
REPORT FOR: CABINET

Date of Meeting:	6 December 2018
Subject:	Harrow Cultural Strategy
Key Decision:	Yes - the strategy affects more than one ward.
Responsible Officer:	Paul Walker, Corporate Director, Community
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Keith Ferry, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Planning, Regeneration and Employment
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	Yes
Wards affected:	All
Enclosures:	Appendix - Draft Harrow Cultural Strategy

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out the rationale for the adoption of a Harrow Cultural Strategy. It details how the adoption and implementation of a Cultural Strategy can promote the arts, health and wellbeing and economic growth. .

Recommendations:
Cabinet is requested to agree:

1. That the Draft Harrow Cultural Strategy (Cultural Strategy) be approved for public consultation.
2. That the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Regeneration and Employment be authorised to adopt the final Cultural Strategy following the results of consultation and subject to final edits being made following consultation with the Corporate Director, Community.

Reason: (for recommendations):

The implementation of Harrow's Cultural Strategy is a key tool to develop a strong local Cultural, Artistic and Creative Offer. This in turn promotes civic pride, attracts investment and supports economic growth. Participation in the arts can improve health and well being and address social isolation.

Section 2 – Report

The adoption and implementation of a Cultural Strategy will help promote access and involvement in cultural and artistic activities, and maximise opportunities to improve health through artistic and creative activity. The Cultural Strategy will provide a mechanism to support the growth of the Creative and Cultural economic sectors in Harrow. It will therefore help to Build a Better Harrow and to Make a Difference for the Vulnerable. The council has a part to play in supporting Harrow's cultural offer.

Options considered

- Option 1 Agree that the Draft Harrow Cultural Strategy be approved for public consultation. The final Cultural Strategy is adopted following the results of consultation and subject to final edits after consultation between the Corporate Director for Community and the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Regeneration and Employment.
- Option 2 Develop and implement a Harrow Cultural Strategy without public consultation. This is not recommended, because local government is only one small player in the cultural life of communities.
- Option 3 Do nothing. This is not recommended, because it would fail to maximise the positive social, health and economic impact resulting from the implementation of a Cultural Strategy.

Option 1 is recommended because it is businesses, community and voluntary groups, faith groups, and self employed artists and creatives that drive cultural life and can help maximise participation in cultural and artistic pursuits. Failure to consult with the public would lead to failure to capture the contributions of these groups.

Background

Harrow is not widely known for its arts, heritage and cultural offer. This Cultural Strategy aims to raise the profile of our cultural offer, increase participation and attendance at events and support the development of the local creative and cultural economy.

Current situation

As a place, Harrow's buildings reflect both its heritage and diversity. The Norman 11th Century St Mary's Church, is now joined by temples, synagogues and mosques. Christianity is Harrow's most common religion followed by Hinduism and then Islam. Harrow has the highest Jain population, 2nd highest Zoroastrian population and 6th highest Jewish population in the UK.

This mix of faiths and places of worship is reflected in a rich religious calendar that can be celebrated in music, drama, art, poetry and prose. It provides opportunities to bring communities together through artistic activities, whether it is choirs from churches and schools singing at Christmas, Cantors from synagogues, poetry and prose readings from the Madras at the Central

Mosque, dancing from Hindu temples at Holi, Sikh dancing to celebrate the birth of Guru Nanak, Bahá'í chanting, Buddhist song and Kandyan dance or Zoroastrian art.

Why a change is needed

Our communities reflect a richness of faiths and ethnicities, but the benefits of living in Harrow are not uniformly rich. The borough includes Local Super Output Areas and wards with high levels of deprivation.

Physical inactivity in Harrow has contributed to 1 in 3 adults and 21% of children over 10 years of age being obese. Harrow has one of the highest rate of Type 2 diabetes and the highest rate of pre-diabetes. Those most likely to be inactive in Harrow include women, girls, older people, black and minority ethnic groups, in work and out of work benefit claimants, carers, disabled people and people with physical and mental health issues. Physical inactivity and social isolation is also a contributory factor to dementia. However, being active and engaged in artistic and cultural activities can improve mental and physical health and can be fun, helping address health issues, and social isolation that affects old and young alike. Involvement in the arts can improve community cohesion (between generations, ethnicities and faiths) as we celebrate shared activities and festivals together.

