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## Report to Policy Committee

**Author/Lead Officer of Report:** *Rebecca Maddox and Kate Brindley*

**Tel:** 07764 290497

**Report of:** *Kate Martin*

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

**Date of Decision:** *21.02.24*

**Subject:** City Culture Strategy; wider culture progress update; support for Harmony Works Trust (CIO)

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Type of Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) undertaken           | Initial <input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/> Full <input type="checkbox"/> |
| EIA 1217  |   |
| Has appropriate consultation/engagement taken place?          | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>       |
| Has a Climate Impact Assessment (CIA) been undertaken?<br>n/a | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>       |
| Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?   | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>       |

### Purpose of Report:

In September 2022 the Economic Development and Skills Committee endorsed a new Strategic Approach to Culture that included the development of a new Cultural Strategy and the council being committed to more actively seeking funds for activities in culture. The Committee asked to be updated regularly on progress; updates were provided in February 2023 and September 2023, this report provides further update.

This report also seeks the Committee's approval to make the grant award of £118,250 revenue funding from Project Feasibility Fund to Harmony Works Trust Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), for the development and completion of a detailed business case for a regional music education hub at Castlegate.

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### Recommendations:

It is recommended:

- 1) That the Economic Development and Skills Committee notes:
  - the progress so far in developing a new Culture Strategy for Sheffield
  - details of the Shared Prosperity Fund Year 3 Cultural Showcase activity;

- detail of the Place Partnership bid which was recently submitted
- progress with the Cultural Pipeline Fund

2) That the Economic Development and Skills Committee approves the grant award of £118,250 revenue funding from Project Feasibility Fund to Harmony Works Trust (CIO) for the development and completion of a detailed business case for the creation of a regional music education hub at Castlegate.

### Background Papers:

3 Cultural Audit Report – Appendix 1

4 List of Task and Finish Group members – Appendix 2

| 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.  | Finance: <i>(Insert name of officer consulted)</i><br>Liz Gough                                |
|                            |   | Legal: <i>(Insert name of officer consulted)</i><br>Marcia McFarlane                           |
|                            |   | Equalities & Consultation: <i>(Insert name of officer consulted)</i><br>Ed Sexton              |
|                            |   | Climate: <i>(Insert name of officer consulted)</i><br>Kathryn Warrington                       |
|                            | <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>SLB member who approved submission:</b>  | Kate Martin  |
| 3                          | <b>Committee Chair consulted:</b>   | Cllr Martin Smith  |
| 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 SLB member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1. |  |
|                            | <b>Lead Officer Name:</b><br>Rebecca Maddox<br>Kate Brindley  | <b>Job Title:</b><br>Head of Business Development (Culture)<br>Cultural Development Consultant |
|                            | <b>Date:</b> 12/02/24   |  |

## 1. PROPOSAL

- 1.1.1 In September 2022, the Economic Development and Skills Committee (EDS) were asked to approve proposals for developing a 'new Cultural Strategy for Sheffield'. EDS decided to adopt the proposed **Sheffield Culture Collective Strategy** as an interim cultural strategy for Sheffield; this is an initial strategic framework that will give direction and clarity while Sheffield City Council works with partners to develop the 'new Cultural Strategy for Sheffield'.
- 1.1.2 EDS also approved the proposal that by Autumn 2023, Sheffield City Council would commission consultants with skills and time to develop the 'new Cultural Strategy for Sheffield', and their work should be completed in May 2024. This report includes the requested progress update.
- 1.1.3 One aspect of the 'new Culture Strategy for Sheffield' involves Sheffield City Council taking a leadership role in applying for funds for culture and finding ways to direct external funding to cultural groups and activities. Examples of these lead applications for funding include **Shared Prosperity Fund**-supported Creative Showcase; the recent submission to the Arts Council England **Place Partnership Fund**; and the **Pipeline Fund**, funded by Project Feasibility Fund. This report gives an update on these funding applications.
- 1.1.4 Members are being asked to formally approve the proposal to allocate £118,250 to the Harmony Works Trust (CIO) music education project, by using funding which from **Project Feasibility Funding** that the council received from South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA).

### 1.2 Development of New Cultural Strategy for Sheffield

- 1.2.1 This 'new Cultural Strategy for Sheffield' will be a guiding vision for everyone involved in culture or creativity in Sheffield. It will include the shared set of values that are agreed as important to the sector; recognition of where we are and where we want to be; and examples of the many things we should celebrate.

