

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER, HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

15 March 2016

Report of the Strategic Director, Health and Communities

COMMUNITY ARTS GRANTS

1 Purpose of the report:

To seek approval from the Cabinet Member, Health and Communities to continue to fund nine community arts groups.

2 Information and analysis:

- 2.1 The Council's latest Five Year Financial Plan shows that cuts of at least £109m are required over the five year period up to 2020/2021. By 2021, it is estimated that the Council will have reduced its budget by £278m since 2010.
- 2.2 The Health and Communities Department budget for 2016/17 has been cut by a further £1.247m with significant additional cuts required in future years to meet budget reduction targets. As part of the proposed cuts for the department, it has been agreed to restructure sections of the Libraries and Heritage Service and to reduce grants to arts groups to achieve a saving of £0.290m towards the total departmental budget cut of £1.247m for 2016/17.
- 2.3 The council is reviewing its investment in the voluntary and community sector (VCS) across all departments to determine a future strategy of support in light of the significant cuts programme. For the Health and Communities Department, this review includes the nine community arts organisations which received funding totalling £124,230 from the county council in 2015/16. All these organisations support the council's priorities and play an important role in helping vulnerable people in the community and care homes, those with learning difficulties and younger disadvantaged groups of people.
- 2.4 In order to give sufficient time for the council to review and complete its investment strategy in the VCS, funding is being made available from the General Reserve for a six month period to continue payments to those organisations caught by the review. For the nine community arts organisations this funding amounts to £62,115. Additionally, funding of £80,000 is available from the Public Health grant to support grants to

these organisations. This means that there is sufficient one-off funding in place to continue funding for 2016/17 at the 2015/16 level shown below.

2.5 The nine organisations are shown below:

Organisations	Grant Award 2015/16
Buxton Festival	£5,723
Orchestras Live	£6,377
Level (formerly First Movement)	£24,925
Fleet Arts	£18,006
High Peak Community Arts	£18,006
Junction Arts	£15,200
Learning Through Arts	£16,028
People Express	£16,323
Wash Arts	£3,642
TOTAL	£124,230

2.6 If agreed, the Head of Arts will continue to monitor the funded organisations and hold review meetings as appropriate. Each funded organisation is required to provide an annual report on their activities, with clear evaluation of the work.

3 Financial considerations:

The Five Year Financial Plan requires cuts of at least £109m over the five year period up to 2020/2021. The Health and Communities Department budget for 2016/17 has been cut by a further £1.247m with significant additional cuts required in future years to meet budget reduction targets.

As part of the proposed cuts for the department, it has been agreed to restructure sections of the Libraries and Heritage Service and to reduce grants to arts groups to achieve a saving of £0.290m towards the total departmental budget cut of £1.247m for 2016/17.

As set out, one-off funding is in place to continue funding the nine community arts organisations for 2016/17 at the 2015/16 level. The funding will be met from the General Reserve (£62,115) and the Public Health grant which has made funding available of £80,000. The review

of investment relating to future support for the VCS will determine future proposals to be effective in 2017/18.

4 Legal and Human Rights considerations:

Any proposals to make changes to the level of investment in service provision would require consultation with those affected.

The Council will also want to have regard to the contents of the Compact (Compact on Relations between the Statutory Sector and Voluntary and Community Sector in Derby and Derbyshire) agreement in the consultation process.

5 Equal opportunities considerations:

All community arts activity supports inclusion, works with the most disadvantaged groups and seeks to ensure that all local people have opportunities to participate, regardless of age, background or rural isolation.

Alongside any future proposed consultation process, there would be a requirement to complete an Equality Impact Assessment.

6 Other considerations:

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, environmental, health, human resources, property and transport considerations.

7 Background papers:

Council Meeting 10 February 2016 - Revenue Budget report 2016/17 and Five Year Financial Plan.

8 Key decision

No

9 Call-in

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report? No

10 Officer's Recommendation:

That the Cabinet Member, Health and Communities approves the continuation of payments to nine community arts organisations, as set out in the report.

**David Lowe
Strategic Director
Health and Communities**