

Report – Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee

To be presented on Thursday, 7th December 2017

*To the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons
of the City of London in Common Council assembled.*

SUMMARY

The City of London Corporation's current cultural strategy expires at the end of 2017. It came into effect during the 2012 Cultural Olympiad but no longer reflects the full extent of the organisation's activities across arts, culture, heritage and learning or its new and emerging ambitions. Following a successful tender process, Global Cities Limited were appointed in May to assist the organisation in developing a new cultural strategy and, working with officers, undertook engagement across the City of London Corporation and key partners to inform the new strategy. It is a collaborative document that sets an ambitious vision for the organisation over the next five years.

The draft strategy was approved by your Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee on 4 September 2017 and your Policy and Resources Committee on 16 November 2017. A number of other Committees and Boards which have an interest in the delivery of arts, culture, heritage and learning have also received and fed into its development.

The draft strategy, including its two-page executive summary is attached for your consideration at Appendix A.

RECOMMENDATION

Members are asked to approve the draft City of London Cultural Strategy 2018-22.

MAIN REPORT

Background

1. The City of London Corporation remains the fourth largest funder of arts, culture and heritage in the UK, with an annual contribution of over £100m per annum to the sector. Culture is now widely recognised as a core component of a thriving global city, important to attracting investment, workers, creating vibrant neighbourhoods and making a positive contribution to the happiness and wellbeing of our communities. It is against this backdrop that the organisation seeks to refresh its strategy for the next five years.
2. A key aim for the new strategy was that it should be a more strategic forward-looking document that reflected the strong ambitions of the City of London Corporation across arts, culture and heritage.

Strategy

3. A two-page executive summary is included at the beginning of the Strategy which sets out the aims, values and strategic objectives for the organisation's cultural offer up to 2022.

4. The Strategy is deliberately high level and ambitious and will be delivered by departments across the City of London Corporation and key partners. Whilst there are objectives and priority actions which readers will recognise as supporting existing activity there are also new objectives designed to challenge the organisation over the coming years. These ambitions reflect conversations and feedback received throughout the strategy's development. Subject to its approval, a cross-organisational structure will be put in place to oversee the delivery of an action plan for the strategy.

Conclusion

5. We **recommend** that the draft City of London Cultural Strategy 2018-22 be approved.

All of which we submit to the judgement of this Honourable Court.

DATED this 4th day of September 2017.

SIGNED on behalf of the Committee.

Graham David Packham
Chairman, Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee