

# Scrutiny Briefing

Meeting date: 13<sup>th</sup> February 2017

<b>Heading: Update to Place Scrutiny on Scrutiny Inquiry Day- The Case for Culture: How can we support Bristol's Cultural sector to continue to grow and flourish?</b>	
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## Purpose of briefing, summary of issue / proposal and key background information:

1. Officers will present to scrutiny in order to
  - To update members on progress made on the recommendation of the Scrutiny Inquire Day
  - To get members input into the revamping of the culture strategy
  - To answer additional questions raised by Place scrutiny in advance of the meeting
2. First section of the meeting will focus on what officers have done as a direct response to the recommendation in the Scrutiny report signed off in March 2016.
  - **Define the role of Bristol City Council (BCC):** It was recommended that the most helpful role for BCC in future would be as a facilitator/enabler/broker; helping to connect different providers and projects.
    - Map what is happening, identify gaps
    - Increase connections between Cultural/ arts organisation and schools
  - **Geography and Mobility:** currently the majority of cultural activities are located centrally and steps should be taken to transfer more cultural events out of the centre and into the wider city areas.
    - Transfer more events outside the centre
  - **Physical Spaces:** There is a need to look holistically at premises and public spaces across the city and thinking about how they could be used more creatively.
    - Consider how to work with communities to make best use of empty building
    - Create variety of suitable spaces for arts and culture
    - More affordable space in the outer areas of Bristol
    - Libraries as community hubs
  - **Benefits and Investments:** there is a need to ensure that both the economic benefits and improved levels of wellbeing that 'culture' in all its different forms could help to deliver are promoted. But it was recommended that Bristol needs new approaches to generate additional funding for cultural projects and activities in the future. Opinions were varied about how this should be achieved.
    - BIDs
    - Pros and cons of discretionary business rates
    - Hotel tax
  - **Revamp Cultural Strategy to help address the above:** To achieve full outreach into areas, particularly those with high levels of deprivation, there should to be a multi-stakeholder approach to a revamped cultural strategy between the local authority, cultural sector, VCS organisations and schools etc and longer-term investment plans to widen opportunities for all.
3. The main section of the meeting will focus on gathering members input into the revamping of the cultural strategy. Please see attached paper showing overview and emerging themes.
4. Finally Officers will answer some specific questions raised by scrutiny in advance, namely
  - Can we monetise our historic assets more effectively?
  - What is happening with Powerboat racing?

## Recommendation(s) / steer sought:

5. This is an interactive session to update Scrutiny members and get their input into the strategy.

**Appendices:** Powerpoint presentation- Draft Scrutiny presentation  
Powerpoint presentation- Bristol's Culture Futures- Overview and emerging themes