

Title of Report: Annual Service Plan 2019/2020 – Business & Culture Directorate	Officer Presenting: Director of Business & Culture Author: Director of Business & Culture
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1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations

- 1.1 To seek Members' approval to adopt the Service Plan for 2019/20 for the Business & Culture Directorate (Appendix 1).
- 1.2 To update Members on the progress made within the Business & Culture Directorate in 2019/20.

2 Background

- 2.1 Members will be aware that Council is subject to a statutory performance improvement regime. In order to assist with this duty, the Service Plan for the Business & Culture Directorate outlines services, performance and improvement objectives and targets across the Directorate for 2019/20.

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 The profile and purpose of the Directorate, the services provided and a summary of resources are highlighted within Section 1 of the draft Service Plan.
- 3.2 Section 2 of the plan details achievements and progress to date.
 - 3.2.1 Highlights of key achievements across the directorate are as follows:
 - **Business Boost**
 - Over 190 full time jobs promoted (from April 2018-December 2019)
 - 541 Mentoring days delivered up to December 2018

- 13 Referrals to Invest NI resulting in £295,000 towards £1.09m of additional investment into the region with the aim of promoting:
 - £1.4m of external sales (outside NI including GB)
 - £1.06m export sales (outside the UK).

- **Education & Skills** - Delivery Partnership infrastructure established:
 - Digital & Creative Technologies Sub Group
 - Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering Sub Group
 - Hospitality & Tourism Sub Group
 - Learning City Sub Group
 - ESF Local Forum

- **Investment & Opportunity** - Council leading Ireland Northwest Trade and Investment Mission to Philadelphia and Boston in partnership with Donegal County Council

- **Rural Development Programme** - Total funding allocated of £2.8M (69 grants) across four funding schemes – £1.6M of this allocated in 2018/2019 across 34 grants

- **PEACE IV Programme** - November 2018 securing of additional £739,316 to bring total funded to £6,749,330 from the Special EU Programmes Body

- **Digital Services** – New council website tender process has started

- **Marketing** - First issue of the Council magazine published and delivered to 72,000 households directly and areas of high footfall within the Council area.

- **Arts & Culture** - Completion of the DCSDC Arts & Culture Strategy including proposed Co Delivery mechanism

- **Tourism** - Developed & launched the Tourism Strategy 'A New Level of Ambition' for the region and established Tourism Strategic Group to support with implementation
- **Festival and Events** - Delivery of 18 tier one events including the largest ever Halloween celebration, Foyle Maritime Festival, City of Derry Jazz Festival, Strabane Lifford Half Marathon, Waterside Half Marathon and Summer Jamm Events
- Profile of Guildhall raised with television broadcasts; Channel 5 Britain by bike with Larry & George Lamb, BBC2 Newsnight live broadcast, Channel 4 Derry Girls filming and after party, RTE Pat Kenny Show and Miriam O'Callaghan Show.

3.4 The service plan outlines the improvement objectives and service delivery in detail within Section 3.

4 Financial, Equality, Legal, HR and Other Implications

4.1 The Directorate budget has been approved through the rates estimates process and all financial information is detailed within the report.

5 Recommendations

5.1 Members are asked to adopt the attached Service Plan for 2019/20.

Background Papers

Appendix 1: Draft Annual Service Plan

Appendix 2: Risk Registers (to follow)

Extracted: Business and Culture (open) 17th April

BC81/18 Annual Service Plan 2018/19 – Business and Culture Directorate

The Director of Business and Culture presented the above report a copy of which had been previously circulated to Members. He explained that the purpose of the report was to seek Members' approval to adopt the above Service Plan, however Members had only received the information the previous day and suggested an extension of time for Members to submit comments by Monday 23 April 2018.

The Director of Business and Culture clarified for Alderman Hussey, that Officers would follow-up with the relevant Companies to build upon momentum and mentoring was provided so to encourage job retention and an increase in the workforce in going forward. He also clarified that the Future Search initiative was included in the detail of the Service Plan and an update report would be presented at a future Committee meeting.

The Committee

**Recommended that Members submit comments
on the Business and Culture
Annual Service Plan 2018/19 by
Monday 23 April 2018.**

Extracted: Monthly Council (open) 26th April 2018

C147/18 Monthly Business and Culture Committee held on Tuesday 17 April 2018

The Minutes of the Business and Culture Committee held on Tuesday 17 April 2018 (BC75/18 – BC87/18) were submitted.

Alderman Warke, Seconded by Councillor McGuire and the Council

Resolved that the above minutes be adopted as a true record of the Meeting

Matters Arising from the Minutes

C148/18 Culture Venues Fund 2016/17 – Impact Report (BC85/18)

Councillor Robinson stated that he had recently visited Studio 2 in the Skeoge area of the City to discuss their current funding difficulties. He reported that the facility provided a wide range of programmes for up to 1400 young people in the Skeoge area and beyond. He added that the organisation needed urgent help with their funding shortfall, which, if not met, would have a detrimental impact on the young people from the Shantallow, Galliagh and wider district council area.

