

Development Committee

Wednesday, 4th October, 2006

MEETING OF DEVELOPMENT (ARTS) SUB-COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Kelly (Chairman);
the High Sheriff (Councillor Humphrey); and
Councillors Adamson, Cobain, Cunningham, Hartley,
Kirkpatrick, Lavery, Maginess, P. Maskey and Stalford.

In attendance: Ms. S. Wylie, Head of Urban Development;
Ms. S. Stevenson, Culture and Arts Manager;
Ms. C. O'Toole, Arts Development Officer; and
Miss L. Hillick, Committee Administrator.

Apology

An apology for inability to attend was reported from Councillor Long.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 6th and 11th September were taken as read and signed as correct.

Community Arts Forum

The Sub-Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 6th September, it had agreed to receive a presentation from a representative of the Community Arts Forum in connection with the consultation exercise which it had undertaken in relation to the development of the Council's Integrated Cultural Strategy. It was reported that Ms. H. Floyd was in attendance and she was admitted to the meeting and welcomed by the Chairman (Councillor Kelly).

Ms. Floyd reported that the Community Arts Forum had worked in conjunction with Arts Consultant, Gerri Moriarty, in order to consult with the community and voluntary Arts sectors to ascertain their views in relation to the Council's Draft Integrated Cultural Strategy. She pointed out that part of the Forum's role was to create opportunities for people living and working in disadvantaged and/or marginalised areas to engage with key policy makers and government departments involved in Arts provision.

She reported that the consultation exercise had provided the Forum with an ideal opportunity to consult in an informal, constructive and informative manner. She then proceeded to outline the key messages and views which had been received from the consultees in relation to the strategy's three main themes of strategic leadership, creating wealth and quality of life. She pointed out that the Forum's consultation report contained valuable information which could be utilised by the Council and other Local Authorities, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure and those artistic and cultural organisations operating throughout the city.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Sub-Committee, thanked Ms. Floyd for her attendance and she retired from the meeting.

The Sub-Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Integrated Cultural Strategy

The Sub-Committee considered a report in relation to the development of the Council's Integrated Cultural Strategy. A copy of the report, with the exception of the appendix referred to therein, is set out hereunder:

“Relevant Background Information

Purpose of the Report

To update the Development (Arts) Sub-Committee on the development of the Integrated Cultural Strategy and on the delivery of an interim work programme.

Background

Belfast City Council has been leading the development for an Integrated Cultural Strategy for Belfast. The purpose of this strategy is to create a shared approach for the development of the cultural sectors in Belfast.

A draft consultation document was approved by the Development (Arts) Sub-Committee in February 2006, following extensive process of pre consultation with key agency partners, the cultural sector and equality groupings. The Community Arts Forum has also undertaken a substantial community consultation in partnership with the Council. The draft document outlined a summary of key areas for action and outputs relating to Belfast City Council activity however, there was a need to gain a commitment from partner organisations for further areas for collaboration and specific outputs.

There have since then been significant changes in the context in which cultural planning is taking place. The Review of Public Administration outlines significant change which will have direct impact on the role of statutory organisations in the delivery of culture and arts and there have also been recent announcements concerning the Laganside Corporation and the transfer of interim responsibility for their arts funding within the Cathedral Quarter to DSD. Policy advances such as the launch of the new government policy for Architecture and the Built Environment have taken place and proposals for Public Realm are under consultation. The Arts Council of Northern Ireland has also been consulting on their five year plan.

Key Issues

It is critical that the Integrated Cultural Strategy addresses the important changes affecting the cultural sector. The strategy should set out a vision for culture and arts development while at the same time retaining the flexibility to respond to the changing environment. It is therefore proposed that further consideration is given to the content and format for the Integrated Cultural Strategy possibly including a strategic framework with a shorter term or flexible action plan. It is also suggested that proposals are developed for producing complimentary material which includes a review of the Culture and Arts Plan and a document on the impact of the arts.

