



## Notice of meeting of

### Decision Session - Executive Member for Leisure Culture & Social Inclusion

**To:** Councillor Ayre (Executive Member)

**Date:** Tuesday, 9 March 2010

**Time:** 4.15 pm

**Venue:** The Guildhall, York

### AGENDA

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#### Notice to Members – Calling In

Members are reminded that, should they wish to call in any item on this agenda, notice must be given to Democracy Support Group by:

**10.00 am on Monday 8 March 2010** if an item is called in before a decision is taken, or

**4.00pm on Wednesday 10 March 2010** if an item is called in after a decision has been taken.

Items called in will be considered by the Scrutiny Management Committee.

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Written representations in respect of items on this agenda should be submitted to Democratic Services by **5.00pm on Friday 5 March 2010**.

#### **1. Declarations of Interest**

At this point, Members are asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interest they may have in the business on this agenda.

**2. Minutes** (Pages 3 - 8)

To approve and sign the minutes of the Decision Session of the Executive Member for Learning, Culture and Social Inclusion held on 27 January 2010

**3. Public Participation**

At this point in the meeting, members of the public who have registered their wish to speak at the meeting can do so. The deadline for registering is **5:00pm on Monday 8 March 2010**.

Members of the public may register to speak on:-

- an item on the agenda;
- an issue within the Executive Member's remit;
- an item that has been published on the Information Log since the last session. Information reports are listed at the end of the agenda.

**4. Inclusive Arts** (Pages 9 - 14)

This report summarises the work to date of the Community Arts Team within Learning Culture and Children's Services and asks the Executive Member to agree a revised remit for a new "Inclusive Arts Service".

**5. Any other business which the Chair considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972**

**Information Log**

No items have been published on the Information Log since the last Decision Session.

**Democracy Officer:**

Name- Judith Cumming

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E-mail- judith.cumming@york.gov.uk

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democracy Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports

Contact details are set out above.

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If you would, you will need to:

- register by contacting the Democracy Officer (whose name and contact details can be found on the agenda for the meeting) **no later than 5.00 pm** on the last working day before the meeting;
- ensure that what you want to say speak relates to an item of business on the agenda or an issue which the committee has power to consider (speak to the Democracy Officer for advice on this);
- find out about the rules for public speaking from the Democracy Officer.

**A leaflet on public participation is available on the Council's website or from Democratic Services by telephoning York (01904) 551088**

### Further information about what's being discussed at this meeting

All the reports which Members will be considering are available for viewing online on the Council's website. Alternatively, copies of individual reports or the full agenda are available from Democratic Services. Contact the Democracy Officer whose name and contact details are given on the agenda for the meeting. **Please note a small charge may be made for full copies of the agenda requested to cover administration costs.**

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### **Holding the Executive to Account**

The majority of councillors are not appointed to the Executive (40 out of 47). Any 3 non-Executive councillors can 'call-in' an item of business from a published Executive (or Executive Member Decision Session) agenda. The Executive will still discuss the 'called in' business on the published date and will set out its views for consideration by a specially convened Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC). That SMC meeting will then make its recommendations to the next scheduled Executive meeting in the following week, where a final decision on the 'called-in' business will be made.

### **Scrutiny Committees**

The purpose of all scrutiny and ad-hoc scrutiny committees appointed by the Council is to:

- Monitor the performance and effectiveness of services;
- Review existing policies and assist in the development of new ones, as necessary; and
- Monitor best value continuous service improvement plans

### **Who Gets Agenda and Reports for our Meetings?**

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

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MEETING	DECISION SESSION - EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR LEISURE CULTURE & SOCIAL INCLUSION
DATE	27 JANUARY 2010
PRESENT	COUNCILLOR AYRE (EXECUTIVE MEMBER)
IN ATTENDANCE	COUNCILLORS CRISP, D'AGORNE AND B WATSON

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#### 15. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Executive Member was invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal or prejudicial interests he might have in the business on the agenda. He confirmed he had none.

