

REPORT TO: Employment Learning and Skills and
Community Policy Performance Board (PPB)

DATE: 18 November 2019

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community &
Resources

PORTFOLIO: Economic Development

SUBJECT: Borough of Culture Consultation

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To invite members to attend a consultation which explores the themes identified for Halton’s Borough of Culture year in 2021.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Members consider attending the consultation session to give their views on Halton’s Borough of Culture Year themes.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The award of Liverpool City Region Borough of Culture was inspired by the UK City of Culture programme which followed Liverpool’s European Capital of Culture in 2008. The new initiative was launched in 2018 as Liverpool celebrated its 10th Anniversary as the UK’s only European Capital of Culture.

The Borough of Culture initiative is a non-competitive process which will rotate around the City Region with the aim of encouraging each Borough to collaboratively develop its local talent and potential, while reflecting the ambitions and aims of the Regional Culture and Creativity Strategy which looks to build sustainable capacity across the City Region.

The Borough of Culture years are allocated across the City Region as follows:

- St Helens – 2018
- Wirral – 2019
- Sefton - 2020
- Halton - 2021
- Knowsley – 2022

The overall aim of the programme is to stimulate talent, aspiration and promote creativity and economic growth through cultural engagement and activity across the City Region. Each Borough needs to weave five key elements into their creative programme:

- Children and Young People – accessing, enjoying, learning and thriving through culture and creative engagement with skills and talent pathways
- Positive Outcomes – wellbeing, health, education, cohesion and future of work
- Communities – increased participation, particularly the ageing society
- Distinctiveness of Place – promoting the creative and cultural offer to local people and visitors
- Infrastructure – leaving a legacy through better infrastructure for culture and creativity

The aim of Halton's Borough of Culture year is to increase participation in quality cultural activity across Halton, helping more people to experience the arts and to benefit from the role that culture can play in transforming lives - improving health and wellbeing, reducing social isolation, increasing community cohesion, inspiring creativity, supporting learning and making Halton a great place to live and work.

This will be delivered under the banner of Celebrate Halton and will look to celebrate Halton's past, present and future through a programme of activity ranging from small community-led activities to large-scale events which bring in national/international artists.

4.0 BOROUGH OF CONSULTATION SESSIONS

- 4.1 A number of consultation sessions will be delivered in November and December by Heart of Glass, an independent National Portfolio Organisation based in St Helens, who will then collate the results and invite participants back to a summary session in January 2020.
- 4.2 Executive Board members, along with senior Council Officers, are invited to attend a session on **Wednesday December 11th 2.00-4.00pm** at the Karalius Suite to represent their Portfolio as it is anticipated Halton's Borough of Culture will cut across many sectors and areas of work, including children and young people, older people, green spaces, local businesses etc.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None identified.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

7.1 Children and Young People in Halton

Will be a key target group for Borough of Culture year.

7.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

It is anticipated that some creative apprenticeships/placements will be an outcome of Borough of Culture year.

7.3 A Healthy Halton

It is anticipated that there will be some wellbeing outcomes from participation in Borough of Culture year.

7.4 A Safer Halton

None identified.

7.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

It is anticipated that there will be some form of public art element to Borough of Culture year.

8.0 RISK ANALYSIS

8.1 None identified.

9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

9.1 There are no Equality and Diversity implications arising as a result of the proposed.

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None under the meaning of the Act.