



## Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee

7<sup>th</sup> March 2018

<b>Title</b>	<b>Draft Arts and Culture Strategy for Barnet</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Chairman of the Committee, Councillor Reuben Thompstone
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	No
<b>Enclosures</b>	Appendix 1- Draft Arts and Culture strategy
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### Summary

This report provides a draft arts and culture strategy for approval by the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee. It sets out the consultation undertaken to date and seeks approval from the Committee of the strategy and delegation to the Strategic Director for Children and Young People to finalise the published version. It also provides an update on establishment of a resource to kick start the use of spaces for incidental and 'meanwhile uses' in the borough.

### Recommendations

1. That the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee note the partnership activity to date to develop a draft Arts and Culture strategy.
2. That the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee agree the Arts and Culture strategy set out in Appendix 1.

3. That the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee delegate authority to the Strategic Director for Children and Young People to finalise the strategy document for publication, including agreeing suitable images.
4. That the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee note the progress on the establishment of a resource to kick start the use of incidental and 'meanwhile use' space in the borough.

## **1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED**

- 1.1 On the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017, the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee considered a progress report on the development of an arts and culture strategy for Barnet. The report set out the consultation that had been undertaken to date. The committee agreed to the vision and priorities for the development of the strategy. It also agreed to the establishment of a time-limited council-funded resource to kick start the use of spaces for incidental and 'meanwhile uses' in the borough.
- 1.3 This report sets out the further consultation that has taken place in the development of the draft Arts and Culture strategy. It provides wording for the vision, context and priorities sections of the Arts and Culture strategy, for agreement by the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee. It should be noted that the images and design will be finalised once the strategy has been agreed.
- 1.4 The report also provides an update on the establishment of a time-limited resource to kick start the use of spaces for incidental and 'meanwhile uses' in the borough.

### **A. Developing the strategy**

- 1.5 In shaping the local strategic framework, the council, Middlesex University and artsdepot formed a small working group to lead and steer the engagement with the local arts and culture community. This three way partnership group has helped to ensure that the leadership of the local approach is embedded and a shared endeavour.
- 1.6 A workshop was held in July, co-hosted by the council, Middlesex University and artsdepot. The workshop was held at Middlesex University campus and facilitated by an external, independent facilitator. The three lead organisations compiled an invitation list, based on known contacts and organisations working in the borough. Invitations were sent to over 100 individuals and organisations of which around 40 attended on the day.
- 1.7 Participants in the workshop identified a wide range of benefits that arts and culture brings to Barnet as well as a number of opportunities to strengthen

and develop a local arts and culture offer. These then led to the development of a draft vision and set of priorities, which was shared with the Barnet Partnership Board in October. The feedback from key partner organisations on the Board refined and shaped the vision and priorities before they were then agreed at the CELS Committee meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

- 1.8 A further workshop then took place on the 9th November, again co-hosted by the council, Middlesex University and artsdepot. The purpose of the second workshop was to further develop the detail for each of the priorities that had been agreed. Invitations were issued to key organisations known to be working in Barnet, compiled from information and contact details held by the three organisations. Circa 20 people attended from a range of organisations.
- 1.9 The outcome of the workshop was the detail behind each of the priorities around what success would look like and what would be needed in order to make it happen. This detail has then been further shaped into the Arts and Culture strategy that is contained in Appendix 1.

**B. Next steps for delivering the strategic approach:**

- 1.10 An Arts and Culture 'Meanwhile Use' Link Officer role is currently being recruited to. The purpose of this role will be to work with partners to drive forward the priorities set out in the strategy. Specifically:
- To initiate and manage an Arts & Culture Board made up from representatives from Middlesex University, the Arts Depot and Barnet Council, among others, in order to lead and steer the engagement with the local arts and culture community.
  - To co-ordinate ideas and proposals towards increasing arts and culture opportunities in the borough.
  - To encourage partners to lead and develop their own ideas for arts and culture initiatives.
  - To kick start the use of spaces for incidental and 'meanwhile uses' of council assets for cultural and arts opportunities in the borough, creating a 'buzz' in local areas
  - To promote spaces and opportunities for creative and ambitious art projects to thrive and new cultural organisations and industries to flourish.
  - To support the borough's ambition to work towards becoming the London Borough of Culture in 2021, through co-ordinating the bid to become a London Borough of Culture.

