

CULTURAL STRATEGY REPORT**Report by Head of Environmental and Community Health Services****1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Members' consent to the adoption and implementation of a Culture Strategy for Huntingdonshire. 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 People's Strategic Partnership.

2. PROGRESS

- 2.1 The strategy explores the policy context for 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 delivering or planning services; they will be able to place their activity in context, justify funding and understand the overall impact of their work.
- 2.2 The first draft of the cultural strategy was distributed on the 1st May 2007 for consultation to members of the Culture and Leisure Thematic group and wider stakeholders at both local and county level and was linked to the current process of reviewing Huntingdonshire's Community Strategy in order to produce a Sustainable Community Strategy. It was presented to the Huntingdonshire Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership on 5 July 2007. Consultees were asked to identify the Culture and Leisure Issues, needs and aspirations that affect Huntingdonshire. All feedback received was used to further develop the strategy.
- 2.3 A copy of the draft strategy was later submitted to COMT, on 14th August, and to the Overview and Scrutiny panel (Service Delivery), on 4th September, for comment.
- 2.4 The key comments made by members of the Overview and Scrutiny panel are listed below:
- The strategy is ambitious. The delivery involves a degree of risk as some aspects are dependent on the funding available. However the aspirational character of the strategy was endorsed as a means to help secure external funding.
 - Where possible Section 106 funding should be secured to support the delivery of the strategy.
 - Investment in facilities and improvements in leisure infrastructure is needed within Huntingdonshire.
 - Accessibility is an issue in outlying rural areas of the district particularly with regards to transport.
 - Regard should be had to the Government's "Youth Offer"

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The development and implementation of a Cultural Strategy is a key objective of the Huntingdonshire Local Strategic Partnership. The strategy explores the policy context, examines existing provision as well as identifying a clear action plan for the coming three years. The draft strategy has been subject to wide consultation and has been amended where appropriate, to take account of relevant comments received. The draft document has been used as a reference in the current review of the community strategy for Huntingdonshire and there will be an ongoing process to ensure the documents are closely linked.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Cabinet is asked to consent to the adoption and implementation of the Culture Strategy for Huntingdonshire.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Huntingdonshire Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, 19 July 2006
Huntingdonshire Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, 5 July 2007.

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