



<b>Subject:</b>	Draft response for ACNI Strategy Consultation
<b>Date:</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Greer, Director of Economic Development
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Lesley-Ann O'Donnell, Senior Manager Culture, Tourism & Events

**Restricted Reports**

Is this report restricted? Yes  No

Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation, or prosecution of crime

**If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?**

<b>After Committee Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>After Council Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Sometime in the future</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Never</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Call-in**

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes  No

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	Members are asked to: Note the contents of report and agree the draft response to the consultation laid out in Appendix 1
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Members will be aware that the Arts Council Northern Ireland (ACNI) opened consultation on their Draft 10 year Strategy for Northern Ireland, with the consultation period closing on the 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
3.2	The Arts Council (ACNI) develops and champions the arts in Northern Ireland through investment and advocacy. This is facilitated through distributing Public and National Lottery funds. This funding creates opportunities for more people, from all backgrounds and communities, to enjoy and take part in the arts. Supporting, developing and championing arts and cultural activity by supporting artists, arts practitioners, organisations, venues and communities throughout Northern Ireland.
3.3	This is ACNI's first ten-year strategy and it was developed over the course of 2023, including five months of extensive engagement with artists, arts organisations, key representatives across government, businesses and the wider public sector.
3.4	<p>The strategy looks to address the challenges facing society and the sector. Many of the issues that the sector faces were underlined to during engagement to develop this strategy. Some of the key issues facing the sector identified in the strategy include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standstill funding</li> <li>• Return on investment</li> <li>• Short term funding cycles</li> <li>• Public value placed on arts and artists</li> <li>• Attendance and participation</li> <li>• Climate emergency</li> <li>• Representation and EDI</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment in the arts</li> <li>• Digital economies</li> </ul> <p>The draft Strategy outlines mission, visions and values aligned to delivery;</p> <p><b>MISSION</b>  <i>To develop and champion the arts in Northern Ireland through investment and advocacy.</i></p> <p><b>VISION</b>  <i>A society where all people can experience a thriving arts sector that is recognised as essential to creativity, wellbeing and social and economic prosperity.</i></p> <p>The document identifies the key challenges and opportunities for growth with outcomes aligned to both the arts sector and society.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A more financially stable arts sector</li> <li>2. A sector that develops, looks after its people and is more inclusive</li> <li>3. A sector that is better supported to develop through experimentation and innovation</li> <li>4. A sector that contributes to social and economic benefits and cares about the environment</li> <li>5. More people from all backgrounds can enjoy arts experiences</li> <li>6. A sector that is more valued across society and government</li> </ol>
3.5	
3.6	<p>ACNI now wants all interested parties to consider the draft proposal and sees this as an opportunity to help shape the final strategy and next steps.</p>
3.7	<p>A summary of the questions posed and draft responses to each of these have been collated and are attached in Appendix 1. Members are asked to review the draft responses and confirm their agreement that this can be submitted to ACNI as the Belfast City Council response to the consultation or to raise any other matters that they wish to incorporate.</p>
3.8	<p>From the perspective of Belfast City Council, we believe that strategic alignment between Belfast City Council and the Arts Council Northern Ireland is essential for realizing our shared vision of a vibrant, inclusive, and culturally rich Belfast. As a result our draft response recognises our ambition to support continued innovation, collaboration and partnership in advancing our mutual goals for the arts sector. We welcome the recognition within the strategy that takes cognisance of cross cutting objectives and shared resources that focus efforts and facilitate effective delivery.</p>
3.9	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>No specific financial or resource implications.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>ACNI have conducted and published their EQIA as part of the consultation process.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b></p>

	Appendix 1 – Draft Belfast City Council Response to Consultation & associated cover letter
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	Appendix 2 – Draft ACNI 10 year strategy
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