

Agenda Item No: 7

Title: LEISURE & CULTURAL STRATEGY REVIEW

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Summary

- 1 This report and appended tables provides the Scrutiny Committee with details of the progress being made towards meeting the objectives of the Leisure & Cultural Strategy.

Background

- 2 The Leisure & Cultural Strategy for Uttlesford (2000-2005) was approved in December 1999. The Council commissioned Consultants to carry out in-depth research into the Leisure & Cultural requirements and aspirations of local people in order to develop a Strategy.
- 3 Following consultation, a range of key issues emerged that formed the basis of a number of Strategic Objectives and over 100 recommendations for action. These are to be pursued in partnership with other agencies and organisations in order to deliver appropriate services in the most efficient and cost effective way.
- 4 The Strategy is designed to
 - Focus on needs, demands and aspirations of the community
 - Provide a clear rationale for supporting activities
 - Act as an advocate for the benefits of cultural activities
 - Provide synergy with the work of national and regional agencies
 - Help deliver Best Value
 - Promote partnership
 - Set a framework for performance and review, and
 - Act as a lever for accessing funding from external agencies.
- 5 The Strategy also contributes to central Government's key objectives and performance indicators, including increasing sustainable growth, equality of opportunity and tackling the cross-cutting agenda – public health, community safety, life-long learning etc.
- 6 The Strategy provides a number of General Strategy Objectives and seven General Policy Recommendations – see Appendix 1 – and these form the context for the aims, objectives and actions under the six key service areas of Play, Arts Development, Countryside & Informal Recreation, Museums, Tourism, and Sport & Recreation.

Review of Progress to Date – Strategy Recommendations

- 7 The Consultants who produced the Strategy provided over 100 recommendations for action, divided under the six key service areas. Where appropriate, the work has been pursued in partnership with other organisations and agencies. Officers have developed a number of key local performance indicators to help to understand, modify and improve services provided.
- 8 Appendix 2 provides a comprehensive review of progress to-date against the key recommendations for each service area (R8 to R104). Members will recall that it was intended that the Strategy would be a “live”, working document. To illustrate progress made against the original policy objectives, where appropriate, revised/new policies are illustrated in italic. The tables also show, through cross-references, where work on some recommendations inter-link with others. The timescale column has been amended in the light of progress made and with consideration of available resources over the next three years.
- 9 The volume of work associated with some activities has increased and in some areas the work has clearly changed direction as a result of customer feedback, reduced resources and the way that the projects or initiatives have developed etc.

FOR INFORMATION

Background Papers: Leisure & Cultural Strategy 2000 – 2005 (Full and Summary documents)