

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 14 SEPTEMBER 2005**

#### **THE CULTURAL COMMISSION REPORT – OUR NEXT MAJOR ENTERPRISE**

##### **Report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the key recommendations of the Cultural Commission's report "Our next major enterprise".

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Scottish Executive set up the Cultural Commission in 2004 with a remit to establish a new approach to culture and cultural services across Scotland. The Commission published its report on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2005 and has made a total of 124 recommendations which, if accepted by the Executive, would have a significant impact on the Council's roles and responsibilities in the delivery of cultural services and support for the cultural sector in East Ayrshire.
- 2.2 It is expected that the Scottish Executive will consider the Commission's recommendations before giving a formal response in October or November.
- 2.3 The full report is an extensive and wide ranging document supported by detailed appendices. Copies of the report are available on the Cultural Commission's website ([www.culturalcommission.org.uk](http://www.culturalcommission.org.uk)). Section 12 of the report contains a summary of all the Commission's recommendations.

### **3. SUMMARY OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The Commission's recommendations are included in three target timescales, by 2007, by 2010 and beyond 2010. The 'headline' recommendations are: a significant increase in financial support for the cultural sector; establishing a series of cultural rights for every citizen; the abolition of several arts/cultural bodies and the establishment of two new organisations, Cultural Scotland and the Culture Fund, and new service standards for museums and libraries.
- 3.2 The most significant recommendations with a potential for impact on local authority Cultural Services are as follows:-

- i) There should be four cultural rights, prepared by Scottish Ministers and recorded in legislation as follows:-

All citizens of Scotland have the right to:-

- fulfil their creative potential
- take part in cultural life
- an enriching communal life in a satisfying environment
- participate in designing and implementing cultural policy

- ii) National cultural standards should be established for direction and guidance in the provision and delivery of publicly funded services in:- libraries and archives; heritage; galleries and museums; creative industries; architecture and the built environment; the arts and languages for which Scots are the chief custodians.

- iii) Cultural entitlements should be established in each local authority area to specify the level and nature of cultural provision by publicly funded bodies. These cultural entitlements should be formulated by a local cultural partnership, led by the local authority, whose membership is demonstrably representative of the cultural sector in the area and should include the voluntary, private and public sectors. These entitlements and their means of delivery would be presented in a Local Cultural Strategy.

- iv) Legislation is required to amend the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 in order to make culture a specific key strategic theme within the Community Planning system.

- v) That two new national bodies are established to support and develop cultural services in Scotland:- Culture Scotland, to develop policy, and Culture Fund, to provide finance. Both bodies would be arms length from the Scottish Executive. Culture Scotland would replace several existing organisations including the Scottish Arts Council and Scottish Screen.

- 3.3 The initial response to the recommendations has been mixed. COSLA described the report as 'dull, unimaginative, lacking in vision and self serving' while the report was welcomed by several arts bodies including the Scottish Arts Council.

## **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications attached to this report.

## **5. LEGAL AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no legal implications attached to this report.

## **6. POLICY/COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no policy or Community Plan Implications attached to this report. The Council's Culture and Leisure Strategy has been delayed to accommodate the Scottish Executive's conclusions following consideration of the Cultural Commission's report. The Culture and Leisure Strategy should now be available for Committee consideration in early 2006.

## **7. CONCLUSIONS**

- 7.1 The recommendations of the Cultural Commission have the potential to have a major effect on the Council's Cultural Services. However it is too early to determine what level of change will result from the report. The identified links with the Community Plan and the leadership role allocated to Local Authorities in creating and co-ordinating Local Cultural Partnerships point to a key role in the future. The roles of the two national cultural agencies, Cultural Scotland and the Culture Fund, have the potential for conflict with the traditional role of local authorities in cultural provision. New national standards and cultural entitlements will require appropriate levels of additional resources if they are to be delivered, particularly if these new targets are aspirational and seek to stimulate greater community involvement in cultural activities.

Further reports will be brought to Committee as the cultural debate unfolds.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes this report.

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**Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services**

WS/JAG/KH

6<sup>th</sup> July 2005

## LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Cultural Commission Report: Our next major enterprise  
([www.culturalcommission.org.uk](http://www.culturalcommission.org.uk))

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should contact John Griffiths, Head of Leisure Services, on 01563 576179.

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