

Meeting of the Executive Member for Leisure and Culture and Advisory Panel

25 March 2008

Report of the Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services

Service Plan: 2008/2009

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Service Plan for council services that are managed within the Lifelong Learning & Culture service arm. Some of these services fall within the Leisure and Culture portfolio and some within the Children's Services portfolio and the complete plan is therefore being presented to both executive members.

Background

- 2. The services covered by this plan are:
 - Adult and Community Education
 - Arts and Culture
 - Sport and Active Leisure
 - Parks and Open Spaces
 - Libraries and Heritage
- 3. The planning process this year for Learning, Culture and Children's Services has been simplified so that a single plan is proposed for each service arm rather than separate plans for each service. (Service Managers will, however, be producing work plans for their individual services and these will be available on request in the new financial year.)
- 4. A key benefit from this simplified approach should be a more strategic approach to be taken by the service arm working together more effectively to achieve the required outcomes. The overarching aim is to deliver the Cultural City vision statement: *Celebrating both our uniqueness and our diversity, we will promote a culture that helps build a confident and creative community, welcomes and inspires resident and visitor alike, and encourages quality opportunities for fun, learning, and fulfillment open to all.*

- 5. The service arm's mission within this is to make lifelong learning and culture opportunities available to *More People, More Often.* To help create joined up working to do this the plan is organised under 5 Outcomes:
 - **Making York More Eventful** More York residents and visitors will enjoy participating in, and taking the lead in cultural events and activities.
 - **Engagement in Learning** More people will be supported into learning by providing opportunities for everyone to be part of a creative learning community, particularly focusing on the most disadvantaged.
 - **Being Healthy** More residents will enjoy the good physical and mental health that comes from increased participation in active lifestyles.
 - **Supporting Stronger Communities** Local communities will be supported to direct their own cultural activities and to take ownership of well maintained public spaces. Access will be open to all and we will enhance the quality of life of individuals and communities.
 - Developing a Vibrant Cultural Infrastructure Residents will enjoy an increasingly thriving cultural sector and the economic benefits that flow from it
- 6. Some underpinning actions are also listed at the end that will assist with delivery of the plan as a whole.
- 7. Monitoring reports will be brought back to EMAP in the usual way focussing on three things: the key strategic actions identified in the service plan, financial performance and performance against performance indicators. Key PIs are proposed within the plan.
- 8. The planning cycle starts in September when the Departmental Management Team (DMT) begins the process of building a budget for the following year on the basis of priorities identified in the strategic plans. Between September and December, strategic priorities are finalised for the following year. Following agreement about the budget in January, service and group managers are required to review their performance as part of the annual service planning exercise and to produce plans for the year ahead.

Options

9. This plan has been produced by service managers in response to the strategic plans for the authority. The Executive Members can modify service plans within the planning framework for the authority.

Consultation

10. This service plan has been produced in line with the Lifelong Learning and Culture Plan (2008-11) and the budget process both of which have been subject to wide consultation. A version of the plan in a more accessible format will be produced for staff and partner organisations.

Analysis

11. Not applicable.

Corporate Priorities

- 12. The service plans reflect the national and local planning framework, including the Local Area Agreement and the Children and Young People's Plan. In particular they take account of the need:
 - To increase people's knowledge and skills to improve future employment prospects
 - To improve the health and lifestyles of people in York, in particular among people whose levels of health are the poorest
 - To improve the life chances of the most disadvantaged and disaffected children, young people and families in York.

Implications

Financial

13. Service Plans have been produced on a timescale that ensures they reflect the budget settlement for 2008/09. Each individual plan sets out the current approved budget for 2007/8 with details of growth and savings items approved in the 2008/9 budget process.

Human Resources (HR)

14. There are no direct implications for HR arising from this report.

Equalities

15. There are no equalities implications.

Legal

16. There is no statutory requirement for the production of service plans, though there is a strong expectation by District Audit and by inspection regimes such as Ofsted that they will be produced in order to support effective Performance Management.

Crime and Disorder

17. There are no implications beyond the individual actions listed in the plan.

Information Technology (IT)

18. There are no implications beyond the individual actions listed in the plan.

Property

19. There are no implications beyond the individual actions listed in the plan.

Other

20. There are no other implications.

Risk Management

21. The risk to the authority of not maintaining service plans is that there will be no appropriate mechanism for Performance Management of the work of the directorate.

Recommendations

22. The Executive Member is recommended to approve the Service Plan attached to this report:

Reason: In order to ensure that the Lifelong Learning & Culture management team is in a position to implement the strategic priorities of the directorate.

Date 05.03.2008

Contact Details

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Report Approved

Specialist Implications Officer(s):

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Wards Affected:

All √

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Lifelong Learning & Culture Plan: Report to Leisure & Culture EMAP, 5 June 2007

Annexes

Annex A: The service plan