

4. ARTS POLICY AND STRATEGY

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The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Arts Policy and Strategy.

INTRODUCTION

The Council's existing Arts and Culture Policy was established in 1991. The process to review the existing Arts and Culture Policy was initiated sometime ago. As the process to review the Arts Policy progressed the need for a strategy and clear action plans have become apparent to identify as clearly as possible the specific actions the Council will take in terms of implementation.

The 'Arts' is a broad area of activity which straddles many different parts of the Council's organisation and committee structure with no one unit, department or standing committee being solely responsible for it.

PROCESS TO DEVELOP THE ARTS POLICY AND STRATEGY

An exhaustive process has been carried out to arrive at the Arts Policy and Strategy. A core group of staff with representatives from Leisure, Robert McDougall Art Gallery, Libraries and the Policy Directorate have led the process.

An initial period of consultation was carried out prior to any attempt to re-write the policy being commenced. This consultation included a number of focus groups with representatives of the arts sector, a hui with Maori, a meeting with representatives of a number of Asian communities and a series of meetings with affected staff.

The results of this consultation were discussed with the Community Services Committee in a seminar in May 2000.

A draft policy was then prepared by the staff group and presented to the Community Services Committee prior to consultation in August 2000.

A draft Arts Strategy was also subsequently prepared and presented to the Community Services Committee in November 2000 for comments. Consultation was undertaken on the Draft Arts Policy and Strategy together. This consultation included workshops with members of the arts sector, a mail out to a wide range of interested individuals and groups, a hui with Maori, seeking the views of community boards and a workshop with interested staff.

The feedback received on the Draft Arts Policy and Strategy was analysed and amendments made to arrive at the Arts Policy and Strategy attached to this report. The final Arts Policy and Strategy has been circulated to community boards during their July 2001 round of meetings. Any concerns from community boards will be tabled at the Community Services Committee meeting.

ARTS POLICY AND STRATEGY

The Arts Policy and Strategy attempt to provide direction for the Council's wide range of work in the arts and to provide a basis for considering requests for assistance from other organisations. At the seminar with the Community Services Committee in May 2000 councillors made it clear that they felt the Council's primary roles are those of supporting and facilitating the many individuals and organisations involved 'hands-on' with the arts. The policy and strategy has been prepared with this view in mind.

The directions within the Arts Policy and Strategy are relatively broad and over the next few months staff intend to develop specific action plans for the 2001/2 and 2002/3 years. These will include specific actions the Council intends to carry out during these years that are aligned to the Strategy and contributing to achieving the outcomes of the Arts Policy. Given that the Council's arts activity is widely dispersed between units there is significant work required bringing together the action plans of all parts of the organisation. At the action plan stage staff will identify current resourcing available and any resourcing issues (bearing in mind the constraints on future Annual Plans) for the Committee to consider.

Beyond 2002/3 it is envisaged that the Arts Policy and Strategy will remain as they are and further action plans be developed.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the Committee endorses the Arts Policy and Strategy and recommends to the Council that they replace the existing Arts and Culture Policy.