



Subject:	Cultural Framework and Action Plan: Delivery Plan 2018/19
Date:	7 March 2018
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Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Seek approval for the activities set out in the year 3 delivery plan of the 2016-2020 Cultural Action Plan including approval to enter into relevant legal agreements and Service Level Agreements with named delivery partners.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	It is recommended that Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Notes the contents of this report and agrees the year 3 delivery plan (2018/19) of the 2016/2020 Cultural Action Plan including the associated budget requirements, as set

	<p>out in Appendix 1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Notes the planned inquiry into the cultural resilience of UK cities and agrees to participate, at a cost of £10,000 towards the research work.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Cultural Framework was launched in October 2012. This Framework was created in consultation with the culture, arts and heritage sectors across Belfast. An action plan for 2012-15 was delivered and a report to this Committee in January 2016 set out the many achievements. It also set out a further four-year action plan (2016-2020) which helped re-focus efforts on areas of opportunity, in line with the original framework.</p>
3.2	<p>The vision for 2020 was that: “everyone in Belfast experiences and is inspired by our City’s diverse and distinctive culture and arts. Arts & Heritage are valued for enriching quality of life and creating wealth and the city’s culture and creativity is renowned throughout the world.”</p>
3.3	<p>The framework contains four main priorities for action, namely;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Distinctly Belfast - Attracting audiences - Inspiring communities - Strengthening the sector.
3.4	<p>The support is delivered through a range of mechanisms including grant funding, development work with key bodies such as the Festivals Forum, Visual Arts Forum and strategic investment in areas such as audience development. Key to successful delivery of this framework is the ongoing need to work in partnership with city stakeholders including government agencies and the cultural sector itself.</p>
3.5	<p>Some of the priority activities delivered in 2017/18 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approximately £1.4m invested in supporting 56 key cultural organisations through Core Multi Annual Funding (CMAF) - Successful Festivals and Visual Arts fora are operating in the City - 33 Community Festivals supported across the city through the Community Festivals Fund with match funding being provided by the Department for Communities (DfC) - £160,000 invested in supporting 29 culture, arts and heritage grants

- Successful application to Creative Europe-funded programme via Eurocities network to support a three day study visit to Belfast in June 2017 by four European cultural experts. They undertook a review of cultural sector support, made an assessment of the potential of the sector and produced a final report with a series of recommendations
- Development and delivery of Belfast Arts Weekender programme. This is a programme of city animation that will take place all across Belfast over two weekends: 2-4 March and 10-11 March 2018
- Co-ordinated the delivery of a range of successful music events such as Gradam Ceoil and Other Voices
- Delivered a Bringing Heritage to Life Programme as part of European Heritage Open Days initiative with 300 people in attendance
- Development of phase 1 of the Resilience Programme which aims to build the capacity and sustainability of local arts and cultural organisations in conjunction with Arts Council NI
- Working in partnership with Creative and Cultural Skills, supported the NI Creative Employment Programme for 6 trainees to find employment within the cultural sector
- Successful application to the Peace IV programme which has secured £400,000 of investment to deliver an 'Artists in Residence' programme. This programme will be rolled out across Belfast from Summer 2018.

3.6 The Belfast Agenda identifies the contribution that culture and arts can make to the City, helping to improve quality of life, drive economic regeneration and make Belfast a shared, and welcoming City. A vibrant and animated City is an essential element of strategies to improve the quality of life for residents. Equally it is a key element of the investment proposition for a City, focusing on a diverse cultural offer involving a mixture of indigenous talent and international events. Cultural Tourism is also a critical element of Belfast's tourism offer and one of the key customer segments in the city is the "culturally curious".

3.7 Members will be aware that the cultural sector is under considerable financial pressure. The Arts Council for Northern Ireland (ACNI) has recently consulted with the sector and advised that it is likely to face funding cuts from its parent Department (Department for Communities (DfC)). This will mean that it, in turn, will have to pass those cuts on to the organisations that it supports financially. ACNI also met with Party groupings in BCC and asked for ongoing support for the sector. While Belfast City Council has maintained its level of financial support to the sector over the last number of years, it is important to note that the Council support, while essential, represents on average less than 10% of a funded organisation's turnover. In

April 2017, the Committee agreed to make a strategic investment in a small number of the larger cultural organisations in order to improve their resilience and make them more sustainable. Delivery of this three year programme will commence in the coming weeks. Funding for events (largely resourced through the Community Festivals Fund (CFF) ensures that there is a vibrant events and festivals scene in the City. The funding mainly supports local festivals and events (as referenced in the Events and Festivals report that is also being presented to this Committee). Subject to agreement on the proposed approach to Events and Festivals, it will be critical to consider the development role provided by the Officers responsible for the delivery of the Cultural Action Plan. The Events and Festivals report proposes a “client management” role on Signature and Growth events in order to help them achieve their growth ambitions.