#### 16. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/OTHER SPEAKERS**

It was reported that there had been 7 registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme in respect of agenda item 4 (Revenue Budget Estimates 2010-11 – Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion).

6 of the registered speakers those spoke in relation to the savings proposals, listed in Annex 3, with regard to reductions in the Arts Service Level Agreements and the proposal to cease funding in the Community Arts Service.

The **Artistic Director of the Pilot Theatre**, a national touring theatre based at the Theatre Royal, spoke against the proposed savings. He explained that the Pilot Theatre provides jobs for 47 paid staff and training placements for others. They had given 260 public performances in the past year, with their main target audience being young people. They had developed relationships and forged partnerships across the world through a range of international projects and were hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> International "Shift Happens" conference in July this year. At home, the theatre had set up links with schools, currently Manor and Joseph Rowntrees, and was involved in cultural exchanges. He advised Members that he was grateful for the support the Council gave the theatre and that they were a RFO (Regularly Funded Organisation), funded by the Arts Council with support from the local authority and stressed that loss of this support would be catastrophic to the organisation.

An **Early Years Educator, Community Inclusion Facilitator and Singer** stressed the benefits on the Community Arts Service in many of her projects. She suggested that if the money was not available to continue funding the service, it was important to seek creative alternative solutions, perhaps by establishing an independent not for profit agency which would allow them to retain skills and maintain part of current activity and draw

down the funding they currently attract. She stressed the importance on not losing the existing team and associated infrastructure.

A **former secondary school teacher** explained that the Community Arts Service works with diverse groups, including families, and children at risk, as well as older people including those living alone and in care homes who have been stimulated to participate in activities by the Community Arts Service. She advised that the limited period of consultation was meaningless to these groups of people who often fear speaking out. She stressed that the Community Arts Service was made up of a small team of dedicated professionals and they offered paid work to freelance artists and encouraged volunteers and all the expertise would be wasted if the service was disbanded.

The **General Manager of Accessible Arts and Media** stated that she had been involved with Community Arts for over 25 years and had seen many changes though none as catastrophic as this would be. She explained that they had benefited through their relationship with the Council. She noted that the intention was to retain officer support within the service for the purpose of fundraising activities, but stressed that when fundraising it is important to be able to prove that you are touching the groups you are working with and explained that this is better done by a small community organisation, such the Arts Action Team, rather than as the Council itself. She asked the Executive Member to think creatively and explore other options and added that the Arts Action Team was needed to deliver festivals in the city, without which York would not be a vibrant and inclusive city.

The **Chief Executive of York Theatre Royal** stressed that it was important to remember that York was not just a historic city but also a living city. She stated that Service Level Agreements should not be underestimated as they make a difference to obtaining support from other sources and explained that the Arts Council would find it difficult to offer support to arts organisations which were not supported by the Local Authority. She noted that their most important artistic partner was the Pilot Theatre which delivers over 40 performances each year to York audiences and is reputed for innovation, technology and arts participation and which has brought significant projects to the city. She concluded by saying that the aspirations and values of people of city of York form the basis of the city's claim to be a city of culture and give York its international reputation.

A **Unison Representative** spoke on behalf of Unison and those members whose jobs were at risk of being cut. He informed the Executive Member of his following four main areas of concern:-

- Procedural - the timetable was not sufficient in order to allow consultation, however they had received a large amount of written responses to the proposals (these were published with the agenda). He asked for more time for to allow discussions to take place.
- Legal – there appears to be full time redundancies but officer capacity remaining to seek funding. He questioned whether this could be done legally and advised he would be seeking advice on this issue.



- Substantive – Although Community Arts Service is a non statutory service, it helps to deliver on statutory objectives. The proposed cuts would also impact on availability of funding from the Arts Council and other external funding.
- More work is required before proposals are put forward. He urged that cuts are referred back on that basis to ensure the rights of staff and to determine the effect of the proposed cuts on the City of York.

