



Agenda Item No: 3.3

Culture and Tourism

To: Business Board

Meeting Date: 16 March 2021

Public report: Yes

Lead Member: Chair of the Business Board, Austen Adams

From: Deputy Monitoring Officer, Rochelle Tapping

Key decision: No

Recommendations: The Business Board is recommended:

To provide comment on the amendment proposed in relation to culture and tourism as recommended by the Housing and Communities Committee.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To seek comments from the Business Board regarding the proposed amendments to the constitution.

2. Background

- 2.1 At the Housing and Communities Committee meeting held on 11th January 2021, the committee considered a report on the culture and tourism functions of the Combined Authority, currently allocated to the Housing and Communities Committee. The report recommended the Combined Authority Board be invited to make the necessary amendments to the Constitution to remove the culture and tourism functions from the remit of the Housing and Communities Committee terms of reference and that those functions would continue to form part of the remit of the Business Board to help determine local economic priorities and lead economic growth and job creation within the local area.
- 2.2 The recommendations as presented to the Committee are repeated below:
 - a) Invite the Combined Authority Board to amend Chapter 10 [Housing & Communities Committee] of the Constitution so as to delete the words “(a) Culture and Tourism” in paragraph 3.2.9 and replace “(b)” with “(a)”.

- b) Invite the Combined Authority Board to note that culture and tourism would continue to form part of the Business Board's remit to help determine local economic priorities and lead economic growth and job creation within the local area.
- c) Invite the Business Board to provide comment to the Combined Authority Board on the recommendation at (a)

2.3 The role of the Business Board, as a Local Enterprise Partnership, is to help determine local economic priorities and lead economic growth and job creation within the local area. Whilst the Business Board investments into projects and its support programmes, do have a direct impact on a small number of Tourism and Cultural focussed businesses, the wider visitor economy, tourism and cultural sector is not currently a specific focus for the Business Board. However, the Business Board has delivered, or is providing, the following to the sector:

- a) Recovery projects such as the example set out in the Local Economic Recovery Strategy for *"£145k investment support for Kick-Starting Visitor Economy to Recover & Adapt"*.
- b) Local Growth Fund (LGF) supported projects focused on the recovery of our two major cities' centres, through the Peterborough Builds Back Better project at £800k and the Cambridge Visitor Welcome 2021 project at £710k; both these projects focus on increasing COVID safe access to the city centres and better access to the hospitality and leisure trade.
- c) COVID Capital Grants awarded to numerous hospitality and retail businesses, including an award of £30k to Visit Cambridge to support Tourism. Although visit Cambridge subsequently folded, this project is being taken forward by Cambridge BID (Business Improvement District).
- d) Business Growth Service support to firms in the sector to help them to grow back better and greener.
- e) Potential support to help bid for new national funding from the Levelling-Up and Shared Prosperity Funds. For example, one candidate project being considered within the long-list compiled by officers, involves the regeneration of Cambridge City market place and a number of entertainment venues across the city.

2.4 It should be noted that whilst the Business Board is supporting some of the businesses within the sector, the work undertaken thus far does not address the actual delivery of and local management of cultural provision for communities, either facilities or activities, programmes and especially events. Therefore, the maintenance and operation of museums, art galleries, public events, concerts, festivals are not within the remit of the Business Boards work.

2.4 The Business Board has a role in economic development aspects of tourism which is indirect support to the Combined Authority in the delivery of tourism related projects.

The Business Board should note that support to the visitor economy forming part of the remit of the Business Board is separate to the discretionary function which is currently exercised by the Housing and Communities Committee and following the constitutional amendment, would rest to the Combined Authority.

Significant Implications

3. Financial Implications

3.1 None

4. Legal Implications

4.1 If the proposed amendments to the Constitution are made then responsibility for the Combined Authority's discretionary functions under section 144 of the Local Government Act 1972 would rest with the Combined Authority Board.

5. Other Significant Implications

5.1 None

6. Appendices

6.1 None

7. Background Papers

7.1 'Culture and Tourism' – [Agenda Item No. 1.5 \(Housing and Communities Committee Meeting – 11th January 2021\)](#)