



ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL

An aerial photograph of the St Helens War Memorial, a tall, white, abstract sculpture. A large crowd of people is gathered on the grassy slopes and a circular paved area at the base of the memorial. A small stage with speakers and a red banner is set up near the base of the sculpture. The background shows a lush green landscape with trees and a distant town under a cloudy sky.

ST HELENS BOROUGH ARTS STRATEGY



FOREWORD

I am delighted to introduce to you the Arts Strategy for St Helens Borough which sets an ambitious direction for the arts over the next 5 years.

I know across the entire borough of St Helens we have some fantastic artists, assets, and creative organisations. This Strategy builds on the talent and passions for the arts that already exists and brings together a shared ambition that has been developed with the arts sector to develop St Helens as an inspiring place to live, work and visit.

The arts has true social value for the borough, enriching our lives through improving our physical and mental health and well-being, improving self-confidence, helping us to develop new skills, helping to raise attainment in schools, supporting community cohesion and using the creative industries to support economic growth.

As a council we have worked on this strategy with partners from all aspects of the arts sector in St Helens, and I would like to thank them for all the work they have done with us to bring this strategy to fruition.

This is a strategy for everyone and is mindful of all the different forms of art across the Borough. I hope that through a shared commitment to work together we can enable the arts to thrive and provide great opportunities for all to enjoy.



Councillor Anthony Burns
Cabinet Member for Wellbeing, Culture & Heritage

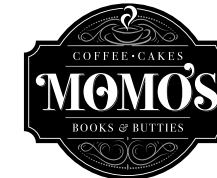
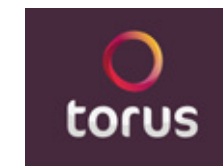


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THANK YOU

This strategy has been developed using the principles of #StHelensTogether, which recognises that our borough is at its best when the council, businesses, organisations, residents, charities, schools, all of us, work together to play our part. With thanks to all our partners for their contributions to developing this strategy. We look forward to collaborating with you to deliver the Strategy, alongside many others in the borough and beyond. We would also like to thank Councerculture for their work developing this strategy in collaboration with the Steering Group and wider partners.





Arts Council England have been fully consulted all through the strategy process and we are extremely grateful for their input.

I think the report captures the salient issues very well. It's recognisably based on deep local understanding and is clearly focused on enabling St Helens to co-ordinate its ambitions for culture with the opportunities presented by the Town Deal, the Liverpool City Region Cultural Compact and Arts Council England's own new 10-year strategy. We look forward to working further with the Cultural group in St Helens to develop the strategy's recommendations.

Jane Beardsworth

Senior Relationship Manager (North),
Arts Council England

Further information about the process of developing this Strategy can be found in an accompanying document: St Helens Borough Arts Strategy Background Information.





OUR CORE VALUES

We want all residents of the borough to feel part of this work - it is for everyone that wants to be involved, whether you are young or young at heart.

There will be opportunities for individuals to thrive, for communities of interest to shape future projects and moments for our diverse communities to come together across generations to celebrate who we are.

Partners across the town and beyond will work together to make sure that taking part is accessible and that we reach out to those that feel excluded.

When we are planning work, we will consider its environmental impact.

We want to involve you. We hope you will join us.



OUR STORY

St Helen's motto, **EX TERRA LUCEM:**
Out of Earth - Light, was restored in 2013
by popular petition.

The phrase reflects the Borough's mining
history, it influenced Danny Boyle's Olympic
Opening Ceremony, the creation of St Helens
iconic sculpture, Dream and Jonathan Bates'
composition dedicated to Jay Hall and the
St Helens Youth Brass Band.

As we emerge from the darkness of the current
pandemic lockdown there is no better story for
the St Helens Arts Strategy to embrace.

A single word: **Emergence.**

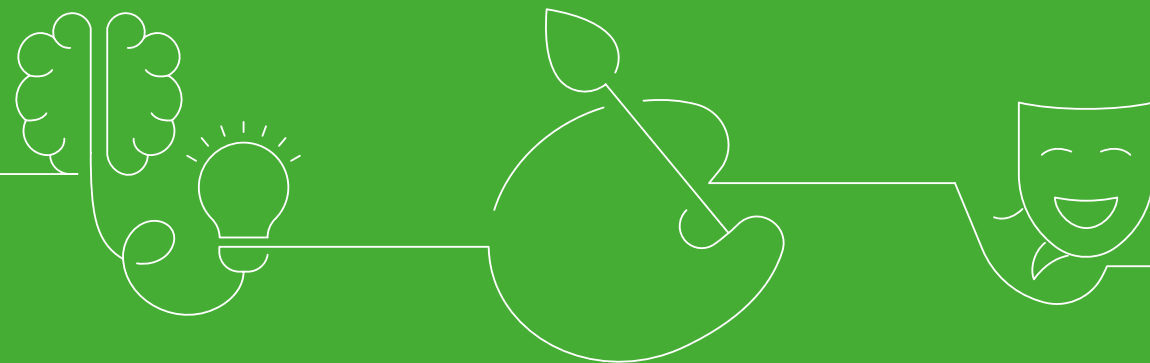
In philosophy, science and art, emergence
occurs when a discreet idea, element or creation
interacts with a wider whole.

