

As well as the updated Service Level Agreement (SLA) document there are 4 issues specific to 'culture' to update the scrutiny committee on :

1. The development of a new cultural strategy for the city is now well underway. After an intensive recruitment and selection process, ArtReach have been selected as the consultants to lead the work. David Hill is the head consultant and he will be undertaking a lengthy consultation with key cultural organisations over the next 2 to 3 months. A draft strategy should be ready by November with the hope of a full 'sign-off' in December. The strategy development has been funded by CYC, will be overseen and administered by Make It York and will be progressed in close conjunction with the Cultural Leaders Group.
2. The York Mediale, the new international media arts festival, is now moving on apace. The initial funding target has been achieved and the concentration now is on building and finalising the content programme. Exhibitions, residencies and live performances have all been announced and a further programme announcement is due in the next few weeks. The festival takes place from the 27th of September to the 6th of October.
3. The 2018 York Culture Awards will be launched on June the 25th following a fresh look at the award categories and with a new judging panel. The awards ceremony takes place on November the 18th at the Theatre Royal. Darren Henley, Chief Executive of Arts Council England, has accepted an invitation to attend and it is a great opportunity to 'show off' York at its cultural best.
4. The Cultural Leaders Group, with Reyahn King as Chair, continues to meet regularly and has a good agenda of projects. A separate sub-group has been set up to work with the consultants on the cultural strategy.