

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE - 18 DECEMBER 2006
REPORT ON: CULTURAL PATHFINDER PROJECT
REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES
REPORT NO: 718-2006

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To advise the Committee of the outcome of the bid submitted to the Scottish Arts Council for Cultural Pathfinder status and the arrangements being put in place for implementation.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Committee is asked to note and approve the contents of this report.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The direct staff costs of this initiative will be funded by a Scottish Executive grant of £98,500 to be spread over the financial years 2006/07 and 2007/08.

3.2 Partner agencies and Dundee City Council are required to contribute in-kind support, particularly in relation to professional support, accommodation, IT/telephone access and subsidised tickets for cultural events, programmes and opportunities.

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Sustainability

Dundee's Cultural Pathfinder bid seeks to promote access to cultural opportunities locally, promoting a greater uptake of opportunities, utilising spare capacity.

4.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment

None required

4.3 Anti-Poverty

This initiative is aimed at improving the quality of life and opportunities for those living in communities under-represented in the mainstream cultural life of the city.

Over the course of the pilot, research will be undertaken into the barriers which are experienced and findings will be reported to both the Dundee Partnership and the Scottish Executive.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None

6.0 BACKGROUND

6.1 Earlier this year, Community Planning Partnerships were invited to submit bids to host a Cultural Pathfinder Project, the purpose of which would be to focus on under-represented groups.

6.2 On 16 November, the Scottish Executive announced that the bid put forward by the Cultural Agencies Network, under the auspices of the Dundee Community Planning Partnership, had been approved.

6.3 The Scottish Executive's contribution to the total funding package put forward is £98,500 to be spread over the calendar year 2007.

- 6.4 The Scottish Executive grant will allow for the creation of two fixed-term posts of Networking Officers for a 12 month period and one post of part-time Project Co-ordinator 12.5 hours per week for a 12 month period. These posts will be advertised within the City Council and to partner agencies in Dundee.
- 6.5 Dundee's project focused on the identification of under-represented groups, looking specifically at priority Community Regeneration Areas. The bid was based on creating an opportunity for two staff to focus exclusively on bridging the gap between the selected communities and the range of cultural opportunities available within the city. The purpose of the Pathfinder is to provide advice to the Community Planning Partnership and the Scottish Executive on ways in which the Council and its partners can help people to exercise their entitlement by overcoming barriers to participation. Dundee's bid indicated a willingness to collaborate with Fife and Perth & Kinross Councils in the setting of standards for community engagement and to robust, external evaluation using an action research approach.
- 6.6 It is, therefore, pleasing to note that the bids put forward on a collaborative basis by Fife and Perth & Kinross Councils were also successful, providing a shared use of resources for the purposes of external evaluation.
- 6.7 Given the importance to the Scottish Executive of progressing these pilots, it is proposed that the two posts be offered in the first instance on the basis of internal secondments to Dundee City Council employees and to organisations in membership of the Dundee Partnership.
- 6.8 In the event of the successful candidate coming from a partner organisation, Dundee City Council would make a resource transfer, allowing the employee to remain with their current employer for the duration of the pilot.
- 6.9 The selection of the two target communities will be based on approaches to Community Regeneration Forums and Neighbourhood Representative Structures in Dundee. Two communities will be selected on the basis of a formal expression of interest, setting out why, in their opinion, their community would be the most appropriate to focus on over the next 12 months.
- 6.10 The decision will be made by representatives from the Dundee Partnership Lifelong Learning Group, the Project Steering Group and two representatives from the Dundee Civic Forum (whose areas are not in contention).
- 6.11 A management group comprising representatives from Dundee Contemporary Arts, Sensation, The Rep, Dundee College and Dundee City Council has been set up to administer the project. This group will report to the Dundee Partnership through the Lifelong Learning Theme Group.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Assistant Chief Executive (Management) have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents.
- 7.2 The Scottish Executive Education Department Cultural Policy Division and Dundee partner agencies listed in para 6.9 have also been consulted at every stage of this process and are in agreement.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 Dundee's bid document is available on the Dundee Partnership website: www.dundeepartnership.co.uk.

Signed: Stewart Murdoch
Director of Leisure and Communities

Date: 8 December 2006