

Carlisle City Council

Report to Health & Wellbeing

Scrutiny Panel

Report details

Meeting Date:	13 th January 2022
Portfolio:	Communities, Health and Wellbeing
Key Decision:	N/A
Policy and Budget Framework	Yes
Public / Private	Public
Title:	CULTURE IN CARLISLE AND LINKS TO MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT
Report of:	The Deputy Chief Executive
Report Number:	CS 01/22

Purpose / Summary:

The purpose of this report is to provide members of the Health and Wellbeing Panel with an update on the development and activities of Carlisle Culture, with a particular focus on mental health support.

This report was requested by members of the Health and Wellbeing panel following previous panel discussions regarding the impact of cultural programmes in Carlisle.

Recommendations:

1. That members of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel review this report, noting the progress made and planned work ahead in 2022.

Tracking

Executive:	
Scrutiny:	13 th January 2022
Council:	

1. Background

- 1.1** During 2017 the City Council took part in a Local Government Association, Cultural Peer Review to gain a better understanding of the Council's contribution to cultural provision across the district and wider borderlands and county sub-regions.
- 1.2** One of the outcomes of this review was the development of a cultural partnership. The role of this new partnership was to establish the current cultural activities in the district (for health, economy, education, tourism, place making) and identify opportunities for growing this sector; increasing the level of cultural activity in the district and strengthening the relationships of those institutions engaged in supporting cultural provision and practice.
- 1.3** The product of this work was the formation of a cultural forum (Carlisle Culture) and the delivery of a Strategic Framework for Culture (see Appendix 1). This framework was presented to members of the Health and Wellbeing Panel 20th February 2020 (CS.04/20).
- 1.4** Since this presentation work has progressed on delivering the Framework objectives and developing the forum. The work of Carlisle Culture has continued during the pandemic period, although, as with all other aspects of partnership work, inevitably this has been much slower than desired or anticipated.

2. Update on the work of Carlisle Culture and the delivery of the Strategic Framework for Culture

- 2.1** The Strategic Framework for Culture in Carlisle contains ten priorities for delivery, these sit across the four areas of strategic focus – Cultural leadership and enterprise, Cultural destination and place-making, Community wellbeing and Children, young people and lifelong learning. A summary of progress against each of the ten priorities is outlined below.

2.2 Priority 1 – Leadership

During the past year the founding Forum member organisations (Carlisle City Council, Tullie House Trust, Prism Arts and the University of Cumbria) have expanded the interim board via a public call for expressions of interest in joining the forum. This call was met by a broad range of institutional and individual interest and a selection process was undertaken to determine a balanced, experienced and knowledgeable interim board. This interim board was selected to assist with the delivery of the Framework priorities.

The interim Carlisle Culture board now has representation from Carlisle City Council, University of Cumbria, Tullie House Trust, Prism Arts, Eden Arts, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Cumbria LEP (Creative and Culture subgroup), The Guild (city centre workspace provider), Whistling Crew Productions CIC. City Councillors and a previous High Sheriff of Cumbria are also represented.

The coming together and development of this new interim board has undoubtedly been hindered by the challenges of meeting during a pandemic. However, the last three meetings of the group have been face to face and progress is now being made on an options appraisal for the future organisational arrangements for Carlisle Culture. These future arrangements will set the direction for this forum and will need careful consideration during this next period.

2.3 Priority 2 Citywide Alignment

The key point of this priority is to ensure that culture and creative place-making is embedded in public authority policy making, strategic planning, infrastructure development, heritage management, community cohesion, environmental sustainability, education and tourism development.

Evidently a 'culture in all policies' is taking place across our key future plans and strategies. This development can be seen clearly in the work of the Town Board, development of economic plans, St. Cuthbert's Garden Village green space plans, Future High Streets projects, tourism events, Swifts Nature reserve project and several other strategic activities. What is less evident at this point is the influence of the Carlisle Culture interim board and Strategic Framework. The importance of developing an influential forum board should not be overlooked as this provides the opportunity for professional interventions and enhancements to key city-wide projects from experienced cultural practitioners. This aspect of board development, cultural advocacy and professional intervention will need to be considered by the interim board during this next period. Steps have already been taken to better align the cultural forum interim board with economic development officers and the Town Board.

