

Report for: 15 October 2024 Cabinet

Title: Arts and Culture Strategy 2024-28

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Ward(s) affected: All

**Report for Key/
Non Key Decision:** Key

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 This report introduces Haringey's new Arts & Culture Strategy (2024-28), the first in two decades, which sets out the council's vision for how it will support art, culture and creativity in Haringey. Approval of the strategy is sought from Cabinet, along with approval to proceed with the co-production of an action plan with the wider community and partners.
- 1.2 The Arts & Culture Strategy sets out our vision to support the development of new and robust infrastructure to support and drive Haringey's cultural identity – so that everyone in the borough can participate in, and benefit from, arts and culture; increasing our residents' well-being; addressing inequality; and bringing communities together. It is the result of significant engagement with arts and cultural organisations, artists and creators, community groups, residents and other local and strategic partners.
- 1.3 The Strategy seeks to continue to widen collaboration now and into the future, to co-create and co-deliver the action plan. The strategy describes our approach to encouraging artists and creators to make Haringey their home, and to connecting new and existing creative opportunities to residents; emphasising the importance of developing new audiences for cultural events.
- 1.4 This five-year strategy serves as a foundation to deliver a fairer, greener borough which is culturally rich, and where arts, culture and heritage is cultivated and celebrated, inspiring our residents and visitors, and connecting them to our borough and to each other. It lays the foundation for the London Borough of Culture 2027 programme and helps us envision its legacy.

2 Cabinet Member Introduction

Being awarded the status of London Borough of Culture in 2027 marks an exciting new chapter for Haringey.

This is the first culture strategy we've developed in over two decades, outlining our aims, ambitions, and objectives in a particularly timely manner.

Our vision is to foster a new approach to Haringey's culture and creativity, ensuring that everyone in our diverse Borough can participate in and benefit from cultural activities.

A key focus of this strategy is collaboration. We aim to develop an action plan that will guide our efforts and strengthen partnerships across the community.

We're committed to nurturing and retaining our homegrown talent, making Haringey a vibrant hub for creatives. Additionally, we want to expand audiences for our civic events, ensuring that they resonate with all residents.

As we prepare for the London Borough of Culture in 2027, our goals include inspiring our residents, celebrating our rich heritage, enabling individuals to see themselves reflected in our events, and fostering connections between communities. Ultimately, we aspire to create a long-lasting legacy for culture in our Borough.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that Cabinet notes the contents of the Arts & Culture Strategy set out in Section 4 of this report and approves the attached Appendix 1. This is the council's vision for the role of arts, culture and heritage in the borough, which reflects what is important to Haringey's diverse communities, creates wider opportunities for residents, and attracts the interest of visitors.

4 Reasons for Decision

- 4.1 To put in place a five-year Arts & Culture Strategy to underpin, and drive arts and culture in Haringey, thereby supporting the Council's vision to be a place where arts, culture and heritage is fostered, celebrated and valued and is woven through everything the council does. The Arts & Culture Strategy sets a strategic direction for all council departments to consider and lays out ways of improving opportunities for collaborative working with artists, the arts and the wider culture sector, platforming our diaspora and working-class communities, increasing audiences for cultural and artistic events and helping young artists and businesses to thrive. It also lays out the importance of ensuring every child and young person in the borough has access to the transformative effects of cultural experience, not just as spectators, performers and participants, but also as leaders and changemakers.
- 4.2 The Arts & Culture Strategy will address current inequalities and adheres to the following principles:

Access Striving for better access, so that everyone has the opportunity to benefit from, enjoy and participate in arts & culture.

Collaboration Encouraging collaboration, especially where it leads to enhanced cultural provision, better infrastructure, increased transparency, and better access to information for our creative and cultural communities.

Equity Supporting increased equity, by valuing, respecting, celebrating, taking pride in, and learning from our rich heritage, diverse culture, and histories.

Growth Promoting growth and autonomy for our residents and local businesses so that they can achieve their potential.

Life-Long Learning Ensuring that our children and young people can fully participate in rich and sustained cultural learning, and benefit from the transformative power of arts & culture throughout their lives.

Visibility & Representation All of our communities should be able to see themselves represented in Haringey's cultural and creative offer and be actively involved in decision- making.

4.3 The Arts & Culture Strategy, attached as Appendix 1 of this report, sets out the following vision, with three themed aims that are intended to contribute to a set of broad outcomes:

To build strong and meaningful partnerships with local communities and wider stakeholders by:

- Celebrating and promoting the great creativity on our doorstep;
- Inspiring our residents and visitors by our borough's rich history of activism, innovation and creativity;
- Being more Open to new ideas and ways of working;
- Being more Collaborative in our approach to connecting with internal and external partners;
- Being more Ambitious in our creative programming;
- And being more Dynamic in our approach to collaboration and co design.

