

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE	<b>Education, Culture and Sport</b>
DATE	<b>20 September 2012</b>
ACTING DIRECTOR	<b>Charlie Penman</b>
TITLE OF REPORT	<b>Exchange with Argentina</b>
REPORT NUMBER:	<b>ECS/12/027</b>

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the developing culture and education partnership between Aberdeen and Argentina and to progress Memoranda of Understanding with the city of Buenos Aires, the province of Santa Fe and the municipality of San Isidro.

### **2. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- (i) Approve the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (substantially as set out in Appendix 1) with the city of Buenos Aires.
- (ii) Approve the progression and signing of similar Memoranda with the province of Santa Fe and the municipality of San Isidro, Argentina.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There is no revenue budget available to support the exchange programme. External funding will be sourced for the programme where required e.g. British Council, Creative Learning Network fund. Much of the work will be done virtually via the project website which is currently under construction, led by the University of Aberdeen.

### **4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

Officer time is required to manage projects and events, maintain communication with project partners and submit funding applications where appropriate.

### **5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES**

#### **Background**

In September 2011 representatives from the University of Aberdeen, Creative Scotland and Aberdeen City Council accepted an invitation to visit Buenos Aires

to share current practice centred around the Aberdeen project 'Arts as a Tool for Learning Across the Curriculum' (ATLAC) and the development of education and the arts, culture and creativity across Scotland. The visit saw the development of a proposal for a period of exchange between the two countries underpinned by proposed agreements between the two city governments and between the University of Aberdeen and Universidad de San Andrés.

Synergies between work in Aberdeen and work in the Province of Santa Fe were also identified during this visit. Santa Fe expressed a keen interest to be involved in the exchange programme.

In January 2012 a party of six visitors from the City Government of Buenos Aires and arts organisation Crear Vale la Pena visited Aberdeen to experience the ATLAC programme in action and learn more about Aberdeen and Scotland's approach to using the arts in educational and community settings.

In March 2012 a return visit to Argentina was made to develop the detail of the first exchange projects; develop Aberdeen's relationship with the government of the Province of Santa Fe and learn about their world class cultural venues; visit and learn from a range of community development projects in Argentina which use culture and sport as their starting point. The municipality of San Isidro joined the conversation on developing a culture of exchange during one of these visits.

Funding was secured from the British Council office in Buenos Aires for further exchange visits with a view to making a more comprehensive funding bid for a three year education/cultural exchange programme.

The agreement between the University of Aberdeen and Universidad de San Andrés is now in place.

### **Memorandum of Understanding**

A draft of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between Aberdeen City Council and the City Government of Buenos Aires is attached at Appendix 1. Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding will secure support for the exchange programme from the three Buenos Aires City Ministries of Culture, Education and Habitat & Social Inclusion and it would also strengthen the bid to the British Council for a three year exchange programme which will be of particular benefit to schools in both cities.

It is proposed that this draft will also form the basis of discussions with Santa Fe and San Isidro who have both requested individual agreements with Aberdeen.

## **6. IMPACT**

The proposed exchange programme will contribute to eight of the ten priorities in the ECS Service Plan and to priorities in the Cultural Strategy *Vibrant Aberdeen* and can be tailored to complement aspects of the Single Outcome Agreement and Corporate Business Plan.

Our learning from Argentina is highly pertinent to the city's current cultural ambitions, the Directorate's focus on approaches to lifelong and family learning and the formation of a Creative Learning Team.

## **7. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Report to EPI Committee 20 April 2010 'Links with Nagasaki'

Scottish Ministerial Message to "*Art and Creativity In Education*"  
Conference, St Andrews University, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 29  
September 2011

## **8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS**

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## **APPENDIX 1: Draft Memorandum of Understanding**

### **Memorandum of Understanding between the City Government of Buenos Aires and Aberdeen City Council**

The City Government of Buenos Aires and Aberdeen City Council recognise that the arts, culture and creativity are vital to the development of confident individuals, effective contributors, successful learners and responsible citizens.

We believe that cultural and creative activity is a vital element of a holistic education and a cohesive society.

Through sharing our knowledge and practices in these areas we aim to support each other as we explore ways to ensure that our communities have access to rich experiences that will form the foundation of successful lifelong learning and participation in civic society.

