

## Bath & North East Somerset Council

DECISION MAKER:	<b>Cllr Terry Gazzard, Cabinet Member for Development &amp; Major Projects</b>		
DECISION DATE:	<b>On or after 5<sup>th</sup> March 2011</b>	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:	
		<b>E</b>	<b>2172</b>
TITLE:	<b>Grants to Voluntary Arts Organisations 2011-2014</b>		
WARD:	All		

### AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM

**List of attachments to this report:**

**Appendix 1:** Officers' Recommendations for award of Grants to Voluntary Arts Organisations: One-year Arts Project Grants, 2011-12 – Grants under £5000

**Appendix 2:** Officers' Recommendations for award of Grants to Voluntary Arts Organisations: Three-year Key Strategic Organisations, 2011-14 (2011-12 recommendations, and 2012-14 indicative) - Grants under £5000

## 1 THE ISSUE

1.1 The Council has allocated an Arts Development budget to be invested in the commissioning of arts projects and services delivered by voluntary organisations. Grants to voluntary arts organisations are managed and monitored by the Council's Arts Development Team through Funding Agreements. Applications for grants for work to be delivered in 2011-14 (Three-year funding as a Key Strategic Organisation) and 2011-12 (One-year Arts Project Grant) were invited and have now been assessed. Officers' recommendations for grants to be awarded, and information about the applicants, are attached as Appendices 1 and 2 to this report.

1.2 This report recommends the Cabinet Member to decide on grants which are £5000 or under. Grants which are above £5000 are a Delegated Officer Decision by the Divisional Director, Tourism Leisure & Culture, as part of the Service Planning process. His decision will be made on the same timescale as the decision on this report by the Cabinet Member, so that all applicant organisations receive confirmation of their funding at the same time.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

The Cabinet member is asked to agree that:

- 2.1 Grants are awarded to voluntary arts organisations for 2011-12 (One-year funding for Arts Project Grants, amounts under £5000: Appendix 1 refers) and 2011-14 (Three-year funding for Key Strategic Organisations, amounts under £5000: Appendix 2 refers).
- 2.2 An allocation of £6,260 is made for small grants for Cultural Olympiad projects (Appendix 1 refers).
- 2.3 An allocation of £4,000 is made to Keynsham Town Council to support its Arts Development Officer post (Appendix 2 refers).

## **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The total sum recommended for One-year Arts Project Grants, amounts under £5000, is £10,000 (Appendix 1 refers). This sum comprises grants to two organisations totalling £3,740 and an allocation for small grants for Cultural Olympiad projects, total £6,260.
- 3.2 The total sum recommended for Three-year Key Strategic Organisations (Year 1 of 3), amounts under £5000, is £19,661 (Appendix 2 refers). Officers also recommend an allocation of £4,000 to Keynsham Town Council, to support its Arts Development Officer post.

**The following information is also presented to provide context for this report:**

- 3.3 The total sum budgeted for Three-year Key Strategic Organisations (Year 1 of 3), grants above £5000, is £46,000 (Delegated Officer Decision by the Divisional Director, Tourism Leisure & Culture).
- 3.4 These amounts (items 3.1, 3.2, 3.3) total £79,661 and have been allocated to the Arts Development cost centre for 2011-12.

## **4 CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

The Arts Development Strategy 2011-2014 sets out how arts provision and activity contributes to the achievement of the six themes of the Sustainable Community Strategy, and how the arts can make a difference to 'narrowing the gap'. The strategy contributes in particular to achieving the following Council priorities:

- Building communities where people feel safe and secure
- Promoting the independence of older people
- Improving life chances of disadvantaged teenagers and young people
- Sustainable growth
- Improving transport and the public realm

The Arts Development Strategy 2011-14 determines the funding criteria for the grants schemes.