The final speaker, a representative of **Scarcroft Green Association** spoke in response to the proposal to remove maintenance support from self-managed bowling greens and croquet facilities at Scarcroft Green and the Retreat, in order to make a saving in staff time. He advised the Executive Member that the Scarcroft Green Association comprised 5 bowling clubs who used the greens at Scarcroft Road, with nearly 100 members in total, from 23 to 83 years of age although the majority were retired. He stated that the association had invested time and effort into the grounds and clubhouse to maintain them at a high standard, whereas other greens which it has been suggested they could use were not of the same standard. He pointed out that Hull Road Park had been neglected and had no parking facilities or pavilion, and Rowntrees Park (which was closed due to flooding 2 years running ) only had restricted parking, no pavilion and suffered from the problem of goose droppings. He also pointed out that the proposed cuts would impact on the Croquet Club which used the croquet lawn at Scarcroft Road, and these were the only croquet facilities in York. He stated that if the clubs vacated the greens, the Council would still have to pay to maintain the area and there would be a cost associated with this.

**17. INVESTMENT IN COMMUNITY FACILITIES £200K FUND: A REVISED SCHEME FOR THE MELBOURNE CENTRE**

The Executive Member considered a report which asked him to agree to allocate the remaining £175 of the £200k Community Facilities fund to take forward a revised scheme to refurbish the Melbourne Centre for community use.

Officers reminded the Executive Member that a decision on this item had been deferred at the last meeting in order to allow further discussions to take place with Blueberry Academy in order to seek clarification regarding the core activities that they proposed and their business plan.

They advised the Executive Member that they had met again with Blue Academy, accompanied by officers from Property Services, and had been happy that the business plan was realistic and prudent and that there was a demand for facilities in the area and across the city.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That £175 be allocated to fund works on the Melbourne Centre subject to fulfilment of the conditions set out in paragraph 3 of the report.

- (ii) That the Executive be recommended to agree the required prudential borrowing.<sup>1</sup>

REASON:

To provide excellent community facilities in the vicinity of the Barbican in line with the Council's approved Leisure Facilities Strategy.

Action Required

1. To refer to the Executive for approval.

CC

**18. REVENUE BUDGET ESTIMATES 2010/11 - LEISURE AND CULTURE**

The Executive Member considered a report which presented the 2010-11 budget proposals for Leisure and Culture including:

- The revenue budget for 2009-10 to show the original budgets;
- The base budget for 2010-11 including the 2009-10 budget rolled forward and adjusted;
- The cost of pay and price increases, increments and settlement of pay and grading appeals for the portfolio;
- Budget service pressure costs and savings proposals for the portfolio area; and
- Fees and Charges proposals.

The Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services thanked everybody for their verbal and written representations and advised that these would be taken into consideration. He explained that, due to the current economic situation, levels of funding to the authority had reduced and, due to huge statutory pressures within the directorate, it was necessary to make a distinction between statutory and non statutory services. In response to comments made by the Unison representative about a lack of consultation, he advised that they were still at the consultation stage.

In respect of the savings proposals listed in annex 3 to the report, the Assistant Director (Lifelong Learning and Culture) stated that, wherever possible, cuts had been avoided and significant targets for generating additional income had been included, however they had to look at solutions that did not impact on service delivery and frontline staffing. He confirmed that now they had the opportunity to talk to users and staff affected. In respect of bowling green maintenance he advised that he would talk to the groups affected about taking on the maintenance themselves including looking at what the cost would be to them for the Council to provide the services.

The Finance Manager advised that this was a challenging year in which to produce a balanced budget and confirmed that pay increases and general inflation had been kept to a bare minimum. He advised that, other than the teachers pay award which had been set by Central Government and a few

budgets with known contractual agreements, most budgets have been frozen or would reduce by 5%.

