

Cultural Strategy 2026/27 - Consultation Response

Early consultation, prior to public consultation launch (shared in June 2025)

Dear Consultations Team,

The strategy focuses a lot around engaging younger audiences to ensure we have future generations of cultural creators. However, there is less around:

- The importance of showcasing excellence in culture
- The vision of being a leading cultural hub in the county
- Supporting our leading arts organisations and broader existing cultural offering (and really shouting about them)
- Protecting heritage and cultural buildings

There's only one reference to supporting establishments to find funding streams, which we think is essential going forward (p.21).

'Vision for the Future' mentions 'excellence' through education, but what about high quality / excellence in performances?

p.7 Gulbenkian Arts Centre and Canterbury Festival need adding

p.9 "investment in creativity and innovation" - it's not just about people choosing to invest in Canterbury, we need investment into the cultural institutions that already exist in the district.

p. 16 AMBITION 3 - Grow the creative economy, this needs further explanation

p.18 AMBITION 7 - This will be incredibly useful and a very positive step.