2.4 Priority 3 Investment

The focus of this priority is to increase investment in the city and district to achieve the cultural vision for Carlisle and to create opportunities for creatives to access resources and therefore retain skills and talent to our local area.

During this last period, work undertaken via the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal, Future High Streets Fund, Town Deal has generated a significant pipeline of capital investment for the city region. This investment will present the opportunity to re-invent the 'high street' and re-imagine uses of the city centre. Cultural uses for these spaces and properties will require further 'revenue' investment and support from investors and

public bodies. This work area will require further leadership, advocacy and joined up thinking from the forum interim board.

2.5 Priority 4 Engaging existing networks and cultural assets

This priority recognises that Carlisle Culture exists within a wider network of cultural organisations and groups and therefore efforts need to be sustained to ensure good communication of plans and activities across each network and broad agreement of the sub regional and local priorities for action.

Members of Carlisle Culture are already actively engaged in the key Cumbria networks for arts and culture such as the Cumbria Arts and Culture Network and Cumbria LEP Creative and Cultural Sector Panel. Equally members of the forum are engaged in cultural groups beyond the sub region. This assists the forum to have a wider reach and influence and learn from work taking place in other places.

2.6 Priorities 5-6 Cultural destination and place-making

These two priorities are focused on creating a programme of events, festivals and cultural happenings that will put Carlisle on the map as an important place to visit; a place that promotes its identity through culture, arts, heritage and our natural environment.

The implementation of activities design to meet these priorities has proven to be very challenging during this pandemic period. However, some new events have proven to be very popular such as the City of Lights festivals. The development of an exciting cultural programme will be a priority for both the City Council and Carlisle Culture during this next period. Some progress on this topic has already been made during the deliberations over applications to the 2025 UK City of Culture competition.

2.7 Priorities 7-8 Community Wellbeing

These two priorities are particularly focused on using cultural activity, physical activity, volunteering and developing social capital to help improve personal and community wellbeing. This work area is felt to be particularly pertinent now following the impact of the pandemic on society.

Significant progress has been made under this priority with the success of the Thriving Communities social prescribing project. This partnership project led by Tullie House Trust with support from the City Council, NHS and other providers has so far made a significant impact on the emerging models of good practice for social prescribing across the city. The project is described in detail elsewhere on this agenda.

Further work is required to establish the Cultural Partnership Panels described under this priority. The potential for developing these panels will be a focus for this next year

alongside the implementation of the Carlisle WHO Healthy City Place Standard project.

2.8 Priorities 9-10 Children, young people and life-long learning

These two priorities focus on creating specific collective activity to ensure that everyone can engage in cultural learning, skill acquisition and potentially a career in the sector.

As with several of the other priorities the progress made in this area is mixed, largely this due to pandemic disruptions to the planned programmed activities.

During the past year a Carlisle Local Cultural Education Partnership (LCEP) has been established to deliver an inclusive approach to creative education. This partnership is still in its infancy but has received support from Arts Council England to help develop the tools and materials that will help deliver this curriculum and extra curriculum interventions.

In addition to this school age partnership the forum has also now engaged with Carlisle Ambassadors (young ambassadors) and Carlisle College to start the work on presenting a seamless education and work pathway for creative careers.

3. Risks

Although the Carlisle Culture interim board do not currently maintain a risk register of issues that may prevent the board from achieving its priorities and actions the group does regularly discuss matters with present themselves as risks to the success of the Framework.

These discussions have included deliberations concerning Local Government Re-organisation in Cumbria, future institutional arrangements for Carlisle Culture and the funding requirements to sustain the work and ensuring a level of representation of the cultural sector in Carlisle on the interim board. Each of these discussions will be reviewed in this next year.

4. Contribution to the Carlisle Plan Priorities

The work of this interim board and the priorities being delivered contribute to all the Carlisle Plan priorities.

Contact details:

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Appendices attached to report: Strategic Framework for Culture in Carlisle 2019

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government Act 1972 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:

- None

Corporate Implications:

Legal -

Property Services -

Finance -

Equality -

Information Governance-

→ “Achieving a step change in the growth, impact and sustainability of our creative economy, to promote excellence and accessibility in our arts, culture and heritage offer.”

A strategic framework for culture in Carlisle.



