

<b>CABINET MEETING – 22 JUNE 2011</b>  <b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I</b>	
<b>Title of Report:</b> SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: THE ROLE OF CULTURE IN SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES POLICY REVIEW FINAL REPORT	
<b>Author(s):</b> Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee and Executive Director of City Services	
<b>Purpose of Report:</b> To set out the recommendations of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee following it's review into the role of culture in supporting sustainable communities.	
<b>Description of Decision:</b> The Cabinet is requested to consider the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee's Policy Review Final Report and approve the recommendations contained within the report.  To assist the Cabinet in its determination of either approving or rejecting the proposed recommendations of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee, attached as <b>Appendix A</b> is the proposed Action Plan for the implementation of these recommendations which has been prepared in consultation with the appropriate Portfolio Holder(s).	
<b>Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework?</b> Yes	
<b>If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework</b>	
<b>Suggested reason(s) for Decision:</b> The recommendations and comments of the Scrutiny Committee reflect the findings of a detailed review of the service area.	
<b>Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:</b>  There are no alternative options recommended.	
<b>Is this a "Key Decision" as defined in the Constitution?</b> Yes	<b>Relevant Scrutiny Committee:</b>  Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee
<b>Is it included in the Forward Plan?</b> Yes	



**SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: THE ROLE OF CULTURE IN SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES**

**REPORT OF THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY SERVICES**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To advise Cabinet of the recommendations arising from the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee's review into the role of culture in supporting sustainable communities.

**2. Description of Decision (Recommendation)**

- 2.1 The findings and recommendations of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee be accepted. However, where there are any recommendations which have financial implications, these will be outlined in the Service Directorate's response, attached as **Appendix A**.

**3 Background**

- 3.1 On 15 June 2010, the Committee agreed to undertake a policy review into the role of culture in supporting sustainable communities. The Committee felt that it was important to look into this issue in view of the important role culture can play in bringing together and supporting communities in the city.
- 3.2 The Scrutiny Committee gathered a wide range of evidence from officers of the council and partners through its formal meeting.

**4 Key Points Arising from the Review**

- 4.1 Several themes emerged during the evidence gathering for the policy review and the Committee was able to conclude:-
- That it is important to take a broad view on the meaning and role of culture and that now and into the future, cultural provision in Sunderland should not be confined to dedicated cultural facilities, such as theatres, and the people who use them. Just as important are the less professionalised and less formal cultural activities in which everyone from all communities takes part - in homes, pubs, public spaces, schools, places of worship and community centres;
  - Culture is not always delivered by 'the cultural sector'. One of culture's key strengths is the way it can add value to initiatives within other sectors;
  - The Council provides a broad cultural offer and this plays an important role in contributing to achieving more cohesive and stable communities within the city. This crosses a range of activities provided across:-

- Libraries Service
- Heritage and Built Heritage
- Archives and Museums
- Arts and Creative Development
- Tourism and Events
- Sport and Well Being

Providers should ensure that they work closely and in partnership focusing on what each can contribute to the overall aim of the service. This should ensure that the service provided is delivered when, where and to the quality expected by public. It is therefore important that service providers look at mechanisms for improving joint working and cooperation, particularly with the community and voluntary sector.

## **5. Response of the Directorate(s)**

- 5.1 To assist the Cabinet in its determination of either approving or rejecting the proposed recommendations of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee, attached as **Appendix A** is the proposed Action Plan for the implementation of these recommendations which has been prepared in consultation with the appropriate Portfolio Holder(s).
- 5.2 City Services welcomes the report and the findings of the review. City Services notes the action plan but highlights areas where there is a resource implication as there is a need for further intensive work to fulfil the recommendation, namely actions b, c, and h.

## **6. Reasons for Decision**

- 6.1 The recommendations are intended to support the future development of culture as a means of supporting the city's communities.

## **7. Alternative Options**

- 7.1 The recommendations explore a range of potential options for the improvement and progress of the city's cultural offer in relation to sustainable communities.

## **8 Consultation**

- 8.1 The findings in the report are the result of consultation and evidence gathering by the Scrutiny Committee.

## **9. Background Papers**

- 9.1 The following background papers were consulted or referred to in the preparation of the report:

- Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee Policy Review 2010/11 - The Role of Culture in Supporting Sustainable Communities, Final Report
- Sunderland's Cultural Strategy

## 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	
(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
(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

(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	
(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"> <li>- Findings of Coalfield work to be presented to Scrutiny</li> <li>- Overview of work and recommendation to all Area Committees</li> </ul>	Culture and Tourism / VM and Area Committees	July 2011 September 2011	
(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)	October 2011	
(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	

(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	This action is subject to identifying suitable resource
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