

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

13 SEPTEMBER 2011

RESPONSE FROM CABINET – 22 JUNE 2011

POLICY REVIEW – THE ROLE OF CULTURE IN SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

JOINT REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY SERVICES AND THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR SAFER CITY AND CULTURE

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide feedback from the Cabinet meeting held on 22 June 2011, which considered the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee's Policy Review into the role of culture in supporting sustainable communities.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The investigation into the role of culture in supporting sustainable communities, conducted by the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee falls under the remit of the City Services Directorate and is, within the service area covered by the Safer City and Culture Portfolio Holder.
- 2.2 On 22 June 2011, Cabinet considered the Final Report of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee into the role of culture in supporting sustainable communities. This report provides feedback from the Portfolio Holder following the Cabinet's consideration of, and decisions in relation to this Committee's recommendations.
- 2.3 Following on from this report, progress towards completion of the actions will be monitored through the Action Plan, with standardised six monthly monitoring reports to be presented to the Committee.

3. RESPONSE FROM CABINET TO THE POLICY REVIEW

- 3.1 Following consideration of the Final Report, Cabinet approved the recommendations in their entirety. Details of each recommendation and proposed actions to be taken following approval by Cabinet are provided in the Action Plan attached at **Appendix A**.
- 3.2 Cabinet thanked the Committee and its officers for their hard work in undertaking the policy review and additional work.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 That Members note the proposed actions detailed within the Action Plan, appended to this report (**Appendix A**) and seek clarification on its content where felt appropriate.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 5.1 The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:-
- (i) Cabinet Agenda, 22 June 2011.

Contact Officer: Helen Lancaster
0191 561 1233
Helen.lancaster@sunderland.gov.uk

Appendix A

Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee

The Role of Culture in Supporting Sustainable Communities: Policy Review recommendations 2010/11

Ref	Recommendation	Action	Owner	Due Date	Progress Commentary
(a)	The Committee be kept updated on the outcome of the service reviews being undertaken relevant to the provision of cultural services in the city	Committee to be given update on following reviews :- - Neighbourhood Services Management Review	Culture and Tourism (CDA/AF)	July 2011	Review in progress. Report to be tabled at Scrutiny Committee when appropriate.
(b)	The Council examine the full cultural offer being delivered by all providers to residents in the city in order to determine whether there is any duplication or gaps in service provision and ensure that we are capturing the full contribution of the voluntary and community sector	A full audit of all cultural services to be undertaken, including provision not delivered through the City Council	TBC	February 2012	It is considered that this recommendation would require a significant amount of time and resource, therefore this action is subject to identifying suitable resources Resource not yet identified. A sport and physical activity audit can contribute to this recommendation. This is currently being undertaken as part of a separate 2011/2012 Scrutiny Review.
(c)	Service providers look at mechanisms for improving joint working and cooperation, particularly with the community and voluntary sector	An audit of activity to be undertaken that details where duplication takes place.	TBC	February 2012	It is considered that this recommendation would require a significant amount of time and resource, therefore this action is subject to identifying suitable resources Resource not yet identified.

					The sport and physical activity audit – see (b) above – will identify the level of provision across the city including the community and voluntary sector.
(d)	The Council investigates the potential of improving visitor information, including signage at the Wearmouth-Jarrow World Heritage Site	Report to be presented including current works and further potential	Culture and Tourism (JFH)	September 2011	Scrutiny Committee receiving update on Heritage in October which will include update on World Heritage project and visitor information improvements.
(e)	The council's Area Committees be invited to consider the potential of compiling a database of heritage assets based upon the work conducted by the Coalfield Area Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Findings of Coalfield work to be presented to Scrutiny - Overview of work and recommendation to all Area Committees 	Culture and Tourism / VM and Area Committees	July 2011 September 2011	Coalfield Area Committee database completed. Heritage report (see above) will include update on Area Committees' work.
(f)	The council should further explore ways of working with the private sector in order to support the concept of making use of unused or underused space in the city as a home for gallery space or mini art centres	Report to Scrutiny on work undertaken	Culture and Tourism (ZC)	February 2012	Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art working with the University and graduate artists to develop an exhibition programme utilising empty shops. Currently identifying locations and seeking permission from landlords.

(g)	The Council seeks to maximise the potential of seeking private sector sponsorship and the use of Gift Aid as a means of generating additional funding	Report to Scrutiny	Culture and Tourism (TM)	November 2011	Initial enquiries have been made in respect of the potential of utilising Gift Aid to support funding. Discussions with Legal Section ongoing.
(h)	The Committee receive a further report on ethnic diversity and the role of culture in supporting sustainable communities	Report to Committee but to note quite a specialist area to examine, that requires a dedicated resource	TBC	TBC	<p>This action is subject to identifying suitable resource</p> <p>No resource yet identified.</p> <p>The sport and physical activity audit – see (b) above – will identify the opportunities that exist in the city for an ‘equitable offer’ which would include consideration of ethnic diversity.</p>