

8 November 2018**Agenda Item: 11****REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, PLACE AND COMMUNITIES****NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND ARTS STRATEGIES
UPDATE****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval for the realignment of the current Nottinghamshire Libraries, Archives and Arts strategy to the council plan.

Information

2. Nottinghamshire County Council has three strategies for its Libraries, Archives and Arts provision, all adopted in 2011/12 to cover the subsequent 10 years.
3. This refresh aims to align the current strategies to the County Council strategic plan 'Your Nottinghamshire, Your Future' and reflects the significant changes in funding, delivery models, customer demands and overall strategic context for culture and heritage.

National Context for Libraries

4. In addition to the statutory and legal duties relating to Libraries and Archives the national context forms part of the strategic driver for Libraries, Archives and Arts.
5. The national joint report by DCMS (Dept of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport) and the LGA (Local Government Association) - **Libraries Deliver – Ambition for Public Libraries in England 2016 – 2021**, points out the huge popularity the public libraries stating combined visits to premier league football, cinema and the top 10 tourist attractions are out stripped by visits to public libraries across England each year.

The report outlines 7 outcomes:

1. cultural and creative enrichment
2. increased reading and literacy
3. improved digital access and literacy
4. helping everyone achieve their full potential
5. healthier and happier lives
6. greater prosperity
7. stronger, more resilient communities

6. Libraries Connected (formerly the Society of Chief Librarians) has developed a set **Universal Library Offers** which allows each library service to identify its offer and at what level it can provide them. Nottinghamshire has signed up to all the offers as they have been developed and in most areas is able to meet some or all of the enhanced level of each offer. To underpin the offers, SCL has developed training resources to support the library workforce in upskilling.
7. The National Archives (TNA) is the lead body for Archive services and provide oversight and accreditation of places of deposit for public records, such as Nottinghamshire Archives, and has produced a strategy entitled **Archives Unlocked – Releasing the potential of archives**.

This strategy identifies the importance of archives for the country that contribute to our understanding of *‘who we are, where we came from and ... where we are going’*.

The strategy has three broad themes, trust, enrichment and openness;

- **Trust** - People and institutions trust in the authenticity of archive records, and how they are preserved and presented;
 - **Enrichment** - Archives enhance and enrich society intellectually, economically and culturally;
 - **Openness** - Archives cultivate an open approach to knowledge, and are accessible to all.
8. The government issued a white paper in March 2016 setting out its vision, strategy and proposals for the cultural sectors including the arts, libraries, archives and heritage called **Arts and Culture – national influences**. It focuses on four broad statements;
 1. Everyone should enjoy the opportunities culture offers, no matter where they start in life
 2. The riches of our culture should benefit communities across the country
 3. The power of culture can increase our international standing
 4. Cultural investment, resilience and reform
 9. The Arts Council England (ACE) current 10 year strategy (2010-2020) which aims to deliver **‘Great Art and Culture for Everyone’** currently has five goals;
 1. Excellence in arts and culture
 2. For everyone – engaging people everywhere
 3. Resilience and sustainability
 4. Diversity and skills
 5. Children and Young People

A consultation to create a 2020-2030 strategy has recently begun, which is likely to put greater focus on engagement with communities with low levels of cultural engagement, increasing the cultural offer within communities and ensuring access to those far away from large cultural centres are not disenfranchised.

Inspire, the charity that delivers culture, learning and libraries on behalf of the County Council, is currently directly contracted by ACE to deliver the Nottinghamshire Music Educational Hub and act as a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) in the delivery of a cultural programme for children and young people across Nottinghamshire.

Nottinghamshire Council Plan

10. The Council Plan sets out four ambitions for Nottinghamshire in which the county is at the forefront of modern Britain, and that Nottinghamshire should stand out as :

- A great place to bring up your family
- A great place to fulfil your ambition
- A great place to enjoy your later life
- A great place to start and grow your business

Current Inspire Aims

11. Libraries, Archives and Arts – aim to be at the heart of Nottinghamshire communities and community life and to achieve this, they will:

- Inspire the enjoyment of books, reading and archives.
- Create knowledge through access to learning, information, technology and heritage.
- Stimulate, encourage and offer a wide range of arts and cultural activities.
- Offer excellent and inclusive customer service for all, every time.

