

**REPORT TO:** Employment, Learning & Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 21 November 2016

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director - Enterprise, Community and Resources

**PORTFOLIO:** Economic Development

**SUBJECT:** Scrutiny Topic Group - Culture

**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

## 1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to put forward for consideration, the establishment of a topic group to evaluate Halton's cultural offer within the context of the Liverpool City Region's Cultural Devolution agenda.

## 2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That**

- 1) **Members agree to the establishment of a topic group to focus on Halton's cultural offer and its interface with the wider Liverpool City Region;**
- 2) **Members nominate representatives from the Board to sit on the Topic Group, and;**
- 3) **Interim reports be presented to the Board, no later than March 2017 and a final report to be produced by June 2017.**

## 3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority is developing a collaborative city region approach to culture following the City Region Devolution Deal in November 2015.

3.2 A 'Creative Conversation Group' was created in February 2016. Halton is represented by the Operational Director (Community and Environment). The group has developed a joint action plan with 9 key areas. In summary, these are:

- 1) Embed culture into the other LCR devolution programmes where this intervention can be evidenced to deliver against those priorities;
- 2) Embed culture into the range of lottery funding schemes with a strategic conversation at LCR level with all lottery

fundlers;

- 3) Develop a single and world class 'Music Education Hub' for the LCR;
- 4) Develop a single and world class 'Cultural Education Hub' for the LCR;
- 5) Exploit the potential of the quality museum and gallery collections and resources across the LCR to the benefit of the whole LCR, in a more joined up, effective and sustainable way;
- 6) Exploit the potential of the theatres to attract more artistic opportunities and shows, more audiences, more sponsorship, and increased sustainability. Also to develop stronger pathways into theatre industries from grass roots to employment.
- 7) Position, and strengthen, the cultural offer as a key part of the Visitor Economy and Place Making Strategy for the City Region;
- 8) Increase access to high quality arts in outdoor settings and non-traditional cultural venues, building on what already happens across the LCR (public art, art in public spaces, festivals, events, etc).
- 9) Attract more resources into the LCR cultural offer through a more co-ordinated and joined up approach across the LCR;

3.3 The Cultural Conversations Group is also shaping a Cultural Strategy for the Liverpool City Region and is developing an action plan which will help shape how the Liverpool City Region will deliver upon the aims and objectives set out in the Strategy.

3.4 A Cultural Partnership for the Liverpool City Region has also been established and work is proceeding through the Combined Authority to strategically plan the role of culture in the City Region during the next 30 years.

3.5 It is within this context that Members may wish to establish a Scrutiny Topic Group which will ensure that Halton is engaged in developing a collaborative cultural vision for the Liverpool City Region, which reflects the cultural assets that the borough possesses. Should Members agree to establish such a Topic Group, a draft document containing the Scrutiny Review aims, objectives and proposed methodology has been drawn up and is attached as Appendix 1.

#### 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority was established on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014. It commits individual Local Authorities and the LEP to work more effectively and efficiently together in order to grow the economy of the Liverpool City Region. In return for this collaborative

working, further devolvement of powers and resources to the Liverpool City Region is anticipated. The Single Growth Strategy highlights the strength of the cultural offer as a way of attracting investment and growth to the areas.

4.2 The proposition is that by working together, partners in the Liverpool City Region can build on these strengths

## 5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## 6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

### 6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

### 6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

There are a number of implications for this priority, although the Topic Group will consider the implications in more detail.

### 6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

None identified.

### 6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None identified.

### 6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

## 7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 There are no risks identified. However, in preparing for this Scrutiny Topic, the following key steps have been applied;

1. Have we chosen the right topic?
2. What are we looking at?
3. Why are we looking at this topic?
4. What do we hope to achieve?
5. Is the topic geared towards Halton's top priorities?

## 8.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None.

<b>Employment, Learning, Skills and Community Scrutiny Panel</b>	
<b>Review of Halton's Cultural Offer within a Liverpool City Region Context</b>	
<b>Aims and Objectives</b>	
<b>Aim and Objectives</b>	<p>The aim of the review is to support the Employment, Learning, Skills and Community PPB to determine if:</p> <p>(a) the Halton cultural offer is being captured within a wider city region 'cultural narrative</p> <p>(b) there is synergy between a local and city-region wide cultural offer and where added value can be obtained.</p>
<b>Context/ Background</b>	
<b>Methodology</b>	
<b>Timescale</b>	<p>It is proposed that this review will be conducted with effect from January 2017 with a view to submitting a final report/ recommendations to the ELS&amp;C PPB meeting in June 2017.</p> <p>It is proposed that the review will comprise 4 meetings, covering topics set out below, followed up by a final session to consider the content of Scrutiny Topic Group report and recommendations.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) What is Halton's Cultural Offer;</li> <li>2) The Liverpool City Region Perspective;</li> <li>3) The Perspective of Cultural Partners</li> <li>4) Final session to consider the content of Scrutiny topic Group report and recommendations.</li> </ol> <p>Following endorsement by the ELS&amp;C PPB, it is anticipated that the final report and recommendations will be submitted to a meeting of the Executive Board.</p>
<b>Scrutiny Topic Group Session 1</b>	<p><b>Date of meeting:</b> Tbc</p> <p><b>Purpose of the session:</b> To provide background context regarding the Liverpool City Region creative conversation and cultural devolution. To understand how Halton feeds into this process.</p> <p><b>Expert witnesses:</b> Tbc</p>

<p><b>Scrutiny Topic Group Session 2</b></p>	<p><b>Date of meeting:</b> Tbc</p> <p><b>Purpose of the session:</b> To consider how Halton contributes to the Cultural Strategy for the City Region</p> <p><b>Expert witnesses:</b> Tbc</p>
<p><b>Scrutiny Topic Group Session 3</b></p>	<p><b>Date of meeting:</b> Tbc</p> <p><b>Purpose of the session:</b> To consider the views of strategic partners in regard to how culture in Halton contributes to the economy.</p> <p><b>Expert witnesses:</b> Tbc</p>
<p><b>Scrutiny Topic Group Session 4</b></p>	<p><b>Date of meeting:</b> Tbc</p> <p><b>Purpose of the session:</b> To consider and agree the review's final report and recommendations.</p>
<p><b>Potential outcomes</b></p>	
<p><b>Expected outcomes</b></p>	<p>It is expected that this review will support the ELS&amp;C PPB in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Providing a clear understanding of the cultural offer in Halton;</li> <li>(b) Providing a steer as to whether Halton's approach to cultural offer is fit for purpose;</li> <li>(c) Informing future cultural activity in Halton to complement the emerging model proposed within the Liverpool City Region (LCR)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Measuring success</b></p>	<p>Any recommendations arising out of the review will be considered by the Employment, Learning, Skills and Community PPB and once agreed presented to the Council's Executive Board. Subject to Executive Board approval, recommendations will be implemented and monitored.</p>
<p><b>Officer/Member involvement</b></p>	
<p><b>Members</b></p>	<p>All Members of the ELS&amp;C PPB will be given the opportunity to be involved in the Scrutiny Topic Group review.</p> <p>Chair of the scrutiny topic group – Cllr MacManus</p> <p>The Scrutiny topic Group will be supported by the following council officers:- <i>Tbc</i></p> <p>Other officers and guest speakers will be invited to participate in the Scrutiny Topic Group as appropriate.</p>