As St Helens begins to emerge from lockdown,
public art will start emerging from unlikely
places, beloved buildings will emerge from
their temporary desolation and new structures
from freshly broken earth. Musicians, dancers,
and artists will emerge from their studios and
bedrooms and lockdown dreams will emerge
as inspiration.

St Helens has always been a place where things
emerge - coal from earth, canals from brooks,
glass from sand.

It is a home of artistry and experiment and makers.

In its latest emergence St Helens arts and culture
will lead the way for the borough and by its
shining example, for the nation.



OUR VISION

A thriving arts scene is good for the health of people and places. The benefits of taking a fresh approach to the arts will be substantial and will be felt by residents and businesses across the borough.

Art and culture and the encouragement to be creative helps lives. Creativity helps us to communicate ourselves and our values in images, sounds, movements, and stories.

This is why St Helens wants all its young people to experience the possibilities of being creative, because arts can help self-expression and build self-esteem and contribute to practical skills achievements.

Arts and culture can be a conversation that translates experience across space and time, that can build a sense of a developing community, aware of its past, hopeful for its future and in constant creative dialogue.

This is why St Helens is thrilled with its Creative People and Placesⁱ programmes and will seek ways to amplify its scope and reach.

The arts can provoke new thoughts and feelings and help us address difficult problems in our lives.

All of this will be celebrated when St Helens becomes Borough of Culture in 2023.

This is why St Helens wants to extend its work with public health and through its Arts in Libraries work.

The arts bring us joy - who does not stop, smile, and wonder when they first see Dream?

This is why St Helens wants more people to see it through a wider City Region public art programme.

And the arts can be pure, unadulterated fun, they can cheer us up and they can literally brighten up and colour our towns and villages.

This is why the possibilities of the English Cities Fundⁱⁱ and Town Dealⁱⁱⁱ are so important to St Helens to get right, because they will allow St Helens to create the world it wants its residents to live in - a better, more serious, more playful, more lively, more joyful, more engaged, more confident St Helens.



OUR MISSION

TO HELP EACH AND EVERY ONE OF ST HELENS RESIDENTS TO EMERGE THROUGH ARTS, CREATIVITY, AND CULTURE.

BY 2023 EVERY ST HELENS RESIDENT CAN CONTRIBUTE, EXPERIENCE AND BENEFIT FROM AN UPLIFTING CULTURAL ENCOUNTER.





OUR PRIORITIES

The Strategy centres on 7 priorities which we will work to deliver over the next 5 years. The Delivery Plan details how the priorities will be delivered.

They are pragmatic and seek to embed strategic aligned thinking, decision-making and sustainable borough-wide delivery.

They align to regeneration opportunities and the Town Deal and emphasise the need for close working relationships with the Liverpool City Region Cultural Compact^{iv}. Finally, the issue of timeline is addressed to focus on the critical opportunity of 2023.

In 2023 St Helens will once again be Borough of Culture for the City Region. This should now be the clear focus for the Art Strategy because of the opportunities it creates and that it is of vital importance that 2023 is a success.

In 2023 local residents, the wider region and the nation as a whole will be invited to judge St Helens, therefore there must be a series of tangible and positive differences between the St Helens of today and the St Helens of tomorrow.

The Arts Strategy seeks to help St Helens foster a change in mind set. By highlighting the fundamental need for closer relationships between St Helens and the region, the strategy seeks to place open communication, close collaboration, and mutually beneficial ambition at the heart of the St Helens arts and culture sector.

By harnessing the power of the word **emergence**, the strategy hopes to energise the sector and the borough.

This is the creative thinking and context from which tangible positive differences will emerge.

By 2024 the Borough will feel different.

A sense of emergence and forward movement will infuse the professional and voluntary sector alike because things are happening.

Ambitions we hope to see realised are various.

- A public art plan has been agreed with Liverpool City Region and is being delivered.
- Dream can now be seen as it was designed to be seen and is properly interpreted on site and digitally.
- Heart of Glass has developed a way-finding map for St Helens which includes new and planned international artworks as well as little known curiosities and surprising interventions.

- The Town Deal programme is being formed, enhancing the townscape, visibly improving the arts, cultural and heritage offer and skills development opportunities for young people.
- An increased number of artists occupy vacant shops and start-ups are beginning to use dedicated business incubation co-working spaces.
- Existing infrastructure has been strategically repurposed, and the year-long live events programme in 2023 brought surprise, joy, and laughter to the whole community.
- There is a sense of life about the place, a sense of emergence and yes, a sense of pride.







