ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 8 SEPTEMBER 2009

REVIEW OF THE CULTURAL THEME PARTNERSHIP Assistant Chief Executive

1 INTRODUCTION

As part of the agreed approach to the Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) of the Bracknell Forest Partnership (BFP), the Chairman and Lead Officer of each of the BFP theme Partnerships has been invited to meet the O&S Commission or relevant O&S Panel to discuss the Partnership's governance, performance management, financial management, and related issues, with reference to a questionnaire completed in advance of the meeting. The Cultural Partnership is one of the BFP theme partnerships within the purview of the Environment, Culture and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

2 SUGGESTED ACTION

2.1 That the Environment, Culture and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel discusses with the Chairman and Lead Officer of the Cultural Partnership, Councillor lain McCracken and Mr Mark Devon respectively, the Partnership's governance, performance management, financial management, and related issues, with reference to attached completed questionnaire.

3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The approach to O&S of the Bracknell Forest Partnership has been endorsed by the O&S Commission and Panels, also the BFP Board, and implementation has commenced. The agreed approach includes a structured programme of information gathering and initial analysis of the BFP's affairs. This work has been apportioned as follows:

O&S Commission – BFP's Board and the Town Centre Partnership, the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, and the Economic and Skills Development Partnership.

<u>Environment, Culture and Communities O&S Panel</u> - the Strategic Housing Partnership, the Cultural Partnership, the Transport Partnership, and the Climate Change Partnership.

<u>Children's Services and Learning O&S Panel</u> - the Children's Trust, and the Early Years, Child Care and Play Partnership.

Adult Social Care O&S Panel - the Health and Social Care Partnership.

- 3.2 The information gathering comprises initially asking the Chairmen and Lead officers for the ten Theme Partnerships to complete a questionnaire, and then for the responses to the questionnaire to inform individual meetings by the Commission/Panel concerned with the Chairmen and Lead officers for each of the Theme Partnerships, individually. These will form part of the public meetings of the Commission and Panels throughout 2009/10. The structured series of meetings with the Chairmen and lead officers of the Theme Partnerships will contribute to relationship building.
- 3.3 The purpose of the questionnaire to be sent in advance of the meetings is to gather all the basic information on the work and organisation of each Theme partnership, to make best use of members' time at the ensuing meetings.

Background Papers

Agenda and minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission on 1 April 2009

Contact for further information

Richard Beaumont - 01344 352283

e-mail: richard.beaumont@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Questionnaire for completion by the Chairman and Lead Officer of BFP's Board and each of the 10 BFP Theme Partnerships

Notes – clerks for BFP's Board and the Theme Partnerships will be asked to complete the basic information before passing this to the lead officer.

A: Name of Partnership: Cultural Partnership	Comments
Chairman's name and contact details:	Cllr lain McCracken, <u>iain.mccracken@bracknell-forest.gov.uk</u>
Lead Officer's name and contact details:	As of 16 th July Mark Devon, mark.devon@bracknell-forest.gov.uk previously Vincent Paliczka Officer responsible for co-ordinating activities of the partnership is Nick Smith, nick.smith@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

B: Partnership details	Comments
Please attach the terms of reference for the partnership. If it is not in the TOR, please outline the agreed aims, key objectives and key functions	As attached. Please note, at the partnership meeting on 16 th July members of the group provided feedback regarding the terms of reference. They were also invited to further consider the terms of reference and make further comment if they felt appropriate by the next meeting. The next meeting is 3 rd November.
Please provide a few examples of the partnership's major achievements	Please refer to pages 39-47 of the Life is for Living Cultural Strategy publication for 2008-2012. This section highlights key progress made by the group since 2002. (Hard copy to be sent, further copies available)
3. Where do you think the partnership currently is in terms of its stage of development? E.g. early formation, delivering shared outcomes, or fully developed?	On 25 th September 2008 the new Cultural Strategy for the borough 2008 – 2012 was launched. This effectively bought to an end the first strategy. By the end of the first strategy the partnership was probably at the stage of delivering shared outcomes. As the partnership has not met since the launch of the Cultural Strategy 2008 – 2012 there is now a need to re-focus and re-establish progress towards the 2008 – 2012 objectives.

