

INDEX

1. Introduction
 - What is culture?
 - Why have a cultural strategy?
2. Context
 - National
 - Regional
 - Local
3. Havant's Cultural Heritage
 - Current profile
 - Strengths, challenges and opportunities
4. The Vision
5. Consultation
6. Delivery
7. Monitoring and Review
8. Action Plan

Cultural Strategy 2005 - 2008

1. Introduction

This strategy has been developed to provide a framework for delivering the vision for culture in Havant Borough. It sets out a definition of culture and identifies the current cultural offer in Havant. It identifies the vision for culture and provides an action plan for delivering the vision.

What is Culture?

The Department of Culture, Media and Sports (DCMS) defines culture as incorporating:

"Arts, sport, libraries, museums, heritage, archaeology, archives, architecture, crafts, children's play, parks, tourism and countryside recreation".

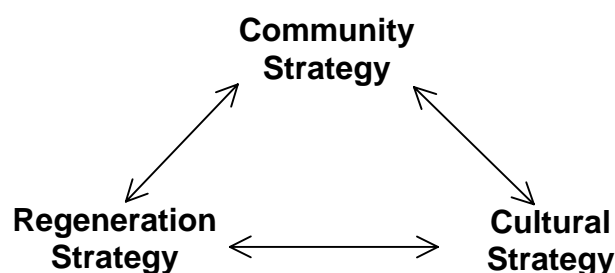
However, culture is far more than that. It moves beyond our activities and includes caring for the environment, how we entertain ourselves, where we choose to spend time and money. Culture can also help deliver broader themes such as life-long learning; healthier and more vibrant communities; inward investment opportunities; and participation by harder-to-reach groups. Culture also adds to relationships, experiences and identity, religious and historic backgrounds, standards and to what we consider valuable to pass on to future generations. Essentially it is about maximising our quality of life.

Why have a Cultural Strategy?

Havant Community Partnership has developed a Community Strategy for Havant. It encapsulates the priorities for the Borough under three key themes:

- The Economy
- Social Inclusion
- The Environment

Supporting this Community Strategy and providing a delivery mechanism for its priorities are the Regeneration and Cultural Strategies. Although these three strategies exist as separate documents, they are dependent on each other for delivery of their objectives. This relationship is best demonstrated in the diagram below:



This Cultural Strategy focuses on the needs and aspirations of the community, identifying the value of cultural activities and the means to address these equitably.

Strategically, it will provide the rationale for supporting cultural services, prioritising work and drawing down funding from other agencies.

Vision

The vision for Havant Borough Council's Cultural Strategy is to improve residents' quality of life, and increase recognition of and pride in the Borough, through the provision of cultural facilities and opportunities.

2. Context

National

The Government has acknowledged the value of cultural activity by encouraging local authorities to develop cultural strategies for their area. Havant Borough Council has taken this opportunity to work with local partner agencies, including the voluntary and community sectors, to produce a document, which provides a framework for developing and enabling cultural services.

Regional

This strategy has also been developed in the context of regional cultural development. Cultural priorities in the south east have been established by the South East England Cultural Consortium publication "The Cultural Agenda", which creates a common vision and forges links across a wide range of cultural and creative interests. The common issues emerging from this are: Accessibility, Preservation & Sustainability, Facilities, Participation (and Inclusion) and Health.

The Regional Economic Strategy, produced by the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA), sets out five policy themes against which regional outcome targets have been set. The most relevant to the cultural strategy is that of vibrant communities. SEEDA's 2005 – 2008 Corporate Plan also highlights culture as a crosscutting theme that contributes to all aspects of the region's challenges and opportunities.

Hampshire County Council has produced a cultural strategy, which sets an overall context for cultural activity across the county.

These key issues have informed the development of the cultural strategy.

Local

In Havant, the local authority has a long history of providing opportunities to participate in cultural activities through direct delivery, enablement and information provision. The Council also plays an active part in the development of arts, sports and community development and helps protect the natural and built environment.

The Council is able to provide a co-ordinated approach to cultural provision in partnership with the private and voluntary sectors. Through this partnership, the Council has a key role in assisting in fulfilling the needs of the area.

In Havant we want to make sure that anyone who wants to can participate in cultural activity. We want to be known for our cultural excellence, be that in sports, arts, heritage or visitor attractions, and to make Havant a place where people want to live, visit and work.

