

**CULTURAL COMMISSION
STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION: PHASE 2
PAN-SECTORAL QUESTIONS
NOVEMBER 2004**

Response from Libraries Archives and Museums

J Castle -

Dec 04

Rights, Entitlements and Responsibilities

1. How should cultural rights and accompanying entitlements and responsibilities be used to develop both cultural policy and appropriate standards for the provision/delivery of culture in Scotland?

Museums – There should be a legal framework that enshrines access to culture on both a national and local basis, as well as the preservation and maintenance of that culture. Perhaps this could have an element of an individual's responsibility to ensure that culture/heritage is not destroyed.

Libraries – There should be an enshrined set of cultural entitlements that citizens should find across the length and breadth of the country – people in each area should expect equal access to culture.

2. Should cultural rights be enshrined in law?

Museums – Yes, this should be enshrined in law.

Libraries – Yes, and backed up with a set of cultural standards which should be met across the country. There is an element of Cultural right set in the library legislation, but there is a need to adequately define the use of "adequate" provision. There is a need for equitable provision in each local authority area.

3. Should cultural rights, entitlements and responsibilities reflect or link to other areas of social policy, such as inclusion or social justice and, if so, how?

Museums – Museums' core reason for existing is to preserve objects etc, for future generations. Objects can be collected and preserved under a variety of criteria, ie. For their workmanship, beauty, rarity etc. as well as their educational benefit. When objects, exhibitions, research etc. are able to link into areas of social policy e.g. valuing human experience, building self-esteem/ identity and enhancing quality of life (as they so **often** do) this is an advantage but should not be the sole reason for museums to exist.

Libraries – There is a role for public libraries to assist the public use the facilities of the People's Network, and hence to instil confidence in individuals to access online content, which will include accessing and creating cultural content. The four key areas in which Scottish public libraries serve the public are

- Information
- Reading, language and literacy
- Learning
- Access and community service

4. Who should have guardianship over cultural rights, entitlements and responsibilities and how should they exercise their authority, particularly in relation to non-conformance?

5. Who should have responsibility for the review and potential amendment of cultural rights, entitlements and responsibilities and how should this process be conducted?

Cultural Leadership

6. A number of stakeholders have bemoaned the lack of cultural leadership in Scotland but what sort of leadership is actually required?

Museums – There should be a national advocacy for culture. Culture should be presented as inspiring, as a source of national pride and economic regeneration as well as providing life-enhancing participative opportunities. This positive approach should remove elitist tag from many cultural activities and simply encourage a choice of levels of access to culture from fun participation to enjoyment of excellence.

Libraries – There should be a form of Leadership, which can step in and “troubleshoot” e.g. in the recent case of the disbandment of the chorus of Scottish Opera.

7. What role should the Scottish Executive play in cultural leadership, how should it interface with the cultural sector and what influence should it have, if any, over cultural policies and priorities?

Museums – It should understand and support culture’s dynamism. Although it has a responsibility to ensure that projects and institutions are financially responsible, there should be no formal influence over cultural policies.

Libraries – It should act as a link between all cultural agencies.

8. Is the arms-length principle still appropriate and, if so, how should it be enforced?

Libraries – It should be proactive leadership.

9. Who should appoint the leadership of the cultural sector and to whom should the leadership be answerable?

10. What role should local government play in cultural leadership, including policy making, and how should it balance its responsibilities to the electorate with the needs of artists and citizens across Scotland?

Libraries – funding from local government should be encouraged.

11. What role should Universities, Colleges and other centres of artistic/academic excellence play in the defining of Scotland’s cultural strategy and how should they be represented in the cultural leadership of Scotland?

Libraries – Should be actively involved.

12. What role should the private and commercial sectors play in the cultural leadership of Scotland?

Libraries – Should be encouraged (given tax relief?) to fund/sponsor cultural activities.

13. How do we give artists a stronger voice in the decision-making (planning and funding) processes at national level and how should artists be effectively represented and consulted?

Libraries – there should be stronger linkage between individual creators of cultural content, and local authorities.

14. How do we give grassroots organisations a stronger voice in the decision-making (planning and funding) processes at national level and how should the grassroots sector be effectively represented and consulted?

Museums – grassroots organisations should be represented and consulted through local for a, which may be led by Local Authorities or voluntary culture umbrella organisations.

Libraries – as museums, we would like to be part of a cultural grouping on a local level which includes all cultural creators and enablers.

15. How can we ensure the appropriate strategic and operational alignment between Scottish cultural agencies/organisations and UK cultural agencies operating in Scotland?

Libraries – there is an need for cultural strategic aims to be pulled together to find our common ground and use that as a base upon which to build cultural development.

Pan-Sectoral Planning

16. What is the opportunity for more effective pan-sectoral planning and what actions are required to establish an appropriate pan-sectoral planning regime?

Libraries – The Reader Development network, created by Scottish Library and Information Council, increasingly works on a pan-sectoral basis.