4. Please describe any major obstacles towards the partnership's success	The Cultural Partnership by its nature is not mandatory. It could perhaps therefore be deemed of lesser importance than other partnerships. However, it is clear that cultural services have a huge impact on the quality of life of those who live, work or visit the borough. Cultural services also have a significant impact on key Government agendas.
Membership	As attached.
5. If not in the TOR, please list the current members of the partnership and the organisations they represent	
6. If not in the TOR, please describe the arrangements for appointing members to the partnership	Within TOR
Minutes	Minutes of last meeting attached.
7. Please provide minutes of meetings in the last year	

C: Governance arrangements	Comments
Please provide any recent self-assessment of governance arrangements for the Partnership, or describe any plans to do so.	In the context of this particular non mandatory partnership it is unclear what self assessment of governance arrangements actual consists of. If further guidance was provided and subject to the partnerships agreement, this work could be progressed. There are no examples of recent self-assessment of governance arrangements.
2. How are decisions made? Is there a scheme of delegation that makes clear who can take decisions?	Decisions are made by members of the Partnership as a whole, under the leadership of the Chairperson.
3. How are decisions recorded?	Within meeting minutes.
4. Who makes sure decisions are acted upon?	Chair/Lead Officer/Co-ordinating Officer
5. Please describe how the partnership is held to account,	The Partnership is also represented on the main Bracknell Forest

and by whom	Partnership - Partnership Board, so will report progress and issues as appropriate. The role of Overview and Scrutiny now also includes partnerships. It is also intended to publish an annual progress report on implementing the objectives within the Cultural Strategy 2010 – 2012. This will be an Executive Member report and appear on the Executive Work Programme.
6. Risk management - Has the Partnership itself carried out a formal risk assessment of the Partnership? If yes, please provide details	There is no formal risk assessment of the Partnership in place. This is considered appropriate within the context of the Partnership's non statutory role, and acknowledging that the group is primarily a forum for relevant partners to network, discuss and help enable cultural progress, as opposed to a Partnership that specifically undertakes particular projects etc.

D: Performance management	Comments	
Please describe the arrangements for setting output/outcome targets, and give details of the partnership's targets for 2008/09	Potential actions are contained in the Cultural Strategy 2008 – 2012.	
Please describe the arrangements for monitoring and reporting progress against targets	A methodology for monitoring progress has been agreed by the partnership at its meeting in July. Feedback is currently being sought from members of the group in relation to what progress they believe has been made (as applicable to actions that they have knowledge of, or are associated with). This will then be collated to form an overview of progress, which then enables further discussion during Partnership meetings.	
3. How does the partnership agree action on targets that are not likely to be met?	The partnership will discuss progress or lack of progress against all the actions identified. It will explore options for trying to move forward or, the actions are deemed unrealistic, it may be agreed to remove or amend the action.	
4. How do you demonstrate publicly that the partnership adds value?	As noted above, an annual report will be published on the Executive Work Programme.	

5. How does the public know that the partnership achieves value for money?	As above. It should be noted however, that this Partnership does not have a budget as such.
6. Does the Partnership contribute accounts of success to the BFP's communications group?	The chairman of the Cultural Partnership sits on the Council's Strategic Partnership.

E: Financial Management	Comments
How is the partnership funded? (on the basis of the last financial year)	There is no specific budget for this Partnership, other than a small amount to cover meeting room hires, possibly group visits etc. The potential actions identified in the Cultural Strategy 2008 – 2012 will be delivered from the resources of the individual members of the partnership.
2. Who decides on how to spend the money?	n/a as above
3. Can the money be reallocated? If so, who can authorise this?	n/a as above
4. What are the financial reporting arrangements?	n/a as above

F: Serving the Public (For response just by BFP's Board)	Comments
1. Does the partnership have a communications policy? If so, please provide this	There is no specific communications policy in place, however, it is envisaged that individual press releases will be issued where relevant.
2. How does this partnership achieve accessibility for the public? (For example, are meetings open to the public?)	Meetings not held in public. However due to the nature of the group, as stated in current TOR, membership of the group is open to interested stakeholders.
3. Is there a complaints and suggestions process the public can use?	There is currently no specific complaints and suggestions process for the Partnership. However contact details for Customer Services are

given on Cultural Strategy website page. Consultation was carried out
when the new Cultural Strategy 2008 – 2012 was written.

