

# CABINET



Report subject	<b>Arts and culture development in BCP Council</b>
Meeting date	18 March 2020
Status	Report
Executive summary	<p>The Cultural Enquiry for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole has been published, recommending we “utilise its three themes – talent, infrastructure and quality of place – to mobilise a new era of partnership and co-investment.”</p> <p>In support of the recommendations, and of the development of a Cultural Collective, cultural vision, cultural strategy and implementation plan, the Council has at the recommendation of the Deputy Leader approved an additional investment in arts and culture (generally abbreviated here as culture) of £150k in 2020/21, with an additional budget request of £320k in 2021/22.</p> <p>The £150k will support key actions of the Corporate Strategy, the Local Industrial Strategy, the emerging Local Plan and Destination and Tourism Strategy.</p> <p>BCP Council funds six independent arts and heritage organisations to deliver cultural services for residents and visitors in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. This funding enables them to deliver community-focused activity which supports the Corporate Strategy. A three-year funding settlement, for these organisations, guaranteeing no reduction in funding, would better enable them to plan and to apply for external funding than recent annual settlements have allowed.</p> <p>Arts Council England’s new ten-year strategy “Let’s Create” emphasises the importance of wide community participation in culture and is in tune with our belief it embraces all aspects of creative life, from popular to high culture.</p>
Recommendations	<p><b>It is RECOMMENDED that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>(a) Cabinet accepts the findings and recommendations of the Cultural Enquiry and supports their implementation;</b></li> <li><b>(b) Cabinet supports the plan to hold “A Cultural Future for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole” conference on 23<sup>rd</sup> March at Lighthouse Poole;</b></li> <li><b>(c) Cabinet agrees that a cultural strategy and implementation plan for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole should be developed as a joint initiative of BCP Council and the Cultural Collective;</b></li> <li><b>(d) Cabinet agrees to openly recruit an independent chair of the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Cultural Collective (Cultural Compact) and form a multi-sector</b></li> </ul>

	<b>board and wider stakeholder group to deliver on the recommendations of the Cultural Enquiry; and (e) Cabinet agrees a three-year standstill settlement (2020-23) for the six funded arts and heritage organisations operating in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.</b>
Reason for recommendations	To enable BCP Council, the Cultural Collective and local arts and heritage organisations to deliver on the recommendations of the Cultural Enquiry and the priorities of the Corporate Strategy.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Mark Howell, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Culture
Corporate Director	Bill Cotton, Corporate Director for Regeneration and Economy
Service Director	Chris Saunders, Director of Destination and Culture
Contributors	Michael Spender, Museum and Arts Manager
Wards	All Wards
Classification	For Decision

## Background

1. For the purposes of this report “culture” embraces all aspects of participation in and enjoyment of creativity and heritage.
2. In February Arts Council England published its ten-year strategy, “Let’s Create”, which resonates closely with the BCP Council Corporate Strategy, with an emphasis on cultural democracy, communities, wellbeing, economic impact and climate emergency. The strategy’s vision is that “By 2030, we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish, and where every one of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences.” The objective is that “By 2030, we envisage a country transformed by its culture and at the same time transforming it: a truly creative nation in which every one of us can take part”.
3. The value and potential of culture to tourism, place-making and wellbeing is hard to overstate. Visit England has recognised that culture is a principal driver for tourism. In December 2019 an authoritative article published in the BMJ stated that based on a longitudinal study of a cohort of 6,710 community dwelling adults aged 50 years and older, people who engaged with receptive arts activities on a frequent basis (every few months or more) had a 31% lower risk of dying.
4. The 2019 Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Cultural Enquiry, which was the first major BCP external appraisal, identifies three major priorities for ambitious development and investment:
  - 4.1. Culture and talent: embracing creative education, building a creative workforce, championing diverse cultural expressions, and enabling people of all backgrounds to actively participate in the cultural life of their communities and the conurbation.

