



REPORT TO:	Policy Development Panel
DATE:	24 September 2024
SUBJECT:	Cultural Framework for Renewal
PURPOSE:	Consultation on the new Cultural Framework (Strategy) for South Holland and the addition of an executive summary that provides an overarching strategic framework for the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership, linking the existing Cultural Framework for East Lindsey District Council and Boston Borough Council.
KEY DECISION:	YES
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Cllr Nick Worth, Leader
REPORT OF:	Pranali Parikh, Director Economic Development
REPORT AUTHOR:	Lydia Rusling, Assistant Director for Economic Growth
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL
EXEMPT REPORT?	NO

SUMMARY

This reports seeks to provide background information on the development of a new Cultural Framework for South Holland that mirrors the work already completed for Boston Borough Council and East Lindsey District Council, with a view to linking the documents to provide a Cultural Framework for the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership.

The Cultural Framework for Investment sets an ambitious vision for culture, which connects to heritage and the visitor economy and contributes to people's health and well-being, as well as supporting environmental sustainability and the local cultural ecosystem.

The Framework document is shared with the Policy Development Panel for consultation, prior to it going to Cabinet for approval and adoption.

The Cultural Framework for South Holland has been funded through the Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation funding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To seek the Policy Development Panel's views on the proposed Cultural Framework Strategy, prior to its consideration by Cabinet.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

A formally adopted Cultural Strategy and agreement of priority actions will provide South Holland District Council with the cultural principles to be reflected in each place. In addition, the Cultural Framework will support funding applications, increase engagement with art and culture and facilitate greater connectivity with Art and Cultural organisations.

The adoption of a similar document by Boston Borough Council and East Lindsey District Council has already helped the SELCP to gain Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation status and it is this funding that has support the writing of the South Holland District Council element.

The ambition of the Framework and associated NPO status supports a wider cultural and place-based approach to regeneration and links culture with community engagement to support our Partnership objectives, reflecting the principles of the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership Growth and Prosperity Plan.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Arts Council England has provided the funding to create the Cultural Framework, therefore it is a requirement of the funding to produce the strategic document, as has been the case in Boston Borough Council and East Lindsey District Council.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Arts Council England (ACE) awarded funding to both East Lindsey District Council and Boston Borough Council to support the development of cultural strategies.
- 1.2 Following the Strategic Alliance with Boston Borough Council and East Lindsey District Council in August 2021 it was agreed to align the two strategies.
- 1.3 An extension to the work was granted to ensure a connected approach to both projects. A joint strategy or framework was proposed, which provides both authorities with the cultural principles we want to see reflected in each place.
- 1.4 This Cultural Framework was completed and agreed by both Councils and helped what is now the SELCP to gain Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation status. As the existing Cultural Framework only extended over the Boston Borough Council and East Lindsey District Council areas, the ACE NPO has funded its extension to cover South Holland

District Council. This work has been completed and the resultant documents, include a Cultural Framework for South Holland and an Executive Summary, which links the new South Holland Framework to the existing Framework for Boston and East Lindsey.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 Set against a backdrop of Covid recovery and the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership, the Cultural Framework seeks to build on the significant progress in recent years to support cultural activity, build capacity, and demonstrate commitment to excellence and innovation in cultural infrastructure, partnership and programming.
- 2.2 The Framework aligns with the SELCP Growth and Prosperity Plan and funding opportunities of Cultural Investment through Town Deals and Levelling Up Funds. It is also symbiotic with recent policy for the visitor economy and the ambition for Culture to support communities' health and well-being.
- 2.3 Arts Council England funding has now been secured for the SELCP area. The Boston and East Lindsey Cultural Framework was completed and agreed in 2021 and funding from ACE has been used to write the corresponding Framework for South Holland with a view to amalgamating the two documents into one Cultural Framework covering the SELCP area.
- 2.4 Consultation through two workshops in Holbeach and Spalding (both on 30 November 2020/21) and further individual interviews have informed the draft document. These were aimed at arts and culture groups, individual creative practitioners and wider community and voluntary groups, advertised through email and social media.
- 2.5 The draft Cultural Framework for South Holland, at Appendix B, has been developed around the four Strategic Themes of the Boston and East Lindsey document: Culture for All; Health and Wellbeing; Cultural Infrastructure and Cultural Places. This has supported the executive summary for the Partnership, linking the existing Cultural Framework for Boston and East Lindsey (Appendix A).
- 2.6 Multiple barriers have historically stood in the way of system-wide cultural renewal. The area's ageing population and sustained loss of younger talent, limited transport links, health and wellbeing indicators, fragmented communities, and lack of critical mass in a range of industries, are commonly identified as challenging features or as barriers to cultural development. However, there is significant potential through an asset-based perspective with heritage, natural and built environment, building on our existing cultural offer and taking full advantage of the ambition and aspirations of the people.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The Cultural Framework has been developed through consultation and the agreement to adopt the Cultural Strategy and priority actions will provide South Holland District Council with the cultural principles to support funding applications, increase engagement with art and culture and facilitate greater connectivity with Art and Cultural organisations. It will

also mean that a coherent and complete Cultural Framework with the SELCP will exist allowing it to speak with one voice.

