

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 8 September 2022

Report of the Interim Head of Cultural Services

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Corporate Priorities:
Supporting economic growth;
Protecting our environment;
Caring for the vulnerable;

Lancashire Culture and Sport Fund

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Brief Summary

This report sets out proposals relating to the criteria to be used in the approval process for applications made to the Lancashire Culture and Sport Fund (LCSF).

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) Approve the criteria for the approval of applications made to the Lancashire Culture and Sport Fund (LCSF) 2022/23 as attached at Appendix 'A';
- (ii) Authorise the Head of Cultural Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community and Cultural Services to establish a panel of county council officers to consider applications to the fund and make recommendations on the allocation of funds to successful applicants;
- (iii) Authorise the Head of Cultural Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community and Cultural Services to approve the allocation of funds;
- (iv) Agree that an annual report be presented to the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee to monitor the scheme; and

- (v) Authorise the Head of Cultural Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community and Cultural Services to approve minor future changes to the criteria.

Detail

In February 2022, Full Council agreed to provide a match fund to support the culture and sport sector with annual support of £500,000. Officers have researched match fund models across the country to develop an effective approach to support cultural and sport activity. The model that is recommended to be adopted is a match crowdfund model which will allow the county council to understand the projects which matter most to local people.

There are approximately 30 local authorities who currently adopt similar schemes that enable people to show their support for projects which would make a difference in their communities. The support from Lancashire County Council will be called the Lancashire Culture and Sport Fund (LCSF) and this scheme will be the first of its type in Lancashire to offer financial support for cultural and sporting activity.

The process is underway for procuring the most appropriate central platform for the management and delivery of the crowdfunding aspect of the Lancashire Culture and Sport Fund. Following meetings with the digital business engagement team at the county council, it was agreed that the digital, professional, and legal requirements required for the platform, could not be delivered internally of the county council and that an external provider would need to be sourced.

The Lancashire Culture and Sport Fund will have two funding rounds in each year. Each round would be made up of a campaign phase to share information with communities across Lancashire. During this phase we would offer training to grassroots organisations who require support in developing their constitution and procedures in order to run a successful project. The recommended process will run as follows:

- Organisations would need to submit their application by a set deadline.
- Officers of the county council would check that all of the applications meet the criteria as set out in Appendix 'A' and score each application in relation to the county council's corporate priorities. The digital platform will also do some vetting to check that any necessary permissions are in place.
- Projects which meet these checks will go live on the Lancashire Culture and Sport Fund page on the digital platform. All projects in a round will be live at the same time.
- Each round would run for approximately 10-12 weeks.
- At this point the projects are open to pledges from the public.



- District Council Cultural and Leisure teams, Active Lancashire and local county councillors will be invited to provide feedback on which projects should be considered a high, medium or low priority for match funding from the county council.
- At 6 weeks into the live round, the digital platform will provide information to the county council on the number of pledges and amount raised so far.
- A panel of officers will take the feedback from the District Council Cultural and Leisure teams, Active Lancashire, local councillors and the digital platform and, make recommendations to the Head of Cultural Services, who will, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community and Cultural Services, determine the maximum amount of Lancashire Culture and Sport Fund support for each project.
- At the end of each funding round, the county council will transfer the appropriate amounts to support the nominated projects.
- Monitoring and evaluation from each project will be collated by officers and it is recommended that an annual report be presented to the Audit Risk and Governance Committee to monitor the scheme.

Consultations

Consultations have taken place with colleagues and organisations across Lancashire to determine how best to address the priorities and needs of communities in relation to culture and sport activity. Recommendations in this report have been proposed following consultation with:

- District Council Culture and Leisure teams
- Active Lancashire
- Arts Lancashire
- Marketing Lancashire
- Public Health
- Arts Council England

The service will monitor the process and any findings will be considered during the annual review in 2022/23.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

Financial

All grant decisions would be informed by local intelligence from district councils and / or Active Lancashire in addition to the criteria checks and adherence to the county council Corporate Priorities. All decisions will be supported by financial clearance



and a full record of grants awarded for 2022-23 will be presented to the county council's Audit Risk and Governance Committee.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

