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## Report to Policy Committee

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**Report of:** Kate Martin

**Report to:** Economic Development and Skills Committee

**Date of Decision:** For information/update – 22.02.23

**Subject:** **Update on developing a Strategic Approach to Culture in Sheffield**

Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	/	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given? 1217					
Has appropriate consultation taken place?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	/	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has a Climate Impact Assessment (CIA) been undertaken?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	/	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	/	<input type="checkbox"/>
If YES, give details as to whether the exemption applies to the full report / part of the report and/or appendices and complete below:-					

Culture has moved organisationally within Sheffield City Council from leisure to Economic Development, opening up new opportunities to use culture to make Sheffield a great and inclusive place to work, study, invest, and live.

This report gives an **update** on agreed strategic actions agreed at the September 2022 EDS Committee, which will strengthen the cultural leadership role of SCC and help the sector to develop.

### Recommendations:

*The Economic Development and Skills Committee is recommended to:*

- *Note the progress made in commissioning a wider, refreshed city Culture Strategy with the sector and partners, for completion in Autumn 2023.*
- *Note the outcomes of three Expressions of Interest and work being undertaken on other funding opportunities.*

- *Note the progress made in establishing a Cultural Pipeline Fund supported by SYMCA resources.*

**Background Papers:**

*(Insert details of any background papers used in the compilation of the report.)*

**Sheffield Culture Collective Strategy:**

[www.sheffield-culture-collective.co.uk](http://www.sheffield-culture-collective.co.uk)

Lead Officer to complete:-		
1	I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed, where required.	Finance: <b>James Lyon/Kerry Darlow</b>
		Legal: <b>Patrick Chisholm</b>
		Equalities & Consultation: <b>Ed Sexton/Bashir Khan</b>
		Climate: <b>Jessica Rick</b>
	<i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>	
2	<b>EMT member who approved submission:</b>	<b>Kate Martin</b>
3	<b>Committee Chair consulted:</b>	<b>Cllr Martin Smith</b>
4	I confirm that all necessary approval has been obtained in respect of the implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist and that the report has been approved for submission to the Committee by the EMT member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.	
	<b>Lead Officer Name:</b>  Rebecca Maddox	<b>Job Title:</b>  Head of Business Development (Culture)
	<b>Date: 13/02/23</b>	

## 1. PROPOSAL / UPDATE

- 1.1 Culture has moved organisationally within SCC from leisure to Economic Development, opening up new opportunities to build on previous work and use culture to make Sheffield a great and inclusive place to work, study, invest, and live in.
- 1.2 Sheffield City Council has limited funds of its own to invest in culture, but through leadership, championing and playing an accountable body role, SCC can do more to enable a successful environment for cultural organisations and projects in the city.
- 1.3 This update report sets out progress on three actions which were agreed by this Committee in September 2022.
- 1.4 **Action 1: Adopt a clear strategy which can underpin funding applications in the sector.**
  - 1.4.1 On 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022, the Economic Development and Skills Committee formally adopted the Sheffield Culture Collective Strategy as an interim cultural strategy for the city.
  - 1.4.3 The Culture Collective Strategy provides an initial strategic framework to provide direction and clarity, which we know is something which external funders expect. However, especially in the light of Covid recovery, Sheffield's Race Equality Commission recommendations and climate emergency, there is a need to refresh, update and co-create the strategy into a city document through wide consultation with the arts sector, communities and partners including the Culture Collective, Culture Consortium, and SYMCA.
  - 1.4.4 The September 2022 report 'proposed that SCC adopts the Sheffield Culture Collective Strategy to provide direction and clarity, as an interim before working with partners to create a city Culture Strategy, co-created with the sector and Sheffield's communities.'
  - 1.4.5 Since September 2022, a funding package for the refreshed cultural strategy has been negotiated with the University of Sheffield and Arts Council England, to match a contribution from SCC. There is no capacity within SCC to undertake this detailed piece of consultation and strategy development, so a commissioning process is about to commence to identify appropriate consultants who have the skills and capacity to undertake this important task. This commission will have a ceiling price of £65,000, which is appropriate for the level of engagement and consultation required.
  - 1.4.6 It is proposed that once commissioned, the revised strategy will be completed by Autumn 2023. Draft and final versions of the strategy will be presented to this committee.

