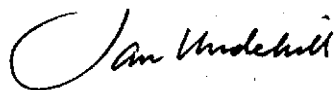




<b>Report to:</b>	Environment and Neighbourhood Committee	<b>Date:</b>	1 February 2018
<b>Report title:</b>	A Cultural Framework for Sutton		
<b>Report from:</b>	Jan Underhill, Assistant Director for Wellbeing, People Directorate		
<b>Ward/Areas affected:</b>	Borough Wide		
<b>Chair of Committee/Lead Member:</b>	Cllr Jill Whitehead		
<b>Author(s)/Contact Number(s):</b>	Andrew Clark, Promoting Independence and Wellbeing Manager, 0208 770 5245 Madeline Barratt, Head of Libraries, Heritage and Arts, 0208 770 4755 Sophia Harvey, Development Manager, 0208 770 4763		
<b>Corporate Plan Priorities:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Open Council</li> <li>• A Green Council</li> <li>• A Fair Council</li> <li>• A Smart Council</li> </ul>		
<b>Open/Exempt:</b>	Open		
<b>Signed:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	16 January 2018

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 Targeted engagement sessions took place with creative communities in Sutton during October 2017, led by consultants who have experience in open space events with a cultural focus. The information gathered as a result of the engagement helped to inform the work which will progress to the drafting of a Cultural Framework for Sutton.
- 1.2 The Framework will be predicated on the role of the Council as a facilitator and enabler rather than a provider of cultural events. The brief to consultants supporting this work is to draw together an overview of the Sutton cultural landscape and therefore: identify what Sutton currently offers; what key developments within communities are possible, what could happen to take the cultural scene in Sutton forward and identify what would be needed to effect change. This scoping has resulted in the production of a first draft framework and a roadmap for the future, for Member consideration. A final framework would include more detail on options for the medium and longer term and potential sources of funding. A critical element of the draft Framework will be a description of how local communities and groups might come together to further develop the creativity and growing diversity of talent that exists within Sutton. The Framework will consider cultural activity in the widest sense, including opportunities that the town centre Masterplan, regeneration and the London Cancer Hub will bring and the heritage and potential visitor offer, as well as recognising the wealth of arts activity already taking place within communities.

## **2. Recommendations**

The Environment and Neighbourhood Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Agree the outline framework and roadmap as the direction of travel, at Appendix A.
- 2.2 Agree to the recommendation for a further draft Framework to be brought back to Environment and Neighbourhoods Committee in Summer 2018. This would be followed by gathering further views from residents, through the consultation Hub.

## **3. Background**

- 3.1 The Council last examined the cultural offer from Sutton in 2007 when a Strategic Framework for Cultural Services was presented to Full Council for adoption. In the intervening years, austerity and other changes affecting local government have taken place. In Sutton, Libraries Heritage and Arts were brought together in 2015 under the People Directorate of the Council, the Town Centre Masterplan has been developed, the Sutton Plan has been launched, the London Cancer Hub is progressing and Sutton has been awarded Heritage Action Zone status, the only London borough to achieve this. The Libraries, Heritage and Arts service has undergone a transformation to modernise and reflect the needs and aspirations of both today's and tomorrow's local residents. The financial landscape has also changed dramatically and Councils, including Sutton, have moved from being providers in many instances to commissioners. The potential for the Council to invest in local arts and creativity is limited and development is dependant upon bidding successfully for available grants, London wide. However, a wealth of independant and local community creative activity takes place within Sutton, such as local festivals, the Wallington music festival, Carshalton Artists Open Studios to name but a few.
- 3.2 It was felt that the time was right to undertake a review of both the planning and built environment and local provision, to draw these together and develop a new framework for Culture for Sutton. This Framework would make some recommendations about how local creative industries might come together to raise their profile and ensure that the rich and growing diversity of Sutton is reflected and represented in the creative landscape.
- 3.3 A Culural Framework for Sutton will bring an opportunity to widen the purview of 'culture' to ensure that all elements gain a voice, such as food, music, dance, art, and performance generally and to encourage inclusivity and diversity.
- 3.4 A Cultural Framework for Sutton would also provide the basis for accessing potential funding, such as grants from Arts Council England, and for Sutton to be considered in the next round of the London Borough of Culture.



#### **4. Issues**

- 4.1 The Council is developing a modern library service which includes a refurbished, central library which will become more of a community hub with new technology available, modernised spaces for study, for children and families and rentable business spaces. The heritage buildings in Sutton are also well used by residents and visitors and Whitehall will re-open fully in early Summer 2018, with a transformed offer for visitors and schools. It needs to be understood however that it is not the role of any Council to determine what the cultural offer of a place should be. This comes from the people who live and work there. Additionally, the Council has limited resources to invest further in the creative arts but can play an important part by encouraging communities to come together to develop the cultural offer and identity of the borough and to facilitate and promote a range of diverse, creative activity. This chimes with the Sutton Plan approach, which is about partners working together for the benefit of Sutton and all its residents.
- 4.2 There is a need for a more joined up approach across the various Council directorates and between the Council and its wider partners, particularly local businesses, taking the same approach as the Sutton Plan, if the cultural identity of Sutton is to continue to grow and reflect the people who live here.

#### **5. Options Considered**

- 5.1 Do nothing. This means Sutton as a borough may not move forward as a creative destination and the risk is also that the growing diversity within the Borough is not recognised and promoted.
- 5.2 Draft a Cultural Framework for Sutton which identifies opportunities for the future and includes the role of the Council and wider partners in working with communities to facilitate cultural growth and diversity. This is the recommended option as it will draw in local communities and encourage them to be part of the wider cultural landscape, connecting with each other and growing creative networks. It will also clearly identify what the role of the Council as facilitator and enabler could be and the potential involvement from other partners across the Borough. The framework presented represents the first phase of this work.

#### **6. Impacts and Implications**

##### **6.1 Financial**

None.

## 6.2 Community Cohesion

Identified within the Equalities Impact Assessment, attached as Appendix B. The focus of the framework and subsequent draft Framework will be to increase community cohesions and connect with the growing diversity within communities.

## 7. **Appendices and Background Documents**

<b>Appendix</b>	<b>Title</b>
Appendix A	'A Cultural Framework for Sutton'
Appendix B	Equalities Impact Assessment

<b>Background documents</b>
N/A

<b>Audit Trail</b>		
Version	Final	Date: 16 January 2018
<b>Consultation with other officers</b>		
Finance	N/A - to be included in phase 2 of the process	N/A
Legal	No	N/A
Equality Impact Assessment required?	Yes	Completed