



Haringey Council

Agenda item:

[No.]

Overview and Scrutiny 6th October 2008

Report Title: Haringey's Cultural Strategy

Report of: Phung Mun Thong, Director of Adult, Culture & Community Services

Wards(s) affected: All

Report for: Non-Key Decision

1. Purpose

1.1 To provide an update on the development of Haringey's new Cultural Strategy and seek comments on the draft as part of the consultation process.

2. Recommendations

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- 1) Note the draft Strategy and consultation plan
- 2) Members provide comments on the draft Cultural Strategy

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3. Chief Financial Officer Comments

3.1 To be agreed

4. Head of Legal Services Comments

4.1 To be agreed

5. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

5.1 Haringey's Cultural Strategy 2003-2007

6. Strategic Implications

6.1 Summary

A new Cultural Strategy and Action Plan is currently being developed by initially pulling together our current commitments in terms of the local and wider policy context, the Adult, Culture and Community Service (ACCS) Business Plan 2008-09 and the Cultural Strategy Issues Paper agreed by CEMB on 12th February 2008.

It includes an action plan to deliver the outcomes and objectives set out in the London Cultural Strategy April 2004 focused at a local level. A consultation process to consider our current commitments in terms of regional priorities and to meet local needs and aspirations will begin in September 2008.

6.2 Defining Culture: the Concept of Culture

The term “culture” has a number of meanings. In its widest sense, culture is defined as the “whole complex of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features which characterise a society or social group. It includes not only the arts and letters, but also modes of life, the fundamental rights of the human being, value systems, traditions and habits”. (*From the Margins, a contribution to the debate on culture and development in Europe*. Council of Europe, 2007.)

This strategy uses the more pragmatic definition used by Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) 2004 which includes a variety of cultural activities:

- visual and performing arts (such as painting, sculpture, photography, crafts, theatre, dance, opera, live music);
- audio-visual (including film, TV and radio);
- architecture and design;
- heritage and the historic environment;
- libraries and literature;
- museums, galleries and archives.

Sport, parks and green spaces have been excluded from the scope of this strategy because Haringey has already developed a *Sports and Physical Activity Strategy* and an *Open Spaces Strategy*.

6.3 The development process

Haringey’s first Cultural Strategy covered the period from 2002-2007 and a new cultural strategy and action plan is currently being developed in two phases.

Phase 1 of the development of the strategy involves pulling together our current commitments in terms of the local and wider policy context, the Adult, Culture and Community Service (ACCS) Business Plan 2008-09 and the Cultural Strategy Issues Paper agreed by CEMB on 12th February 2008.

It includes an action plan to deliver the outcomes and objectives set out in the London Cultural Strategy focused at a local level. The actions set out in the action plan have already been agreed and are also drawn from the ACCS Business Plan and the Action Plan set out in the Cultural Strategy Issues paper. The draft strategy can be found at Appendix A.

The draft strategy includes the following outcomes and objectives:

No.	Outcomes	Objectives
1	Excellence- Achieving cultural excellence in Haringey	Objective 1: Ensure cultural institutions and events in Haringey are of high quality
		Objective 2: Improve cultural infrastructure and support programmes to raise the profile of Haringey's cultural diversity
		Objective 3: Develop a Haringey brand and promote Haringey's cultural offer
		Objective 4: Protect and enhance Haringey's cultural heritage.
2	Creativity- Recognition that creativity is central to the success of Haringey	Objective 5: Promote creativity as a significant contributor to Haringey's economy and success
		Objective 6: Support cultural education programmes and lifelong learning in Haringey
3	Access- All residents and visitors have access to culture in the Borough.	Objective 7: Increase access to culture to all in Haringey
		Objective 8: Empower Haringey's communities through culture
		Objective 9: Linking in with high quality cultural provision locally, regionally and nationally
4	Value- All residents and visitors get the best value out of its cultural resources	Objective 10: Ensure Haringey makes best use of funding available for culture

Phase 2 (2009- ?) will involve further work to decide on the final outcomes and objectives to be included in the strategy. As part of Phase 2 a consultation process will be undertaken to add to our current commitments to meet both our regional commitments and meet local needs and aspirations. The consultation will begin on the 30th September 2008 and a timetable is attached at Appendix B.

This document will be developed in partnership with the creative industries, the voluntary sector and the community to best reflect the needs and aspirations of the

borough regarding arts and culture. A Steering Group is being set up to lead the development of the strategy and will include members from Adult Services, Economic Regeneration, Children and Young People, Finance, Equalities, Older People and the creative industries. The group will be Chaired by the Director of Culture, Libraries and Adult Learning. This group will meet regularly to drive the development of the strategy.

An equalities impact assessment will be undertaken during Phase 2 of the development process.

6.4 Related Links

Further information on the consultation for the Cultural Strategy can be found at: http://www.haringey.gov.uk/index/council/strategiesandpolicies/cultural_strategy.htm

7 Financial Implications

7.1 To be agreed

8 Legal Implications

8.1 To be agreed

9 Equalities Implications

9.1 An Equalities Impact assessment is being undertaken in Phase 2 of the development of the strategy.

10 Consultation

10.1 The consultation process will begin on the 30th September 2008 and a timetable is attached at Appendix B.

11 Background

11.1 The Council's existing Cultural Strategy expired in the spring of 2008 providing an opportunity to review the Council's approach to co-ordinating and promoting cultural activity in the Borough.

11.2 A Cultural Strategy is intended to promote the cultural well-being of an area and should "integrate, implement and monitor the major cultural goals, policies and actions of the authority and its partners." (*Creating opportunities: guidance for local authorities in England on local cultural strategies*. DCMS, 2001). The development of the Strategy also provides an excellent opportunity to raise the profile of cultural activity in the Borough.

12 Conclusion

12.2 Haringey's new Cultural Strategy strengthens Haringey's strategic approach to arts and culture which in turn provides opportunities to tackle social exclusion, contribute to regeneration, to promote safer communities and encourage healthier lifestyles.

13 Use of Appendices / Tables / Photographs

13.1 Appendix A: Haringey's Draft Cultural Strategy

13.2 Appendix B: Consultation Timetable