

## APPENDIX 4: Agenda 21 for Culture Actions

- Cultural rights

Agenda 21 for Culture sets out that culture and the expression of our culture and identity is a basic human right. These human rights include freedom of speech, freedom of expression and the opportunity for anyone to have the capacity to create, make, celebrate and practice their culture.

- Heritage diversity & creativity

In addressing the definition of culture there needs to be a balance found between the traditional and the contemporary, the reflective and the expressive, the indigenous cultures of a place and opened to the new wave of cultures that follow from migration, digitisation and globalisation. This action of Agenda 21 for Culture asks for space to experiment, openness, collaboration and valuing excellence at all forms of the creative process not solely in the artistic output e.g., it may not be a world class work of art that could sit alongside the greats, but how it was created and the impact that the process had may be transformational in itself and this is to be as valued as the great works of art.

- Education

Considered a basic cultural right lifelong learning is also considered to be a key part of any Culture Strategy. This relates not only to the formal education sector but to informal networks, classes and opportunities to be entrepreneurial, test ideas and innovate, and the support networks and access to opportunities that support continued learning and development.

- Environment & Sustainability

The programme argues that cultural diversity is as important for humankind as biodiversity is for nature and the environment. Without open spaces for all cultures to coexist, be respected and enjoyed cities will fail. Culture must not be played out to select audiences behind closed doors, but must spill out into public spaces, education institutions, offices and our homes. Culture also offers a route to explore our connection with the world around us, focus on what we will leave for the next generation and to take action to modify ecosystems around us building resilience and sustainability.

- Economy

The cultural offer of a place contributes to the wealth and economic prosperity of that place but it is not enough to consider the transactional economic value of culture in isolation from the economic value it brings in terms of national and international profile, the reduction in costs across NHS, rehabilitation and community cohesion and new models of funding and

financial sustainability must be explored to protect the continued contribution of culture to the local economy.

- Equality & Social Inclusion

To be successful the Culture Strategy has to have inclusion at its heart, not just in terms of what cultures people experience but as part of the arsenal of tools to reduce the poverty gap, remove barriers and show compassion across all communities. The Agenda 21 for Culture Criteria states simply that there should be no prejudice in culture, be that of ethnicity, age, gender, ability or economic means. Culture should act as a leveller upholding the principles of equality and inclusion.

- Urban Planning and Public Space

Places and spaces are the results of human interaction with physical landscapes. The Victorian Parks of Leeds did not create themselves, nor did the harsh urban landscapes that have become no-go zones for children and young people. In embedding culture into planning and regeneration frameworks we create a future where everyone feels comfortable and safe in all areas of the city and barriers are removed.

- Information & Knowledge

The Information and Knowledge action of Agenda 21 for Culture is concerned with citizenship, ownership and belonging. Access to information and knowledge and the agency and empowerment to be able to use that knowledge, act on that information to create your own culture and build a new heritage is vital. The 'smart cities' movement, digitisation, democratisation of data and access to media are all key to the success of a Culture Strategy.

- Governance of culture

The guidance suggests a new central role for culture, where culture in all its forms is interwoven throughout policy areas. The delivery of culture is no longer the sole responsibility of local government or artists but a shared responsibility across communities, organisations and partners, embedding culture into the fabric of the city.