

Title of Report: European Capital of Culture	Officer Presenting: Local Government Auditor Author: Lead Assurance Officer
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1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations

- 1.1 To provide Members with an update on the work carried out by the Local Government Auditor in relation to the expenditure incurred on the European Capital of Culture bid.

2 Background

- 2.1 At the Assurance, Audit & Risk Committee in January 2019 Members requested that the Local Government Auditor review expenditure incurred on the European Capital of Culture bid.

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 The Local Government Auditor has examined the documentation in respect of the Bid and have reached the following conclusions:
- Key risks of the Bid were identified at the outset of the project and these were brought to the attention of the Business and Culture Committee. Included within this was the risk of ineligibility due to Brexit.
 - We have not carried out an audit of the expenditure incurred but a high level review of the costs would lead us to conclude these are reasonable based on the description of the costs recorded.
 - Council would contend it has derived some lasting benefits from the Bid process through the establishment of collaborations, identification of projects and stakeholder engagement which can be used going forward including for the City Deal.
 - We have no recommendations to make from our review of this

4 Financial, Equality, Legal, HR, Improvement and other Implications

- 4.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

5 Recommendations

5.1 That Members note the content of this report – refer to Appendix A.

Background Papers