

## WORKSTREAM - 2021 PROGRAMME

### Northern Culture APPG Inquiry

#### 'Post-Covid Action Plan for Northern Culture'

#### What does Northern Culture need to rebuild, rebalance and recover?

### CONTEXT

The North's cultural industry has been hit hard by Covid-19 and faces an historic challenge as the global pandemic continues to affect our everyday lives.

The Northern Culture APPG will hold a major inquiry into what Northern Culture needs to rebuild, rebalance and recover. This inquiry will produce a bespoke 'State of the North' report on Northern Culture, providing a united voice on pan-Northern cultural asks and priorities in order to shape and influence future Government decision making and policy.

The Northern Culture Inquiry will hear evidence with a view to:

- making recommendations to Government on rebalancing Northern Culture in recovery
- producing a 'Post-Covid Action Plan' to rebuild Northern Culture
- generating and influencing debate and policy thinking to accelerate and embed policy change
- highlighting the need to level-up investment to support cultural growth in Northern towns and cities

The Inquiry will hear views from cultural stakeholders across the North and its terms of reference will encourage evidence on how to level-up opportunities to increase diversity, sustainability, accessibility and resilience in Northern Culture.

### FORMAT

We will hold a series of "virtual" sessions adopting a Select Committee format. Our aim is to seek active cultural stakeholder engagement in each session and target key speakers and MPs to lead and participate in sessions.

The proposed sessions will be choreographed to ensure a good mix of presentation, speakers and Q&A and outline in its terms of reference the key questions to be addressed. By calling on MPs and others to submit questions and contributions in advance, the Chair will have an indication of the questions that will be addressed as well as the MPs who want to participate. In this way we can secure quality engagement in the respective debates. In addition, each session will field live chat with questions on the day and a rapporteur to write-up and review evidence collected.

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*Prepared by DevoConnect, March 2021.* The Northern Culture APPG/Club is kindly supported by our Academic Partner - Northumbria University and Sponsoring Partners - Counterculture, The Old Courts and CT Consults:

## HOW TO SUBMIT EVIDENCE

We are calling for all cultural stakeholders in the North to get involved in this first of its kind report that will be put to Government. The Secretariat has set up an online portal via our website, that will allow you to submit to all topics and questions below. You will be able to access the portal **after the Inquiry Launch on 18<sup>th</sup> March**.

If you would like to give oral evidence to any of the outlined sessions below, please complete your submission by the deadline of **10<sup>th</sup> May 17:00**. Evidence after this date will still go into the written report, but you will not be considered for oral evidence.

If you would like any further information, please email us: [northerncultureappg@devoconnect.co.uk](mailto:northerncultureappg@devoconnect.co.uk)

## OUTLINE PROGRAMME AND TIMELINE FOR 2021

**18<sup>th</sup> March 2021 14:00 – 15:30**

**Inquiry Launch – Evidence Session I**

**Northern Culture in Recovery: Outlining the key issues facing Northern Culture in the immediate recovery of Covid-19**

*The Secretariat will not be collecting written evidence for the Launch of this Inquiry. However, if there is a question you feel should be raised during this first session, please get in touch with us via [northerncultureappg@devoconnect.co.uk](mailto:northerncultureappg@devoconnect.co.uk)*

**13<sup>th</sup> May 2021 14:00 – 15:30**

**Evidence Session II**

**Increasing the North's Access to Culture: How do we support and encourage young people's creativity and cultural job opportunities post-Covid?**

**Terms of reference** and key questions we are seeking evidence on:

1. How do we support and encourage young people's creativity and cultural job opportunities post-Covid?
2. How do we boost skills, create equal opportunities for all, promote diversity and support ambitions to empower future generations?
3. How do we help develop a supply chain for talent and harness what many towns and cities in the North have always done – acted as a 'pool of talent' with pathways into the creative sectors?
4. How do we increase higher levels of engagement with culture?

**9<sup>th</sup> July 2021 14:00 – 15:30**

**Evidence Session III**

**Levelling up Cultural Infrastructure in our Northern Towns & Cities: How do we ensure a fair spread of funding for culture across our Northern communities?**

**Terms of reference** and key questions we are seeking evidence on:

1. How do we ensure a fair spread of funding for culture across our Northern communities?
2. How do we level-up investment to help restore and rebuild cultural institutions?
3. How do we improve the physical barriers to engagement with culture, be that inaccessible venues or poor transport links?
4. Should more powers and funding be devolved to build back culture in the North?

**23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021 14:00 – 15:30**

**Evidence Session IV**

**Getting Northern Culture back on track: What are the opportunities for Northern Culture?**

**Terms of reference** and key questions we are seeking evidence on:

1. What are the opportunities for Northern Culture?
2. How do we get confidence back in our audience post Covid-19?
3. What has been the impact on communities and welfare?
4. How do we promote a strong and cohesive brand for the North, building recognition of its' world class reputation?

**TBC November 2021 - Findings Session and Launch**

**A showcase of the APPG's Inquiry Findings**

The purpose of this session is to highlight the findings, proposals and suggestions to Government and launch the final APPG report. The report will reflect a strong pan-Northern coalition of voices, banging a collective drum for the North's cultural sector, making sure it is being heard and not left behind.

*There will be no evidence collected for this session. Date TBC by the Secretariat in due course.*

**The deadline for written evidence is 1700 on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Written evidence submitted after this date will still be considered in the final report, but organisations will not have the opportunity to give oral evidence in the call to evidence sessions above.**

**Are you interested in sponsoring the work of the Northern Culture APPG?**

**[Please click here to read more about how you can get involved.](#)**

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