



HAVE YOUR SAY: ON ARTS AND HERITAGE

Introduction

This resource pack is for groups and organisations who wish to run their own focus group as part of the engagement phase for developing a cultural strategy for Dumfries and Galloway. It provides guidance to help you run your session but you may wish to take a different approach. All we ask is that you use the questions we provide and record your group's thoughts and ideas on the reporting template. This pack contains the following:

1. **Background information** – some details to share with your group
2. **Session plan** – to help you run your group
3. **Feedback form** - we are only able to accept feedback submitted on this form
4. **Draft Vision and themes handout** - to be photocopied for your group
5. **Q and A Fact Sheet** - to help you answer any questions your group might ask

1. Background

Dumfries and Galloway Council and its partners are creating a Cultural Strategy for Dumfries and Galloway. We want the strategy to help unlock the potential of culture - by which we mean arts and heritage of all types - to make a positive difference to people's lives in Dumfries and Galloway.

The strategy won't champion individual arts and heritage activities, but it will champion and be an advocacy tool for the whole cultural sector of Dumfries and Galloway.

We hope that it will be a rallying call for everyone involved in the cultural sector to sign-up to the strategy's aims and vision. We hope that it empowers those with an interest or working in our cultural sector, rather than directs them. It will provide a framework or Road Map so stakeholders

can decide for themselves which elements they should focus their resources, expertise and energies on.

We plan to publish the strategy by spring 2020.

Engagement process

From now until 18 August 2019, there are a number of ways for people to take part in the consultation process:

- **Facebook** – take part in quick and easy polls and send your pictures/comments
- **Survey Monkey questionnaire** - for people working in the region's cultural sector, including volunteers (printed copies for handwritten responses are available from all Libraries and Customer Service Centres)
- **Focus Group Roadshow** – 13 sessions across the region for industry professionals and interested members of the public.
- **Run your own session** – You can download a resource pack to help run a session with your group or organisation.

For full details on the engagement process visit www.dgunlimited.com

You can contact the cultural strategy project team at cultural.strategy@dumgal.gov.uk

2. Session Plan

Introduction

We would recommend that you allocate at least an hour for your group discussions.

Using the notes above share with your group some background information on developing a cultural strategy for Dumfries and Galloway and details of the engagement process.

Draft vision and themes

Provide your group with a copy of the draft vision and themes handout [see appendix-1].

We want your group's help to finalise the strategy's draft vision and key themes which have been drafted in discussion with representatives from the region's cultural sector and Dumfries and Galloway's Community Learning and Development Partnership.

Group discussion

Using the prompt questions below seek feedback from the group. You don't have to ask them all and you may have your own questions to help keep the conversation and ideas flowing. If you have a large group you may find it helpful to do this in 2 or 3 smaller groups so that people feel more confident to speak.

Seek feedback by facilitating a group discussion and write the main points on the feedback form. You may wish to first record what your group says on a flipchart and post-it notes and then transfer them to the feedback form.

Draft vision prompt questions:

- What do you think about the vision?
- Is it too ambitious? Not ambitious enough?
- Any thoughts on how it's written? Is it clear? Any suggestions?

Draft themes prompt questions:

- What do you think about the themes?
- Is there anything missing?
- Should there be fewer? If so, why?
- Any examples of what's working well?
- What changes would help make things better?

Other questions:

If you have time we'd love to hear your group's thoughts on any of the questions below.

- In terms of arts and heritage, past and present, in Dumfries and Galloway what are you most proud of?
- From your perspective, what works and what doesn't work about the current cultural offer in Dumfries and Galloway?
- From a cultural perspective, imagine your ideal Dumfries and Galloway in 10-years, time – how would you describe it?

What happens with the results?

Tell your group what will happen next: their feedback will be given to the cultural strategy project team to help them identify key actions to be included in the final draft Strategy. The strategy will be available through the Council and DG Unlimited's websites before it is submitted to Committee for approval. In addition at about the end of September 2019 a report that summarises the engagement phase will also be available.

