

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 13 February 2023

Report Title

Cabinet's Response to the Scrutiny Review - Cultural Strategy

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

Rotherham's Cultural Strategy was approved by Cabinet on the 10 June 2019 following over 20 months of workshops, engagement and consultation. The Strategy was facilitated by the local Cultural Partnership Board working together to make sure that as many people as possible who live in Rotherham can take part in high quality cultural, leisure and sporting activities.

A Scrutiny spotlight review took place with Council Officers on the 2 February 2022. The summary of findings and recommendations from the meeting jointly undertaken by Improving Places Select Commission and Improving Lives Select Commission were presented to Cabinet on the 19 December 2022. This report sets out the proposed Cabinet response to the findings and recommendations from the spotlight scrutiny.

Recommendations

1. That the Cabinet response to the Scrutiny Review Recommendations (as set out in Appendix 1) for the Cultural Strategy be approved.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 – Response to the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Appendix 2a – Initial Equality Screening Assessment Form Part A

Appendix 2b – Initial Equality Screening Assessment Form Part B

Appendix 3 – Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Rotherham's Cultural Strategy 2019-2026 – Cabinet 10/06/2019

Cultural Strategy Implementation – Improving Places Select Commission 08/12/2020

Minutes of Improving Lives Select Commission – 03/05/2022

Minutes of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 12/10/2022

Minutes of Cabinet meeting – 19/12/2022

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 12 October 2022

Improving Lives Select Commission – 03 May 2022

Cabinet – 19 December 2022

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Outcomes from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board relating to The Cultural Strategy

1. Background

- 1.1 Rotherham's Cultural Strategy was agreed by Cabinet on 10 June 2019, and various aspects of the delivery of the Strategy have returned to Scrutiny for monitoring of implementation progress on several occasions. On 19 December 2020, the most recent progress on the implementation of the Strategy was scrutinised at Improving Places Select Commission, and it was agreed by Members of Improving Places Select Commission in July 2021 that, in view of the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on the cultural offer in the Borough, progress on the implementation of the Strategy would be prioritised for a spotlight review.
- 1.2 Acknowledging the positive benefits of events and culture to wellbeing and education, the purpose of the review was to obtain assurances that the local offer was responsive to changing needs of communities and promoted inclusive access to cultural activities in the Borough. This review examined elements which intersect three objectives included in the Council Plan 2022-23: local people have access to libraries, cultural activities, parks and green spaces; children and young people have fun things to do and safe places to go; and inequalities are addressed, and nobody is left behind.
- 1.3 Members of Improving Places Select Commission and Improving Lives Select Commission met with Culture, Sport and Tourism Service Leads and the Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion. The review was undertaken by Councillors Pitchley, Atkin, Cooksey, Keenan, Griffin, Havard, McNeely, and Sansome.
- 1.4 The resulting recommendations were endorsed by Improving Lives Select Commission on 3 May 2022 on behalf of both scrutiny commissions which conducted the spotlight. The recommendations were subsequently endorsed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 12 October 2022 and presented to Cabinet on the 19 December 2022.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 An initial presentation was made to the spotlight review members on the 2 February 2022. It highlighted the purpose of the Cultural Strategy, its priorities and make-up along with a number of project examples where protected characteristic groups had been priorities for activity. Finally, the presentation reflected on areas of self-improvement.
- 2.2 Appendix 1 sets out the recommendations following the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board which endorsed the findings from the spotlight review at a meeting on the 12 October 2022. A proposed response has been provided for work that has taken place along with proposed timescales for those that are still outstanding or need on-going consideration.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 Option 1 – that Cabinet approves the proposed responses to the recommendations as set out in Appendix 1. This is the recommended option.
- 3.2 Option 2 – that Cabinet does not accept the proposed responses as set out in Appendix 1. This is not recommended.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 There has not been consultation on the proposed responses to the recommendations other than appropriate Council Officers.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The spotlight review recommendations were considered by OSMB at the 12 October 2022 meeting and were received by Cabinet on the 19 December 2022. This report provides the proposed Cabinet responses to each of the recommendations and has associated timescales attached as detailed in Appendix 1. It is therefore recommended that Cabinet formally consider its response to its recommendations, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.
- 5.2 The timetable for implementing the recommendations is set out in Appendix 1.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 The delivery of the recommendations will be done from existing budgets. If additional funding is required, applying for external grants is possible from stakeholders with a shared interest in supporting the work, such as Arts Council England, South Yorkshire MCA and Sport England.
- 6.2 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report. However, where there is a need to procure goods, services or works in the delivery of the recommendations, this must be undertaken in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended) and the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 As the purpose of the spotlight review was to provide reassurance that children and young people and vulnerable groups were prioritised within Rotherham's cultural offer, it is envisaged that there will be a positive impact on these sectors of the community as a result of this report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed, along with an action plan, set out in Appendix 2a Equalities Impact Assessment Part B. The delivery of the action plan will have a positive impact on people with protected characteristics.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 Whilst there are no direct measurable implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report, by the mere nature of creating more activity within the community, this may negatively impact on CO2 emissions due to increased vehicular travel and opening of buildings and facilities.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 Consideration will be given to the impact the recommendations have on Cultural Partnership Board members and partner organisations. In order to achieve the most comprehensive coverage across Rotherham, the Council will need support from its partners.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 Officers have regard to the risks and mitigation factors associated with the spotlight review on the topic of The Cultural Strategy and have made recommendations accordingly.

14. Accountable Officers

Polly Hamilton, Assistant Director, Culture Sport and Tourism
Leanne Buchan, Head of Creative Programming and Engagement
Chris Siddall, Head of Sport, Leisure and Strategic Partnerships

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	30/01/2023
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	24/01/2023
Assistant Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	26/01/2023

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