G: Overview and Scrutiny of the Partnership	Comments
Does the partnership have any views on how O&S can assist in its development and achievement of objectives?	Not at the current time. As the Partnership moves forward it may well become clearer how O&S may be able to assist.
2. Does the partnership have any suggestions for O&S reviews to be considered for the partnership O&S programme?	Not at the current time, other than to ensure reviews take into consideration the nature of the Partnership.

If there are any queries on the completion of this questionnaire, please contact Richard Beaumont, Head of Overview and Scrutiny, Bracknell Forest Council on 01344 352283 or Richard.Beaumont@Bracknell-Forest.gov.uk

Bracknell Forest Cultural Partnership Terms of Reference

REMIT

• The remit of the Borough Cultural Partnership is to champion the cultural sector, promote and within a partnership framework to improve the cultural life of the Borough.

AIM

- To give Bracknell Forest a sense of place and identity
- To put the Borough's cultural development at the heart of improving people's lives in Bracknell Forest

THE VISION OF THE CULTURAL STRATEGY

To make Bracknell Forest a stimulating place in which to live, study and work

PURPOSE OF THE PARTNERSHIP

• The overall purpose of the Borough's Cultural Partnership is to facilitate the delivery and development of the Borough's Cultural Strategy, action plan and activities associated with it. To act as a focal point to encourage commitment, learning from each other and contributions to the achievement of the vision

KEY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Advocacy and promotion

- To be the voice of the cultural sectors across the Borough
- To promote ownership and pride in the cultural achievements and aspirations of the Borough
- To seek recognition for the significant contribution of culture in enhancing all aspects of the life in the Borough
- To promote the Borough as a cultural area at regional, national and international level
- To harness the views, skills and aspirations of the people of the Borough

Monitoring and strategy development

- To monitor the impact and outcomes of the Borough Cultural Strategy
- To provide a focus for co-ordinating, planning and monitoring the Borough cultural agenda
- To influence the vision and direction of the Cultural Strategy

Co-ordination

- To develop effective working relationships with other partnership groups
- To develop effective relationships with the voluntary and community sector, the private sector, public sector, service providers and other cultural stakeholders
- To ensure individual partner activities and plans support the vision set out in the Borough Cultural Strategy
- To provide a single focus for co-ordinating, planning and monitoring the Borough's cultural agenda and for promoting it at a local, regional and national level
- To maximise the potential for growth and economic development in the Borough using cultural and creative development opportunities
- To share and disseminate knowledge and information within the cultural sector
- To actively encourage the participation of young people in the Borough

Resources

• To maximise the utilisation of resources available for cultural development

<u>Advice</u>

To act as cultural advisers to the Bracknell Forest Local Strategic Partnership

PARTNERSHIP MEETINGS

Bracknell Forest Borough Council's Department of Environment and Leisure provides a secretariat for the Partnership

All papers and reports will be issued at least one week in advance of the meeting date and meetings will be held at a variety of venues around the Borough. The dates of the meetings will be arranged for the following twelve months and the day of the week will be varied to assist in encouraging attendance (usually a Tuesday or Wednesday). Each year there will be two meetings and two visits

The agenda for the meetings will be based on the Borough Cultural Strategy priorities and action plan, with additional items included as deemed appropriate or as requested by Partnership members

Partners will be invited to host meetings

CHAIRING OF MEETINGS

This will initially be the responsibility of Bracknell Forest Council Executive Member for Leisure and Corporate Services thereafter the partnership will nominate a chairman from within its membership. Chairmanship will be for a minimum period of 2 years

