



Report to the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire Joint Committee

Date: **30 January 2012**

Report of: **Charles Freeman, Quality Place Delivery Manager and Simon Eden,
Lead Chief Executive, Quality Place Delivery Panel**

Subject: **HAMPSHIRE AND SOUTH HAMPSHIRE CULTURAL
INFRASTRUCTURE STUDY**

SUMMARY

The Cultural Infrastructure Study has been developed in order to provide an evidence base to inform the integration of cultural provision, including arts facilities, libraries and museums, within local planning policy. The Study compliments work undertaken by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Sports Partnership which identifies the evidence base relating to sport provision and playing fields, together with the Quality Place Delivery Panel's own work on Quality Place Design Guidance.

The Study is presented as an assessment of provision and need. As such, it can provide an evidence base for planning officers and others in considering how to secure investment in cultural facilities, in particular in the context of new development. It will also offer the evidence necessary to underpin the development of the Community Infrastructure Levy locally.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Joint Committee COMMENDS the Cultural Infrastructure Study to PUSH authorities as a framework to inform the development of Local Planning Policy, and to inform decisions on infrastructure investment.

Background

1. The Quality Place Delivery Panel, in partnership with Hampshire County Council, commissioned a Cultural Infrastructure Study in order to develop a robust evidence base to facilitate the integration of cultural planning within spatial planning policy at a local level.
2. The funding for the project was secured from SEEDA, who agreed to pilot their Culture and Creative Opportunities Framework in South Hampshire. The approach adopted in the study therefore represents an attempt to implement a methodology which may inform cultural planning in other parts of the country.
3. The Study collated information about provision across a range of cultural services, noting what activities were undertaken, at what location, and who participated. This information was used to build 'maps' of provision, helping Council officers, service providers and others understand how well these services are provided across our area and how and where provision needs to be improved.
4. The Project was managed and methodology approved by a steering committee which included the lead officers from the PUSH Planning Officer group and the Social and Community Infrastructure Panel. An extensive consultation took place on the draft report with individual meetings being held with culture and / or planning officers within each authority. The draft findings were also presented to the PUSH planning officers.

Study Aims

5. The Study aims to provide a robust evidence base to inform local infrastructure delivery plans and community infrastructure levy charging frameworks with regard to cultural infrastructure needs. Whilst there are many competing calls on public funding and developer contributions, a robust evidence base facilitates informed local decision-making about local priorities.
6. The Study compliments other work undertaken by the Quality Place Delivery Panel which is intended to inform spatial planning policy, notably the development of the PUSH Quality Place charter and design guidance and plans for a collaborative approach to work relating to heritage at risk. It also compliments work undertaken by Hampshire and IOW Sports Partnership to collate an evidence base relating to sport facility planning and the assessment of playing pitch provision.
7. It is intended that each local authority will update the evidence base as and when changes in provision occur. Quality Place Indicators within the PUSH performance plan will seek to monitor the degree to which provision in the area relates to National Standards. The panel will also seek to maintain a listing of cultural infrastructure projects which partner authorities have identified as being priorities for delivery in the next five years.

Scope of the Study

8. The Study focused on identifying, auditing and analysing the current state and usage of cultural provision which are local authority owned, local authority funded, recognised as contributing to a partner local authority's cultural strategy objectives, or regularly funded by the Arts Council.
9. The types of infrastructure covered include:
 - public libraries;
 - public archives provided by local authorities as a statutory duty;
 - publicly owned and / or regularly supported facilities for the arts, made up of:
 - galleries housing permanent or temporary exhibitions;
 - multi-use arts venues and theatres;
 - production, rehearsal and education space for the arts.
 - publically owned and / or regularly supported Accredited Museums
10. The Study does not commit local authorities or others to future spending, but it does provide a robust framework within which spending choices can be made.

Summary Conclusions

11. The Study has sought to map existing provision across the area, and to gather information on audience catchment and the quality of provision. In summary, it identifies that:
 - in terms of spatial coverage South Hampshire is well served by a range of Arts, Library, Museum and Archive provision;
 - the catchment areas for many cultural facilities cut across local authority boundaries. Future planning of cultural provision will therefore require partnership working or inter-authority dialogue. In particular, in order to enhance the diversity and quality of offer, it will be important for specialisms to emerge across the network of provision;
 - in terms of floor space, the level of provision in local authority stewardship is significantly below the Recommended National Benchmarks. (Current provision represents 63% of the Arts benchmark across the study area Hampshire and South Hampshire, 95% of benchmark for Libraries, 58% of Benchmark for museums and 46 % of benchmark for archives). However wide differences exist in provision between local authority areas;
 - some areas are identified as facing under provision and the relevant authorities may wish to consider whether new development can offer an opportunity for remedying these deficiencies;
 - future demographic change will, if the existing network of provision remains unaltered, lead to further deficiencies in terms of floor space. However, the report also notes that the way residents access services is changing, in part as a result of changing technology, and that new modes

of delivery including co-location may in the future be as important as increased footprint.

Recommendation

12. It is recommended that the Joint Committee COMMENDS the Cultural Infrastructure Study to PUSH authorities as a framework to inform the development of Local Planning Policy, and to inform decisions on infrastructure investment.

Appendices:

- I: [Final Cultural Infrastructure Study Report](#)
- II: [The South Hampshire Cultural Infrastructure Audit](#)
- III: [The South Hampshire and Hampshire Cultural Infrastructure Audit](#)

Reference Papers: None

Enquiries:

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