

**Report to:** Regeneration Panel  
Cabinet

**Date:** 17th September 2008  
18th September 2008

**Subject:** Tripartite Partnership Agreement with Arts Council  
England 2008/11

**Report of:** Director of Adult Services and Chief Executive, Wigan  
Leisure & Culture Trust

**Contact officer:** Chris Wyatt 01942 486929

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**Purpose / summary:** To inform members of the second Partnership Agreement with Arts Council England

**Alternative options considered and reason for selecting the one recommended:** Not to enter into a Partnership Agreement. This would mean the Borough would not benefit from the resources that flow down from the agreement

**Recommendation / decision:** Members are invited to endorse the Partnership Agreement

**Key Decision:** This report does not involve a key decision. The decision made as a result of this report will be published within **48 hours** and cannot be actioned until **seven working days** have elapsed, i.e. before 30th September 2008

**Risks / Implications:**

Financial:	£40K funding from the Local Strategic Arts Fund
Staffing:	Within current staffing levels plus use of freelance contractors
Policy: Equal Opportunities - Has a Diversity Impact Assessment been conducted?	N/A
Wards affected:	All – with specific focus on those areas affected by multiple deprivation

**Property Implications – Does the proposal involve a reduction, addition or change to the Council’s asset base or its occupation?**

No

**If yes, have the property implications been agreed with the Corporate Property Officer?**

N/A

**Does this proposal have significant implications for the Council and the local population?**

A diversity impact assessment is not necessary at this stage, however, equality and diversity implications have been considered when producing this report.

**Does this proposal involve a new policy or procedure or significant changes to an existing policy or procedure?**

A diversity impact assessment is not necessary at this stage, however, equality and diversity implications have been considered when producing this report.

Has the Service Director - Borough Solicitor confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council’s Constitution? **Yes**

Has the Service Director - Corporate Services confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council’s budget? **Yes**

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council? **No**

**For Cabinet reports only :**

Categorisation of the report:	<b>X</b>
Discussion leading to a decision	
Monitoring	
Sharing for corporate understanding	

	<b>X</b>
Discussion	
Decision	<b>X</b>
Information	

**Tracking/Process:**

	Consultation	Ward Members	Partners
Panel	Overview & Scrutiny	Cabinet	Council
Regeneration – 17 <sup>th</sup> September 2008		18 <sup>th</sup> September 2008	

There are no Background Papers to this Report within the meaning of Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Proper Officer Bernard Walker

Date 4th August 2008

**Background:**

1.1 Arts Council England (ACE) is the national development agency for the arts in England, distributing public money from the Government and the National Lottery. It operates through a national office and nine regional offices.

**2.0 Partnership Activities 2008/11**

2.1 The Partnership agreement sets out joint strategic working between the Arts Council England, North West, Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust and Wigan Council. The agreement is based on the National Framework for Partnerships for Arts Council England and Local Authorities.

2.2 The aim of the agreement is to encapsulate the key areas of joint working between the three organisations, reflecting local and regional priorities, investment and leverage, and new joint initiatives.

2.3 Key to the agreement is ensuring the strategic positioning of the arts within the local authority.

2.4 Arts Council England, North West recognises that local authorities are the democratic bodies with responsibility for the delivery of local services and quality of life, and a key partner in the transforming effect of the arts on the lives of individuals and communities.

2.5 Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust and Wigan MBC recognises that Arts Council England, North West is the public body with responsibility and expertise in the development of the arts in the region, and our key strategic partner in addressing our corporate goals in relation to artists, arts organisations and arts activities

2.6 The aim of the partnership is to realise growth, broaden access to, and raise the quality of the arts experience. This will be achieved through the actions identified in this agreement.

2.7 Working responsibility for the agreement lies with the Arts and Festivals Manager, of Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust, and the client officer for the Leisure and Culture Trust within Wigan Council.

2.8 The agreement supports work identified within the Local Area Agreement, the Community Plan and other related corporate documents.

