

Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Partnership Framework

As at 8 January 2025

Contents

1. Introduction.....	2
2. Aim.....	2
3. National Context	2
4. Purpose	3
5. Scope.....	3
6. Principles	3
7. Criteria for founder members	5
8. Structure.....	5
9. Meetings	7
11. Reporting and Monitoring	7
12. Relationships	7
13. Communication and Engagement	8
14. Support.....	8

1. Introduction

This Framework has been developed by the Cultural Partnership Steering Group and based on a report by Culture Radar who developed its contents through extensive engagement with the cultural sector and other stakeholders during 2023/24. The content of this Framework was agreed by the Cultural Partnership on 5 December 2024.

This document forms part of the overall governance for the Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Partnership, which also includes the Cultural Partnership Standing Orders and Code of Conduct.

The Cultural Partnership must conduct its business in accordance with the best interest of its broad cultural and non-cultural stakeholders, within the law, and transparently to ensure it represents their views equally and that the public money it administers and distributes is spent efficiently and effectively.

For the purpose of the Framework, we define Partnership as a joint working arrangement where the partners:

- Are independent bodies.
- Agree to cooperate to achieve common goals and outcomes for stakeholders.
- Plan and implement a jointly agreed programme.
- Share accountability, risks and resource.
- Create a delivery structure with agreed processes and programmes.

2. Aim

The aim of the Cultural Partnership is to work together to oversee delivery of the vision of the Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Strategy, so that by 2030 Dumfries and Galloway's distinctive creativity, culture and heritage will have an international profile and be renowned for their contribution to the region's economy and quality of life.

3. National Context

The Cultural Strategy is principally aligned to the priorities and aims of the Cultural Strategy for Scotland, the National Strategy for Economic Transformation, the Climate Change Plan 2018-32, The Place Principle, Scotland Outlook 2030 and Fair Work. Across these, strategic issues to which the Cultural Partnership will aim to contribute include:

- Transforming through culture
- A Just Transition to NetZero
- Community health and wellbeing
- Creative placemaking
- Growing the visitor economy
- Fair Work and skills development

4. Purpose

The core purpose of the Cultural Partnership is to lead and oversee delivery of the Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Strategy Delivery Plan:

- To support the cultural sector as a whole to contribute to Dumfries and Galloway's economy, wellbeing and international profile.
- To facilitate the cultural sector working together to develop and deliver strategic priorities.
- To increase the visibility and impact of all those working in culture in Dumfries and Galloway.
- To champion best practice and diversity in the cultural workforce by supporting and improving the working environment, conditions and rewards.
- To promote and work towards achieving environmental sustainability in all areas of our work.

5. Scope

The Partnership will oversee the delivery of the Cultural Strategy including:

- Setting out joint high-level outcomes for the region in the form of Cultural Strategy Delivery Plans, running congruent with the term of the Cultural Strategy.
- Overseeing the delivery of the action plan (including its evaluation and monitoring).
- Developing new strategic interventions with non-sector partners to deliver the Cultural Strategy's Ambitions and Delivery Plan objectives.
- Connecting and promoting activities for the cultural sector in Dumfries and Galloway and its communities.
- Providing leadership and advocacy for culture in Dumfries and Galloway for all cultural stakeholders.
- Evidencing the impact of culture in Dumfries and Galloway over time
- Identifying fundraising opportunities for the purposes of delivering activity set out in the Delivery Plan for the benefit of all of the cultural sector in Dumfries and Galloway, and its communities.

6. Principles

Ensuring the principles of good Partnership are understood and 'signed-up to' by all partners mitigates risk and avoids potential conflict. The Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Partnership agree, in the spirit of the Partnership working, to work together to ensure:

- **Shared understanding**, combined expertise, mutual trust and respect - the goals and values of the Cultural Partnership are understood and shared by all

members of the Partnership which, collectively, represents the full breadth of the cultural sector with the combined expertise to oversee the strategic implementation and delivery of the Cultural Strategy. The principles of good Partnership are embedded in the behaviours of the partners to ensure mutual trust and respect at all times.

- **Collaboration not competition** - high standards of leadership will ensure the needs of all partners are met, conflicts of interest are identified and managed, differences are respected, disputes are resolved, and activities and reporting is transparent to ensure stakeholder confidence that the Partnership is working for the benefit of all, rather than for personal gain.
- **Evidence based decision-making** - the Partnership will commission independent research or refers to credible and reputable sector research to evidence its decision-making. All partners are clear about their decision making responsibilities and the Partnership will publish its processes and outcomes for decisions taken.
- **Equality, diversity and inclusion** - there is a visible commitment to and ownership by the member partner organisations and their individual representatives to equality and diversity.
- **Fair Work** – the Partnership aims to promote fair pay, conditions and employment opportunities across the arts and heritage sectors in Dumfries and Galloway.
- **Good governance** – proportionate processes are in place for managing risk, performance, finance and information to ensure best practice and efficient operation. These processes will be periodically reviewed during the lifespan of the Partnership.
- **Effective communication and accountability** - the Partnership accounts for its actions through meetings, reporting, having appropriate oversight and scrutiny of its performance and engagement.
- **Shared mechanisms and responsibility for risk management are** in place including monitoring, evaluation, reviewing and reporting on performance, progress and success, as well as regular review of the Partnership and its members.
- **Value for money** – costs and benefits are understood and monitored, ensuring the Partnership is using its resources effectively and is providing value for money.
- **Financial responsibility** – due diligence, audit and financial reporting is up to date and compliant to ensure the Partnership's management and distribution of public funds from a variety of sources (including Dumfries and Galloway

Council) meets all regulatory requirements and is managed without risk to the Cultural Partnership, its members or the delivery of the Cultural Strategy.

