

Report to the Leader of the County Council
Report submitted by: Head of Libraries, Museums, Culture and Registrars
Date: 8 March 2017

Part I

Electoral Divisions affected:
All

Arts Development Grant Allocations 2017 -18
(Appendix 'A' refers)

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Executive Summary

This report summarises the application process and makes recommendation for the allocation of the Cultural Partnerships and Cultural Offer (Children and Young People) Investment Programme Funding for 2017/18.

Recommendation

The Leader of the County Council is asked to approve the grant amount for each organisation as specified in Appendix A.

Background and Advice

On 10th March 2016, the Leader of Lancashire County Council approved the application process and opening of the Cultural Partnerships and Cultural Offer (Children and Young People) Investment Programmes for 2016-18.

Cultural Partnership funding is aimed at organisations that use professional, quality arts activities and events to engage the general public of Lancashire.

The Cultural Offer funding is aimed at organisations that use the arts to engage and motivate children and young people in Lancashire in inspirational, professionally run arts activities.

The Culture Partnership and Cultural Offer funding are available to organisations who want to provide quality arts experiences to the residents of Lancashire. The funding process was widely promoted and a deadline of April 2016 was set for applications for both 2016/17 and 2017/18. The 2016/17 applications were approved by the Leader of the County Council in 2016 and those projects are now being delivered.

For 2017/18 a total of 26 applications were received (13 applications were received for the Cultural Partnerships and 13 for the Cultural Offer).

Following basic eligibility checks and initial arts officer criteria assessment, the Central Gateway Assessment Panel ("the Panel") (made up of the same arts officers and elected members) met in November 2016 and assessed each application on the strength of meeting the criteria as published including: Artistic Impact and Innovation, Access to Arts Provision and External Investment and Sustainability. The Panel recommended the list of successful applicants and how the fund should be divided between applicants. The Panel's recommendation was then considered by the Cabinet Working Group for the Third Sector ("Working Group") in December 2016 and the Working Group recommendations are set out in Appendix A allocating the grant amount for each organisation.

For Cultural Partnerships grants, the total sum requested is £147,050 with a total sum available of £92,000.

For the Cultural Offer grants, the total sum requested is £192,199 with a total sum available of £100,000 (£50,000 from Arts Development budget plus £50,000 investment from Curious Minds to specifically support children and young people's engagement in creative activities).

Both these amounts are within the agreed budget for the Arts Development Grant programme for 2017/18.

Lancashire County Council received £50,000 match for Cultural Offer Grants in 2016/17 from Curious Minds and they have agreed investment at the same amount in the grants programme for 2017/18. All offers will be conditional on Lancashire County Council being in receipt of the Curious Minds funding.

Collectively the applications deliver a wide range of creative activities across Lancashire contributing to targets of participation in the arts, audiences reached, volunteers engaged, the visitor economy and attracting external investment into Lancashire.

This report recommends allocating the full amount available for 2017/18. There is no commitment to arts funding beyond 2017/18.

Recommendations

The applications have been considered by both the Central Gateway Assessment Panel and the Cabinet Working Group for the Third Sector which met on the 9th November 2016 and the 7th December 2016 respectively. The recommendations from these meetings are outlined in Appendix A.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

These investment programmes were widely advertised with a deadline of April 28th 2016. To be fair to the sector, notification of decisions should be provided to

applicants by the end of March 2017 allowing sufficient time to deliver their programmes of activity and to finalise any conditional match funding offer. As part of the LCC transformation process there will no Arts Officers in post beyond March 2017 so any delay beyond this date would cause administrative difficulties.

Risk management

All applications have been rigorously assessed and the applications that are recommended for support are the ones most likely to be completed by March 2018. The track record of applicants and secured match funding have been key issues in the assessment process to minimise any risks of non - delivery.

Although there will be no dedicated Arts Officers working for the Council beyond May 2017 there will an assigned member of LMCR's business support team to collect monitoring information from each supported project.

The letters of agreement will also include a clawback procedure in the event of organisations not delivering their agreed project.

The risk of not supporting the recommendations in this report would be that it would limit the capacity of the arts sector in Lancashire to bring external investment into the County. This could severely affect the delivery of arts activity across Lancashire and limit opportunities for access to the arts in many communities.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
N/A		