

Committee/Meeting: Cabinet	Date: 3 rd October 2012	Classification: Unrestricted	Report No: (CAB 043/123)
Report of: Isabella Freeman, Assistant Chief Executive (Legal)		Title: Reviewing how community Arts and Events promote the principles of One Tower Hamlets	
Originating officer(s) Paul Gresty, Strategy, Policy and Performance Officer – One Tower Hamlets, Chief Executive's		Wards Affected: All Wards	

Lead Member	Cllr Rania Khan – Lead Member for Culture
Community Plan Theme	One Tower Hamlets, A Great Place to Live
Strategic Priority	Stronger and more cohesive communities Locally focused services empowering local people

1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report submits the report and action plan in response to the review recommendations of the scrutiny challenge session on how Arts and Events promote the principles of One Tower Hamlets held in March 2012.

2. **DECISIONS REQUIRED**

The Mayor and Cabinet are recommended to:

- 2.1 Consider the report of the scrutiny challenge session and agree the action plan in response to the review recommendations.

3. **REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

- 3.1 The Arts and Events team play a key role in delivering the One Tower Hamlets principles in practice and celebrating the rich diversity of cultures and communities within the borough. The review group was established to look into how effectively the Arts and Events team were delivering this in practice.

The Scrutiny Session highlighted that the Arts and Events team are delivering the One Tower Hamlets principles in practice. The Scrutiny panel did put forward a small number of recommendations which are achievable at little additional cost to the organisation. A timetable for delivering the recommendations has been agreed by the Service Head for the Arts and Events Service. These are highlighted in the report.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 The Mayor and Cabinet can choose not to endorse the recommendations and action plan of this review or to agree a modified action plan. Any proposed modifications may need to be the subject of further analysis prior to adoption.

5. BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The aim of the challenge session was to increase member understanding and scrutiny of how arts and events, delivered by the Arts and Events team, promote the principles of One Tower Hamlets. In particular, how arts and events strengthen community cohesion and build community leadership.

6. BODY OF REPORT

- 6.1 The challenge session highlighted the work that the Arts and events team had undertaken on delivering the One Tower Hamlets principles in practice. The full report and action plan are provided at Appendices 1 and 2. The four recommendations put forward by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are as follows:

Recommendation 1

That the Arts and Events team assess the feasibility of attracting Corporate sponsorship in the future for free to access events in parks.

Recommendation 2

That the Arts and Events service share knowledge and experience of delivering arts based events to help build the capacity of smaller community organisations.

Recommendation 3

More informed approach to event delivery to focus on under represented groups or communities.

Recommendation 4

The use of Arts to tackle inequality and promote employment opportunities.

7. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

- 7.1 The Council's funding from central government has reduced since 2010-11 and will continue to reduce over the next four years. This will therefore affect any recommendations agreed and any additional costs that arise from the recommendations must be contained within directorate revenue budgets. Consequently, officers will be obliged to seek the appropriate financial approval before further financial commitments are made.

8. CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL SERVICES)

- 8.1 The Council is required by section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000 to have an Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to have executive arrangements that ensure the committee has specified powers. Consistent with this obligation, Article 6 of the Council's Constitution provides that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants and may make reports and recommendations to the Executive in connection with the discharge of any functions.

It is consistent with the Constitution and the statutory framework for the Executive to provide a response.

- 8.2 The Council has power under section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972 to provide entertainment, facilities for entertainment and to develop the knowledge, understanding and practice of the arts and crafts which serve the arts. The Council is obliged by section 507B of the Education Act 1996, so far as reasonably practicable, to secure access for qualifying young people in Tower Hamlets to sufficient educational and recreational leisure-time activities for the improvement of their well being and sufficient facilities for such activities. A qualifying young person is someone aged 13 to 19. In the case of persons with learning difficulties, the age range is extended to ages 20 to 24.
- 8.3 Some recommendations in the report deal with matters incidental to the discharge of the Council's functions. By virtue of section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has power to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of its functions. This may involve expenditure, borrowing or lending of money or the acquisition or disposal of any property or rights.
- 8.4 The report contains a specific recommendation in respect of sponsorship. Whether or not sponsorship is appropriate for a particular event or programme will have to be assessed in each case and reflected in a written agreement.
- 8.5 The report aligns its recommendations with the theme of One Tower Hamlets expressed in the Tower Hamlets Community Plan. The Community Plan sets out the Council's sustainable community strategy within the meaning of section 4 of the Local Government Act 2000. It is consistent with good administration for the Council to have regard to this strategy in determining the exercise of its functions.
- 8.6 The report recommends analysis of events by reference to the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. This may be consistent with the Council's equality duty under section 149 of the Equality Act, pursuant to which the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equality Act 2010, the need to advance equality of opportunity and the need to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who don't.

9. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

The Arts and Events team play a key role in delivering the One Tower Hamlets principles in practice and celebrating the rich diversity of cultures and communities within the borough.

10. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

The recommendations have little impact on sustainable action for a greener environment.

11. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Risks relating to the recommendations will be monitored through the council's corporate risk register and directorate risk registers if applicable. Risks are assessed for likelihood and impact, and will have responsible owners and programmes of mitigating actions.

12. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct implications of crime and disorder as a result of the recommendations of this review.

13. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

A recommendation was made around attracting corporate sponsorship to attract income via corporate sponsorship that could be used in other areas of the business.

14. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Scrutiny Report

Appendix 2 – Scrutiny Challenge Session Action Plan

Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

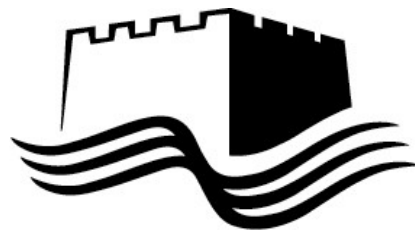
Brief description of “background papers”	Name and telephone number of holder and address where open to inspection.
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None

APPENDIX ONE

**Reviewing how community Arts and Events promote the principles of One
Tower Hamlets**

Scrutiny Challenge Session Report



TOWER HAMLETS

**London Borough of Tower Hamlets
April 2012**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of the scrutiny challenge session on how community arts and events promote the One Tower Hamlets principles of strengthening cohesion and building community leadership.
- 1.2 The session was facilitated by Paul Gresty from the One Tower Hamlets service on behalf of the scrutiny lead for the Communities, Localities and Culture (CLC) Directorate, Cllr Zenith Rahman. The session was attended by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Cllr Ann Jackson as well as Frances Jones, Service Manager for One Tower Hamlets and Stephen Murray, Head of Arts and Events.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 The Arts and Events team promotes the use of arts as a leisure activity, as a source of employment and training, and as a tool for social cohesion and inclusion by:

- Ensuring arts services broadly reflect the multi-cultural needs of the community
- Ensuring access to the arts is available to all those living, working or studying in Tower Hamlets
- Contributing to the Community Plan, Tower Hamlets Partnership objectives and central government targets through arts programmes
- Providing support to voluntary sector arts organisations
- Providing information on arts activities taking place in and around the borough
- Working in partnership with neighbouring boroughs and the Arts Council to maximise resources and funding
- Supporting festivals and events to improve the quality of people's lives, promote community cohesion, bring visitors to the borough and contribute to local economies
- Administering a grants scheme for festivals
- Supporting new and emerging filmmakers
- Managing and maximising use of the Brady and Kobi Nazrul Centre

- 2.2 The Arts and Events team play a key role in delivering the One Tower Hamlets principles in practice and celebrating the rich diversity of cultures and communities within the Borough. One Tower Hamlets is a desire to build a borough in which everyone has an equal stake and status and have the same opportunities as their neighbours. One Tower Hamlets also means bringing different parts of the community together; encouraging positive relationships and tackling divisions through strong leadership and involving people in decision making. The three principles of One Tower Hamlets are to:

- Tackle inequality
- Strengthen cohesion
- Build community leadership

- 2.3 The One Tower Hamlets service works closely with the Arts and Events team and in 2011/12 provided financial support for the following events:

- | | | |
|---|------|-------|
| • Black History Month brochure & outreach | 2011 | £9625 |
| • Black History Month ring-fenced events | 2011 | £5000 |

• St George's day events	2011	£3500
• Divali fireworks display	2011	£1500
• Martyrs Day events	2012	£7500
• Christmas Tea Dance	2011	£2000
• Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Film programme for East End Film Festival	2012	£5500
• Holocaust Memorial Day	2012	£3000
• Chinese New Year	2012	£2000
• Praxis Human Rights Day	2011	£1500

