

**South Lakeland District Council**  
**Council**  
**18 December 2018**  
**Executive Report – Mid-year 2018/19**

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**Portfolio:** Culture and Leisure Portfolio  
**Report from:** Cllr Chris Hogg

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**Portfolio Responsibilities**

The Council plan objectives in relation to promoting culture, leisure activities and the arts.

To work with our cultural organisations to attract investments and promote South Lakeland as a premier area for Arts and Events.

The relationship of the Council with its citizens; civic participation and the Council plan objectives around leisure, health and wellbeing and working with communities.

Working with key partners with regards to public health and community safety.

**Policies, Plans and Strategies**

- Arts and Events
- Grants Strategy
- Licensing and Statement of Gambling Policies

**Key Areas:**

- Arts and Culture
- Grants
- Public Halls
- Use of community assets for the promotion of arts and culture
- Young People/ projects
- Heritage and Events
- Heritage Listed buildings and built environment
- Voluntary Sector Engagement in relation to Culture and Leisure
- Leisure and Recreation
- Licensing and Gambling

## **Arts, Culture and Events**

The Council has continued to work in partnership with key Cultural Strategic partners and organisations to encourage, advocate for and promote cultural arts and events throughout the District. The Council's sustained approach to cultural investment continues to enrich communities, promote health and well-being and boost the economy.

The Council has worked in partnership with Arts Council England and cultural organisations to help facilitate, enable and fund some significant initiatives to promote South Lakeland as the leading rural cultural destination and premier rural area for arts events and festivals working to support 'Cultural Landscapes'.

The Council has supported the development of Lakes Culture to embed culture at the heart of the tourism offer and will work with the partnership in future to facilitate promotion of the region as a cultural destination attracting more, new cultural visitors to the area and making best use of the positive impact of the UNESCO Lake District World Heritage Site.

The Council is supporting the major capital infrastructure developments of the Wordsworth Trust 'Reimagining Wordsworth' and Lakeland Arts Windermere Jetty along with the new emergent capital development initiatives at Abbot Hall and the Brewery Arts Centre. We will support the development of cultural initiatives in the Kendal Masterplan and the aspiration for the development of a cultural quarter in Kendal.

The authority continues to support the development of key festivals in the district such as the Lakes International Comic Art Festival, Kendal Mountain Festival, Lake District Summer Music, and Lakes Alive and major events such as the Tour of Britain and Great North Swim whilst seeking new opportunities for future events and cultural initiatives.

The Council supported a major collaborative venture with the Lakes International Comic Art Festival, 14-18 NOW, and 'On a Marche sur la Bulle' in Amiens for a unique project 'Traces of the Great War' an anthology of new short comics that explores the relevance and resonance of the First World War as part of the national commemorative centenary programme making the end of World War One.

The Council has supported Morecambe Bay Partnership to deliver the temporary public art installation 'Settlement' by artist Rob Mulholland on Birkrigg Common as part of the 'Headlands to Headspace' initiative.

The Council will continue to work in partnership with creative partners, Craven District Council, Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks on the Great Place initiative in delivering year two of the programme and action plan to create a Great Place Lakes and Dales where a sustainable, resilient creative community and economy exists celebrating the distinctiveness of place, the skill and experience of creative people and a good quality of life, which in turn will retain and attract younger people to our districts to influence, support and create our future economy.

We will continue to develop the relationship with Curious Minds, Arts Council England's bridge organisation for the North West, to develop opportunities for children and young people's active participation in arts and culture through cross sector collaboration and partnership. We will support ATiC being delivered through the South Cumbria Partnership of the CSP.

Finally the Council will explore new opportunities for cultural partnerships, initiatives and development as a cohesive part of the Lancaster and the Bay Economic partnership initiative and the emerging Cumbria Public Health Strategy.

## Public Halls and Use of Community assets for the promotion of Arts and Culture

Throughout 2018 the Council has been and will continue to promote Art and Cultural events through the use of public halls and other Council owned assets which support various areas of the Council Plan i.e. Health and Wellbeing, Culture and Economy. Below is a snapshot of some the events which have taken place to date and are key examples of how the public halls support local communities.

- Main hub base for the leading festivals, Kendal Mountain Festival and Comic Arts
- Meditation, yoga and fitness classes
- Children's theatre arts school, encouraging children to reach their goals
- Wedding Ceremonies
- Eden and South Lakes Credit Union
- Monthly Magistrates and Civil Courts
- Language classes
- Community Coffee Mornings
- Classical midday music concerts from October to March
- Local amateur operatic society productions

## Young People and Projects

The Council worked with National Citizens Service (NCS) to provide workshops to young people throughout July and August 2018 on local government.

The workshops were designed to teach young people the role of local councillors and their importance, encourage young people to vote and teach young people about the different roles of and responsibilities of the Council. The Council worked with groups of 15 to 30 young people (16 to 18 year olds) from across South Lakeland, Barrow and Lancaster. The activities that were run engaged them with national and local democracy including an overview of political parties and stances, the impact of the media, as well as getting them to look at their priorities for their own local area.

## Heritage and Heritage Listed buildings and built environment

The Burton-in-Kendal Partnership Scheme in Conservation Area (PSiCA) is due to commence in early 2019. Architectural consultants are currently undertaking project development work that will inform a detailed Delivery Plan, which will allow Historic England's to release its funding of £40,000 per annum for 3 years, to match the £35,000 per annum earmarked from the District Council and £5,000 per annum pledged by Burton in Kendal Parish Council. It is hoped that the first two building repair projects will be offered support in March 2019; the public realm improvements to The Square will be implemented in summer 2019, and a Village Design Statement will be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) by autumn 2019

The council is also exploring ways to assist Cartmel Village Society prepare a Conservation Area Management Plan for Cartmel, which would be adopted as SPD and used as part of the evidence base for the Lower Allithwaite Neighbourhood Development Plan, so that the area's very special heritage is given greater recognition in the latter's policies.

## Leisure and Recreation

In November 2018, Kendal Leisure centre hosted the healthier happier Sunday fun day. The event brought together community groups, statutory and voluntary organisations to promote a variety of health and wellbeing topics which was a replication the success from the Fun

Day event at Kendal Leisure Centre 18th March 2018. Over 450 people attended the events and it received excellent feedback.

There is work underway to consider the cycle hub at Kendal and a number of key partners are involved.

A recent report was considered at Cabinet on 10 September 2018, to approve the next phase of design and development work for replacement leisure facilities in Ulverston. This next phase will establish all the information necessary to inform a future decision on whether to implement the scheme. This next phase will take 9-12 months and will consider:

- Refinement and agreement of facilities mix, including consultation with user groups
- The design of the facility to RIBA stage 3
- Planning and regulatory compliance
- Development of funding agreement with GSK
- Funding application with Sport England
- Revision to the existing leisure partnership contract
- Transition arrangements for access to facilities during a construction phase

#### *Swim safe*

A national programme that offers free outdoor swimming and water safety sessions for children aged seven to 14 has completed its fifth year at Windermere. Swim Safe was created by Swim England - the national governing body for swimming in England - and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, the charity that saves lives at sea. The Council contributes £5,000 a year to Swim Safe due to the vital safety messages it teaches children and are the only council in the country to do so.

#### **Licensing and Gambling**

The Licensing and Gambling service are continuing to work in partnership with Cumbria Constabulary to develop a multi-agency hub. Other key areas of work focus have included:

- Review of Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy
- Introduction of the New Animal Licensing Legislation
- Review and redesign in the way the service operates in line with the Customer Connect programme
- Review of Street Trading consent