PRIORITY ONE

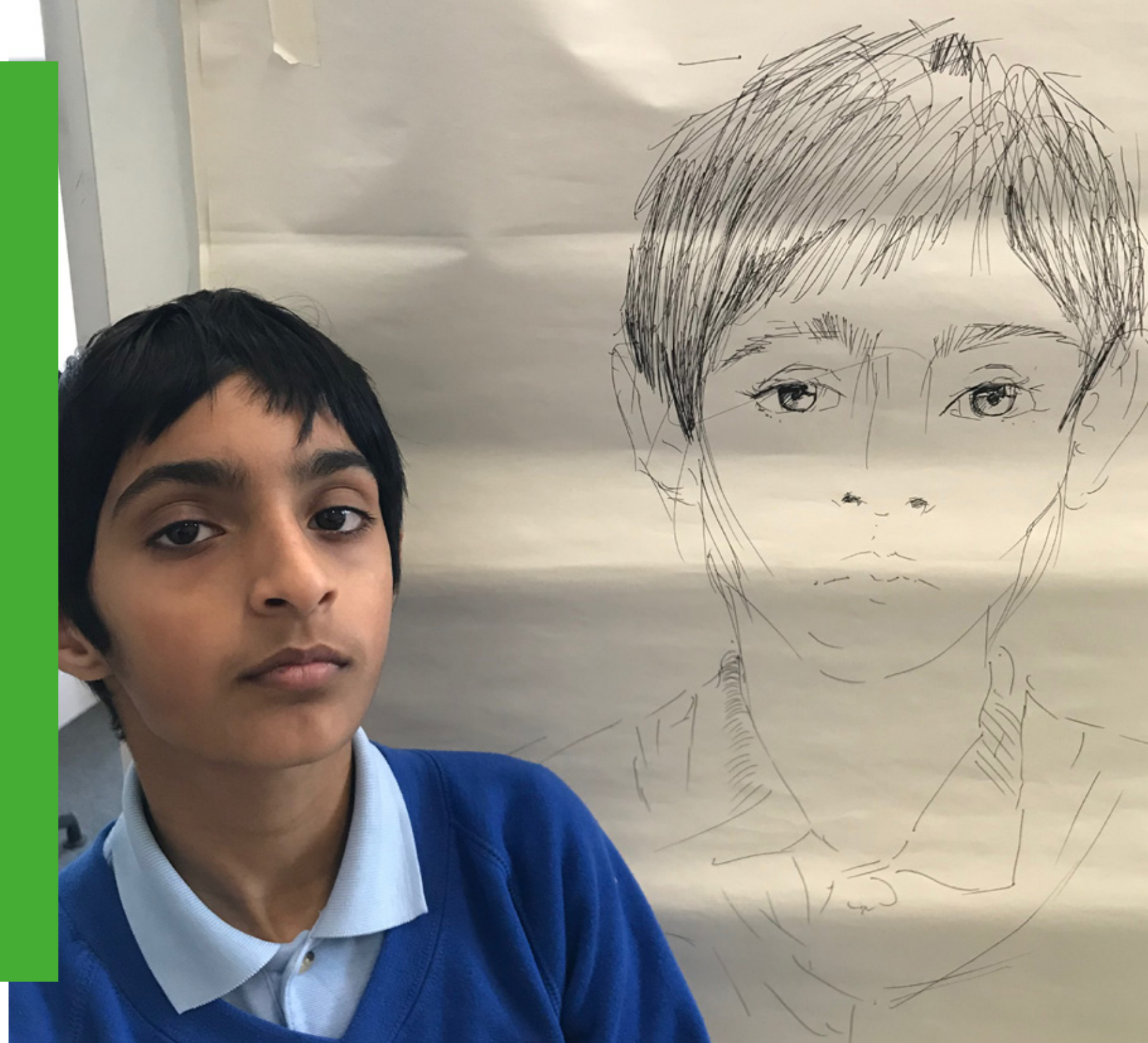
TO DELIVER A
SUCCESSFUL YEAR
IN 2023 WHEN
ST HELENS IS THE
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION
BOROUGH OF CULTURE

PRIORITY ONE

The Arts Strategy and the following recommendations sets out a realistic framework to make these needed, wanted, and desired tangible, positive differences.

A dedicated delivery unit should be created to strategically plan and deliver the Arts and Heritage Strategies. This should sit within the Council, overseen by the Executive Director of Place. The role and purpose of the Council's Arts Service should be reviewed and remodelled to provide the dedicated resource required to support the delivery of the St Helens Arts Strategy. The priority will be to prepare for co-ordinating an outstanding year in 2023, when St Helens is the Borough of Culture in Merseyside.

Key to this will be an improved and co-ordinated marketing for arts across the sector. It is proposed that the current Arts Strategy Steering Group, which has overseen the development of the Strategy is developed as a consultative group, with added membership, for the Council's Arts Service, with the aim in the longer term of becoming a St Helens Cultural Partnership.





PRIORITY TWO

TO ALIGN THE
PRIORITIES OF THE
BOROUGH'S ARTS
STRATEGY WITH THE
BOROUGH'S PRIORITIES
FOR REGENERATION
WITH A PARTICULAR
EMPHASIS ON THE
TOWN DEAL

PRIORITY TWO

The Town Deal is a huge and real opportunity for both the Borough's town centres. The cultural and heritage component of the Town Deal must align to the overarching strategic direction and priorities of the St Helens Arts Strategy. The Council has stressed the need for a strategic and cohesive Arts Strategy. The Town Deal will therefore be a means of delivering elements that align to the Arts Strategy and not the other way around.