In the interim the programme of work of the Culture and Arts Unit has been continued under the Capital City Agenda within the agreed revenue estimates. An outline of the current work is provided in Appendix 1. A breakdown of the project budget is provided below.

Resource Implications

Financial

<u>Operational Budget</u>	£
Networks	2,000.00
Creative Showcase	10,000.00
Familiarisation Visits	1,000.00
Cultural Strategy	3,000.00
Development and Outreach	150,000.00
Belfast 2006	70,000.00
Skills Development	37,000.00
Rolling Programme	26,000.00
Cultural Communications Plan	26,000.00
Public Art	22,000.00
Heritage for Youth Initiative	6,000.00
Historic Atlas & 'Enduring City'	31,680.00
INHERIT	4,000.00
Festivals	20,000.00
Annual Funding for Culture and Arts	865,000.00
Audience Development	20,000.00
Heritage Signage	10,000.00
Heritage Initiatives	10,000.00
TOTAL	£1,313,680.00

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members:

- (i) note the proposal for development of the Integrated Cultural Strategy.
- (ii) approve the outline budget for delivery of the ongoing programme of work.

Key to Abbreviations

DSD - Department of Social Development”

The Sub-Committee adopted the recommendations contained within the report.

Forum for Local Government and the Arts

The Sub-Committee considered the undernoted report:

“Relevant Background Information

Members considered a report in June 2006 on the newly reconstituted Forum for Local Government and the Arts and its strategic plan which sets out its aim of becoming an effective advocate for developing the arts in Northern Ireland.

The Forum for Local Government and the Arts (FLGA) was established in November 1994 to formalise structures and relationships through which the Arts Council could engage with local government in Northern Ireland to further the development of the arts at both a local and regional level.

An extensive review to the structure of the FLGA was implemented in 2004 including the establishment of an Executive Committee and the appointment of staff. This included a membership fee to be charged to Local Authority. Members took a decision in December 2004 not to join the FLGA.

Belfast City Council is currently the only local authority in Northern Ireland which is not a member of the FLGA and given the Council’s ambition to deliver an Integrated Cultural Strategy for Belfast, it was felt that there was now an added impetus to consider membership of the FLGA.

Nick Livingston of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and Emma Hegarty, FLGA officer were invited to present to the September meeting to explore issues

Key Issues

A number of issues remain unresolved.

Most notably, the proposed arrangements for the FLGA representation fail to recognise Belfast City Council's key strategic position in relation to Belfast's cultural provision as a Capital City and the major cultural centre in the region.

The level of proposed membership fee (£3,227 as compared to an average of £410 for other councils) is felt to be high, in relation to potential return on investment. There appears to be limited potential for Belfast City Council to influence strategic direction and there are concerns that the FLGA would become an alternative to direct contact between Belfast City Council and Arts Council of Northern Ireland. Much closer partnership working is required in order to deliver an integrated cultural strategy for Belfast.

Resource Implications

Financial

None at present.

Human Resources

Not applicable.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Members consider whether Belfast City Council wish to join the FLGA at this stage."

After discussion, the Sub-Committee agreed that:

- (i) the Council participate on the Forum for Local Government and the Arts for one year, with a report in relation to the Council's participation in future years being submitted after that period;
- (ii) it be represented on the Forum by the Chairman (or her nominee) and an appropriate officer from the Culture and Arts Unit; and
- (iii) clarification be obtained in relation to the Membership fees payable by the Council and any in-kind contributions to the Forum and reported back to the Sub-Committee for consideration.

Rolling Programme to Support Innovation in Culture and Arts

The Culture and Arts Manager reminded the Sub-Committee that, at its meeting on 2nd November, 2005, it had agreed to the implementation of a Rolling Programme to Support Innovation in Culture and Arts during the financial year 2006/2007.