3. PURPOSE

3.1 Challenge sessions are designed as a one-off way of updating participants on the key points of a particular area of work. A challenge session offers Members the opportunity to develop their understanding of a specific topic and express their views and put forward recommendations. The purpose of this scrutiny challenge session was:

- To increase members' understanding of how arts and events, delivered by the Arts and Events team, promote the principles of One Tower Hamlets. In particular, how arts and events strengthen community cohesion and build community leadership
- To evaluate work that has been undertaken by the Arts and Events team around strengthening cohesion and building community leadership in the borough
- To give members the opportunity to express their views and put forward recommendations

3.2 The session focused on three questions:

- What events have been funded in the last year and what were their aims?
- How do events funded via the Arts and Events team strengthen cohesion in the borough?
- How does the Arts and Events team build capacity of community organisations in Tower Hamlets?

4. KEY DISCUSSION POINTS AND RECCOMENDATIONS

4.1 *Balancing corporate and community events*

The Arts and Events team work with the local community to help build their capacity to deliver events across the borough by:

- Providing advice on how to deliver safe and well organised events
- Producing and maintaining an online event toolkit for applicants as a reference tool
- Simplifying processes and procedures by tailoring application forms for street parties to take place
- Arts and Events also directly manage and deliver key council events for a diverse community

4.2 There was a discussion about the use of parks and community spaces to generate income which could then be used to further support other smaller community organisations to deliver events. There was a view that the team could explore the possibility of this cross-fertilisation, whereby the Arts and Events team could use income generated from public events to support other areas such as training.

- 4.3 In terms of continuing to promote community cohesion and build community leadership the Arts and Events team could 'sound out' local organisations and employers to assess the feasibility of attracting corporate sponsorship, particularly for larger events held in parks and open spaces. This may free up the arts fund to enable it to fund/deliver a broader range of community events around the borough.

Recommendation 1:

That the Arts and Events team assess the feasibility of attracting corporate sponsorship in the future

- 4.4 *Strengthening cohesion and building community leadership*
The Arts and Events team work with the local community to help build their capacity to deliver events in various community settings. The team provide strategic liaison and advice on how to deliver safe and well organised events and maintain an online event toolkit for applicants as a reference tool. In order to build on the positive work done to date and empower local communities to apply for funding, the team has simplified the processes and procedures for events such as street parties and other community events held in public spaces. This enables even the smallest local organisation to run events and be considered for funding.
- 4.5 In 2010/11 the team processed 127 event applications and supported 56 additional expressions of interest. Where an application is not successful, the team will work with the community organisation, supporting them to improve their application to enable them to bid for future funding.
- 4.6 The team also allocates an events fund of small grants for high quality public events and festivals, which are accessible to and of benefit to the community.
- 4.7 In 2010/11, 46 organisations were funded, with grants ranging from £300 to £2500. The events fund aims to improve access to arts based events and encourages good practice in terms of arts delivery. It enables arts activities to be delivered where few would exist without the fund. It has helped to improve the quality of festivals and events in Tower Hamlets and extend the potential of events to develop audiences, encourage participation and increase community involvement. It has allowed for more adventurous or ambitious programming with the aim of promoting community cohesion and community leadership.
- 4.8 The Arts and Events team work collaboratively with a number of local arts partnerships including:
- Brick Lane Circle
 - Cardboard Citizens
 - Community Music
 - Kinetika Art Links International
 - Love Mosaic
 - Soyttten Sen
 - Soulfire Theatre
 - Spitalfields Music
 - Tamarind Theatre Co
 - Tower Hamlets Lifelong Learning Service
 - Udichi
- 4.9 There was a discussion about whether the service could increase the amount of networking it undertakes with local community organisations in the borough. The

development of a community forum or network for local arts based organisations may further empower and build the capacity of smaller local community organisations and promote community development. The forum could focus on leading discussions around current issues for the local arts sector and what support and networks they would find useful. This would promote community inclusion as well as cohesion as the Arts and Events team could share knowledge and experience with smaller arts organisations.

Recommendation 2:

That the Arts and Events team support the creation of a forum or network to promote more collaborative working between different community organisations and local arts partnerships.

4.10 *Promoting Community Cohesion, Inclusion and Access*

The team have been nationally recognised for the work they have undertaken around accessibility and tackling inequality for disabled people in participating in and enjoying events. A code of practice has been implemented which ensures that all outdoor event has disabled access, including viewing platforms and designated areas for wheelchair users. The team has supported the artistic development of Heart n Soul - a leading disability arts organisation - through providing a platform for showcasing performance including music, dance, theatre and art.

