

REPORT TO:	Employment, Learning and Skills, and Community Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	28th June 2021
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources
PORTFOLIO:	Employment Learning and Skills & Community
SUBJECT:	Borough of Culture
WARDS:	Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Borough of Culture project.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION that:

- 1) The report be noted

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Background to Borough of Culture

The award of Liverpool City Region Borough of Culture was inspired by the UK City of Culture programme that followed Liverpool's European Capital of Culture in 2008. The new initiative 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 that 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:

- 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.

The programme is being 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.

3.2 Operational overview

The internal project group comprises:

Julie Griffiths (Head of Libraries) – Borough of Culture Lead Officer
Steph Davies (Lead Funding Officer) – funding support, Culture HQ lead
Wesley Rourke – Operational Director lead
Chris Patino – Operational Director lead
Michelle Osborne – Marketing lead

Project Portfolio Lead – Cllr Paul Nolan

Members of the HBC project group are undertaking their role in addition to their substantive role.

Programme Development:

A condition of the grant paid by the CA was that the Council secure additional funding and resource. In 2019 an organisation was appointed through the Council's procurement process and funded by HBC to support the development of the Borough of Culture programme.

ArtReach is a contemporary cultural development agency with a mission to

make great art possible and accessible, connecting art with grassroots and diverse communities to forge creative engagement. ArtReach is a National Portfolio Organisation with Arts Council England. The organisation has a twenty-year track record of work across the UK and Europe and has evolved to deliver four areas of activity:

- 1. Festival development and delivery (both as a Creative Producer and in supporting other delivery organisations)*
- 2. Public art and performing arts commissioning and programming*
- 3. Capital cultural project development support*
- 4. Consultancy to support arts and cultural organisations and artist development*

Artreach's responsibilities are:

- To develop a high quality, engaging, and relevant programme that meets the Borough of Culture aims.
- To commission artists to create work.
- To provide advice and guidance on content and programming.

3.3 Celebrate Halton Programme

The programme was developed in partnership with ArtReach and from consultation with stakeholders. The project offers a diverse programme connecting local creatives with high profile artists from across the North West.

The programme was devised during the pandemic and as a result has an agility and flexibility that have enabled delivery to flux depending on national restrictions. Early activities took place online and were well attended. From 17th May changes in restrictions will allow the delivery of live events.

The programme detail is in Appendix 1

3.4 Funding

An allocation of £200k is made by the CA with an expectation that match funding is also secured to enhance the programme. The project team has successfully applied for and been awarded the following external grants:

Arts Council England research & development support - £15,000

Arts Council England Portfolio Grant - £100,000

National Lottery Heritage Fund - £220,000

Town Centre Commission Fund - £99,000

3.5 Marketing

The project website is celebratehalton.co.uk The events calendar hosts details of all the core commissions alongside events that have been funded by the Made In Halton grants programme, and events uploaded by community groups.

Celebrate Halton was the main feature in the Liverpool Echo culture feature published 11th June. Additional articles have featured in the local press and a wraparound was published in the Runcorn & Widnes Weekly News; alongside a digital banners campaign on the publication websites.

Social media platforms are being used to provide the latest marketing and information:

Twitter @Halton2021
Instagram @Halton2021
Facebook CelebrateHalton

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

HBC is obligated to offer in kind support as part of external funding agreements.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

One of the five core elements of all BoC programme is aimed at Children and Young People – accessing, enjoying, learning and thriving through culture and creative engagement with skills and talent pathways. A young people's panel has been developed as part of the programme development. The programme offers a dedicated festival for young people.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

One of the five core elements of all BoC programmes is Positive Outcomes – including for education and future of work – enhancing the cultural offer locally, along with the introduction of nationally renowned organisations and artists will kick start skills development and employment opportunities in the creative industries.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

One of the five core elements of all BoC programmes is Positive Outcomes – including for wellbeing and health – research supports that engagement in cultural and creative activities has a positive impact on wellbeing.

6.4A Safer Halton

Not Applicable

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

There is liaison between the Celebrate Halton project team and wider regeneration work currently taking place across the Borough.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

There are no risks associated with the report.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

The Borough of Culture programme offers opportunities for the whole community through a range of activities and events.

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

None under the meaning of the Act.

APPENDIX 1

- Celebrate Halton project timeline

APPENDIX 2

- Celebrate Halton brochure (appended to the report)

APPENDIX 3

- Project cash flow forecast

APPENDIX 1

May
<p>Culture HQ opening 20th May</p> <p>Looking for the place where there's always something going on? Culture HQ is the Celebrate Halton hub right in the heart of Runcorn Shopping City. Visit us at Unit 39 (near Argos) for workshops, exhibitions and talks by local creatives.</p>
<p>Let's Make Festival 17th-29th May</p> <p>Halton Libraries' first festival of 2021 is <i>Let's Make!</i> There will be lots of activities and events that highlight the joy of making for you to get involved with.</p>

We have makers' workshops throughout the festival for all ages, including puppet making with Altru Drama, a creative non-profit organisation based in Liverpool, pixel art and tote bag design with the wonderful digital folk at Mako Create, and a cyanotypes printing workshop with Hazlehurst Studio based artist, Rachael Prime. There will also be a book sculpture workshop with artist Kate Button, who creates intricate and fragile paper sculptures from pages of timeworn books, and you can join us for an online talk with S.E. Lynes, the Amazon #1 bestselling author of 'intelligent and haunting', 'beautifully written' psychological thrillers such as *Valentina*, *Mother*, and her latest novel, *The Housewarming*.

