



Report to the Partnership for South Hampshire Joint Committee

Date: 10 February 2020

Report of: Sandy Hopkins, Chief Executive - Southampton City Council
Carolyn Abel, Head of Culture - Southampton City Council

Subject: SOUTHAMPTON BID FOR UK CITY OF CULTURE DESIGNATION
2025

SUMMARY

Joint Committee will receive a verbal presentation outlining work around UK City of Culture 2025.

Established in 2013, UK City of Culture is a national designation awarded every four years to a city for one year. Administered by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, it builds on the success of Liverpool as European City of Culture in 2008 which brought significant economic and social benefits to the area. The aim of the initiative is to deliver a step change and transformation in the winning city's strategic ambitions through multi-stakeholder collaboration.

At Southampton City Council's Annual General Meeting on 15 May 2019, a joint motion pledged to work together with stakeholders to bid for UK City of Culture in 2025 on behalf of our all communities to realise the economic and social potential of our places, and to encourage their involvement in shaping our villages, towns, cities and the region as a whole.

The national evidence shows that when Culture in its broadest sense is truly part of the mix it contributes to delivering sustainable economic, social, health and wellbeing outcomes. These include: boosting civic pride, identity and community cohesion; supporting social, health and wellbeing benefits; attracting significant inward investment; creating new jobs, skills and learning opportunities; boosting the visitor and wider economy; developing the creative industries and artistic talent; and in the long term, better alignment of resources and partnership working to benefit residents, visitors and businesses.

We very much see this as an opportunity to raise the profile and share the benefits across the region which will be particularly important in the context of global positioning and long-term sustainability.

RECOMMENDATION

It is RECOMMENDED that the Joint Committee NOTES the work around Southampton City Council's bid for UK City of Culture 2025.

Reference Papers: None

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact: -

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