

CABINET 27 NOVEMBER 2012**CABINET MEMBER RESPONSE TO COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE WITH REGARD TO THE CULTURAL SERVICES PVR FINAL REPORT**

The Cabinet Member for Community Services and the 2012 Games welcomes the comments of the Communities Select Committee on the report regarding the Cultural Services PVR, and the concerns contained therein.

In response to those concerns, and the specific recommendations made by the Communities Select Committee:

Recommendation 1: That arrangements are put in place to ensure that the high quality and good practices within small but excellent services are not lost in a combined Cultural Service.

Concern was expressed by some members over moving all cultural services under one umbrella due to the potential adverse impact on the quality and specialism of individual services. Music was highlighted as a particular example.

The Cabinet Member notes the concerns of the Select Committee with respect to retaining the specialism of individual services. The combined PVR report is a strategic summary of the three outstanding PVRs within Cultural Services - and the details of recommendations for individual service areas will be addressed in separate Service Improvement Plans which will be formally reported to me as Cabinet Member reports. Furthermore, all services will continue to produce their individual Service Plans as part of the SCC service planning process.

The Cabinet Member recognises the need for clarity about both tourism strategy and the creation of a new 'Cultural Hub'. The Hub is envisaged as a physical development but ways in which cultural services can be integrated using new technology would be explored to raise the profile of individual services and encourage wider use by the people of Surrey. There will be further work undertaken in the form of a Cultural Strategy, which will bring together a vision and ambition for all areas of services within Cultural Services, and also consideration of Tourism issues within the Legacy report. Both reports will be shared with the Committee before being brought to Cabinet for consideration in the new year.

Recommendation 2: That Members continue to be involved through Member Reference Groups in the development and recommendations of the individual PVRs as well as in monitoring the combined Cultural Services PVR.

The Cabinet Member recognises the importance of continued member involvement and confirms that Member Reference Groups will play their part in the completion of individual PVRs as well in the implementation of the combined Cultural Services PVR.

The Cabinet Report proposes that there will be continued member involvement in sign off the individual Service Improvement Plans resulting from the three service specific PVRs, as well as with the implementation of the combined Cultural Services PVR.

The Cabinet Member is passionate about the need for cultural services in our society and the well being they bring to their communities. All of the PVR studies have confirmed that these are high performing services and the intention is to further improve their performance and the value and benefit to residents across all areas of delivery, and to raise their profile.

Helyn Clack
Cabinet Member for Community Services and the 2012 Games
27 November 2012