

Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission 11th February 2021 Item 5 – Hackney Arts and Culture Services	Item No 5
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Outline

Hackney Carnival

A previous discussion about Hackney Carnival by Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission provided some challenge about the inclusivity of the event to all members of the community. This discussion is to provide an update on how the Council addressed the concerns raised about inclusivity. The Commission asked for:

1. An update on how the Council provided opportunities for more members of the community in Hackney to access and participate in the Carnival.
2. Following the impact of the pandemic and move of the Hackney Carnival to the virtual environment. The Commission asked the following:
 - a. The success (pros and cons) of the virtual carnival and measures of success
 - b. The numbers who participated in the virtual carnival this year.
 - c. In preparation for next year's carnival how will the virtual carnival work be capitalised on?
 - d. Confirm if the Council is still planning a live event.

Arts and Culture Services

The current pandemic (Covid-19) has had a significant impact on the UK, its economy and the daily lives of people. For councils this is likely to have had a direct impact on cost from being in lockdown, on activity planned before the virus outbreak, recovery and the local economy.

Hackney is known for its diversity which is shown in its arts and culture sector. The 3 lockdowns have had a significant impact on the operation of arts and culture in the borough. The sector started to use a mix of income streams to support the sector which provided an element of resilience pre-covid but has made them very vulnerable to the impact of the pandemic.

The Commission asked for the Council to provide information about:

1. the impact of Covid-19 on the arts and culture
2. the recovery plans for arts and culture in the borough.

Digital Divide

With concern about library and culture services and the growing digital divide being exacerbated by the pandemic. The Commission asked for the Council to provide information about:

1. The impact of Covid-19 on services and how the service areas are addressing the digital divide to ensure the residents who are digitally excluded can get access to support and services.

Reports in the agenda:

To support this discussion the following reports have been provided as background information.

1. Hackney Carnival
2. Impact of Covid 19 and Recovery Plan for Culture
3. Impact of Covid-19 on Cultural Services and the digital divide.

Invited Attendees:

London Borough of Hackney

- **Cabinet Member for Planning, Culture & Inclusive Economy, Cllr**
Guy Nicholson
- **Strategic Director, Engagement, Culture and Organisational Development, Polly Cziok**
- **Cultural Development Manager, Lucy McMenemy.**

Action

Members are asked to consider the reports, presentations and ask questions.