We aim to make the Havant Borough a place with a good quality of life, a wide range of activities to participate in locally and access to opportunities further afield.

3. Havant's Cultural Heritage

Current Profile

Geography

Havant Borough encompasses the five main settlements of Havant, Waterlooville, Emsworth, Hayling Island and Leigh Park. In 1815 it is said that Wellington's soldiers stopped for refreshment on their return journey from Waterloo, and thus the village became known as Waterlooville

The Borough's position outside of Portsmouth, and as a direct through route to London and many south coast towns and cities, has helped shape its history and will shape its future. It is dissected by the A3 (M) to the west of Havant and the A27 to the south, both of which are major trunk roads.

Historic Environment

The Borough has 13 conservation areas, 278 buildings of special architectural or historic interest (listed buildings) and some 82 buildings that have been identified as being of local interest. Amongst those are the Old House at Home which, following a fire in 1760, is the only remaining half-timbered building with projecting upper storey and Warblington Castle, a fortified manor house built between 1513 and 1526. Alongside the remains of Warblington Castle is the Ancient Monument known as Black Barn, an L-shaped aisled barn of late eighteenth century construction. Within Havant town there is a 19th century gazebo, standing within a walled garden. St Faith's Church was built around 1150. The chancel is a good example of the Early English work of the 13th century. The tattered flag of a group of volunteers, who banded together to resist Napoleon when his invasion seemed imminent, still hangs in the church. The Church of St Thomas the Apostle dates from three main periods – the 12th, 14th and 19th centuries. The Church of St Thomas a Becket is very old, containing two Saxon archways in which traces of Roman brick can be seen, while the massive wooden porch dates from the 14th century. The nave is 13th century and the chancel floor is laid with medieval tiles of various dates. In North Hayling, St Peter's Church, built in 1140, is a fine example of a typical English village church of the Norman period. Its foundations are said to be large 'erratic' stones left as the ice receded in the post-glacial period.

Economic developments in each area of the Borough are diverse with traditions of oyster farming, boat building and fishing in Emsworth continuing today. Havant's early industries were agricultural; however with the supply of water from the Homewell spring in Havant, the town developed many industries such as parchment

making, tanning and leather glove making. The glove making industry was significant for Havant, employing up to 100 people, at one point making riding gloves for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Havant parchment was used for many official documents, including, it is said, the Magna Carta and, more recently, The Treaty of Versailles, signed by European countries to formally end World War I (The Great War) in 1919.

The Arts and Creative Industries

The Borough has been home to two renowned authors: P G Woodhouse who lived in Emsworth, and Neville Shute who lived on Hayling Island.

Havant Symphony Orchestra and Havant Chamber Orchestra were formed in the 1960's. Both are made up of a mix of professional and gifted amateur players.

The Borough has two performance venues: the Hayling Island Station Theatre and Havant Arts Centre. Hayling Island Station Theatre is the home of Hayling Island Amateur Dramatic Society (HIADS) which was formed in 1947. Havant Arts Centre is a thriving venue, supported by Hampshire County Council and the Borough Council, with high profile events from all over the world. The centre offers a broad range of theatre, music, film, exhibitions and workshops for the local community. It is particularly successful as a platform for local people to exhibit their own work.

As well as specific venues for exhibitions and events, the Borough has a successful "arts trail." The Emsworth Arts Trail attracts over 500 people each year who view the work of around 25 local artists at the artists' homes, studios or work places.

The Council supported the development of the Leigh Park Crafts Initiative, known as "Making Space." This initiative has been established by the County Council in partnership with Arts Council England South East and Havant Borough Council. The project involves erecting a new building and will enable craftspeople and designers to train and recruit local people to make the products that they design - from textiles and ceramics, to woodwork and jewellery. The initiative is one of the major elements of a wider scheme which aims to establish a world-class facility for contemporary crafts and a Crafts Development Agency (CDA) for the south east region.

The borough has a community-based radio station, "Angel Radio," catering for the mature listener. Volunteers assist with the production of programmes, using the record library and presenting programmes on air. "Angel Radio" has been granted one of the country's first official Community Radio Licences.

