

Agenda Item No. 3(a)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER - HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

21 February 2017

Report of the Strategic Director - Economy, Transport and Communities

ARTS GRANTS

(1) **Purpose of Report** To seek the Cabinet Member's approval to award grants to community arts groups and Live & Local for 2017-18.

(2) **Information and Analysis** In accordance with Financial Regulations, all grants to external recipients must be approved and a departmental register maintained. Grants are payments of funds for a specific purpose. Examples include contributions towards an external party's core running costs, purchase or construction of specified assets, and the running of specific events.

There is now, also, a requirement under the Local Government Transparency Code 2014 to publish information on grants awarded to voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations.

As part of the proposed cuts to the former Health and Communities Department, it was agreed to restructure sections of the Libraries and Heritage Service and to reduce grants to arts groups to achieve a saving of £0.290m in 2016-17. Nine community arts organisations have been in receipt of annual funding from the County Council for a number of years as has the Live & Local rural and community touring scheme which deliver arts performances in village halls and other community venues.

Funding for these organisations has not been increased due to the ongoing budget reductions. All of 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 disadvantaged groups.

In 2016-17, through existing budgets, contributions from the General Reserve and the Public Health Grant, it was possible to continue funding the nine community arts groups, as well as Live & Local, and no reductions were made to their grants. Although there is a need to make further significant cuts in future years, there is sufficient one-off funding in existing reserves to continue

funding these nine arts groups and Live & Local at the 2016-17 level (shown below) until the end of March 2018.

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.

Organisations	Proposed grant 2017-18
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
Live & Local	£13,582
Total	£137,812

(3) **Financial Considerations** The costs of the grants will be met from existing departmental reserves.

(4) **Legal Considerations** Any proposals to make changes to the level of investment in service provision would require consultation with those affected.

By grant funding, the bodies set out above will not be contractually obliged to deliver any particular services although the Council may be able to claw back grant if it is unspent or misapplied.

(5) **Social Value 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.

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

(6) **Key Decision** No.

(7) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(8) **Background Papers** Held on file within the Economy, Transport and Communities Department. Officer contact details – Don Gibbs, extension 36572.

(9) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION** That the Cabinet Member approves the award of grants, as detailed in the body of the report.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director - Economy, Transport and Communities