

Birmingham Cultural Compact

Terms of Reference (DRAFT)

Introduction

Culture* has been at the centre of the city's social and economic renaissance over the last three decades. But, the cultural and creative industries have the potential to be an even stronger force in Birmingham. So, as the sector continues to contend with the 'age of austerity', Birmingham must renew its approach to supporting, and strengthening the cultural and creative industries and to promote the benefits of the sector to the economy of the city and for the health and wellbeing for its citizens.

- Birmingham must re-double its efforts to become recognised as a cultural and creative city at a global level
- Culture should become embedded in the development of the city, from the city centre to the region's boundaries
- We should harness culture and creativity in every fabric of Birmingham's life – education, health, buildings, leisure, community cohesion, tackling worklessness and within all industries.
- We need to support the cultural and creative businesses which show most potential to grow and add to Birmingham's offer with the best advice, skills development and access to finance available
- The City needs to attract new investment – both using the strength of our cultural offer, and drawing in organisations which directly help to grow the creative economy.
- Developing new cultural initiatives and encouraging more events that not only improve our residents health and wellbeing but also enhances the city's image and grows the visitor economy.

By 2030, Birmingham will be firmly recognised as one of the world's leading cities for its cultural and creative contribution towards community cohesion, health and wellbeing and quality of life.

Name: Birmingham Cultural Compact (prov)

Purpose / role of the group:

The Birmingham Cultural Compact seeks to co-create and co-deliver a holistic vision for culture in Birmingham. Our vision is part of a step change in the sustainability and contribution of culture to the life of the city. It will link the cultural sector to broader aspirations and priorities for Birmingham and secure partnerships between the cultural sector and other sectors.

Functions

1. To provide strategic and visible leadership for the cultural and creative industries sector in Birmingham
2. To be the lead advocate for the cultural and creative industries sector in relation to regional, national and European policy.
3. To co-ordinate key inward investment activities relating to the cultural and creative industries sector and to explore the potential for new approaches to funding such as those identified in the existing Birmingham Culture Investment Enquiry and the Core Cities "Cultural Cities Enquiry".

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4. To encourage a sustainable, entrepreneurial and diverse cultural sector which is accessible to all residents across the region.
5. To support development and cultural infrastructure planning throughout the city by championing best practice in the creative sector to the public, private and voluntary sectors
6. To refresh and develop the creative & cultural industries elements of the Birmingham Cultural Strategy and contribute towards the delivery of the regions Creative Industries Strategy
7. To support collaboration where this enhances effectiveness and efficiency, for example in maximising the benefits of major events such as Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022 and Coventry City of Culture 2021 and working with the Cultural Compacts as they emerge across the region, and delivering customer insight or research.

Where it adds value, the Compact may help develop regional synergies to enhance bids for additional external funding.

Initial Arrangements

In the first instance, attendance at the Compact meetings will be by invitation through the City Council (as the initial Accountable Body) and Culture Central.

The secretariat for the Compact will be shared by Birmingham City Council and Culture Central whilst a Compact Coordinator is recruited.

During the first year of operation, the Compact will;

- 1) Recruit a Chair* and elect a Vice Chair
- 2) Appoint a Compact Coordinator (Administrator)
- 3) Confirm its Terms of Reference and membership
- 4) Establish a work programme (Business Plan)
- 5) Commission and Contract organisations as required e.g. research, legal advice etc.
- 6) Share learning with other early adopter compact cities including Nottingham, Sheffield and Coventry
- 7) Report back to ACE and other funding partners
- 8) Conduct a governance review, to cover membership, tenure, appointment process and retirement, as well as any specific roles to be undertaken.

*The Chair will be appointed through a formal recruitment exercise

Membership:

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The Birmingham Cultural Compact will be chaired by a senior independent professional from the business sector and supported by a Vice Chair - to be elected from the Compact membership.

The membership seeks to be representative of different sectors in the city. The composition of the Compact will include;

- private sector representatives
- cultural sector representatives
- public sector representatives
- voluntary sector representatives
- a mix of representatives with different backgrounds and knowledge of different forms of culture

And they will be supported by:

- Topic experts responsible for delivering on critical areas of the city's ambitions such as health and wellbeing, inclusive growth, inward investment, finance, place-making and city centre development, regeneration and transport.

The membership of the Compact will be reviewed annually.

Accountability

- 1) All member organisations are responsible for ensuring that their nominated representative(s) (or an appropriate substitute) are available to attend Compact meetings
- 2) Members of the Cultural Compact should be at Director / Senior Manager level or equivalent and therefore able to speak for their organisations without having to report back or seek guidance.
- 3) Compact Members should be empowered to make or influence decisions within their own organisation and commit resources, when appropriate
- 4) Compact members are responsible for reporting to the Compact on relevant issues/developments from within their own organisation; and for communicating Compact business to departments/staff within their own organisation, where appropriate
- 5) The Chair, Vice Chair, Lead Officer for the Compact or Culture Central may represent the Compact on a range of other appropriate boards or working groups as necessary
- 6) Confidentiality - Members will be expected to respect the confidentiality of some discussions and documents to support Compact decision-making

Expectations of Members

The Compact will operate to good practice principles - in Compact meetings and when working on behalf of the Compact, members will:

- a) Work in the public interest - contributing positively to discussions and champion the strategic development of the cultural sector and its domains when required
- b) Consult as plans are developed - working with other members to achieve consensus on key issues to address priorities for action

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- c) Always consider what is in the best interests of Birmingham and the cultural sector and to balance this with the interests of your organisation, your sector and yourself
- d) Remain accountable to yourself, your organisation and / or your sector
- e) Raise areas of concern and contribute your experience and expertise to Compact discussions in order to achieve good, workable solutions
- f) Encourage mutual trust, respect the views of other members and work collaboratively
- g) Declare and manage conflicts of interest
- h) Act with due diligence in relation to (public) funding
- i) Be prepared to attend regular compact meetings.
- j) Be committed to equality of opportunity

Voting

Decisions will be reached by consensus

Meeting arrangements

The proposed arrangements for the Compact are set out below:-

- The Compact will meet every two months
- The appointed Compact co-ordinator will organise and minute the meetings
- Agendas and associated papers will be circulated to members at least 7 days before the meeting. Agenda items should be submitted not later than 14 days before the meeting. Items can only be tabled at the meeting with the permission of the Chair
- Quorum – For the Partnership to be quorate, and where it wishes to make a decision, it will require a minimum of one third of its members present to include either the Chair or Vice-Chair
- An Extraordinary Meeting may be convened with the permission of the Chair and the Vice Chair, provided that a minimum of 14 days' notice is provided to members
- Declaration of interests – All members of the Board will observe the probity responsibilities. These include conflicts of interests
- Change of terms of reference – The terms of reference of the Birmingham Compact will be reviewed by the Executive after the first year of operation
- On occasion non-members will be invited to meetings to present on specific issues

Review

July 2020

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