4.11 The team deliver a diverse range of events that are cross cultural and encourage communities to work together. In 2010/11 they delivered or supported events such as Black History Month, Diwali, St Georges Day, Martyrs Day, and the East End Film Festival that focused on celebrating the achievements of the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender community in Tower Hamlets as well as events for the elderly. The aim of these events was to raise awareness of the diversity of Tower Hamlets and that it is one of its major strengths. As the events are cultural, they are open to all members of the community and give people an opportunity to meet people from different backgrounds and to learn about other cultures.

4.12 Participants stressed the important role that arts and community events play in building community cohesion in a borough such as Tower Hamlets. Going forwards, it was agreed it was crucial to engage and involve all communities to deliver and participate in community events, particularly new communities.

Recommendation 3:

That the Arts and Events team analyse what events they have delivered or supported over the last couple of years, possibly in each LAP area and equality group. This would help the team to identify if any communities have been overlooked and help them to focus on which communities they could support each year, either directly or indirectly in the form of a grant.

4.13 *Supporting Young People and Progression Routes*

The team are involved in youth arts provision. Since 1979, the A' Arts Team have been the arts provider for the youth service in Tower Hamlets. Two full time staff and 70 specialist arts workers support young people to deliver project based workshops in performing arts, fashion and textiles, visual arts and music.

4.14 The table below shows how the Arts and Events team exceeded key performance indicator targets in 2010/11.

Key performance indicator	Number of contacts with young people	Number of participants involved with the service	Recorded Outcomes	Accredited Outcomes
Target	762	457	264	63
Actual	1004	680	482	67

4.15 The Arts and Events team works with a diverse range of young people and play a key role in uniting different communities via creative and interesting arts events. In contrast to other youth provision the Brady Centre is viewed by young people in the borough as an arts centre, not a community centre. This may explain why the centre attracts a more even split of young men and women who otherwise tend to attend different youth service activities and venues. There is also a relatively even split between different ethnic groups attending the centre and activities.

- White 16.3%
- Asian 22.3%
- Black 18.1%
- Mixed dual heritage 11.6%
- Other ethnic 15%
- Refused to say 16.7%

4.16 There was a discussion around using the arts to change lives by developing skills and experience and give young people aspirations in terms of future careers. Giving young people a practical experience of the arts could empower them to see it as a future career. The arts could become away of tackling inequality and further building community leadership.

Recommendation 4:
That the Arts and Events team work with local arts based employers and organisations, as well as universities and colleges offering arts based courses over the next three years, to use the arts as a progression route for young people.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The Challenge Session was an opportunity for members to discuss arts and events delivered in the borough and how they can continue to strengthen community cohesion and build community leadership. It is proposed that the Arts and Events team consider the recommendations above as part of discussions around the future direction of the service.

Appendix Two

SCRUTINY CHALLENGE SESSION ACTION PLAN – Arts and Events			
Recommendation	Response / Comments / Action	Responsibility	Date
R1. That the Arts and Events team assess the feasibility of attracting Corporate sponsorship in the future for free to access events in parks	The Arts and Events team will identify possible corporate sponsors across the borough and liaise with them on the feasibility of them financially supporting events delivered in parks and open spaces across the borough	Steve Murray Head of Service, Arts and Events	January 2013 onwards
R2. That the Arts and Events service share knowledge and experience of delivering arts based events to help build the capacity of smaller community organisations	The Arts and Events service support collaborative working between the community and arts sector through its arts development work streams and an annual open to all meeting with community led agenda	Steve Murray Head of Service, Arts and Events	January 2013 onwards
R3. More informed approach to event delivery to focus on under represented groups or communities	The Arts and Events team analyse events they have supported and funded over the last two years, identifying under represented groups, and developing an outreach programme to make the service provision more inclusive.	Steve Murray Head of Service, Arts and Events	January 2013 onwards
R4. The use of Arts to tackle inequality and promote employment opportunities	That the Arts and Events team work with local arts based employers and organisations, as well as universities and colleges offering arts based courses over	Steve Murray Head of Service, Arts and Events	January 2013 onwards

	the next three years, to use the arts as a progression route for young people.		
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