RESOURCES

Planning and policy support for the Borough Cultural Partnership is provided by Bracknell Forest Borough Council

The Borough Cultural Partnership does not hold any funds itself

LINKS WITH OTHER GROUPS

The Partnership will nominate 1 representative (plus a substitute) to participate in the Bracknell Forest Local Strategic Partnership (to be confirmed annually in March / April)

REPRESENTATION ON THE PARTNERSHIP

Membership of the Borough Cultural Partnership is open to representatives of interested organisations and stakeholders from the public, private and voluntary / community sectors:

Nominated Representatives

Bracknell Forest Borough Council Members:

4 members, to be chosen from:

- Executive Member for Culture, Corporate Services and Public Protection
- Heritage Champion
- Voluntary Sector Champion
- Older Persons Champion

Other Representatives:

- Parish & Town Councils
- Chamber of Commerce
- Bracknell Regeneration Partnership
- Primary Care Trust
- Thames Valley Police
- Bracknell Forest Leaseholders
- South Hill Park
- 2 local businesses
- Berkshire Disabled Network
- BF Minorities Alliance
- BF Society

- Business Transport Forum
- Bracknell Youth Forum
- Senior Citizens Forum
- Federation of Community Association
- Indian Community Association Bracknell
- African & Caribbean Frontline Services Limited
- Churches Together
- Bracknell Forest Voluntary Sector Compact
- A representative from the media to invited on occasions
- Minorities Group

Occasional Participants:

- Arts
- Tourism
- Libraries / archives
- Sport
- Heritage

- Media
- Museums
- Play and recreation
- Entertainment
- Education / youth work
- Bereavement Services

The Partnership will endeavour to ensure active involvement from the private sector, other Partnership Groups (e.g. community safety, health, environment economy) and the education sector (higher and further education, local schools etc)

OFFICER SUPPORT

Bracknell Forest Council:

Chief Officer: Leisure and Culture Head of Libraries, Arts and Heritage Senior Leisure Manager Head of Parks and Countryside

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

The Borough Cultural Partnership was established in 2003. Terms of Reference were drafted in 2005 and will be reviewed every two years. The management of the Borough Cultural Partnership will be reviewed every 2 years to ensure clear roles and responsibilities and effective working.

Bracknell Forest Cultural Partnership

Criteria for participation

Partnership members will need to:

- Represent a key organisation or sectored interest in the cultural activity of the Borough and / or the region
- Be prepared to publicly acknowledge commitment to the Cultural Partnership and the Cultural Strategy
- Be prepared to commit whatever resources they and their organisations can to the work of the Partnership (a bid strong needs to be tidied up
- Be able to have an impact on the strategic direction of their organisation / sector
- Be able and prepared to ensure that the Borough Cultural Strategy is considered and reflected in the forward planning processes of their own organisations
- Be able to act as ambassadors and champions to the cultural agenda of the Borough
- Be prepared to actively promote and support the objectives of the Borough Cultural Partnership
- Be prepared to regularly review the progress of the Borough Cultural Partnership and contribute to its future direction
- Be prepared to pro-actively work to achieve the aims and objectives set out within the Borough Cultural Strategy

Be prepared to work in line with the roles and responsibilities of the Partnership.

Partnership Membership List

Name	Address	Dear	e-mail address
Mr R McAllister	Chief Executive South Hill Park Arts Centre Ringmead BRACKNELL, Berkshire RG12 7PA	Ron	ron.mcallister@southhillp ark.org.uk
Martin Gilman	Bracknell Forest Voluntary Action Fitzwilliam House, 5 th floor Skimped Hill Lane Bracknell Berkshire RG12	Martin	martin.gilman@bfva.org Tel. 01344 383518
Ms Madeline Diver BF Christian Network	Bracknell Forest Christian Network 27 Froxfield Down Forest Park BRACKNELL, Berkshire RG12 9YB	Madeline	madelinediver@tiscali.co. uk
Linda Lunn	5 Emborne Gardens Bracknell Berkshire	Ms Lunn	Imglunn@yahoo.co.uk
Ms Linda Coyle	Bracknell Forest Leaseholders Association 25 Lydbury Bullbrook Bracknell Berkshire RG12 9HH	Ms Coyle	
Sgt. John O'Blein	Thames Valley Police – Crime Reduction Bracknell Police Station Broadway	Sgt. O'Blein	John.Oblein@thamesvall ey.pnn.police.uk Tel 01344 823482

