



## **Draft Culture (Scotland) Bill, Cultural Planning Group Briefing Note**

### 1. Introduction

The Scottish Executive has published the Draft Culture (Scotland) Bill and draft guidance on cultural planning and provision of local cultural entitlements for consultation (closing date was 31 March 2007). Final decisions in relation to the Bill will be a matter for the new Administration. It is anticipated that the Bill will become law in mid 2008.

### 2. Background

The Draft Culture (Scotland) Bill forms part of the new cultural policy package that was announced in the Executives' cultural policy statement "Scotland Culture" in January 2006. The Draft Bill will establish a legislative framework for the development of cultural services, as specified in the policy statement. The Culture (Scotland) Bill permits Ministers to give local authorities statutory guidance about how they provide cultural services.

There will be a requirement on local authorities to publish information about cultural provision including;

- The kinds of cultural services they provide.
- How they plan for the provision of cultural services, including entitlements.
- How consultations to inform the above are undertaken.
- How cultural provision and activity is being used across various services and functions to achieve positive outcomes for a broad range of strategic policy objectives, providing evidence of those outcomes.
- The quality of their provision and its uptake by citizens, including 'hard to reach' and minority groups.
- How cultural provision is evolving – both generally and particularly, through cultural entitlements.
- How they publicise cultural services to encourage more people to participate.

This is intended to help inform local citizens about cultural provision as a whole, and the entitlements the authority will provide. The Bill also gives Ministers power to gather information about authorities' cultural provision, and the way culture is used in the performance of the authorities' functions generally e.g. to assist in the delivery of strategic objectives including those focussed on tackling poverty and disadvantage.

### 3. Progress

A sub group of the Lifelong Learning Thematic Group has been established in preparation for the Culture Bill implementation

For further information on Cultural Planning, please contact Frank Smith, Cultural Planning Officer.

**This Briefing Note was written by:**  
Frank Smith, Cultural Planning Officer

Contact details: North Ayrshire Council, Cunninghame House, Irvine KA12 8EE, Tel 01294 324474, email: [franksmith@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:franksmith@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)