

## **BRECKLAND COUNCIL**

### **Report from PFI Monitoring and Sports Development Officer – Riana Rudland and Arts Development Officer – Claire Salley to the Policy Development Review Panel 2 COMMITTEE – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2008**

#### **Culture update report**

#### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update and overview of the activities and achievements of Sports Development and Arts Development and to highlight key upcoming activities for the year.

#### **2. Recommendations**

- It is recommended that the Council/Committee:
- 2.1 Note the contents of the report.

**Note:** In preparing this report, due regard has been had to equality of opportunity, human rights, prevention of crime and disorder, environmental and risk management considerations as appropriate. Relevant officers have been consulted in relation to any legal, financial or human resources implications and comments received are reflected in the report.

#### **3. Information, Issues and Options**

##### **3.1 Background**

- 3.1.1 The Sports and Arts Development Officers have reported progress in the delivery of their targets to the panel on previous occasions. The purpose of this report is to highlight key work areas and achievements and to inform members of plans for future activities. The period 2007/2008 has seen some key achievements within Sports and Arts Development in terms of a series of successful holiday activity programmes, diversionary activities, community engagement events and partnership projects.

- 3.1.2 Sports Development – The 2007/2008 sports development plan had a number of key highlights and successes. In particular two successful sports days held at Thetford Leisure centre, a series of holiday activity programmes, delivery of partnership activities with Active Norfolk, District Junior Golf Project, Workforce development workshops, and talent identification. The Sports development officer has also played a key role in the development of the Breckland Swim forum and sports forums which are emerging in the Market Towns as part of the Sport England Community Sports Network programme.

- 3.1.3 Arts Development – The successes of the 2007/2008 arts development plan include the delivery of the holiday activities programme, Village Stage and Screen and Open Studios, the set up and development of the Breckland Arts Network, activities and events for young people such as Claytime performances for infant children in Thetford, a large-scale BBC Concert Orchestra project for primary children in partnership with other district councils, and diversionary film-making and music development projects for older children and young adults in partnership with SeaChange Arts and Norfolk Music Works. In addition, the Arts Development Officer has supported the development of projects and events such as Watton Festival, the Thomas Paine Festival, Thetford Growth Point and Dereham Memorial Hall.

##### **3.2 Issues**

- 3.2.1 To celebrate the handover of the Olympic Games from Beijing to London this year, a small working group has been established to deliver a 3 week programme of high

quality and diverse sport and cultural activity. The activity programme will consist of activities organised and delivered by community groups and clubs that the council will promote, activities organised by the council directly and activities organised by the Council in partnership with other organisations. The aim of the programme is to increase participation in sports and cultural activity through active participation, volunteering and audience participation.

- 3.2.2 From April 2008 the Sports and Arts Development Officers will be responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the Council's Gifted and Talented scheme, providing small grants to individuals and groups who live or participate in an activity to a high standard within Breckland. Further information relating to this scheme will be accessed via the Council website.
- 3.2.3 The sports development programme for 2008/2009 will focus around some key areas including workforce development and the Norfolk Youth Games programme. Club / coach education workshops will be delivered in partnership with Active Norfolk, district wide, helping to up-skill our volunteer workforce and assist with club sustainability and quality assurance. The Norfolk Youth Games programme will provide a series of taster sessions culminating in a week of events for children with disabilities at the UEA Norwich. Following this, multi sports clubs will be set up out of school hours to provide a range of opportunities for children to participate on a regular basis. Building on the success of the previous two year 6 sports days in Thetford, this programme will be delivered again in Thetford and Dereham with the aim of easing the transition between primary school and high school and providing an opportunity for children to experience new activities in high quality facilities. In addition, following a successful Sport England bid, a pilot project will be run in Banham as part of the National Extended Activity programme.
- 3.2.4 The arts programme this year will include the further development of collaborative projects in the move towards 2012, including the encouragement and support of young volunteers and gifted and talented individuals, innovative and exciting events, initiatives to encourage health, tourism and economic development, and the celebration of diversity and active communities by encouraging local level participation and the development of a legacy beyond 2012. A funded arts-based community cohesion project is being planned with NEAD (Norfolk Education & Action for Development), which is aimed specifically at integrating new communities into the life and culture of the district. 'Art Alive in Norfolk Churches', launched in May, will see churches in Breckland come to life through artists residencies, demonstrations, exhibitions and events aimed at local visitors and nearby overseas tourists. The further development of the Breckland Arts Network, partnership projects, and involvement in Thetford Growth Point and Dereham Memorial Hall will also take place.
- 3.2.5 The holiday activity programmes delivered this year have again proved very popular. Over 100 children took part in the October holiday programme, 161 children attended in February and 363 attended the Easter sessions. Each of the sessions received 100% satisfaction rating and many children now attend on a regular basis. Feedback has shown that a large proportion of the children attend a number of sessions, indicating that transport is not necessarily a barrier to participation. To build on the success of the holiday sports programme the intention is to run two teams of coaches throughout the summer to ensure that there is good coverage of the district and maximum opportunity to participate. The summer arts programme will focus on activities leading towards events planned for the handover period in August/September to encourage the involvement of young people. There are still some ongoing issues with the programme relating to the scheme development, village hall contacts and bookings and we are looking at ways to address these.

### 3.3 Options

- 3.3.1 To note the contents of the report.

3.4 Reasons for Recommendation(s)

3.4.1 Report for information only

**4. Risk and Financial Implications**

4.1 Risk

4.1.1 There are no risks attached to the contents of this report

4.2 Financial

4.2.1 None

**5. Legal Implications**

5.1 None

**6. Other Implications**

a) Equalities: The Council is committed to providing fair and equitable services.

b) Section 17, Crime & Disorder Act 1998: None

c) Section 40, Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006: None

d) Human Resources: None

e) Human Rights: None

f) Other: [e.g. Children's Act 2004] None

**7. Alignment to Council Priorities**

7.1 Functions and activities relating to Sports Development, Arts Development and Leisure Services support the delivery of the following Council Priorities:

- Stronger Communities
- Prosperous Communities

**8. Ward/Community Affected**

8.1 The cultural services within the district are available to all members of the community.

Background Papers

None

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Key Decision Status (Executive Decisions only):

This is not a key decision

Appendices attached to this report:

N/A