

Consultation Questions

*Local Cultural entitlements*

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

Yes

Developing local cultural entitlements and publishing them will go a long way to increasing participation in cultural activities.

<p>Additional Comments:</p>	<p>By planning how these are delivered, it will be possible to target those sections of our community which at present are either unable or unwilling to become involved. The Guidance Document is helpful in this regard, and as this is developed together with published good exemplars from the Pathfinder projects, local authorities will constantly improve the participation in cultural activities by their residents. These developments on their own, however, will only assist with the improvement in public participation if much-needed additional resources are made available. The past decade has seen significant sums cut from Cultural Services budgets. These budgets are clearly unable to contain much in the way of new developments while they struggle to sustain the statutory services they currently manage. We do not see any advantage in changing section 21 of the 1887 Public Libraries Consolidation (Scotland) Act which removes the duty of Local Authorities to manage libraries and museums. In our opinion this will further erode the provision of adequate services and will diminish the present cultural entitlements which have served our communities well.</p>
<p>2. If you believe further or alternative measures are necessary, what are they?</p>	<p>The much needed resources mentioned in the last answer are obviously the key to answering this question. The Cultural Co-ordinators scheme has largely failed to deliver much in this area and a rethink in terms of the impact on increasing participation is required. While Education Departments and schools are of importance, it is vital that Cultural Planning and cultural entitlements are embedded in the Community Planning which all local authorities must deliver. Local authorities should be encouraged to become involved in Cultural Development as part of their Community Planning responsibilities, and perhaps a scheme which redesigns the Cultural Co-ordinators could bear fruit. The development of national standards throughout the cultural industry is also crucial in this area. The Scottish Libraries and Information Council (SLIC) and the National Library of Scotland (NLS) we expect to work with local authorities to develop standards in Scotland's public libraries. We also expect the Scottish Museums Council (SMC), the National Museums of Scotland (NMS) and the National Galleries of Scotland (NGS) to work with Local Authorities</p>

	<p>to develop standards for Scottish public museums. Likewise the Scottish Archives Council (SAC) and the National Archives of Scotland (NAS) should also work with Local Authorities to develop standards for Scotland's public Archives. The formation of Creative Scotland should also see this body working with local authorities to develop standards for the arts</p>
<p>3. How do you think the Scottish Executive and local authorities can best utilise the influence and impact of cultural activity?</p>	<p>The much needed resources mentioned in the last answer are obviously the key to answering this question. The Cultural Co-ordinators scheme has largely failed to deliver much in this area and a rethink in terms of the impact on increasing participation is required. While Education Departments and schools are of importance, it is vital that Cultural Planning and cultural entitlements are embedded in the Community Planning which all local authorities must deliver. Local authorities should be encouraged to become involved in Cultural Development as part of their Community Planning responsibilities, and perhaps a scheme which redesigns the Cultural Co-ordinators could bear fruit. The development of national standards throughout the cultural industry is also crucial in this area. The Scottish Libraries and Information Council (SLIC) and the National Library of Scotland (NLS) we expect to work with local authorities to develop standards in Scotland's public libraries. We also expect the Scottish Museums Council (SMC), the National Museums of Scotland (NMS) and the National Galleries of Scotland (NGS) to work with Local Authorities to develop standards for Scottish public museums. Likewise the Scottish Archives Council (SAC) and the National Archives of Scotland (NAS) should also work with Local Authorities to develop standards for Scotland's public Archives. The formation of Creative Scotland should also see this body working with local authorities to develop standards for the arts</p>
<p>4. Do you think the initial draft guidance under Part 1 of the Culture Bill is clear and helpful? Is there anything else it should contain?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
	<p>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? A.The Cultural Bill guidance is to be</p>

Is there anything else it should contain?	welcomed and in the main, clear and helpful. While reference as been made to the development of national standards, it may be useful for the guidance to include reference to:- a) The Museums Accreditation Scheme which sets minimum museum standards and b) The informal advice given by the National Archives of Scotland to local Authorities entitled "Guidance on "Proper Arrangements"™ for Record-Keeping by Scottish Local Authorities" published in August 2006. This is extremely helpful guidance from NAS in terms of interpreting the statutory duty upon local Authorities to make "proper arrangements"™ for archives and goes a long way to creating a set of adequate standards for an archive.
<b><i>Creative Scotland</i></b>	
5. Do you agree that there should be a single national cultural development body?	No
Additional Comments:	We do not believe that there should be one single national cultural development body. At present SLIC, SMC, SACI and the soon to be created Creative Scotland fulfill this role in their sectors while the NAS, NGS, NLS and NMS are all responsible for development in their areas of operation. What certainly is required is for all these bodies to work more closely together towards a unified approach in developing Scotland's™ culture, not forgetting COSLA and the thirty-two local authorities.
6. Do you agree with the remit proposed for Creative Scotland?	Yes
Additional Comments:	We are in agreement with the remit, powers and functions proposed for Creative Scotland.
Has it the right powers and functions?	Yes
Additional Comments:	
7. Do you agree that Creative Scotland should work in concert with the Scottish Executive to implement national cultural policy?	Yes
	We agree that Creative Scotland should work in concert with the Scottish Executive to implement cultural policy. We also believe that

Additional Comments:	Creative Scotland should work in concert with COLSA and the thirty-two local authorities and in this regard and improve upon the poor performance of its predecessors, the Scottish Arts Council in this area.
<b>National Collections</b>	
8. Do you agree that the National Collections should remain as constitutionally separate centres of excellence?	Yes
Additional Comments:	We agree that the National Collections should remain as constitutionally separate centres of excellence for the time being. The concept of the National Collections is a good one, however, and we would also like to see the National Collections bodies work more closely together. There is much scope for the sharing of support services which should ensure that cost savings can be better targeted towards the collections themselves. We would also like to see a much greater emphasis placed upon public access to these National Collections with greater access being made available electronically and more opportunities being made available to enable physical access as well. Schemes which assist citizens who live far from Edinburgh to visit NMS should be piloted.
9. Do you think the powers and functions proposed for the Collections in the draft Bill are right?	Yes
If not, how would you improve them?	
10. What do you think of the name 'National Record of Scotland'?	The National Record of Scotland is a big improvement upon the National Monuments Record which was not truly descriptive, and is also a more user-friendly than the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical records of Scotland
11. Do you agree that the Faculty of Advocates should be able to contribute to the board of the National Library by having at least one representative?	Yes
Additional Comments:	
12. Do you agree that the Collections have the appropriate powers to obtain, loan and dispose	Yes

of objects for or from their collections?	
If not, what would you change?	

***Dealing with tainted cultural objects***

13. Do you agree that an offence similar to that in the 2003 Act should be introduced in Scotland?	Yes
Additional Comments:	

***Powers of local authorities to broadcast information***

14. Do you agree local authorities should have a general power to broadcast information about their activities?	Yes
Additional Comments:	We agree that local authorities should have a general power to broadcast information about their activities. However, local authorities should work closely with local radio stations in their areas, perhaps in partnership to better inform citizens.
15. Do you think it is necessary to give authorities this power in this Bill, or should local authorities be left to rely on 'the power to advance well-being' in section 20 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003?	We believe that it may be best to give local authorities this power in this or some future bill. This is not just about cultural activity, and may be better suited to a more general power.

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