

Somerset West & Taunton Cultural Forum

Terms of Reference

Through harnessing our creativity and cultural assets we want to create...

- ***A place where people of all ages and backgrounds can experience quality culture on their doorstep; be creative, entertained, inspired and challenged.***
- ***A place to learn new skills and find rewarding careers; or simply socialise and play, feel fulfilled and breathe fresh air.***
- ***A place with a distinct and positive identity where people and creative enterprises want to put down their roots, grow and blossom.***

(SWT Cultural Strategy Vision, May 2021)

1 Purpose and role

To demonstrate the power that the arts have in developing a vibrant culture and economy, and a positive environment for those living, studying, working and visiting Somerset West & Taunton (SW&T). Collectively the Group will guide, challenge and support the development and delivery of SW&T's Cultural Strategy and Action Plan. Specifically, it will:

- Facilitate the development and growth of creative and cultural activity in Somerset West & Taunton
- Drive the development and deliver the objectives of SW& T's Cultural Strategy and Action Plan.
- Work as a consortium led by Somerset West & Taunton Council to access funds to strengthen the creative and cultural environment of SW&T
- Work collaboratively to deliver specific priority projects outlined the Cultural Strategy and its Action Plan
- Look for opportunities to strengthen and incorporate the arts and culture across sectors (e.g. health, heritage, formal and informal education, communities and the environment)
- Work to enrich the cultural lives of everybody who lives and works in SW&T and visitors to the geographic area
- Work with citizens to enable and empower people to play an active part in shaping their cultural life
- Model, encourage and facilitate collaborative working

2 Geographical Area

Somerset West and Taunton District.

3 Membership (current membership below)

The Group is made up of organisations with a strategic remit and key venues, CIC's and agencies that currently deliver artistic and cultural activity across the geographical area of Somerset West and Taunton. Membership is limited to a maximum of 25.

4 Accountability

The Group will be responsible for reporting back to their staff on decisions made by the Group. Members will report back at meetings on the development and delivery of projects undertaken.

5 Review

At every second meeting the Group will review its effectiveness and every sixth meeting the Group will review its relevance, value and Terms of Reference.

6 Working methods

- The Group will meet quarterly with meetings held at The Deane House, Taunton or other venues as appropriate
- The Group will be chaired by(to be confirmed May 2021)
- Topics for the agenda will be generated by Council officers and Chair
- The meeting agenda and papers will be circulated min 7 days prior to a meeting and minutes will be circulated within 7 days of a meeting
- Nominated Council officers will service the Group
- Each meeting will cover standing agenda items and will include a review of the development of the Cultural Strategy and Action Plan; cross-organisational and cross-sector potential for projects and fundraising
- Every other meeting will include a review of the effectiveness of the Group
- Sub groups may be formed at the discretion of the Group's members with the purpose of overseeing specific activities and tasks
- Non-members will, as appropriate, be invited to Group meetings to offer expert opinions

7 Sharing Information

- The Group will be provided with access to a shared online drive where meeting papers and relevant documents and reports will be deposited
- Group members will receive meeting papers and minutes by electronic mail
- Confidential documents will be headlined clearly "*Confidential and not for distribution outside the Cultural Forum*"
- Any copyright ownership will be clearly identified

8 Definition of terms

- the Group = Somerset West & Taunton Cultural Forum
- Culture = The things that define who we are, encompassing actions and activities* which have the capacity to transform, challenge, reassure and inspire and to give a place and people a distinct identity. **activities include but are not exclusively limited too: the recreational, educational and professional engagement and participation in the all the creative arts, performing arts and music, craft, design, heritage, horticulture and outdoor pursuits. They include activity delivered by arts practitioners, makers, organisations, agencies, museums and libraries.*

- The Arts = a broad definition that includes Craft; Performing Arts (theatre, dance, music, live arts, spoken work); Outdoor Arts (carnival, circus, festivals, outdoor performances and public art: artistic activities taking place in the public realm); Socially Engaged (open-ended projects that are focused on social and/or community issues); Visual Arts (painting, sculpture, installation, performance, land/environmental photography and moving image). To reinforce Somerset West and Taunton's natural heritage we also wish to include horticultural and landscape design within our definition of Arts

May 2021

Membership list (as at 2020)

- Arts Taunton, Kit Chapman
- Actiontrack, Nick Brace
- Brewhouse, Amy Bere
- Bridgwater & Taunton College, Matt Cox
- CICCIC, Richard Holt
- Contains Art (Watchet), Jess Prendergast
- Fuse, John Lee
- Genius PR & Events - Trish Caller
- Go Create, Jenny Keogh / Liz Hutchinson
- Halwsay Manor, Crispin Cook
- Hestercombe House and Gardens, Tim Martin / Philip White
- Museum of Somerset & South West Heritage Trust, Sam Astill and Tom Mayberry
- North Taunton, Richard Shadrick
- Regal Theatre (Minehead), Lewis Lintern
- Richard Huish College, Saffron Lee
- Somerset Art Works, Carol Carey
- Somerset Film, Phil Shepherd / Deb Richardson
- Somerset Wildlife Trust, Jolyon Chesworth
- Sound Foundation Somerset, Helen Reid, SCC
- Tacchi Morris, Andy Pulleyn
- Take Art, Mark Heyler / Sarah Peterkin
- Wiveliscombe Town Hall, Emma Betteridge
- SWT – Cllr Caroline Ellis (from May 2021), and Cllr Norman Cavill