There is a specific opportunity around the updated Town Deal advice for arts and heritage projects, which should be geared to both help accessibility and improve facilities in a way that will drive both town centres use. The reconfiguring of both the Gamble Building (to display the Library, Archive and Borough Art Collection as a collective story) and The World of Glass (to provide facilities for use by a range of amateur and other arts users) could be a significant driver of town centre use for St Helens.





PRIORITY THREE

ALIGN THE ST HELENS BOROUGH ARTS STRATEGY TO NATIONAL AND CITY REGION ARTS PRIORITIES AND TIMESCALES

PRIORITY THREE

St Helens should align with Arts Council England priorities and the Liverpool City Region Cultural Compact. It should define with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority the role St Helens will play, particularly when it is Borough of Culture in 2023. There is an opportunity for St Helens to lead on socially engaged arts practice and the role of the voluntary arts sector. The Borough should commit to these themes and suggest ways of working, projects, partnerships, and collaborations in order to deliver them fully. This will allow an overarching strategy to be clearly communicated with the public and strategically guide the sector.

The first key milestone is 2023 when St Helens will be the Liverpool City Region Borough of Culture. It is critical that planning for this is the initial focus of the Strategy.

Subsequently, the Strategy can then concentrate on those areas of the Arts Council England and Liverpool City Region strategies which play to St Helens' strengths and can be developed further and implemented up to 2030.

These include:

- using arts and culture as a core part of the skills programme for young people in the Borough
- working across both Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisations in the borough to amplify scope and reach, including connectivity with amateur groups
- extending its work with public health and through its Arts in Libraries work
- positioning 'Dream' as part of a wider City Region public art programme; and
- using the possibilities presented by the English Cities Fund and Town Deal to create the world it wants its residents to live in - a better, more serious, more playful, livelier, more joyful, more engaged, more confident St Helens. This includes a new way of working with artists during the town centre development period, a fuller analysis of studio and work/live provision for the creative sector as part of the Town Deal, and a review of public civic spaces and what is needed to support cultural resource for the next decade.





PRIORITY FOUR

TO IDENTIFY AND
PROMOTE THE ROLE
OF ARTS AND CULTURE
IN THE SKILLS AND
TALENT DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMMES FOR
THE BOROUGH AND
CITY REGION

PRIORITY FOUR

St Helens has a strong College, an outstanding sixth form college which draws arts talent from all over the Liverpool City Region, and some schools with excellent arts provision and a strong track record. There is also considerable interest from borough residents in developing a reputation as 'Making Towns'. With cheap studio space and a tradition of manufacturing skills, it is a good time to make connection to both the Chamber of Commerce skills plans and those associated with the Town Deal and the City Region skills programme, to ensure that arts and culture are seen to be playing a significant role for St Helens skills development.





PRIORITY FIVE

TO MAXIMISE THE
PHYSICAL AND OTHER
ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR
ARTS PROVISION

PRIORITY FIVE

An independent audit of need (provision, for what, for who, in what way?) and physical space is required in order to inform the physical elements around arts, culture and heritage within the Town Deal and beyond.

The delivery unit will need to assess the viability of operating models and work with national funders to ensure that their objectives are also prioritised and are consistent with the themes and priorities of the Arts Strategy.





PRIORITY SIX

TO ALIGN WITH THE
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION
PROPOSALS FOR PUBLIC
ART TO

A) DEVELOP DREAM AS
AN ASSET

B) DEVELOP AN
APPROACH TO SUPPORT
PUBLIC REALM CHANGE
IN ST HELENS

PRIORITY SIX

Dream is a major artwork by international artist Jaume Plensa, which connects to the heritage opportunities for St Helens. Strategic senior leadership from the Borough is required to work with the City Region in their development of thinking for public art in the region, in order to ensure that Dream plays as big a role as Anthony Gormley's public artwork on Crosby beach in Sefton, and that the Liverpool City Region supports significant improvement in marketing and interpretation.

There is a key opportunity now to create a distinctive, accessible, and vibrant public realm co-created with artists, architects, planners, and communities (in collaboration with English Cities Fund).

A public art strategy should be put in place to enable the realisation of a unique public realm. A Liverpool City Region Public Art Strategy is under consideration. There is potential for St Helens to play a key role in driving a place based approach for each borough within this Strategy; piloting St Helens as the first bespoke element of the Strategy, developed in collaboration with St Helens Borough Council, Heart of Glass, the Liverpool City Region and partners.

The unique opportunities around the planned public realm changes in St Helens and Earlestown programmes offer potential for St Helens to involve artists in a large number of aspects of the plan, including the Youth Zone development as well as specific commissions.





