

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Arts and Heritage Committee – 15 October 2001
Leisure Services Committee – 15 October 2001

REPORT ON: Dundee Cultural Strategy 2001-2006

REPORT BY: Director of Arts and Heritage
Director of Leisure and Parks

REPORT NO: 635-2001

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek Committee approval of the document “Dundee Cultural Strategy 2001-2006”.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that Members approve the content of the document “Dundee Cultural Strategy 2001-2006”.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no additional financial implications arising from this Report. Actions proposed in the Strategy are provided for, either in current budgets, or are dependent on the availability of resources in future years’ budgets, or are contingent upon appropriate amounts of additional external funding being secured.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Strategy contains reference to Local Agenda 21 issues and emphasises the delivery of services which are sustainable and which ensure that access to cultural activities is provided locally.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Strategy emphasises equality for all in access to the City’s cultural services and requires that third-party organisations, funded by the Council to deliver cultural activities and services, do likewise.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

6.1 The National Cultural Strategy for Scotland entitled “Creating Our Future – Minding Our Past” was published by the Scottish Executive in August 2000. It identified key areas of cultural activity as being: arts, including traditional arts and languages; heritage; libraries; sport; education; the built environment. Cutting across these areas are common themes of access and social justice, disability access, cultural diversity, international opportunities and cultural tourism, and the economic potential of the creative industries.

6.2 At its meeting of 18 September 2000 (Report No 611-2000) the Arts and Heritage Committee remitted to the Director of Arts and Heritage to convene an inter-departmental working group to develop a local cultural strategy in response to the National Cultural Strategy. The working group comprised representatives of Arts and Heritage, Neighbourhood Resources and Development, Education, Leisure and Parks, Economic Development, Social Work and Planning and Transportation.

6.3 At its meeting of 21 May 2001 (Report No 280-2001) the Arts and Heritage Committee and the Leisure Services Committee, in a joint Report, agreed to the issue of the document "Dundee Cultural Strategy 2001-2006 – Public Consultation", devised by the inter-departmental work group, for the purposes of public consultation. Consequently, over one hundred local, regional and national organisations, and the general public, were invited to participate in the further formulation of the Strategy. Their responses have been incorporated in the redrafted document.

6.4 The Strategy's main Aims are:-

- Access and Participation
- Excellence
- Economy and Regeneration

The Aims are supported by seven Strategic Objectives, twenty one Key Areas, and over one hundred Action Points, all of which accord with the City Council's own Key Strategic Issues and Targets as described in "Dundee City Council's Plan, 1999-2002."

The Aims, Strategic Objectives and Action Points are subscribed to by individual Departments of the Council, and external agencies of the city's independent cultural sector, forming parts of their own underpinning Strategies and Service Plans.

6.5 Some of the principal features of the Strategy are:

- Redevelopment of the McManus Galleries
- Enhanced facilities at the Caird Hall
- Development of the Wighton Heritage Centre
- Opening of SPACE dance facility
- Growth of the cultural industries sector
- Development of the Cultural Quarter
- Growth of cultural tourism
- Implementation of Dundee's Sports and Physical Recreation Strategy
- Implementation of Dundee's Public Open Spaces Strategy

6.6 The reasons for having a local Cultural Strategy are that it represents a response to the National Cultural Strategy, being the first such local strategy to have been adopted by a local authority in Scotland since publication of the National Strategy in August 2000. It relates cultural planning to the City's corporate objectives, defines priorities and identifies the positive contribution cultural activities make to the economic, social and environmental well-being of the community.

6.7 Copies of the full document "Dundee Cultural Strategy 2001-2006" have been circulated to Group secretariats and to the Councillors' Lounge.

7.0 CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, Director of Support Services, Director of Finance, and Director of Corporate Planning have been consulted on this report.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Dundee Cultural Strategy 2001-2006.

Director of Arts and Heritage _____ Date _____

Director of Leisure and Parks _____ Date _____