The Executive Member reiterated that officers were faced with the consequences of a worldwide recession with both national and local government facing tough decisions in prioritising funding and explained that it was essential that the Council concentrated its available resources on its core functions, statutory services and front line delivery. He explained that, even with an extra investment of a further £1.5m into the Children's Social Care Budget which was required to manage the significant challenges around safety of children and the increase in numbers of children coming into care, in order to maintain core standards, savings must be made across the department.

The Executive Member drew attention to the positive aspects within the budget proposals including the continued funding of the Park Ranger services, funding for the archive manager post from within the core revenue budget and additional funding to continue the community sports coach programme. He added that the proposed budget would see almost £800,000 invested in arts and culture within the city, a £765,000 capital investment in the Yorkshire Museum as well as around £300,000 of investment in the York Explore Project.

He stressed his commitment to the arts but also expressed the need to balance this with the Council's responsibilities across the whole directorate. He thanked those people who had spoken at the meeting and those who had submitted written representations and advised them that these comments would be taken into consideration by the Executive. Furthermore he asked that officers consider alternative ways to support community arts provision in the city, in consultation with staff and other interested parties, in the event that this saving proposal needed to be taken.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That it be confirmed that the budget proposals are in line with the Council's priorities.
- (ii) That the report be referred to the Executive for consideration. <sup>1</sup>
- (iii) That the written and verbal representations made to the Executive Member be taken into consideration when the Executive considers the final budget proposals.
- (iv) That officers consider alternate ways to support community arts provision in the city, in consultation with staff and other interested parties, in the event that this saving proposal needs to be taken. <sup>2</sup>

REASON:

As part of the consultation on the Leisure and Culture budget for 2010-11.

Action Required

1. To refer to Executive for consideration RH
- 2 Finance Manager to look into alternate ways of supporting support community arts provision in the city in the event that this saving proposal needs to be taken RH

Councillor Ayre, Executive Member

[The meeting started at 4.30 pm and finished at 5.15 pm].



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## **Executive Member for Leisure, Culture, and Social Inclusion**

9 March 2010

Report of the Assistant Director (Lifelong Learning and Culture)

### **Inclusive Arts**

#### **Summary**

1. This report summarises the work to date of the Community Arts Team within Learning Culture and Children's Services and asks the Executive Member to agree a revised remit for a new "Inclusive Arts Service".

#### **Background**

2. In 2003, following a successful pilot of community arts work in the York East area, the Community Arts team was set up to provide a city-wide service to tackle social disadvantage and access to the arts within some of York's 'harder to reach' communities. The focus for their work was formed through discussion with our funding partners, principally the Arts Council England: Yorkshire, and with the target groups identified by the Social Inclusion Panel.
3. The Arts Council England: Yorkshire has been our major funding partner for the six years that the team has been operating and recently also funded the team for a one year project to develop cultural programmes within the eight Children's Centres in the city. The current funding ceases in March 2010 and we cannot apply for continued funding; however, we are able to submit a G4A (grants for all) application for new and additional activity.
4. The outline work programme for the next year is set out in Annex 1. This set out the wide range of the work supported or facilitated by the Community Arts team and highlights the strong contribution they make to ensuring that our city wide events and festivals programme is supported by, and involves contributions from, our local communities. Those programmes that have attracted in additional funding for the year from external partners, whether cash or in kind, are indicated with a star. Over the six years, more than £500k has been secured from external sources to support the goal of increasing arts participation within those communities that traditionally show a low level of engagement in culture.
5. A review of the aims and objectives of the Community Arts team by the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture, and Social Inclusion was recommended during the Council's budget setting process for 2010/11.

## **Consultation**

6. The budget setting process allowed for a wide consultation with members, partners and members of the public on the usefulness of the current community arts provision. Staff have also had their opportunity to put forward suggestions for refocusing the work of the team. These views are reflected in this proposal.