2.9 The three strategic themes for this agreement are therefore as follows:

**1. COMMUNITY COHESION**

Community cohesion, with a focus on Leigh communities

**2. DANCE AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**

From strength to strength

**3. DIVERSITY**

How we explore and celebrate Diversity in the borough.

These are in line with the Arts Strategy for the Borough.

2.10 The implementation of the agreement is financed partially through the Local Arts Strategic Fund which is administered by the Arts Council from which Wigan receives £40K annually. This is matched through other streams, both core and externally funded.

2.11 Further details on each theme are contained in the document attached

### **3.0 Alternative options considered and reason for the recommended option:**

3.1 The alternative option would be to not enter into a Partnership Agreement with the Arts Council of England. This would mean that the Borough would not benefit from the resources that flow down from the agreement.

### **4.0 Conclusion**

4.1 Arts Council England recognises the important role that local authorities play in the provision of arts activity across the country. It is therefore seeking to support and develop this role by formalising partnership agreements and providing funding to help deliver them.

### **5.0 Recommendation**

5.1 Members are invited to endorse the agreement.

# Partnership Activities

The Tri-partite Partnership Agreement between  
Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust, Wigan Council and Arts Council, North West

**2008 – 2011**

**Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust  
in partnership with Wigan Council**



W I G A N  
LEISURE & CULTURE  
T R U S T



## **STRANDS**

### **1. COMMUNITY COHESION**

**Community cohesion, a focus on Leigh communities.**

### **2. DANCE AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**

**From strength to strength**

### **3. DIVERSITY**

**How we explore and celebrate Diversity in the borough.**

# Strand One - Community Cohesion

## A Focus on Leigh and Its BME residents.

Leigh is emerging as a key area within the Borough where newcomers such as Asylum Seeker and Refugees, and European Migrant Workers are settling. There are some exciting challenges in using the arts to explore ways of communicating, collaborating and integrating Leigh communities, both its settled residents and new residents. Challenges towards integrated communities are not only linked to ethnicity and faith, but also exist between generations and income groups.

## Strategic Outcomes and Outputs

- Positive and cohesive communication developed amongst Practitioners and participants through the arts.
- an accessible and diverse programme of vibrant and stimulating audience development activity in areas of deprivation, using the key hubs of Leigh Civic Square and the Turnpike Centre as both showcase and catalyst opportunities.

## Strategic links

### New Local Area Agreement:

Contributions to the following areas:

The Arts and Festivals Section contributes to all 4 blocks of the LAA:

- Healthier Communities and Older People
- Economy, Culture, Environment, Housing
- Children and Young People
- Safer and Stronger Communities

The particular priorities within the block that this strand contributes to are:

- improving the range of things to do and accessibility of positive activities for all children and young people
- increase participation in community and cultural activity to improve the well being of individuals and community cohesion
- increase people's and community's perception of control over their own lives and where they live

## The Arts Factor – Arts Strategy for Wigan Borough 2006-2012

Special themes and strands:

Themes around Participation and Opportunities

Realising the **Turnpike Centre's Vision** by encouraging local use, developing innovative exhibitions and educational programmes and delivering outreach provision.

Planning and delivering arts based community engagement and providing opportunities to install/exhibit art works and showcase performances at the **Turnpike Centre, Leigh Community Centres and Leigh Sports Village.**

## Wigan Borough's Community Plan

Goal 8 – To increase participation in cultural and community based activities.

## Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust

Implementing the vision of Getting Wigan Active

## **Funding streams**

### **2008/9**

5K Local Strategic Arts Fund (LSAF)  
5K Turnpike exhibition budget (core stream)  
20K GFA – Leigh Communities Project -**NeighbourLeigh**  
2K Community engagement budget (core stream)

### **2009/10**

5K LSAF  
10K Arts and Festivals (Core Stream for festivals links in Leigh)  
10K Turnpike exhibition budget (core stream)  
5K Community engagement budget (core stream)

## **Milestones for 2008/9 (To include the NeighbourLeigh Project)**

### **1. Establishing a steering group.**

To establish a steering group made up of key advocates and activists working within Leigh Communities.

