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**Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development**

**Report to Scrutiny Board (Sustainable Economy and Culture)**

**Date: 14 April 2015**

**Subject: Arts@Leeds Scheme**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

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**Summary of main issues**

1. Following a request made at the Scrutiny Board in January, a working group was convened to carry out pre-decision scrutiny in relation to the Arts@Leeds Scheme.
2. The working group met in February to consider the scheme and the provisional allocation of grants to arts organisations for the next three year scheme period. The working group put forward a number of recommendations, which were endorsed by the full Board following email correspondence. A copy of the Board's report is attached as Appendix 1.
3. A delegated decision was published in March. Prior to the publication of the delegated decision, the directorate provided the following response to the Board's recommendations to the Chair:

**Recommendation 1: That the benefits that organisations bring to the city need to be more clearly articulated in the key performance indicators for organisations receiving over £100k.**

The service is happy to accept this recommendation.

It will be actioned by the Key Account Managers (KAM) for each funded organisation. These indicators will be collected via the monitoring forms received from each organisation. Information will be stored and available for examination on a yearly basis. The KAM will also attend board meetings of the organisations to oversee progress. In addition, the Arts Development Team will collate and publish an annual

report which will pull together all the fact and figures contained within each organisation's monitoring returns in May. It can highlight key facts and demonstrate the benefits of the funding to the various communities and how it delivers on the city's key cultural objectives. The document would be available for Members to access and consult.

**Recommendation 2: That the number of opportunities provided, in relation to the criteria of spotting and nurturing talent, is added to the key performance indicators for monitoring of grants.**

The service is happy to accept this recommendation.

It will be actioned by the Key Account Managers for each funded organisation. The indicators will be collected via the monitoring forms received from each organisation. Information will be stored and available for examination on a yearly basis. As part of the Arts Development team's core work they will also work alongside the arts@leeds funded organisations to promote and develop the opportunities of spotting and nurturing talent. This objective will form part of the Arts and Venues Service plan

**Recommendation 3: That the Tetley is challenged to increase the level of affordable local community engagement activity.**

The service is happy to accept this recommendation (and extend it to other organisations as required). The Key account manager for The Tetley will discuss the development of the learning and participatory programme and report back to the committee on the enhanced programme of activity.

**Recommendation 4: That the proposed allocations to both the Reggae Concert and West Indian Carnival are reviewed.**

The allocations to the Reggae Concert and West Indian Carnival have been reviewed (including the proposed 5% reduction in 2016/17).

In completing the review it was recognised that the scale of the two grants combined do make it one of the five largest arts@leeds recipients and that with the closure of Party in the Park and Opera in the Park it becomes the largest funded festival in the City. However, unlike the other organisations funded to this level (Opera North, West Yorkshire Playhouse etc), both organisations are voluntary, have limited capacity to raise funds, receive no ticket income, do not benefit from tax relief, and have very limited secondary spend options. Consideration was also given to the funding history of both organisations where they have historically sat outside of the arts@leeds scheme and therefore received reduced support in terms of business planning and development in recent years. The overall impact of the event both to local communities but also to the cultural profile of the city was considered, as were the development proposals within the applications from both organisations for the next three years. We noted that it was the only large award to organisations outside the city centre.

It was also noted that the activities of the two organisations are conflated in the view of residents and visitors as 'Carnival weekend', bring very significant levels of economic benefit direct to a local community and are part of the unique cultural

profile of the city. Significantly, it was further noted that two thirds of the organisations' funding allocation is spent directly by Environment and Housing Directorate on the organisations behalf, in order to provide the infrastructure and health and safety for the event/s.

Within this context, the recommendation of the review was to maintain the original funding recommendation (including the proposed 5% reduction in 2016/17) . However, in responding to the questions raised through Scrutiny, officers within Culture and Sport will now establish a review group with staff from Environment and Housing to identify ways in which this element of this spend can be reduced, how the organisations can be supported to develop alternative income streams and become less reliant on council support. We would of course be happy to report back on progress at an appropriate point to be agreed with the Board. Additionally, the Head of Service (Matthew Sims) will now act personally as the Key Account Manager for both organisations and will continue to support the organisations to develop a sustainable future with a view to reducing Council support overall.

### **Recommendation**

4. Members are asked to consider the responses provided and determine whether any further monitoring by scrutiny is required.

### **Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

None used

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.