- 4.2. Cultural infrastructure: with a commitment to building cultural capacity, leveraging the excellence of existing hubs, venues and organisations, and boosting BCP as a place that produces and hosts great art and culture of international significance.
- 4.3. Culture and place: embedding culture as a tool for planning, with a focus on nurturing distinctive neighbourhoods, dynamic town centres, accessible and imaginative public realm, urban mobility, and an attention to social cohesion, health and wellbeing and environmental sustainability.
5. As a result of BCP Council's commitment to the Cultural Enquiry we successfully applied to Arts Council England to set up a Cultural Compact (Cultural Collective is the preferred name). The Compact firmly places Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole at the forefront of cities and regions acknowledged by government and agencies as leading the way in recognising and using culture as a key force in driving cross-cutting change, development and investment.
6. Compacts were initiated by the 2019 DCMS Cultural Cities report and are supported by Arts Council England, Core Cities UK and the Key Cities Group (of which BCP is a member). They are inclusive cross-sector cultural collectives focusing on place-making and cultural planning, diversity, health and wellbeing, destination and tourism, productivity, local plans and local industrial strategies. They are platforms for government, multi-agency and private investment.
7. The Cultural Collective will be a feature of the conference at Lighthouse Poole on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, where the outputs of the Cultural Enquiry will be discussed, starting to shape them into a cultural vision, cultural strategy and implementation plan and investment plan which will be delivered by the Collective and BCP Council. An ambition might be to bid to be UK City of Culture in 2033.
8. It is proposed to openly recruit an independent chair of the Cultural Collective, with profile in and potentially beyond Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. An agile, diverse and empowered Collective board will be formed, reflecting key stakeholder interests and funding potential. The structure and governance of the Cultural Collective is being considered by the Cultural Enquiry Steering Group on 6<sup>th</sup> March.
9. The agreed additional culture funding of £150k in 2020/21 will support the Collective board in developing a cultural vision, strategy and plan through recruitment of two officers. The arts and culture team will increase from 2.6 FTE to 4.6 FTE during the year, enabling it to implement key actions of the Corporate Strategy. The aim will also be to leverage in additional external funding in support of culture and cross-cutting objectives.
10. The 2021/22 funding will be stretched thinly, and in order to support a substantive working budget, increased festival support, infrastructure feasibility funding and the community arts engagement, prizes and funding proposed by the Deputy Leader, there will be an additional budget request of £320k in 2021/22.
11. Once the Cultural Collective is fully established and generating enough funds, the aim will be to remove some of the additional funding commitment from the Council. The Arts Council has, however, been clear that investment in the cultural development of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole needs to be supported by investment from BCP Council.
12. In 2019/20 investment in BCP Council cultural services (principally museums) was approximately £1.14m, and £1.08m in external arts and heritage organisations to enable them to deliver cultural, learning and participation services for communities, residents and visitors. By comparison Arts Council England invested £18.25m in arts and heritage organisations that operate in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.

13. The £2.22m 2019/20 BCP Council budget (approximately 0.3% of the total budget) represents a spend of £5.79 per resident. This is small in relation to other authorities of the size and ambition of BCP Council. The benchmarking data (which excludes theatres) shows that Manchester spends £18.76 per resident, Leeds £17.33, Hull £16.56, Bristol £14.53, Portsmouth £13.33 and Exeter £11.22. BCP Council comes 56th in the table of local authorities' expenditure on culture, which is a low position for the 12th largest authority in the country.
14. The externally grant-funded Arts and Culture organisations are listed below, with the 2019/20 BCP Council revenue funding allocations, and 2019/20 Arts Council England (ACE) revenue or project grant funding.

Organisation	BCP Council	Arts Council
Lighthouse Poole (Poole Arts Trust)	£431,000	£342,213
Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO)	£273,720	£2,554,790
Pavilion Dance South West (PDSW)*	£264,000	£386,216
Red House Museum (Hampshire Cultural Trust)	£100,000	
Activate Performing Arts (Inside Out Dorset)	£8,000	£251,422
Audacious (Light Up Poole)	£8,000	£80,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,084,720</b>	<b>£3,614,641</b>

\*Includes £150,000 grant to BH Live for operating costs of the PDSW building.

