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**Matthews B (Barry)**

**From:** Liz Gardiner [liz@fablevision.org]  
**Sent:** 29 March 2007 17:24  
**To:** Saunders AM (Angela); Chalmers G (Greig); Sue.Selwyn@scotland.gsi.gov.uk  
**Subject:** national cultural planning steering group

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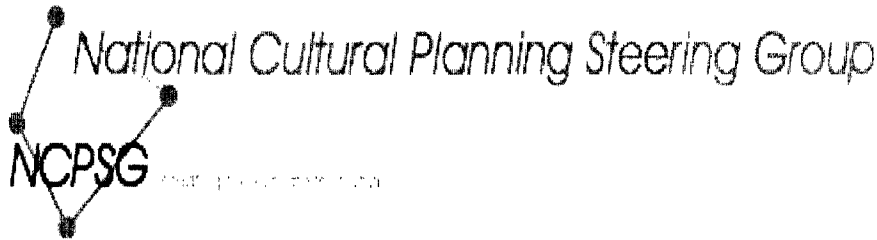
please find attached a response to the draft culture bill from the national cultural planning steering group  
 do you require a hard copy too?  
 cheers  
 liz

*Liz Gardiner  
 Chief Executive  
 Fablevision  
 Level 3  
 7 Water Row  
 Glasgow  
 G51 3UW  
 Tel: 0141 425 2020  
 Direct Line: 0141 425 4811  
 Email: [liz@fablevision.org](mailto:liz@fablevision.org)  
 Web: [www.fablevision.org](http://www.fablevision.org)*



*Fablevision is the leading artist-led Cultural Planning company in Scotland offering cultural planning processes and projects to people, communities, agencies and organisations.*

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c/o Fablevision, 7 Water Row, Govan, Glasgow G51 3UW

27<sup>th</sup> March 2007

## **National Cultural Planning Steering Group: response to Draft Culture (Scotland) Bill**

The National Cultural Planning Steering Group (NCPSPG) is pleased to be given the opportunity to provide a response to the Scottish Executive upon the consultation draft of the Culture (Scotland) Bill.

Hereafter, NCPSPG provides concise responses to each of the four key consultation questions.

NCPSPG is happy to expand and clarify these points with the Scottish Executive.

### **Introduction**

Overall, NCPSPG broadly welcomes the principles set out in the draft Culture Bill and provides some suggestions for taking it forward.

The NCPSPG particularly welcomes the focus given to cultural planning approaches in the draft guidance and notes that there is the potential for Scotland to fully meet the rights to participate in the cultural life of the community as enshrined in the UN Declaration of Human Rights.

There is, however, a need for a definition of 'cultural activities'. On one hand the document defines cultural activities as 'arts activities' e.g. National Theatre. On the other, it mentions Highland culture which is defining culture from an anthropological perspective; culture as a way of life. The latter contains the former and it would be helpful if the Bill clarified this. Many communities will not engage with the 'arts' but are vibrant and culturally active. Cultural activity is also used to address challenges to communities e.g. loss of work, anti-drugs work and also citizenship.

### **1. Do you think that developing local cultural entitlements will help to increase participation in cultural activities?**

- Yes, but only if linked to appropriate local planning arrangements and partnerships using cultural planning approaches.
- Consultation work carried out by SAC and good practice examples from Communities Scotland and HMIE suggests that where community planning partners work together, they can use their networks to widen participation in

and to cultural activities. Participation is increased from a range of groups, including under-represented and disadvantaged groups. Cultural activity is also used to engage with difficult to reach groups who often present challenges to communities e.g. anti-sectarian work, anti-drugs work and asylum seekers.

- Partnership work at a more local level with schools, libraries, museums, galleries, community organisations and local groups also supports work to widen and develop aspirations through exposure to cultural activities. The Parallel Lives project developed by the Capital City Partnership or the Royston Road project are good examples of local approaches utilising cultural planning approaches.

**2. If you believe further or alternative measures are necessary, what are they?**

- There is no mention of the 13 cultural pathfinders as a means to review, learn and evaluate the implementation of cultural entitlements and cultural planning
- A self-evaluation framework linked to other national frameworks
- A training programme of Continuous Professional Development for staff from local authorities, cultural agencies and the voluntary and community sector should be included. NCPSG is presently delivering a series of Cultural Planning masterclasses as a pilot for such a training programme and we would be happy to share the evaluation of this ESF funded project with the Scottish Executive.

**3. How do you think the Scottish Executive and local authorities can best utilise the influence and impact of cultural activity?**

- Cultural activity needs to be placed firmly within a framework of community and national cultural development. This should link to both Scottish and local distinctiveness – the added value that Scottish culture brings to the world. There is a need to market and promote leading practice from Scotland.
- NCPSG members find that cultural activity has significant impacts in terms of education, community regeneration and community capacity building. Cultural planning, when supported by policies from the top down can address all the challenges identified within communities from worklessness to anti social behaviour and alienation. In particular, cultural planning supports the development of cultural social enterprise, creative industries development and the moving from grant dependency to self sufficiency for the community based cultural sector. As such, cultural activity as part of community cultural development should be placed within the same outcome focused approach as embedded in Regeneration Outcome Agreements.
- N.C.P.S.G. members applaud the cultural co-ordinators and creative links officers initiative. There needs to be long term investment in these posts, however to deliver long term benefit locally.

**4. Do you think the initial draft guidance under this Part of the Culture Bill is clear and helpful? Is there anything else it should contain?**

- The draft guidance document speaks of the importance of cultural planning as an approach. This is not presently reflected in the Bill which emphasises cultural entitlements but not cultural planning as an approach to facilitate and develop cultural entitlement. As a result, the Bill is not in line with other key documents such as the SE response to the Cultural Commission and People and Place, the Regeneration Policy Statement. Both these documents stress the importance of a cultural planning approach within a wider community planning framework. Five out of the thirteen SE funded Cultural Pathfinders are using cultural planning approaches. There is considerable potential for confusion between the approaches outlined in these three documents. Furthermore, the draft guidance does not define what is meant by cultural planning and also does not align Scottish policy in this aspect with wider and successful European and US developments in cultural planning approaches. There needs, therefore to be “joined up” inspection/evaluation of results from cultural planning approaches at a national level across all departments of the executive.
- A power to advance ‘cultural well-being’ would support the work of many progressive local authorities who have seen the diverse cultural activity of their communities as a significant resource e.g. Highlands and Islands (Year of Highland Culture, Outdoor Capital UK), central belt councils with minority ethnic groups (Edinburgh Mela is a good example) or former industrial communities (Fife with their mining/fishing villages).

In conclusion, the National Cultural Planning Steering Group welcomes the emphasis on cultural planning as a key methodology for transformation and regeneration in Scotland. Our research (Culture at the Centre) carried out by us on behalf of the Executive in 2006 indicated that there is, however, limited capacity to implement cultural planning and that training is required for employees and policy makers in all sectors if headway towards implementation is to be made.

We look forward to working with you over the coming years to ensure that Scotland’s workforces are equipped through training and are sufficiently qualified to deliver on your (and our) aspirations.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Liz Gardiner  
(Convener)



**fablevision** Level 3 · 7 Water Row Glasgow G51 3UW  
Tel: +44 (0)141 425 2020 Fax: +44 (0)141 425 2020  
E: [info@fablevision.org](mailto:info@fablevision.org) W: [www.fablevision.org](http://www.fablevision.org)

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