

10 REVIEW OF POLICY ON FESTIVALS

Report By: DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND COMMUNITY

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To propose that the Social and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee undertakes a review of the policy on Festivals within the Arts Programme supported by Herefordshire Council.

Considerations

2. The Council supports a number of Festivals throughout Herefordshire. The focus of the Festivals varies as does the level of direct support and in kind support the Council makes available.
3. Following issues and concerns raised by festivals which took place this year, mainly around funding and investment, the Cabinet Member (Community and Social Development) approached the Chairman of the Social and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee to request that a review of Festivals be undertaken.
5. To be effective this needs to be a short and concise piece of work feeding into both the review of the policy on the Voluntary Sector and the general grants programme. It is proposed that this be scheduled to report back to the Committee at its meeting on 27th November allowing it to dovetail with the work of the Voluntary Sector Grants Panel and Voluntary Sector Review.
6. Four members of the Committee will sit as a panel. This panel should include the Chairman and Vice-Chairman who, as a member of the Voluntary Sector Grants Panel and the Voluntary Sector Review Team, has an obvious place within the group. The Committee would nominate a further two members. It is envisaged that the work of the panel would draw on evidence from the expert witnesses recruited by this Committee (some of whom attended the meeting on 4th September).
7. The panel would sit on two occasions to receive evidence, some of it by written statement, including the opportunity for representatives of the Festivals to participate. The conclusion would be presented to the Committee at its meeting on the 27th November, 2003 and then reported back to the Cabinet Member as soon as possible. This would fit in with the timetable described previously.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- THAT (a) the Committee nominates two members to join the review panel;**
- and**
- (b) the timetable and actions outlined above are agreed.**

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified