

Proposed Areas of Work for 2026-27

The following proposed areas of work have been identified through the findings of the Connecting Our Cultural Landscape engagement programme. These are intended to support discussion between DGCP partners and help inform priorities for the coming year.

These priorities are intended to guide future partnership working, collaboration and strategic discussion. They are not intended as a fixed work programme, but as a working framework that can evolve as the Partnership develops and responds to emerging opportunities and priorities. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Environmental Sustainability are recognised as cross-cutting principles that should inform and underpin all areas of work.

1. Strengthen accessible communication, visibility and connectivity across the cultural sector.
2. Improve access to cultural activity across Dumfries and Galloway, including addressing barriers relating to transport, geography and participation.
3. Support artists, freelancers, volunteers, heritage workers and the wider cultural workforce through clearer development pathways and opportunities.
4. Strengthen and celebrate the region's heritage sector while encouraging greater collaboration between arts, culture and heritage organisations.
5. Create opportunities for networking, knowledge sharing and collaboration across organisations, communities and sectors.
6. Strengthen relationships between culture and other key sectors and cross-cutting priorities, including health and wellbeing, education, tourism, community development, environmental sustainability and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.
7. Improve understanding of cultural infrastructure, spaces and assets across the region and explore opportunities for shared resources and collaborative approaches.
8. Continue engaging with underrepresented communities and ensure a wider range of voices help shape future cultural development.
9. Use the findings of the engagement report to inform DGCP priorities, funding discussions and future strategic planning.
10. Continue to develop the role of the Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Partnership as a connector, amplifier and advocate for culture across the region.

Potential Approaches for Discussion

- 1. Strengthen accessible communication, visibility and connectivity across the cultural sector.**



- Create a shared communications calendar highlighting major cultural activity across the region.
- Signpost existing DGCP partner directories, listings and information platforms through the DGCP website.
- Develop a regular DGCP bulletin highlighting opportunities, funding, events and sector news.
- Coordinate promotion of regional cultural activity where appropriate.
- Create a central signposting page on the DGCP website linking to existing sources of information.
- Map existing information sources and identify gaps in provision.
- Develop simple guidance for organisations seeking support, funding or partnership opportunities.

2. Improve access to cultural activity across Dumfries and Galloway, including addressing barriers relating to transport, geography and participation.

- Produce a briefing paper summarising the challenges identified through the engagement programme.
- Engage with transport and infrastructure organisations to share findings.
- Identify opportunities for pilot approaches to improving access to cultural activity.
- Explore barriers to participation and involvement.

3. Support artists, freelancers, volunteers, heritage workers and the wider cultural workforce through clearer development pathways and opportunities.

- Map existing opportunities and identify gaps.
- Explore mentoring and peer support schemes.
- Investigate apprenticeships, placements and shadowing opportunities.
- Strengthen links with education providers.
- Map existing volunteer development and workforce support opportunities.
- Explore training and skills development needs across museums, heritage organisations and community groups.
- Identify opportunities for volunteer progression and recognition.
- Share good practice around volunteer recruitment and retention.
- Explore opportunities for cross-sector training and peer support.

4. Strengthen and celebrate the region's heritage sector while encouraging greater collaboration between arts, culture and heritage organisations.

- Improve visibility of museums, heritage organisations and heritage activity across the region.



- Share examples of successful heritage engagement projects and approaches.
- Identify opportunities for skills development, volunteering and workforce support.
- Explore opportunities for joint promotion and shared learning across the heritage sector.
- Map existing heritage assets, organisations and activity to identify opportunities and gaps.
- Create opportunities for dialogue and networking between arts and heritage organisations.
- Identify opportunities for collaborative programming and projects.
- Share examples of successful arts and heritage partnerships.
- Explore opportunities to connect heritage with contemporary creative practice.
- Encourage cross-sector approaches to audience development, learning and participation.

5. Create opportunities for networking, knowledge sharing and collaboration across organisations, communities and sectors.

- Continue creating opportunities for networking, relationship-building and knowledge sharing across the sector.
- Deliver at least two networking and engagement events annually.
- Pilot themed networking events focused on specific topics such as wellbeing, heritage, skills or sustainability.
- Create opportunities for organisations to share case studies and examples of good practice.
- Identify areas where organisations face similar challenges such as governance, evaluation, environmental reporting or volunteer management.
- Explore the feasibility of shared tools, templates and resources.
- Share examples of successful collaborative approaches from within and beyond the region.

6. Strengthen relationships between culture and other key sectors and cross-cutting priorities, including health and wellbeing, education, tourism, community development, environmental sustainability and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

- Convene a culture and wellbeing roundtable involving the cultural and health sector.
- Map existing creative health activity taking place across the region.
- Share examples of successful wellbeing projects and approaches.
- Identify opportunities for future partnership working and knowledge exchange.
- Convene a culture and sustainability roundtable involving cultural, environmental and community organisations.
- Map existing environmentally focused cultural activity taking place across the region.
- Share examples of projects exploring climate, nature, landscape and sustainability.



- Identify opportunities for collaboration around environmental reporting, sustainable practice and community engagement.
- Convene a culture and inclusion roundtable involving cultural organisations, community groups and EDI specialists.
- Map existing inclusive and community-led cultural activity across the region.
- Share examples of successful approaches to widening participation and representation.
- Identify opportunities to engage communities currently underrepresented within the cultural sector.

7. Improve understanding of cultural infrastructure, spaces and assets across the region and explore opportunities for shared resources and collaborative approaches.

- Create a database of cultural venues, heritage assets and community spaces.
- Identify underused or vacant spaces with potential cultural uses.
- Explore opportunities to better connect existing infrastructure across the region.

8. Continue engaging with underrepresented communities and ensure a wider range of voices help shape future cultural development.

- Continue engagement with underrepresented communities, sectors and geographic areas in Dumfries and Galloway.
- Undertake targeted engagement activity in areas not represented through the initial consultation.
- Build relationships with groups whose voices are currently less visible within the cultural sector.

9. Use the findings of the engagement report to inform DGCP priorities, funding discussions and future strategic planning.

- Share findings with strategic DGCP partners and wider sector.
- Use the report to support funding applications and sector development.
- Review progress.

10. Continue to develop the role of the Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Partnership as a connector, amplifier and advocate for culture across the region.

- Continue to develop clear messaging about the purpose and role of the DGCP.
- Create case studies demonstrating the value of partnership working.
- Ensure future DGCP activity complements and strengthens existing sector activity rather than duplicating it.



These proposed areas of work are not intended as a finalised work programme, but as a starting point for discussion between DGCP partners. They reflect recurring themes identified through the engagement programme and provide a framework for considering future priorities, partnership activity and collaborative action across Dumfries and Galloway.