So that people who live in, work in and visit the borough, all benefit from a vibrant, cultural and creative Haringey.

Aim 1: Celebrating & Inspiring

Aim: Through the celebration of what is distinctive about Haringey – our diversity, heritage, communities, venues and artists – we aim to inspire our residents and visitors to take part in the great culture on our doorstep.

Outcome: Haringey's reputation and profile in London and beyond is enhanced through its artists, cultural organisations, venues, built and natural environment and distinctive cultural identity and offer.

Success will look like: Haringey is recognised as a hub for creativity and innovation.

Aim 2: Open & Collaborative

Aim: We need to be more open to new ways of working and collaborative in our approach to connecting with internal and external partners, so that the people who live and work in Haringey can benefit from growth in the creative sector.

Outcome: By driving growth, skills and employment in the creative sector, residents and businesses will feel the economic and social benefits of culture and creativity including a greater sense of belonging.

Success will look like: More creative and cultural industry organisations are starting up and thriving in Haringey and there are more opportunities for residents and young people in the creative sector.

Aim 3: Ambitious & Dynamic

Aim: By taking a more ambitious and dynamic approach to programming and collaboration, there will be more opportunities for all our residents and communities to shape, create and take part in arts & culture on their doorstep.

Outcome: Residents and communities can connect with great arts & culture in their borough and collaborate in innovative creative projects and programmes that better reflect the diversity of our communities and our rich cultural heritage.

Success will look like: Our creative programmes, projects and audiences are reflective of our borough's communities and heritage.

4.4 The successful implementation of Haringey's Arts & Culture Strategy 2024 to 2028 will have the potential to make a significant impact on our residents and on our cultural landscape now, and in the future.

4.5 Haringey is unlike any other London borough – an outer London borough that is greatly connected to central London, with strong and diverse communities living side by side, high engagement in the arts, from the more traditional to the informal, and significant opportunities for growth.

4.6 Our Arts & Culture Strategy will help us to further demonstrate the rich impact arts & culture can have on residents from all backgrounds, building effective community engagement and delivering long lasting improvement in our shared outcomes. It will contribute to the delivery of our Haringey 2035 objective to build a borough where everyone can belong and thrive.

5 Alternative options considered

- 5.1 We could have kept working without an Arts & Culture Strategy, but that would have meant that there would have been no sense of overall direction that could be shared across departments or to inform our London Borough of Culture aims.
- 5.2 Alternatively, we could have had an approach, driven solely by the Culture and Creativity service, but Arts & Culture needs to be a shared endeavour across the Council and partners.
- 5.3 We could have devolved the ownership of the strategy to the local arts and cultural sector. Our partners in the local culture sector have been clear that they want us to create the environment where arts & culture thrive, and a council-led strategy is needed.
- 5.4 For these reasons we are recommending that the Council adopts the Arts & Culture Strategy attached as Appendix 1.

6 Background information

- 6.1 Haringey is founded in a rich and dynamic history, shaped by incredibly deep and diverse cultural communities. Their identity and stories reveal the borough's potential and are the key reason as to why it is the future of London. Nonetheless, it has been an incredibly challenging decade and recent years have seen local authorities, Haringey included, being forced to make increasingly challenging decisions; in these difficult circumstances arts & culture on a national scale has suffered.
- 6.2 However, with new leadership, Haringey Council is reimagining how art & culture can, and should, be used; key to this is the considerable social and economic benefits cultural activity has already, and can increasingly, bring into the borough.
- 6.3 Haringey's Arts & Culture Strategy sets out the council's vision for how it will support art, culture and creativity in Haringey, the key priorities, and the actions that could be taken to achieve them. The council alone cannot deliver these actions: we want to work collaboratively with our cultural and creative stakeholders to develop, prioritise and implement the action plan that should flow from the strategy. We will work alongside residents, creative communities, stakeholders and the culture sector to build strong and meaningful partnerships, so that everybody can benefit from a vibrant, cultural and creative Haringey – increasing well-being, reducing inequalities and strengthening communities. The action plan will be co-developed by, with and for our community, based on the findings and ambitions as laid out in this Strategy.
- 6.4 The recent success of the London Borough of Culture 2027 award signifies Haringey's intent and underlines the importance of this strategy; it will encourage opportunity for everyone in the borough to participate in arts & culture; it will leverage more investment into the borough, that can in turn be invested into residents and the sector; it will develop new, intergenerational audiences, participants and creatives; and it will support young people to shape their future.