17. What should be the scope (timeframe, level of detail, etc.) and authority of any new pan-sectoral planning regime?

Libraries -

18. What should be the governance (representation, etc.) of any new pan-sectoral planning regime and what role should the Scottish Executive and local authorities play in the process?

19. Who should represent the individual cultural sectors in any new pan-sectoral planning process?

Museums – For museums, Scottish Museums Council and the National Museums of Scotland

Libraries – Scottish Library and information Council, Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals, representatives from Local Authorities.

20. How should any new planning regime reflect the differing needs, priorities and traditions of artists and communities across Scotland?

21. To what extent should the authority of any new pan-sectoral planning regime extend into decisions on funding and, if so, how should it execute these additional responsibilities?

Funding arrangements

22. Is the final decision about how much public money is allocated to the cultural sector appropriately in the hands of the Scottish Executive or is there a valid alternative method/process of calculation?

23. How and by whom should the division of funds between the individual cultural sectors be decided and how should we establish appropriate pan-sectoral evaluation criteria?

24. How and by whom should the division of funds within individual cultural sectors be decided and how do we ensure that these funding arrangements support the achievement of pan-sectoral and intersectoral objectives?

25. How and by whom should the funding awarded to national companies be decided and what sort of funding arrangements should be in place?

26. What influence, if any, should national agencies have over local authority spending decisions?

Libraries - Should be able to influence if they are the experts in their cultural area.

27. What role, if any, should the national agencies have in the funding of non-national organisations or should the funding of locally or regionally based cultural organisations be devolved to local or regional level?

Libraries – If the latter, it must be equally shared and not ad hoc.

28. How can we simplify and streamline the process for both organisations seeking funding from national agencies and for organisations seeking funding from local authorities?

Libraries – by bringing together information and application processes in applying for funding. Often individuals and organisation are totally unaware of the funding opportunities available to them.

29. What are the opportunities to move to a more co-ordinated approach to capital planning and corresponding grant allocation (including lottery funding) in Scotland and how should such an approach be organised and managed?

30. Should a certain amount of state money be 'guaranteed' for the traditional and indigenous arts or should all cultural output be judged strictly on its artistic merit?

Museums – Traditional and indigenous arts should be protected. As with other cultural initiatives, pride in an indigenous culture can only be achieved if excellence is fostered. The crucial point is for this to be made accessible to all levels of interest and participation.

Libraries – Yes for both areas. We would like to see an emphasis for the support of Scottish Literature promoted through libraries in Scotland.

31. How can we improve the process for awarding 'initiative-based' funding to cultural organisations, particularly monies linked to other governmental initiatives (social inclusion, health, etc.)?

Libraries – by linking up such funding awards, so those individual projects do not remain simply ad hoc developments, which stand on their own.

32. Can we improve the current methods of funding and should we consider alternative methods such as endowment style funding or longer funding horizons (5-year agreements, etc.)?

33. How can we demonstrate prudent and effective use of public money whilst allowing funded organisations greater, and arguably more appropriate, financial autonomy?

Standards & Evaluation

34. What standards of outcome, output, process and governance is it appropriate for a funding body to impose on a recipient of funding?

35. How do you establish proper standards of outcome, output, process and governance without compromising artistic integrity and/or local empowerment to meet local needs?

36. How do we achieve appropriate consistency of standards within and across the cultural sectors?

Museums – Schemes like the Museums Libraries and Archives Accreditation process for Museums.

Libraries – there is some work to be done in looking at the interoperability of standards.

37. How do we achieve appropriate quality and consistency of evaluation within and across the cultural sectors?

38. What sanctions should a funding body have against a funded organisation that does not meet the required standards and what rights of appeal should funded organisations have if they feel they have been incorrectly or unfairly adjudged to have not met the standards defined by their funders?

Operations and administration

39. What is the potential for new technology to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of cultural administration in Scotland and how should that potential be realised?

Libraries – Technology gives us the opportunity to share and co-ordinate information which can be accessed via a central cultural portal.

40. Is there an opportunity to introduce a more co-ordinated management of cultural property, particularly given the problems experienced by many cultural organisations with listed and/or high-maintenance buildings?

Libraries – Ensure costs are shared equally.

41. What are the merits and practicalities of assigning pan-sectoral responsibilities for matters such as advocacy and IT development to a single organisation(s)?

42. Where does responsibility lie for Scotland's international cultural development and what are the opportunities for greater collaboration between Scotland and the relevant UK, EU and UN (UNESCO) policy making bodies and cultural networks?

Libraries – there is the opportunity to take advantages of the links already in place, i.e. Scottish Library professionals are involved in the work of organisations such as Unesco, IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations) and the Bertelsmann Foundation.

43. What strategic, operational and attitudinal changes are required to ensure that there is a continual increase in the percentage of available monies spent in Scotland on performance and participation as opposed to management and administration?

Local Authorities

44. What legislative requirements are necessary to clarify and enshrine the responsibilities of local authorities towards cultural provision?

