

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

To: Leisure & Development Committee

Integrated Culture, Arts & Heritage Strategy Update.

8th September 2015

For Information

Report to Committee

Linkage to Interim Corporate Plan	
Strategic Themes	Transition & Transformation Cohesive Community
Lead Officer	Julie Welsh – Head of Community & Culture
Cost: (If applicable)	

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the development of Integrated Culture, Arts & Heritage Strategy presented in the August Council report.

Background

At its meeting in April, Council approved the Development of an Integrated Culture, Arts & Heritage Strategy 2016-2021 and Action Plan 2016-2019. As there have previously been different levels of arts, culture and heritage service provision in the legacy councils, the strategy will consider new ways of working and various options for service delivery to maximise efficiencies and ensure equality of access across the new council area.

The overall objectives of the project are to develop an innovative and integrated Cultural Services Strategy for the new Council by the end of November 2015 that will:

- Ensure our rate payers and visitors can avail of and contribute to a wide range of high quality, inclusive, affordable and accessible cultural services including arts, museums and heritage.
- Maximize the available resources and potential of the current arts, museums and heritage service within this unique council area.
- Maximize opportunities to deliver on wider local, regional and national strategies (including social and economic strategies) and inform the new Community Plan for the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area.

Shona McCarthy Consulting, who was awarded the contract to develop the strategy, began work at the start of August. The process will consist of the following stages:

1. A situational review and analysis of current policies, context, services, resources and core values within Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Service delivery.
2. A wider situational review and analysis of local, regional and national policies and best practice models.
3. Comprehensive consultation with key stakeholders including council members and staff, local citizens & communities and the cultural sector.
4. Production of draft Integrated Cultural Strategy & Action Plan
5. Further consultation to test the draft documents

6. Production and submission of final draft of Integrated Strategy and Action Plan incorporating results of ongoing consultative and monitoring process

Stages 1 and 2 are almost complete and the consultant has begun the process of consulting with a broad range of key stakeholders. This will include workshops, focus groups, questionnaires, telephone interviews and face to face meetings. Workshops for community and voluntary groups which are also open to the public have been organised in the four main towns as follows:

Wednesday 9 September	7-10pm	Sheskburn House, Ballycastle
Tuesday 15 September	2-5pm	Cloonavin, Coleraine
Tuesday 15 September	7-10pm	Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre, Limavady
Thursday 17 September	2-5pm	Ballymoney Town Hall

A workshop for Elected Members is currently being planned.

It is anticipated that the first consultation phase will be completed by the end of September. Further consultation to enable wider engagement and feedback on the draft strategy will take place late October with the draft recommendations for Council in place for the end of November.