

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

meeting date: TUESDAY 12 MARCH 2024
title: ARTS STRATEGY
submitted by: ADAM ALLEN DIRECTOR COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: MARK BEVERIDGE, HEAD OF CULTURAL SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To ask Committee to consider the proposal for a Working Group in a Task and Finish format to develop the Council's Arts Strategy.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Community Objectives - To help make people's lives healthier and safer.
- Corporate Priorities - To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley.
- Other Considerations – The cultural sector is an important part of the Borough's service sector.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 This Committee at the last meeting in January 2024, approved the submission of a bid to Arts Council England for grant funding to develop an Arts Strategy for Ribble Valley.

2.2 At the meeting it was proposed agreed with an additional amendment that a working group of Councillors be established to feed into the development of the strategy and share their experiences of Arts in the Borough. It was agreed that a draft term of reference be developed by officers and considered at the next committee meeting.

2.3 A draft terms of reference have been developed and are attached for consideration.

2.4 The background work on the bid is progressing and an audit of what exists in the Borough is currently being carried out. This is something which ACE recommended the Council did to help inform the action plan which will form part of the funding bid for the strategy.

3 ISSUES

3.1 The confirmation of funding support from Arts Council England will take some time to be concluded, it is expected to be June 2024 as it takes around 2 months for bids to be determined. The development of the strategy is wholly dependent upon the bid being successful and the funding being provided. Without external funding, resources are not available to develop the strategy in the way outlined.

3.2 As part of the bidding process, we will need to develop a detailed action plan which if accepted will need to be followed as prescribed. This action plan will set the parameters for the work which ACE will fund. Therefore, if members have not been able to input into that plan, any desire to deviate from it subsequently would prove very difficult, because ACE do not like the objectives of funding bids being amended once agreed, unless it involves minor tweaks.

It is considered that a task and finish group format could be established immediately for an intensive and finite piece of work over 2-3 months to develop the action plan with the strategy itself being subject to the normal reporting mechanism inherent in this committee.

3.3 The terms of reference for such a working group are attached for consideration.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications.

- Resources – The Council does not have a budget to progress the scheme if the Arts Council do not approve the grant bid. The only funding available is the match funding allocated to the project from the Arts Development Budget, which will not cover the cost of the work to develop the strategy.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal –
- Political – None arising as direct result of this report.
- Reputation – The Council has a good record of supporting the Art and Cultural sector in the Borough, either through grants or by the work of the Arts development officer and through the provision of both the museum and the Platform Gallery.
- Equality & Diversity – Not applicable to this report.

5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

5.1 Approve the formation of a Working Group on a Task and Finish basis to develop the scope and action plan for a new Arts Strategy.

5.2 Agree the members who will sit on the group.

Mark Beveridge
Head of Cultural and Leisure Services

Adam Allen
Director of Community Services

BACKGROUND PAPERS: None

For further information please ask for Mark Beveridge 01200 425111

Appendices: Terms of Reference.