PRIORITY SEVEN

TO ALIGN THE ARTS
AND HERITAGE
STRATEGIES WITH THE
VOLUNTARY SECTOR

PRIORITY SEVEN

The voluntary sector is a critical part of the arts ecology in St Helens and has been a key part of the Steering Group. It is recommended that the Council further develop the database and connections with the voluntary sector and a wide strategic approach for involving them, working across arts programmes, particularly Cultural Hubs in Libraries and Heart of Glass' Creative People and Places programme to 2023.

The St Helens Borough Arts Strategy provides a sustainable, pragmatic, and engaged framework for delivering, promoting, and inspiring arts and culture in the Borough. It is realistic in its recommendations and deliberately seeks to align national, regional, and local priorities and to promote a working ecology that is focused, collegiate and transparent. Arts Council England have been fully consulted all through the Strategy process and we are extremely grateful for their support for the Strategy.





OUR DELIVERY PLAN

Ref	Issue	Implication	Recommendation	Owner/Timescale
1	<p>There is a need to strengthen dedicated resource in the Council with responsibility for both Arts and Heritage.</p> <p>The current Arts Service team is dedicated to delivering Cultural Hubs, the Arts in Libraries programme. There is a need to strengthen at a strategic level as part of the Place Directorate.</p> <p>Knowledge of St Helens arts activities outside the Borough could be improved.</p>	<p>A dedicated delivery mechanism to manage, resource, communicate, market, and review a borough-wide Arts Strategy, to ensure it succeeds.</p>	<p>St Helens Council will review and reset a dedicated and skilled delivery role and strengthen its Arts Service team to focus on delivering St Helens Council's cultural output including Libraries, Arts, Events, Music and Heritage. (This aligns with the Heritage Opportunities document recommendation as in the 2019 Heritage Strategy). The team will manage the resources dedicated to arts and will deploy resources to build outward from its major organisations with committed long-term funding. It will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• responsible for the Arts and Heritage Strategies and their delivery, including a successful 2023 Borough of Culture• responsible for managing a single budget• responsible for convening the Culture Steering Group• responsible for developing an Arts Partnership and contributing to Liverpool City Region Cultural Compact Strategic Action Plan and linking the sector to international networks through this	<p>Director of Communities</p> <p>June 2021</p>

Ref	Issue	Implication	Recommendation	Owner/Timescale
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• responsible for the Arts and Heritage components of Town Deal• responsible for ensuring initiatives connect and support existing National Portfolio Organisations and Creative People and Places plans• tasked with securing Section106^{vi} funding in tandem with Liverpool City Region recommendations• responsible for coordinating and developing capacity for place-based fundraising• responsible for internal and external communications and marketing• the primary contact for the arts and heritage sector, particularly to ensure they are fully engaged with wider initiatives such as Public Health and skills development.	

Ref	Issue	Implication	Recommendation	Owner/Timescale
2	A framework for decision-making for arts and heritage in terms of prioritisation or investment/ de-investment is required.	There is a need for clear measurement of objectives and alignment of arts with wider borough and region priorities, to maximise the opportunities arising from 2023.	<p>The Council's remodelled Arts Service will use the framework and this Strategy to implement the priorities for the Borough, and in particular how it can connect to the Town Deal, Liverpool City Region and Arts Council England's plans in advance of 2023. This includes Liverpool City Region thinking around potential shared services and supply chains.</p> <p>The Council will ensure the continuation of the Arts Strategy Steering Group to amplify and advise on decision-making, with the aim to become a St Helens Cultural Partnership in the future.</p>	<p>Head of Culture and Wellbeing</p> <p>April 2021</p>



Ref	Issue	Implication	Recommendation	Owner/Timescale
3	St Helens needs to align better to regional and national thinking around harnessing the arts and culture. There is a need to strengthen influence and engagement with wider plans.	The Borough must maximise opportunities to deliver wider ambition and position itself nationally.	St Helens should align itself with Arts Council England priorities and Liverpool City Region Cultural Compact Strategic Action Plan priorities. By so doing it will be able to justify a wider strategic place at the table. St Helens will work collaboratively with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and play a strong role, particularly when it is Borough of Culture in 2023. It will particularly support its two National Portfolio Organisations, including promoting the role of Arts in Libraries across the City region, and for Heart of Glass' wider work and partnerships. The Council's Arts Service should also be the channel to make the decisions about which arts and heritage projects work with the wider Liverpool City Region funding, particularly the Strategic Investment Framework ^{vii} .	Head of Culture and Wellbeing With effect from January 2021. Regional influence to be achieved by July 2021.



