

SCRUTINY BOARD (SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY AND CULTURE)
INQUIRY INTO CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS' ENGAGEMENT WITH
COMMUNITIES

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 During 2012/13, the Scrutiny Board carried out a piece of work looking at the marketing of Leeds. As part of that inquiry, representatives from a number of the larger arts organisations in the city came to talk to the Board about their role and contribution to raising the profile of the city.
- 1.2 Members of the Scrutiny Board raised a number of questions about how arts organisations were also reaching out to local communities, particularly more deprived communities, to enable and encourage more people to engage with cultural activities, whether as audience or participants.
- 1.3 It was acknowledged that these questions fell outside the remit of the work being undertaken at the time and the Scrutiny Board agreed to carry out a separate piece of work to follow up its interest in this topic. This decision was confirmed when the Board considered and prioritised items for its 2013/14 work programme in June 2013.

2.0 Scope of the inquiry

- 2.1 The purpose of the Inquiry is to make an assessment of and, where appropriate, make recommendations on the following areas:
- The ways in which cultural organisations in Leeds engage with local communities, particularly in more deprived areas, to enable and encourage more people to enjoy cultural activities;
 - The extent to which grant funding is, or could be, targeted to increase such community engagement; and
 - Good practice from elsewhere that could be applied in Leeds.

3.0 Desired Outcomes and Measures of Success

- 3.1 The decision to undertake this Inquiry has been based on the Board's belief that access to culture is an important element of a good quality of life, and can help to enhance people's sense of wellbeing, whether it be through participation or as audience.
- 3.2 It is important to consider how the Scrutiny Board will deem if its inquiry has been successful in making a difference to local people. Some measures of success may be obvious at the initial stages of an inquiry and can be included

in these terms of reference. Other measures of success may become apparent as the inquiry progresses and discussions take place.

3.3 Some potential initial measures of success are:

- Increased targeting of grant funding towards community engagement activity
- Increase in arts engagement evidenced through DCMS Taking Part survey
- An increase in the number of opportunities for local people to become involved with the arts
- An increase in the proportion of local people attending Leeds major cultural venues
- More young people taking part in cultural activities
- The extent to which cultural organisations involve views of local communities in developing their programmes of activity

4.0 Comments of the relevant Director and Executive Member

4.1 In line with Scrutiny Board Procedure Rule 12.1 where a Scrutiny Board undertakes an Inquiry the Scrutiny Board shall consult with any relevant Director and Executive Member on the terms of reference. Any comments will be reflected in the final terms of reference.

5.0 Timetable for the inquiry

5.1 The Inquiry will take place over two formal Scrutiny Board sessions.

6.0 Submission of evidence

6.1 Session one – 18 February 2014

- To hear from Arts Council England about baseline statistical information on engagement levels by different demographic/social groups in museums, libraries and different art forms.
- To hear from City Development and Arts Council England in their roles as funders and commissioners about current practice and future ideas to support more engagement of cultural organisations with local communities, especially in deprived areas of the city

6.2 Session two – 15 April 2014

- To hear from cultural organisations in Leeds about what they are currently doing and what they plan to do to engage with local communities, especially in deprived areas of the city

7.0 Witnesses

7.1 The following witnesses have been identified as possible contributors to the Inquiry:

- Executive Member for Leisure and Skills
- City Development
- Arts Council for England
- Cultural organisations

8.0 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 8.1 The Equality Improvement Priorities 2011 to 2015 have been developed to ensure our legal duties are met under the Equality Act 2010. The priorities will help the council to achieve its ambition to be the best City in the UK and ensure that as a city work takes place to reduce disadvantage, discrimination and inequalities of opportunity.
- 8.2 Equality and diversity will be a consideration throughout the Scrutiny Inquiry and due regard will be given to equality through the use of evidence, written and verbal, outcomes from consultation and engagement activities.
- 8.3 The Scrutiny Board may engage and involve interested groups and individuals (both internal and external to the council) to inform recommendations.
- 8.4 Where an impact has been identified this will be reflected in the final inquiry report, post inquiry. Where a Scrutiny Board recommendation is agreed the individual, organisation or group responsible for implementation or delivery should give due regard to equality and diversity, conducting impact assessments where it is deemed appropriate.

9.0 Post inquiry report monitoring arrangements

- 9.1 Following the completion of the Scrutiny inquiry and the publication of the final inquiry report and recommendations, the implementation of the agreed recommendations will be monitored.
- 9.2 The monitoring will be undertaken by the Board. This will be done at regular intervals appropriate to the content of the recommendation.