Support for Council Plan Commitments

12. To support the four ambitions in the council plan there are number of commitments.

Libraries, Archives and Arts strategic priorities help achieve these Council Plan aspirations as follows:

A great place to bring up your family

Commitment 1: Families prosper and achieve their potential

Commitment 2: Children are kept safe from harm

Commitment 3: Children and Young People go to good schools

Libraries, Archives and Arts will –

- Deliver a range of initiatives aimed at families – for example - Bookstart, Summer Reading Challenge, Letter Box Scheme, Family friendly arts , ‘every child a library member’ and Reading Well
- Ensure that children and young people are inspired to read, understand their local heritage and participate in culture as a part of their development
- Host and promote a range of learning opportunities for families, adults and young people
- Offer opportunities for children and young people to discover the history of Nottinghamshire and their local community
- Offer schools and nurseries a dedicated library service through the Education Library Service
- Provide Library buildings that are fit for purpose, welcoming, accessible and safe for all
- Underpin literacy through inspiring children to read and through a range of family learning programmes
- Work with partners and funders to ensure we maximise access to a range of cultural and heritage assets , services and experiences

A great place to fulfil your ambition

Commitment 4: Nottinghamshire has a thriving jobs market

Commitment 5: Nottinghamshire is a great place to live, work, visit and relax

Commitment 6: People are healthier

Libraries, Archives and Arts will –

- Be at the heart of community life by programming cultural, heritage, reading and learning activity
- Develop the health offer by increasing the number of 'health information hubs' in libraries, work with health services delivering a range of initiatives – for example - books on prescription and social prescribing
- Ensure funding and grant funding is accessed and exploited fully to develop new programmes and projects to enhance the quality of life
- Promote the therapeutic value of reading and participation in arts and culture
- Provide arts, cultural and music performance opportunities
- Provide spaces, information services and support to job seekers, business start-ups, small and medium business and digital/solo workers
- Respond to the number of people who feel loneliness, disconnection from community life and suffer mental health issues
- Support and encourage arts and heritage events across Nottinghamshire

A great place to enjoy your later life

Commitment 7: People live in vibrant and supportive communities

Commitment 8: People live independently for as long as possible

Commitment 9: People can access the right care and support, at the right time

Libraries, Archives and Arts will –

- Be flexible in ensuring everyone can access services, using digital technology, the 'at home' and mobile library services
- Build and make accessible the diverse history and culture through Nottinghamshire Archives, local studies collections, programming of events, talks, exhibitions and digital channels
- Continue to be an unbiased, neutral and trusted source of information
- Deliver, support and partner to provide a rich and varied range of cultural and learning experiences
- Exploit the extensive network of buildings to facilitate community use
- Maintain and invest in developing an extensive network of libraries at the heart of community life
- Provide an accessible information service about local community and support services are available
- Provide a supported volunteering and members engagement offer to provide opportunities to share time, skills and connections within local communities
- Support disability arts and music to enrich lives and support carers, especially for young people

A great place to start and grow your business

Commitment 10: Nottinghamshire is a great place to invest and do business

Commitment 11: Nottinghamshire is a well-connected County

Commitment 12: Nottinghamshire has a skilled workforce for a global economy well-connected County

Libraries, Archives and Arts will –

- Continue to prevent digital exclusion through free access to fast broadband
- Develop digital channels to access services, archives, resources and expertise
- Develop the library offer to support town centres
- Develop the digital and fabrication offer to ensure the workforce is skilled for the future
- Enable business through their social responsibility strategies to support communities
- Engage and support the arts, cultural, music and creative industries
- Further develop support to business start ups
- Host and promote the Inspire learning offer to broaden skills and knowledge
- Host and stimulate local business support networks / clubs
- Provide business with access to unique business and heritage resources

Other Options Considered

13. None.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

14. Inspire provides a range of Library, Archive and Arts services on behalf of the County Council, and it is essential therefore that these services work harmoniously with both national and local policy drivers, and the key aspirations of the County Council.
15. Realigning the Inspire strategies, action plans and business plans to help the County Council to deliver its priorities will ensure the service continues to operate effectively and seamlessly with other Council services.

Statutory and Policy Implications

16. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) The updated alignment of priorities of the current Nottinghamshire Libraries, Archives and Arts strategies against the Council plan be approved;
- 2) That Inspire be commissioned to draw up action and business plans to deliver actions and priorities in line with the strategy.

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Place & Communities

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Constitutional Comments [RHC 10/10/2018]

17. Communities and Place Committee is the appropriate body to consider this report by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments [SES 02/10/2018]

18. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Libraries Deliver – Ambition for Public Libraries in England 2016 – 2021

www.gov.uk/government/publications/libraries-deliver-ambition-for-public-libraries-in-england-2016-to-2021

Society of Chief Libraries (SC) Universal Library Offers

<http://goscl.com/universal-offers/>

Archives Unlocked – Releasing the potential of archives

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documents/archives/Archives-Unlocked-Brochure.pdf

Arts Council England – Great art and culture for everyone

<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/about-us/our-mission-and-strategy-0>

A strategy for Nottinghamshire's Libraries , December 2012

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/policy-library/38835/libraries-strategy>

Arts and Sports Development Strategy , February 2013

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/policy-library/39273/arts-and-sports-development-strategy>

Development Plan – Nottinghamshire Archives and Records Management Service for the 21st Century, October 2012

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All