

**REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, COUNTRY PARKS AND GREEN
ESTATE SERVICES****REVIEW OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL CULTURAL STRATEGY****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report provides a six month review of the implementation of the Cultural Strategy for Nottinghamshire County Council that was agreed by Council at its meeting on 15 December 2011.
2. The Committee is asked to note the report.

Information and advice

3. The Cultural Strategy agreed by Council at its meeting on 15 December 2011 made a clear rationale for the County Council's continuing strong commitment to both providing and supporting an extensive range of cultural services for the people of Nottinghamshire and the many visitors who are attracted to the County.
4. The Strategy set out a direction of travel for the Council's cultural and related services for the next ten years until 2021, though the immediate focus of work was the four year period to 2015, which reflected the Council's current Strategic Plan.
5. The Cultural Strategy provides a high level framework for a number of more detailed, service specific plans which underpin the work of those services that contribute to the delivery of cultural services across Nottinghamshire.
6. The key themes of the Strategy are set out in **Appendix 1**.
7. The Strategy will be used to:
 - Underpin the continuing development of key cultural services such as Libraries, Archives and Information, Country Parks and the Green Estate and Cultural and Enrichment Services
 - Emphasise the County Council's continuing commitment to delivering and supporting strong and effective cultural services in Nottinghamshire
 - Support efforts to attract investment to the cultural sector in Nottinghamshire

- Further develop joint work with key cultural service partners to maximise the range of cultural opportunities available to local people and visitors.

8. **Appendix 2** summarises the work in progress since the Strategy was approved. This work encompasses not only the main providers of cultural services, i.e. Sports, Arts, Libraries, Archives, Country Parks, but also reflects other service areas across the Council whose work has an impact or influence on the wider cultural life of Nottinghamshire.
9. The key cultural achievements can be summarised as:

Libraries:

- 8,791 children signed up for the Summer Reading Challenge, with 4,900 going on to complete – an increase of 7% on the number for 2011
- visitor numbers to Mansfield Central Library are above target and are on course to surpass the 300,000 target for 2012
- the new West Bridgford Library is progressing well and is on schedule to open to the public on 16 March 2013
- the Southwell Poetry Festival in July 2012

Archives:

- has won a Nottinghamshire Heritage Inspiration award for Best Special Project

Country Parks

- the award of a preferred bidder to manage the development of a new visitor centre at Sherwood Forest will be made at Policy Committee on 17 October 2012
- the organisation of a number of major events at Rufford and Sherwood throughout the summer, e.g. Jubilee Weekend; 1940s Weekend
- the Robin Hood Festival, 13 – 19 August 2012, was a great success, with record attendances and income

Cultural Services

- the organisation of the Jubilee celebrations at the National Water Sports Centre in June
- the progression of work to secure a private partner to develop and manage the National Water Sports Centre at the earliest opportunity
- a successful programme of arts events including the Earth and Fire ceramics festival at Rufford Abbey Country Park in June 2012.

Other Options Considered

10. As this is a report for noting, it is not necessary to consider other options.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

11. The Council's refreshed Strategic Plan for 2010-14 has a specific action to prepare a Cultural Strategy.

Statutory and Policy Implications

12. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

13. The Cultural Strategy will be delivered within the financial capital and revenue resources available to the Council.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the review of the Cultural Strategy for Nottinghamshire County Council 2011-2021 be noted.

Patrick Candler

Group Manager, Country Parks and Green Estate Services

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Patrick Candler

Group Manager, Country Parks and Green Estate Services

T: 0115 9774206

E: patrick.candler@nottsc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments

14. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (NDR 10/10/12)

15. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers

A Cultural Strategy for Nottinghamshire – Building on Success (April 2001)

Refreshed County Council Strategic Plan 2010-14
Children, Families and Cultural Services Business Plan 2011-12
Service Specific Cultural Action Plans

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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