#### ***Time frame and targets:***

***Steering group identified by February 2009***

### **2. Audit of existing communities**

Who are the new communities in Leigh? Where do they meet? What are their needs?

Explore established links with diverse communities, and create an action document for using the arts as engagement tools

#### ***Time frame and targets:***

***Audit completed by April 2009 and lead on from milestone 1.***

***Needs and aspirations draft to establish a baseline position completed by March 2009.***

***1 action document written by March 2009***

### **3. Exploring potential arts projects**

What arts activities would be appropriate for the communities we will be working with? Traditional arts and crafts, activities that have broad appeal and can create opportunities for integration between communities.

***Time frame and targets: Lead on from milestone 1 and 2***

### **4. Identify a pool of local artists**

Search for artists established in Greater Manchester who have experience of working with BME communities, Asylum Seekers and Refugees, projects that involve integration. Identify artists that use traditional art and craft techniques.

***Time frame and targets: Fed into milestones 1, 2 and 3.***

***At least 3 artists identified.***

### **5. Produce a programme of pilot projects**

Once groups have been identified to work with and arts activities have been explored, a programme of pilot arts activity will be planned and delivered.

***Time frame and targets: Pilot programmes planned by end of April 2009.***

## **6. Showcases**

To deliver a number of showcases, performances, exhibitions, talks and workshops, pertinent to the discreet projects with BME residents and long established Leigh Residents .

***Time frame and targets: A number of showcases opportunities during festival programme and in particular, Hot On The Square/Leigh Multicultural festival from 2009***

The year of activity involving a wide range of communities in Leigh will have started to built confidence, skills and new social networks. However there are still challenges to be faced in terms of sustaining good practice in cohesion based work and further capacity building and awareness raising will need to be maintained.

Members of the steering group will have built their capacity to deliver art projects, which could be used to develop further art projects in their own right. The Arts Development Officer (Community Engagement) who will coordinate and manage the steering group will have gained knowledge of different sectors, such as education, health, voluntary, and built up relationships for further potential work.

The extension of the work of NeighbourLeigh needs further consideration involving fund raising and voluntary and community lead support.

## **Strand Two - Dance and Physical Activity**

### **From Strength to Strength**

#### **Strategic Outcome**

This project will build on the development and legacy of the GFA funded Fit 2 Dance project, which heralded the establishment of new projects and dance groups throughout the borough. 4 groups born of this work now receive sustained funding through the core budget.

There was also a need which could not be wholesomely met, identifying groups of young mums accessing Trust and Sure Start programmes who expressed a collective request for dance and physical activity sessions.

During the next three years (as reviewed in 2011) the Arts and Festival's section has secured recurring funding from the PCT to develop dance and physical activity based work especially focusing on 16 – 60 year old women. This is called the Heal and Toe project and is part of a wider commission called Your Choice Programme. The project will provide further access to dance opportunities and will include a programme of workshops, residencies and training schemes. Playing a significant part in the wider social agenda contributing to health, well being and social inclusion.

An aspirational outcome is to move the arts nearer to the strategic corporate centre. Dance as part of the physical activity agenda as well as a respected art form in its

own right is becoming integral to an important corporate agenda, the health of the borough's communities.

## **Strategic links**

### **Local Area Agreement**

Contributions to the following areas:

The Arts and Festivals Section contributes to all 4 blocks of the LAA:

- Healthier Communities and Older People
- Economy, Culture, Environment, Housing
- Children and Young People
- Safer and Stronger Communities

The particular priorities within the blocks that this strand contributes to are:

- increase participation in community and cultural activity to improve the well being of individuals and community cohesion
- increase people's and community's perception of control over their own lives and where they live

One of the central themes of Wigan's previous Local Area Agreement has been to increase participation in sport and physical activity. The provision of dance is a key component to achieving Wigan's goals.

