



# Cultural Services Strategy

2024-2028







*Peter Buckley.*

**County Councillor Peter Buckley**  
Cabinet Member for Community  
and Cultural Services

Cultural Services is an important part of Lancashire County Council and plays a vital role in the communities we serve. It achieves significant impact by engaging people and having a positive benefit on their lives.

Working with Lancashire's residents, community organisations, Friends and volunteer groups, partners, funders, and national bodies, our Cultural Services enable a wide range of life enriching cultural opportunities.

# Foreword

With libraries (including in prisons and mobile libraries) museums and heritage, music centres, archives, outdoor education centres, conservation and collections centre and the school library service, Lancashire's cultural offers reach into all communities.

During the period covered by the last strategy, there have been some considerable successes delivering benefit where it is most needed and bringing in external funding to enable more opportunities for people across Lancashire to engage in culture and improve their wellbeing.

These experiences informed by our communities and our corporate priorities have enabled the County Council to identify the goals for Cultural Services for the next 4 years.

Through this strategy, Lancashire County Council is

setting out a vision for how Cultural Services will work with partners to achieve better outcomes for the people of Lancashire. Recognition of the part that creativity and culture can play in supporting local economies, health and wellbeing, and children and young people, has flourished over recent years.

We value the opportunity for people to come together in person in our venues to learn, enjoy and share experiences with their communities.

This social interaction has a significant benefit on health, happiness and wellbeing as well as making stronger communities. We also understand the major contribution that enabling digital access plays in connecting communities.

County Councillor  
Peter Buckley



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# Our Mission

***The people of Lancashire will lead happier, healthier, and enriched lives through culture, supporting our county to be a vibrant place to live and ensuring that innovation and creativity are at the heart of everything we do.***



Goofus Theatre & with Passion & Purpose



# Who we are and what we do

Lancashire County Council Cultural Services is comprised of a comprehensive network of libraries across the county, prison library service, mobile libraries, home library service, museum service, conservation and collections, archives and local history, music service, heritage learning, outdoor education, cultural development, school library service, information development, resources, and support teams. Together we support, develop, deliver, and enable a wide range of positive cultural opportunities.

Lancashire is rich in its heritage and culture. Our collections and venues reflect Lancashire's diversity and uniqueness. Culture plays an important role in the health, happiness, and economy of Lancashire and provides a sense of place. Culture cannot easily be defined within a familiar list, but it has the combined influence upon all our lives of creativity, the arts, physical activity, access to museums, galleries, libraries, archives and heritage.

Our cultural sector is the network of individuals, community groups, Friends and volunteers, organisations, communities, local authorities and businesses that together preserve, reflect, celebrate and promote who we are, in all our rich diversity. Cultural Services is uniquely placed to enable great culture and creativity to flourish – and to ensure that everyone can have access through safe, accessible venues and events. Working together we can support stronger communities with residents and visitors enjoying our rich culture and heritage.

To learn more about our services visit:

[www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-plans/libraries-museums-and-archives/](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-plans/libraries-museums-and-archives/)







# Our Objectives

## **1. Create lifelong learning opportunities to enrich lives and to benefit from cultural services.**

- We will provide a wide range of inspirational opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to learn and equip them with core skills such as literacy.
- We will offer experiences which enhance lives and the wellbeing of our communities.
- We will work with partners and communities to create resources and activities which support learning enabling people to live their best lives.

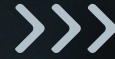
## **2. Improve the inclusivity of our cultural offers enabling everyone to engage as audience, participant or creative producer.**

- We will work with community groups, local authorities and other partners and stakeholders to support a wide range of cultural offers.
- We will enable cultural experiences which add to pride in our communities and contributes to sense of place.
- We will listen to the views, needs and ideas of our communities, working together to make sure our services are relevant and innovative.
- We will make sure all people are treated with respect, feel safe and are confident in participating and informing our offers.

## **3. Empower people to lead healthier and fulfilled lives through access to trusted information, a wide range of activities and positive social interaction.**

- We will promote and provide access to trusted information, technology, and resources to enable people to best support their own self-care, health and wellbeing.
- We will offer and support a wide range of activities for people to engage in and benefit their mental and physical wellbeing.
- We will contribute to the strengthening of community resilience through engaging communities in how our cultural offers are delivered in their area to better reflect their needs.
- We will continue to develop our volunteering opportunities enabling people to make a positive difference to their community, build their skills and benefit from making friendships and improve their confidence.
- We will be environmentally responsible and innovative in our approach towards achieving net zero for carbon and support nature recovery.



