

Cambridgeshire Culture

To: Children and Young People Committee

Meeting Date: 14 March 2017

From: Wendi Ogle-Welbourn, Executive Director – Children Families and Adults

Electoral division(s): All

Forward Plan ref: n/a **Key decision:** No

Purpose: To describe and explain proposed changes to the remit and membership of Cambridgeshire Culture.

Recommendation: CYP Committee is asked to:

- a) Agree the proposed changes to the purpose, scope and structure of Cambridgeshire Culture; and
- b) Agree the proposed membership of Cambridgeshire Culture.

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1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Cambridgeshire Culture is the member-led committee set up to manage a fund created following the sale of a Lowry and other paintings from the Council's Art Collection (collected by adviser Nan Youngman over many years as part of support for art in schools). The fund supports cultural engagement for children and young people via schools. As the initial fund has reduced as expected over time, thought has been given to how Cambridgeshire Culture might evolve and continue to champion culture for people in the county.
- 1.2 Cambridgeshire Culture Committee discussed the benefit of a single group to oversee and guide all of the Council's cultural activity and thinking. This idea was strongly supported by key partners, for example Norfolk & Norwich Festival Bridge, Music Education Hub Board and Cambridgeshire School Improvement Board (CSIB) representatives, who saw benefits for how they engage with the Council.
- 1.3 Such a group would improve the connections between teams internal to the Council with a responsibility for cultural engagement, support wider community development around children and families including the representation of the education sector, and bring other stakeholders to the group reducing duplication, enhancing the success of joint bids or projects from teams and creating a stronger cohesive basis for investment.
- 1.4 Cambridgeshire Culture's specific fund for arts education in schools (currently £47,000) would remain ring-fenced to supporting schools as intended and would be managed by a sub-group led by CSIB (Cambridgeshire School Improvement Board) representatives. Further investment might increase this fund or other initiatives that were fulfilling the broader objectives of the cultural strategies supported by the group.

2.0 MAIN ISSUES

2.1 Purpose of Cambridgeshire Culture from April 2017

- 2.1.1 Cambridgeshire Culture should be developed as the Council's mechanism for coordinating, developing and driving the infrastructure for cultural engagement in the county, liaising with partners and monitoring access to cultural assets, within appropriate management structures.
- 2.1.2 The drivers behind this change are:
 - The benefit of having an integrated instead of a fragmented cultural mechanism both for the Council and externally.
 - The role of champion for children and young people includes culture.
 - The potential to support economic development and the growth agenda.
 - The community resilience strategy includes supporting "communities of interest" as well as geographical communities.
 - The enhanced support for arts education identified as vital by the CSIB.
 - The known benefits of a broader partnership to achieve investment.
 - The need to ensure the limited restricted fund is managed correctly.

2.1.3 The new purpose of Cambridgeshire Culture will be to:

- Help create and support sustainable cultural education infrastructure
- Create beneficial resources and partnerships
- Ensure appropriate cultural assets are available in the county e.g. County Instrument Bank
- Lever financial investment into the overall cultural infrastructure
- Consider investment in specific projects to advance cultural education and engagement
- Be the lead internal governance structure for delivery of Council programmes and projects related to cultural activities
- Manage restricted funds through agreed mechanisms

2.1.4 The Cambridgeshire Culture Committee will be structured to provide a mix of roles and skills required to support the engagement objectives and purpose above. The following Membership (maximum number of people = 15) is proposed:

- County Councillors, cross party x 5
- Arts Council of England x 1
- Cultural Education Partnerships/Bridge organisations/National Portfolio Organisations/Hubs x 3
- New and Existing Communities Development and Environment x 1
- Cambridgeshire School Improvement Board representing: Further and Higher Education, Early Years, secondary, primary and special phases x2
- Internal/external cultural representation drawn from: Libraries, Music, Dance, Drama, Visual Arts, Museums, Film, Sports, Health x2
- Service Director, CFA x 1
- Officer support as required, e.g. Finance, Communications.

3.0 ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all

3.1.1 Culture and cultural expression defines people and places, it supports 1 in 11 jobs in the creative industries, surrounds and influences our daily lives whether in careers, the workplace, education or in the home.

3.1.2 Access to high quality cultural provision is an essential part of supporting the attractiveness of Cambridgeshire as a place to live, work and play and is valued strategically by our businesses for their staff and by families for their children and lifestyle.

