

---

## THE ESSEX GALLERY (Minute 241/00)

### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Members views on the proposal to build a new art gallery in Colchester.

### 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 At a meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee on 13 July 2000, Members were asked whether they supported, in principle, the building of a public art gallery in Essex. The concept of a public art gallery for Essex is a personal dream of Mr Harrop who is spearheading the campaign.

### 3 DEVELOPMENTS

- 3.1 Colchester Borough Council in partnership with Essex County Council, East England Arts, Firstsite Gallery and the University of Essex has submitted a successful "expression of interest" application to the Arts Council of England's Capital Lottery Programme to develop the Firstsite Gallery as a new home for the contemporary arts. The Arts Council of England has allocated an investment of £5 million from its capital programme and the next stage of the application is now being developed.
- 3.2 Officers have already raised concerns with Mr Harrop regarding the capability of the transport infrastructure of coping with his estimated one million visitors per year. However, if there were to be an impetus for a project of this kind, one of the larger Thames Gateway authorities may possibly attract external funding.
- 3.3 It has also been stressed that although the concept of a second gallery at no additional cost may be supported by the Council, it is unlikely that finance or officer time could be committed to promoting such a project.

### 4 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

That Members support in principle the concept of a second gallery in the south of Essex, at no extra cost. (CD(F&ES)).

R Crofts

Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)

---

**Background Papers:**

Letter from Mr Harrop dated 13<sup>th</sup> October 2001

For further information please contact Eva McIlwaine on:-

Tel:- 01702 318120

E-Mail:- [eva.mcilwaine@rochford.gov.uk](mailto:eva.mcilwaine@rochford.gov.uk)