

Committee: Policy and Resources	Date: 21 st November 2013
Subject: Cultural Hub Working Party	Public
Report of: The Town Clerk	For Decision

Summary

1. The City of London has an extensive cultural offering and the City Corporation, as the 4th largest cultural funder in the UK, is committed to promoting and enhancing this offer. The Corporation's 'Cultural Strategy 2012-2017' stated that the Corporation's *vision for 2017 is to see the City's identity as a cultural hub strengthened in its own right, alongside its status as a financial centre.*
2. The strategy proposed developing the cultural hub around the area of the Barbican, based on the Barbican Centre, the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, and the Museum of London, involving the world-class cultural institutions resident there including the London Symphony Orchestra.
3. The hub would be both a visual area that invites people in to experience its cultural offering and a collaborative hub between renowned institutions. It is proposed that a 'cultural hub working party' is established to oversee this project. The working party would consider how improvements to the street scene, links to future transport infrastructure developments (especially the opening of Crossrail in 2018), and increased collaboration between these organisations will draw in more visitors to this area and increase the exposure of, and enhance the quality of provision by, these renowned cultural institutions.
4. The working party will bring together officers from these institutions and Members with an interest in the cultural development of the City. Initially it will identify its vision for the area before exploring what work will need to be undertaken to achieve it. It is proposed that the working party is constituted for an initial 12 months and that its membership include:
 - Two representatives from the Policy & Resources Committee
 - One representative from:
 - the Board of the Museum of London
 - the Barbican Centre Board
 - the Board of Governors of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama
 - the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee
 - the Planning and Transportation Committee
 - the Director of the Barbican Centre
 - the Director of the Museum of London
 - the Director of the Built Environment

The Chairman of the working party will be drawn from its membership.

5. The working party will meet periodically to co-ordinate the work being undertaken, identify priorities and project streams, and agree to endorse projects as they are submitted to the relevant City committees for consideration.
6. It is to be recognised that this working party will be in addition to the Cultural Chairmen's Strategy Group which looks the City Corporation's wider cultural portfolio. It will focus on the co-ordinated development of the hub.
7. Today Members are asked only to approve the establishment of the working party. If approved, the relevant committees will be asked to appoint representatives in advance of this Committee appointing its two representatives to the working party.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members approve:

- the establishment of a working party to oversee the development of a cultural hub based on the Barbican area that will coordinate improvements to the street scene, links to future transport infrastructure developments, and increased collaboration between the cultural institutions in and around that area;
- that the working party be initially constituted for 12 months; and
- that the Policy & Resources Committee be kept updated on the activities of the working party.

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