Ref	Issue	Implication	Recommendation	Owner/Timescale
4	The Town Deal and the English Cities Fund plans are being developed in tandem with the Arts and Heritage Strategies. Projects and proposals need to align with the Arts Strategy.	The Town Deal is a huge and real opportunity for St Helens. There is a need to ensure that proposals arising from the Town Deal Board are aligned to the strategic direction from the sector. A key opportunity is to redevelop the Gamble and The World of Glass.	The Council's Arts Service should take immediate ownership of the cultural and historic components of the Town Deal and maintain the Arts Steering Group to help advise and deliver the Town Deal Projects under a strategic and unified Arts Strategy. The recent Government guidance on Town Deal support for capital projects for arts and heritage, focus particularly on access and repurposing to help COVID recovery. This offers a perfect opportunity to focus on the sector ambitions for studio space and access needs for the Gamble. It could potentially bring the Library, Archive and Borough Art Collection together again, and repurpose The World of Glass spaces for improved community use. This may require support, advice, and expertise to assess feasibility plans and operating models (also see recommendation 7).	Head of Culture and Wellbeing January 2021



Ref	Issue	Implication	Recommendation	Owner/Timescale
5	Findings emerging from consultation is that it is challenging for an Arts Strategy to be useful for a decade, particularly given the current funding landscape.	There is a need to ensure that opportunities to enhance St Helens year as Borough of Culture in 2023 are made the most of.	<p>To align the St Helens Arts and Heritage Strategies with the timeline for the Liverpool City Region Cultural Compact Strategic Action Plan 2021-2026 and annually review.</p> <p>2023, when St Helens will be Liverpool City Region Borough of Culture is a key focus for the borough and needs clear planning, now, as does how the borough supports the opening of The Shakespeare North Playhouse in Knowsley.</p>	<p>Head of Culture and Wellbeing</p> <p>From January 2021</p>



Ref	Issue	Implication	Recommendation	Owner/Timescale
6	Arts programmes and projects should not operate in silos, they need to work collectively. They must engage with the wider regional skills agenda.	Opportunities for co-creation, and to engage fully with the amateur and education sectors; to fully align to wider arts programmes, thereby serving local populations.	The Strategy will operate under the principles of transparency, alignment, and pragmatism. The Arts Service will consult regularly with the Steering Group to advise on projects and programmes. The Arts Service will strengthen higher education and in-sector training opportunities, in tandem with Liverpool City Region plans.	Arts Development Manager Ongoing



Ref	Issue	Implication	Recommendation	Owner/Timescale
7	There is a need for a process or framework to prioritise the development of physical spaces for arts/heritage use or assessing needs from an audience/user/artist viewpoint.	Projects being developed and lobbied for, must align to a clear Place and Culture plan. This must include hard financial business plans.	There will be an audit of assets for the borough (including its Art Collection and Archive) to help inform physical elements of the Town Deal for culture and heritage (such as the provision of studio and performance spaces). The Arts Service will consider financial operating models to ensure they are sustainable, as well as what will be a priority for capital funding and why. This may result in the repurposing or decommissioning of individual venues and the development of shared facilities and collaborations.	Library Services Manager July 2021



Ref	Issue	Implication	Recommendation	Owner/Timescale
8	Dream requires greater interpretation and need to address accessibility; it should be used as an asset for the town.	Dream, as a major international artwork must be recognised as a vehicle to support the arts and cultural development of the Borough.	St Helens will work with the Liverpool City Region Cultural Compact Strategic Action Plan and the wider sector on public art opportunities, to ensure St Helens' distinctiveness is represented and the potential for Dream is developed as part of a bigger City Region Public Art Plan.	Head of Culture and Wellbeing September 2021



Ref	Issue	Implication	Recommendation	Owner/Timescale
9	The absence of a specific Public Art Strategy.	<p>There is a key opportunity to create a distinctive, accessible, and vibrant public realm, co-created with artists, architects, planners, and communities (in collaboration with English Cities Fund).</p> <p>A Public Art Strategy would support this and prevent future public artworks being developed in silos.</p>	<p>A public art strategy should be put in place to enable the realisation of a unique public realm. A Liverpool City Region Public Art Strategy is under consideration. There is potential for St Helens to play a key role in driving a place based approach for each borough within this Strategy; piloting St Helens as the first bespoke element of the Strategy, developed in collaboration with St Helens Borough Council, Heart of Glass, the Liverpool City Region and partners.</p> <p>This place-based approach for St Helens, would take into consideration the uniqueness, opportunities and needs of our borough in the development of a bespoke Strategy, which would feed into a wider Strategy for the Liverpool City Region.</p>	<p>Arts Development Manager</p> <p>Ongoing</p>



Ref	Issue	Implication	Recommendation	Owner/Timescale
10	The arts voluntary sector (large and active in St Helens) ^{viii} must be fully part of the strategic thinking for arts in the Borough.	Projects involving the sector are ad hoc; the support the professional sector can offer (e.g. storage, archive support) is not properly harnessed.	To align the voluntary sector to the Arts and Heritage strategies via the Steering Group. Ensure the Council's Arts Service database of voluntary sector arts groups is further developed and managed via the Delivery Team.	Arts Development Manager Ongoing



APPENDIX 1:

IMAGE DESCRIPTIONS AND CREDITS

Cover image: *Decade of Dream* event at Sutton Manor Colliery site 2019, celebrating 10 years since the launch of *Dream*, the iconic artwork by artist Jaume Plensa.

Pg. 2. UC Crew performing at St Helens first Pride event, delivered as part of Summer Streets 2019.

