

**QUESTION BY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC**

**Question submitted by:** Mat Surtees

**To the Cabinet Member or Chair for:** Deputy Leader

**To be asked at the next (Council, Cabinet or Planning Committee) Meeting:** City Council

**Date:** 26 January 2025

**Question:** With the announcement made that Plymouth will bid to be UK City of Culture 2029, will you commit to working with and including our diverse communities, from our Black and Ethnic communities to the Disabled community and more, in any and all plans made?

**Response:** (for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members / Chairs)

Thank you for your question and the answer is yes, most definitely. For any bid to succeed we will need to demonstrate meaningful engagement with our residents across the city and that is what we intend to do.

There are several phases to the process. The first phase is to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) by 8 February 2026 which doesn't give us a lot of time. During this phase, meetings are taking place with stakeholders (this includes representatives from culture, sport, education, community, local authority, NHS, community homes, business, social enterprise, natural environment, tourism, leisure, hospitality) and the cultural sector including companies, artists and freelancers. We will also be hosting several community drop-in discussions to garner information from as many people as possible. Please check the Plymouth Culture website and social media platforms for announcements regarding dates.

If we go through to the next phase of the process, we will be able to undertake a deeper dive into community engagement. DCMS has not yet issued a detailed timetable but we think that a bid would need to be prepared between April and late July this year.