



To: Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

Date: 16th October 2019

Subject: City Readiness - City of Culture 2021

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 the City Readiness Board and sub-groups.

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 4th 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.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 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 to simplify and streamline the decision making process to eliminate / reduce delays for development and events.

4 City Readiness Governance Structures

- 4.1 The City Readiness Board was established by the City Council to lead on overseeing and coordinating operational management of the city's preparations for hosting European City of Sport 2019, UK City of Culture 2021 and the Commonwealth Games 2022 programme. To date the Board has been Chaired by the Deputy Chief Executive (Place), but the position of Chair will now pass to the Deputy Chief Executive (People).
- 4.2 The City Readiness Board was founded with three sub-groups:
- (i) Infrastructure Group - Chaired by the Director of Transportation and Highways
 - (ii) Programme, Engagement and Evaluation Group - Chaired by the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing
 - (iii) Licensing, Operations, Planning and Safety Group - Chaired by the Director of Streetscene and Regulatory Services.
- 4.3 Given the scale of the readiness programme (including the city's infrastructure programme and cultural capital programme), a further Communications Group and Cultural Capital Group are proposed to be added to the governance structure supporting the Readiness Board.
- 4.4 The Board and its sub-groups bring relevant Council, Trust and operational partners together to ensure that all areas of City of Culture readiness are covered. Each sub-group has their own Terms of Reference and is required to maintain their own action planner and risk register, reporting all key actions and challenges into the City Readiness Board.
- 4.5 The presentation will outline the three key strands of the Readiness Board's work to date, summarising progress and challenges for each area.

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