### **Your Choice Programme**

The proposal is to provide an integrated programme of targeted health and physical activity opportunities for people aged 16 - 60 years across different settings, taking account of barriers to participation and providing services that are popular and appropriate to different target groups within the wider population. There will be a key focus on interventions targeting women aged 16 – 55 years and men aged 45 – 60 – this reflects current physical activity levels as measured in the Active People's Survey (Sport England, 2007). The proposed programmes will also take account of health inequalities that exist within the target population

### **The Arts Factor – Arts Strategy for Wigan Borough 2006-2012**

#### ***Strategic Themes:***

##### **Arts and Artists**

embracing the development and diversity of artforms in the Borough and supporting the artists who practice and deliver.

##### **Opportunities**

widening access to the arts and celebrating the 7 elements of diversity: class, gender, race, sexual orientation, age, religion and disability.

##### **Participation**

encouraging the residents of Wigan Borough to become physically and creatively active.

##### **Partnership**

achieving quality, through working in partnership and maximising a consolidated approach to delivering the arts in the Borough.

##### **Special strand: Arts and Health**

to support, deliver and highlight specific arts and health projects within the borough.

### **Wigan Borough's Community Plan**

Goal 2 – To ensure similar chances of staying healthy

Goal 8 – To increase participation in cultural and community based activities.

## **Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust**

Implementing the vision of Getting Wigan Active

### **Funding streams 2008/9**

LSAF - £5 for 2008/9

AWLPCT - £45K

WLCT – core budget £5

Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) £2K (Konnect 2 Dance)

### **Funding streams 2009/10**

LSAF - £5 for 2008/9

AWLPCT - £45K

WLCT – core budget £5

Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) £2K (Konnect 2 Dance)

### **Milestones 2008/9/10**

1. Provide a forward strategy for the Fit 2 Dance project which finishes August 2008.
2. Establish the role of Dance Co-ordinator for an initial three year project contract for Heal and Toe.

***Time frame and Targets: In post by July 2008***

3. An evidence baseline in terms of the impact of dance and its health related benefits

***Time frame and Targets: Ongoing as part of the Your Choice Programme.***

4. Increased opportunities for dance in the Borough, especially aimed at young Mums and workplaces.

***Time frame and Targets: identify 6 groups: 2 Leigh; 2 Scholes (suggestions only)***

**1 mother and tots      1 workplace or other**

5. marketing will be produced centrally and distributed in targeted areas. There will also be a number of showcase opportunities for wider public consumption of the project of which specific publicity will be generated.

***Time frame and Targets: 1 showcase event by February 2009***

- 6.. Increased consolidation of the Dance Network

7. participants will be provided with information regarding the Your Choice programme and other activity links.

***Time frame and Targets: regular Your Choice steering group meetings.***

8. artists (dance workers and other artists) will receive awareness raising sessions. Other appropriate training given as and when required.

***Time frame and targets: To be confirmed***

9. produce toolkit for the project so that it can be replicated.

***Time frame and targets: By March 2009***

10. establish evaluation methods, both quantitative and qualitative and set agreed targets and measures for performance monitoring.

***Time frame and targets: Interim reports when required***

11. contract external evaluator

***Time frame and targets: External report on Dance in the Borough by March 2010***

12. A sustained partnership approach to using dance to maintain fitness and create sustainable social engagement with communities

***Time frame and Targets:***

13. A raised awareness of dance opportunities within the Borough

***Time frame and Targets: Centrally marketing information and dissemination as required***

14. Dance assisting the arts in terms of moving nearer to the corporate strategic core.

***Time frame and Targets: Dependant on external report findings***

## **Strand Three - Diversity**

### **Strategic Outcome**

To develop and expand opportunities across the borough of Wigan that celebrate the seven social elements of diversity and engage partners, audiences and participants in a diverse range of projects, showcases and public festivals.

And contribute to the initiative and spirit that is driven through the Cultural Olympiad.

### **Strategic links**

#### **Local Area Agreement**

##### **New Local Area Agreement:**

Contributions to the following areas:

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- increase people's and community's perception of control over their own lives and where they live

*Proposed enhanced area based offer*

Residents in priority neighbourhoods will have increased their participation in decision making.

