

Member Briefing

Cultural Improvement Partnership East Midlands

The Regional Cultural Agencies

Their role within the East Midlands

This briefing note reflects the work of the principal regional cultural agencies - part of whose role is to support Local Authorities in delivering high quality and effective cultural services to residents within the region. It is only intended to cover the basics, so please refer to the individual web-sites of each of the organisations for more information.

Government Office for the East Midlands (GOEM): www.goem.gov.uk

GOEM is "Whitehall" in the region, with eleven government departments under one roof – including two people working on DCMS policy. GOEM's aim is to work with regional partners and local people to help government initiatives work at a local level as well as reflect the needs of the East Midlands back to central Government.

A key role for GOEM is to work with local partnerships on developing and supporting Local Area Agreements (LAAs). GOEM acts as the agent of various Government Departments to oversee local performance (through LAAs) and ensure that Government Policy is being applied effectively against local concerns.

Throughout 2006-07, GOEM worked with DCMS Agencies in constructing Regional Commentaries for all upper tier authorities. These commentaries offer position statements reflecting the views of the regional agencies and Culture East Midlands through the Government Office, on how cultural services meet the needs of local people, written against a regionally defined benchmark. They are also a means to develop and improve dialogue, understanding, and working relationships between agencies and local authorities.

Sport England East Midlands: www.sportengland.org/eastmidlands

Sport England's primary role is to sustain and increase participation in community sport. It is the Government's key delivery partner for community sport, and a Lottery distributor. Sport England aims to promote, invest in and advise on high quality sporting pathways which release potential through community sports activities, sports clubs, coaches and officiating, player pathways, volunteering and sports facilities. The East Midlands has one of 9 regional offices across the country with a Support Centre based in London.

Sport England is the organisation leading the Government's drive to ensure that 158,850 people in the region participate more in sport by 2012/2013. Local government invests £100 million in sport and active recreation every year in the East Midlands. This continued investment is absolutely crucial in supporting and encouraging the region's residents to be more active. Ultimately Sport England wants to assist local authorities on their improvement journey and our commitment is illustrated in part by their investment in Cultural Improvement Partnership East Midlands (CIPEM), the development of the self-improvement tool Towards an Excellent Service, the Active People Survey and the Active People Diagnostic tool, Active Places Power, Quest, National Benchmarking Scheme and much more.

Museums Libraries and Archives: www.mlaeastmidlands.org.uk

MLA East Midlands is part of the MLA Partnership which comprises The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) and 9 regional MLAs. The MLA Partnership works to improve people's lives by building knowledge, supporting learning, inspiring creativity and celebrating identity. The Partnership acts collectively for the benefit of the sector and the public, leading the transformation of museums, libraries and archives for the future.

MLA East Midlands works closely with local authorities in the region supporting key development areas through the regional commentary process; working to ensure the sector is well placed within Local Area Agreements; supporting improvement programmes; and advocating for the role of museums, libraries and archives in place shaping. We also give strategic and developmental support to museums, libraries and archives in learning, workforce development, participation, digital development, funding and standards.



Arts Council England: www.artscouncil.org.uk/regions

Arts Council England works to get more art to more people in more places. It develops and promotes the arts across England, acting as an independent body at arm's length from government. It is also a national lottery distributor and has offices in each of the English regions, including the East Midlands.

The Arts Council works in close collaboration with local authorities at a local, regional and national level and has:

- increased local authority representation on all of its regional arts councils;
- created a national framework for partnership agreements between local authorities and its regional offices;
- held a national summit in November 2002 to begin to develop a shared vision for the arts with local government;
- led a major project with its partners to develop a performance framework for local authority arts services - this was published on the Audit Commission's website in March 2003; and
- developed a strong working relationship with the Local Government Association through its joint Arts Liaison Committee

Culture East Midlands: www.culture-em.org.uk

Culture East Midlands (CEM) is one of eight Regional Cultural Consortia set up to support the cultural and creative sector's role in regional cultural development. It is made up of an independent Board representing a unique combination of cultural and creative interests from across the region and its Chair is selected by the Secretary of State for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). Alongside the Board is an Executives Group including the publicly-appointed regional Directors of the region's DCMS sponsored bodies, as well as representatives from GOEM, EMDA, East Midlands Regional Assembly, Local Government East Midlands, Regeneration East Midlands, East Midlands Tourism, Big Lottery Fund, and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The day-to-day work of CEM is done by a small core staff team and a series of project-specific associates. CEM's role is agreed with the DCMS through a unique funding agreement.

Some key CEM activities relating to local authorities include:

- Supporting the development of Cultural Improvement Partnership East Midlands.
- Development of a culture 'section' and policy for the East Midlands Regional (Spatial) Plan, in partnership with East Midlands Regional Assembly.
- Leading a partnership of regional and national cultural sector agencies in a £1m Treasury Programme to develop a nationally-applicable Cultural Planning Toolkit.
- Lead for the region's Cultural Olympiad – the cultural festival associated with the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

CEM is also establishing the East Midlands Cultural Observatory which will facilitate the coordination of research activity and the production of cultural data and intelligence, to inform and advance cultural development, evidence based policy making and public service delivery.



Pearl by Plasticiens Volants courtesy of Arts Council England



**Cultural Improvement Partnership
East Midlands**

Cultural Improvement Partnership East Midlands is delivering a regional programme in 2007-2010 to strengthen local authority cultural services in the East Midlands. The partnership is funded by the East Midlands Improvement Partnership and support agencies for cultural services (Sport England, Arts Council England, MLA and Renaissance). Production of this briefing is funded by Sport England and Communities and Local Government.