

**ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
8<sup>th</sup> September, 2011

**MINUTE EXTRACT**

**EE11. ARTS ENQUIRY GROUP**

**RESOLVED** – (a) That this Scrutiny Committee notes and applauds the variety and scope of the consultation process undertaken.

(b) That the thanks of this Scrutiny Committee be extended to the LSP Enquiry Group for its work and considers that the interest of all sectors of the community in continued cultural provision is demonstrated.

(c) That this Scrutiny Committee considers that the establishment of Darlington for Culture and its voluntary work so far is a positive and welcome contribution to cultural provision in Darlington.

(d) That this Scrutiny Committee notes the key role which arts and culture play in economy and regeneration and the necessity of the changing role of the Council from being an arts provider to an arts enabler.

(e) This Scrutiny Committee endorses the approach embodied in the document ‘Creative Darlington’ in particular :-

- i. Arts and culture as drivers of the One Darlington Perfectly Placed agenda;
- ii. Encourage inward investment and regeneration as well as individual fulfilment and social inclusion whilst emphasising the importance of creative industries to the local economy;
- iii. Endorses the Diversity and Excellence model as outlined in the report;
- iv. Encourages the establishment of an Arts Forum;
- v. Continued funding of a ‘strategic function’;
- vi. Provision of an Arts Hub in preference to a polycentric model due to the value of cross fertilisation of different art forms offered by such a model; and
- vii. The need and desire to work with other partners, sectors and other local authorities.

(f) That this Scrutiny Committee agreed the following with regard to the future of the Arts Centre :-

- i. The need for greater clarify regarding short, medium and long term solutions;
- ii. An open approach to the consideration of provision of cultural services with a preference for democratic governance models such as co-operatives; community benefit companies and community interest companies;
- iii. Continued sense of responsibility for present partners, tenants, users and hirers in recognition of their contribution; and
- iv. Establishment of a Task and Finish Group to oversee future developments.