

Report of the Assistant Director Governance & ICT

**Impact of the Arts and Culture Sectors on the Economy of York Scrutiny
Review – Feasibility Report**

Summary

1. This scoping report gives Members of the Economic Development & Transport Policy & Scrutiny Committee (EDAT) brief details of the impact of the Arts and Culture Sectors on York's economy to help them decide whether this is a suitable topic for review.

Background

2. At a meeting of EDAT in late June 2016 Members discussed potential topic for scrutiny review during the current municipal year. Members showed an interest in a scrutiny review on the impact of the arts and culture sectors on the economy of York and asked for a feasibility report to help them decide whether such a review would add value to work already ongoing in the city.
3. York's heritage continues to be the centrepiece of its cultural offer, attracting more than 7 million visitors per year with associated economic benefits to the city and its residents.
4. In December 2014 York was designated as a UNESCO City of media Arts and a member of the Creative Cities Network. Creative industries represent York's fastest growing sector and add balance to its heritage assets and identity.
5. The table below highlights the current level of employment in arts and cultural sector jobs as measured by Government data. This shows that York has a strong advantage in employment in the IT and digital sectors and the museums and arts sectors. For both the sectors, employment is above the national average.

Creative Jobs Data			
Industry by SIC Code	Number of Jobs	Number of Businesses	Location Quotients
Publishing subtotal	200	30	0.40
Media subtotal	100	50	0.19
IT/digital subtotal	2000	295	1.10
Communication and design subtotal	600	190	0.60
Museums, arts and culture subtotal	800	80	1.39
Source: ONS - Business Register and Employment Survey; UK Business Counts			
SIC Codes for Creative Industries based on codes by Department for Culture, Media & Sport. https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/394910/Creative_Industries_Economic_Estimates_-_January_2015.xlsx			

6. The figures do not capture the overall impact of these sectors on the local authority. For example, a proportion of the 7 million visitors to the city each year are drawn here by our museums and cultural attractions.

Options

7. The Committee could conduct a scrutiny review over the next municipal year examining:
- i. The impact of the arts and cultural sector on the local economy in terms of overall output, jobs and wages, and
 - ii. An assessment of what interventions the Council undertakes to support these sectors compared with interventions to support other sectors.
8. This work can be supported by officers, but would also benefit from an exercise where members meet members of the cultural and arts sectors to discuss their views on the impact of their sector on the city.
9. However, Members should note that monitoring the performance of the leisure, tourism, heritage and arts and culture service areas lies within the remit of the Learning and Culture Policy & Scrutiny Committee.

Analysis

10. There is no analysis as this report is for information only to advise Members on the possibility of conducting a scrutiny review.

Council Plan

11. This report supports A Prosperous City For All; A Focus on Frontline Services and A Council That Listens to Residents elements of the Council's Plan 2015-19.

Risks and Implications

12. There are no known risks or implications associated with the recommendations in this scoping report.

Recommendation

13. Members are asked to note the contents of this report and decide whether they wish to undertake a scrutiny review on this topic.

Reason: To comply with scrutiny procedures and protocols

Contact Details

Author:

Steve Entwistle

Scrutiny Officer

Tel: 01904 554279

steven.entwistle@york.gov.uk

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Andrew Docherty

Assistant Director Governance and ICT

Tel: 01904 551004

Report Approved Date 7/03/2016

Specialist Implications Officer

Phil Witcherley

Group Manager,

Policy and Strategy Team

(Economy and Place)

City and Environmental

Services

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report