



Subject:	Extended Cultural Programme Update
Date:	22 June 2022
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director of Economic Development
Contact Officer:	Chris McCreery, Culture Development Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	The purpose of this report is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- update Members on the dedicated programme of work relating to capacity building and the resultant extended cultural programme feeding 'Belfast Imagining' our year of culture in the city.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Note the contents of this report and progress against the delivery of capacity building and the extended cultural programme- Approve the programme contained at appendix A regarding the extended cultural programme and associate expenditure to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Traditional Irish groups and activities - £100,000- Minority Ethnic groups and activities - £50,000- LGBTQ+ groups and activities - £50,000
	Main report

3.0	
3.1	<p>Background</p> <p>Following a discussion at Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum in February 2022, officers were asked to formulate a proposed programme of events to be organised by Council in partnership with local organisations to celebrate the city’s cultural heritage. That led to officers making recommendations at a meeting of Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in February 2022, for a cultural programme to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cultural engagement programmes with community participants - Cultural showcases open to the wider public - Cultural connections programme including events focussed on fusion and shared heritage - Celebration of the city’s recent designation as a UNESCO City of Music through increasing opportunities to promote the city’s music heritage. <p>Specifically, members will be aware that funding was approved for this activity amounting to,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Traditional Irish groups and activities - £100,000 - Minority Ethnic groups and activities - £50,000 - LGBTQ+ groups and activities - £50,000 <p>3.2 Subsequently, a proposed multi-strand programme to develop cultural and community capacity has been developed by officers in the Culture Development Team. The programme is based on existing research and evidence of need, and on similar projects such as A City Imagining leadership and micro-grants focused on the broad Unionist community.</p> <p>The programme adheres to the principles of the Good Relations Strategy, namely Outcome 5 of that seeks the creation of “An intercultural city and respectful cultural expression within the rule of law”. The programme also supports the aims of the A City Imagining cultural strategy and the Belfast Agenda. It will also complement the roll-out of the co-design framework, due to be presented at August committee.</p> <p>In addition, the programme will offer the opportunity for local people, particularly those from the target communities, to experiment with cultural expression and test drive new ideas and projects with a view to building civic activation and participation in Belfast Imagining 2024, our year of cultural and creative celebration in Belfast.</p> <p>3.3 The programme includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A series of civic-led events for each target group delivered in partnership with key festival organisations, using a co-design process and in partnership with local artists, communities and cultural organisations, to build capacity and confidence ahead of 2024 and prototype work for larger commissions as part of Belfast Imagining

3.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Three new targeted Creative Practitioner Bursaries awarded to artists working in Residence with these three target groups via paired communities and festivals and on a multidisciplinary basis - LGBTQIA+ Programme Delivery via a bespoke action plan developed from, ongoing research regarding LGBTQIA+ visibility and representation in the city's cultural offer - Utilising similar principles behind the current body of research on LGBTQIA+ visibility and representation, commission research into on visibility, participation and representation by Minority Ethnic groups across the city's cultural sector and cultural offer. - Diversity of Language: Tying in with Council's Language Strategy and Equality team commission research, recommendations, and pilot programmes exploring the diversity of language in our city through cultural activity - On-going engagement with target groups to co-design and co-create the action plans and recommendations coming from this programme of work - Engagement events with target groups, leading to civic engagement events / projects celebrating and showcasing target groups and Section 75 groups. <p>A breakdown of specific areas of spend, alongside further detail on proposals and their rationale, are included in Appendix A.</p> <p><u>Equality & Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>All events and projects will take equality and good relations implications into account and will be reflected in any agreements issued to partner organisations. The underpinning 'City Imagining Strategy' was subject to EQIA and screening.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no new financial implications. A breakdown of specific areas of spend and resource requirement is included in Appendix 1.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p> <p>Appendix 1 – Recommendations for extended cultural programme</p>
	None