

CWG, Culture & Physical Activity O&S Committee – 2 November 2022

Councillor Jayne Francis

Cabinet Member for Digital, Culture, Heritage & Tourism

Cabinet Member Update



BE BOLD BE BIRMINGHAM



Introduction

Area	Further detail
Arts and Culture and Tourism	Sustaining and promoting art, culture and tourism, including management of grants and associated economic opportunities. Delivery of the Birmingham Visitor Destination Plan
The Library of Birmingham and Community Libraries	Oversight of the regional and city-wide role of the Library of Birmingham and the community library service; including the vital part libraries play in communities, learning and skills.
Museums	Oversight of the provision and activity of the Birmingham Museums Trust.
Promoting the City's Rich Heritage	Promoting our cultural heritage with the public, community and academic partners, ensuring that Birmingham's cultural and civic history is accessible by our children and young people. Maximising our historic architecture and ensuring the stories of Birmingham's history are told.
Commonwealth Games Legacy	Providing strategic leadership to maximise the benefits of hosting the Commonwealth Games through delivery of a Legacy Plan.
Commonwealth Games, Sports and Events Development	Jointly with the Leader & Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness

Arts, Culture, Heritage & Tourism

Develop Cultural Strategy 'Statement of Intent' leading to new 2023-2033 Cultural Strategy for Birmingham

- The 'Big Creative Conversation' with wide range of communities and stakeholders across the city ran from June to August 2022
- 'Statement of Intent' for culture developed and subsequently approved at Informal Cabinet in September 2022.
- New Cultural Strategy 2023-2033. Arrangements for design/consultation to be in put in place including an independent review of cultural delivery across the city.

Arts, Culture, Heritage & Tourism

Work with our academic, cultural and arts partners to drive investment into the city, providing a boost not just for our cultural sector, but also for the hospitality and tourism sector

- This will help to ensure viability and sustainability across the arts and culture sector, a key economic sector in Birmingham, helping everyone to afford and enjoy arts and culture
- Recruitment of a Chair for the Birmingham Cultural Compact underway (a consortium of local key stakeholders including cultural, higher education, business and health sectors) to help drive investment
- Includes council support for University of Birmingham's 'Culture Forward' Business Case

Arts, Culture, Heritage & Tourism

Production of a new Heritage Strategy for Birmingham including a Heritage Strategic Planning Document (SPD) and an independent Heritage and Conservation Panel

- Draft strategy produced with stakeholders 2021-22 prior to separating into two documents with Inclusive Growth's agreement for a new Heritage SPD (Strategic Planning Document)
- New Conservation & Heritage Panel appointed in June 2022 and new Heritage SPD developed
- Due to be presented to Cabinet in Spring 2023 prior to public consultation

Arts, Culture, Heritage & Tourism

Develop a refreshed Public Art Strategy to manage (and encourage more) public art throughout the city

- Commission underway to appoint an external recognised public art practice
- Will include equalities & cohesion review of statues and monuments across the city
- Draft strategy to Cabinet in Spring 2023

Arts, Culture, Heritage & Tourism

Promote our cultural heritage with the public, community and academic partners, ensuring that our children and young people are taught about Birmingham's cultural and civic history

Includes:

- Working with the HE sector eg University of Birmingham's 'Culture Forward' agenda
- Engaging with Heritage Strategy Group members (Chaired by Cllr Phil Davis) – quarterly meetings held
- Working with Culture Central (Birmingham arts sector's network consortium) on their legacy work following on from the Commonwealth Games 2022
- Supporting local organisations in the promotion of cultural heritage eg Legacy West Midlands and Blackstory Partnership.

Arts, Culture, Heritage & Tourism

Birmingham Visitor Destination Plan

- Cabinet approved Visitor Destination Plan in June 2022
- Major events feasibility study delivered in September 2022
- Three other tourism feasibility studies are underway – Accessible Tourism, Sustainable Tourism and a City Attractions Pass

Arts, Culture, Heritage & Tourism

Birmingham International Dance Festival 2022 (BIDF)

- Commissioned in 2021 and successfully delivered in June 2022
- Awaiting independently commissioned evaluation report

Review and develop proposals for an Annual Birmingham Festival from 2023 to celebrate Birmingham as a legacy from the Commonwealth Games

- Full Council motion for an annual cultural festival agreed in January 2022
- Annual Festival feasibility report produced in August 2022 and presented to CLT in September 2022.
- Local consortium approach review being commissioned to deliver Festival in Autumn 2023

Arts, Culture, Heritage & Tourism

Review 'Film Birmingham Office' (our film & TV location finding service) - increase levels of promotion and investment in film and television production in the city where possible

- Awaiting update from Create Central the regional Media, Film & TV development agency.
- Officer report for internal discussion due before end of 2022 prior to recommendations report to Cabinet in 2023.