- 3.2 The adoption of the Cultural Framework aligns with the Partnership Sub Regional Strategy, supporting the priorities of developing our leisure and cultural offer for the benefit of residents, promote pride in place, and creating an environment for businesses to survive and grow.
- 3.3 The Cultural Framework existing in East Lindsey and Boston has already led to securing National Portfolio Organisation status and associated funding, with this document for South Holland providing the missing part to the Framework. The securing of NPO status supports wider cultural and place based activities in line with the Government's Levelling Up White Paper and links culture with community engagement to support our Partnership objectives.

EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

A formally adopted Cultural Strategy and agreement of priority actions will provide East Lindsey District Council with the cultural principles to support funding applications, increase engagement with art and culture and facilitate greater connectivity.

It has also already provided the Partnership with the opportunity to submit an Expression of Interest to seek to secure National Portfolio Organisation status and associated funding.

The ambition of the Framework and associated NPO status supports a wider cultural and place-based approach to regeneration, in line with the Government's Levelling Up White Paper and links culture with community engagement to support our Partnership objectives.

IMPLICATIONS

SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP

The Cultural Framework sets out a number of specific commitments:

- A commitment to increasing audience participation levels across all types of cultural activity.
- A commitment to excellence and innovation in cultural infrastructure, partnership and programming.
- Commitment to the four investment principles set out by Arts Council England – Ambition and Quality; Dynamism; Environmental Responsibility; Inclusivity and Relevance.
- The establishment of a Cultural Compact to enable the delivery of a programme of activities as an National Portfolio Organisation.
- Commitment to the Priority Actions identified in the Cultural Framework for South Holland, alongside those of Boston Borough Council and East Lindsey District Council.

These commitments do not have an associated budget and form part of funding applications and 'expressions of interest', therefore the Council may wish to consider a future business case to financially support through match funding, or if the funding bids are unsuccessful, then selecting the most appropriate plans to support.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

The Cultural Framework for Renewal reflects the Corporate Priorities identified in The Partnership Sub Regional Strategy, supporting the strategic aims of facilitating initiatives to enable the viability and vitality of town centres, maximising healthy and active lives, and creating an environment for businesses to survive and grow.

STAFFING

None arising from this report.

WORKFORCE CAPACITY IMPLICATIONS

None arising from this report.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None arising from this report.

DATA PROTECTION

None arising from this report.

FINANCIAL

None arising from this report.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Please note the commitments do not have an associated budget and form part of funding applications and 'expressions of interest', therefore if the funding bids are unsuccessful the Council may wish to consider financial and resource allocation to support the delivery of the action plans.

STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

External consultation was undertaken as part of the drafting of the Cultural Framework through individual consultations and a workshop that was held in Spalding and Holbeach (both on 30 November 2023). These were aimed at arts and culture groups, individual creative practitioners and wider community and voluntary groups, advertised through email and social media.

REPUTATION

None arising from this report.

CONTRACTS

None arising from this report.

CRIME AND DISORDER

None arising from this report.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

None arising from this report.

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

The Cultural Framework and its outcomes are reported to the Healthy Living Board, which is tasked with delivering a leisure and culture offer for the sub-region.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The Cultural Framework aligns with Arts Council's four investment principles, which incorporates Environmental Responsibility. The Framework references connecting culture to the natural environment through projects and infrastructure, and positioning this Framework as a vital tool for sustainable and responsible cultural development. We are committed to aligning the Framework with

ACRONYMS

- ACE: Arts Council England
- NPO: National Portfolio Organisation
- EOI: Expression of Interest

APPENDICES

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -

APPENDIX A	Cultural Framework for Renewal
APPENDIX B	South Holland Cultural Strategy

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT

A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body.

REPORT APPROVAL

Report author:	Lydia Rusling, Assistant Director Economic Growth
Signed off by:	Pranali Parikh, Director Economic Development
Approved for publication:	Cllr Nick Worth, Leader