6.5 This strategy is a catalyst for change, and as stated in the Haringey Deal:

“Haringey is the world in one borough. A place of creativity, personality, radicalism, diversity and community.

To create a fairer, greener Haringey that works for everyone, we need to work with you to make change happen. To do this, we need to change the way we work.”

6.6 According to The State of the Arts report (July 2024):

- The UK has one of the lowest levels of government spending on culture among European nations, and was one of a small minority of countries to reduce total culture spending per person between 2010 and 2022
- Between 2009-10 and 2022-23, per person in real terms:
 - Local government revenue funding of culture and related services decreased by 29% in Scotland, 40% in Wales and 48% in England, alongside rising cost and demand pressures on statutory services (especially social care)
 - The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)'s core funding of cultural organisations decreased by 18% to only 0.17% of total public spending per person
 - The Arts Councils' core Government funding decreased by 18% in England, 22% in Scotland, 25% in Wales and 66% in Northern Ireland
- Between 2009-10 and 2020-21, per person in real terms, spending on British public libraries fell by 53%

6.7 The report 'outlines the very real challenges faced by the sector on a national scale and underscores the need for better and more balanced support to ensure the vitality and accessibility of the arts for everyone, across all parts of the UK.'

6.8 The Arts & Culture Strategy will also assist in supporting the evolving development and understanding of Haringey's night-time economy. The GLA Night Time Strategy Guidance details the risk that an uncoordinated approach to night-time economy might have on creative people living in London:

“Holistic planning for London's communities between 6pm and 6am is critical to the economic, social and cultural vitality of the city. If we do not protect and nurture London's vitality at night we put at risk the reasons that social, curious, creative and talented people are drawn to our city and feel proud to call London their home.”

6.9 Meanwhile, Haringey's cultural landscape tells a story of resilience and growth:

- According to 2023 NOMIS data Creative and Cultural Industries make up nearly 20% of all businesses in the borough, and according to 2023 IDBR

data they employ over 3,300 people, one in five jobs are in the creative sector

- The number of Arts Council England (ACE) National Portfolio Organisations (NPOs) in the borough have doubled since 2018-2022, from five to ten, and as a result, doubled the amount of NPO funding received by organisations, in the current funding round 2023-2026
- Our successful bid to become London Borough of Culture (LBoC) 2027 has already brought in over £1.3million of external investment into the borough
- In 2024, Haringey Music Service became the lead organisation for the North London Music Hub, and was awarded £1.7 million to work with Camden, Islington, Enfield and Barnet to support and champion music participation and engagement for young people
- According to Audience Agency data, our residents are highly culturally engaged, exceeding the London average for arts attendance in all arts & culture categories

6.10 At the same time, there are many signs of further opportunities not yet realised, and unmet needs in terms of who, how and where people have access to a rich arts & cultural provision across the borough. There is much more still to do, and many challenges persist, with our communities' needs growing. Haringey residents in the east and west of the borough experience substantial inequalities relating to health, income, employment, and education. And access, inclusion and representation of our global majority, working-class, LGBTQ+, D/deaf, disabled, and neurodivergent communities requires further focus, ambition and embedding in practice.

6.11 This strategy considers both the challenges and the opportunities in the setting of its aims and priorities.

6.12 Our successful bid to become London Borough of Culture in 2027, provides huge opportunities for our residents – the opportunity for everyone in the borough to participate in arts & culture on their doorstep; bringing more investment into the borough; generating more jobs, and directly addressing some of our borough's challenges. Our status as London Borough of Culture 2027, signifies Haringey's potential to be a key cultural destination, and an integral part of London's creative landscape, with the capacity to engage audiences locally and far beyond.

6.13 The following six principles have been central to informing and guiding our strategy's aims and ambitions: Access; Collaboration; Life-Long Learning; Equity; Growth; and Visibility & Representation.

6.14 We have not had an arts & culture strategy for the borough in over 20 years. Developing Haringey's five-year Arts & Culture Strategy will help us build on existing strengths; address known gaps; ensure that we are ready to take full

advantage of the opportunities afforded by London Borough of Culture 2027 and UEFA Euro 2028; and to face the challenges which lay ahead.

6.15 As well as working more collaboratively, with our residents and stakeholders, there is a strong incentive to work more proactively across the council too, in developing shared priorities and outcomes. Core aims and actions developing from the Arts & Culture Strategy will seek to align closely with other council strategies and policies in support of cross-cutting themes, such as: sustainability, health and wellbeing, creative economy, and community cohesion. A more joined-up and holistic approach will create stronger outcomes.

6.16 Our vision for culture has been informed by many conversations with our residents and the creative and cultural sector, local and national policies and strategies and responds to addressing the very real needs and challenges felt by our communities.

