

Portsmouth City Council Scrutiny Scoping Document

Scrutiny Panel	Economic Development, Culture and Leisure
Topic	Culture - An exploration of cultural accessibility and engagement with deprived communities.
Purpose of enquiry inc. potential outcomes. (The remit to be clear and concise as this statement forms the backbone of the enquiry)	<p>To investigate how the council might be able to improve engagement with deprived communities in respect of literacy attainment and whether this is linked to any barriers that may exist for those communities in accessing the council run cultural offer within the city. Deprived communities refer to those areas in Portsmouth which are identified on the English Indices of Deprivation 2019 here.</p> <p>To investigate what action is being taken to publicly engage with deprived communities to enable the reach of the libraries and museums offer and to enable city residents in all areas to be engaged with our cultural assets.</p> <p>A resulting report to Cabinet will detail these findings, along with any associated recommendations to improve access to cultural accessibility, cultural enrichment and cultural reach in those deprived areas in association with and in relation to literature amongst other elements.</p>
Reason for enquiry	<p>The Summer Reading Challenge 2023 results showed lower results for deprived communities. The schools with the lowest level of engagement in the Summer Reading Challenge can be found in this report which correlate to the deprived communities above.</p> <p>As part of the city rich in culture, for the council to demonstrate that it has connection with harder to reach communities for cultural activity.</p>
Enquiry format	A full review to include a full range of both internal and external witnesses from relevant cultural partnerships and agencies.
Corporate Priority linked to	A City Rich in Culture & Creativity A City of Lifelong Learning.
Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Cllr Steve Pitt Culture, Regeneration & Economic Development

Relevant officers	Claire Watkins - Business Manager Dave Percival - Libraries Manager Clare Liddell - Libraries Outreach Manager Cathy Hakes - Head of Museums
Consultees & stakeholders	External witness contact details to be provided
Start Date	September 2024
Target Completion Date	March 2025.