2020's Covid-19 Crisis has simultaneously reinforced people's passion for arts and culture and devastated arts and cultural livelihoods because of lockdown's enforced closures and cancellations.

Both effects serve to emphasise a vital role for this cultural strategy and the urgency of supporting Carlisle's arts and cultural sector as a key contribution to our recovery from the crisis.

Darren Crossley,
Deputy Chief Executive,
Carlisle City Council.

Intro

Covid-19 and Carlisle Culture

The consultation process that resulted in the production of this document concluded prior to the 2020 pandemic.

This is presented at a snapshot in time with the resultant outcomes and future developments needing to reflect the changes to the cultural and economic landscape in a post-Covid-19 environment.

The development of the Strategic Framework for Culture in Carlisle was initiated in 2019 by a small steering group of Carlisle City Council, Prism Arts, Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery Trust and the University of Cumbria.

Supported with funding from the Arts Council England, a series of themed consultation events took place with a wide range of stakeholders to identify how, through culture we could combine collectively to help drive and sustain the future growth of the city region.

This was followed up by a focussed 'play-back' event to disseminate initial thoughts and areas of priority and made a significant contribution to the document. The consultation was designed to not only engage existing cultural specialists, but to encourage a diverse range of voices representing diversity, business, education, health, individual and freelance artists and creative practitioners to contribute to shaping the future arts and cultural agenda.

Carlisle, like all other places across the UK, is operating within a competitive market, attempting to ensure ongoing economic prosperity alongside better outcomes for its residents. Culture reflects history, local life, creativity, economic vitality and ambitions for the future. Vibrant, layered and inclusive cultural opportunities connect people and places and create a unique distinctiveness that attracts people and stimulates happy and healthy communities.

The emergent Strategic Framework aims to give new life and vision to the city's rich culture and heritage and to determine how culture can play a leading role in the future growth of the city region. Partnership working will be fundamental to ensure that the offer continually evolves and grows to ensure the city remains an attractive place to live, study, work, invest and stay.



The Framework focuses on establishing Carlisle as a central hub for culture within the wider region, delivering cultural and creative opportunities for people living and working in and around the city whilst making the area a destination of choice for visitors by delivering on 4 areas of strategic focus.

Area 1. Cultural leadership and enterprise.

1

Placing culture at the heart of Carlisle's ambitions for environmental sustainability, inclusive prosperity and good health for all, through:

- Renewed leadership promoting and securing investment in Carlisle's culture and creative sectors;

- Partnerships promoting the importance of creativity across Carlisle's economy, fostering greater appreciation of creative action and focusing on a higher value enterprise culture;
- Developing resilience and entrepreneurship skills.

Area 3. Community wellbeing.

3

Embedding culture across health and wellbeing partnerships, bringing together sector specialists, communities, cultural and creative practitioners to drive change through empowerment and education. Developing a healthy city model that is meaningful and attractive to residents and visitors alike, through:

- Playing a full and active role in Carlisle's ongoing commitment as a World Health Organisation, Healthy City, using culture to improve the wider determinants

of health, wellbeing and community cohesion;

- Developing Carlisle's capability to supporting individuals in taking greater control of their own health needs through adopting a holistic and inclusive approach to social prescribing;
- Raising awareness and celebrating the intrinsic and community value of cultural engagement and participation.

Area 2. Cultural destination and place-making.

2

Attracting people to the city by celebrating and developing Carlisle's culture, communities, diversity and heritage, its treasures and assets, through:

- Embedding culture within regeneration and local planning to attract investment for city centre transformation and infrastructure development;

- Celebrating, protecting and enhancing the distinct characteristics and assets of our city, including local neighbourhoods, community heritage, and the city's unique position within the World Heritage Site of Hadrian's Wall;
- Enabling culture and heritage to be part of everybody's everyday experience and appreciation of Carlisle.

Area 4. Children, young people and lifelong learning.

4

Creating a cultural ecosystem of learning and enterprise, where creativity helps the city, its residents and students to learn and prosper, through:

- Supporting culture, heritage and creative education through partnership working to provide opportunities for participation and engagement in culture for everyone, regardless of age or background;

- Enabling access to a wide range of creative and cultural training opportunities, from early-career skills development to apprenticeships and degrees that support leadership, cultural entrepreneurship and the creative economy.