The desired **outcomes** for this strategic development work are:

- **An ambitious vision, and a common narrative, outcomes and objectives.**

- **Building a more productive and effective relationship with strategic funders** (which will increase opportunities for successful funding bids and develop a pipeline of funding bids).
- **Analysis and synthesis of available data and existing reports, including a SWOT analysis**
- **Clear Engagement plan and supportive capacity to execute it** – understanding of what communities want and need from culture in Sheffield and the barriers to participation.

#### 1.2.2 **Commissioning**

Through an open tender process, the council commissioned consultants, 'Fourth Street Place Consultants' and Sheffield-based 'Opus Independents', to develop the new Cultural Strategy. The strategy's development is being funded by Arts Council England, the University of Sheffield and Sheffield City Council.

#### 1.2.3

Both consultants bring a wealth of experience, knowledge and networks within the creative, cultural and community sectors and have a track record of working with Sheffield City Council.

#### 1.2.4

##### **Governance**

An advisory Task & Finish Group has been meeting monthly since November 2023; its purpose is to guide the development of the strategy. As with all the engagement related to developing the strategy, the group represents a diagonal slice of the sector with equal weight given to a wide range of voices in the city, including those from diverse communities, arts organisations of different sizes, artists, freelancers, and the community sector. A full list of the membership is included at appendix 2.

#### 1.2.5

##### **Engagement**

A central pillar of the strategy process is engagement with the cultural sector across the city. The intention is for those involved in the process to genuinely influence the direction and detail of the strategy.

##### **a) Phase 1 of the Engagement process (Dec 2023 -Jan 2024)**

Guided by the Task & Finish group, an initial creative sector survey has been undertaken to help steer the wider process. The purpose was to ask how best to engage most effectively to discuss the cultural strategy. This phase of the process has been completed, with responses from nearly 200 people.

Initial findings from this engagement include: the need to ensure that the strategy is seen as sector wide, not just based on the views of SCC and existing networks like the Culture Consortium and Culture

Collective; engagement should involve a full range of engagement methods; and results must be shared transparently.

There is some criticism of Sheffield City Council in the feedback, mainly focussed on a historic lack of leadership and investment – this is no surprise and has featured in previous engagement with the sector. The Cultural Strategy development, alongside other recent developments being led by SCC, provides a platform to start to change those perceptions. It is important we work to gain credibility and the trust of the sector through a transparent and inclusive process, whilst also being realistic in managing expectation around resource.

**b) Phase 2 of the Engagement (Feb-Mar 2024 )**

This phase includes:

- i. use of the 'Have your Say' online platform to publish all key documents
- ii. 2 public workshops
- iii. 6 themed working group sessions, including on the networks that the sector needs, young people's pathways and climate crisis
- iv. 20 one to one interviews
- v. Small group conversations on Creative Health; Private Sector; Universities; Music and the Nighttime Economy; Elected Members and Local Area Committees
- vi. Consultation sessions with young people, artists from South and East Asian, Black and LGBTQIA communities, and community anchor organisations.
- vii. Workshops run by Task and Finish group members
- viii. Follow up survey through digital engagement platform

1.2.6

**c) Phase 3 of the Engagement April- May 2024**

This will involve consolidation of results and providing feedback to the public.

**Cultural Audit and Research, to underpin the Cultural Strategy**

A stage 1 cultural audit and research paper has been written which is the foundational document for the strategy's content and themes.

This cultural audit and research paper summarises the foundational research into the current state of the cultural sector in Sheffield. It includes analysis of the following:

- Policy priorities and funder strategy
- City demographics and cultural participation levels
- Economic data – GVA, businesses, jobs by sub-sector
- Freelancer analysis
- 1.2.7 - Initial consideration of supply chains, events, and cultural infrastructure
- Next steps
- 

1.2.8 This paper will be developed further using information from ongoing consultation and engagement. The Cultural Audit is included as an appendix.

### Next Steps

|     |                       |   |
|-----|-----------------------|---|
|     | <b>Feb - Mar 2024</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Engagement phase 2 including establishing a comms platform</li> <li>• Draft Vision and priorities</li> <li>• Impact and Economy</li> <li>• Research completion</li> <li>• Draft Strategy by 31.03.24</li> </ul> |
| 1.3 | <b>Apr - May 2024</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft strategy discussed and finalised</li> <li>• Action plan developed</li> <li>• Final report by 31.05.24</li> <li>• EDS final report date to be confirmed (June 2024)</li> </ul>                                      |

### Updates on funding schemes and bid applications

1.3.1 In June 2023, EDS approved the allocation of Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) Years 2&3 funding to cultural and visitor economy activity.

1.3.2 One element of this was to create a **cultural events programme** showcasing the city’s diversity and authenticity, to bring regional and national visitors, increase footfall and vibrancy, and benefit local creatives.

