

Growth and Regeneration Scrutiny Commission 7th March 2024



Report of: Alex Hearn, Director of Economy of Place

Title: Culture and Creative Industries Service

Wards: All

Officer Presenting Report: Alex Hearn, Director of Economy of Place

Recommendation:

That the Commission notes the content of the report of the Culture and Creative Industries Service including an update in the Cultural Investment Programme (CIP)

The significant issues in the report are:

To briefly describe the Culture and Creative Industries service including its structure and activities. This includes the Cultural Investment Programme.

This is not part of a decision pathway.

A PowerPoint slide deck will also be published in advance of the meeting with further information.



1. Summary

- 1.1 Culture and Creative Industries is a large service within Growth and Regeneration and manages and delivers collections, cultural programmes, funding and investment, commercial opportunities across a number of assets and in communities in the city.
- 1.2 In February 2024, the service returned to the Economy of Place division providing an opportunity to develop further synergies with services charged with the inclusive regeneration and decarbonisation of the city through a just transition to net zero.
- 1.3 Following a robust and comprehensive external recruitment process, a new permanent Head of Service will start on the 18th of March 2024.

2. Discussion

2.1 A powerpoint presentation will be published before the meeting which will describe the structure of the service, its activities and priorities.

- 2.2 The Culture and Creative Industries service is very significant for the city and the council. It is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation, it generates income from trading, grants and donations, it has a collection of approximately four million objects (including ten miles of archives), has a workforce of approximately 200 people and has enabled the city to become a Unesco City of Film.
- 2.3 Reporting to the currently vacant Head of Service role are five service managers responsible for Collections and Archives, Commercial and Operations, Public Programmes and Participation (including the Cultural Investment Programme), Film and South West Museums Development.
- 2.4 Between these pillars of the service, delivery is through the Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, MShed, Blaise Museum, The Red Lodge, The Georgian House, The Bristol Archives and The Bottle Yard Studios. This is a significant estate comprising public facing and operational functions including specialist production and conservation activities.
- 2.5 The Cultural Investment Programme (CIP) is the means through which the council is able to distribute grant funding to arts and culture organisations in the city. The overall aim is to Make Arts and Culture Accessible for All.
- 2.6 The aims for the CIP 2023-27 programme (approved by Cabinet in December Dec 2021) have been intentionally aligned to key priorities around diversity, inclusion and equity in the Bristol City Council Cultural Strategy, the Corporate Strategy 2022-27 and the One City Plan.
- 2.7 Alongside this strategic shift, the level of investment available to arts and cultural organisations through the CIP programme has reduced by 40% over the last 5 years (from £1,015,960 in 2017/18 to £635,960 in 2022/23). The combination of these factors has meant that recommendations have required the intention of achieving a step change in diversifying the programme at the same time as adapting to reduced budgets.
- 2.8 The investment of £635,960 per annum is reviewed every four years and the current programme runs until 2027 consisting of three funds:
 - Originators (1 year – up to £5k)

- Imagination (2 years – up to £15k per year)
- Openness (4 years – up to £30k per year)

2.9 Funding allocation decisions were taken through a transparent and robust process with recommendations from an independent panel.

3. Policy

3.1 In 2017 the council adopted the Bristol Cultural Strategy: City of Openness, Imagination and Originators.

- **City of openness:** increasing cultural participation through partnership and leadership; the development of capacity and infrastructure across a more connected city; and a clear offer of cultural education and routes into employment.
- **City of imagination:** re-imagining Bristol (its economy, infrastructure, identity) through culture by sparking the imagination; championing the radical; commissioning the unknown; and finding new uses for heritage assets.
- **City of originators:** supporting the city's artists, creatives and makers so they can develop productive and sustainable careers in Bristol and finding ways for the city's full talent base to contribute to success.

These principles also translate into the themes for the Cultural Investment Programme.

- 3.2 The activities and programmes of the Culture and Creative Industries service are aligned to all seven themes of the council's Corporate Strategy and to a vision 'In which everyone benefits from the city's success, and no-one is left behind' but including the specific and strategic five-year commitment that 'we will be a leading cultural city, making culture and sport accessible to all'.