

CABINET

Arts and Culture Policy Framework 5 March 2019

Report of Director of Economic Growth and Regeneration

PURPOSE OF REPORT			
The report is to request Cabinet's approval of the Arts and Culture policy for consultation. The policy framework is designed to provide a means by which the Council's support for arts and culture can be evaluated against corporate priorities and key quality criteria.			
Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Non-Key Decision	Referral from Cabinet Member
Date of notice of forthcoming key decision	5 February 2019		
This report is public.			

RECOMMENDATIONS OF Councillor Darren Clifford, Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture, Tourism and Climate Change

It is recommended that

- (1) **The draft Arts and Cultural policy is approved for further consultation.**

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Arts and culture have been a feature of Lancaster district for many years. The Council has played an important role supporting arts and culture in a range of ways, including taking a leadership role at times, providing investments to support delivery of cultural activities and as a cultural deliverer itself.

1.2 Currently no agreed policy is in place to guide the Council's investment or use of Council resources to support arts and culture. Appendix A provides a draft policy for further consultation.

2.0 Proposal Details

2.1 Transparency in the use of public funds is of paramount importance when the City Council is supporting non statutory endeavours. To ensure public funds are appropriately accounted and applied it will assist to have a clear policy statement to guide the application of funding. Lancaster City enjoys a significant and lively offering across a whole range of cultural endeavours, many of which it is assumed add value through increased visitor numbers, support or activities for disadvantage groups.

2.2 It is proposed to use the opportunity provided by the creation of this policy to consult with and collate evidence to establish the primary economic and social policy needs which must be met for arts and cultural funding. The draft was created upon the assumption that

policy drivers are likely to be linked to economic impact, including increased visitor numbers and spend, increased social impact such as health and wellbeing and improved quality of life for residents plus contribution to Place. However this will need testing through evidence and information from the public. It will also need to reflect a sustainable model of delivery into the next decade.

2.3 When the social objectives have been clearly articulated, it is proposed that a series of consultations with members will occur. It is envisaged the political policy will ultimately be set by full Council on the recommendation of Cabinet, but the development of the policy will be driven, influenced and enhanced by a broad participation across all parties with the assistance of Overview and Scrutiny.

2.4 On confirmation of the Council's social and political priorities officers will be in a position to create a detailed administrative policy to deliver the objectives set by council. This will allow the City Council to provide a consistent framework for the Council's investment and use of resources to support Arts and Culture.

2.5 A draft Arts and Cultural Policy is at Appendix 1 for Cabinet's consideration and is suggested as a basis to allow for meaningful consultation with providers, participants and recipients of our cultural offering.

3.0 Details of Consultation

3.1 The draft policy provides parameters that take account of the Council Plan which has been widely consulted upon. Evidence of economic and social policy requirements will be collated primarily from existing sources.

3.2 The political policy will be developed through member engagement, which will require an understanding of the view of all stakeholders including providers, participants and audiences and wider beneficiaries. It is proposed that the majority of the responses will be provided through our current engagement with cultural providers. Cultural providers will be invited to comment in their organisational capacity and to assist in facilitating the collection of views from audiences and other users of the services such as performing art or other support groups.

4.0 Options and Options Analysis [including risk assessment]

4.1 Continuing without a policy in place offers no identified benefits. The lack of policy risks public funds being used to promote activities that either do not provide value for money or offer no material benefit. Introducing a policy based on evidence will ensure fairness and consistency in terms of allocation of funds and resources and will align the delivery of services with the Council's priorities.

5.0 Officer Preferred Option (and comments)

5.1 The officer preferred option is to agree the draft Arts and Cultural Policy for consultation.

6.0 Conclusion

6.1 The City Council invests and uses its resources to support arts and culture in the district. It is important that the Council establishes the arrangements necessary to ensure the best possible results from its contribution in a way that is fair and transparent.

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

The proposed policy framework refers directly to the Council Plan

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Human Resources, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

A range of criteria are proposed within the policy framework that address the above as relevant.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct legal implications from this report. However, the policy is designed to inform decision making.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report other than a potential positive impact on value for money.

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS, such as Human Resources, Information Services, Property, Open Spaces:

Officer capacity will be required to implement the policy.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The S151 Officer has been consulted in the drafting of this report and has no further comments.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted in the drafting of the report and has no further comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Not applicable

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