

Cultural sector themes have been part of the scheme since the beginning, and cultural sector services have also played a supporting role in other themes. Case studies on all Beacon Councils so far are on [www.idea-knowledge.gov.uk](http://www.idea-knowledge.gov.uk)

The cultural themes so far have been:

- **Regeneration through Culture, Sport and Tourism:** Local authorities have a leading role in ensuring that cultural facilities and policies are effective in stimulating urban and rural regeneration and that they promote tourism. Culture and sport services can also make a considerable contribution to tackling social exclusion, encouraging healthier lifestyles and providing opportunities for voluntary and community activity. (Round 2)
- **Libraries as a Community Resource:** The public library service has an important role to play in fostering community development, promoting community identity and developing social inclusion. Public libraries offer nearly 4,000 separate free public access points, spread fairly evenly across the country, where the environment is welcoming and stimulating. Libraries do not need to be just repositories for books and information but can be the hub of community life offering access to local authority services and a meeting place for all. This theme will help councils promote community identity and combat social exclusion and is applicable to both urban and rural areas. (Round 3)
- **Quality of the Built Environment:** Both the Urban Task Force report and the Government's Urban White Paper highlighted the role of local authorities in creating sustainable, safe and attractive urban areas. The inclusion of a beacon theme on the quality of the urban environment will mark the achievements of councils in making better places, both through the policies they take forward and the building projects they procure, and signal the benefits of improving urban design skills. (Round 4)
- **Promoting Sustainable Tourism:** Promoting sustainable tourism will give authorities the opportunity to demonstrate the key role that tourism can play in supporting communities, promoting regeneration and developing local economies. It will focus on the importance of local people, local businesses and the local environment. (Round 5)