



Mayor and Cabinet

Borough of Culture Delivery

Date: 14 July 2021

Key decision: Yes

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All Wards

Contributors: Director of Culture, Libraries and Learning

Outline and recommendations

This report provides an update on delivery of the Borough of Culture 2022 programme, work with partners and the community and governance arrangements. Mayor and Cabinet is recommended to:

Agree that decisions on the award of grants over £10,000 from the Borough of Culture budget be delegated to the Director of Culture, Libraries and Learning to enable a more streamlined process and optimise the time available for organisations to deliver projects.

Timeline of engagement and decision-making

Lewisham awarded Borough of Culture in February 2020.

March 2020 decision taken by officers of GLA and Lewisham Council to postpone Lewisham Borough of Culture to 2022 due to Covid.

September 2020 The Albany appointed as Lead Delivery Partner

March 2021 Public Stakeholder engagement recommenced

April 2021 Borough of Culture commissioning approach published

May 2021 Lewisham 2022 Creative Change Fund launched

1. Summary

- 1.1. The report provides an update on delivery of the Borough of Culture 2022 programme, work with partners and the community and governance arrangements. The report also seeks approval for decisions on grants to Voluntary and Community Sector organisations from the Borough of Culture budget to be delegated to the Director of Culture, Libraries and Learning to enable a more streamlined process and optimise the time available for organisations to deliver projects.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Mayor and Cabinet is recommended to:
- 2.2. Agree that decisions on the award of grants over £10,000 and up to maximum of £250,000 from the Borough of Culture artistic programme budget of £1.9 million be delegated to the Director of Culture, Libraries and Learning.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1. London Borough of Culture supports the following corporate priorities:
- 3.2. Building an inclusive local economy – Borough of Culture will provide a fantastic vehicle to showcase Lewisham to the rest of London. Changing perceptions of the borough and putting us on the map. It will also deliver events across the borough encouraging residents to rediscover our local high streets.
- 3.3. Making Lewisham Greener – climate emergency is one of the key programme themes for the year. There will be a number of events including a Climate Carnival focussed on raising awareness of climate justice issues, stimulating debate and encouraging people to take personal action to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality.
- 3.4. Open Lewisham: Lewisham is a welcoming place of safety for all, where we are strengthened by our diversity - Borough of Culture will connect people in a myriad of ways. There are projects specifically designed to engage with communities that might not otherwise take part as well as mass participation projects linking people and celebrating together

4. Background

- 4.1. In May 2019 the GLA put out a call for applications to the second round of their Borough of Culture Scheme. Waltham Forest was the first council to be named London Borough of Culture in 2019 followed by Brent in 2020. After an extensive engagement and bid development period, Lewisham Council submitted a bid in October 2019. On 11 Feb 2020 the GLA announced that Lewisham Council had won the title of London Borough of Culture 2021 and would be awarded £1.35m of GLA funding towards delivery of a year of cultural activity as outlined in the bid.
- 4.2. In late March 2020 as the impact of Covid 19 became clearer, a joint decision was taken by the GLA and Lewisham Council to postpone Lewisham Borough of Culture to 2022. Mobilisation for the year was paused so that the Culture Team could support Covid response.
- 4.3. The programme for Lewisham's Borough of Culture year emerged from an intensive period of stakeholder engagement, as well as some focused work with a small group of experienced curators and programmers from Lewisham organisations. 422 people attended engagement events and 93 people submitted ideas for projects. This led to an outline programme that formed the basis of our successful Bid to become Borough of Culture, backed by over 5,000 people. You can read a summary of this at <https://www.iamlewisham.uk/about> .

Is this report easy to understand?

Please give us feedback so we can improve.