Name	Address	Dear	e-mail address
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Lynne Jenkins	Federation of Community Associations, 34 Woodmancott Road, Forest Park, Bracknell, RG12 0UX	Lynne	01344 445517 / 07703 602695
Margaret Camp	Federation of Community Associations, 43 Gainsborough, Bracknell, RG12 7WL	Margaret	johnacamp@tiscali.co.uk
Helen Barnett	Bracknell Regeneration Project Parr House 52 Broadway Bracknell RG12 1AG	Helen	helen.barnett@newbrack nell.com
Dr Peter Holmes	Vice Chair – Heritage Forum 37 Longdown Road Sandhurst Berkshire GU47 8QG	Dr Holmes	
Mark Devon	Chief Officer: Leisure and Culture	Mark	Mark.devon@bracknell- forest.gov.uk
Richard Walton	Parks and Countryside Manager	Richard	Richard.walton@bracknel I-forest.gov.uk
Nick Smith	Senior Leisure Manager	Nick	Nick.smith@bracknell- forest.gov.uk
Ruth Burgess	Head of Libraries & Information	Ruth	Ruth.burgess@bracknell-forest.gov.uk
Victor Nicholls	Assistant Chief Executive Easthampstead House	Victor	Victor.nicholls@bracknell -forest.gov.uk
Councillor Mrs Gill Birch	Easthampstead House	Councillor Mrs Birch	Gill.birch@bracknell- forest.gov.uk
Councillor lain	Chairman of Cultural Partnership	lain	lain.mccracken@brackne

Name	Address	Dear	e-mail address
McCracken	Easthampstead House		II-forest.gov.uk
Councillor Mrs Jacqui Ryder	8 Sherring Close Bracknell Berkshire RG42 2LD	Councillor Mrs Ryder	Jacqui.ryder@bracknell- forest.gov.uk
Councillor Cliff Thompson	Pensioners' Champion Easthampstead House	Councillor Thompson	cliftonthompson@msn.com
Councillor Mrs Beadsley	6 Greenham Wood North Lake Bracknell Berkshire RG12 7WJ	Councillor Mrs Beadsley	Maureen.beadsley@bracknell-forest.gov.uk
Councillor J Finnie	Voluntary Sector Champion Witheygate 51 Heath Hill Road South Crowthorne Berkshire RG45 7BP	Councillor Finnie	Crowthorne Parish council rep
Mrs A Edwards	Clerk to Winkfield Parish Council Council Offices Fernbank Road ASCOT, Berkshire SL5 8JW	Annemarie	a.edwards@winkfieldpari shcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Richard Price Crowthorne Parish Council and Chair South Berks District Scouts	Crowthorne Parish Council 21 goldsmith Way Wellington Chase Crowthorne Berks RG45 7QP	Richard	richardmprice@talk21.co m 01344 771112 07785 578301
Mrs J Harding	Clerk to Warfield Parish Council	Janis	clerk@warfieldparishcounci

Name	Address	Dear	e-mail address
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	Warfield		
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Councillor Martyn	19 Caesars Gate,	Councillor	
Towle	Warfield,	Towle	
	Berkshire RG42 3AF		1
Mrs A Sculley	Clerk to Binfield Parish Council	Amanda	binfieldparish.council@bti
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Councillor Mrs J	Sandhurst Town Council	Councillor	jeanbettison@hotmail.co.
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	Morgan Centre	Swadling	
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Mr G Boys	Chairperson of Bracknell Forest U3A 29 Trumbull Road Bracknell Berkshire RG42 2EP	Greg	
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