

Communities Select Committee  
Wednesday 21 November 2012

## **Cultural Services PVR final report**

### **Purpose of the report:**

The Select Committee is invited to consider the final report on the three Cultural services PVRs - Surrey Arts (provider of music services to schools, community arts development and the Surrey Arts Wardrobe), Heritage Services (incorporating Archives, Conservation and Archaeology) and Adult and Community Learning – which is being presented to Cabinet for approval on 27 November 2012.

### **Introduction:**

1. These three services are the last ones to be reviewed under the PVR process and have been the subject of separate review processes, though these are at different stages.
2. The findings of the three PVRs pointed to the considerable additional benefits that would accrue from working together within a clear Cultural Services framework, that also incorporates Libraries and Registration Services. This, and the realisation that many of the same issues have been identified for improvement and development in each service, suggested the integration of the final reporting of the reviews.
3. The final report to Cabinet on the three PVRs focuses therefore on the common ground between them and their development within a new strategy and vision for Cultural Services in Surrey. The report is complemented with a joint Action Plan and Overarching Equalities Impact Assessment.

### **Cabinet Report Recommendations**

4. The Final report that will be presented to Cabinet for approval on 27 November 2012 includes four recommendations - for the Cabinet to:
  - 4.1 Notes the outcomes of the three PVRs and confirms these roll forward into a new strategy and vision for Cultural Services in Surrey, with detailed Service Improvement Plans in place by March 2013
  - 4.2 Agree that a refreshed strategy and vision is developed for Cultural Services, including Libraries and Registration Services, which will position Surrey to become a leader for quality cultural activity in the country

- 4.3 Requests that a feasibility study is undertaken to create options for the provision of a new cultural hub that would position Surrey at the forefront of culture nationally and internationally, to be brought back to Cabinet for decision.
- 4.4 Agree that a detailed research and evaluation project is undertaken to assess the potential benefits and risks of a new approach to the delivery of Cultural Services through other business models
- 4.5 Agrees that, following completion of the Service Improvement Plans, a follow-up report is presented to the Cabinet Member, detailing all financial implications for final decision

#### **Recommendations:**

5. The Select Committee is invited to review the Cabinet documentation with a view to seeking clarification or offering advice and comment. The select Committee may wish to capture any comments and observations to send to Cabinet as part of their consideration of the reports for acceptance on 27 November 2013.

#### **Next steps**

6. Pending Cabinet approval of the report recommendations the following will happen:
  - 6.1 The next stage will be to develop associated Service Improvement Plans and Zero Based Budgets and Full Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs). These will build on the Action Plan and over-arching EIA attached as Annexes A and B.
  - 6.2 A Cultural Strategy (Recommendation b), that has been developed through robust consultation and engagement with partners, users and the people of Surrey
  - 6.3 The Service Improvement Plans and Zero Based Budgets will be scrutinised by the Communities Select Committee and completed by March 2013
  - 6.4 Member Reference Groups and the Select Committee will continue to play a key role in tracking improvements and savings through their monitoring and scrutiny role as the Service Improvement Plans, Strategy and related studies are implemented
  - 6.5 Reports, with recommendations for decision on the Cultural Hub (Recommendation c) and alternative business models (Recommendation d) will be made to Cabinet by November 2013

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**Sources/background papers:**

- Leader's report to Cabinet, Cabinet 29 June 2009
- Leading the Way: changing the way we do business, Cabinet 14 July 2009
- Public Value Reviews – Year One Report, Cabinet 13 July 2010

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