



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

B505

Cabinet 16 March 2011

Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Progress on the Cultural Strategy (Mar11/08)

1. In March 2009 the former Policy Development Committee recommended approval of a new Cultural Strategy. On 2 March 2011 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the achievements of the Strategy against each of the Council's Corporate Priorities.
2. Members discussed a number of these achievements and the benefits to the community which had arisen from them, including free swimming for under 16s and those over 60, the funding for which had been withdrawn by the Government, but which Abbeycroft Leisure had continued to provide at their own cost. The Committee was pleased to see how much had been achieved under the Strategy across the whole Borough, and that such a diverse range of activities and projects had been undertaken.
3. From 2012, the Council's policy framework would take the form of three Master Plan visions for Bury St Edmunds, Haverhill and the rural areas, and Members therefore felt it appropriate that any future work on the Council's Cultural Strategy should be incorporated into the Master Planning process, where it would also reflect both the current financial climate and the shared services agenda with Forest Heath District Council. This approach would assist in identifying opportunities to provide residents and visitors to West Suffolk with continually developing and high quality services, and also to identify options which may significantly reduce the net revenue cost of the service.
4. The Committee will continue to be involved in work on renewing the Cultural Strategy elements of the Master Plans, as the Committee resolved that its Cultural Strategy Working Group, which currently consists of Councillors Buckle, Oliver and Mrs Rushbrook, continue to work with officers and the Portfolio Holder on future options for the delivery of the Council's Leisure Services.
5. The Committee **recommends: that the work on the future Cultural Strategy of the Borough Council be incorporated into the current Master Planning process, and be carried out in partnership with Forest Heath District Council where appropriate.**

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