6.17 Our vision is also supported by the outcomes identified in our Corporate Delivery Plan 2024 to 2026:

- A thriving arts & culture sector supported by the Council's collaborative approach
- Promoting an ambitious culture programme for Haringey
- An engaged and inclusive approach to cultural participation
- A cultural infrastructure we can be proud of

6.18 Developing an action plan in line with our Haringey Deal approach will help us ensure that our strategy's ambitions and actions are co-created and widely owned, giving us the best possible chance of success in all our aims.

7 Contribution to the Corporate Delivery Plan 2024-26

7.1 *A culturally rich borough* is one of the eight themes in Haringey's corporate delivery plan. The vision is for Haringey to be a place where arts, culture and heritage are celebrated, inspiring our residents and visitors and connecting them to our place and each other.

7.2 Our corporate delivery plan outlines how arts, culture and heritage would be woven through everything the council does: from place making, how we invest in and maintain our cultural assets and how we work with our schools, businesses and communities.

7.3 Within Theme 7 of the Corporate Delivery Plan a key objective is to deliver an Arts & Cultural Strategy with clear, shared priorities. This will be a new strategy – the first in twenty years – because of the role we know that arts, culture and heritage play in helping us to build a vibrant and inclusive economy, welcoming and inclusive neighbourhoods and communities, and healthy and fulfilling lives for our

residents. The Arts & Culture Strategy will be key to delivering the council's wider objectives. Having a direct impact on the following:

- A thriving arts and culture sector supported by the Council's collaborative approach
- Promoting an ambitious culture programme for Haringey
- An engaged and inclusive approach to cultural participation
- A cultural infrastructure to be proud of

8 Carbon and Climate Change

In March 2019, Haringey Council declared a climate emergency, with the bold ambition of becoming a net-zero council by 2027 and a net-zero borough by 2041.

The Arts & Culture Strategy and particularly London Borough of Culture will provide opportunity to:

- focus on sustainable event delivery management
- embed environmental sustainability throughout our delivery and planning
- collaborate with cultural groups working on climate change issues in exciting and innovative ways
- reflect our environmental commitments in our artistic programme and wider culture ambitions

Our engagement with the cultural sector is also helping us support them to bring buildings to net zero.

9 Statutory Officers comments (Director of Finance (procurement), Head of Legal and Governance, Equalities)

Finance

There are no direct financial implications arising from the publication of the Council's Arts and Culture Strategy 2024-28. The report is open about the financial challenges facing the Council and the risk this poses to its ability to fully match the ambitions contained within it. Nevertheless, working collaboratively with our cultural and creative stakeholders, building strong and meaningful partnerships and leveraging more investment into the borough, particularly on the back of the London Borough of Culture award, will ensure the Council is using its limited resources to maximum effect.

Procurement

Strategic Procurement notes the contents of this report and confirm there are no procurement related matters preventing Cabinet approving this report.

Head of Legal & Governance (Assistant Director for Legal & Governance)

The Council has powers under s145 Local Government Act 1972 and s111 Local Government Act 1972 which support the development and delivery of a Culture Strategy. There are no legal impediments to the Cabinet approving this report.

Equality

- The council has a Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share protected characteristics and people who do not
- Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not

The three parts of the duty apply to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty.

Although it is not enforced in legislation as a protected characteristic, Haringey Council treats socioeconomic status as a local protected characteristic.

The report recommends that Cabinet notes and approves the contents of the Arts and Culture Strategy. The Strategy sets out Haringey's vision to drive a distinct Haringey cultural identity so everyone in the borough has the opportunity to participate in arts and culture.

The strategy aims to drive positive outcomes like improvements in residents' well-being, community cohesion, and education around arts and culture, to ultimately reduce inequalities. It is underpinned by guiding principles of access, equity, and representation: to provide everyone with the opportunity to benefit and participate in arts & culture; ensure that all communities are able to see themselves represented in Haringey's cultural and creative offers; and that diverse cultures and histories are valued, respected, and celebrated.

It is therefore anticipated that the strategy will have a positive impact on those with protected characteristics, by fostering good relations through cultural events and advancing equality of opportunity for those who share a protected characteristic and who do not, through more collaborative ways of working and transparent commissioning. In particular, it is anticipated that children and young people, older

adults, those from diverse and ethnic minority backgrounds, and those from low socioeconomic backgrounds will be positively impacted.

The strategy shares the vision for arts and culture in Haringey and will be followed by an action plan; this will be co-developed with communities and involve engagement with groups with protected characteristics. Equalities will be considered and monitored on an ongoing basis throughout this process.

10 Use of Appendices

1. Arts & Culture Strategy 2024-28
2. EQIA

11 Background papers

None