

Meeting:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	10 July 2007
Subject:	Cultural services review – Final report
Key Decision: (Executive-side only)	No
Responsible Officer:	Ed Hammond (x5205)
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Anjana Patel
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	Report of the Cultural Services Review Group, including appendices.

## **SECTION 1 – SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This report sets out the findings and recommendations of the scrutiny review of cultural services.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Committee/Portfolio Holder is requested to:

- 1) Endorse the report and its recommendations
- 2) Refer the report to Cabinet for approval.
- 3) Place the review on the work programme for reconsideration in six months time.

## SECTION 2 - REPORT

### Background

- 2.1 In November 2006, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned a review group to look into issues regarding the council's approach to providing cultural services. The scope of the review was approved by Committee at this time and can be found at Appendix 6 of the review group's report.
- 2.2 Members have, from November 2006 to May 2007, been engaged in a wide-ranging evidence gathering exercise. Evidence has been gathered from a wide range of sources, including council officers, partners, other authorities, the Greater London Authority, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Audit Commission, the Improvement and Development Agency and a number of other organisations.

### Structure of report and issue to be determined

- 2.3 The report comprises three main sections. The first examines the council's cultural strategy – its links with partners, its assessment of local need and the outlining of a "vision" for the service. The second relates to the council's cultural infrastructure. The third relates to community involvement.
- 2.4 There are also three case studies, which examine each of these three themes in the light of specific council projects – the Gayton Road development, the construction of artists' studios at Bernays Gardens and the Beacon Centre in Rayners Lane.
- 2.5 The report contains 26 recommendations on which it is intended that the executive be asked to take action. These are set out in a matrix at the end of the report, which also establishes expected timescales and measures of success for each recommendation. Members are being asked to endorse these recommendations, and to refer then to Cabinet for that body to make a decision on their implementation. If implementation is agreed, Overview and Scrutiny is being asked to return to this issue in six months, to assess progress made in the service and to gather evidence in respect of the Beacon Centre, as set out in the review's report.

### Resources, additional costs and risks associated with recommendation

- 2.6 This report does not in itself makes recommendations which will result in costs being incurred or any resource implications. However, the review's report contains recommendations which, if and when agreed at Cabinet, may incur additional costs and risks. However, care has been taken to ensure that recommendations are at the very least revenue neutral, and which will in many other cases allow more effective use to be use of finances in cultural services.

Equalities impact consideration

- 2.7 The provision of a service that meets high standards in terms of equality of provision to all parties was central to the review.

Current KPIs and likely impact of decision on KPIs

- 2.8 Where the report highlights issues relating to KPIs, these are identified and the effect explained. The most significant KPI-related recommendation relates to the use of resident satisfaction surveys.

Community safety (s17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998)

- 2.9 There are no community safety implications.

Legal and financial implications

- 2.10 No legal implications arising directly from this report but if Cabinet approves the recommendations there will be legal implications mainly around contract and procurement and partnership proposals
- 2.11 No financial implications arising directly from this report.

**SECTION 3 - STATUTORY OFFICER CLEARANCE**

Name: Barry Evans	<input type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2007		
Name: Steven Dorrian	<input type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2007		

**SECTION 4 - CONTACT DETAILS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**Contact:** Ed Hammond, Scrutiny Officer, 020 8420 9205,  
[ed.hammond@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:ed.hammond@harrow.gov.uk)

**Background Papers:**

A full list of all documents relied on is provided in the appendices to the review's report, as attached

**IF APPROPRIATE, does the report include the following considerations?**

1.	Consultation	YES
2.	Corporate Priorities	YES
3.	Manifesto Pledge Reference Number	N/A