



Update Report to Policy Committee

Author/Lead Officer of Report: Rebecca Maddox

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Report of: *Kate Martin*

Report to: *Economic Skills and Culture*

Date of Decision: *No decision required - for information 13/09/23*

Subject: Culture Strategy Development Update – informal report

Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken? n/a	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given? <i>(Insert reference number)</i>				
Has appropriate consultation taken place? n/a	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has a Climate Impact Assessment (CIA) been undertaken? n/a	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:-				
<p><i>“The (report/appendix) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (insert relevant paragraph number) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).”</i></p>				

Purpose of Report:

In the September 2022 ‘Strategic Approach to Culture’ report, the following were proposed as part of a new emphasis on culture in Sheffield:

- *Formally adopt the Sheffield Culture Collective Strategy on behalf of Sheffield City Council as an interim, **while SCC works with partners to develop a full city Culture Strategy.***
- *Note the submission of three Expressions of Interest to the Create Growth Fund; Cultural Development Fund 3; and Place Partnership Fund.*
- *Support in principle the creation of a Cultural Feasibility Fund through external funding sources such as SYMCA.*

This update report sets out progress towards the full city Culture Strategy; work on resubmitting to two of the funds listed; and the imminent establishment of a Cultural Pipeline Fund.

Recommendations:

The Committee is asked to note the progress made in:

- developing a new Culture Strategy for Sheffield
- resubmitting bids for Create Growth and the Place Partnership Fund
- Setting up a Cultural Pipeline Fund, resourced through South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority's Feasibility Fund.

Background Papers:

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

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: n/a
		Legal: n/a
		Equalities & Consultation: n/a
		Climate: n/a
<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	EMT member who approved submission:	n/a
3	Committee Chair consulted:	<i>Cllr Martin Smith</i>
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. n/a	
	Lead Officer Name: Rebecca Maddox	Job Title: Head of Business Development (Culture)
	Date: 17/08/23	

1. PROPOSAL

1.1 Culture Strategy

- 1.1.1 On 7th September 2022, the Economic Development and Skills Committee agreed to **'adopt... 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.'**
- 1.1.2 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 a strategy document through wide consultation with the arts sector, communities and partners including the Culture Collective, Culture Consortium, and SYMCA.
- 1.1.3 Funding for the Culture Strategy has been generously provided by the University of Sheffield (£25k), Arts Council England (£25k) and matched by SCC (£25K).
- 1.1.4 This is specialised work which needs resource and expertise. A Consultants Brief was developed with input from SCC, the Culture Collective, Culture Consortium and other arts sector members. The Brief was publicly available on YorTender, SCC's procurement platform, from 4/07/23 – 24/07/23, and from more than 70 initial enquiries 9 completed bids were received.
- 1.1.5 The bids were assessed and shortlisted by a panel including reps from SCC, the University of Sheffield, Arts Council England, SYMCA and the Procurement Team. A similar panel held clarification sessions with four of the applicants.
- 1.1.6 The quality of applications was high. However, after assessment and scoring, Fourth Street Place Consultants Ltd were confirmed as the successful applicants, with a start date of 21/08/23.
- 1.1.7 The development of the Cultural Strategy has already begun, including the appointment of a local partner, Opus Independents, to lead on community and sector engagement.
- 1.1.8 There will be opportunities for Members to be involved in the development of the strategy, and an interim progress report will return to this Committee in advance of final sign-off in February/March 2024.

1.2 Bid development

- 1.2.1 Building on previous Expressions of Interest submitted, Members are

asked to note that an EOI for Create Growth, covering the 4 South Yorkshire boroughs, has been submitted by South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority.

1.2.2 SYMCA is working in partnership with Creative UK to develop the bid for Create Growth, a specialist business support and growth accelerator programme for creative businesses funded by DCMS.

1.2.3 If successful, SYMCA will receive a grant of £520k to deliver a programme of workshops, mentoring and investor development support running to March 2025. Creative businesses accepted onto the programme would have access to £10k of development funding provided by Innovate UK, which would also work with Creative UK to deliver an investor development programme to boost access to private sector investors in the region.

1.2.3 An Expression of Interest (Eoi) was submitted Wednesday 9 August. On 24th August we received the positive news that the Eoi for the Create Growth Programme has been shortlisted, meaning that a full application to DCMS can now be submitted. The full application to join the Create Growth Programme has a deadline of 19th September 2023.

1.2.4 A workshop with South Yorkshire-wide colleagues took place on 1/8/23, where 4 potential key sectors for this scheme were identified:

Screen content – film, TV, games animation

Music – live, recorded, music tech

Cultural consumption – live event and cultural education supply chains, audience tech

Future of culture - children and young people, edutech

1.3. **Cultural Pipeline Fund**

1.3.1 Earlier this year, SCC were able to ringfence part of the SYMCA Feasibility Fund to create a Cultural Pipeline Fund. A dedicated Development Manager - to administer the scheme and to provide outreach and support, particularly to traditionally under-served groups - was appointed in early August.

1.3.2 The grant fund of £250,000 will give awards of between £5000 and £50,000 specifically for capital and revenue project development – such as feasibility studies, R&D, professional advice and organisational development. The intention is for the fund to help groups/organisations to prepare to apply for other funds in future, to start a pipeline of well-developed projects which could be eligible for national funding sources.

1.3.3 The scheme will run until March 2025. Details of the scheme and timescales will be well-publicised and the Development Manager will work to ensure maximum access to the scheme.

- 1.3.4 We are hoping to match the Cultural Pipeline Fund with Arts Council Place Partnerships funding, alongside matching with Shared Prosperity Fund Year 3. An EOI is to be submitted by the end of September focussing on interventions which will especially benefit young people and traditionally underserved communities.
- 1.3.5 A successful Place Partnerships bid could allow the Pipeline Fund to be extended further, potentially with a strong focus on young people and diversity; and would enhance the proposed Year 3 Shared Prosperity Fund creative programme.

2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE ?

- 2.1 A new Culture Strategy, co-created with the sector and partners, will give a shared narrative and priorities for culture, fully recognising the impact of Sheffield's Race Equality Commission recommendations, climate emergency and the continuing impacts of covid.
- 2.2 Applying for national funding opportunities – and developing regional skills to do this – will over time lead to additional funding for Sheffield and South Yorkshire.
- 2.3 The Cultural Pipeline Fund provides a new opportunity for Sheffield's culture and arts groups to develop revenue and capital projects with firm foundations for future funding bids - with scope to extend with Place Partnerships match.