

Scrutiny Topic Registration Ref

Name of person proposing topic:	Date: 24/08/05
Hazel Kitchin	
Contact:	
Suggested title of topic:	
Art Gallery – review of temporary exhibitions policy	
What is the issue that scrutiny needs to address?	
Use of temporary exhibition space in relation to the local visual art organisations.	
What do you feel could be achieved by a scrutiny review?	
To assess whether this resource is meeting the needs of these groups, in line with the council's policy of supporting and promoting the cultural fabric of the town and to seek improvement id appropriate.	

Priority and urgency

Is the topic urgent?	
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If so, please consider which of the following might apply:

Is there a strict time constraint?	
Is there currently high media coverage?	
Is there high public pressure to respond?	X
Does it involve a high risk to the council?	
Any other reasons:	

Issues

Please consider whether the following might apply:

Is the topic important to the people of Cheltenham?	X
Does the topic involve a poorly performing service or high public dissatisfaction with a service?	X
Is it related to the Council's corporate objectives?	X
Is it directly related to an item on the council workplan?	
Has there been media interest in the topic?	
Can scrutiny help in the development of council policy?	X
Any other issues or details:	
<p>The present policy was instituted in 1988/89 (when De Ferriers opened) without any consultation with local groups. Initially the first floor space was also a temporary art exhibition gallery – soon rescheduled for furniture/memorabilia – why?</p> <p>Successive consultants commissioned by Cheltenham Borough Council from the Arts business in 1993 onwards have highlighted the shortage of exhibition space for visual art.</p>	

Officer Implications (for office use)

Please give your comments on this proposed topic, for example is there any other similar review planned or in progress, are there any potential resource constraints etc

The policy setting out the basis on which temporary exhibitions would be selected and programmed at the AG&M was approved by the Leisure Committee in November 1994. Contrary to Mrs. Kitchener's statement regarding consultation of the policy, the views of Cheltenham's arts fraternity, were sought at that time via the Borough Council members who were representatives on the Cheltenham Arts Council. The policy was subsequently revised and re-approved in 1998, with further minor revisions made in 2001 and 2003.

The policy clearly recognises the physical constraints at the AG&M along with the need to provide a well balanced programme of touring, in-house and local exhibitions throughout the year. Exhibition space remains a key issue on the site, with demand outweighing supply. The policy clearly stipulates that when finances allow, exhibition space will be expanded at the AG&M. This has yet to occur. However, following the recent sale of the Axiom, plans to increase the exhibition space at the AG&M should come to fruition. It is my recommendation that the current exhibitions policy is reviewed at that time and not before.

Links to Business Plan and Corporate Objectives or Risk Register

Priority 6

We will enhance the town's reputation as a national and international culture centre, promote a healthy and sustainable economy and provide opportunities to broaden and enrich sport, play and cultural experiences for all

Completed by Sonia Phillips Assistant Director (Health, Wellbeing and Economy)

Date 1st September 2005