

# Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee

9 March 2021

## Warwickshire Heritage and Culture Strategy 2020 - 2025: Progress Report

### 1. Recommendations

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- a) Notes the contents of the attached Progress Report.
- b) Agrees the direction of travel.
- c) Comments on the proposed priority actions going forward.

### 2. Introduction

The Warwickshire Heritage and Culture Strategy 2020 -2025 was approved and adopted by WCC Cabinet in late 2019. This report provides Overview & Scrutiny with an update on progress over the past year, and on reprioritising some of the actions going forward.

### 3. Background

The Warwickshire Heritage and Culture Strategy 2020 - 2025 is a county and sector-wide collaboration led by Warwickshire County Council. It was developed during 2019, following extensive sector engagement, and was formally adopted in November 2019.

An initial strategy action plan was finalised in March 2020, just before the coronavirus lockdown. A video version of that plan can be seen [here](#).

The coronavirus pandemic has had a devastating impact on the heritage and culture sector in Warwickshire, as elsewhere, and the after-effects will be felt for many years to come. Whilst the main thrust of the five-year strategy remains unchanged the short-term focus is on post-pandemic recovery. To this end, a revised action plan, for the year ending April 2022, is being developed. In the meantime, significant progress has been made against some of the Strategy's key objectives.

#### Over the past year we have:

- kept in contact with partners and stakeholders via e-newsletters and a sector survey
- had e-meetings with key organisations and partners to maintain momentum
- held Steering Group meetings in February and October
- secured funding for social prescribing and arts projects
- started work on a *Visit Warwickshire* campaign to boost post-pandemic tourism
- worked with the Canal and River Trust on a Warwickshire Waterways Strategy
- supported the development of a Local Cultural Education Partnership
- provided signposting and advice on available funding for sector survival and recovery

The Heritage and Culture Strategy is a sector-wide programme. Progress has been limited by much of the sector being quarantined or furloughed.

## 4. Steering Group members

The original steering group was much larger as we developed the Strategy. We suggest a smaller, more focused group takes the programme forward:

### **Warwickshire County Council:**

- Ayub Khan - Business and Customer Services (Chair)
- Emma Andrews - Heritage and Culture, Museums
- Richard Lewis - Heritage and Culture, Archives
- Victoria Barnard - Communities
- Sarah Tregaskis - Communities
- Emily van de Venter - Public Health

### **Districts and Boroughs:**

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| • Warwick District Council              | David Guilding            |
| • Rugby Borough Council                 | Sally Godden/Nikki Grange |
| • North Warwickshire Borough Council    | Rachel Stephens           |
| • Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council | Catherine Nisbet          |
| • Stratford Upon Avon District Council  | Joanne Bozdoganli         |

## 5. Action Plan for 2020 - 2021

The Steering Group will meet in Spring 2021 to finalise an action plan for the year ahead, focused primarily on supporting post-pandemic recovery across the county's heritage and culture sector. The action plan will meet the core principles of the County Council's COVID-19 Recovery Plan. Priorities will include:

- Providing opportunities for networking and peer-to-peer support
- Organising a campus marketplace event for freelancers, in partnership with Warwick School
- Focusing on outdoor activities and our natural heritage
- Further developing our social prescribing offer
- Flagging up recovery funding for the sector
- Supporting remote volunteering
- Finalising the development of a Warwickshire Waterways Strategy
- Working with Coventry City of Culture 2021 and Birmingham Commonwealth Games
- Planning and delivering an Arts and Nature project for the county
- Ensuring good practice and signposting information on COVID-safe venues and events

We will need to engage the wider sector in delivering the above and work with partners to determine measures of success.

## 6. Financial Implications

There is no funding attached to this strategy and actions are contained within existing service budgets and through partnership working.

## 7. Environmental Implications

The Heritage & Culture Strategy will support the ambitions of Warwickshire's Climate Change Strategy.

**Appendix:** Warwickshire Heritage and Culture Strategy 2020 -2025 progress report.

### Background Papers

None

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact details</b>
Report author	Ayub Khan	01926 412492 ayubkhan@warwickshire.gov.uk
Assistant Director	Kushal Birla	01926 412013 kushalbirla@warwickshire.gov.uk
Strategic Director	Rob Powell	01926 412564 robpowell@warwickshire.gov.uk
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Heather Timms	cllrtimms@warwickshire.gov.uk

The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Councillors Birdi, Boad, Falp, O'Rourke, Timms and Warwick