

Question: CQ21.01

Cabinet – 14 December 2021

Re: Agenda item 21 - Cultural Investment Programme 2023-2027

Question submitted by: Councillor Tessa Fitzjohn

I refer to the Corporate Strategy theme 5 'Homes and Communities' Para 3 to quote: "Bristol's cultural and creative economy brings vibrancy and life into all communities across Bristol", to go on "COVID-19 has been devastating for the cultural and creative sectors, straining the creative economy".

The visual arts sector has been particularly hard hit by covid, as artists and associated arts workers such as technicians and producers are freelance and were unable to receive government covid support.

I am aware that BCC is intending to continue to fund up to £636,000 per year till 2027 and appreciate the reach of the funding criteria providing opportunities for a more diverse group of artists with focus on the DIY network for example.

I would like to ask that Council considers an approach that links development to the arts, by proposing that all planning applications require a public art plan for over 15 units. This is not a new requirement as it was common practice up to 2017, but has lapsed. I'm aware there are pockets of activity, but what I propose would extend benefits city wide.

There is considerable benefit to particularly the visual arts community, providing the City with original art works, opportunities to increase tourism and raise Bristol's profile as a city supporting original public art.

I ask the Cabinet to consider a proposal that every planning application over 15 units includes a public art plan.

Question:

The corporate strategy states that "The city is rebuilding its thriving cultural and creative sector, so everyone has an equal chance to participate, enjoy cultural assets, understand the history that has shaped Bristol" – please can you explain how the Cultural Investment Programme is doing that?