1.3.3 This events programme has been developed alongside a bid for Arts Council Place Partnership funding, with a particular emphasis on benefitting young people from all Sheffield’s communities and supporting a wide range of partners.

The 2024 cultural events programme (£192k) will include:

| Partner                                      | Activity                                    |
|--|---|
| Welcoming Cultures inc Roma community        | Cultural Caravan<br>Pop up Museum<br>Events |
| Migration Matters                            | Events<br>Community engagement              |
| Sunrit Culture – South Asian dance and music | Workshops and performances                  |
| Stand and be Counted Theatre of Sanctuary    | Workshops and performances                  |
| Sheffield Showcase – multi partner festival  | Up to 30 varied events over one weekend     |
| A Mind Apart Theatre – additional needs      | Workshops and performances                  |
| Sensoria Festival – film and music           | International contributors                  |

The SPF Year 3 activity is acting as matched funding for a bid for £635k Place Partnerships funding from Arts Council England. A decision on this bid is due in April/May 2024.

The Place Partnerships bid includes:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| SCC Youth Voice and Influence Team<br>Young People | Fund administered by with and for young people for creative equipment/skills development contributing to a youth festival 2025            |
| Arts Catalyst                                      | Partner in Youth Festival and Socially-engaged arts training (how to work with community groups) for young/early career artists           |
| CHOL Theatre                                       | Partner in Youth Festival, supporting young people to create programme and perform  |
| Montgomery Theatre                                 | Partner in Youth Festival supporting young people to create programme and perform   |
| Utopia Theatre                                     | Partner in Youth Festival supporting young people to create programme and perform   |
| Create Sheffield Cultural Education Partnership    | Partner in Youth Festival supporting young people to create programme and perform<br>Training tasters<br>Youth Steering Group for project |
| Music in the Round                                 | Partner in Youth Festival supporting young people to create programme and perform   |

1.3.4

In line with EDS's endorsement in September 2022, we have secured Project Feasibility Funding to create a Cultural Pipeline Fund of £250k, specifically to help arts groups to develop through feasibility studies, business planning, funding advice, professional advice, mentoring and other activity which will help their organisation to develop. The fund is especially designed for smaller, newer groups who may not have accessed funding before, from all parts of the city. The fund is now open, with two rounds, each closing on 29<sup>th</sup> February and 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Full details are in the link.

[Cultural Pipeline Fund | Sheffield City Council](#)

#### 1.4 **Harmony Works Trust -Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) – Project Feasibility Fund**

##### 1.4.1 Background

In 2022 Sheffield City Council was awarded £6.6m Gainshare revenue grant from the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority to create a Project Feasibility Fund (PFF). The funding enables the Council as the accountable body to facilitate the development of concepts and ideas into tangible projects to the point of having a detailed business case prepared that can be submitted for further funding. The PFF can support both capital and revenue projects and the September 2022 Finance Committee report noted approval for projects would rest with the Executive Director, City Futures and the Director of Finance and Commercial Services using existing Officer delegations.

##### 1.4.2 Harmony Works Trust (CIO)

Harmony Works Trust (CIO) is a charity that seeks to advance education in and promote public appreciation for the performing arts; in particular but not limited to music and to acquire, preserve, restore and maintain the building of historic and architectural interest situation in Sheffield currently known as Canada House.

1.4.3 The Council has been working closely with the Sheffield Music Academy to develop the city as a more diverse and inviting cultural hub and as part of that, the creation of a regional music education facility at Castlegate has been developed. In order to progress the proposal and secure external funding from organisations such as the Arts Council a detailed business case has to be developed. The lead party for the project, Harmony Works Trust (CIO), has requested a £118,250 contribution from PFF to support the business case development process to facilitate the delivery of a £16m capital project.

1.4.4 The PFF proposal is supported by Officers and requires EDS Committee approval because the approval results in a grant award to a third party above the £50,000 which is above the Officer delegation threshold permitted under the constitution.



- 1.4.5 This Committee is therefore asked to approve the grant award of £118,250 to Harmony Works Trust (CIO) for the development and completion of a detailed business case for the creation of a regional music education hub at Castlegate.

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

- 2.1 The majority of this report is for information and does not require a decision. However, Members are asked formally to approve the allocation of £118,250 Project Feasibility Funding to the Harmony Works music education project.

The Harmony Works music education project is repurposing a Grade II Listed Building in the heart of Sheffield, with excellent public transport, into a home for Sheffield's award-winning Music Hub, Sheffield Music Academy and several music partners. The project fulfils several City Goals:

### Goal 2

We have the education, training, skills and resources we need to pursue our curiosity and develop new ideas for the benefit of ourselves, others and Sheffield's reputation regionally, nationally and globally

### Goal 3

We enable all creatives to thrive, from artists & musicians, to scientists & technologists, sharing and learning from one another, as part of an enriching cultural and creative economy.

