



Report to: Policy & Performance Improvement Committee: 13 April 2026
Director Lead: Deborah Johnson – Customer Services & Organisational Development
Lead Officer: Mark Randle, Transformation and Service Improvement Officer

Report Summary	
Report Title	Presentation by the Portfolio Holder for Heritage, Culture & the Arts
Purpose of Report	Update on role of the Portfolio Holder for Heritage, Culture & the Arts
Recommendations	That the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee note the contents of the report.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 At the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee (PPIC) meeting held on 29 January 2024, Members agreed a process for Portfolio Holders to be invited to meetings of the Committee. This enabled the Portfolio Holder to brief the Committee on their remit and current and future plans and projects. It would also offer the Committee opportunity to ask focussed questions of the Portfolio Holder. This process ran from March 2024 to March 2025.
- 1.2 At the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee meeting held on 14 April 2025, Members agreed to a change in the process for Portfolio Holders attending Committee.
- 1.3 The new change in process requested that Portfolio Holders report back on ‘specific areas’ of their Portfolio, which will be requested by the Committee. Portfolio Holders are asked to produce a short report in answer to these specific areas. They will present back to the Committee and then take questions.

2.0 Proposal/Options Considered

- 2.1 This report relates to the Portfolio Holder for Heritage, Culture & the Arts, Cllr Rowan Cozens

The Committee has requested information on:

1. We can see that exciting work is continuing on the Castle Gatehouse, with the introduction of the new entrance and multi-function space now visible to residents and visitors. How are you engaging with residents and potential visitors through the build phase to enable people to be involved as much as possible and how will that approach benefit the Castle once the new visitor offer officially opens?

2. Work undertaken by the Working Group has shown the regard the Heritage and Culture Business Unit is held in with regional and national accolades such as National Portfolio Organisation status with the Arts Council. In the context of LGR, how do you think the services can be developed to further improve a wider Heritage and Culture offer? What are the risks and opportunities?
3. We have seen the launch of the new Equality, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy for 2025 to 2029. Can you provide an update on how it has been implemented and what changes have been seen?

3.0 Implications

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendation's, officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection, Digital and Cyber Security, Equality and Diversity, Financial, Human Resources, Human Rights, Legal, Safeguarding and Sustainability, and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

Implications Considered			
Yes – relevant and included / NA – not applicable			
Financial	NA	Equality & Diversity	NA
Human Resources	NA	Human Rights	NA
Legal	NA	Data Protection	NA
Digital & Cyber Security	NA	Safeguarding	NA
Sustainability	NA	Crime & Disorder	NA
LGR	NA	Tenant Consultation	NA

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- **Full Council Report 8 March 2022** – Proposals for the new governance arrangements.
- **PPIC Report 29 January 2024** - Attendance by Portfolio Holders to Future Meetings of the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee
- **PPIC Report 14 April 2025**- Attendance by Portfolio Holders to Future Meetings of the Policy & Performance Improvement Committee