about plans to broaden out the social demographic in the next financial year with a major South Asian exhibition which would bring some of the best of contemporary South Asian art practice to wide and diverse audiences across the city.

The Committee acknowledged that the Director was soon to leave her role with the City Council and would take up a new role of Director of the Tate Gallery. Members asked that their appreciation for her long list of accomplishments achieved in Manchester be put on record. Members made particular reference to her very positive work to increase visitor numbers and attract younger and historically hard to reach audiences. The Chair indicated that the Director's new role presented a good opportunity for a strengthened future relationship with the Tate Gallery and hoped to see more collaborative work in the future and wished her success in her new role.

## **Decisions**

1. To approve the contents of the report, including the draft gross budget for 2017/18 of £3.385m, with cash limit budget contribution from Manchester City Council of £2.136m.
2. To recommend the budget to Executive for approval as part of the Council's budget setting process.