

REPORT TO: Executive Board
DATE: 20 April 2023
REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director – Community & Greenspace
PORTFOLIO: Employment, Learning, Skills and Community
SUBJECT: Cultural Strategic Vision
WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek approval from members to adopt the Cultural Strategic Vision.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board

- 1) gives delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and the Portfolio Holder for Employment, Learning, Skills and Community, to finalise of the Cultural Strategic Vision ready for adoption; and**
- 2) approves the adoption of the Cultural Strategic Vision ‘The Crucible of Culture – The Cultural Vision for Halton Borough’.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Art Reach were commissioned to write a Cultural Strategy in 2022. They undertook consultation with various organisations and held workshops. They submitted a draft strategy to the Council in September 2022. The Council shared the document with the Cultivate Partnership (which includes Halton Council Officers and the Portfolio Holder for Employment, Learning and Skills, Leisure, Community and Culture) and it was agreed the document needed further work, before it could be a strategy.
- 3.2 The Cultivate Partners have invested time and expertise into translating the draft Strategy document produced by Art Reach, in to the Halton Cultural Report. The Cultivate Partners also identified the need for a Cultural Strategic Vision, which would be a public facing document. The Chief Executive for Norton Priory Museum kindly took on this piece of work. All Cultivate Partners have signed up to the Halton Cultural Report and Cultural Strategic Vision presented here today. Both documents are attached to this report in draft form. They have been shared with the Arts Council as a critical friend and subject to any changes suggested by the Arts Council, will be turned into glossy documents for adoption.
- 3.3 The Halton Cultural Report, Chapter 8 contains a high level Action Plan. This Action Plan will be developed further and become a live evolving document to facilitate the delivery of the Cultural Strategic Vision and will be developed in partnership with Cultural partners across Halton. There will be trio of Cultural

documents moving forward; the Halton Cultural Report, Cultural Strategic Vision and Action Plan.

- 3.4 A temporary externally funded Culture Officer post, has been created, utilising UK Share Prosperity Funding. This Officer will be responsible for developing the Action Plan and will facilitate Culture in the borough over the next 2 years. This Officer will assist in the preparations for Halton's 50th Celebration in 2024 and support Culture organisations to prepare for the next Borough of Culture in 2026. Subject to securing further external funding from the Borough of Culture pot, we would see this role continuing for a further 2 years. During this 4 year period the Culture Officer will help to secure funding to help build capacity in the Culture sector.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Halton has been without a Cultural Strategy and this has affected the ability for Cultural Organisations to bid for funding and has also limited the strategic overview for activity.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The funding for the post has been secured for the next two years, commencing 1 April 2023.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

There are no implications associated with this report.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

There will be opportunities to build capacity within the sector.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Increasing the opportunities for local people and providing access to local Culture, will increase the opportunities for healthier living.

6.4 A Safer Halton

There are no implications associated with this report.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

This Strategy underpins the good work of the Town Deal Board.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 7.1 Without the Cultural Strategic Vision being adopted, grants into the borough will continue to be restricted.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 8.1 Culture is open to all and we want everyone to engage.

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 No adverse effects on the climate are anticipated. Two of the events being supported in 2023; Efofest and Makefest will help to support the education of the local community.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Cultural Strategic Vision	Leisure Services	Sally McDonald
Halton Cultural Report	Leisure Services	Sally McDonald