

Commissioning Body:	Children, Families and Learning OSC
Enquiry Title:	Cultural Strategy Task Force
Membership (including any potential Co-optees):	Councillors Bowater, Goodchild, Hollick and Dalgarno and Mr Landman
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor S Male (Portfolio Holder: Culture and Skills) and Councillor P Turner (Assistant Portfolio Holder)
Terms of Reference	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To understand the Council and partners strategic approach to the delivery of cultural services in Central Bedfordshire. 2. To scrutinise the current provision of cultural services and assess the extent to which provision is 'fit for purpose' and provides value for money. 3. To assist in developing a vision for culture in Central Bedfordshire. 4. To consider the extent to which a collaborative approach has been developed for the delivery of 'cultural' services 5. To ensure that the Cultural Strategy fits with the Council's strategic objectives.
Links to Corporate Priorities:	TBC
Summary of enquiry and what may be included:	
<p>The enquiry will focus on the development of a new Cultural Strategy for Central Bedfordshire, ensuring that the priorities and objectives identified are fit for purpose for the local area and that it can be appropriately delivered in partnership with local partners. Members will be invited to consider the key lines of enquiry, which might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is 'culture' in Central Bedfordshire and where do we aspire to be in the future? • What is culture in Central Bedfordshire not? • A review of the cultural priorities and services currently available in Central Bedfordshire. • What are the key objectives and priorities for cultural services in Central Bedfordshire and what are the indicators of success for these objectives? • The suitability of cultural services currently available in Central Bedfordshire and how they compare to our family group of authorities. • The extent to which commissioning and re-commissioning of cultural services may be required in Central Bedfordshire in order to achieve priorities and the implications of this. • The co-ordination of sport and culture and the relationship between the two. • The use of schools as an extended community facility. • What is our collaborative approach to the delivery of cultural services in Central Bedfordshire and do we all share the same vision? • Monitoring performance in relation to the delivery of cultural services and ensuring the services are value for money. 	
What are the desired outcomes (what can you achieve within the timescale)?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A cohesive strategy for developing cultural services in Central Bedfordshire • A clear and deliverable action plan for enhancing local cultural services 	

Any potential risks to completing the review:			
Potential risk includes the timescales for the completion of the project. Members will need to consider what can reasonably be achieved within the timescale to ensure that an appropriate level of value is added in a timely manner prior to consideration of the strategy by the Executive.			
Potential Witnesses:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the LSP Sustainable Communities Thematic Partnership • Delivery Agencies • Representatives from other beacon authorities <p>Further witnesses to be identified</p>		
Any Research Required (including potential site-visits or surveys [action learning]):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Possible surveys through local media to gather views from the public on strategic priorities. - Possible use of thematic partnerships to develop community based evidence. <p>A workshop with partners will be arranged to provide feedback on draft strategy and to work up the action plan. Further sources to be identified, which might include evidence from other local authorities, national research etc...</p>		
Meeting Frequency (and potential dates):	Meetings monthly (or as necessary) commencing on 11 September 2009.		
Proposed Completion date:	June 2010		
Proposed date to OSC:	April 2010	Proposed date to Exec:	July 2010
Proposed date to Full Council:	TBC if appropriate		
Publicity (of recommendations):	TBC		

Attachment 1: Potential Programme for the Task Force

Meeting 1:	TBC
Purpose:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide Members with background information on the subject and establish an understanding of the cultural vision for Central Bedfordshire, current levels of provision and strategic approach to delivery of services in Central Beds.
Attendees	Cultural Strategy Officers, Portfolio Holder
Outcomes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To understand the strategic approach to the delivery of cultural services in Central Beds To provide initial comments on the overarching vision and strategic objectives of the strategy To agree the Task Force's Terms of Reference, key lines of enquiry, project plan, desired witnesses and desired outcomes.

Meeting 2:	TBC
Purpose:	Task Force to be invited to attend a stakeholder workshop to consider issues relating to the delivery of the Cultural Strategy and its strategic objectives.
Attendees	As per Officer invitation.
Outcomes:	To understand the delivery mechanisms for the Cultural Strategy and the extent of collaborative working in relation to service delivery.

By Email:	TBC
	<p>Adjustment of project scope and key lines of enquiry if necessary, following the workshop and receipt of further background information.</p> <p><i>(At this stage the Task Force may wish to consider issuing a press release or briefing to the public and/ or partners on the key issues that will be considered. This would invite evidence from a wide range of people during the evidence gathering period. Surveys or research should also be commissioned at this stage, which could include e-surveys, workshops or consultation events arranged in coordination with the culture team).</i></p>

Meetings:	TBC
	<p>Evidence Gathering: The task force to receive evidence and question witnesses as appropriate. The task force may wish to consider agreeing set themes to be considered in each of these meetings linked to the terms of reference or the topics to be included in the enquiry. Potential meeting dates may be as follows.</p> <p><i>(The Task Force should consider any site-visits or private interviews that they may wish to carry out at this stage of the process within the evidence gathering period)</i></p>

Meeting:	TBC
	<p>Consideration and Option Appraisal: Task Force to consider all evidence submitted against key lines of enquiry and develop draft options and recommendations arising from the investigation.</p>

Meeting: TBC

Recommendations and Reporting: Task Force receives and agrees draft final report and recommendations prior to submission to the OSC and subsequently the Executive.

Meeting: TBC

Final Report Submitted to Committee Services Officer

Meeting: TBC

Children, Families and Learning OSC receive Cultural Strategy TF report for information purposes.

Meetings: TBC

Executive receives final Cultural Strategy alongside the report and final recommendations of the Cultural Strategy Task Force.

Meetings: TBC

OSC receives a formal response from the Executive detailing how the recommendations were taken into account at the Executive meeting and how other progress in relation to the delivery of the strategy will be monitored.