## 1.5 **Action 2: Engage with immediate external funding opportunities**

1.5.1 The September 2022 report outlined three external funding opportunities for which SCC (or as a partner with South Yorkshire Combined Mayoral Authority) submitted an Expression of Interest. While these particular EOIs were not successful, this has established a role for SCC in fronting external funding opportunities which we will continue as staffing resource allows (Culture staff are 0.8 permanent, 1.0 temporary).

1.5.2 We continue to work closely with Harmony Works and S1 Artspace in support of their projects.

1.5.3 A revised Place Partnerships EOI is being planned, which aims to support a creative programme for Sheffield to benefit communities, creatives and visitors - to help all cultures and communities in Sheffield to be visible, and to tackle inequality in Sheffield through arts and culture.

## 1.6 **Action 3: Support the creation of a Cultural Feasibility Fund and project pipeline**

1.6.1 For Sheffield to succeed in national funding rounds, we need to create a pipeline of activity, including for projects and activities in diverse Sheffield communities, which are strong and well-enough developed to be submitted for national funding rounds.

1.6.2 Since September 2022 when the Committee supported in principle the development of a 'Cultural Feasibility Fund' using external funding sources, a Cultural Pipeline Fund has been approved using part of Sheffield's SYMCA Feasibility Funds.

1.6.3 The proposal includes an officer post whose role will include outreach to groups and organisations as well as administration of the grants process and panel. There is a particular need to ensure that all communities in Sheffield have the opportunity to benefit from this fund, to work towards increasing the range and diversity of cultural projects in the city.

## 2. **HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE ?**

2.1 The actions within this proposal will continue to improve the landscape for increasing cultural funding in Sheffield. An enhanced and increasingly diverse cultural offer will support cohesion; develop skills; increase quality of life; further enhance the visitor economy; improve national visibility and reputation.

### **3. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?**

- 3.1 The brief for the renewed city Cultural Strategy has had input from Sheffield Culture Collective, Sheffield Culture Consortium, SYMCA and Arts Council England.
- 3.2 The process for developing the Cultural Strategy is based on co-creation and consultation. It is intended to be a co-created City strategy reflecting the views and input of the sector and relevant partners. We want all communities in Sheffield to recognise themselves within it.
- 3.3 The concept of a Cultural Pipeline Fund is based on discussions with a range of cultural organisations; it chimes in with the Collective Strategy Action 4; and supports Action 28 of the Race Equality Commission Report: 'Any cultural .....investment through funding in the city to facilitate authentic cultural representation...'

### **4. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION**

#### **4.1 Equality Implications**

- 4.1.1 This proposal should have positive equalities impacts on the cultural sector in Sheffield, including currently under-served communities, by bringing the voices of Sheffield's diverse communities and creatives into the development of a renewed Cultural Strategy. Once created, the Strategy will highlight the needs and aspirations of diverse Sheffield communities; and will creating a stronger strategic context and direction of travel for funding bids.
- 4.1.2 Any cultural funding which SCC fronts or administers will be designed so that it is as accessible and responsive to the needs of diverse communities as possible.
- 4.1.3 The Cultural Pipeline Fund has been designed to have cultural community development support built in, through a dedicated officer post. Improved access to development funding will start to create a progression of projects to meet diverse community need.

#### **4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications**

- 4.2.1 The majority of funding for the commissioning of the refreshed Sheffield Cultural Strategy has been secured from partners, with the balance to be found from within existing EDS budgets. We are very grateful to the

University of Sheffield and Arts Council England for their support. Consultants for the Strategy will be identified through an open call, and the decision of an appointment panel including SCC, University of Sheffield, Sheffield Culture Collective and Sheffield Culture Consortium.

