

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE

**REVIEW AND REFRESH OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL CULTURAL STRATEGY
FOR NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

Purpose of the Report

1. This report provides a review of the implementation to date of the Cultural Strategy for Nottinghamshire County Council that was agreed by Council at its meeting on 15 December 2011.
2. This report also seeks approval to establish a refreshed Cultural Strategy for Nottinghamshire County Council that sets out the Council's direction for the provision of effective cultural services in the light of new arrangements for delivering the Council's cultural offer that are either in place or in the process of being implemented.

Information and Advice

3. The Cultural Strategy agreed by Council at its meeting on 15 December 2011 (attached as **Appendix 1**) made a clear case for the County Council's continuing strong commitment to both providing and supporting an extensive range of cultural services for the people of Nottinghamshire and the many visitors attracted to the County.
4. The Strategy depicted a direction of travel for the Council's cultural and related services for the 10 years to 2021, though the immediate focus of work was the four year period to 2015, which reflected the timeframe of the Council's then current Strategic Plan.
5. The Cultural Strategy provided a high level framework for a number of more detailed, service specific plans which underpinned the work of those services that contributed to the delivery of cultural services across Nottinghamshire.
6. The Strategy has been used to:
 - underpin the continuing development of key cultural services such as Libraries, Archives and Information, Country Parks and the Green Estate and children's enrichment provision;
 - emphasise the County Council's continuing commitment to delivering and supporting strong and effective cultural services in Nottinghamshire;
 - support efforts to attract investment to the cultural sector in Nottinghamshire;

- further develop joint work with key cultural service partners to maximise the range of cultural opportunities available to local people and visitors.
7. The majority of the targets from the current Strategy have either been met or are in the process of being delivered. The updated review showing progress against targets is detailed in **Appendix 2**.
 8. In consequence, it is appropriate to focus on a new set of priorities and aspirations and to bring these together in the form of a refreshed Cultural Strategy which resets the Council's commitment to sustainable cultural services, whilst recognising both the continuing financial pressures faced by the Council, and new arrangements for the delivery of cultural services (such as Inspire) that are either in place or being established. It is envisaged that the Strategy will set out the long term direction of travel for the Council's cultural offer for the next 10 years until 2026 (reflecting the timeframe of the new operating arrangements with Inspire), with a specific focus in the short and medium term on embedding the new commissioning arrangements and responding to the recently published Government White Paper on Culture. The Cultural Strategy will provide a high level framework for a number of more detailed, service specific plans, which underpin the work of those services that contribute to the delivery of cultural services across Nottinghamshire.
 9. This report therefore seeks approval to enable officers to progress the scoping, developing and drafting of the new strategy, with a view to presenting a refreshed draft to Committee at its December meeting.

Other Options Considered

10. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

11. The Council's current Strategic Plan continues to highlight the importance of a cultural offer. This strategy will provide the framework for this

Statutory and Policy Implications

12. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, 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, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

13. The development of a new Cultural Strategy will be delivered within the financial resources available to the Council.

Public Sector Equality Duty Implications

14. An Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken as part of the process of developing the refreshed Cultural Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:

- 1) the Cultural Strategy update attached as **Appendix 2** is noted
- 2) the process to develop a refreshed Cultural Strategy is agreed.

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For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (SLB 24/08/16)

15. Culture Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments (TMR 24/08/16)

16. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 13.

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.

The Culture White Paper – Department for Culture, Media and Sport, March 2016
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/culture-white-paper>

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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