

## ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE STRATEGY UPDATE

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<b>Wards affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Urgent Decision?(yes/no)</b>	No
<b>If yes, reason urgent decision required:</b>	
<b>Appendices (attached):</b>	<b>Appendix 1:</b> Summary of Arts, Culture and Heritage projects, events, activities and partners from 2023 and due for completion by March 2025.  <b>Appendix 2:</b> Photographs of community engagement - Arts, Culture and Heritage projects 2023-2024  <b>Appendix 3:</b> Photographs of community engagement - Arts, Culture and Heritage 2023-2024.

### Summary

This report sets out achievements of work delivered as part of the Council's Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy between 2023 - 2025.

The report sets out a proposal of relevant funding streams and attributed work to support in the delivery of the Council's Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy for 2025/26.

### Recommendation (s)

**The Committee is asked to:**

- (1) Note the achievements of works delivered as part of the Council's Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy.**
- (2) Note the proposal of relevant funding streams and attributed work to support in the delivery of the Council's Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy for 2025/26.**

# Community and Wellbeing Committee

## 13 March 2025

### 1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 Since the Council's first Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy was approved for adoption by Community and Wellbeing Committee in October 2023, work has been delivered at pace in line with the three strategic pillars of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy. This report highlights achievements of work completed delivered between 2023 – 2025.

#### Three Strategic Pillars

- Nurturing Talent
- Inclusivity and Access for all
- Economic Growth

- 1.2 Attributed workplans between 2023 and 2025 have been largely supported by monies via the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

This iteration of the UKSPF reaches its conclusion on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025, with no extension or roll-over of monies permitted.

This report serves as an early indicator to relevant funding streams and attributed works that will seek to aid in supporting successful delivery of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy in 2025/26.

#### **Background**

- 1.3 Epsom and Ewell Borough Council's Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy

1.3.1 The Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy was developed to take forward the ambitions associated with the 'cultural and creative' priority theme identified in 2020, during the largest public consultation exercise conducted by the Council - Future40 - which resulted in *Our Vision for Epsom and Ewell*.

1.3.2 The Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy sets out a vision and direction for the development of arts, heritage and cultural services, facilities and activities within the borough.

1.3.3 Projects, events and activities attributed to the Council's Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy have been rich in variety, serving a wide spectrum of themes and topics links to arts, culture and heritage to those who live, work and study within the borough of Epsom and Ewell.

1.3.4 While preparing and delivering workplans attributed to the Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy, the Council has been committed to (co)curating an accessible and inclusive programme throughout 2023 – 2025.

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Appendix 1 of this report records work undertaken between 2023 – 2025 attributed to the Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy.

### 1.4 The United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund

1.4.1 The UKSPF was launched on the 13 April 2022 and sought to provide £2.6bn across the UK for local investment by March 2025.

#### 1.4.2 The UKSPF's three investment priorities

- Communities and places
- Supporting local businesses
- People and skills

1.4.3 In 2023/24, an allocation of £31,211 was agreed by Members to support project work and outcomes attributed to arts, culture and heritage within the borough of Epsom and Ewell.

1.4.4 In this same year, the Council appointed its first Arts, Culture and Heritage Programme Officer to support with the drafting of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy, and attributed workstreams.

1.4.5 Building on the deliverable successes of the 2023/24 workplan, in 2024/25, an allocation of £74,000 was agreed by Members to support further work attributed to arts, culture and heritage in line with the Council's three strategic pillars from Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy.

## **2 Proposal - Arts, Culture and Heritage relevant funding streams and attributed work for 2025/26**

2.1 In mid-2024, the Council's Arts, Culture and Heritage Programme Officer and Arts, Culture and Heritage Assistant moved from the Projects team to work alongside colleagues within the Council's Community Development department.

Working in synergy to support our community, this blended approach to community development brings with it a plethora of (funding) opportunities for growth, progress and wider strategic thinking.

- Continuing to nurture and build strong and sustainable 'partnerships with purpose' within our own communities and beyond.
- Increased and enhanced impact and social value for the Council's Community Development work via added value and knowledge regarding the needs and requirements of groups and communities within our borough, who have links to the borough's arts, cultural and historical landscape.