So come on Halton, Let's Make!

June

Get It Loud In Libraries

The award winning Get It Loud In Libraries is returning to Halton for a series of matinee gigs at Widnes Library. First up is Katy J Pearson. Hailing from Bristol, Katy J Pearson has been described by NME as *American-glazed rock where West Country meets Wild West*. Her debut album, Return, was released November 2020. Widnes Library will also be playing host to The Lounge Society, an "impulsive, energetic punk" band from West Yorkshire and finally, Brighton based indie-rock band, Porridge Radio. All tickets can be booked via the Get It Loud In Libraries website.

Sunday 6 June, 2.30pm	Get It Loud In Libraries: Katy J Pearson
Sunday 27 June, 2.30pm	Get It Loud In Libraries: Lounge Society
Sunday 18 July, 2.30pm	Get It Loud In Libraries: Porridge Radio

A Life in a Day: Bridge Takeover

Celebrate the moments of a lifetime throughout the day, co-created by local people with artists, choreographers and creatives delivered by Walk the Plank, one of the UK's leading outdoor arts companies.

Saturday 26 June | Silver Jubilee Bridge

Let's Go Green Festival 1st June – 7th August 2021

Join Halton Libraries for a celebration of the outdoors and our planet using art, stories, talks and performance! Experience the outdoors and learn about going green.

Throughout this festival there will be lots of fun and informative events and workshops for you to get involved in.

Artist Rebecca Atherton will be exploring climate change and its effects on the animal kingdom through a series of Love Our Planet workshops where participants will design and create amazing headdresses, depicting great mythological animal god spirits. Each headdress will be accompanied with an environmental pledge and will provoke discussion amongst wearers and viewers. Rebecca works all over the North West and co-runs ArtFull, a participatory and community arts group.

The younger generation will have the opportunity to learn about climate change, the history of protest art and then to create their very own peaceful protest placard in our Save Our Planet workshops lead by artist Colette Whittington. Colette has worked with Tate London and Liverpool and the People's History Museum and has a passion for social protest and protesting for change through art. Participants will then embark on their very own mini protest in and around our libraries.

Booster Cushion Theatre will be taking us on an ecological adventure across continents and Old Town Bloomers will be exploring the great outdoors with us. Norton Priory's bee keeper will host a special workshop and Catalyst Science Discovery Centre will explore biodiversity. We also have a series of outdoor story walks, a talk from a nature author and a gardener's question time, not to mention 'green' inspired craft workshops and an online '10 Days of Green' challenge and lots more!

August

Festival 10:15

Arts festival for young people

September

Celebrate Halton Music - Music Weekender

Borough-wide music festival that will light up the borough with a cacophony of sounds in small venues and unusual spaces. Showcasing musical genres from traditional to electro, from solo performers to bands and choirs. A mix of free and ticketed events.

Saturday 4 & Sunday 5 September | Venues across the borough

Liberty UK 18th-19th September

Liberty UK is a multi-art form pop-up festival that celebrates freedom and democracy. The programme looks closely at a range of socio-political issues that are known to cause division and marginalise people, shining a light on hidden injustices taking place in the heart of our communities. These include climate, isolation, understanding, migration, LGBTQI rights and equality and racism.

The festival is an exciting opportunity to uplift people who have been affected by these issues by sharing their stories. Together creating and shaping a vision for a future that is optimistic and which provides strength to move forward and meet challenges. We want to

create joyful and empowering experiences rather than focusing on the negativity that often surrounds day to day life experience.

Where there is Light

Following the success of 2019's Constellations event at Victoria Park, internationally renowned artists Squidsoup return to Halton. In 2021, as part of a UK tour, they will bring Where There is Light to Halton, a digital light installation showcasing the stories of refugees and asylum seekers.

Let's Tell Our Stories Festival – September – October 2021

Libraries' third festival is about stories. It will celebrate all our stories and hear our voices through storytelling, art, reminiscence, performance and talks. We will have theatre in our libraries and art, music and dance workshops that will explore multicultural stories and voices, and exhibitions and talks that will tell the story of Halton.

November

Halton Light Festival:

Celebrate the power of light on the dark nights of November with events across the Borough.

Light! @ Norton Priory

Light installations created by The Lantern Company will illuminate a woodland trail for audiences to explore a lantern walk, which will be animated by light performances culminating in a fire garden installation with musical accompaniment.

Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 November | Norton Priory Museum & Gardens, Runcorn

Fireworks Display

5 November

Celebrating Halton's Heritage:

Ever wondered who were the industrial movers and shakers that helped build Halton? Who were the workers? How have trades changed over time?

Celebrating Halton's Heritage is a project funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund exploring trades in Halton over the centuries to present day.

Our Heritage Artist will create spectacular large-scale visual art projections featuring local peoples stories.

Exhibitions will be hosted across the borough and in our dedicated Heritage Hub.

Our Heritage Hub will feature workshops, music, poetry, and talks exploring the history of Halton's trades.

Our Community Grants will enable organisations to enhance the theme through the delivery of events and activities to engage as many people as possible in celebrating Halton's heritage.

APPENDIX 2



14079 Celebrate
Halton Brochure.pdf

APPENDIX 3

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