Arts, Culture, Heritage & Tourism

Continue to support arts & cultural organisations across Birmingham

- Review support to arts and cultural organisations – revenue funded and project commissioning including Birmingham Museums Trust
- Significant challenges for funded cultural organisations including inflated cost of utilities combined with cost of living (reduced spending)
- Arts Funding Report to Cabinet due in February 2023 noting Arts Council England decisions around funded organisation applications to National Portfolio Organisation(NPO) funding decisions

Arts, Culture, Heritage & Tourism

Commission Annual Cultural Projects

- Birmingham Heritage Week successfully held in September – 198 events took place with 32 new organisations joining in and over 100,000 views on-line
- Black History Month launched in September including promotion of events across the city during October 2022
- ‘The World Reimagined’ (national education project in cities highlighting true history of trafficking slaves across the Atlantic)
- As part of World Reimagined - Birmingham Globes art trail delivered August to October 2022 culminating with display of all ten Globes in Bullring

Arts, Culture, Heritage & Tourism

Deliver MEND Fund Full Business Case for BMAG repairs

- Arts Council England (ACE) awarded BCC £4.99m in March 2022 for major repairs to BMAG during 2023-24
- Full Business Case approval report to Cabinet in Dec 2022
- Detailed monitoring & reporting process required to ACE
- Physical works to progress at BMAG from February 2023 – July 2024

Arts, Culture, Heritage & Tourism

Deliver feasibility appraisal for storage improvements at Museum Collections Centre and Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

- To commission during October 2022
- Report anticipated by February 2023

LoB and Community Libraries

1000s attracted to Library of Birmingham during Commonwealth Games

- Visits to the Library of Birmingham increased by 4,000 per day during Commonwealth Games
- 2022 daily average = 7,800 compared to 2018/19 daily average = 3,500
- With a total of over **100,000 visitors** during the Commonwealth Games

LoB and Community Libraries

Libraries Warm Welcome

- Libraries are currently working as part of the Council wide response to the cost of living crisis linking in with Public Health, Housing and The Early Intervention and Prevention programme team.
- We want to make our community libraries a 'Warm Welcome' for all members of the community enabling them to be safe and warm.
- It is hoped that libraries will be able to provide facilities at each site and work with local businesses to provide refreshments. The aim is to partner with local charities to dispense blankets and other donated items.

LoB and Community Libraries

Community Library Buildings

- **Maintenance of older library buildings:** Maintenance work is currently taking place in several buildings that have been identified as a priority. Condition surveys have been undertaken in all sites and a programme of maintenance work will be aligned with the transformation of the library service.
- **Risk Assessments:** Community Libraries have returned to a full pre-Covid service offer. RAs are being updated to reflect the current condition of the buildings and future service developments.

LoB and Community Libraries

Digital Literacy and support through libraries

- All libraries continue to provide quality information and digital support.
- Enabling individuals and communities to develop learning skills to find answers and to inform life choices.
- The library offer helps children and adults to engage and feel safe online.
- Libraries are working with Adult Education to support delivery of the council's Digital Inclusion Strategy. As well as offering digital skills courses at libraries,
- Provide access to PCs, free Wi-Fi and areas to study

LoB and Community Libraries

Youth Hub at Library of Birmingham

- LoB continues to host and support the Youth Hub in partnership with DWP
- LoB continues to host and support Job Fairs in partnership with DWP and WMCA
- Supports the wider jobs and skills agenda by operating as a multi-agency hub working with Careers, Youth Service, local employers, as well offering advice for business start-ups

LoB and Community Libraries

Future Vision & Strategy for Libraries

- Libraries are part of the Early Intervention and Prevention programme
- A new library pilot is being developed that will explore current use and access to the library estate and related services to support health, employment and signposting to advice and information
- Report due for Cabinet in February 2023.

CWG Legacy

- To maximise the benefits of hosting the Commonwealth Games through the continued delivery of BCC's Legacy Plan.
- Support the development of a new annual creative and cultural festival for Birmingham (mentioned earlier)
- In coordination with the Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, work across portfolios to attract more major events (sport, culture, business) to Birmingham, driving inward investment and utilising the platform of the Commonwealth Games to further promote Birmingham on the global stage.
- Continue to work with regional partners and with Government re £60m Legacy Funding award to the West Midlands