



ENGLISH HERITAGE



East Midlands Cultural Partners

An introduction from the East Midlands Cultural Agencies' Group

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has introduced a new framework for cultural agencies in the regions to work together.

In our region **East Midlands Cultural Partners** now brings together the region's key organisations in the field of culture and sport. At its core are the five regional agencies which form the East Midlands Cultural Agencies Group.

We work together on the five 'shared priorities' set out below. The following pages tell you what we are doing and how we will do it.

East Midlands Cultural Partners – our shared priorities

Regional strategies	<i>Ensuring culture and sport content within key regional strategies including the Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies and the forthcoming integrated Regional Strategy.</i>
Local Area Agreements	<i>Engaging with stakeholders to ensure culture and sport help achieve priority outcomes agreed in each area through the LAA process.</i>
Local government commitment to culture and sport	<i>Implementing the commitments set out in A Passion for Excellence, an improvement strategy for culture and sport.</i>
Place shaping	<i>Delivery of agreed commitments under the Living Places programme including roll out of cultural planning tools and guidance.</i>
2012 legacy and the Cultural Olympiad	<i>Managing the East Midlands contribution to the Cultural Olympiad, including Legacy Trust funded programmes and major national projects.</i>

Who's involved in East Midlands Cultural Partners?

East Midlands Cultural Partners

Cultural Agencies Group

- Arts Council England
- English Heritage
- MLA
- Sport England
- EM Media

- Government Office for the East Midlands
- East Midlands Development Agency
- Local Government

Additional partners

- Lottery distributors
- East Midlands Tourism
- National Trust
- Others as appropriate

At the heart of **East Midlands Cultural Partners** are four main national agencies which DCMS has tasked to work together:

- Arts Council England
- English Heritage
- Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA)
- Sport England.

In the East Midlands these agencies have been joined by the screen agency **EM Media**. Together these five organisations form the East Midlands Cultural Agencies Group. The agencies will continue to maintain their relationships individually with their stakeholders, but the new arrangements enable them to work together more effectively where opportunity exists.

East Midlands Cultural Partners comprise the Cultural Agencies Group, together with representatives from:

- Government Office for the East Midlands
- East Midlands Development Agency
- and local government in the region.

Other bodies such as the Lottery Distributors, East Midlands Tourism and the National Trust are also invited to work as part of **East Midlands Cultural Partners** when there is an opportunity to do so.

The inheritance of Culture East Midlands

The new arrangements move forward the valued contribution of Culture East Midlands, which was the region's cultural consortium until March 2009. The East Midlands Cultural Agencies Group has been working to ensure that the legacy and resources of Culture East Midlands are taken forward.

How do East Midlands Cultural Partners work together?

Accountability

The Partners report to the four national agencies' Chief Executives on progress in each region with the shared priorities set out on the front page. In the East Midlands there is an action plan, set out opposite, which is reviewed and updated on a quarterly basis.

Collaborative working

East Midlands Cultural Partners works through collaboration within the Cultural Agencies' Group. Staff from the agencies work together, and individual agencies or sometimes combinations of agencies lead on specific themes. The partnership is not a legal entity, does not have resources to fund external organisations, and has no dedicated executive team to implement its workplan.

The lead role of Chair for the Agencies' Group and Partners will rotate on an annual basis, and initially the responsibility in the East Midlands is with MLA.

Culture and regional strategy

The Regional Cultural Strategy **The Place of Choice** continues to inform the Partners' work programme. We will work together to ensure a coherent cultural response to major consultations, such as the Single Regional Strategy.

What is East Midlands Cultural Partners working on?

Our work programme

The Partners' work programme for 2009/2010 is summarised below. The lead agency for each action is given in brackets. To discuss any of these issues further, please get in touch in the first instance with the relevant contact for enquiries listed on the back page.

Regional strategies

Regional strategy: The new regional strategy is to include priorities for culture. We are already working with *emda* and our regional partners to provide evidence and advice to inform a future strategy. (*Lead agency: MLA*)

Cultural evidence: We are developing a model for strengthening the cultural and creative sectors' research and evidence base, building on the work of the regional Cultural Observatory, and the ongoing Culture and Sport Evidence (CASE) programme of the national agencies. (*EM Media*)

Culture and the regional economy: Through the East Midlands Creative and Cultural Economy Partnership we will add to understanding in the East Midlands of the contribution of the sector to the region's economy. (*EM Media*)

Regional Spatial Strategy: We are co-ordinating our contributions to the partial review of the current Regional Spatial Strategy. (*English Heritage*)

Relationships with local authorities

Cultural Improvement Partnership East Midlands (CIPEM): We will continue to support the improvement of local authority cultural services through CIPEM, which is now hosted by the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership. (*Sport England*)

Culture and Sport Strategic Dialogues (CSSD): We will work with local authorities in a targeted way and with the regional Government Office in facilitating high quality dialogues with our local government partners. (*Sport England*)

LAAs and CAA: The cultural agencies in tandem with Government Office will continue to help culture make a strong and effective contribution both to current Local Area Agreements and in the next round from 2010, and to Comprehensive Area Assessments. (*Sport England*)

Place shaping

Living Places: We promote a co-ordinated approach to developing sustainable communities through culture, particularly in places where major housing growth is planned. (*MLA*)

As part of the national programme of **Priority Places** we have agreed our 'second stage offer' with Corby Borough Council. (*MLA*)

In the **Milton Keynes/South Midlands** growth area the cultural planning project has been transferred to Northamptonshire County Council. (*MLA*)

Cultural Olympiad

Olympiad programme: We will implement the *Igniting Ambition* programme, ensuring that the region has inspiring cultural opportunities up to the 2012 Games, and a lasting legacy. The Creative Programmer, projects and additional staff are now hosted by Arts Council England. (*Arts Council*)

In preparation for the Games themselves we will work closely with *emda* and LOCOG.

Management, monitoring and communications

The members of **East Midlands Cultural Partners** meet quarterly to review progress on their shared programme of work.

The Cultural Agencies' Group is developing a communications strategy to ensure that the wider cultural and sport sector in the East Midlands is engaged in its work.

Contacting East Midlands Cultural Partners

Members of the Cultural Agencies Group

If you have a query on any of the issues in the Action Plan on the previous page, please contact the relevant person below.



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Chair of the Cultural Agencies Group *until December 2010*

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