3.8 The year 3 delivery plan is included at Appendix 1. The plan has taken into consideration the range of actions to be delivered over the four-year period of the Action Plan (2016-2020) and has identified a number of priorities to be delivered in 2018/19. As in previous years, partnership working is essential to the development and delivery of actions within the Cultural Framework and Action Plan.

Across each of the 4 themes, some of the proposed actions for 2018/19 will include:

- 3.9
- Distinctly Belfast:
 - Deliver a “Cultural Animation” programme – the Belfast Arts Weekender Programme in partnership with other cultural organisations across Belfast
 - Deliver a “Bringing Heritage to Life” programme as well as a Heritage Skills Programme, linking to the European Year of Cultural Heritage in 2018.

 - Inspiring Communities
 - Deliver an Artist in Residence programme in a number of key locations across the City, funded through the Peace IV programme.
 - Develop a Capacity Building Programme to enhance the skills of the sector across a number of key areas including marketing, product development, strategic and financial planning and social enterprise support.

 - Attracting Audiences
 - Develop and deliver a tailored programme of support on audience development and growing cultural audiences in partnership with the cultural sector and

statutory partners.

- Strengthening the Sector:
 - Work in partnership with ACNI to deliver year two of the Resilience Programme, focusing on 15 key cultural organisations in Belfast
 - Engage with Arts and Business NI to develop and deliver a tailored programme of support that helps build the sustainability of small to medium sized cultural organisations.
 - Establish Memorandum of Understanding with key partners including the British Council to develop collaborative partnerships to support sectoral development and profile the sector internationally.

3.10 One of the key areas for consideration in this year's delivery plan is how the sector can be mobilised and brought on board as part of the legacy plans arising from the development work undertaken for the European Capital of Culture bid for 2023.

3.11 Additionally, as a result of a Creative Europe funded study visit to Belfast which was completed in June 2017 by four international cultural and city development experts, Belfast has been given a series of recommendations in terms of how to maximise the city's potential by using culture as a key city driver.

3.12 Recommendations include working collaboratively with other council units, government agencies, sectors, universities and the private sector to create a more joined up approach to culture and creativity amongst key partners, which support entrepreneurship and the internationalisation of the city's culture.

Supporting the Inquiry into the Cultural Resources of the UK's Cities

3.13 As set out above, the cultural sector is currently under significant financial pressure in the context of public sector funding pressures. These pressures are not only impacting on the local cultural sector, they are being experienced across many other administrations. The Core Cities Group – a group of the largest cities in the UK – has developed a proposal for a joint research project to explore in detail the level of cultural investment in the key UK cities and to share experience on potential alternative approaches to investment in the cultural sector. This work – an Inquiry into the Cultural Resources of the UK's Cities – will examine how to make most effective use of cultural resources and explore innovative approaches to enable smarter investment in culture in UK cities. The Inquiry will work with leading cities across the UK to

address the issue of investment, to enable the cities to realise the full the benefits that culture can provide as part of effective local growth strategies. It will draw on the experience of city development and neighbourhood regeneration over recent decades and will cover the following points:

- Consideration of the current channels and instruments of investment into culture in order to determine how these can be used to greatest effect, in order to unlock maximum social and economic value for communities
- Consideration of alternative models of channelling resources into culture – both economic and human. This will include an examination of international examples, and how these may be applied in a local context
- Present practical recommendations for local and national policy-makers, influencers, funders and deliverers to aid City development planning.

3.14 The Inquiry will be developed and delivered by a Board which will comprise representation from a range of sectors including local government, Arts Councils, major cultural institutions, property development and media sectors. It is to be chaired by Jayne-Anne Gadhia, CEO of Virgin Money. The partnership wishes to take an inclusive approach to the work and it has therefore invited Belfast to be a partner in the Inquiry. This will involve sharing information with the Inquiry Team and hosting an event in Belfast in the course of the programme of work (February to September 2018). The work is to be funded by the Local Authority and Arts Councils across the UK (ACNI have been invited to engage by Belfast City Council). The costs associated with engagement in this Inquiry will not exceed £10,000.

Financial & Resource Implications

3.15 The Year 3 Delivery Plan will be supported by 2018/19 Tourism, Culture & Arts budget. The funding required has been set aside in the departmental budget for 2018/19 which has been approved by this Committee. Details of the budgets required for each of the programme elements are set out in Appendix 1.

3.16 The Belfast City Council contribution to the Inquiry into the Cultural Resources of the UK's Cities will not exceed £10,000. The work will be completed by September 2018 and will help inform investment plans for the 2019/20 financial year and beyond. All funding required has been set aside within existing departmental budgets.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

3.17 The Cultural Framework was subject to an Equality Impact Assessment. This updated action plan will continue to be monitored accordingly.

4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - Year 3 Delivery Plan: 2018/19