Archives - Archives Legislation is required to simplify, regulate and strengthen the position, practices and standards required in local authority archival provision
Museums – Distinguish which cultural areas ought to be provided and then require Local Authorities to justify opting out of making provision. There should be a strong presumption for making reasonable provision in each identified area.
Libraries – the question of the adequacy of library provision as quoted in legislation requires to be more closely defined. The equality of service across the country is vital.

45. Do we need to define the term 'adequate provision' in regard to local authorities current responsibilities, including the requirement to develop local cultural strategies within the context of community planning, and if so, how?

Archives - The term "adequate provision" for archives should be measured against recognised national and international archival standards.

Museums – as answer to 44.

Libraries – To ensure equality of service across Scotland, "adequate provision" should be expanded.

46. What are the merits and practicalities of adopting national standards for the provision of cultural facilities and services?

Archives - Adopting national standards will enable greater consistency in the provision of cultural facilities and services across Scotland. Opportunities for comparative studies and benchmarking will be improved.

Museums – Provision should vary according to Local Authority's circumstances including the nature and extent of collections, buildings, etc., economic sustainability and likely demand as well as the size of the local population.

Libraries – national standards are important for library authorities, and we would like to see a more rigorous inspection process for libraries in Scotland, to enforce the standards.

47. What is the justification and practicality of insisting that local authorities 'ring-fence' resources for cultural provision?

Archives - Local authorities are obliged to make "proper arrangements" for their records, under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1994. Adequate resources are required to ensure that these obligations can be fulfilled.

Museums – currently other objectives are seen as more pressing, by ring-fencing La's are forced to address the importance of culture and preserving heritage for future generations thus avoiding loss. Although it would be extremely beneficial to La's to appreciate culture on its own merits, ring fencing would probably lead to utilising culture as a support for other purposes such as social justice, education etc. and making lowest permissible allocations unless a general change of attitude is achieved.

Libraries – Essential – some authorities would give it higher priority than others.

Regional Bodies

48. Is there a need for a regional aspect to cultural planning and/or the delivery of cultural services and/or the management of cultural resources?

Museums – Yes, there is a need for a regional aspect to cultural planning.

Libraries – Yes – will have more idea of local issues.

49. How should any regional bodies be constituted, governed and managed?

Museums – by a partnership of existing bodies.

Libraries – as museums say

50. What remit/responsibilities should any regional bodies have and what responsibilities should be transferred from national agencies and local authorities?

51. How can the cost of any regional bodies be justified?

Museums – It would encourage the pooling of resources – joint events, projects at levels appropriate to each participating body.

Libraries – in agreement with museums

National

52. What should the designation 'national' mean and what criteria should be applied when awarding a company national status?

53. What privileges/special considerations should be afforded to national companies and what responsibilities should accompany these privileges?

54. To whom should the national companies report and who should be responsible for measuring their performance against agreed standards and objectives?

55. What artistic expectation (standards of performance/production) should we have of our national companies and what commitment to Scottish work (both new and revised) and Scottish talent should the national companies have?

56. What should be the operational relationship(s) between the national companies and the local/regional authorities in whose areas they may reside or tour?

Libraries – there should be long term planning between national companies and the local authorities which they perform within. This would give opportunities for other cultural activities to be programmed in to support the work of the national companies, and to give it a local element of interest.

57. How can we achieve greater consistency in the constitutions, governance and funding arrangements of national agencies?

58. What is the scope for further co-operation, both strategically and operationally, between the national agencies (shared development, shared services, shared facilities, shared resources, etc.) and how should such co-operation be advanced?

Libraries – the national library of Scotland, in its new strategic document, talk about working more closely with local public library authorities, and we anticipate a sharing of resources, and expertise and the creation of resources, which will be of use across Scotland, and beyond our shores.

Cross-cutting

59. How should the cultural sector as a whole seek and arrange suitable mutually beneficial partnership with other areas of government (education, sport, tourism, etc.)?

60. What are the opportunities for the Cultural Sector and the Sports Sector to work in closer strategic and operational partnership?

61. How can we more effectively represent and promote (artistically and commercially) Scottish culture within Scotland, within the UK, within the EU and across the world?

62. How can we achieve the maximum practical co-operation between artists, cultural promoters and the tourist agencies (visitscotland.com, etc.) in the fields of marketing, promotion and customer management?

visitor

11.6.05
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From: Fitzpatrick, Gerry [Gerry.Fitzpatrick@westlothian.gov.uk]
Sent: 31 January 2005 17:16
To: info
Subject: CultCommPanSecQuestionnaire[Scanned]

Libraries
Heritage



Cultural Comm Phase 2 q aire (... and archives...
Libraries museums and archives...
Richard

Further to our telephone discussion I have enclosed a copy of our response to the Stakeholder Consultation Phase 2 Questionnaire. Please note that this is an officer's response, rather than a formal response from West Lothian Council.

I received a response from the Library Service which once again reflects the views of staff within that service and does not represent any formal position taken by the Council. I have also included this response for your consideration.

I trust you find our response helpful.

<<Cultural Comm Phase 2 q aire>> <<Libraries museums and archives answers to CC questions jan 05>>
Gerry

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