Pg. 4. *In My Place*, 2015 - 2017. Working in partnership with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Heart of Glass created a series of unique performances in people's homes and workplaces. Photographed here with the mighty Saints. Photo credit: Stephen King.

Pg. 8. Francesca Martinez performing *What The **** Is Normal* at Chester Lane Library as part of the Cultural Hubs programme, 2018.

Pg. 9. *Outfit for 35 People*, performed by Year 3 St Julies Primary School 2019. Artwork by artist Kate Hodgson. Commissioned by St Helens Library Service as part of the Cultural Hubs programme.

Pg. 11. St Helens Council Music Service, *Our Generation* Concert 2020, St Helens Town Hall. The culmination of a Music Heritage Project funded by Awards for All.

Pg. 12. Le Gateau Chocolat performs *RAW* CACAO in St Helens Town Hall as part of Take Over Festival 2018, presented by Heart of Glass in partnership with St Helens Libraries. Photo credit: Victoria Tetley.

Pg. 13. Musician Sarah Davies performing at a Student Showcase at Jamm Studios, 2019.

Pg. 15. Sarah Gilman, First Prize winner, *St Helens Open Art Competition 2019* exhibition at the World of Glass, 2019. Photo credit: Paul Cousins.

Pg. 17. *Decade of Dream* event at Sutton Manor Colliery site 2019, celebrating 10 years since the launch of *Dream*, the iconic artwork by artist Jaume Plensa.

Pg. 19. *St Helens Day Citizens' Parade (featuring the Mayor)*, 2018. Eggs Collective worked with 16 community groups to create work to be showcased as part of the parade. Commissioned by Heart of Glass and delivered in partnership with St Helens Borough Council as part of St Helens 150 celebrations.

Pg. 21. St Helens Christmas Lights Switch On.

Pg. 22 Artist Kate Hodgson screen-printing *Take Care Map of St Helens* tea towels at *Madlove Take Over* in 2019. *Take Care Map of St Helens* by artist Hwa Young Jung with communities of St Helens. *Madlove Take Over* co-curated by Emily Gee, Mary Osborn and James Leadbitter. Commissioned by Heart of Glass.

Pg. 23. Participant taking part in furniture design workshops, led by Passsoul, Newton-le-Willows based artist duo. This work was enabled through a Prototype Project commission in 2015 from Heart of Glass. Photo credit: Stephen King.

Pg. 26. *HOME*, performed by Olly Ford, Brad Roach and Josh Selfridge as part of BA (Hons) Theatre and Performance Degree, St Helens College University Centre, 2020.

Pg. 27. Dommy B performing at Citadel Arts *Pop Up*, St Helens Town Centre, 2019. Photo credit: Marge Bradshaw.

Pg. 28. *We Are Still Here* by Simon Mckeown and BuzzHub St Helens CDP, commissioned by Heart of Glass in partnership with DaDaFest, December 2018. Photo credit: Andy Salkeld.

Pg. 31. *Arts Ambassadors* workshop with artist Paul Harfleet, 2019. A collaborative school's project initiated by CulturEd, St Helens Local Cultural Education Partnership and programmed in partnership with St Helens Library Service. Photo credit: Owen Hutchings.

Pg. 32. *Where Things Are Different* created by Stephen King and St Helens communities, commissioned by Heart of Glass, January 2018. Photo credit: Simon Webb

Pg. 35. The World of Glass, St Helens.

Pg. 36. *Lost Castles*, Victoria Square, St Helens, 2018. Artist Olivier Grossetête conceived this project in collaboration with Culture Liverpool, resulting in six distinct *Lost Castles*, one in each of the boroughs across the Liverpool City Region. The St Helens *Lost Castle*, produced by Heart of Glass as part of the St Helens 150 programme, was based on a castle in Stuttgart, St Helens twin town. The artwork was constructed by volunteers from across the Borough.

Pg. 39. Artists from St Helens and Stuttgart at the launch of *Project Zei, St Helens to Stuttgart*, at

Stuttgart Town Hall, 2018. To celebrate the 70th anniversary of the twin towns of St Helens and Stuttgart, St Helens based artist duo – Yellow Door Artists – sought to rekindle this long-standing relationship by arranging multiple artist exchanges and hosting an exhibition to showcase the results.

Pg. 40. Katherine Hickey, BA (Hons) Fine Art Painting Degree student, St Helens College University Centre, 2018.

Pg. 43. Styling for a project undertaken by Carmel College Fashion students in support of the Willowbrook Hospice charity, 2019.

Pg. 44. St Helens Theatre Royal featuring artwork by David Reling Burns.

Pg. 47. Platform Open Studio in 2019. Studio space of artist Lily Karen, including artworks by the artist.

Pg. 48. Detail from photograph titled *Marking the multiple reports of online abuse*, part of *The Pansy Project*, a wider body of work by the artist Paul Harfleet. Paul plants pansies at sites of homophobic and transphobic abuse. He finds the nearest source of soil to where the incident occurred and generally without civic permission plants one unmarked pansy. The flower is then documented in its location, the image is entitled after the abuse. Paul undertook a number of planting in St Helens at sites where homophobic abuse had taken place, in addition to this one planted at Dream, to mark online abuse that had been received. Commissioned by St Helens Library Service, as part of the Cultural Hubs programme and in collaboration with Homotopia, 2019. Photo credit: Paul Harfleet.

