

## EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 13 SEPTEMBER 2005

#### THE CULTURAL COMMISSION REPORT

##### Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the key education recommendations contained within 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, 22 of which specifically relate to education. 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 5 of the report relates to education.
- 2.2 It is expected that the Scottish Executive will consider the Commission's recommendations before giving a formal response in October or November 2005.

## 3. SUMMARY OF EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Report highlights the following within an education context:
- i) The importance of early years where "the child's understanding of the world begins in play and the experiences of sharing, of song, movement, colour, rhyme, handwork, rhythm and story", and recognises "the four key partners in this activity: parent, child, educator and artist".
  - ii) The reference to learning partnerships and the move towards the development of "schools as community hubs" with the "interests of the individual child at the centre".
  - iii) The need for schools to develop and maintain strategic partnerships with the cultural sectors and creative industries, and that "Cultural Co-ordinators are key to their success".
  - iv) An assessment of the curriculum using the guidelines and the quality indicators in *How Good is Our School?* would "benefit from the inclusion of arts and culture and an explicit reference to creativity" as currently exists in *Determined to Succeed*.
  - v) The critical need for continuing professional development (CPD) and the promotion of best practice.

- 3.2** Specific programmes are highlighted as ways of effectively using and accessing cultural resources.
- i) The Arts Across the Curriculum programme in partnership with the Scottish Arts Council, the Scottish Executive Education Department and seven local authority education departments. *Doon Academy is participating in this programme.*
  - ii) The work of The Lighthouse in helping bring together those responsible for new schools' building projects with pupils and teachers. *The PPP schools are working with the Lighthouse.*
  - iii) Projects which offer new opportunities for cultural education through digital and communications technologies. *For example, the use of digital video in primary and secondary schools.*
  - iv) The impressive value and impact of the Cultural Co-ordinators and Creative Links schemes. *The authority has its full complement of co-ordinators.*
  - v) The recommended entitlement schemes such as Culture Vouchers.
  - vi) The commission commends *Determined to Succeed* and recommend that "it be broadened to include cultural enterprises, given the role of culture in developing creativity and innovation". *The authority is a lead pathfinder in enterprise in education.*

## **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**4.1** NIL

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

**5.1** NIL

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

**6.1** The Department has already developed its Creative Minds strategy and this will be reviewed accordingly.

## **7. CONCLUSIONS**

**7.1** Cognisance will be taken of the Cultural Commission's recommendations and further reports will be brought to Committee following the consideration of the Commission by the Scottish Executive later in the year.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 It is recommended that Members of the Education Committee:

- (i) note the contents of this report; and
- (ii) be kept informed of further developments.

John Mulgrew  
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

JLW/ES  
24 August 2005

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Cultural Commission Report: Our next major enterprise ([www.culturalcommission.org.uk](http://www.culturalcommission.org.uk)); June 2005

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