**C. Establishing a resource to kickstart the use of spaces for incidental and 'meanwhile use' space in the borough**

- 1.11 At the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee on November 17<sup>th</sup> 2017 it was agreed to fund a part-time resource to make better use of incidental opportunities and 'meanwhile use' spaces that arise. Meanwhile use is a term that often refers to the temporary occupation of empty town centre retail units or other spaces that may be available ahead of

longer term plans for its future use. The purpose of the role was to pilot an approach to navigate council process quickly in order to respond and promote the meanwhile use of council assets for cultural and arts opportunities.

- 1.12 The role specification has been developed and evaluated and the post is being recruited to. This recruitment process should be complete by the end of March.

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 To provide a draft arts and culture strategy for Barnet, for the agreement of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding. The report proposes a time -limited resource to be approved for the reasons set out above. This report updates the committee on the London Borough of Culture programme and proposes that Barnet aims to become a London Borough of Culture in 2021/22.

## **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

- 3.1 The alternative option is not to develop a strategic framework for arts and culture. Whilst this option would not be detrimental to the current provision, it may reduce the opportunity for Barnet to seize future opportunities that may arise.

## **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 See Section 1.10 above.

## **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

### **5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

- 5.1.1 Barnet's continuing success as a place where people want to live, work and study is a key aim of the Council's corporate plan 2015-2020. A thriving arts and culture offer supports this ambition and contributes to:

- Barnet's children and young people receiving a great start in life
- Public Health being integrated as a priority theme across all services
- A broad offer of skills and employment programmes
- Barnet's parks and green spaces being amongst the best in London
- Barnet being among the safest places in London, with high levels of community cohesion, and residents feeling safe.

Working with partner organisations and residents to achieve this, the council's aim is for:

- Fairness: striking the right balance between more frequent users of services and fairness to the wider taxpayer, making sure all residents benefit from opportunities for growth.

- Responsibility: where all parts of the public service system play their part in helping to achieve priority outcomes with reduced resources.
- Opportunity: the council will capitalise on the opportunities of a growing economy by prioritising regeneration, growth and maximising income

## **5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

- 5.2.1 The delivery of the arts and culture strategy brought forward for consideration by the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee will be financed from within existing resources.
- 5.2.2 The council and partner organisations have previously sought opportunities to bid for additional funding opportunities and this approach will continue.

## **5.3 Legal and Constitutional References**

- 5.3.1 As set out in Article 7 of the Council's Constitution, the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee has responsibility for all matters relating to children, schools, education and libraries and to lead the Council's responsibilities under the Children Act 2004 and Education and inspection Act 2007.
- 5.3.2 Section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides a power for local authorities to do, arrange or contribute to anything which is necessary or expedient for the provision of entertainment, facilities for dancing, provision of a theatre, concert hall, dance hall or other suitable premises for use of entertainment, maintenance of a band or orchestra, development and improvement of the knowledge, understanding and practice of the arts and crafts which serve the arts and any matters incidental to the above. The power includes the ability to enclose or set apart any part of a park or pleasure ground under the authority's control, may permit such facilities to be used by any other person on such terms and payment as the authority sees fit and may make and permit charges for admission, subject to compliance with any covenant or condition applying to a public park or pleasure ground.
- 5.3.3 Under section 12 of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964, a local authority has a power to provide and maintain museums and art galleries. This includes a power to charge for admission, having first considered the need to secure that the museum or gallery plays a full part in the promotion of education in the area, in particular with regard to children and students. This Act also permits local authorities to contribute towards the expenses of others in providing museums or galleries.

## **5.4 Risk Management**

- 5.4.1 None.

## 5.5 Equalities and Diversity

- 5.5.1 The 2010 Equality Act outlines the provisions of the Public Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies to have due regard to the need to: eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010; advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups; foster good relations between people from different groups.
- 5.5.2 The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day to day business and to keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services.

## 5.6 Consultation and Engagement

See paragraphs 1.5 to 1.9 above.

## 6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 Opposition Motion in the name of Councillor Kath McGuirk to Full Council, 13th December 2016:  
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s36655/Opposition%20motion%20-%20Cllr%20Kath%20McGuirk.pdf>
- 6.2 Member's Item in the name of Councillor Anne Hutton – Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee, 23rd March 2016:  
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s30707/Members%20Item%20-%20Councillor%20Anne%20Hutton.pdf>
- 6.3 Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee *Promoting arts and culture in Barnet*, 21st February 2017  
<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s38011/Promoting%20arts%20and%20culture%20in%20Barnet.pdf>
- 6.4 Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee *Promoting arts and culture in Barnet*, 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017  
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s43343/Arts%20and%20Culture%20Report.pdf>