

**CULTURAL STRATEGY UPDATE REPORT**

**(Report by Lifestyle Manager)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The development and implementation of a Cultural Strategy is a key objective of the Huntingdonshire Local Strategic Partnership (Culture and Leisure Thematic Group) and the Huntingdonshire Children and Young Peoples Plan 2006-7

**2. PROGRESS**

- 2.1 In October 2006 an internal steering group was established incorporating services and activities such as leisure and leisure development, arts and heritage, play, parks, open spaces, and countryside services to oversee the development of the cultural strategy.
- 2.2 The strategy explores the policy context driving forward culture in the district, examines existing provision as well as identifying a clear action plan for the coming three years to meet identified cultural themes. It is intended to help those engaged in cultural delivery or planning to place their activity in context, and help them justify funding and provide the basis for their own partnership agreements.
- 2.3 The first draft of the cultural strategy was sent out on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2007 for consultation to members of the Culture and Leisure Thematic group and wider stakeholders at both local and county level and tied in with the current process of reviewing Huntingdonshire's Community Strategy in order to produce a Sustainable Community Strategy. Members were asked to identify the Culture and Leisure Issues, needs and aspirations that affect Huntingdonshire.

**3. CONCLUSION**

- 3.1 Following the initial consultation the draft Cultural strategy has been amended. However, before finalising the strategy it will need to incorporate any relevant Cultural priorities identified during the review of the Community Strategy. It is anticipated that this process will be concluded in September where by the Culture Strategy will be ready to go to Cabinet for adoption.

**3. RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 Overview and Scrutiny Panel is asked to note the contents of this report and to recommend that the completed cultural strategy is presented to Cabinet for adoption on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2007.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**Contact Officer:** Chris Lloyd. ☎ 01480 388290  
Howard Thackeray ☎ 01480 388035