3.1.3 Cambridgeshire has a strong cultural identity that is reinforced by cohesive partnerships, many of which exist across natural boundaries and different organisations and which reaches into all aspects of the economy as well as health and education. Our cultural heritage, in the city, across our market

towns and villages and the associated geography, traditions and heritage are part of the economic ecology of our county and are respected both locally and abroad.

3.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives

- 3.2.1 Strong cultural communities support a people, in their work and leisure, their health & relationships, their self-confidence and resilience and their personal and local economy. It provides a connection with place and people, society and community. It is about quality of living in our County.
- 3.2.2 In the Council strategy for building resilient communities as well as recognising geographical requirements, it is noted that: "Communities include families and wider networks and 'communities of interest'". Connecting our thinking and development across internal and external stakeholders linked to communities, education, health and growth agendas will improve the success chances of our strategies for these strong communities.

3.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people

- 3.3.1 Much of our cultural engagement work across partnerships is targeted towards inclusion – this attracts further investment and can have a high impact on the lives of participants. Alongside more universal offers of support, a fragmented approach to inclusion can lead to duplication of effort and resources. Creating a cohesive structure with a role to bring people together will enable a more successful strategy of building legacy into such projects using the resources available across teams and organisations.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

- 4.1.1 The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers:
- 4.1.2 The restricted fund for supporting schools' arts projects can be managed within the new structure without any loss of opportunity for schools.
- 4.1.3 Potential investment will be more attractive to potential supporters with a broader group including external stakeholders.
- 4.1.4 Best value can be monitored more effectively by removing duplication of provision and ensuring consistent quality of impact.
- 4.1.5 There are no significant human resource implications as the steering group is already managed internally and could continue in the same way.

4.2 Statutory, Legal and Risk

- 4.2.1 The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- 4.2.2 The need through the member committee process to agree the governance model and purpose and ensure there are appropriate mechanisms for any commissioning in place which would meet audit tests and scrutiny.

4.3 Equality and Diversity

- 4.3.1 The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers:
- 4.3.2 Collaborative working with external partners across a broader growth and development agenda will increase connection with all communities across the county and avoid a focus on one particular area.

4.4 Engagement and Communications

- 4.4.1 The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers:
- 4.4.2 Discussion will be required with organisations that have a stakeholder interest in elements that might come under the Council's "umbrella structure" for example Arts Council of England and the Music Education Hub.
- 4.4.3 Communication of the purpose and role of the hub to schools and other partners and internally in the Council will be important to its success in embedding cultural considerations in all community and education development. This will reinforce the work of the School Improvement Board, the Music Education Hub, Libraries and Community Resilience colleagues.
- 4.4.4 Members and colleagues involved in the current steering group, including the CSIB have been consulted and support the development.

4.5 Localism and Local Member Involvement

- 4.5.1 The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers:
- 4.5.2 The increased potential to support community resilience through cultural engagement in a coordinated way.
- 4.5.3 Local economy is supported in part by strong cultural communities.

4.6 Public Health

- 4.6.1 The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers:
- 4.6.2 Quality of life benefits individual health directly and cultural engagement therefore plays an important part in supporting social, physical and mental activity. Connecting external health partners to the umbrella organisation will improve the cohesive approach to the health and well-being agenda.
- 4.6.3 Targeted projects using cultural engagement as a medium for work with

specific groups of people (e.g. young carers, adults with long-term conditions) will help provide positive experiences for their wellbeing and ensure connection with relevant support benefiting individuals and their families.

- 4.6.4 Improvements in attainment, activity and social development for children and young people through coordinated projects will benefit long-term health.

Implications	Officer Clearance
Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance?	Comments requested Name of Financial Officer: M Wade (CYP)
Has the impact on Statutory, Legal and Risk implications been cleared by LGSS Law?	Comments requested Name of Legal Officer: Lynne Owen
Are there any Equality and Diversity implications?	Yes. Paragraph 4.3 refers Name of Officer: Keith Grimwade CFA Service Director
Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?	Comments requested Name of Officer: Simon Cobby
Are there any Localism and Local Member involvement issues?	Yes. Paragraph 4.5 refers Name of Officer: Keith Grimwade CFA Service Director
Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health	Comments requested Name of Officer: Tess Campbell

Source Documents	Location
None	