

<b>Committee:</b> Overview and Scrutiny	<b>Date:</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2012	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted	<b>Report No.</b>	<b>Agenda Item No.</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Assistant Chief Executive		<b>Title:</b> Arts and Events Scrutiny Challenge Session		
<b>Originating Officer:</b> Paul Gresty – Strategy, Policy and Performance Officer, One Tower Hamlets Chief Executives Directorate		<b>Wards:</b> All		

## 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report updates the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the outcome of the scrutiny challenge session on Arts and Events.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:
- Note the information in the report about the Scrutiny Challenge Session on Arts and Events held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2012.
  - Agree the recommendations contained in the report for submission to Cabinet.

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### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972 (AS AMENDED) SECTION 100D

#### ***LIST OF “BACKGROUND PAPERS” USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT***

Background paper

Name and telephone number of and address where open to inspection

None

n/a

### **3. INTRODUCTION**

- 3.1 This report provides a summary of the scrutiny challenge session around how Arts and Events delivered in Tower Hamlets promote the One Tower Hamlets principles of strengthening cohesion and building community leadership.
- 3.2 The session was facilitated by Paul Gresty from the One Tower Hamlets team 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, Cllr Ann Jackson as well as Frances Jones, Service Manager for One Tower Hamlets and Stephen Murray, Head of Arts and Events.

### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 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 Centres
- 4.2 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, have the same opportunities as their neighbours and where families are the cornerstone of success. 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 is therefore a desire to:

- Tackle inequality
- Strengthen cohesion
- Build community leadership

4.3 The One Tower Hamlets works closely with the Arts and Events team and in 2011/12 supported the following events:

• Black History Month brochure & outreach	2011	£9625
• Black History Month ring-fenced events	2011	£5000
• St Georges day events	2011	£3500
• Divali	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

## 5. PURPOSE

5.1 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 express their views and put forward recommendations. The purpose of this scrutiny challenge session was:

- To increase members' 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
- To evaluate work that has been undertaken by the Arts and Events team around strengthening cohesion and building community leadership in Tower Hamlets
- To give members and opportunity to express their views and put forward recommendations

5.2 The session focused on three questions:

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

## 6. KEY DISCUSSION POINTS AND RECCOMENDATIONS

### 6.1 *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's parks and open spaces 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

6.2 Frances Jones discussed 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. Cllr Jackson felt 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.

6.3 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

### 6.2 *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 be considered for funding.

6.3 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.

- 6.4 The team also allocates a Mainstream Grant to provide small grants for high quality public events and festivals, which are accessible to and of benefit to the community.
- 6.5 In 2010/11, 46 organisations were funded, with grants ranging from approximately £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.
- 6.6 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
- 6.7 Cllr Jackson discussed whether the service could increase the amount of networking it undertakes with local community organisations in the borough. Cllr Jackson felt that 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.

- 6.8 *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 any 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.
- 6.9 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 learn about other faiths and cultures.
- 6.10 Cllr Jackson stressed the important role that events play in building community cohesion in a borough such as Tower Hamlets. Going forwards, Cllr Jackson believes it is crucial to engage and involve all communities to deliver and participate in a community event, 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, disaggregated by protected characteristics. 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.

- 6.4 *Supporting Young People and Progression Routes*  
The team administer an events fund and 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.
- 6.5 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

6.6 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. 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 has an even split between genders. 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%

6.7 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 a way of tackling inequality and further building community leadership.

6.8 Rainbow Film Society's objective is to advance the education of the public in the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the arts, particularly the art of the film and allied visual techniques.

**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.

**7. CONCLUSION**

7.1 The Challenge Session was an opportunity for Members to discuss Arts and Events 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.

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

- 8.1 The Council is required by section 21 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 Full Council or 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 and the Council is specifically empowered to deal with such matters. 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.
- 8.4 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.
- 8.5 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. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

- 9.1 This report updates the Overview and Scrutiny Challenge Session on Arts and Events held on Thursday March. There are no specific financial implications emanating from this report.

## **10. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS**

- 10.1 The Arts and Events team play a key role in delivering the One Tower Hamlets principles in practice. The service plays a key role in promoting the rich diversity within the borough for residents and non residents of Tower Hamlets.

## **11. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 11.1 There are no direct risk management actions arising from this report.

## **12. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT**

- 12.1 The content of this report has no implications for a greener environment

## **13. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT**

- 13.1 The report makes recommendations on how the Arts and Events service can use its existing resources to promote the One Tower Hamlets objectives.

## **14. APPENDICES**

- 14.1 None