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Report to:	Community Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	11 November 2008
Report by:	Executive Director (Community Resources)

Subject:	South Lanarkshire Council's Cultural Strategy 2008 - 2013
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide a progress statement on the development of the Council's Cultural Strategy.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the draft Cultural Strategy be approved;
- (2) that a structured consultation programme be carried out on behalf of the Strategy;
- (3) that the proposal to develop a Cultural Partnership be agreed;
- (4) that, in the event of any material change to the Strategy arising from the consultation exercise, the matter be referred back to Committee for consideration otherwise the strategy will be referred to the Executive Committee for approval; and
- (5) that the Executive Director (Community Resources) review the establishment of Facilities and Cultural Services with a view to identifying resources to deliver this Strategy.

3. Background - A Legislative Perspective

3.1. In 2004, a Cultural Commission commenced a review of the cultural landscape in Scotland and outlined proposals for the future delivery of culture. Implementation of the review outcomes was held back until after the Scottish Parliamentary Elections in May 2007.

3.2. In November 2007, a cultural statement was issued by the Scottish Government setting out their aims and objectives and identified key areas for future development. This cultural vision centred on:

- ◆ ensuring Scotland's national identity is promoted
- ◆ celebration of Scotland's creative sector
- ◆ ensuring local cultural policies are developed for local areas and as part of the community planning framework

- 3.3. As part of the cultural statement, it was intimated that a new national cultural body – Creative Scotland (replacing the Scottish Arts Council and Scottish Screen) would be formulated and that this body would provide national advocacy and a supporting role to all organisations which operate in the cultural sector. Moreover, it has been intimated that there will be minimal legislative intervention in cultural delivery, outlining a view that future policy would focus on being people centred, available to everyone and that it will look to widen access to, and participation in, culture.

4. **The Development of South Lanarkshire Council's Cultural Strategy**

- 4.1. Based on the principles of the Ministerial Cultural Statement, Community Resources (Facilities and Cultural Services) have developed South Lanarkshire Council's Draft Cultural Strategy "...weaving culture into Life..." to ensure the Council and the Community Planning Partnership are equipped to deal with future cultural legislative requirements and national cultural policy developments/guidance.
- 4.2. The Draft Cultural Strategy consists of the following themes and objectives: -
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| Theme 1 | Economic Development
We will invest in and develop cultural facilities, infrastructure and opportunities to support the growth of a prosperous cultural economy. |
| Theme 2 | Lifelong Learning
We will provide participatory opportunities for lifelong learning in every community. |
| Theme 3 | Health and Wellbeing
We will encourage citizens to participate in the wide range of cultural activities available in South Lanarkshire to improve their health and wellbeing and enrich their quality of life. |
| Theme 4 | Community Safety
We will use our cultural expertise to identify and progress positive interventions which will improve and enhance the safety of our communities. |
| Theme 5 | Environment
In our cultural service delivery we will support environmental awareness, sustainable developments and regeneration. |
- 4.3. Copies of the draft Cultural Strategy have been made available in the members' area and on the Council's intranet. Key local and national bodies will be given the opportunity to comment on the draft strategy.
- 4.4. To facilitate delivery of the Cultural Strategy's themes and objectives, it is proposed that a **Cultural Partnership** be developed which will collectively inform future cultural activities within South Lanarkshire. It is not intended that such a creation will extend the number of Community Planning themes, more that it will be an informal forum that has the ability to report into the main Community Planning Partnership Board. Culture is already recognised as being able to directly contribute to all of the Community Plan themes and objectives.

- 4.5. Composition of the Partnership is not yet set but ideally would include representatives of the Council's Resources, Community Planning partners, voluntary and public sector and, where possible, contributions from national cultural agencies. It is proposed that Community Resources (Facilities and Cultural Services) be the lead partner.
- 4.6. There is clearly an understanding, at national level, of the need to consolidate culture within the Community Planning Framework. This will be assisted through the provision of a Cultural Partnership. Recognition of the role of culture is also transparent in key local and national frameworks, culture featuring as its own objective in the Council Plan and also within National Outcome 13 of the Council's Single Outcome Agreement with the Scottish Government.
- 4.7. The key functions which require to be undertaken include:
- ◆ identifying (through an extensive cultural audit) areas of service inequality
 - ◆ creating and monitor local cultural outcome performance indicators which will tie into the Single Outcome Agreement
 - ◆ consolidating the impending Cultural Quality Assurance Framework from the Scottish Government
 - ◆ managing the Cultural Partnership which will include representation from the Community Planning themes, national agencies, voluntary and private service providers
- 4.8. Particular benefits to be derived will include:
- ◆ development of a cultural policy that shows ambition and clarity and the creation of effective service actions that are based on principles of value and sustainability
 - ◆ prepare and implement a service development framework which will increase access to, and participation in, arts and cultural activity
 - ◆ increase South Lanarkshire's cultural heritage and identity by working closely with the Council's Tourism Strategy Forum
 - ◆ engage with Creative Scotland, in the context of the Single Outcome Agreement, to ensure the required support mechanisms are in place to suit our own local requirements.
 - ◆ create incremental learning schedules (beginner, intermediate and advanced) within all of our outreach programmes.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1. It is clear that positive engagement represents the key to successfully introducing both the Cultural Strategy and the Cultural Partnership. From this, a proposed schedule of engagement is outlined:

November 2008	Approval of Draft Cultural Strategy (Community Resources Committee)
November 2008	Strategic Environmental Assessment (Pre Screening Report)
February 2009	Community Consultation Event
March 2009	Community Planning Forum
March 2009	Executive Committee – approval of strategy
March 2009	Community Planning Board for approval

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. The Executive Director (Community Resources) will review the establishment of Facilities and Cultural Services with a view to identifying resources to deliver this Strategy.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. To be considered as part of the review undertaken by the Executive Director (Community Resources).

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. A pre-screening report is being undertaken with respect to the Strategic Environmental Assessment requirements.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. There was no requirement to carry out an impact assessment in terms of the proposals contained in this report.
- 9.2. Consultation has taken place with Lead Officers of the Community Planning Groups as well as presentations to the Council's own senior management teams. Positive feedback has been received as to the valuable role culture can play in achieving policy objectives.
- 9.3. The Council also participated in a major consultation exercise during 2004/2005, as part of a national cultural commission review. In all, over 100 recommendations were highlighted from the review.

Norrie Anderson
Executive Director (Community Resources)

9 October 2008

Link(s) to Council Objectives and Values

- ◆ Increase access and participation in Arts and Culture
- ◆ Increase involvement in lifelong learning

Previous References

None

List of Background Papers

- ◆ South Lanarkshire Council's Draft Cultural Strategy

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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