4.2.2 The Cultural Pipeline Fund will be funded through the SYMCA Feasibility Fund.

#### 4.3 Legal Implications

4.3.1 The implementation of the strategy by the Council will involve reliance on specific statutory powers.

4.3.2 Section 145, Local Government Act 1972 permits the Council to arrange or contribute towards the expenses of anything necessary or expedient for any of the following:- (a) the provision of an entertainment of any nature or of facilities for dancing; (b) the provision of a theatre, concert hall, dance hall or other premises suitable for the giving of entertainments or the holding of dances; (c) the maintenance of a band or orchestra; (d) the development and improvement of the knowledge, understanding and practice of the arts and the crafts which serve the arts; (e) any purpose incidental to the matters aforesaid, including the provision of refreshments or programmes and the advertising of any entertainment given or dance or exhibition of arts or crafts held by them. Section 145 would therefore underpin the refreshed Cultural Strategy.

4.3.3 If Sheffield is invited to submit full bids to any funding scheme following successful EOIs, approval of SCC being the Accountable Body will sit with Strategy & Resources Committee or Finance Sub-Committee.

4.3.4 Awards from the Cultural Pipeline Fund will be £10,000 to £50,000. A decision panel will make recommendations for awards, which can be approved by the Director of Economic Development, Skills and Culture.

#### 4.4 Climate Implications

4.4.1 Sheffield has adopted a Net Zero 2030 City target.

While the focus of the proposed actions in this report are on cultural development, they will indirectly support Sheffield's work on climate change and reaching Net Zero.

The Sheffield Culture Collective Strategy, adopted as an interim, already acknowledges the importance of environmental priorities and the contribution of culture to the city's sustainable development.

The updated city Cultural Strategy will be more explicitly acknowledge climate change as a key challenge for the city, and build in additional measures which will help attain Net Zero 2030.

The cultural assets element of the updated Cultural Strategy will consider the importance of building reuse for cultural purposes, a less carbon-intensive approach to development.

The criteria of the Cultural Pipeline Fund will be designed to promote sustainable project proposals which contribute to Net Zero 2030.

#### 4.4 Other Implications

- 4.4.1 By providing the context for a better-supported cultural sector in Sheffield – including for diverse communities – positive impacts in economic vibrancy, wellbeing, cohesion and city reputation are expected.

### 5. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

#### 5.1 **Do nothing**

By undertaking none of the proposed actions, the cultural sector in Sheffield will continue to experience under-investment from external funders and SCC will suffer ongoing reputational damage in its cultural leadership.

#### 5.2 **Do not commission a renewed city Cultural Strategy, and retain the Culture Collective Strategy as a finished product.**

The Sheffield Culture Collective Strategy is an excellent document but was developed for a particular purpose with 19 local organisations and individuals, and does not include all the elements (e.g Net Zero) or methodology (co-creation) which would ideally feature in a city Cultural Strategy.

While the general approach and priorities of the Collective Strategy are in line with Council policy, and provide a valuable immediate strategic hook for strengthening the cultural landscape in the city, a longer-term Cultural Strategy needs to be built on the views, needs and mandate of the wider cultural sector.

With the support of the University of Sheffield and the Arts Council, we have an opportunity to co-create an inclusive, well-grounded and diverse strategy which will provide a blueprint for the next 10 years.

### 6. **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 This report provides a progress update on the actions and recommendations in the September 2022 report. The Economic Development and Skills Committee is recommended to:

- Note the progress made in commissioning a wider, refreshed city

Cultural Strategy with the sector and partners, for completion in Autumn 2023.

- Note the outcomes of three Expressions of Interest and work being undertaken on other funding opportunities.
- Note the progress made in establishing a Cultural Pipeline Fund supported by SYMCA resources.

6.2 As set out in the original report, the continuation of these actions will help to create a context where Sheffield's cultural sector can develop further and SCC can show cultural leadership.

- The development of a refreshed Cultural Strategy will give ownership and encouragement to our diverse cultural sector, plus clarity and confidence to funders.
- SCC's ongoing support with external funding bids will, over time, improve the likelihood of success.
- A Cultural Pipeline Fund will start to create a cultural project stream, and will begin to address inequalities in provision and access to resources.