

REPORT TO: Executive Board
DATE: 5 March 2009
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Health & Community
SUBJECT: Arts Policy & Strategy Review
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To ask the Executive Board to endorse the draft Arts Policy and Strategy Review, attached as Appendix 1.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Executive Board:

**(1) comment on the content of the Policy and Strategy Review;
and**

(2) endorse the Policy and Strategy Review.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Council produced its Cultural Strategy in 2001. At the time it was one of the first in the Country and held up as an example of good practice.

3.2 Subsequently it became a requirement to produce a Cultural Strategy as part of the Best Value process, but this requirement was removed in 2006, accepting that Culture should be embedded in the Community Strategy.

3.3 In 2007, Culture and Leisure Services undertook an assessment Towards an Excellent Service (TAES) that was externally validated by the IDeA.

3.4 TAES highlighted that the Cultural Strategy had not been refreshed since 2001. As the Authority had developed a separate Sports Strategy, and given that there was no longer a Best Value requirement, TAES suggested that an Arts Strategy be developed. It was argued that it would be good practice to have a clear strategic approach that could inform work streams.

3.5 Culture and Leisure Services were able to employ a Consultant, funded by the Arts Council to help produce an Arts Strategy.

3.6 The brief for the consultation was to produce a practical working document, with action plans that would be constantly reviewed and

updated.

3.7 The Employment, Learning and Skills PPB have discussed the Policy and Review, and recommend it to the Executive Board.

3.8 It is intended to produce a summary document for public circulation.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The intention is for the Arts Policy and Strategy Review to move to formal adoption by the Council.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 These are contained within the action plan and can be accommodated from existing budgets and external sources.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

The strategy proposes a range of participatory activities for children and young people.

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

The strategy encourages building local talent in the creative industries sector.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The strategy proposes arts projects in health care settings and the promotion of healthy lifestyles through dance.

6.4 A Safer Halton

The strategy promotes diversionary programmes for children and young people, projects to counter drug and substance misuse and projects that tackle specific issues of offending behaviour.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

The strategy proposes projects contributing to community regeneration and public art to promote a sense of identity and place, contributing to the quality of urban design.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 The lack of a strategy is a weakness in any inspection or assessment.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 None

**9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None.