She pointed out that the purpose of the Programme was to assist Arts or Heritage organisations to avail of opportunities for grant-aid which had arisen during the year, including those which were submitted after the closing date for Annual Funding or Multi-Annual Funding applications. Grants awarded through the scheme would range from £250 - £3,000.

She reported that the undernoted applications for funding under the terms of the Programme had been received:

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival	Events associated with the Quarter Arts Festival	£3,000	Funding of £2,500
Greater Shankill Partnership Board	A programme of events associated with an Annual Primary School Singing Project	£2,810	Do not support – Not eligible for this programme
Kids in Control	Costs associated with a film documentary	£3,000	Recommended not to award a grant on this occasion
Northern Ireland Music Industry Commission	Costs associated with a programme to promote a series of music showcases	£3,000	Recommended not to award a grant on this occasion

After discussion, the Sub-Committee adopted the recommendations.

Development and Outreach Initiative

The Sub-Committee considered a report in the relation to the delivery of the Development and Outreach Initiative 2007/2008. A copy of the report, with the exception of appendix referred to therein, is set out here under:

“Relevant Background Information

To request approval from Development (Arts) Sub-Committee to deliver the Development and Outreach Initiative in 2007/08.

In October 2003 Members of the Sub-Committee agreed the delivery of a Development and Outreach Initiative based on research, evaluation and consultation with the sector. The Development (Arts) Sub-Committee in November 2006 updated the

targeted wards in light of changes to the New Multiple Deprivation Measure 2001 and included disability as an additional area. These criteria have continued to be implemented in the forthcoming initiative.

The purpose of the Development and Outreach Initiative is to build capacity and boost cultural activity in communities with weak cultural and arts infrastructure. The scheme is intended to extend participation and access to culture and arts activity within Belfast.

The minimum Development and Outreach grant is £2,000 and the maximum is £20,000. Last Year, we received 20 applications with 12 organisations awarded grants. We allocated a maximum grant of £15,500 and a minimum of £6,500. The average of the grants recommended was £13,181.

£10,000 of this was 'ring-fenced' for projects which promote creative expression and increase opportunities for participation in the arts and / or engagement with Belfast's heritage among young people. This was showcased as a specific Youth Programme.

Key Issues

The specific Objective of the Initiative is to support projects which:

- Create tangible and intangible benefits.
- Are tailored to the actual needs of the communities which it is targeting.
- Are based on genuine partnership between experienced arts / heritage organisations and community based organisations.
- Widen access (physical, intellectual, financial) to cultural activity and promote equality of that access.
- Value diversity; use the arts as a component in building social cohesion; challenge prejudices and foster greater trust.
- Enable community empowerment and self-determination; embedding local control and supporting local commitment.
- Secure sustainability and longevity, and pursuing quality at all stages and levels of the project.
- Forge connections with the mainstream; helping local marginalised activities to pursue links to other spheres; generating a greater audience for the arts.
- Bring vitality to different parts of the City, and engage people in constructive activity.

- Improve local image and identity, and help improve the wider image of Belfast.
- Build personal development and develop individuals' self-confidence, skills development and employability.
- Encourage imagination and vision; promote health and wellbeing; and bring enjoyment.

Criteria

The application form and guidelines used for the 2007/08 Initiative, showing all the criteria and conditions, is enclosed as Appendix 1 to this introduction.

Resource Implications

Financial

Members are requested that a budget of £150,000 is agreed in principle for distribution in 2007/2008 for the Development and Outreach Initiative. Members are requested to note £10,000 will be ring fenced for the delivery of a Youth Programme.

Human Resources

This will be absorbed within the planned work of the Culture and Arts Unit.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members:

1. Approve the delivery of the Development & Outreach Initiative.
2. Authorise in principle expenditure to deliver the Development and Outreach Initiative.
3. Note the deadline for the Development and Outreach Initiative for this year."

The Sub-Committee adopted the recommendations contained within the report.