

## Report of the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Health

**CULTURAL STRATEGY 2023-2026**1. Purpose of Report

To outline the Council's Cultural Strategy for 2023-2026.

2. Recommendation

**The Policy Overview Working Group RECOMMENDS that Cabinet RESOLVES that the Cultural Strategy 2023-26 be approved.**

3. Detail

The Cultural Strategy outlines the Council's approach to cultural activity in the Borough over the next three years.

In November 2022, the Cultural Services Team were brought back in house following several years as part of LLeisure Ltd. Now sitting alongside, the Communications Team, there are new opportunities to promote cultural activity and the many positive outcomes it can have on quality life, including economic growth, education, crime and anti-social behaviour and physical and mental wellbeing.

Whilst the strategy will be led and managed by the Communications, Cultural and Civic Services Team, the many diverse community groups and organisations in the Borough will play an integral part in its success.

4. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

There are no additional financial implications for the Council with costs being contained within existing budgets. Any significant budget implications in the future, over and above virement limits, would require approval by Cabinet.

5. Legal Implications

The comments from the Head of Legal Services were as follows:

The Council has statutory powers to promote cultural and artistic activities, and health and wellbeing and economic growth including under Sections 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. As well as the powers contained within Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011, which provides the Council with a general power of competence, allowing the Council to do anything that individuals generally may do.

In developing the Cultural Strategy, the Council must have regard to its public sector equality duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. This duty 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)

By completing an Equality Impact Assessment reflects the Council complying with this duty.

6. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable

7. Union Comments

Not applicable

8. Climate Change Implications

The comments from the Waste and Climate Change Manager were as follows:

The Cultural Strategy provides valuable framework from which events to stakeholders can be delivered across the borough. However, it is crucial that the Council delivers these events in a manner that mitigates the worst impacts of climate change and promotes sustainability. The Council must prioritise actions that lower the carbon emissions of events, thereby ensuring that they have a positive impact upon the environment.

9. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL Sensitive information.

10. Equality Impact Assessment

As this is a new policy an equality impact assessment is included in the appendix to this report.

11. Background Papers

Nil.