## **Options**

7. The principal options are:
  - to maintain the status quo
  - to create a new “Inclusive Arts” service with a focus on social inclusion and community cohesion

## **Analysis**

8. Although it would be possible to maintain the status quo there is a significant opportunity at this time, as external funding falls out, to put a clear focus on prioritising social inclusion and community cohesion in line with York’s Inclusive City aims. The following objectives are therefore proposed for the service.
9. The Inclusive Arts service will support and develop arts projects to:
  - Ensure that as many residents as possible can share in the city’s cultural, economic, environmental and social well being, especially those living in deprived neighbourhoods or who are in other ways disadvantaged
  - Focus on improving quality of life for those communities identified as living in the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods in England
  - Do more to make York a more welcoming and inclusive city for both residents and visitors
  - Increase participation in the arts and in their local communities amongst the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods and groups by:
    - Encouraging and nurturing the creative potential and energy of children and young people
    - Promoting inter-generational understanding
    - Valuing and making the most of the experience and knowledge of older people
    - Promoting and supporting good citizenship through volunteering
    - Developing the role and capacity of the third sector within the city through new approaches to partnership working and commissioning
  - Foster greater understanding and positive contact between different cultures and communities
  - Respond positively to the changing black and minority ethnic (BME) population in the city

10. We propose to develop a new organisational structure to ensure long-term financial sustainability and productivity. A 3-year strategic plan will be produced working with community and arts groups to:
  - Create a more distinct entity for the service with the Council as the main stakeholder but with the involvement of community stakeholders in steering and governance of the projects
  - Plan the main projects and outcomes for the service
  - Increase the profile of the service working with our colleagues across the council and through marketing and community consultation
  - Create a reporting line to the Social Inclusion Working Group
  - Identify and secure sources of project funding that support our community aspirations
  - Increase the contribution of project funding to the core costs of the team
11. Services would include:
  - Direct project delivery
  - Consultancy
  - Project management
  - Evaluation
  - Consultation
  - Training
  - Capacity development
  - Volunteering
  - Signposting and advice programmes
12. The Inclusive Arts service will contribute to a range of LAA targets including:
  - % of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area
  - % of people who feel that they can influence decisions in their locality
  - Participation in regular volunteering
  - Environment for a thriving third sector
  - Young people's participation in positive activities
  - Engagement in the arts
13. It is recommended that the revised focus for an Inclusive Arts Service is adopted in order to create stronger links to community organisations, to focus the work clearly around social inclusion, and to begin to cover more of the core costs of the service.

### **Corporate Priorities**

14. The work of the team contributes to a number of corporate objectives including strengthening local communities, developing opportunities for residents to experience York as a vibrant and eventful city and improving opportunities for a healthy, active lifestyle.

### Implications

15. **Finance:** The cost of the Community Arts Team for 2010/11 is £68,020 and this is funded from within Arts & Culture base budget. The cost will remain unchanged by the report.
16. The report has no implications relating to:
  - Human Resources
  - Legal
  - Crime and Disorder
  - Information Technology

### Risk Management

17. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy there are no risks associated with the recommendations of this report.

### Recommendations

18. The Executive member is asked to comment on and agree:
  - The objectives set out in paragraph 9
  - The approach to organisational structure set out in paragraph 10Reason: To create a remit for a new "Inclusive Arts Service"

### Contact Details

**Author:**

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**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

