

**REPORT TO:** Employment, Learning and Skills PPB

**DATE:** 17 November 2008

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Health and Community

**SUBJECT:** Arts Policy and Strategy Review

**WARDS:** Borough-wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To ask the PPB to consider the content of the draft Arts Policy and Strategy Review, attached as Appendix 1.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

- (1) The PPB comment on the content of the draft strategy.
- (2) The PPB considers a recommendation of endorsement to Executive Board.

## **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 regime, 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 document attached is a result of the consultants work. Whilst it needs some refinement, and the action plan needs populating, it was felt appropriate to get an early steer from the PPB.

#### **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 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None at this stage.

#### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

##### **6.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

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

##### **6.2 Employment, Learning and 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**

9.1 None.