

Proposed Cross Party Group

Culture and Communities

Inaugural Meeting

1st September 2021

Draft Minutes

In attendance:

Claire Baker MSP

Jenni Minto MSP

Sarah Boyak MSP

Michael Marra MSP

Clare Adamson MSP

Non MSP: Jennifer Hunter (Culture Counts); Andy Stirling Robertson (Culture Counts)

1 Agree name of Group

The group agreed the name Cross Party Group on Culture and Communities.

There was a short discussion where Jennifer and Claire Baker MSP outlined the distinction between issues experienced by the public and private sector.

Jennifer explained that issues of investment into the creative economy and into entrepreneurship for example, (although linked) are often quite far away from issues surrounding public access to the arts; community centres, libraries and museums.

It is proposed that the industrial side of the sector have a specific space to discuss issues such as Brexit; international trade; enterprise and economic development.

2 Agree Group Purpose

The draft purpose was agreed, as follows:

To encourage the exchange of knowledge and understanding between the Scottish Parliament and arts, culture, heritage and historic environment communities.

The group has a focus on widening access and highlights the social impact of the sector.

The group may consider topics such as place; planning; sector sustainability; access and participation; infrastructure and future generations.

3 Appointment of Convener

The Convener was agreed as Sarah Boyack MSP (Labour)

4 Appointment of Deputy Convener

Sue Webber MSP was nominated as Deputy Convener. Jennifer agreed to take this nomination to Sue and to ask for confirmation.

Confirmation was agreed via Zoom Monday 6th September 2021.

5 Appointment of Secretariat

Culture Counts were agreed as the Secretariat.

6 Next Steps

Claire Baker MSP asked when the first meeting may be able to take place. Jennifer suggested that administratively the first meeting should be able to take place around October / November 2021.

Claire Baker MSP asked the groups for their preference of online versus in-person meetings.

The majority agreed that while in-person meetings are useful that zoom may have to suffice until the Parliament can safely allow a wider group of people to attend.

Jennifer suggested the option for Hybrid meetings as a possibility for the future.