

Solihull Cultural Compact

Board Membership



Background

The launch of Solihull's first cultural strategy begins with the people and places of Solihull and is rooted in the experiences, needs, and ambitions of all those who live, work, and visit the borough. This strategy builds on the work that has taken place so far in Solihull. There is much to celebrate and acknowledge, but also many ambitions to realise for the role that culture can play in Solihull.

Developing culture provides both social and economic value to a place. A vibrant culture benefits the people who live in, and grow up there, increasing wellbeing, creativity, and identity. Culture does not exist in a vacuum and the strategy marks a significant step for the borough, its stakeholders, and partners in making a concerted effort to work together and ensure that the conditions for culture to develop are nurtured, supported, and advocated for.

There is a growing cultural community within the borough, with significant interest from other organisations that see Solihull as a great place to support and grow their work. However, to make the most of these opportunities the strategy recognises that overall, the sector in the borough has been underdeveloped. There has been a significant amount of developing and testing of activity in the borough and now is the time to formalise the priorities and outputs for culture, establish the baselines to measure impact and fully embed culture as a key priority. The Cultural Compact will be the key driver of the strategy, implementing and steering the direction of cultural activity borough wide.

Who

Are you passionate about changing lives through culture? Do you want to work with others to support a flourishing cultural and creative sector in Solihull? Are you keen to work with others to ensure a vibrant and welcoming cultural offer for all?

We are seeking expressions of interest from a range of people from varied backgrounds, both from key organisations and/or those with expertise in relevant sectors, to bring their experience, resources, knowledge, and networks to help lead Solihull's journey towards delivering an ambitious cultural offer for its residents, businesses and creative community. The Compact Boards' primary function is to enable alignment and coordination amongst borough stakeholders, drive forward action and develop and deliver a distinct and relevant cultural offer for Solihull. We do not see this as being a council led project, but rather the council will be one of many active partners.

What We're Looking For

We are seeking up to 16 members for this Board. While the successful candidates will be appointed as a Board member in an individual capacity, they may represent a specific organisation or network.

The leadership capability we are looking for could involve a range of areas, such as:

- A senior role in a related business or organisation in the borough.
- Providing the borough/region with vital infrastructure and/or services that will be key to achieving the Board objectives.
- Being a key policy or regulatory body, which influences the key outcomes of the borough.
- Being a key leader/deliverer/or influencer, with an ability to shape or influence public, business, and/or organisational opinion and actions in the borough.
- Being a champion representing the interests of priority groups and communities to ensure that the needs of residents and businesses are at the heart of the work of the Board i.e., Business and Economic Growth, Health and Wellbeing, Children and Young People, Safer Communities and Building Stronger Communities, Solihull CEP

Solihull Cultural Compact Board Membership



- Having other influence in the borough, region or country which can assist with goals of the Boards.
- Artists and creatives living and/or working in the borough.
- Representatives from VCSFE groups.

As board members will be responsible for its success, candidates must demonstrate an ability and willingness to work collaboratively. Further qualities, skills/abilities and experiences that will be sought when making appointments are outlined below, but no individual candidate is expected to be able to offer all of these:

Qualities

Candidates should:

- reside, work and/or have a strong business or personal interest in the borough or region
- have skills/expertise in different aspects of the theme of the Board
- be able to show willingness and ability to engage with other key organisations
- be able to affect change, for example, through the scale or impact of their business, organisation, their personal influence or skills/expertise
- have an ability to influence outcomes within their own organisations and/or in other for a
- be keen to provide borough-level Culture related knowledge.

Skills

Candidates may:

- be able to collaborate with: fellow Board members, as well as other groups and organisations
- be able to offer and receive constructive challenge where necessary
- be able to influence others and act as a thought-leader
- have experience of driving significant change within organisations and/or communities
- have technical and/or academic knowledge of cultural or creative sector issues including equality.
- be well-positioned to influence and/or leverage resources to Culture related outcomes or influence policymaking and practice to do so.

Knowledge

Candidates may have:

- expertise in (but not limited to) Culture
- interest in creating interest and engaging others in the cultural and creative industries, in all its facets
- awareness of Solihull's communities
- expertise and influence that will help to address systemic culture issues and resolve barriers.

Diversity

We want to unlock the opportunities that culture and creativity can bring for people, organisations and businesses. We will ensure that the Boards' membership is as diverse as possible, so its members have the power, voice and agency to shape the vision and

Solihull Cultural Compact Board Membership



programme of work of the Cultural Compact. We will actively work to foster an inclusive working environment where everyone feels respected, heard, valued and supported. We are undertaking an open 'expressions of interest' process to help achieve this. We are keen to strive for equality on the Board and to encourage applications from people from groups that risk being under-represented.

Support and mentoring will be offered to any successful candidates who feel that this would help them to play a full and active role in a Boards' work.

Eligibility

All prospective Board members must agree to not bring the work of the Culture Board and its approach into disrepute.

Additional Information

Time commitment: Members will be expected to attend 4 meetings a year (quarterly), and one away day and respond on an ad hoc basis to emails and phone calls between these. Meetings will be held in a location within the borough (venue to be rotated where possible) and likely to last for around three hours or virtual via Teams. The overall commitment of time is expected to be between 5 and 10 days each year. There are likely to be further opportunities to engage with cross-theme working groups, etc. but these would not be a requirement for members.

Term of appointment: Members of each Board will be appointed for 2 or 3 years in the first instance. It is also anticipated the Board will also undertake reviews every 18 months. Co-opted appointment for specific skills and experiences may be made for shorter periods

Appointment process: A panel made up of representatives of Solihull Council, representatives and wider borough stakeholders will appoint members of the Board from the expressions received based on the information outlined above. While formal interviews are not planned, a member of the panel may contact candidates for an informal discussion about the role.

How to Apply

To apply please complete an application form either through Microsoft forms here <https://forms.office.com/e/tFAaSLmByr> or using the word form below and sent to culture@solihull.gov.uk.

All applications must be received by **09:00 on Monday 29th September**.

All application information will be kept confidential and managed in line with General Data Protection Regulations.

Information will be shared with the Solihull Culture Team and panel members to enable the recruitment process. The application form contains optional monitoring questions. This data will help to achieve diversity across the Board and will be stored anonymously in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

Solihull Cultural Compact Board Membership



Contact details

Name	
Address	
Organisation (if relevant)	
Phone number(s)	
Email address	

Relevant Skills and Experience

--

Why are you interested in joining the board and what can you bring to support the delivery and aspirations of the Cultural Compact and Cultural Strategy?

--

100 word Biography (if successful this may be used on web and social media)

Photograph

I would like to be part of the board for Solihull Cultural Compact. If successful, I understand the commitment to be a minimum of four meetings a year plus an away day.

If successful I agree to my bio and photo being used alongside that of other board members.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

The next page contains monitoring questions which will help us to monitor and expand the breadth and reach of the Board. They will not be considered along your application.

You can choose not to answer these questions if you wish.

Monitoring question: How would you describe your gender?

Monitoring questions: How would you describe your sexuality?

Monitoring questions: How would you describe your ethnicity?

Monitoring questions: Do you consider yourself to have a disability or healthcare need? If yes, what support would you need to realise your work on the board?

Monitoring question: How would you describe your religion?