

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Health**Cultural Strategy 2026-2028****1. Purpose of Report**

To seek approval for the proposed Cultural Strategy 2026-2028.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE that the Cultural Strategy be approved.

3. Detail

Over the last three years, cultural activity in Broxtowe has continued to offer opportunities for people of all backgrounds to connect, express themselves and take part in cultural life, through events and activities across the Borough. The highlights include:

- Secured £30,000 of Arts Council funding to deliver the Broxtowe Creates Festival across Broxtowe in partnership with the Community Committee.
- Secured £10,000 of UKSPF funding for a renewed D.H. Lawrence Trail providing an updated walking route with new signage and QR codes to exclusive content.
- More than 31,000 people attended Council events in 2025/26, in comparison to 24,624 in 2022/23.
- Expanded the D.H. Lawrence Festival in partnership with events like the D.H. Lawrence Music Festival and the D.H. Lawrence Society, growing attendance from 750 in 2022/23 to more than 6,400 in 2025/26.
- Over 19,200 people were engaged through museum visits, exhibitions, events and activities.
- Secured more than £37,000 in external funding and sponsorship to support the events programme, up from £30,000 in 2022/23.
- The Culture and Events team was recognised by the Nottinghamshire Safety Advisory Group as the “gold standard” for event management, highlighting the Borough as an example of best practice across the county.
- The D.H. Lawrence Children’s Writing Competition has engaged more than 1,700 children, attracting entries from as far afield as Spain and Thailand.
- Supported a successful Arts Council England bid, securing £27,000 for Parky Players, Broxtowe’s theatre group for people living with Parkinson’s, to participate in an accessible street theatre festival in Poland as part of the *Voices Raised* project.

- Secured £5,000 to support the creation of British Sign Language (BSL) interpretation videos to improve accessibility at the D.H. Lawrence Birthplace Museum.

The Cultural Strategy 2026-2028 sets to build on these achievements, continuing to work collaboratively with partners, organisations and residents to ensure that culture continues to thrive in Broxtowe.

While the Strategy's core objectives remain unchanged, reflecting their continued relevance and alignment with the Council's priorities, the action plan has been comprehensively renewed to respond to the current cultural landscape and emerging opportunities. The refreshed actions recognise the evolving challenges facing the sector and ensure that the Council is well placed to maximise the role of culture and heritage in supporting regeneration, community wellbeing, learning and skills, and stronger, more connected communities.

The Strategy also acknowledges that there remains significant potential to further develop and strengthen the borough's cultural offer. By continuing to invest in and champion cultural activity, the Council can build on the successes already achieved and unlock even greater social, economic and community benefits for residents in the years ahead.

The Strategy has also been developed with an awareness of the forthcoming Local Government Reorganisation across Nottinghamshire, ensuring that culture and heritage remain well positioned to adapt to future governance arrangements.

The strategy document is currently being graphically designed ahead of presentation at Cabinet and publication if approved.

4. Key Decision

This report is not key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

5. Updates from Scrutiny

Not applicable.

6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer were as follows:

There are no additional costs outside of the existing budgets agreed for 2026/27. The budget for 2027/28 will be considered as part of the annual budget setting process.

7. Legal Implications

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

These comments will be provided at the meeting.

8. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

9. Union Comments

Not applicable.

10. Climate Change Implications

The climate change implications are contained within the report.

11. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

12. Equality Impact Assessment

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

13. Background Papers

Nil.