Go to <https://lewisham.gov.uk/contact-us/send-us-feedback-on-our-reports>

- 4.4. The programme that was developed prior to covid has been revisited to ensure that it is still relevant. The outcomes for the year have been updated to reflect the covid recovery context. The Borough of Culture Programme outcomes are:
- (i) Feeling Better** – Individuals, communities and the whole borough are provided with a platform for celebration, re-booting our sense of joy and collective confidence post-COVID.
 - (ii) Looking Better** – There is a strengthened sense of pride and ambition for Lewisham the place, with a re-energised local economy and a more compelling profile of the borough as a destination of choice.
 - (iii) Doing Better** – People unite with a shared sense of purpose, harnessing cultural activism to self-organise around issues of climate change and sanctuary with an enduring impact and legacy.
 - (iv) Hearing Better** – The sense of understanding and support that exists between our communities is strengthened through a programme of cultural activities that provide new and positive insights into the diversity that defines us as a borough.
- 4.5. Following the easing of lockdown a new programme of engagement and consultation has been developed which has included:
- In the early part of March large scale community engagement began again, with a view to rebuilding the momentum that we had previously experienced. Four open on-line events took place, attended by over 240 people, which included individual local residents and artists alongside representatives of arts and culture organisations and wider voluntary and community sector organisations.
 - On 8 March an All Member Briefing took place to ensure that Councillors had the latest information available to support their own engagement around Borough of Culture with local residents
 - 1:1 and small group conversations have also continued to take place between members of the Borough of Culture team, artists and cultural organisations around the development of the programme.
 - On 27 May and 1 June, online events were held to launch the Lewisham 2022 Creative Change Fund, with approximately 120 people attending. This event has been followed up with a number of small workshops designed to support organisations in making applications.
 - At the end of June Lewisham hosted Inside Out London. Created by renowned French artist JR, Inside Out has taken place in 138 countries with over 400,000 people turning cities into massive outdoor art galleries. The faces of Lewisham are the latest to join and celebrate Lewisham’s rich diversity and local culture in the lead up to our Borough of Culture year. [Inside Out London - Lewisham \(iamlewisham.uk\)](https://iamlewisham.uk) .
- 4.6. Two more targetted consultation and engagement initiatives have been carried out on behalf of the council. Firstly by the Metro Centre with the borough’s LGBT+ community (March-June 22) and secondly by Lewisham Education Arts Network with Lewisham’s schools (February-June). Both have reported a high degree of enthusiasm around involvement in the year.
- 4.7. So to date the Borough of Culture Programme has engaged with over 1,200 individuals representing hundreds of cultural organisations, community groups, schools, businesses and public sector partners. Over 5,000 people are following our progress on social media.

Is this report easy to understand?

Please give us feedback so we can improve.

Go to <https://lewisham.gov.uk/contact-us/send-us-feedback-on-our-reports>

5. Governance and Delivery Partnership

- 5.1. Lewisham's year as the London Borough of Culture provides a major opportunity for the Borough that goes beyond the delivery of the core artistic programme. In order to ensure that the council and the borough as a whole make the most of this opportunity a comprehensive governance structure has been put in place. This will ensure that the programme has the necessary assurance as well as supporting wider benefits from the programme to be achieved. Further details of the governance structure are available at Appendix 1.
- 5.2. The Borough of Culture Corporate Board will meet every six weeks. The Board is responsible for overseeing the delivery of the Borough of Culture Programme with a particular focus on:
- Realising the key results of the programme
 - Mobilising borough assets to support programme delivery within financial restraints
 - Monitor financial risks
 - Monitor reputational risks
 - Ensuring sustained long-term benefits for the borough

The Culture and Diversity Advisory Forum was established in March 2021. It is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Culture with councillors and creative practitioners with a link to Lewisham. The Forum meets quarterly and provides advice and critical friend challenge to the development of the Borough of Culture Programme. [Introducing our Culture & Diversity Advisory Forum \(iamlewisham.uk\)](https://iamlewisham.uk)

- 5.3. In our approach to delivery for London Borough of Culture, it has been important to recognise the strength of our Cultural and Community Sectors. Waltham Forest as the first London Borough of Culture, created a large delivery team within the council. Brent established a new Culture Trust called Metroland to lead their delivery. The approach in Lewisham has been to harness the strengths of our local organisations by appointing delivery partners to work alongside an enhanced Culture Team within the council. Open calls were made for delivery partners and the following organisations have been appointed:
- Lead Programme Delivery Partner – The Albany
 - Education Delivery Partner – Lewisham Education Arts Network (LEAN)
 - Volunteering Delivery Partner – Rushey Green Time bank, Lewisham Local initiative
 - In addition the council has entered into a memorandum of understanding with Goldsmiths University of London to provide in-kind management of the Heritage strand for the Borough of Culture programme.

