

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 29<sup>th</sup> MAY 2002**

**ART GALLERY EXHIBITION POLICY**

**Report by Director of Community Services**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek approval for the implementation of a programming policy for East Ayrshire Council's gallery spaces in the Dick Institute. This policy will govern the planning and development of the temporary exhibition programme of visual arts and crafts.

**2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Over the course of the past ten years, the Dick Institute has earned a reputation for high quality, exciting gallery exhibitions. In 2000/2001 Galleries 1 and 2 recorded a total of 82,698 visits with the vast majority of these by residents of East Ayrshire.
- 2.2 The gallery programme consistently attracts external funding from the Scottish Arts Council (SAC). In order to maximise the potential for future funding support, there is a need to clarify the exhibition policy and provide future strategic direction.
- 2.3 In January 2001, the Museums and Arts Section commissioned external research, funded by the SAC, to reach a better understanding of what audiences wanted from the Dick Institute's gallery programme. The result of that research forms the basis of this policy. The policy also sets out the guiding principles for the development of the galleries.

**3 ART GALLERY EXHIBITION POLICY**

- 3.1 To present a carefully balanced programme of popular exhibitions of high quality, with the general aim of sustaining the interest local people have in the arts, as well as providing access to new and challenging experiences.
- 3.2 Within the programme the department will endeavor to provide as many education and lifelong learning opportunities as possible. These opportunities will support audience development and access by engaging with visitors through activities linked to the programme.
- 3.3 A typical annual programme will include six exhibitions in Gallery 1 and 7-8 in Gallery 2, and a seasonal rotation of stock in the craft point. The exhibitions will consist of a broad mixture of the following;

## **Gallery 1**

- A major international touring exhibition (first venue in Scotland).
- An exhibition presenting EAC's impressive permanent collection.
- A major crafts exhibition by UK and/or international practitioners (first venue in Scotland).
- A self-generated visual art exhibition e.g. group or solo shows; local, national and international artists.
- A focus exhibition on visual and craft artists from East Ayrshire or living in East Ayrshire.
- A selling exhibition of visual art and craft.

## **Gallery 2**

- High quality work by local non-professional and student artists. Exhibitions of local artists and craft makers work (one/two person shows); East Ayrshire schools exhibitions; Group exhibitions of local artists; Special needs exhibitions.

## **4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Nil

## **5 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Nil

## **6 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The approval of the exhibition policy will directly deliver key objectives in arts development and intersect with the Council Plan, in relation to the development of cultural activity.

## **7 CONCLUSIONS**

7.1 Programming accessible, high quality work for residents in East Ayrshire is a priority for the Museums, Arts and Theatre Section. The approach is driven by a commitment to being audience-focused and accountable – specifically providing access to the arts with an intelligent backbone.

## **8 RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

- i) Approve the Art Gallery Exhibition Policy; and

- ii) Otherwise note the contents of this report.

William Stafford  
Director of Community Services

7<sup>th</sup> May 2002

WS/DC

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Dick Institute Marketing & Audience Development Plan
2. East Ayrshire Council's Leisure Strategy

Any person wishing to inspect the above background papers should contact Joanne Moore, Arts and Cultural Development Officer on 01563 554707.

Implementation Officer: [john.griffiths@east-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:john.griffiths@east-ayrshire.gov.uk)

**AGENDA**