



<b>Subject:</b>	Draft consultation response – Arts Council NI Five year strategic framework for developing the arts 2019-2024
<b>Date:</b>	3 April 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Greer, Director of Economic Development
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Naomi Doak, Assistant Tourism, Culture, Heritage and Arts Manager

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to agree a response to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's consultation on their proposed framework entitled INSPIRE / CONNECT / LEAD: A five year strategic framework for developing the arts 2019-2024. The framework provides an overview of the strategic direction the Arts Council is proposing to take over the next five years (2019-2024).
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Note the draft Belfast City Council response</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note that the deadline for submission to the public consultation is 22 March 2019, however the Arts Council have agreed that they would be satisfied to receive a draft response from Belfast City Council on 4 April on the understanding that this is subject to full ratification by Council in May 2019</li> <li>Approve the submission of this response to the consultation exercise subject to full Council ratification.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>The Arts Council of Northern Ireland’s draft framework follows on from their previous five-year strategy, Ambitions for the Arts: 2013–2018. It aims to lead the arts sector in a strategic direction, which will support strength and resilience and create opportunity and growth, placing the arts at the heart of our social, economic and creative life. The document has been developed in consultation with the arts sector and key stakeholders with input welcomed from the public. Council officers attended a consultation session led by the Arts Council in March 2019 and senior officers have been in discussions with relevant Arts Council staff as part of the framework development process.</p>
3.2	<p>A copy of the draft strategic framework is available at <b>Appendix 1</b>. A full copy of the draft strategy framework and Equality Impact Assessment is also available online <a href="http://www.artscouncil-ni.org/images/uploads/publications-documents/ACNI-Draft-5-year-Strategic-Framework-for-Developing-the-Arts-2019-2024.pdf">http://www.artscouncil-ni.org/images/uploads/publications-documents/ACNI-Draft-5-year-Strategic-Framework-for-Developing-the-Arts-2019-2024.pdf</a></p> <p>A copy of Council’s draft proposed response is available at Appendix 2.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Arts Council structures its ambitions and priorities for the next five years are structured under three principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inspire</li> <li>Connect</li> <li>Lead</li> </ul>
3.4	<p>Each principle is supported by 7-9 objectives and further broken down into 2-3 actions to deliver on these objectives. The draft consultation response notes that objectives and actions are topline and acknowledges that tailored plans with measurable targets will later be developed to accompany the strategic framework in order to assist with the monitoring, evaluation and review of progress.</p>

3.5	The draft consultation response notes the timely nature of this consultation given the context of Council's own draft ten-year Cultural Strategy for Belfast 2020-2030.
3.6	The draft consultation response highlights key areas where Belfast City Council and ACNI currently work together and could work more closely together at a strategic level, particularly on the delivery of a Cultural Compact which aims to bring like-minded people and institutions together to establish city-wide plans to bring in higher levels of investment for culture in cities.
3.7	The proposed response to the consultation notes that, although the draft strategic framework highlights the challenging circumstances which are likely to affect the Arts Council's operations in the short-term, the time is right to take a long-term approach to planning for the arts.
3.8	<p><b>In its conclusion, the response acknowledges that it is Council's role as the city authority to support Belfast's cultural infrastructure to appropriate levels. However the Council would not be in a position to raise the level of funding provided to date on an annual basis by the Arts Council or to meet the deficit in public sector investment in the arts that has accumulated in recent years due to cuts to funding, as this would have a significant impact on the district rate. Therefore we strongly believe that the ACNI as the principal funder of the arts must also acknowledge and commit to supporting on-going levels of investment in cultural infrastructure in Belfast in order to maintain the city's status as a as a regional driver for arts and culture for Northern Ireland. We have also asked the Arts Council to consider Belfast's draft Cultural Strategy which will go out for consultation on 12th April.</b></p>
3.9	Members are asked to review the Council's draft response to the Arts Council's consultation included at Appendix 2 and raise any additional issues relating to the document which they would like to include in the final version of the response that is submitted to ACNI.
3.10	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no financial implications to this report.</p>

3.11	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no Equality or Good Relations implication attached to this report. A Rural Needs assessment is not required.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
4.1	<p>Appendix 1 – INSPIRE / CONNECT / LEAD A five year strategic framework for developing the arts 2019-2024</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Belfast City Council’s draft response to the Arts Council’s consultation</p>