Commissioning and Fundraising

- 5.4. The council has been awarded £1.35m funding from the GLA for Borough of Culture. The council is aligning budgets of £215k and making a one off investment of £500k. There is a £1m fundraising target from external funders to complete the budget. A key focus for the delivery partnership is fundraising. Many strategic funders were focussed on Covid response but have now turned their sights to recovery and re-opened for applications. There are a number of strategic funders that have been strong supporters of the GLAs Borough of Culture initiative and are encouraging bids from Lewisham. Fundraising is a joint responsibility between the Council and the Albany. Some bids are being made directly by the Council and others where charitable status is required are being led by the Albany. At the time of writing £100k partnership funding has been secured and £650k of applications have been submitted and/or are in

Is this report easy to understand?

Please give us feedback so we can improve.

Go to <https://lewisham.gov.uk/contact-us/send-us-feedback-on-our-reports>

development following very positive discussions with these strategic funders, who have indicated a commitment to working with us. In addition funding of £88k has been secured that adds value to the programme but is in addition to the core funding requirement for full delivery. This leaves a current fundraising gap of £250k which will be raised through further applications to trusts and foundations, contributions from commercial partners, ticket sales and other earned income. The full budget will not be committed until the fundraising target has been reached.

- 5.5. With this complex pattern of funding a pooled budget arrangement is operating between the council and the Albany to enable funding to be allocated between the two organisations in line with the bid budget. Responsibility for the oversight of this arrangement lies with the Director of Culture, Libraries and Learning supported by the Group Finance Manager for Community Services Directorate and the Borough of Culture Programme Manager. A finance report will be made to the Corporate Borough of Culture Board every six weeks.
- 5.6. The majority of the expenditure for the year will be on the artistic programme which has a budget of £1.9m. A document outlining the approach to commissioning the artistic programme was published in April 2021 and is attached at Appendix 2. This commissioning framework was discussed at the first meeting of the Culture and Diversity Advisory Forum in March 2021 and shared with members of Safer Stronger Select Committee at their meeting in June 2021.
- 5.7. Wherever possible open calls will be used to ensure the broadest possible access for individual artists, arts organisations and community groups. Early indications are that interest in open calls will be very high. The call for expressions of interest for In Living Memory, seeking proposals to explore the post war history of Lewisham generated over sixty responses. Applicants included individual artists, film makers, historians, community organisations, schools, public sector partners and cultural organisations. The proposals span a diversity of topics across many protected characteristic and linked to communities from across the borough. This is an encouraging sign that our ambition to ensure diversity in the programme and a good geographical spread will be achieved. Other current open calls include Liberty Research and Development projects for D/deaf, disabled and neurodiverse artists and the Lewisham 2022 Creative Change Fund, a call for small projects linked to any of our Borough of Culture themes.
- 5.8. In some instances direct commissioning will be used in order to attract high profile artists or where a partnership arrangement with another producer such as London International Festival of Theatre (LIFT) could provide additional resources and profile. There are also instances where a project that was initially proposed by a local organisation was included within the Borough of Culture bid and is now being developed with that organisation.
- 5.9. The council's scheme of delegation requires decisions for grants of more than £10,000 to be made by Mayor and Cabinet. The timelines for delivery of the different strands of the Borough of Culture programme will require a faster pace of decision making. The team are working to ensure that organisations applying for open calls have as much time as possible to develop their proposals and once awarded funding to ensure successful delivery. The programme will also be impacted by the timing of decisions from our key strategic funding partners. The requirement to take decisions for small awards to Mayor and Cabinet would negatively impact on the delivery times. It is therefore proposed that decisions to award grants from the Borough of Culture budget be delegated to the Director of Culture, Libraries and Learning. Decisions will take account of the need to meet the terms of our funding agreements with the GLA and other funders; to achieve the agreed outcomes for Borough of Culture and to ensure a diverse and geographically spread programme.

Is this report easy to understand?

Please give us feedback so we can improve.

Go to <https://lewisham.gov.uk/contact-us/send-us-feedback-on-our-reports>

6. Financial implications

- 6.1. As per the Council's scheme of delegation where authority to make an executive decision is delegated to an officer, that authority may also be exercised by the nominee of the officer, provided that notification of the nomination has previously been given in writing to the Monitoring Officer or their nominee.