This project develops and enhances work achieved under previous partnership agreements around community regeneration. This can be seen as the largest area of investment. The strategic pattern of the projects is to create opportunities for new discreet community based work, often issued based, to be brought into the public domain through exhibitions, events and festivals. Through raising awareness of creative achievement, it is hoped that barriers due to discrimination and lack of understanding will be reduced.

There is also a distinctive 'spirit' to this investment that complements the drive of the Cultural Olympiad. This strand of the agreement will work even more collaboratively with community, community activists and professionals to establish a secure a direct 'cultural festival' approach leading towards 2012. This to develop a pertinent and meaningful borough centred festival(s) that encourages the World to look in on Wigan. This process must be highly creative, dynamic and innovative. It must be about Wigan Borough People and their spirit.

Further areas of development as targeted in Strand One will focus on celebrating world cultures and traditions. Wigan Borough is in a prime location to develop this, as its BME is the lowest within Greater Manchester, and yet it champions the importance of celebrating cultural diversity.

According to the census of 2001, black and minority ethnic communities make up 1.3 per cent of the population. This has probably increased in recent years due to the Borough welcoming Refugees and Asylum Seekers. Within this project there will be an emphasis on celebrating cultural diversity.

However, the population of the Borough is diverse as a whole and this should be respected through strategic arts based delivery to help promote social and community cohesion as well as assist in regenerating communities.

The LAA agreement targets 4 particular elements, this project will target three of those elements:

Class – As in people living in deprived communities.

Age – Older people, children and young people

Disability – In its broadest sense

**The Arts Factor – An Arts Strategy for Wigan Borough 2006-12**

A particular strategic strand of the Arts Factor is around opportunities to participate in the arts. Making sure these are physically, functionally and socially accessible

**Opportunities**

- widening access to the arts and celebrating the 7 elements of diversity: class, gender, race, sexual orientation, age, religion and disability.

Objectives may include developments with local youth and community theatres, the carnival band, community festivals, intergenerational projects, promotion of music and in particular young Wigan Bands, projects with older people in partnership with Age Concern, projects in partnership with the Children's Fund, projects on deprived estates in the Borough, projects with Young Offenders, participatory projects between the voluntary and professional sectors, projects steered through the Disability Arts Network, projects supported by the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Network and Wigan and Leigh against Racism.

## **The Borough's Community Plan**

Goal 2 – High aspirations, education and skills

To develop the Disability Arts Network

Goal 8 – To increase participation in cultural and community based activities.

## **Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust**

Implementing the vision of Getting Wigan Active

## **Funding streams**

**For 2008/9/10/11**

LSAF £50K

Hopefully securing of commissioned monies through new LAA £100K

WLCT core budget £20K

AGMA sub regional £6K

**Other:**

Youth Arts Challenge Fund £5K

## **Milestones 2008/9/10/11**

1. Establish an ambassadors group to involve communities more closely in public festivals

***Time frame and targets: First group meeting to be held June 2008***

2. A number of new issues based projects with targeted groups in targeted areas.

***Time frame and targets: At least five new community based projects by March 2010***

3. An established and well attended calendar of public exhibitions, events and festivals.

***Time frame and targets: At least 3 major public arts based events, 10 indoor events and 10 exhibitions by September 2009***

4. Raised awareness of the impact of the arts in action helping to support and delivery the Local Area Agreement, the Trust's Vision and the Borough's Community Plan.

***Time frame and targets: Successful commissioning of community festivals and project funding through the LSP.***

5. Positive PR that puts Wigan on the map in terms of its arts based community cohesion and community regeneration work.

***Time frame and targets: A number of appropriate press releases that inform and publicise diversity themed achievements and public festivals. At least ten separate releases.***

6. Supporting the voluntary sector as key providers and advocates in participatory based work.

***Time frame and targets: Working with the voluntary sector through existing networks such as the Dance Network, Disability Arts Network, Arts Exchange, Over 50s Forum, (to name but a few).***

7. Supporting testimonies to evidence impact and benefit of the work

***Time frame and targets: Ongoing collection of qualitative evaluation.***