Charlie Croft  
Assistant Director, Lifelong Learning and Culture  
Ext. 3371

**Report Approved**  **Date** 1. 3. 10.

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)**

**Wards Affected:**

All

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers:** None

**Annex: Review of Activities of the Community Arts team**



**Annex 1. Inclusive Arts Team  
Live Projects and Developmental work 2010**

<b>1. Vibrant People Places and Spaces</b>	
<b>Acomb Green Public Art programme current and ongoing</b>	
A partnership to support the newly formed Friends of Acomb Green alongside the Park Rangers team. Initial public art project developing now to kick start programme for the area. Funding bids in pipeline.	
<b>Discus Bungalows</b> Completion end of 2012.	
Public / community arts programme for 3 sheltered housing sites being developed, including an extra care centre.	
<b>Celebrating York – Fiesta</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2010
Supporting community activity and voluntary arts activities in City Centre involving school children, community groups and student organisations from across the City in Carnival Parade and performances.	
<b>Festival of the Rivers 10 – 25 July 2010</b>	
Festival to highlight the 2 rivers running through the City. Involvement of groups across the City involving river based activities, history, arts, music, dance, sports, health and activity etc.	
<b>Illuminating York 2010</b>	Groundwork from Jan 2010. Festival 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2010
A festival of light commissioning Internationally renowned artists to transform our historic and urban environment with colourful, interactive displays. Community activity to give voice to community creativity is an important part of the festival.	
<b>INVOLVE Partnership Grants</b> throughout 2010	
Following the grants already awarded in January 2010 we will be supporting and monitoring the project to completion	
<b>2. Cultural Entitlement for Young People</b>	
<b>AEON - Networking group across the city</b> various dates	
Facilitating the Arts Education Officers Network, which meets to share best practice, present projects for potential partner involvement & discuss opportunities for funding, training and development. Representatives attend the meeting from York Minster, York Museums Trust, York University, York St John University, City of York Council, Children's Centres, The Quilt Museum, York Theatre Royal & some schools on occasion.	
<b>York High Enrichment pilot programme</b> Nov 09 – April 2010	
Pilot programme part of Narrowing the Gap Fund Pathfinder and Cultural Entitlement pilot project: Children and Young people from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and children in care will be able to access and participate in high quality participatory arts activities.	
<b>Upfaders</b> April 09 – Nov 2010	
A citywide community youth music initiative accessible to 13–18 using music technologies & increase access to music opportunities through an outreach programme.	
<b>Cultural Entitlement Pilot project</b> September 09 – September 2010	

Develop 10 – hour cultural entitlement for CYP aged 0 – 19 which incorporates the two national strategies: Sports Offer and Find Your Talent Cultural Offer. Pilot work already undertaken in Westfield ward and this will now be rolled out to other disadvantaged areas.

### **Art and Media – Ways Out of Poverty**

Pan European project involving children, older people, youth workers, media trainers using media & art to create debate about their culture and culture in their daily life. Includes collaboration with partners from Jordan, Palestine, Bulgaria, Poland, Germany and Norway. Participants develop personal & social skills through participatory art and media activities leading towards recognized qualifications. Offer youth media volunteering opportunities for CYP.

### **3. Active Lifestyles**

#### **Project 92** Summer 2010

Positively engage YP from pathfinder project, Project 92, a visual arts project to create & produce art work(s) to be exhibited at Howehill youth hostel. Provides safe & supportive environment through participatory visual arts projects giving personal and social development opportunities. Enables support workers alternative ways of providing information, advice and guidance to participants

#### **Seeing Green Volunteer project 2010** Completion Feb 2011

22 workshops in 4 visual arts media through winter months for adults referred through mental health services. Auction of work to benefit MIND as part of RES FEST,

#### **Water Marks 11** Summer 2010

The second phase of community arts project with Sobriety/ ISARA as part of rivers festival – exhibition of last years work produced by SNAPPY and Teenage mums group and new workshops on and off water with older people.

#### **Biomation 2**

New application to be made to the Wellcome Trust for NHS and community health based work

### **4. Learning**

#### **Khaoz Media** April 09 – ongoing weekly sessions

Youth led CVS media production team (16-25) for hard to reach & disadvantaged young people, using community media & new technologies. Provide resources and services for CVS groups giving a voice through media.

#### **Explore Media** September 2009 – April 2010

To develop both capacity and an infrastructure for the provision of community media adult learning opportunities within the City of York as part of the Explore York redevelopment

#### **The Big Draw** October 2010

Part of a countrywide annual event aimed at involving people in drawing activities. We proposed to work with the Social Inclusion Panel to agree target groups for this years projects.