7. Legal implications

- 7.1. Under S1 of the Localism Act 2011 the Council has a general power of competence to do anything which an individual may do unless it is expressly prohibited.
- 7.2. Under the Council's Constitution an award of grant to a voluntary organisation requires the approval of Mayor and Cabinet where the value of the grant is over £10,000. The report recommends delegating this to the Director of Culture, Libraries and Learning for the reasons set out in this report.
- 7.3. Where services are required to help deliver the Borough of Culture, whether that is in the form of grants or contracts for services, the Council's Constitution sets out the processes that must be followed.
- 7.4. The Council has a public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty - The Equality Act 2010, or the Act). It covers the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. In summary, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
 - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 7.5. It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation or other prohibited conduct, or to promote equality of opportunity or foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. It is a duty to have due regard to the need to achieve the goals listed above. The weight to be attached to the duty will be dependent on the nature of the decision and the circumstances in which it is made. This is a matter for the decision maker, bearing in mind the issues of relevance and proportionality. The decision maker must understand the impact or likely impact of the decision on those with protected characteristics who are potentially affected by the decision. The extent of the duty will necessarily vary from case to case and due regard is such regard as is appropriate in all the circumstances.
- 7.6. The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has issued Technical Guidance on the Public Sector Equality Duty and statutory guidance. The Council must have regard to the statutory code in so far as it relates to the duty. The Technical Guidance also covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty. This includes steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The guidance does not have statutory force but nonetheless regard should be had to it, as failure to do so without compelling reason would be of evidential value. The statutory code and the technical guidance can be found on the EHRC website.
- 7.7. The EHRC has issued five guides for public authorities in England giving advice on the equality duty. The 'Essential' guide provides an overview of the equality duty requirements including the general equality duty, the specific duties and who they apply to. It covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty including steps that are

Is this report easy to understand?

Please give us feedback so we can improve.

Go to <https://lewisham.gov.uk/contact-us/send-us-feedback-on-our-reports>

legally required, as well as recommended actions. The other four documents provide more detailed guidance on key areas and advice on good practice.

8. Equalities implications

- 8.1. The Borough of Culture programme is being designed to reach all sections of Lewisham's communities. A Culture and Diversity Advisory Forum has been established to advise on programme development and delivery. Lewisham will also be hosting Liberty; the Mayor of London's flagship programme celebrating D/deaf, disabled and neurodiverse artists and are working closely with their advisory panel. Attracting diverse participation across the year is one of our key indicators of success.

9. Climate change and environmental implications

- 9.1. The culture team are working closely with colleagues in the council and the GLA to inform the development of the Climate Strand of the programme. It will be designed to raise awareness of climate issues, encourage debate and inspire residents to take personal actions to support carbon reduction. There will also be a carbon reduction toolkit for event organisers.

10. Crime and disorder implications

- 10.1. All large scale public events will be considered by the multi agency Event Safety Advisory Group (ESAG) to ensure that they can be delivered in a safe manner taking into account any crime and disorder implications.
- 10.2. The Borough of Culture programme will promote cohesion, providing opportunities for people to come together, learn more about Lewisham and its communities and strengthen shared values.

11. Health and wellbeing implications

- 11.1. The programme has a strong focus on participation. Encouraging people to be actively involved, supporting their physical and mental well being. [Type here, Arial size 11]

12. Background papers

- 12.1. Appointment of Programme Delivery Partner Report - <https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s75238/Item%207b%20-%20Borough%20of%20Culture%20-%20Appointment%20-%20Prog%20Delivery%20Partner.pdf>

13. Glossary

- 13.1.

Term	Definition
GLA	Greater London Authority

Is this report easy to understand?

Please give us feedback so we can improve.

Go to <https://lewisham.gov.uk/contact-us/send-us-feedback-on-our-reports>

14. Report author(s) and contact

- 14.1. Liz Dart, Director of Culture, Libraries and Learning
- 14.2. Comments for and on behalf of the Executive Director for Corporate Resources, Abdul Kayoum, Group Finance Manager Community Services
- 14.3. Comments for and on behalf of the Director of Law, Governance and HR, Mia Agnew, Senior Lawyer

15. Appendices

- 15.1. Appendix 1 – Governance Structure
- 15.2. Appendix 2 – Borough of Culture Commissioning Approach

Is this report easy to understand?

Please give us feedback so we can improve.

Go to <https://lewisham.gov.uk/contact-us/send-us-feedback-on-our-reports>