### Goal 10

Everyone has good access to people, culture, nature and services no matter where they live, what background they come from or what support they need

### Goal 17

We invest in children, young people and families, giving them a strong start to life with affordable, healthy, secure homes and inspiring places to learn, play and lead.

The project also contributes to the regeneration of Castlegate and allows the reuse and safeguarding of a heritage building.

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

- 3.1 The process for developing the Cultural Strategy is based on co-creation and consultation. The process is designed to be as inclusive as possible reflecting the views and input of the sector and relevant partners. The engagement process is underway and uses a variety of methodologies from digital surveys, in person sessions, an information platform, public meetings and workshops. There will be

specific workshops to ensure that a wide range of voices are heard, including 4 youth sessions, South and East Asian arts consultation, Black Arts Network, LGBTQIA+ consultation and Community/anchor organisations. This process is guided by the Task and Finish Group drawn from the sector.

The funding bids and programmes outlined here have been developed with multiple partners.

Harmony Works Trust (CIO) have undertaken extensive consultation as part of their project development.

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

##### **4.1 Equality Implications**

- 4.1.1 This process and resulting strategy 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.

All the funding bids and programmes outlined in this report have been designed with inclusion built in, though partners involved and processes/engagement support put in place.

Harmony Works Trust (CIO) is being developed as a city centre music hub so that children from across the city can access it, widening opportunities and skills development.

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

- 4.2.1 The Cultural Strategy is being generously supported with £25k from the University of Sheffield, £25k from Arts Council England, and the remaining £25k from existing EDS budgets. We are very grateful to the University of Sheffield and Arts Council England for their support.

The funding bids and programmes referred to in the report are already fully funded.

The proposed contribution to Harmony Works Trust (CIO) will be funded through the Project Feasibility Fund, held by SCC, which is a fund originally from South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority intended for purposes such as this.

##### **4.3 Legal Implications**

4.3.1 The Council's continuing development and implementation of the strategy engages its statutory powers under the Local Government Act 1972 (LGA 72), specifically section 145 and where those powers are not sufficient section 111.

4.3.1.1 Section 145 LGA 72 permits the Council to do, or arrange or contribute towards the expenses necessary or expedient for activities that include - (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.

4.3.1.2 Section 111 LGA 72 gives the council power to do any things ( whether or not involving the expenditure, borrowing or lending of money or the acquisition or disposal of any property or rights) which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of their functions.

In relation to the award of the grant to Harmony Works Trust (CIO), the Council may use powers in Section 111 LGA 72 or, rely on provisions under Section 1 Localism Act 2011 which allows the Council to do anything an individual may generally do provided it is not prohibited by other legislation.

**4.3.2** The proposed grant would be paid on the condition that Harmony Works Trust (CIO) agrees and signs the Council's standard grant agreement. This agreement sets out terms to protect the grant award, monitor project delivery and facilitate compliance with relevant law. The agreement includes provisions on timescale for project delivery, appropriate use of grant funds and includes possible consequence such as but not limited to clawback and withdrawal of fund in appropriate situations.

**4.3.4** The grant award will be assessed in accordance with, and any payment made in compliance with the Subsidy Control Act 2022.

#### 4.4 Climate Implications

4.4.1 Sheffield has adopted a Net Zero 2030 City target.

4.4.2 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.

4.4.3 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.

4.4.4 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.

4.4.5 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.

4.4.6 Harmony Works music education project represents the appropriate re-use of a significant heritage building in Sheffield City Centre.

4.4.7 While advice has indicated that an overall Climate Impact Assessment is not required, relevant projects that result from the strategy will have CIAs carried out at the project level.

#### 4.5 **Other Implications**

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**

The proposed allocation of PFF funding to Harmony Works Trust could be refused. This would create a funding gap for the project and or stop the development work on the project. It would put at risk significant funds already secured by the project from Levelling Up Fund and National Lottery Heritage Fund. If the project did not proceed, this would be a huge loss for the city, especially for our young people and music-based groups.

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

This report provides a progress update on SCC's new Strategic Approach to Culture. The recommendations build on previous reports in September 2022, February 2023 and September 2023.

The recommendation to support Harmony Works Trust (CIO) with Project Feasibility Funding builds on the principles of the Strategic

Approach to Culture, and will create strong positive outcomes for education, skills, culture, regeneration and heritage.

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