

## WALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: TUESDAY, 18 MAY 2010  
title: CULTURE AND SPORT IMPROVEMENT PLAN  
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
principal author: COLIN WINTERBOTTOM, LEISURE & SPORTS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

### 1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform you of our involvement in a countywide programme for improvements to culture and leisure services in Lancashire and of our progress with regards to application of the Culture and Sports Improvement Toolkit (CSIT) in setting out action for improving our service.
- 1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:
  - Council Ambitions - The contents of this report contribute to the Council's ambitions for making people's lives safer and healthier.
  - Community Objectives - Access for all, Community cohesion, community safety and improving the health and well being of local people.
  - Corporate Priorities - Ensuring services are accessible to all.
  - Other Considerations - None

### 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The origins of this programme of leisure and cultural improvement can be traced back to 2007, and the pressures which were building at that time for the public sector and general and local government in particular, to demonstrate progress towards the achievement of greater efficiency and improvements in service delivery.
- 2.2 The Lancashire Chief Culture and Leisure Officers' Group (LCCLOG) was aware of the work which was progressing at national level in the cultural sector and which was to be published as 'Passion for Excellence'.
- 2.3 This document set out a framework to help deliver better outcomes, improve the local quality of life, and improve the delivery of cultural/leisure and sports services to local people.
- 2.4 The North West Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (NWIEP) lies at the heart of local arrangements in developing capacity performance and improvement. Within Lancashire the efficiency programme has been delivered by 'Team Lancashire' which focussed on improving the way in which all the Councils worked together to address those problems which are seen to be holding back the development of the sub-region.
- 2.5 A countywide programme for cultural improvement was therefore initiated by LCC and the model that was to be used in meeting the requirements of Lancashire was the 'Peer Challenge' approach. This necessitated the training of peers (officers from each district), which would facilitate a



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assessments produced by authorities and organisations

- 2.6 Details of these initiatives were discussed at a meeting of Community Services Committee on 3 June 2008, and members agreed to be part of the project.
- 2.7 The progress on the implementation of the programme was discussed on a regular basis by LCCLOG and a timetable determined which would culminate in the establishment of the Lancashire Improvement Network and Joint Improvement Plan from May 2009.
- 2.8 The principle of clustering was applied for peer challenge purposes and Ribble Valley was grouped with Fylde, West Lancashire, and Lancashire and Blackpool Tourist Board.

### 3 CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 Having undertaken a self-assessment of our leisure and cultural services in line with the CSIT evidence-based approach across 8 themes or service functions, a peer challenge was then undertaken to test our scorings with Fylde and West Lancashire districts back in August 2009.
- 3.2 The Ribble Valley Improvement Plan was produced out of recognition that there were certain areas which could be improved upon across the service and this is provided in Appendix 1.

### 4 ISSUES

- 4.1 The involvement in the improvement programme so far has amounted to officer time and the support of officers from other districts in providing peer challenge preparation and staff interviews.
- 4.2 The extent to which we now take action towards the goals identified in the Improvement Plan is dependant upon the overall commitment to the pursuit of our individual target objectives and to the involvement in joint initiatives with other districts of Lancashire.
- 4.3 An attempt has already been to collate the joint improvement priorities which the LCCLOG wish to pursue on a joint basis. The partnership which has been developed through this process has provided firm foundation for the countywide programme to evolve over time and to meet changing circumstances.
- 4.4 In order to do this, a bid has been submitted to Team Lancashire to employ consultants to identify specific joint improvement initiatives.
- 4.5 It has also been suggested that further work be carried out, based on MAA footprints to identify more local joint working. In terms of Pennine Lancashire, this would be driven through the Culture & Sport sub group of PLACE.
- 4.6 Such joint working is currently being progressed through a feasibility study to establish Pennine Lancashire as a cycling hub, building on the good work already being delivered at Gisburn Forest.
- 4.7 Whilst we recognise that, under the current drive for efficiencies, joint working should be considered as an option, the Council's experience in other



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ated any significant benefits, and so we shall adopt a  
s approach to any joint proposals. We do recognise,  
are some areas around sport and arts development,  
health and fitness, and heritage attractions that are worthy of further  
exploration.

## 5 RISK ASSESSMENT

The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources . There are none associated directly with this report. It is important to appreciate though that officer time is essential to progressing action in achievements of the objectives within the improvement plan.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal . None identified
- Political . None identified
- Reputation . The emergence of a regional improvement network and recognition of the potential for cross collaboration on a Multi-Area Agreement basis could impact upon on our ability to work in partnership and could affect the council's reputation.

## 6 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

6.1 Notes the contents of this report.

6.2 Considers endorsement of:

- (1) Delivery of the Ribble Valley CSIT improvement plan; and
- (2) Supporting the work of the PLACE Sport and Leisure Culture Group in progressing options for improvement in sport and culture across Pennine Lancashire.

JOHN C HEAP  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

### BACKGROUND PAPERS

Ribble Valley - CSIT Improvement Plan

For further information please ask for Colin Winterbottom 01200 41458