

To: City Executive Board
Date: 12 March 2015
Report of: Scrutiny Committee
Title of Report: Culture Strategy 2015-2018

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To present comments from the Scrutiny Committee on the Culture Strategy 2015-2018

Key decision? No

Scrutiny Lead Member: Councillor Simmons

Executive lead member: Councillor Christine Simm, Executive Member for Culture and Communities

Policy Framework: Corporate Plan 2015-2019: Strong Active Communities and Vibrant, Sustainable Economy.

Recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee to the City Executive Board:

1. We recommend that there is an objective to extend cultural opportunities to excluded communities under priority for culture 2.
2. We recommend that the City Council asks Experience Oxfordshire to convene a seminar with elected members.

Introduction

1. The Scrutiny Committee considered the Culture Strategy on 2 March. The Committee would like to thank Peter McQuitty for attending this discussion. The Committee had previously considered the Draft Strategy in October 2014, prior to consultation, making 4 recommendations.

Summary and recommendations

2. The Committee regret that its previous recommendation about seeking to improve the length of visitor stays is not seen as being a primary purpose of the Culture Strategy. However, the Committee heard that

the Local Enterprise Partnership recognises the economics of Oxford's cultural offering. The Committee welcomed the incorporation of its other recommendations into the Culture Strategy.

3. The Committee welcome key priority 2, which is to improve opportunities for Oxford's diverse range of communities to actively engage with and be inspired by culture. The Committee note the objectives under this priority but would like to see an increased emphasis on actively ensuring that excluded communities are better engaged with and represented.

Recommendation 1 – We recommend that there is an objective to extend cultural opportunities to excluded communities under priority for culture 2.

4. In light of the recent appointment of Hayley Beer as Experience Oxfordshire's new Chief Executive, the Committee suggests that a seminar for elected members is held with Experience Oxfordshire.

Recommendation 2 – We recommend that the City Council asks Experience Oxfordshire to convene a seminar with elected members.

Executive response

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Agreed? (Y / N / In part)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Board Member / Lead Officer</i>
1. We recommend that there is an objective to extend cultural opportunities to excluded communities under priority for culture 2.	<i>TBC</i>	<i>To follow</i>	Christine Simm / Peter McQuitty
2. We recommend that the City Council asks Experience Oxfordshire to convene a seminar with elected members.	<i>TBC</i>	<i>To follow</i>	Christine Simm / Peter McQuitty

Name and contact details of author:-

Andrew Brown on behalf of the Scrutiny Committee
 Scrutiny Officer, Law and Governance
 Tel: 01865 252230 e-mail: abrown2@oxford.gov.uk

List of background papers: None