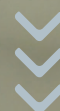
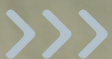


#### **4. Inspire young people through a cultural offer enriching their lives to achieve better outcomes.**

- We will work with education partners to deliver programmes that link directly to subjects across the National Curriculum including key priority areas such as literacy and numeracy.
- We will support the development of skills through provision of formal and informal cultural activities.
- We will provide inspiring creative learning environments outside of the classroom using activities and experiences which enhance young people's learning.
- We will offer a range of volunteering opportunities for young people, supporting them to build life skills for further education and employment, make friends and build confidence.
- We will work with young people to develop our offers and embed their views and needs into our planning.

#### **5. Ensure our collections are relevant and accessible contributing to pride of place and a sense of belonging for all our communities.**

- We will promote and offer useful, important and meaningful collections for all people across Lancashire through exhibitions, activities and archives.
- We will work with communities to co-create collections which reflect our diverse communities.
- We will ensure better access to our collections by improving digital access to collections and collection information.





# How we will monitor what has been achieved

## We will:

- Create and review annual business plans within the framework of this strategy. These will ensure that we deliver a service which is relevant to the individuals and communities of Lancashire.
- Produce an annual report for Cultural Services sharing the performance of our teams.
- Have key performance indicators both corporate and service-driven which are reviewed annually.
- Continue to benchmark performance against other local authorities.
- Monitor our services by using both data and the experiences of our communities and audiences.
- Measure our performance against our financial budget each year.
- Review progress and make any additional actions needed to implement the strategy.







# What will success look like?

We will work with customers, families, schools, community groups, Friends organisations and individuals to identify and develop quality cultural and learning opportunities to enhance their lives and potential.

We will provide trusted information and activities ensuring that more people can access different types of help and support at our libraries. We will work in partnership to identify and secure external resources, to enable the service to develop our offers and our spaces to respond to the needs of our communities, encouraging increased use of our museums and cultural attractions.

We will collaborate with colleagues across the county council, district councils and unitary authorities to ensure that service and local knowledge inform our plans and service delivery.





Through our museum and archive collections, and locally rooted projects, residents will feel pride in their place and will see the contribution their community makes to achieving the whole county's aspirations. Example: Projects such as Clarets Collected where the Lancashire Archives is working with football fans at Burnley Library to co-create a Burnley Football Club archive.

We will support children to learn, achieve, and be happy through the creation of innovative programmes building on the experience of nationally recognised, local programmes such as the Lancashire Storytelling Festival delivered by Heritage Learning Lancashire. The festival encourages literacy and the joy of creativity, connecting oral storytelling, literacy and cultural heritage. Our reading programmes for children will continue to be relevant and support the diverse needs of our children and young people.

Cultural Services will help upskill people and support them towards employment. Through job clubs, lifelong learning opportunities, volunteering, placements, apprenticeships and work with partners to offer training we will support people on their journey to

find work. We will develop bespoke programmes which support workforce skills in the cultural sector.

Initiatives such as the Heritage Skills Programme offering practical sessions over 12 weeks to learn new skills, understand where their own transferable skills lie and increase their confidence, will inform how we support people into jobs.

We will extend our welcome to new communities settling in Lancashire through initiatives which highlight our range of free services supporting people at all stages of their lives.

All libraries have the Library of Sanctuary national designation recognising good practice of welcoming people seeking sanctuary and other new arrivals into their community. It aims to foster a culture of welcome and inclusivity.







We will support health, life chances and independence, so residents can live healthy lives and access trusted information when they need it.

We will work with a range of partners including Public Health colleagues, Active Lancashire, Arts Lancashire, and NHS professionals to develop quality offers which benefit the people of Lancashire at different times in their lives.

We will ensure our services are inclusive and accessible to all residents of Lancashire and reflect the diversity and vibrancy of all our communities. Cultural Services will ensure that an inclusive offer is at the heart of our service planning and delivery.

Outdoor education centres will offer all year-round opportunities for schools and groups to benefit from physical activities, team building and creative problem solving and in doing so support their mental as well as physical health. Outdoor Education is well placed to provide alternative provision for children and young people through their curriculum offer.

Libraries will offer a range of activities such as taster and accessible gentle exercise sessions for adults who want to stay physically active. Development of information through Reading Well for Health books and other trusted health information will be available in all libraries or online, supporting quality self-care.

Lancashire Archives will continue to develop archive and local history collections and seek further projects to bring our Lancashire heritage to life. Through the creation of new collections, working with our communities, we will share collections old and new, online and offline, in fun and creative ways that engage even more people.

## Background papers



To learn more about our services in a local and national context, scan the QR code or visit [www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-plans/libraries-museums-and-archives/](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-plans/libraries-museums-and-archives/)



