

REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, PLACE AND COMMUNITIES

CULTURAL SERVICES STRATEGY REFRESH

Purpose of the Report

1. To note plans to refresh Nottinghamshire County Council's (NCC) Cultural Services Strategy (2011-2021) and identify any key issues they would want to see addressed in the new strategy.

Information

2. The Council's current [Cultural Strategy \(2011-2021\)](#) is due to expire at the end of this calendar year, and work will now commence to review and update how the Council will deliver its Cultural Offer over the next five years.
3. Since 2011, the operating model for Nottinghamshire's Cultural Services has changed significantly. Country Park and Library Services, as well as Archives, Arts and Adult Learning Provision, are now delivered via third-party partnerships, rather than by the Council directly. These arrangements were commissioned to secure the long-term sustainability of the Council's Cultural provision by reducing service delivery costs, securing investment, improving facilities and widening the range of available activities through partnership working.
4. The refreshed Strategy will provide a high-level framework for the delivery of detailed service plans, containing the specific objectives for individual sites and cultural 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 objectives of the [Visitor Economy Strategy \(2019-2029\)](#) and the Councils Corporate Environment Strategy which is in the process of being finalised.
5. The development of these plans will also involve engagement with key partners and stakeholders.
6. Both the Strategy and its associated plans will also align with the commitments of the [Council Plan](#), which is itself due to be updated following recent local elections.

Other Options Considered

7. No other options have been considered.

Reason for Recommendations

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

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. 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

10. 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

11. The refresh will also incorporate 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 will seek to maximise.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

12. The new cultural service strategy will take account of the recent Climate Emergency declaration and the councils ambitions to be Carbon neutral in all it's activities by 2030, and look to identify how the services delivered can adapt to ensure any changed or improved offers impact positively on environmental outcomes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

- 1) Notes the plans to refresh the Council's Cultural Services Strategy and identifies any key issues they would want to see addressed in the new strategy.
- 2) Agrees a further report on the refreshed strategy being presented to Committee in due course.

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 (LW 22/06/2021)

13. Communities Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report.

Financial Comments (SES 22/06/2021)

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

15. 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