## 5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 Arts Development grants are awarded to voluntary arts organisations which deliver arts activities and services, and to other voluntary organisations which want to develop arts projects as part of their work.
- 5.2 The grants are of two types:
- 5.3 Three-year Grants to Key Strategic Organisations (grants under £5000): funding for three years (2011-14) is to be agreed in principle. Funding for 2011-12 is to be agreed, and funding for 2012-13 and 2013-14 indicated, subject to annual Council budget-setting in each year. Key Strategic Organisations funded for 2011-12 will therefore enter Year 1 of a three-year Funding Agreement.
- 5.4 One-year Arts Project Grants: funding for 2011-12 is to be agreed.
- 5.5 Application process for Three-year Grants to Key Strategic Organisations: Information, guidance and eligibility criteria for grants were publicised in summer 2010. The application process comprised two stages: Stage 1 – outline proposal, and Stage 2 – detailed application and supporting documentation. The two-stage process was introduced in 2007 so that applicants can be given an indication of likelihood of funding at Stage 1, enabling organisations to decide whether or not to invest time and resources in making a full application. Stage 1 outline proposals (deadline mid-September) were assessed by officers and discussed with the Divisional Director. Stage 2 detailed applications and supporting documentation (deadline end of November) were assessed by officers and independently moderated to ensure consistency and fairness in the assessment process. All applicants were contacted during the assessment period for further information or clarification about their proposed work. At each stage, applications were discussed with the Divisional Director and the Cabinet Member. Applications were assessed by officers against the Sustainable Community Strategy ambitions and the three priorities of the Arts Development Strategy 2011-14, and applicants were required to demonstrate how their activity will benefit the more disadvantaged areas and communities in the district.
- 5.6 Application process for One-year Arts Project Grants: Information, guidance and eligibility criteria for grants were publicised in summer 2010. Applications (deadline end of October) were assessed by officers and some applicants were contacted if required during the assessment period for further information or clarification about their proposed work. Applications were discussed with the Divisional Director and the Cabinet Member. Applications were assessed by officers against the Sustainable Community Strategy ambitions and the three priorities of the Arts Development Strategy 2011-14, and applicants were required to demonstrate how their activity will benefit the more disadvantaged areas and communities in the district.
- 5.7 Fifteen (15) applications for Three-year Grants to Key Strategic Organisations were received at Stage 1, and the total amount requested was £159,920. This represented approaching 2.5 times the likely budget available. Twelve (12) applicants chose to apply at Stage 2, and the total amount requested was £86,244. Of these, four (4) applications were for amounts below £5000.
- 5.8 Four (4) applications for One-year Arts Project Grants were received, and the total amount requested was £7,740.

## **6 RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 6.1 The report author and Cabinet member have fully reviewed the risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

## **7 EQUALITIES**

- 7.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment was carried out on the Arts Development service overall during 2010, and specifically on the Arts Development Strategy 2011-2014. The Arts Development Strategy 2011-14 determines the funding criteria for the grants schemes.

## **8 RATIONALE**

- 8.1 The Council has allocated an Arts Development budget and officers (2.7 fte) to manage the commissioning of services delivered by voluntary arts organisations, to support and develop the voluntary arts sector, and to monitor organisations' performance against Funding Agreement performance indicators.
- 8.2 The Council has a long-standing commitment to ensuring that the majority of its Arts Development budget is used to commission external providers to deliver arts activities and services.

## **9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 9.1 A rigorous assessment scoring system, externally moderated, was employed to ensure that officers' recommendations for funding are consistent, fair and transparent. Whilst recommendations could be made to invest greater or lesser amounts in each applicant organisation, officers advise that the recommendations put forward will ensure the best value for money from the available budget, a high quality of work delivered to residents of the local authority area, and the most strategic outcomes and benefits from the investment of resources.

## **10 CONSULTATION**

- 10.1 Cabinet members; Town Council; Overview & Scrutiny Panel; Other B&NES Services; Service Users; Stakeholders/Partners; Other Public Sector Bodies; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer
- 10.2 Grants to voluntary arts organisations are managed within the framework and priorities of the Arts Development Strategy 2011-14. The Strategy was developed Jan.-June 2010 through detailed consultation with the individuals and bodies listed above (Report and Single Member Decision: 'Arts Development Strategy 2011-2014' [E2009] refers).

## **11 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION**

- 11.1 Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Young People.

## 12 ADVICE SOUGHT

12.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

<b>Contact person</b>	Ann Cullis, Senior Arts Development Officer (Manager, Arts Development Team)  Tel: 01225 396455  <a href="mailto:ann_cullis@bathnes.gov.uk">ann_cullis@bathnes.gov.uk</a>
<b>Background papers</b>	Arts Development Strategy 2011-2014
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	