7. Criteria for founder members

Founder members represented on the Cultural Partnership must:

- Have a strategic role in setting the cultural agenda for Dumfries and Galloway.
- Collectively demonstrate a track record in good partnership working and can model this for stakeholders and partners.
- Be able to speak with authority for the broad remit of the Cultural Strategy, quickly establish credibility and influence at a strategic level and members have capacity for strategic decision-making.
- Have combined knowledge and expertise to advocate, debate and inform on issues and concerns critical to the cultural agenda in Dumfries and Galloway now, and into the future.
- Have collective networks, partnership and relationships on which to grow region and sector-wide support for delivery of the Cultural Strategy.

Individuals appointed must:

- Comply with the Cultural Partnership's Code of Conduct for its members and any Standing Orders

8. Structure

8.1 The Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Partnership is an unincorporated body. The duration of the Partnership is defined by the timeframe of the Cultural Strategy (i.e., to 2030).

The Partnership will be made up of a Chair and founder members considered to meet the membership criteria:

- Dumfries and Galloway Council
- South of Scotland Enterprise
- Established cultural sector networks (DG Unlimited, D&G Museums and Heritage Network)

As the Partnership develops, it may seek to recruit additional members.

8.2 Thematic Groups

The Cultural Partnership will have Thematic Groups to achieve outcomes related to the ambitions (Our People, Our Place, The Difference We Make) and priorities of the Cultural Strategy, aligned around achieving specific, time-limited project aims.

Thematic Groups draw together culture and non-culture sector stakeholders relevant and necessary to achieving the project's aims.

Each Thematic Group can seek and develop a consortia funding application (nominating an eligible lead applicant) with an individual Partnership agreement in place around each successfully funded project.

Thematic Groups will select a Lead from their membership who will chair meetings and also represent the group on the Cultural Partnership.

8.2.1 Remit of Thematic Groups

It's understood that the desire is for the Thematic Groups to operate as flexibly as possible, to be inclusive and dynamic and the remit is therefore suggested as:

- To support the innovation of projects and initiatives that contribute to the Cultural Strategy Delivery Plan;
- To co-ordinate partners activity and funding where possible;
- To contribute to the monitoring and reporting of partners' projects and activities including to the Cultural Partnership; and
- To make recommendations to the Cultural Partnership about future activities in this area

8.2.2 The five initial Thematic Groups will be as follows:

- Culture and Sector Governance and Fair Work: Promoting and shaping best practice regionally for Fair Work, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Health and Safety, governance in cultural organisations
- Culture and Place and Community Wealth-Building: Cross sector working, developing our contributions to place initiatives and identifying new income streams for culture
- Culture and Education and Skills: Supporting and initiating education and skills development in culture
- Culture and Community Health and Wellbeing: Supporting and initiating wellbeing through culture

- Culture and Visitor Economy: Developing our international profile, regional identity and marketing

8.3 Cultural Partnership Chair

- The Chair will be an independent, part time paid position with an initial 1-year term of appointment.

Review of the Chair will take place annually with continuation, or re-appointment agreed by a majority of the Partnership.

9. Meetings

The Cultural Partnership founder members and Chair will meet a minimum of four times per year; and operate in line with its Standing Orders. Meetings will not normally be held in public.

Meetings/events of the Thematic Groups will be determined by their memberships as required.

10. Budget

The Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Partnership will be responsible for managing budget delegated to it and extra funding raised. This includes the Regional Cultural Fund from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

11. Reporting and Monitoring

The Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Partnership will present an Annual Report to the Dumfries and Galloway Community Planning Partnership Board, through the Senior Leadership Team, on its membership, participation and Workplan.

The Partnership will develop a Performance Framework for the Delivery Plan of the Cultural Strategy and will submit progress reports on it to the Community Planning Partnership Board.

12. Relationships

Advocacy and influencing activities of the Cultural Partnership are delivered primarily through its relationships with the Dumfries and Galloway Community Planning Partnership, the Regional Economic Partnership and the South of Scotland Net Zero Roadmap.

The Cultural Partnership will liaise with and communicate its activities to national agencies and bodies including (but not limited to) Creative Scotland, Museums

Galleries Scotland, Historic Environment Scotland, Scottish Libraries and Information Council, Creative Carbon Scotland, Visit Scotland, NHS Scotland.

13. Communication and Engagement

Minutes of the meetings of the Cultural Partnership and its Thematic Groups and reports on events will be available publicly.

Founder members of the Partnership are responsible for having information available on their websites and two way feedback with the organisation/forum which they are representing. The Cultural Partnership hopes to put on events and forums to engage with the cultural sector.

The Cultural Partnership will develop a Communication and Engagement Plan which will ensure effective and appropriate promotion and marketing of activities; efficient and appropriate records management; that all representatives are able to voice their needs, share opportunities and future potential actions in the Cultural Partnership; and assist in planning evidence-based advocacy.

14. Support

The Cultural Partnership and its Thematic Groups will be assisted in the first year by a part-time paid Coordinator and a part-time paid Administrator; along with support and assistance from the founder members.