

**REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, CULTURAL AND ENRICHMENT
SERVICES****ARTS GRANT AID 2014-15****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to advise members of the applications received to the Nottinghamshire Arts Fund (NAF) and seek approval from members of funding for a portfolio of grant awards. Furthermore, members are asked to approve the opening of a second round of applications in line with current process.

Background

2. The Corporate Grant Aid Strategy 2011-2015 agreed the continuation of the NAF to fund arts projects, and is open to applications from individuals and groups for awards of between £500 and £2500.
3. Funds are made available through the NAF to supports arts projects that help to deliver against NCC's current priority of 'Supporting Safe and Thriving Communities'.
4. Unlike other NCC grant streams, arts grant aid does not represent revenue funding. For instance, grants made under NAF are for projects with specific outcomes, such as engaging more people in the arts, with defined beginning and end dates. In this way, NCC grant-in-aid invests in groups to act as a catalyst for new and appealing activities, but it does not make groups reliant on this funding. The result is a sustainable arts sector more able to adapt and respond to opportunities.
5. As grants awarded are for specific projects with beginning and end dates, NAF grants do not follow 3 year agreements and run to a different funding timetable to other corporate grant aid streams.
6. Having an open access scheme also has the benefit of identifying for NCC's Arts Service new partners and initiatives that we can work with to support and develop, even where applicants have been unsuccessful in their initial applications.

Current Processes

7. The Nottinghamshire Arts Fund is a grant aid schemes aimed at helping local communities engage with the arts. It is open to applications from artists, community organisations, or professional arts organisations. As such it is a vital tool in supporting grass roots activity.
8. The Nottinghamshire Arts Fund opened for applications at the start of June and remained open for applications for 7 weeks. For this round we particularly welcomed applications that worked with groups of people 'most in need'. We have received 16 eligible applications. See table in Appendix 1 for details.
9. Electoral division is based on the main postcode of the activity.
10. Officers assess each application received scoring against the published priorities and criteria of the Nottinghamshire Arts Fund. The priorities of the fund are:
 - Developing community engagement and participation in the arts
 - Developing the workforce of the arts sector
 - Developing the infrastructure of the arts sector

Financial Implications

11. The allocation for Arts projects forms part of the overall budget for Grant Aid for 2014/15 and sufficient funds are available.

Reasons for Recommendation

12. Recommendations are based on the outcome of an assessment process that allocates scores against the priorities and criteria of the fund. The assessment process draws on the expert knowledge and experience of NCC Arts officers. For this round of funding we particularly welcomed applications that worked with groups of people with additional barriers to benefitting from the arts.
13. Projects with scores exceeding a threshold are recommended for funding. Those scoring beneath this threshold are not recommended. The threshold for funding is 21. The maximum score is 40.
14. In this way we ensure that the strongest, most viable projects with the greatest benefits are recommended for funding
15. A second round of funding will allow the allocation of the remaining funds and ensure additional benefits are brought to Nottinghamshire citizens.

Recommendation

16. Members are asked to approve a portfolio of grants to applicants, based on the information provided.

17. The recommended portfolio represents 62% of the funds allocated to the Nottinghamshire Arts Fund for 2014-15 and approval is sought to open a second round of funding later in the financial year that will allocate any remaining funds.

Statutory and Policy Implications

18. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

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Constitutional Comments (LM 18/08/2014)

The grant Aid Sub-Committee has delegated authority within the Constitution to approve the recommendation in the report'

Financial Comments (SEM 27.8.14)

The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All