There is evidence that demonstrate how the creation of art can improve the creator's sense of worth, or how participation can aid the recovery of stroke victims and how dance can reduce the impacts of dementia.

At a time of economic uncertainty, the implementation of Harrow's Cultural Strategy can support the growth of Harrow's creative sector and promote our town centre and district centres as paces for entertainment, attracting footfall and spend.

Implications of the Recommendation

Harrow Council delivers a range of cultural and artistic activities through Harrow Arts Centre, Headstone Manor and Museum, the Library Service and our parks. It delivers a range of services to promote economic growth, and provides support and care to a range of clients through Adult Social Care and Children's Services. The adoption of this Cultural Strategy provides a mechanism to promote economic growth, and improve well being through attendance at events and participation in artistic and cultural activities. It will also help promote the cultural offer of businesses, the Community and Voluntary Sector, faith groups, schools, artists and creatives.

Performance Issues

The Cultural Strategy sets out a range of outputs and outcomes expected from the implementation of the Cultural Strategy.

The council has a range of monitoring systems and KPI's that can be used to measure performance at no additional cost. These include footfall, vacancy rates, attendance, job creation, business sector breakdowns, and health measures.

Environmental Implications

There are no direct environmental implications. Indirect implications of raising physical activity levels could be increased walking and reduced carbon emissions.

Data Protection Implications

The recommendations in this report have no impact on the privacy of individuals and a Data Protection Impact Assessment is not required.

Risk Management Implications

Relevant risk has been included on the Directorate risk register and a separate risk register is in place.

Procurement Implications

There are no direct procurement implications. Where procurement is required as a result of outcomes required from the Harrow cultural Strategy then the Council's Contract Procedure rules will be complied with.

Legal Implications

The Council has statutory powers to promote cultural and artistic activities, and health and wellbeing and economic growth in Harrow, including under the Localism Act 2011, sections 111, and 144 - 145 of the Local Government Act 1972, The Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964, and section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

Although there is no statutory duty to consult on the draft Cultural Strategy the Council can decide to do so and it is good practice to do so. The requirements for proper consultation are that:

- Consultation must be made at a time when proposals are at a formative stage.
- Sufficient reasons for the proposal must be given to allow intelligent consideration and response.
- Adequate time must be given for a response.
- The product of the consultation must be conscientiously taken into account in finalising proposals

In developing the Cultural Strategy, the Council must have regard to its public sector equality duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. The PSED requires the Council to have "due regard" to:

- The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010 (*section 149(1)(a)*).
- The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it (*section 149(1)(b)*).
- The need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (*section 149(1)(c)*). This includes having due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and to promote understanding (*section 149(5)*, Equality Act 2010).

Financial Implications

The draft Cultural Strategy sets out a range of actions to support the delivery of its vision of celebrating our cultural offers, involving our communities and creating artistic and cultural works. These actions involve working with businesses, community and voluntary groups and other internal departments, as well as applying for external funding to improve the borough's infrastructure and/or to deliver business support activities. These will be delivered within existing budgets. The Strategy does state that "At a time of continued public austerity, this Strategy has to be cost neutral and ensure that planned actions are either income generating or woven into existing work streams

Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

[Please see Appendix D].

Council Priorities

The Council's vision:

Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow

Please identify how the report incorporates the administration's priorities.

- Making a difference for the vulnerable
- Making a difference for communities
- Making a difference for local businesses
- Making a difference for families

Harrow's Draft cultural strategy outlines our vision for the borough. It details our key strategic themes, our objectives, the outputs and outcomes we aim to deliver, and the actions we will undertake to implement the strategy. It details how this will Build a Better Harrow by stimulating economic growth, make a

difference for communities, the vulnerable and families by promoting arts and culture and increasing participation in artistic and cultural activities.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Dawn Calvert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chief Financial Officer
Date: 19/10/18		

Name: Stephen Dorrian...	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 19/10/18		

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Section 3 - Procurement Officer Clearance

Name: Nimesh Mehta	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Head of Procurement
Date: 22/10/18		

Ward Councillors notified:	NO as it impacts on all Wards
EqIA carried out:	YES
EqIA cleared by:	Johanna Morgan

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Mark Billington, Head of Economic Development,
0208 736 6533 Mark.Billington@harrow.gov.uk

Background Papers: Draft Cultural Strategy

**Call-In Waived by the
Chair of Overview and
Scrutiny Committee**

NO – CALL IN APPLIES