A pioneering community media unit has been established in a joint project run by the BBC and Park Community School to film and record life in the Leigh Park area. Two BBC South producers have been seconded to work in the school, helping staff, pupils and members of the community make the most of their extraordinary facility.

Sport and recreation

Havant Borough has two Leisure Centres run by Horizon Leisure Trust. Complementing that, there are tennis courts and football, rugby, cricket and hockey sports pitches. There are also over 40 open access outdoor facilities. The Borough has over 100 sports clubs, all of which have an active membership. Havant has an excellent reputation, both regionally and nationally, in hockey, cricket and rugby. There is a long-standing bowls tradition, with 10 bowls clubs in existence. Cowplain Youth Football Club is the first sports club in the Borough to achieve national governing body chartered status. Hayling Island Sailing Club is the venue for a number of international sailing events and brings considerable tourist revenue into the Borough.

The Council provides and enables a wide range of sports services, programmes and events. A number of Community Sports Coaches develop skills and facilitate young people into sports clubs. A number of national initiatives are operated in the borough, and in two areas of deprivation Sports Development Officers provide sports activities specifically for local residents.

Included in the borough sports programme are two key initiatives. "Street Sport" encourages young people to engage in sport during the holidays by offering activities locally and free of charge. "SportsFest" a multi-event programme, provides a showcase for local clubs to attract young people aged 8 to 14. Those sports include sports-acro gymnastics, kite surfing, cheerleading, football and trampolining amongst many others.

There are a number of outdoor walks, which draw people to enjoy the natural parts of the borough:

The Hayling Billy Trail is a footpath and cycle path, which runs from Havant town centre southwards through Langstone and onto Hayling Island, where it becomes the Hayling Billy Coastal Path. The route of the Trail mostly follows the old 'Hayling Billy' Railway, which closed in 1963.

The Wayfarers Walk extends 70 miles between the coast near Portsmouth and Inkpen Beacon in Berkshire. It connects with other long distance paths in the borough; the Sussex Border Path at Emsworth and the Solent Way at Bedhampton. The Solent Way is a 60-mile coastal walking route starting at Milford-on-Sea and finishing at Emsworth Harbour.

Libraries and archives

Hampshire Record Office, based in Winchester, collects and preserves archives relating to the Havant Borough and its people.

Libraries are provided by Hampshire County Council and provide, not only book loans, but also CD and video loans, internet access and local information. There are local libraries in Emsworth, Havant, Hayling Island, Leigh Park and Waterlooville. There are also mobile libraries operating in the Borough so that areas distant from the main library can still benefit from the service.

Museums and galleries

The Borough has two museums. The Emsworth Museum is administered by the Emsworth Maritime and Historical Trust. It concentrates on the general and maritime history of Emsworth, specialising in the history of Emsworth as a centre for oyster fishing. Havant Museum is jointly funded by the Council and Hampshire County Council and is managed by the County Council. It features extensive exhibitions detailing local history, has a programme of special events, as well as housing the renowned Vokes Collection of Sporting Guns.

Countryside and landscape

The Borough is a major destination for those who enjoy the wonders of the natural environment. It has 500 hectares of open space, and a coastline that extends to 48 kilometres, mainly because of Langstone and Chichester Harbours. Chichester Harbour has been designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Both harbours are internationally renowned for their wildlife interest and are designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

The northern border of the Borough abuts the South Downs Way. There are also areas of historic woodland and several nature reserves in the area:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Park Wood | 8. The Kench |
| 2. Hollybank Woods | 9. Gunter Point |
| 3. Johnston's Coppice | 10. Sandy Point |
| 4. Brook Meadow | 11. Gundymoor Wood |
| 5. Nore Barn Woods | 12. Queen's Inclosure |
| 6. The "Langstone Oyster Beds" | 13. Beachlands SSSI |
| 7. Broadmarsh | |

Hayling Island is the premiere location for clean beaches. It currently holds two European Blue Flag and Tidy Britain Seaside Awards in recognition of their cleanliness and superb facilities. The seaside shore is five miles long and divided into different areas. Beachlands, the name given to the seafront area of Hayling Island, and West Beachlands are where the European Blue Flag beaches are located. Hayling Island is the only place in Britain to qualify for two Blue Flags, out of twenty-two awarded throughout England.

