

## Annex B: An open policy development programme for culture – our proposed policy focus areas

Culture Commons

<p><b>Cultural Devolution</b></p>	<p>Both the UK Government and major opposition parties have made significant promises to devolve power closer to local people, including new powers and/or control of culture policy and funding (see Annex A: part three). This Working Group would explore the question:</p> <p><b>How can we ensure an accountable, strategic, and equitable approach to the devolution of cultural policy and funding?</b></p> <p>Example policy issues to be explored include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>What new powers could be devolved to local governments that would support local creative and cultural ecosystems?</i></li> <li>• <i>How might local government authorities work together in a new devolved approach to cultural policy and funding?</i></li> <li>• <i>How can we ensure appropriate accountability and protection for:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>local cultural spend</i></li> <li>○ <i>equal access to opportunities for the workforce regardless of location and background</i></li> <li>○ <i>a strategic/outcomes-based approach to local government investment in the creative and cultural sectors across the UK</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>What could the ongoing role for our arms length bodies be if there is further devolution of existing central funding decisions?</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>‘Creative Clusters’</b></p>	<p>The creative industries have been recognised by both the main political parties as key contributors to the UK’s future economy and have proposed different approaches to develop ‘creative clusters’ at the local and regional level. This working group for this stream would pose the question:</p> <p><b>How can local and national governments work together to sustainability and strategically grow local ‘creative clusters?’</b></p> <p>Example policy issues to be explored include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>What are the ideal ‘models’ for forming, growing and managing local creative clusters?</i></li> <li>• <i>What are the outcomes, beyond GDP, that we want to see generated by cluster growth?</i></li> <li>• <i>How can we ensure cluster growth is inclusive, meeting the needs of marginalised groups and freelance, atypical and self-employed with the creative and cultural workforce?</i></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>How should local government be identifying 'creative clusters' in their area?</i></li> <li>• <i>How can local and regional areas enable a strategic and joined up approach to cluster growth?</i></li> <li>• <i>In what ways can/should central government support local creative cluster growth?</i></li> <li>• <i>What are some international best practice examples of local creative cluster growth</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Funding with purpose</b></p>	<p>If current inequalities in the UK are to be addressed, we need to explore different approaches to central culture funding pots, that prioritise need over competition. Our working group for this stream would pose the question:</p> <p><b>How could a new 'mission driven' national funding scheme for culture be designed and delivered?</b></p> <p>Example policy issues to be explored include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>What activities could this fund enable (i.e., capital development or programme – or both?)</i></li> <li>• <i>What local outcomes do we want to see enabled? In particular, how can this funding reach more diverse groups and be inclusive of the atypical creative workforce?</i></li> <li>• <i>How could a "mission driven" approach to administering the funding be designed? (i.e how do we ensure funding reaches more areas that have historically 'missed out' under previous schemes)</i></li> <li>• <i>Are there examples of international best practice of cultural funding models that we draw on?</i></li> <li>• <i>How can we ensure local 'readiness' and/or additional support for local areas?</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Local Voice</b></p>	<p>Given the political commitments on all sides of the aisle to devolve decision making we believe that now is the time <b>to test an effective mechanism for involving the local community in cultural decision-making processes.</b></p> <p>Our Working Group for this stream would therefore pose the question:</p> <p><b>How can new mechanisms that enable local communities a greater say in cultural programme function at a local level?</b></p> <p>Example policy issues to be explored include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>At what local government level can people most meaningfully have their say on cultural policy?</i></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>What type of decision-making powers should any new mechanisms that include the public have, if any?</i></li> <li>• <i>Who would be able to sit on new consultation/decision-making bodies? How could we ensure a diverse and inclusive approach to inclusion?</i></li> <li>• <i>How would such a mechanism work any new 'right to culture' (see below)?</i></li> <li>• <i>How would any new mechanisms be funded and sustained?</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Culture for All</b></p>	<p>Gordon Brown's commission have recommended the introduction of a "new constitutional statute" setting out how power should be shared between the nations &amp; regions, as well as new individual and social rights for UK citizens.</p> <p>Taking this proposal as inspiration, the Working Group for this stream would consider the question:</p> <p><b>3Could we create a new 'Right to access Culture', enshrined in UK law?</b></p> <p>Example policy issues to be explored include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>What form of 'culture' would this right cover? (civic, heritage, local or national?)</i></li> <li>• <i>What are the funding implications?</i></li> <li>• <i>What are be the legal implications?</i></li> <li>• <i>What can we learn for international best practice?</i></li> <li>• <i>How could such a approach foster a more inclusive and diverse creative and cultural sector?</i></li> <li>• <i>How would this be enforced and local and national government held accountable?</i></li> </ul>

## Cross Cutting Considerations

In addition to the working groups proposed above, Culture Commons will also consider:

- How to ensure that the principles of diversity and inclusion are embedded across all areas of programme delivery
- That the specific needs of the freelance, atypical and self-employed workforce are recognised and addressed
- The Devolved Administrations are proportionately represented on issues impacting their decision-making jurisdictions
- That all partners are held accountable in conducting appropriate equality considerations

As part of the ethos of our open policy programme, we welcome our partners views on how to achieve these objectives.