

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 7
5 July 2021	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Adrian Chapman, Service Director – Communities and Partnerships	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Steve Allen, Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities	
Contact Officer(s):	Jamie Fenton, Partnership Manager	Tel. 07976 382756

Peterborough Cultural Strategy

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Adrian Chapman, Service Director, Communities and Partnerships	Deadline date: N/A
<p>It is recommended that the Communities Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notes and comments on the overall approach being taken to the development of, and the significance of, the new Culture Strategy for Peterborough 2. Scrutinises the Vision and Values document 3. Scrutinises the emerging recommendations 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is presented at the request of the Scrutiny Committee.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 During the previous municipal year, the Committee received reports on the work in train to develop a new, ambitious, and long-term culture strategy for Peterborough. This work is vital to establish a solid foundation to best support our arts, culture, and heritage sector especially in the context of recovery from the pandemic. This report provides the latest opportunity for the Committee to help shape the strategy, ahead of it being presented in its full and final draft at the September meeting.

2.2 This report is for the Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference Part 3, Section 4 - Overview and Scrutiny Functions, paragraph No. 2.1 Functions determined by Council:

- 6. Library, Arts and Museums
- 7. Tourism, Culture & Recreation

2.3 The new Culture Strategy will support all of the council's corporate priorities, A strong and ambitious culture offer will drive inward investment, increase visitor numbers, and support the broader local economy through additional spend. A vibrant culture sector will also help to increase the availability of new jobs. Culture can also be a powerful tool to bring communities together, and to support the overall health and wellbeing of our population.

3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	YES		
Date for relevant Council meeting if applicable	8 December 2021	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	15/11/21

4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 As previously reported to this Committee, a partnership task and finish group is overseeing the development of a Cultural Strategy for Peterborough, with its work divided into three phases:

Phase 1: preparation of a Vision and Values document

Phase 2: open consultation leading to a set of emerging recommendations

Phase 3: targeted exploration of specific issues to create a final set of recommendations

4.2 The process is now in Phase 3, with specific attention being paid to:

- The views of young people through a set of ten workshops being delivered between a local young poet and PHACE (Peterborough's cultural partnership for children and young people)
- Five artist commissions aimed at investigating, in creative and reflective ways, how people might be more engaged with culture as makers and audiences
- Targeted discussions with heritage partners
- Developing marketing relationships, especially with Visit Peterborough

4.3 All of these processes, intended to complete during August, have a strong focus both on delivery and leadership. It is clear from Phase 2 that Peterborough needs robust, resilient, and transparent cultural leadership, strong partnerships that are not dependent on individuals but can carry forward the work of building Peterborough's cultural offer. Inclusiveness and profile are crucial, especially if the area is to mount a credible bid for a City of Culture title.

4.4 Members may wish to note that the Cultural Strategy is a key driver behind the developing proposals for an animation and cultural programme in the City Centre as part of Welcome Back.

4.5 Included at appendices 1 and 2 are the final vision and values document, and the initial emerging recommendations from work to date, and Members are asked to scrutinise their contents.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 There has been and continues to be substantial consultation across a wide range of groups and organisations in Peterborough.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

6.1 It is intended to bring the final stage recommendations to this Committee at its meeting of 28 September, prior to the Cabinet of 15 November before taking the Strategy, as a major policy, to Council in December. Even before that date, the task and finish group anticipate significant steps in establishing a resilient leadership model for culture and a clear roadmap for the future. In the overall picture, as set out in the Strategy's vision, the aim over 10 years is to create and promote a cultural life which is connected, joyful, exciting, and investable, building on the unique aspects of Peterborough.

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

7.1 To create a Cultural Strategy which improves people's lives, encourages investment in the City and supports the economy.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 Peterborough could decide not to build its cultural offer, or to do so in an ad hoc fashion. It is the strong advice of funders (e.g. Arts Council) and stakeholders, and the clear ambition of cultural practitioners, that there should be a more strategic approach.

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 9.1 The ultimate Strategy may include considering financial implications, but there are none at this stage.

Legal Implications

- 9.2 None have yet been identified.

Equalities Implications

- 9.3 Inclusion and connectivity are core values of the Cultural Strategy. Young people (under 25) have been placed at the heart of the Strategy, because of the feedback we have relating to the longstanding cultural deficit for them in Peterborough and particularly the impact of the pandemic. The task and finish group has particularly recognised the impact of the Black Lives Matter campaigns and related movements for racial justice, and these issues have been strongly articulated by consultees. These priorities, which are not exclusive, have shaped emerging recommendations about participation and leadership.

Rural Implications

- 9.4 Several rural organisations have been consulted. Access to and protection of heritage, and issues associated with this in the countryside, have been particularly important.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 10.1 None

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix 1: Cultural Strategy Vision & Values (Final)
Appendix 2: Cultural Strategy Initial Emerging Recommendations April 2021

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