Parks and gardens

Staunton Country Park, encompassing over 1,000 acres, is one of the few examples of a listed Regency landscape that remain in this country. A £1.7 million Heritage Lottery grant is currently funding the restoration of the farm area and tea rooms. The Country Park offers visitors an extensive activity programme. The parkland offers angling on the Ornamental Lake, unusual follies and ancient woodland. Sir George Staunton Country Park is owned by Hampshire County Council and jointly funded and managed by a number of organisations

There are eleven parks spread across the entire Borough.

Places of worship

The Borough has predominantly Christian places of worship, however other faiths are represented. There are other religious institutions in neighbouring authorities.

Schools, colleges and universities

There are 37 primary, 8 secondary and 6 special schools within the borough educating over 16,000 pupils. Of the 8 secondary schools, 6 have applied for, and achieved, special school status. Riverside School was one of the 7 special schools to be awarded Beacon status in 1998. For those wishing to go on to further education there are 2 colleges, South Downs and Havant. Highbury College, based in Portsmouth, provides the Apex Centre in Leigh Park; the majority of its courses are for students under the age of 16; it also provides prison education programmes and adult community learning programmes.

There is one independent school in the Borough, Glenhurst School, which caters for junior school-aged children. There are a number of independent senior schools within easy access just outside the Borough's boundaries.

The Borough Council and the County Council work together to ensure that social inclusion, crime and disorder, citizenship, early education and childcare and community education programmes are delivered.

Festivals and events

Emsworth holds an annual Food Festival. Now in its fourth year, the Emsworth Food Festival annually attracts over 45,000 people and offers visitors a wide culinary experience.

The borough has seen the re-establishment of a number of carnivals held within several communities. Wecock Farm and Hayling Island Carnivals have recently been re-established. Leigh Park's Carnival was revived in 2003 after a gap of 28 years. These carnivals have become major events in the area, aiming to bring together a wide range of ages and different groups.

Kite surfing, also known as kiteboarding and flysurfing, is the most extreme water sport. It is a dynamic convergence of windsurfing, wakeboarding, surfing, paragliding and power kiting. It is becoming increasingly popular in England, and Hayling Island has become a particularly popular venue.

Havant Grand Prix has, since 1997, been a counting event in British cycling's Premier Calendar, a season-long series of major races around the Country for Britain's best riders.

Waterlooville Town Centre sees an annual classic car show, with over 30 car enthusiasts displaying their vehicles.

Havant Arts Festival is one of the major arts events in the Borough. This weeklong event engages the local community in community performances and showcases.

Tourism and visitor attractions

Tourism helps attract new investment and industries, and retain residents and employers. The Havant Borough Tourism Plan aims to:

- maintain the area's profile as a beach and seaside holiday resort
- increase the promotion of the area as a venue for sailing and water sports
- examine the potential of the natural environment of the area as a visitor attraction
- continue to improve and diversify holiday accommodation and tourist attractions
- care for its visitors
- plan and sustain the character and quality of town centres.

The Borough has over 310,000 staying visitors and over 1.9 million day visitors, resulting in an annual visitor expenditure of over £50 million.

Strengths, Challenges and Opportunities

Strengths

Havant enjoys a unique setting, both in terms of its natural harbours, waterfront and semi-rural setting. The Borough sits on the edge of the South Downs, benefiting from the proximity of areas of outstanding natural beauty. The natural coastline is recognised as being of a high standard, and holds two blue flags, the most any beach has in the UK. The Borough is well served by road and rail, and sits at a key junction along the east-west coast and the route to London. It benefits from its proximity to the major cities of Portsmouth, Chichester and Winchester. There are five main communities in the Borough, all of which have their own, strong identity. House prices within the borough are reasonable compared with other local authority areas and housing condition is much better than the England average. The Borough has a rich heritage and a strong sporting tradition with national and regional representation in a number of sports.

Challenges

The Borough would benefit from a more developed arts community, which in turn would lend itself to giving a sense of place to the residents. The Borough would equally benefit from activities that help residents make the links from its fascinating past to its vibrant future. Active promotion of the borough would strengthen its role in the Hampshire sub-region and would encourage an evening economy.

Opportunities

The Borough has a real opportunity to promote its unique natural landscape and waterfront, complementing the more urban setting of Portsmouth. As a result of funding from the Liveability Programme, the Council has the opportunity to invest in

public spaces, making the Borough an increasingly attractive venue for residents and visitors alike.

