

## **REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, PLACE AND COMMUNITIES**

### **CULTURAL SERVICES STRATEGY REFRESH**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To present for Member consideration and comment a draft version of Nottinghamshire County Council's (NCC) refreshed Cultural Services Strategy (2022-2032).

#### **Background**

2. At Communities Committee on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July 2021, Members approved a request to refresh the Council's current [Cultural Strategy \(2011-2021\)](#), due to expire at the end of this calendar year.
3. Attached as Appendix A, a draft Strategy, drawing upon sector research and initial partner discussions, sets out the proposed principles, themes, outcomes and actions that will drive the delivery of the Council's cultural priorities over the next 10 years.
4. The refreshed Strategy, once finalised, will provide a high-level framework for the delivery of more detailed service plans, containing the specific objectives for individual sites and services. With reference to the Strategy's overarching principles and commitments, each service plan will outline short and long-term investment priorities linked to the aims of the [Visitor Economy Strategy \(2019-2029\)](#) and the Council's Corporate Environment Strategy, which is in the process of being finalised. Both the Cultural Strategy and its associated plans will also align with the commitments of the [Council Plan](#), which is itself due to be updated following May's local elections.
5. Member input on the attached Strategy draft will be considered alongside feedback from our main cultural partners, whose views will, ultimately, be reflected in the final Strategy document, to be submitted to this Committee for formal approval in early 2022.

#### **Information**

6. The Strategy's draft strategic themes, outcomes and actions address the following areas:
  - Place and Identity
  - Health and Resilience
  - Access and Participation
  - Partnership and Collaboration
7. These themes encompass the main challenges and opportunities already identified in the Council's corporate plans, as well as by national funding bodies, including Arts Council

England, UK Heritage Lottery Fund and Sport England, and policy houses, like the Local Government Association (LGA) and Local Government Information Unit (LGIU). Each of the themes acknowledges the unique context in which this Strategy is being refreshed. The draft outcomes and actions reflect the lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic and consider ways to build upon the wider experience of the last 10 years.

8. We will consult closely on the draft Strategy with our main cultural partners, including those contracted to operate our country parks and libraries. We will also take into account the public views on cultural services and facilities expressed via the Big Notts Survey, conducted as part of the consultation process for the new Council Plan.
9. References to the Council Plan in section 6 of the draft Cultural Strategy are those taken from the emerging Outcomes presented to Policy Committee on [02 September 2021](#), and may be subject to change, following further Member input and public consultation. The other corporate documents referenced in Appendix A, the Visitor Economy Strategy and Environment Strategy, are themselves at different stages of draft and refresh. We will work closely with colleagues to ensure that the final Cultural Strategy aligns with the most up-to-date versions of these documents.

### **Other Options Considered**

10. No other options have been considered, as Members have previously taken the decision that the Cultural Services Strategy needed to be refreshed.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

11. The Council's current Cultural Strategy is due to be refreshed in 2021.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

12. 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.

### **Financial Implications**

13. The preparation of the strategy may require external support; however, any costs will be met from the existing Cultural Services Budgets.

### **Implications for Service Users**

14. The purpose of the Strategy is to improve and sustain high quality cultural services and facilities in the County for the benefit of residents and visitors. Furthermore, the refreshed Strategy incorporates lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic, which highlighted the importance of cultural services to the wellbeing of the county's residents. Demand for outdoor green spaces, in particular, rose in the absence of indoor hospitality, which, combined with the success of remote, mobile and virtual library services, has raised the profile of the Council's cultural offer— something which our new strategic documents seek to maximise.

### **Implications for Sustainability and the Environment**

15. The new cultural service strategy will take account of the recent Climate Emergency declaration and the Council's ambitions to be Carbon neutral in all its activities by 2030. It will also look to identify how the services delivered can be adapted to ensure any changed or improved offers yield positive environmental outcomes.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Committee:

- 1) comments on the draft Cultural Services Strategy at Appendix A.
- 2) agrees to a further report on the final refreshed strategy, accounting for Member and partner input, being presented to Committee in early 2022.

**Derek Higton**  
**Service Director Place and Communities**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:** Mick Allen, Group Manager Place Commissioning, Tel: 0115 9774684

### **Constitutional Comments (AK 23/9/2021)**

16. The proposals in this report are within the remit of the Communities Committee.

### **Financial Comments (SES 21/09/2021)**

17. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.
18. The preparation of the strategy may require external support; however, any costs will be met from the existing Cultural Services Budgets.

### **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.

- None

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

- All