The Strategic Framework needs to serve many different groups and stakeholders, including local communities, visitors, artists, cultural producers and programmers, and entrepreneurs and investors.

The six month consultation process found widespread enthusiasm for partnership working.

The Strategic Framework has been developed to function alongside other plans and strategies, locally, regionally and nationally to maximise effectiveness. Including the Cumbria LEP Creative and Cultural Strategy and the ACE 10 Year Strategy 'Let's Create'.

As a result of the consultation and additional feedback the Steering Group have identified **10 priority areas** to kick-start delivery between 2020 and 2023 and beyond.

Priorities

Priorities 1-4. Making it happen:

1-4

→ Priority 1. Leadership.

To recruit members of a new Carlisle Culture Executive to lead implementation of the Strategic Framework, including setting up a cross-sector Cultural Forum for cultural leadership in Carlisle.

→ Priority 3. Investment.

To bring local and regional funders together to generate investment in order to deliver the cultural vision for the city. To create opportunities for young creatives to access investment and resources thereby retaining skills and talent.

→ Priority 2. Citywide Alignment.

To liaise with Carlisle City Council, businesses, health, transport and education providers to embed culture and creative place-making to inform strategic planning, economic and infrastructure development, heritage management, community cohesion, environmental sustainability, education and tourism development.

→ Priority 4. Engaging existing networks and cultural assets.

To work with local networks and cultural organisations, for example, the Cumbria Arts & Culture Network to map existing creative assets and resources to produce a local network of artists, creatives, cultural and heritage organisations who can work with teachers and learners in developing a creative place-based curriculum unique to the City region. Engage with the Cumbria LEP Creative and Cultural Sector Panel.

Priorities 5–6. Cultural Destination and Place-making.



→ Priority 5.

To embrace Carlisle's distinctiveness by creating a new cultural festival and events programme that puts Carlisle on the map as a destination of choice for residents and visitors.

→ Priority 6.

To align and develop our relationship with other sectors, such as tourism and the night-time economy, to ensure a well-informed collective approach to marketing Carlisle using digital connectivity across venues, organisations, voluntary and community networks and services.



Priority 7–8. Community wellbeing.

→ Priority 7.

To invest in specific areas of need by forming new, task-focused Culture Partnership Panels (CPPs), where possible using existing networks such as community centres to collaborate across the district and to ensure that local cultural opportunities are diverse, reflective of and inclusive of people's needs, and successfully connects large-scale events with ongoing local community activity, keeping culture current and dynamic. World Healthy City underpins these activities.

→ Priority 8.

To work with the NHS and other healthcare providers to strengthen and broaden the range of cultural opportunities available through social prescribing.

5–8

Priority 9–10. Children, Young People and Life-long Learning.

9–10

→ Priority 9.

To work to establish a Local Cultural Education Partnership (LCEP) as the incubator to grow the capacity for creativity in Carlisle with a pilot programme of activity that delivers a universal, inclusive approach to creative education.

→ Priority 10.

To work with Further and Higher Education institutions and networks, for example, Carlisle Young Ambassadors, to match cultural organisations with creative industry enterprises to prepare young people better for the changing world of work with opportunities for pursuing creative careers.



The Carlisle Culture Steering Group embarked on developing this Framework as a collaborative and co-creative process that would start to coalesce city-wide cultural partnerships with a vested interest in the growth and prosperity of the Carlisle district.

The completion of this Framework document, with endorsement from its stakeholders, concludes the development journey of the Carlisle Culture Steering Group.

Success will be measured through collaboration and commitment of the Carlisle community and realistic outputs within an agreed timescale and delivery plan.

Through the inclusive consultation process the project has achieved considerable interest and support towards the initial ambition:

‘to achieve a step change in the growth, impact and sustainability of our creative economy, to promote excellence and accessibility in our arts, culture and heritage offer’

Partnership working and communicating a collective ambition will actively promote the culture and creativity of Carlisle, and what it offers for all communities.

A strong cultural forum, that is inclusive, representative and achievement focussed will drive the framework through the next 3 years of development and beyond.



Next steps

Carlisle Culture.

A consortium working to harness the rich arts, heritage and culture of the city of Carlisle for our future sustainability and growth.

carlisleculture.org.uk

Carlisle Culture.

Carlisle Culture Consortium members.



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