

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Date:	5 September 2016
Subject:	Culture Board Update		
Report Of:	Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure		
Wards Affected:	All		
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
Contact Officer:	Jonathan Lund, Corporate Director		
	Email: jonathan.lund@gloucester.gov.uk	Tel: 39-6276	
Appendices:	None		

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide an update on work since the Council's decision to adopt the Gloucester Cultural Strategy in March 2016, particularly the work to recruit a Chair and Trustees to serve on the Culture Board.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked, subject to any comments it wishes to make to the Cabinet Member, to **note** the contents of the report.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 A Cultural Strategy for the City of Gloucester was adopted by the Council on 24 March 2016. The strategy was developed using support from Arts Council England (ACE) and was supported by a partnership of organisations with a stake in the cultural economy of the City including

- Gloucester City Council
- Marketing Gloucester Ltd
- Gloucester Cathedral (Project Pilgrim)
- University of Gloucestershire
- Create Gloucestershire
- ACE
- GUST (organisers of the Gloucester History festival)

- 3.2 The Strategy is being driven by an interim Culture Board consisting of representatives of the stakeholder organisations listed above. The Strategy has six broad objectives

- To develop artists and arts organisations
- To broaden the cultural offer

- To develop a vibrant city centre
- To develop audiences
- To put Gloucester on the cultural map
- To make things happen

3.3 Over the summer period, and running alongside a busy Summer of Music Arts and Culture (SoMAC), the principal piece of work has been the recruitment of a Chair and Trustees

3.4 **Recruitment of a Chair and Trustees to serve on the Culture Board**

3.4.1 The Cultural Strategy seeks to establish a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) to deliver the Strategy. The CIO will be led by a Board of 12 Trustees (including the Chair); one Trustee will represent GCC (currently Councillor Lise Noakes).

3.4.2 Recruitment is now underway to appoint the Chair and the other 10 Trustees. The process was rescheduled to late summer 2016 to avoid clashes with a busy summer calendar of cultural events; to fit better with the diaries of key members of the interview panel; and to allow a longer period to engage informally with potential applicants and interested parties. The closing date for applications is Monday 19 September 2016. An information stall was located in Kings Square as part of the Arts in the City Event (30 July). A stand will also be located at Blackfriars as part of the History Festival (10-18 September).

3.4.3 A welcome and information pack has been prepared and is available to anyone interested in applying to be the Chair or a Trustee. A copy of the pack and the Cultural Strategy are also available on the City Council's website. Details have already been forwarded to all City Councillors.

3.4.4 Candidates for the post of Chair will be interviewed/ appointed on 28 September 2016. Interviews for the other Trustees will be held on 3 & 7 October. An informal get together for the new Culture Board is planned for Tuesday 25 October 2016. The Interview Panel will consist of Dame Janet Trotter, Cllr Lise Noakes, Kate Danielson, a representative of ACE, and a local artist.

3.4.5 Recruitment will start in September for a paid/employed Director. We hope to enable the newly appointed Chair to be involved in the shortlisting and interviewing for the Director post.

3.4.6 An external firm of Solicitors has been engaged to advise the interim board on the formal steps to be taken to establish the CIO.

3.5 **Other activities**

3.5.1 In addition to the recruitment activities the interim Culture Board has:-

- Begun a process of fundraising to secure the resources and expertise to progress applications for further funding from ACE and, potentially, the recently announced Great Places fund.
- Engaged with a wide range of organisations within Gloucester and beyond to explore the possibility of developing creative, artistic and cultural partnerships.

- Entered into discussions to support a local artistic organisation's ambitions to become a National Portfolio Organisation.
- Progressed works to secure a short term base to deliver a cultural hub in the city centre.
- Begun the process of creating a Charitable Interest Organisation.
- Worked to identify and secure funding in kind from stakeholder and partner organisations with an interest or commitment in the cultural life of the city.

4.0 Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Considerations

4.1 Many of the Cultural activities across the City are delivered by community groups and organisations. The Strategy looks to build on those strengths and to support community lead events.

5.0 Alternative Options Considered

5.1 There are a number of objectives set out in the cultural strategy and no single course of action or programme will deliver them all. Neither will any particular objective be realised by the activity of a single project or partner. The broad cultural partnership represented by the Culture Board/CIO provides an effective vehicle to secure delivery of the Culture Strategy's objectives.

6.0 Reasons for Recommendations

6.1 This report provides an update on the work of the interim Culture Board since the adoption of the Cultural Strategy in March 2016.

7.0 Future Work and Conclusions

7.1 The Culture Board/CIO will take the strategy forward, raising the funds necessary to develop and implement the strategic objectives.

8.0 Financial Implications

8.1 Gloucester City Council has agreed to make a contribution in cash and kind towards the establishment and implementation of the Cultural Strategy and the Culture Board. The proposals set out in this report require no additional financial commitment from the City Council.

8.2 Any future financial commitment from the City Council, will be subject to further reports supported by detailed business cases.

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

9.0 Legal Implications

9.1 On 24th March 2016 Council resolved to adopt the Cultural Strategy 2016- 2026. It is intended that the objectives for the first 2 years of the Strategy will be delivered by a newly created company (CIO). As the contractual sum payable by the Council to the CIO will be below the EU procurement threshold, the Council may support this company without first going out to tender. It is important to note, however, that

the Council cannot provide on-going support without complying with procurement legislation and the Council must also be mindful of the constraints imposed by the State Aid requirements.

- 9.2 If the CIO is not established in time, one of the members of the Culture Board will need to employ the Chair and Director.

(One Legal have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

10.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

- 10.1 The establishment of the Culture Board and commissioning it to deliver the Cultural Strategy has meant that the Council has relinquished some of the control over how the strategy will be delivered. Whilst this could be seen as a risk, the Council felt that entrusting the Board to deliver the strategy will create greater opportunities for culture in Gloucester.

11.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA):

- 11.1 A PIA screening review was undertaken. It did not identify any potential or actual negative impact. For this reason, a full PIA is not required.

12.0 Other Corporate Implications

Community Safety None

Sustainability None

Staffing & Trade Union None

Background Documents: None