Strong links at regional level will enable the Borough to benefit from cultural activity in neighbouring areas.

With strong local communities, many cultural activities attract external funding. The potential exists to grow this area of work, working closely with residents' groups, partner organisations and colleagues in the Council's Regeneration Group, in order to improve the quality of life and economic prospects in the borough.

4. Vision

To deliver the vision, the strategy supports the following objectives:

1. Promoting the local distinctiveness of the Borough.
2. Enhancing our cultural economy and tourism.
3. Improving accessibility to facilities and information.
4. Maximising opportunities for enhancing cultural facilities.

The aims of the Cultural Strategy will be achieved by working with the private sector, Havant Community Partnership, Hampshire County Council, regional cultural agencies, our partner organisations and communities. Within each of our strategic aims there are a number of key principles which will inform the action plan.

1. Promoting local distinctiveness of the Borough by:
 - celebrating its history and diversity
 - protecting and enhancing the individual identity of local communities
 - conserving and enhancing coastal and landscape assets
 - raising awareness of its heritage.
2. Enhancing our cultural economy and tourism by:
 - encouraging creative industries
 - promoting cultural tourism.
3. Improving accessibility to facilities and information by:
 - removing barriers that prevent attendance at, or participation in, cultural activities
 - encouraging affordable and easily accessible high quality cultural facilities
 - facilitating activities that encourage participation by groups typically hard to reach.
4. Maximising opportunities for enhancing cultural facilities by:
 - enabling the development of a wide range of quality cultural activities, events and opportunities
 - making full use of learning opportunities presented by enhanced cultural provision.

Means of achieving these objectives are outlined in the action plan attached to this strategy.

5. Consultation

This strategy was developed in consultation with key partners and users of our cultural facilities. The consultation covered three distinct areas:

- Sports
- Arts
- Tourism

Consultation groups were convened in each of these areas. They were asked to look at the strengths and weaknesses of the current provision within the borough. They were then asked to identify priority development areas to enhance cultural facilities. These priorities have informed the strategy and its associated action plan.

Consultations

Havant Borough Sports Council (October 2002)

Havant Borough Council Officer Consultation Workshop (2003)

Havant and Waterlooville Primary Schools PE Association (January 2003)

Heads of Secondary School PE departments

Arts consultation, Havant Arts Centre (October 2003)

Havant Community Partnership (June 2004)

Executive (July 2004)

Havant Borough Council final draft consultation (March/April 2005)

6. Delivery

This strategy will be delivered through partnership working with regional agencies, Havant Community Partnership other local authorities, the commercial, not-for-profit and voluntary sectors and local communities.

Key Partnerships include:

Arts Council England South East

Local Schools

Culture South East

Portsmouth & SE Hants Partnership

Hampshire County Council

SE England Cultural Consortium

Havant Arts Active

SEMLAC

Havant Borough Sports Council

South East England Development Agency

Havant Community Partnership

Sport England

Havant Council for Community Service

Tourism South East

Horizon Leisure Trust

Cultural development is an integral part of service planning across the Council. The following service areas are actively involved in developing our cultural agenda:

Arts Development

Retail Support

Community and Health Development

Social Inclusion

Community Safety

Sports Development

Environmental Quality

Sure Start

Planning and Urban Design

Tourism

Regeneration

Youth Council

7. Monitoring and Review

Implementation of the strategy needs to be maintained and adjustments made to tackle any change of circumstance that arises.

A Cultural Strategy Reference Group, chaired by the Portfolio Holder responsible for Culture, will be convened, meeting on a six-monthly basis. The Reference Group will update the strategy at its meetings, and will implement a full strategy review in 2007. A Project Assurance Team will be established to oversee the implementation of the Strategy; the team will consist of the Portfolio Holder responsible for culture, a member of the Scrutiny Board and the Managing Director. The Strategy Reference Group will consist of representatives from:

External

Arts Council
GOSE DCMS representative
Hampshire County Council
Horizon Leisure Trust
Sport England
Tourism South East

Internal

Community Initiatives
Environmental Quality
Parks and Open Spaces
Planning and Urban Design
Portfolio Holder for Culture
Regeneration

