

REPORT TO: Executive Board
DATE: 14th June 2012
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities
SUBJECT: Review of The Arts Strategy
PORTFOLIO: Neighbourhood, Leisure and Sport
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To review and update The Borough Arts Strategy produced in 2008.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That Executive Board approve**

1) **Work to review and refresh the Borough Arts Strategy be carried out in house; and**

2) **Public consultation takes place to support this review**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 In 2008 the council commissioned an arts strategy from an external consultant. It set out to identify where service improvements could be made, to link work in the arts to the council's wider corporate objectives, to strengthen cross sector working and to assist in business planning in the arts.

3.2 In developing an arts strategy the council aspired to achieve: -

- a. A recognition of the value of arts and culture right across the work of the Council
- b. The importance of arts and culture as a key driver of the quality of life will be acknowledged in corporate strategies
- c. The Council will support and encourage high quality arts activities which have integrity, and in which imagination, originality and innovation are valued.
- d. The community will be able – and encouraged – to take part in and experience high quality arts activity, and to be able to share in the social, educational and economic benefits which the arts can offer.

It is now four years on from the publication of this strategy and it is now in need of review.

3.3 Attached as an appendix is a copy of the arts strategy which will be subject to public consultation. A revised arts strategy will help shape priorities and strengthen the local delivery of the arts in Halton.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The arts strategy will need to take account of existing local, regional and national policies. It will also need to link with the council's priorities.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 All work will be undertaken within existing resources.

6.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

6.1 The Arts Council have launched a number of grant funded programmes. Failure to have an up to date relevant strategy will disadvantage the council and Halton based organisations or artists in applications.

7.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

7.1 The Arts Strategy will comply with all relevant equality requirements.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Arts Strategy 2008	Electronic copy	John Hatton