15. In recent years Lighthouse and BSO have received consistent grant reductions from the Borough of Poole. For example, Lighthouse's grant has reduced from £544,000 in 2013/14 to £431,000 in 2019/20. PDSW's direct £114,000 grant presently tapers at a rate of 5% a year to 2021/22, as confirmed in a letter to them of 20th June 2019. The £150,000 grant to BH Live for operating costs of the PDSW building does not taper. It is recommended that the PDSW taper is halted for the next three years. Activate's grant has remained static in recent years and the grant to Audacious was new in 2019/20.
16. Activate and Audacious have been awarded £5,000 additional funding each from the new 2020/21 £150k investment and Folk on the Quay, which otherwise could not have been staged in 2020, has been awarded £3,000.
17. To help these organisations plan better and to give them certainty of Council funding to use as match funding in their National Portfolio Organisation grant applications in 2021 for 2022/33, a three-year standstill funding settlement is recommended. Consistent Service Level Agreements will be arranged with the six organisations, making clear their expected contribution to Corporate Strategy objectives that the Council's grants enable.
18. Arts Council England has written the following to BCP Council
- 18.1. Arts Council recognises the strong and consistent support BCP has given to art and culture in previous years. As well as past investment, BCP has taken an active role exploring economically-sustainable opportunities for the future through the Cultural Enquiry and Cultural Compact. Close partnership work between BCP and Arts Council has been vital to the thriving of culture in the area, evidenced by the strong portfolio of organisations and activity.

- 18.2. Arts Council will keep investing where local authorities continue to invest. What we can't and won't do is step in and increase funding to make up for reductions in local authority funding.
- 18.3. Our current level of investment in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole is linked to the investment of BCP Council. We are likely to open our next NPO funding round in autumn 2020. This is when we decide which organisations will be funded in the next investment period, which is likely to run from 2022, for three or four years.
- 18.4. The Cultural Compact, which is the delivery mechanism for the outcomes of the Cultural Enquiry, is envisaged as a step change in Culture for towns and cities.

### **Summary of financial implications**

The MTFP implications are an additional spend of £150k in 2020/21, and an additional budget request of £320k in 2021/22.

Any proposed additional budget allocation in future years will be subject to the 2021/22 budget and Council Tax setting process.

### **Summary of legal implications**

With legal support, new, consistent SLAs with arts and heritage organisations will be agreed, clearly identifying performance measures supporting the Corporate Strategy.

### **Summary of human resources implications**

None, except recruitment.

### **Summary of environmental impact**

Organisations to which grants are made will be required to meet environmental performance measures. The Arts Council's ten-year strategy and the creative sector in general, are committed to addressing the climate emergency.

### **Summary of public health implications**

Increased cultural activity demonstrably leads to a healthier, happier place, and health and wellbeing will be positively impacted. Increased investment will include a wellbeing fund for arts and heritage groups that directly support health and wellbeing. The six funded organisations all deliver activity targeting health and well being and this programming will be enhanced by certainty of funding through a three-year settlement.

### **Summary of equality implications**

Culture embraces not just the "high" arts, but all aspects of participation and enjoyment of creativity and heritage, from cinema to choirs, pop to pantomime, historical walks to hysterical comedy, and the resulting social, community, health and economic benefits.

The Arts Council's strategy makes it clear that the organisation supports the widest possible participation in culture, seeking to address diversity, deprivation, isolation and health agendas. The Cultural Collective will also work to these agendas.

Through the Collective and delivery of a cultural strategy and plan there is an opportunity to better support, connect and promote all aspects of broader culture, bringing more vibrant creative activity to the mass market and people across the equalities spectrum.

Through stable three-year funding of arts and heritage organisations, and related SLAs, the Council will be better able to ensure funded organisations deliver on the Council's equalities priorities.

### **Summary of risk assessment**

There are reputational and financial risks that if additional investment in culture is not made the Council will fail to deliver on the recommendations of the Cultural Enquiry.

The Arts Council has linked its investment in BCP Council and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole cultural activity to the level of financial support by BCP Council and there is a risk that this investment will reduce if the Council can not match its aspirations with funding.

If grant-funded Arts and heritage organisations have stable three-year settlements their sustainability will be less at risk.

There is a risk that if in the short term it employs staff the Cultural Collective will become an expensive organisation for the Council to service, so at this stage this is not envisaged.

### **Background papers**

Template responses from funded arts and heritage organisations, making their case for support, and SLAs with organisations, are all available on request.

### **Appendices**

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Cultural Enquiry.

Cultural Enquiry Appendix 1: Benchmark Examples given during the Cultural Enquiry.