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- Supporting in the development and delivery of the Council's updated Health and Wellbeing Strategy, subject to approval at Committee in March 2025.
- 2.2 Minded of the information outlined in section 2.1 of this report, Q1 of 2025/26 will be used for 'horizon scanning' to identify relevant yet flexible funding opportunities – both within Surrey and nationally - to support delivery of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy in 2025/26.
- 2.3 In addition to the work undertaken in Q1, there are potential funding streams within the Council's Community Development department that would allow the Council to plan dynamically and ambitiously for arts, culture and heritage, alongside broader health and wellbeing priorities. This would support our residents, in accessible and inclusive ways.
- 2.4 Some of the funding streams identified may be subject to conditions of spend and the Council is currently looking to determine this. However, where the spend criteria allows, the Council will be able to develop and deliver projects for the following community groups, or as aligned to the following objectives:
- The borough's refugee community
  - Increasing access and opportunity for young people to enjoy physical activity
  - To support residents over the age of 50 to stay active
  - Community-based intervention and diversionary outreach for the borough's youth community
- 2.5 In addition to sections 2.2 – 2.4 of this report, the Council will be minded to also investigate match-funding and benefit-in-kind opportunities when delivering the Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy in 2025/26.

## 3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

### 3.1 Equality Impact Assessment

3.1.1 An Equality Impact Assessment report for the Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy was prepared and shared with the Council's Diversity, Inclusivity and Equality Group for review and feedback in October 2023.

### 3.2 Crime & Disorder

3.2.1 The Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy and attributed workplans seek to have an indirect and positive impact on crime and disorder.

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3.2.2 Consideration is taken of priorities from other service areas within the Council, including Community Safety, Community Development and Operational Services.

3.2.3 Impacts are carefully considered and incorporated into the (co)curation phase of programming

- An example of such programming is the Council's campaign of community murals delivered between 2023 – 2025.
- Seeking to reduce anti-social behaviours attributed to illegal graffiti and mark-making within the borough, key 'graffiti hot-spots' have been transformed via the installation of new, vibrant pieces of street art within the public realm.

## 3.3 Safeguarding

3.3.1 In delivering the Council's Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy, it is accepted and has been evidenced that projects, events and activities will serve vulnerable residents, children and young people who live, work and study within our borough.

3.3.2 The Council will continue to ensure its safeguarding duties to report safeguarding concerns and will continue to undertake due diligence when working with delivery partners and stakeholders.

## 3.4 Dependencies

3.4.1 The Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy outlines a commitment to working in collaboration with stakeholders and partners on (co)curation and implementation of projects, events and activities.

3.4.2 The Council works closely and collaboratively with internal Council departments when delivering the Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy.

3.4.3 The Council has worked alongside a number of third-party partners (outlined in Appendix 1) when delivering the Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy between 2023 - 2025. The Council would remain dependant on nurturing and growing partnership working to support delivery the workstream for 2025/26.

Other

3.4.4 None arising

## 4 Financial Implications

4.1 Programming and delivery attributed to the Council's Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy in 2025/26 will rely on:

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- The Council's allocated revenue budget
- Successful applications for external grant funding

4.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** The finance team will collaborate with officers to ensure all conditions for external grants are met, facilitating the timely receipt of funding.

## 5 Legal Implications

5.1 With reference to section 2 of this report, the Council will adhere to spending criteria and/or requirements set out by funding providers.

5.2 The Council will comply with relevant legislative requirements and the Council's Constitution, including Contract Standing Orders, in the development and delivery of projects.

5.3 **Legal Officer's comments:** None for the purposes of this report

## 6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

6.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:

- **Cultural and Creative**

6.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is included within the current Service Delivery Plan.

6.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** None for the purposes of this report.

6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:**

6.5 Community Safety Implications are considered in section 3.2 of this report.

There are no other considerations.

6.6 **Partnerships:**

Existing partnerships are as identified in Appendix 1 of this report.

In 2025/26 work will continue to nurture, champion and strengthen place based, cross-sector collaborative working.

This work will be flexible and inclusive in approach, to support growth for long-term, sustainable partnerships.

## 7 Background papers

7.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

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### **Previous reports:**

- Approval of [Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy](#) at Community and Wellbeing Committee, Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2023.

### **Other papers:**

- [Our Vision Epsom and Ewell](#)
- [Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy 2023 - 2028](#)
- Arts, Culture and Heritage [Equality Impact Assessment](#).
- [UK Shared Prosperity Fund](#)