

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

PUBLIC REPORT

Report to:	CABINET
Report of:	Acting Strategic Director of Place
Date of Decision:	19 April 2016
SUBJECT:	BIRMINGHAM CULTURAL STRATEGY 2016-19 - IMAGINATION, CREATIVITY AND ENTERPRISE
Key Decision: Yes	Relevant Forward Plan Ref: 000313/2015
If not in the Forward Plan: (please "X" box)	Chief Executive approved <input type="checkbox"/> O&S Chairman approved <input type="checkbox"/>
Relevant Cabinet Member	Councillor Penny Holbrook – Skills, Learning & Culture
Relevant O&S Chairman:	Councillor Victoria Quinn – Economy, Skills & Sustainability
Wards affected:	All

1. Purpose of report:
<p>1.1 To seek approval from Cabinet for a new cultural strategy for the city to go forward to Full Council for adoption.</p> <p>1.2 To inform Cabinet of plans to establish partnership-based arrangements for delivering the strategy.</p>

2. Decision(s) recommended:
<p>That the Cabinet:-</p> <p>2.1 Approves the Cultural Strategy attached to this report at Appendix One and recommends it to progress for discussion and adoption at Full Council (provisional date 14 June 2016).</p> <p>2.2 Notes the intention to establish a new Partnership for Culture which will co-ordinate delivery, commission activities jointly or in alignment with partners and monitor progress as set out in Section 5.</p> <p>2.3 Notes the actions for the Council, which are set out in Appendix Two and will be delivered within existing budgets in the Culture & Visitor Economy Division.</p>

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3. Consultation
<p>3.1 <u>Internal</u></p> <p>Councillor Meirion Jenkins has been a member of the Steering Group for the strategy. Members of the Economy, Skills & Sustainability Overview and Scrutiny Committee have been sent a copy of the strategy and their comments have been incorporated. If Cabinet approves the strategy to progress, it will be considered by Full Council at its meeting on in June 2016, because the Cultural Strategy forms part of the corporate policy framework.</p> <p>3.2 <u>External</u></p> <p>The strategy is a partnership document. It was drafted by five working groups, each chaired by a representative of the city's cultural sector, overseen by a Steering Group. Public consultation events and two periods of public consultation have been held.</p>
4. Compliance Issues:
<p>4.1 <u>Are the recommended decisions consistent with the Council's policies, plans and strategies?</u></p> <p>The previous cultural strategy (Big City Culture) ran from 2010-2015. In the intervening period, the city has also developed a Heritage Strategy and a Public Art Strategy. Key actions from these documents are captured in the new strategy document. The development of a new cultural strategy was an action from the Leader's policy statement. The Council's Business Plan and Budget 2016+ sets a vision for A Strong Economy, A Great Future for Young People and Thriving Local Communities, and the cultural strategy plays a part in achieving these outcomes. The Business Plan also charges us with developing an approach which is partnership-led, not Council-led.</p> <p>4.2 <u>Financial Implications</u></p> <p>The strategy document sets a course of direction for partners across the city. The actions identified for the Council to progress are set out in Appendix Two and will be delivered within the Culture & Visitor Economy budget.</p> <p>4.3 <u>Legal Implications</u></p> <p>Under the general power of competence per Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011, the Council has the power to enter into the arrangements set out in this report which also are within the boundaries and limits of the general power of competence Section 2 and 4 of the Localism Act 2011. The power to award grants and to do, or arrange for the doing of, or contribute towards the expenses of doing, anything necessary or expedient for the provision of entertainment is given under Section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972.</p> <p>4.4 <u>Public Sector Equality Duty</u></p> <p>A copy of the Equality Act 2010 – Public Sector Duty statement is appended – Appendix Three together with the initial equality assessment screening – Appendix Four (EA000500).</p>

5.	Relevant background/chronology of key events:
5.1	The Cultural Strategy is a part of the corporate policy framework. The previous strategy (Big City Culture) was developed as part of the work to assemble Birmingham's bid for the UK City of Culture title in 2010 and expired in 2015.
5.2	In the intervening period, a series of related strategic documents, most notably the Heritage Strategy 2015-19 and the Public Art Strategy 2015-19 have been developed through partnership processes. The Cultural Strategy (attached at Appendix One) is consistent with the main actions in these strategies, and some of the headline actions are also included specifically.
5.3	Although the strategy is part of the Council's policy framework, in keeping with the new policy direction to be partnership (not Council) led, in 2015 the Cabinet Member for Skills, Learning & Culture invited five cultural leaders in the city to join a steering group and to chair the working groups which developed the document.
5.4	Each working group comprised representatives drawn widely from the cultural sector. The working group chairs were Tom Jones and Deirdre Figueredo (Culture on Our Doorstep), Noel Dunne (Next Generation), Anita Bhalla (A Creative City), Wanjiku Nyachae and Gavin Wade (Our Cultural Capital) and Stuart Rogers (Our Cultural Future).
5.5	Following the development of a first draft of the strategy, a public consultation day was held on 12 th October 2015. Over fifty people attended including representatives from the cultural, voluntary and Higher Education sectors. Public consultation via Be Heard took place at the same time. The strategy was then updated to reflect important points concerning revised narrative and outcomes under each of the themes and measures of success and a second period of consultation then took place which closed on 15 January 2016. Specifically, changes made included stressing links to the health and voluntary sectors, the importance of the amateur arts sector, residents' (including young people's) roles in leading, planning and delivery, explicit commitments from cultural companies and clearer reference to proactive planning for business resilience and sustainability.
5.6	As the strategy is a partnership document, it is appropriate for a partnership to govern its delivery and a Partnership for Culture (PfC) is proposed for this purpose. The PfC will include the working group chairs, as well as representatives of organisations with an interest in the city's continued thriving and vibrant cultural life. It is intended that the partnership will develop Terms of Reference which enable joint and aligned commissioning of activities to progress actions in the strategy as necessary. Separate oversight of the Heritage and Public Art strategies is already in place.
6.	Evaluation of alternative option:
6.1	Not to agree a Cultural Strategy – Birmingham would have no up to date framework for cultural development. The strategy has been advanced by a wide partnership and provides direction for the development of cultural activities across the city. Without an agreed strategy it would be more difficult to co-ordinate provision to meet the objectives determined with partners and to take advantage of funding opportunities.

7. Reasons for Decision(s):	
7.1	To provide a recommendation to Full Council for the adoption of the draft Cultural Strategy (Appendix One), as part of the Council's policy framework. This will provide policy direction to underpin delivery of the actions to be taken by the Council (Appendix Two) and support the cultural sector in co-ordinating and delivering the activities set out in the strategy.

Signatures		<u>Date</u>
Cabinet Member Cllr Penny Holbrook, Skills Learning & Culture
Chief Officer Jacqui Kennedy, Acting Strategic Director of Place

List of Background Documents used to compile this Report:
1. Big City Culture – Birmingham's Cultural Strategy 2010-15

List of Appendices accompanying this Report (if any):
1. Draft Cultural Strategy
2. Actions for the Council
3. Equality Act
4. Equality Analysis EA000500

Report Version		Dated	<u>5 April 2016</u>
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