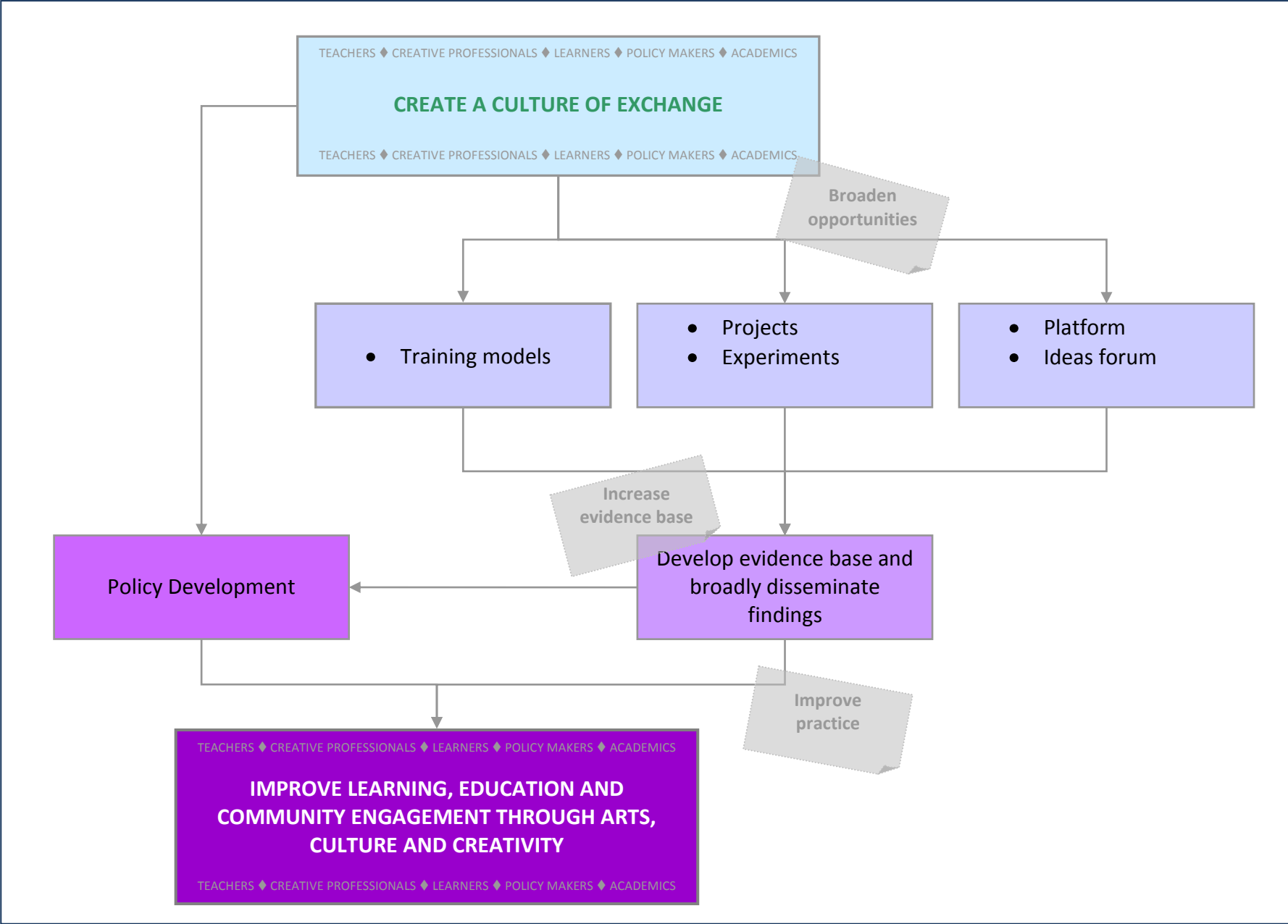
In developing a culture of exchange, we aim to embrace positive transformative learning through high quality artistic, cultural and creative experiences.

#### **Aim**

Improve learning, education and community engagement through arts, culture and creativity.

#### **Objectives**

- Create a culture of exchange between learners, teachers, creative professionals, policy makers and academics
- Broaden opportunities and improve practice through sharing training models and developing projects and experiments
- Facilitate communication and sharing of practice and ideas by establishing an online platform
- Develop the evidence base on the impact of the arts, culture and creativity in learning and community contexts
- Develop policy based on the exchange of practice and the findings of the research
- Disseminate the research and project resources to a broad audience



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**CREATE A CULTURE OF EXCHANGE**

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Broaden opportunities

• Training models

• Projects  
• Experiments

• Platform  
• Ideas forum

Increase evidence base

Develop evidence base and broadly disseminate findings

Policy Development

Improve practice

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**IMPROVE LEARNING, EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT THROUGH ARTS, CULTURE AND CREATIVITY**

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