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**To:** Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> October 2018

**Subject:** City of Culture 2021

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## **1 Purpose of the Note**

- 1.1 To update Members of the Board on Coventry's preparations to be UK City of Culture 2021, specifically including consideration of governance and risk management arrangements.

## **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Co-Ordination Committee is recommended to:
  - 1) Consider the content of the presentation.
  - 2) To make recommendations to the Leader of the Council in order to support and secure delivery of a successful City of Culture for Coventry in 2021.

## **3 Information/Background**

- 3.1 On 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017, Coventry was awarded the title of UK City of Culture 2021.
- 3.2 Following the city's successful bid for the title, Cllr George Duggins, Leader of the Council and Martin Reeves, Chief Executive of the Council were appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Coventry City of Culture Trust.
- 3.3 Also following on from Coventry being awarded the title, the Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) requested information on Coventry's preparations for hosting UK City of Culture. A briefing and presentation were provided to the Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018.
- 3.4 On 28<sup>th</sup> August 2018, Cabinet approved that governance arrangements for the City of Culture readiness programme be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) in consultation with the Leader of the Council.
- 3.5 Cabinet further delegated authority to the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) and the Director of Customer Service and Transformation to investigate an express route for the employment of the posts necessary to ensure City Readiness for both the City of Culture and European City of Sport.
- 3.6 On 1st September 2018, the Council appointed David Nuttall, Head of Service (Sports, Culture and Destination) to a secondment arrangement for the role of Strategic Lead for UK City of Culture, European City of Sport and Commonwealth Games 2022.

- 3.7 On 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018, Council approved the addition of £5m to the capital programme for 2018/19 onwards for the development of a cultural capital investment programme and authorised that the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) and the Director of Finance and Corporate Services be given delegated authority to approve all elements of capital expenditure associated with these funds.
- 3.8 Council further delegated authority to the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) and Director of Finance and Corporate Services, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance, to identify and bid for grant assistance, where available, that supports the aims of the City of Culture and the European City of Sport. This delegated authority includes the power to accept the terms and conditions of grant funding where the level is below the existing Council threshold of £2.5m.
- 3.9 Council further delegated authority to the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) and the Director of Streetscene and Regulatory Services, following consultation with the Cabinet Members for Policing and Equalities and Planning and Housing and the Chairs of Licensing and Regulatory Committee and Planning Committee, to explore opportunities to provide a one-stop shop for Planning, Building Control and Licensing services and simplify and streamline the decision making process to eliminate/reduce delays for development and events.
- 3.10 The Coventry City of Culture Trust has appointed an Audit, Finance and Risk Committee to oversee its operations. This Committee reports directly back to the main Trust Board.

### **Officer Contacts**

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