

Meeting: Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee

Date: 29 June 2021

Title: Cultural Services Recovery Planning

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Service: Environment Housing and Leisure

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to give the Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee an overview of the presentation regarding planning for recovery in Cultural Services.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Sub-committee is recommended to note the report and comment on the presentation.

3. Details

- 3.1 The period since the first lockdown in March 2020, through to the current easing of restrictions on service delivery, has been especially challenging for Cultural Services. Major sections of the service have not been able to operate for much of the past 15 months, the Playhouse Whitley Bay for example having been dark for the entire period.
- 3.2 Other services have been able to operate for limited periods when lockdown restrictions have been eased, allowing for some access to museum facilities at Segedunum and Stephenson Steam Railway, as well as key visitor attractions such as St. Mary's Lighthouse.
- 3.3 The Events programme has been significantly, hit with the postponement for two consecutive years of the Mouth of the Tyne Festival, and only limited events activity being permitted. Library provision has functioned on a limited basis in line with the permitted national guidance, with Order and Collect provision and limited People's Network access.
- 3.4 The presentation will cover what the service has been able to deliver over the period of the pandemic and current planning for a return to business as usual.

4. Background Information

The following documents have been used in the compilation of this report:

- Government guidance on restrictions during the pandemic
<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>