



# Inner North West Community Committee

Headingley, Hyde Park & Woodhouse and Weetwood

**A new culture strategy for Leeds  
&  
Bid to become European Capital of Culture  
2023  
Topic Report**



## Foreword by Cllr Javaid Akhtar

Chair of the Inner North West Community Committee



The focus for this Community Committee meeting is on the city's bid to become European Capital of Culture 2023 and the development of a culture strategy to support this work.

The European Capital of Culture is a competition that has been running since 1985 to celebrate the cultural offer of cities across Europe. Two cities are chosen each year. A title for our city would raise the profile of Leeds, highlight its cultural offer, and bring positive economic benefits.

In order to bid for this title, the city must develop a Culture Strategy for the period 2017-2030. Over the next few months the Council's Culture & Sport Team will be consulting on the development of this strategy.

At today's meeting the team will be asking what culture means to you and what you would like to see included in the strategy.

The wards of Headingley, Hyde Park & Woodhouse, and Weetwood are made up of a diverse population, covering a widespread area. Today will provide us with the opportunity to express how we'd like to see that reflected in a Culture Strategy for our city.



# Agenda

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The meeting is focusing on the Inner North West area which comprises Headingley, Hype Park & Woodhouse and Weetwood wards.

**1. Welcome and Introduction from Chair – Cllr J Akhtar**

**2. Open Forum**

An opportunity for members of the public to raise any local issues that they might have with their Councillors.

**3. Leeds City Council Culture & Sport Team – Sarah Priestley**

A presentation and consultation on Leeds' new culture strategy and bid to become European capital of culture in 2023.

**4. Transport conversation – Andrew Hall (Leeds City Council)**

Andrew Hall, Head of Transportation at the Council, will be in attendance at the meeting to consult on how councillors and local people would like to see the £173.5m from central government spent on transport in the area. There will be a presentation on the subject followed by a question and answer session.

**5. Meeting Formalities**

Community Committee business papers will include an update on the allocation of Wellbeing fund monies and an update on the work of the committee's sub groups.

# What is European Capital of Culture?

## What is it?

The European Capital of Culture is a prestigious competition run since 1985 to celebrate the cultural offer of cities within Europe. Two cities are chosen each year from two eligible countries. The eligible countries are rotated through European countries, which means there are only 5 times in the next 100 years that the UK can hold a European Capital of Culture year; 2023 is the first of these. The title acts as a spotlight, highlighting and raising the profile of the city and its culture.



## Potential benefits for Leeds

- Increased economic benefit and return on investment from the increase of tourism before, during and after the host year.
- Sustainable economic growth and job creation across the creative and cultural industries which is already the fastest growing sector of the economy.
- Raising the international and national profile of Leeds
- The actual process of bidding, irrespective of outcome, is recognised as having significant benefits. Newcastle Gateshead who bid and lost went on to develop new capital assets: The Sage, Angel of the North and the Baltic.
- The bid itself is transformative; the sheer process of asking 'should we bid' has already seen a significant increase in self-confidence in the Leeds.

# What is the impact of the EU Referendum result on the bid to become European Capital of Culture?

## EU Referendum

Leeds is still part of the European continent and the benefits of bidding for European Capital of Culture will still apply.

The Council is in discussions with the organisers of the European Capital of Culture competition to determine if there is to be any impact of the referendum on those cities in the UK wishing to bid for the title.

Previously countries including Norway and Iceland, both of whom are not part of the European Union, have hosted the title.

The Council continues to work with organisations from across Europe and beyond, both exporting the city's own cultural product and hosting new businesses and concepts here in Leeds.



## Previous UK cities that have held the title...

### Liverpool

The last UK title holder, Liverpool, benefitted enormously from hosting the 2008 European Capital of Culture. The city saw:

- 9.7 million visitors (a 34% increase);
- £753.8 million boost to the economy;
- 85% of residents said the city was a better place to live than before; and massive amounts of positive media coverage that helped change perceptions.

### Glasgow

- 30,000 people now work in the city's cultural and creative industries, one of the largest concentrations of the creative economy outside London.
- The number of live performances - whether music, theatre or dance - had risen by 82% since 1992
- 1990 truly changed the image of Glasgow – it was a milestone event, helping both to transform the city's reputation in the UK and abroad, and to restore self-confidence and pride.



# Developing the bid for Leeds...

A year ago the Council's Executive Board approved the recommendation for Leeds to bid to become European Capital of Culture 2023.

Leeds is now working with partners and stakeholders to develop the bid document, with the objective of:

- Winning the title of European Capital of Culture 2023
- Delivering a bid that is reflective and inclusive of the whole city

In order to bid for European Capital of Culture 2023 the city has to have a current Culture Strategy, from which the bid takes its steer.

The Council's Culture and Sport team is consulting on this new Culture Strategy which will set the underpinning values that define and shape our cultures; articulating the value of culture across a range of policy areas and supporting the future creators of the city's vibrant cultural offer.

The new Culture Strategy for Leeds 2017-2030 will set the tone for the Leeds bid to become European Capital of Culture 2023, and provide the framework for its delivery should Leeds be successful in its bid.

Over the last five years there has been surge in new events, clubs, societies and gatherings. The people who create these happenings are makers of the city's culture, just as those who make the city's world class arts and performance offer are also makers of the cultures that define us.

Visit : <http://leedsculturestrategy.org/>



**What would we like  
to hear from you to  
form the Culture  
Strategy?**

**What could Leeds do  
better?**

**Do you have a big idea to put  
Leeds on the map?**



**What does culture mean  
to you?**

**What is your culture?**



**What makes you proud  
of Leeds?**

**Why should Europe care about  
Leeds?**

