

Appendix 1-

Arts and Culture Strategy for Barnet

Foreword

Arts and culture are an important part of making Barnet an even better place to live in the years to come. Creating the right conditions for a thriving local arts and culture offer in the borough is essential for bringing our communities together, raising aspirations and improving physical and mental wellbeing among our residents.

A thriving arts and culture sector will also bring prosperity to the borough, making the most of the opportunities that regeneration brings, as well as helping Barnet to secure its unique identity in and contribution to the London metropolis. Our aim is to embed arts and culture within our everyday priorities across the whole partnership. This strategy provides a framework for us to work together as partners across the borough to understand, promote and secure Barnet's cultural and creative landscape for now and for future generations.

This strategy

This strategy provides a framework to harness the vision, ambition and resources of the council, residents and organisations working in Barnet to promote a rich cultural life of the borough. The vision and priorities set out in the strategy have been developed in partnership with key organisations providing arts and cultural opportunities for Barnet residents and will be delivered through working together to bring the varied talents, resources and energy to the table.

Our Vision

Barnet is a fast growing London borough with a rich cultural heritage and history. Ambitious regeneration plans and locally led investment in housing, skills and economic development are seeing new communities develop and prosper. Our vision for the development of arts and culture as the borough grows is for

'a creative borough with a vibrant, innovative, inclusive and ambitious arts and culture offer that celebrates our heritage and will make Barnet the best place to live, learn, visit, work and do business in'.

Context

Barnet is a large, diverse and growing borough and residents enjoy a broad range of arts and cultural opportunities, both those located in Barnet and through access to the opportunities afforded from being part of the capital city. Overall, most of Barnet's residents enjoy a successful and healthy life, with many families choosing it as a great place to raise their family. A wide range of services and amenities support this success and overall, residents are well served by both local services and by those provided for London as a whole. The infrastructure that provides, for example, green open spaces, public transport and health services are not constrained by borough boundaries and many residents make use of services across north London, Hertfordshire and central London. Arts and cultural activities and infrastructure is similarly utilised, with a plethora of local 'home-grown' activity and facilities in Barnet alongside the world class facilities offered in central London, which as

the capital city hosts a range of national and world leading cultural facilities, activities and festivities.

All London boroughs benefit from the cultural and artistic energy that comes from being part of a creative capital city and finding ways to ensure that all Londoners have an opportunity to benefit is realised through a mix of improving access to existing opportunities and providing the right conditions for local cultural and arts activities and facilities to grow, flourish and be sustained.

This strategy recognises that creating the right conditions for a thriving local arts and culture offer in the borough cannot be left to chance alone. Whilst there are many existing opportunities in the borough, there is a recognition that we need to harness everyone's efforts to create a stronger, better known and more accessible Barnet offer to match the local ambitions of the borough to grow, develop and remain attractive to new families, new talent and new businesses.

Our priorities

We have developed four priorities to support the delivery of the vision:

- to harness and promote arts and cultural activities to improve and enrich the lives, education, health and well-being of all residents
- to promote spaces and opportunities for creative and ambitious art projects to thrive and new cultural organisations and industries to flourish
- to attract and develop cultural and creative talent and skills to contribute to Barnet's economic prosperity
- to celebrate our diversity and promote pride in our borough

Priority 1: to harness and promote arts and cultural activities to improve and enrich the, lives, education, health and well-being of all residents

What will success look like?

- A growing borough recognised as ambitious in its pursuit of the contribution that arts and culture can play
- Where residents know what's available and are able to take advantage of the cultural life of the borough
- Where there are lots of opportunities for all and activities are enjoyed and celebrated by all age groups, supporting children to learn and grow into successful adults and where older people are engaged, active and thrive.
- A borough where people come to visit to experience the cultural activities on offer

Making it happen:

- Support networking opportunities and promote collaboration among cultural activity providers and organisations
- Support local festivals and community events to be sustainable and popular for all
- Publicise and promote cultural activities to increase awareness, particularly those that are free/low cost

- Help each other to share opportunities, to learn from each other and spread what works.
- Share best practice on the contribution that social media can play in spreading the word
- Support digital inclusion so that all parts of the community can use the web and social media to learn of opportunities and 'what's on'.

Priority 2: to promote spaces and opportunities for creative and ambitious art projects to thrive and new cultural organisations and industries to flourish

What would success look like?

- A range of spaces and opportunities to support the ambition of residents and organisations, large and small
- Affordable spaces to encourage events and activities at a low cost, to make accessible to all residents
- Barnet as a destination for organisations seeking to create and innovate
- Arts and culture opportunities at the heart of regeneration, helping new housing communities to be forged through celebration and joy

Commitments to make it happen, working in partnership

- Work to overcome barriers to making use of spaces for creative and pop up events and opportunities
- Open up more opportunities in parks and open spaces for local community events
- Support for the artsdepot to grow its reputation across North London
- Retain and develop cultural venues and workspaces and seek to increase awareness
- Develop libraries as places where residents come together to develop new opportunities to promote local arts and cultural activities
- Work with developers and regeneration partners to consider the cultural needs of new communities and how those needs will be met

Priority 3: to attract and develop cultural and creative talent and skills to contribute to Barnet's economic prosperity

What would success look like?

- A thriving community of creative talent
- A place where people see an opportunity to develop their talent and participate in the cultural life of the borough
- A place where creative industries are attracted by the support on offer and the local talent and skills available

Commitments to make it happen, working in partnership

- Promote apprenticeships in the creative industries
- Through the borough's Entrepreneurial Strategy, support small and medium enterprises in the creative industries
- Work with Middlesex University to harness the energy and expertise of young entrepreneurs in the making

Priority 4: to celebrate our diversity and promote pride in our borough

What would success look like?

- Barnet's heritage protected for future generations to learn and enjoy
- Meeting the needs of new and existing communities

Commitments to make it happen, working in partnership

- Use regeneration and growth to bring new and existing communities together through sharing and celebrating
- Promote low cost opportunities