



Rochford District Council

To the Meeting of: LEISURE SUB-COMMITTEE

On: 5 JANUARY 2000

Report of: HEAD OF LEISURE AND CLIENT SERVICES

Title: ARTS AUDIT AND DRAFT ARTS STRATEGY
(Minute 351/99)

Author: Miss E McIlwaine

Report approved by

Corporate Objectives

To increase Rochford's focus on the community in all stages of the service planning and delivery process.

Purpose of Report

To apprise Members of the results of the public consultation on the draft Arts Strategy and to seek approval for a way forward.

Background

At the Meeting of this Sub-Committee on 8 September 1999, Members agreed to adopt the draft Arts Strategy subject to public consultation. It was also agreed to review consideration of an Arts Development Officer in light of the response to the Arts Strategy consultation.

Public Consultation

The public consultation took the form of a questionnaire, which explained and asked questions of key areas within the draft strategy action plan.

All schools, Parish Councils and arts organisations known to Officers were mailed direct. Direct consultation took place in all the libraries across the District; Rayleigh, Rochford, Hullbridge, Hockley and Great Wakering. There was coverage in the Evening Echo, which resulted in direct requests for questionnaires. In all, approximately 450 questionnaires were distributed and of these, 140 (31%) were returned. Of the returns accepted 90% were in favour of an Arts Strategy for the District. A further 85% were in favour of an Arts Development Officer appointment

Way Forward

Members will be aware that there is a current agreement with Eastern Arts Board where the Council receives £5,000 each year for 3 years in return for subscribing to the Local Government Arts Forum. This agreement is currently in its second year.

Crime and Disorder Implications

Increasing opportunities for people to enjoy the arts either as participant or an audience member will assist in reducing instances of nuisance and crime. The arts can also be used as a vehicle to achieve aims within the Crime & Disorder Reduction Strategy.

Environmental Implications

None

Financial/Resource Implications

The financial implications of employing an Arts Development Officer on a three year fixed term contract or for development of the initiatives detailed within the strategy are shown in the table below.

Initiative	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003
Arts Development Officer	10,550	17,550	22,550
Arts activities only	Nil	5,000	5,000

Members Budget Monitoring Group will be considering this item when formulating their recommendations to the Extraordinary Council Meeting to be held on 1 January to discuss the 2000/2001 Budget. There are many competing demands on the budget for next year and it is probable that only essential additional items will be included.

Legal Implications

None

Parish Implications

None

Proposed that this Sub-Committee RECOMMENDS

- (1) That the Arts Strategy is adopted in principle subject to appropriate funding being available.
- (2) That an Arts Development Officer is employed to develop the action plan within the strategy, subject to appropriate funding being available. (HLCS)

Background Papers

Responses to Arts Strategy consultation