Councillor Robinson Proposed, Seconded by Councillor O'Reilly

That Council sends a delegation of Elected Representatives and Council Officers to meet with Studio 2 in order to look at their plight and find a solution with utmost urgency.

Councillor Duffy stated that Sinn Fein with Karen Mullan MLA had met with the director of Studio 2 and were organising a meeting with the Arts Council regarding the matter.

Councillor Carr entered the Chamber at this point in the meeting.

Brian Tierney indicated that the SDLP were also hoping to meet with the Department for Communities (DfC). He stated that a meeting had been also arranged between the DfC and the Director of Business and Culture regarding the funding issues faced by Studio 2. He asked for an update on this meeting as it was important to provide support to Studio 2. He stated that if Studio 2 were unsuccessful in securing the funding it would be more costly to the City and District, than the shortfall required for their funding. He added that the help that Council provided to Studio 2 would, in turn, support the young people throughout the City and District.

Councillor Logue reported that a recent meeting had taken place which had been attended by Elected Members, representatives from the Arts Council and Arts organisations to discuss the overall decreases in Arts Council funding. She informed Members that a decision had been made for a delegation from the Arts groups across the City and District to make a presentation to the Business and Culture Committee. She stated that all groups affected by the decrease in funding had to be considered and that Members must have a collective view on how to assist those groups. Alderman Hussey concurred with Councillor Logue's comments. He stated that there were a considerable amount of arts and culture groups throughout the City and District who were currently in dire straits. He remarked on the differential in funding between 'big hitter's' such as the Ulster Orchestra in Belfast and the culture groups from the rural areas and the impact that the cuts were having on these smaller groups. He stated that arts groups had been invited to make a deputation to the next Business and Culture Committee meeting and that subsequent to the deputation, Members would be better informed on how to take the matter forward.

Alderman Ramsey stated that he had attended a meeting with local arts groups where it was evident that there were major issues within the entire funding process. He stated that legacy funding from 2013 had been readily available to these groups, however the current structure was not working for the arts sector. He stated if this local group was subject to the £40,000 decrease in funding, it would have an impact on employment and other issues. He added that it was important that Members have a collective view on the matter.

Alderman McClintock commented on the work carried out at Studio 2. She stated that she fully supported their need for funding, however it was important not to have a 'knee jerk' reaction towards one particular group. She stated that it was important to consider all groups affected by the funding cuts and to wait until a decision was made at the Business and Culture Committee meeting.

Councillor Boyle agreed stated the anxieties faced by the arts and culture groups within the City and District were understandable. He stated that he had attended the original meeting attended by representatives from the Arts Council and the Arts and Culture sector. He outlined that they had explained the difficulties they were faced with regarding the funding cuts. He advised that it would not be appropriate to address this issue in a singular fashion but to focus on the difficulty and needs faced by the arts groups collectively and to come to a conclusion that would be of benefit to everyone.

Councillor Cooper advised Members that a meeting was scheduled to take place on Friday 27 April regarding the new strategy for the Arts and Culture Council. He stated that Sinn Fein had responded to the original draft which included suggestions on the current funding models. He stated that it was his belief that the strategy should be considered going forward and he hoped that it would contain a very robust funding model to give groups the confidence to have as much sustainability as possible. He invited Members to attend the meeting as he felt that the focus should be on the Arts Council and the Department for Communities to secure extra support for those organisations affected by the funding cuts.

Councillor Gallagher referred to the allocation of funding by the Arts Council and stated that the Ulster Orchestra had been allocated £2m whilst funding had been cut in Derry and Strabane. He stated that £40,000 could make a difference to 1400 young people who were users of Studio 2. He emphasised the importance of meeting with Studio 2 to ascertain how closure of the organisation could be prevented. He stated that previously, there had been a rural group faced with a similar situation. However, there had been a cross-party meetings and discussions and the matter was resolved successfully. He suggested having such discussions on this issue was the way forward.

Councillor McGuire requested a breakdown on expenditure by the Arts Council for the City and District within the last five years before the next meeting of the Business and Culture Committee.

Councillor Tierney stated that he had met with the artistic director of Studio 2, Council Officers and officials from the DfC on the matter. He stated that a plan had been put in place to hopefully bring it to a successful conclusion and that sending a delegation of Officers may hinder that process.

Councillor Robinson Proposed, Seconded by Councillor O'Reilly

That Council sends a delegation of Elected Representatives and Council Officers to meet with Studio 2 in order to look at their plight and find a solution with utmost urgency.

After voting by a show of hands the result being as follows:

For – 27; Against – 0; Absentions – 8.

The Proposal was therefore carried and Council

Resolved that Council sends a delegation of Elected Representatives and Council Officers to meet with Studio 2 in order to look at their plight and find a solution with utmost urgency.

C149/18 Northern Ireland Women in Enterprise Challenge 2018-2021 (BC83/18)

Alderman Hussey enquired if an update was available regarding his request that the funding contribution between the eleven Councils be challenged to ensure that each Council area received an equal amount of funding to participate in the initiative.

In response, the Mayor advised that the matter would be raised with the Director of Business and Culture.