A Cultural Strategy for Dumfries and Galloway – Discussion Sessions

Feedback Form

To make sure that we capture all of the discussions that take place during the engagement, and to help us analyse these discussions in a consistent way, we would be grateful if you would summarise group discussions using this form.

Event hosted by:

Event Date:

Location/Venue:

Number of participants:

Please send anonymised feedback on the form provided to cultural.strategy@dumgal.gov.uk by **18 August 2019**.

Please make sure that your feedback does not identify any named individuals.

Draft Vision

- What do you think about the vision?
- Is it too ambitious? Not ambitious enough?
- Any thoughts on how it's written? Is it clear? Any suggestions?

(Please use additional pages if required)

Draft Themes

- What do you think about the themes?
- Is there anything missing?
- Should there be less? If so, why?
- Any examples of what's working well?
- What changes would help make things better?

(Please use additional pages if required)

Other questions

- In terms of arts and heritage, past and present, in Dumfries and Galloway what are you most proud of?
- From your perspective, what works and what doesn't work about the current cultural offer in Dumfries and Galloway?
- From a cultural perspective imagine your ideal Dumfries and Galloway in 10-years, time – how would you describe it?

(Please use additional pages if required)

A CULTURAL STRATEGY FOR DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

DRAFT VISION AND THEMES HANDOUT

Vision

Our ambition is for Dumfries and Galloway to be renowned nationally and internationally for its cultural assets and its creative dynamism, and Dumfries and Galloway's culture to be celebrated as central to the well-being and prosperity of the region's communities and our people.

Themes

Your feedback will help us develop a series of actions linked to six themes:

- **Sense of Place:** We want culture to create a sense of place for each community in Dumfries and Galloway and to contribute to how Dumfries and Galloway as a region or 'brand' is seen from outside the region
- **Access and Inclusion:** We want everyone to feel able to enjoy and create cultural activity
- **Economic Impact:** We want the cultural sector and its associated industries to thrive, and we want the region's cultural offer to attract more people to live and work here
- **Improved Health and Wellbeing:** We want people engaging with culture to experience benefits ranging from enjoyment to significant health improvement
- **Best Start in Life for All Our Young People:** We want culture to contribute positively to learning, skills and personal development
- **Developing and Empowering Communities Through Culture;** We want to help people strengthen their communities by working together to create and participate in cultural activities

Q and A FACT SHEET

Q. Why are we holding a Focus/Discussion Group?

A. We want to hear from people working in different areas of the cultural sector in Dumfries and Galloway what they think is holding the sector back from achieving more in relation to the draft Strategy themes. This will help us to write a Cultural Strategy for Dumfries and Galloway aimed at helping to overcome these barriers.

Q. What will happen after the event?

A. The facilitators will send a feedback form to the Cultural Strategy Project Team. The team will use the feedback from the Focus/Discussion Groups and surveys to create a draft Cultural Strategy. This draft Strategy will be available for consultation during the autumn, before a final draft is submitted to Dumfries and Galloway Council for approval.

Q. Who can I contact if we have any questions about the Focus/Discussion Group?

A. Please contact the Cultural Strategy Project Team CulturalStrategy@dumgal.gov.uk

Q. Why are we creating a Cultural Strategy for Dumfries and Galloway?

A. We want the strategy to help unlock the potential of culture - by which we mean arts and heritage of all types - to make a positive difference to people's lives in Dumfries and Galloway. Most local authority areas have a cultural strategy that helps makes the case for public investment in culture and identifies priorities and actions relevant to the local area. Local cultural strategies help make connections between culture and other key policy areas such as Economy, Education, Inclusion, and Health and Wellbeing, and also between local cultural priorities and Scotland's cultural priorities as set out in the developing Culture Strategy for Scotland.

Q. When will the Strategy be published?

A. We expect the draft Cultural Strategy to be approved by Dumfries and Galloway Council's Communities committee early 2020, and for a final version to be published in spring 2020.