Pg. 51. *Your Name Here* is a project conceived by artist Joshua Sofaer in collaboration with Heart of Glass and St Helens Council. The project provided the opportunity to nominate someone in St Helens to have a park named after them. Following hundreds of nominations, the selection panel chose St Helens resident Vera Bowes' nomination. Vera nominated herself as a child, under her birth name Vera Page. This photograph was taken at the launch of Vera Page Park on Saturday 5th September 2015. Photo credit: Stephen King.

Pg. 52. Haydock Band performing at the Grand National.

Pg. 55. Audience and volunteers at Lucem House, St Helens Community Cinema Plus+.

Pg. 56. Young people taking part in a MD Creatives programme, 2020.

Pg. 57. *St Helens Open Art Competition 2019* exhibition, The World of Glass.

Pg. 61. Artwork created as part of the *St Helens Community Archive* project with Our Warm Welcome. Led by artist Claire Weetman. Commissioned by St Helens Archive Service, St Helens Library Service, as part of the St Helens Community Archive Project, funded through the National Lottery Heritage Fund, 2018.

Pg. 63. *Black*, performed by 20 Stories High at Chester Lane Library as part of the Cultural Hubs programme, 2015.

Pg. 65. The Gamble building, Victoria Square, St Helens.

Pg. 67. *Scandinavia Has Been Good to Me* by Mandy Romero. Performed at St Helens Central Library as part of the Cultural Hubs programme in collaboration with Homotopia, 2016. Photo credit: Owen Hutchings.

Pg. 69. *St Helens Community Archive* project with Our Warm Welcome. Led by artist Claire Weetman. Commissioned by St Helens Archive Service, St Helens Library Service, as part of the St Helens Community Archive Project, funded through the National Lottery Heritage Fund, 2018. Workshop photo credit: Claire Weetman.

Pg. 71. Christmas Panto at St Helens Theatre Royal.

Pg. 73. Procession at *Decade of Dream* event at Sutton Manor Colliery site 2019, celebrating 10 years since the launch of Dream, the iconic artwork by artist Jaume Plensa.

Pg. 75. *We Are Still Here* by Simon Mckeown and BuzzHub St Helens CDP, commissioned by Heart of Glass in partnership with DaDaFest, December 2018. Photo credit: Andy Salkeld.

Pg. 76. A Proper St Helens Knees Up, performed at The Citadel, 2016. Culmination of a collaborative theatre project between the artists Eggs Collective and residents at Parr Mount Court, Raglan Court and Reeve Court. Commissioned by Heart of Glass.

APPENDIX 2: ENDNOTES

ⁱ Creative People and Places (CPP) is an Arts Council England (ACE) initiative which invests in areas where there are fewer opportunities to get involved with the arts. In 2013, St Helens partners were successful in bidding for Creative People and Places funding to establish Heart of Glass. Firmly established as a collaborative and social arts agency, Heart of Glass has continued to secure CPP investment from ACE to develop their work in St Helens.

ⁱⁱ The English Cities Fund is a joint venture set up by three partners – Homes England, Legal & General and Muse Developments. Since 2001, they have delivered some of the country's most complex and successful urban regeneration projects. St Helens Council and The English Cities Fund are working together on proposals for a 20-year partnership that would see a variety of sites across the borough benefit from redevelopment.

ⁱⁱⁱ St Helens is one of 100 towns to be awarded the opportunity by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to bid for up to £25m in the Town Deal. This funding will help to increase economic growth with a focus on regeneration, improved transport, better broadband connectivity, skills, and culture. This is part of the national strategy to help rebalance the national economy and 'level up' the regions.

^{iv} Cultural Compacts are partnerships designed to support the local cultural sector and enhance its contribution to development, with a specific

emphasis on cross-sector engagement beyond the cultural sector itself and the local authority. St Helens will collaborate with the Liverpool City Region and benefit from the **Liverpool City Region Cultural Compact** Strategic Action Plan **2021 to 2026**.

^v Arts Council England's (ACE) National Portfolio Organisations (NPOs) are the group of 800 national arts organisations given four-year regular funding from ACE in return for playing a national and regionally important role in helping to deliver their cultural strategy. In 2018, Heart of Glass and St Helens Library Service both became NPO's. St Helens is the only Merseyside borough other than Liverpool to have any NPOs.

^{vi} Section 106 funding agreements are legal agreements between developers and the local council. They can often release funding to deliver projects within a local area and are designed to ease the impact of a new development on the local community.

^{vii} The Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) is the key funding tool for promoting economic growth for the Liverpool City Region. It supports the delivery of the City Region's strategic priorities as well as unlocking potential and accelerating growth. The fund sits within a Strategic Investment Framework for the City Region.

^{viii} There are over 100 voluntary arts groups in the Borough including music, dance, theatre, creative writing and visual arts groups.



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