

---

**Report of the Chief Libraries, Arts and Heritage Officer**

**Scrutiny Board (City Development)**

**Date: 7.9.10**

**Subject: Grants to Culture and Sport Related Organisations**

---

**Electoral Wards Affected:**

All

**Specific Implications For:**

Ethnic minorities ☒

Women ☒

Disabled people ☒

Narrowing the Gap ☒

---

**1.0 Purpose of this Report**

- 1.1 To outline the grant process to cultural and sporting organisations in Leeds, the amount granted, the benefits to the city, the governance process and the in kind support.

**2.0 Background Information**

- 2.1 Leeds gives a variety of grants to a variety of organisations. Originally grants may have been given for a variety of reasons, however, today grants are aligned to the four core principles of the vision set by the Cultural Partnership:

- to spot, nurture and retain cultural talent
- to enable all to engage in a wide mix of cultural opportunities
- to break down boundaries
- to show Leeds as a significant city with a vibrant distinctive cultural offer

**3.0 Application Process**

- 3.1 All but two organisations fill in an annual application form and attach their memorandum and articles of association, their constitution, minutes of meetings appointing trustees, full list of trustees and their accounts. Major and Key Organisations are also asked to provide a range of policies including recruitment, health and safety, grievance and disciplinary, equal opportunities, safeguarding and green policies. What they include depends on the size of the grant. Appendix 1 – Example – Parks and Countryside

- 3.2 *Recommendation:- All organizations seeking grant funding must conform to the application process, submitting an application and required documentation and meeting the criteria.*

#### **4.0 Assessment Criteria**

- 4.1 All bids received are scored against a set of criteria relevant to the activity and the grant size. All bids have to contribute to the City's cultural offer and larger grant recipients are asked to target under-represented groups.

This process was audited recently to ensure probity.

- 4.2 Appendix 2 – scoring criteria for small and key grants.

#### **5.0 Grants given**

- 5.1 Grants are given to a wide range of organisations.
- 5.2 Major grants are those over £100K and include Opera North, West Yorkshire Playhouse and Middleton Equestrian Centre.
- 5.3 Key list are grants between £5K and £100K and include Phoenix Dance, Meanwood Urban Valley Farm and Yorkshire Dance.
- 5.4 The Council also has a small grant scheme to engage, support and encourage culture in the community, work with people who have specific needs or who have challenging life circumstances. These grants support activity in line with the city's cultural priorities.
- 5.5 For a list of grants over £9,000 see Appendix 3
- 5.6 A summary of the grants by activity shows

Opera		Music	Theatre/ Dance	Dance	Visual Arts	Creative Industries	Sport	Environs	Comm	Festivals
Major	878,810	10,000	1,024,958	427,190	141,082	0	284,260	85,480	67,831	56,771
Small	0	15,900	15,250	5,500	28,570	8,850	0	13,100	0	17,660
Total	878,810	25,900	1,040,208	432,690	169,652	8,850	284,260	98,550	67,831	74,431

#### **6.0 Benefit to the City of grant support**

- 6.1 The grants to cultural and sporting organisations are fundamental to their sustainability. The grants earn significant benefit for the city.
- 6.2 In 2008/09 arts@leeds assessed this. They funded 83 organisations who:
- Offered 26,863 sessions – workshops, talks, exhibitions attended by 105,034 residents with something happening in every Ward.
  - Attracted 331,346 audiences to cultural performances and events
  - Employed almost 1,500 freelance Leeds based artists

- Brought in £35m income into the City
- Worked with some of the City's most vulnerable groups

### 6.3 The environmental grants can demonstrate similar impact.

The British Trust for Conservation Project Skelton hold 237 education sessions for 7,035 people. Training 186 adult volunteers between 20 – 25 years of age who put in 1,007 work dates.

RSPB ran learning sessions for 2,376 young people and ran around 35 events with 2,345 people involved.

Meanwood Valley Urban Farm ran sessions with 12,134 children and teachers and a Reconnect project 48 for 13 – 16 year olds struggling in mainstream schooling.

### 6.4 The major arts organisations run significant programmes in the community.

Some examples are:

#### **Opera North**

- **Aspergers Project** working with 10 – 14 year olds with the syndrome over ten weeks.
- **Little London voices** building a family choir involving children, parents, teachers and other adults. The choir performed 3 pieces commissioned for them in the Howard Assembly Rooms in June.

**West Yorkshire Playhouse** - **Relaxed performances** – a special type of performance for young people with learning disabilities which means more staff around, more lighting in the theatre during the performance, noise not an issue and the ability to leave the auditorium at any time. The next show is Aladdin in January 2011.

#### **Northern Ballet**

- **Wheelchair dance** project in partnership with YAMSEN and the Wharfedale Festival of Performing Arts.

#### **Grand Theatre**

- **Grand Jury** working in partnership with Leeds Town Hall and White Rose Learning Centre with some of the most challenging young people to create a dramatic performance around the court process.
- **Footsteps** – a photographic project with Looked After Children and their carers.

## 7.0 Governance Arrangements

### 7.1 All the major and key list organisations are governed by Boards of differing levels of sophistication. Both Leeds City Council and the Arts Council work with the companies to develop the effectiveness of the Board recommending that they work in line with the Charities Commission best practice. The best companies have

clearly laid out the role for the Board and its individual members, a skills matrix to appoint them against and clear boundaries around the Board's role and that of the Chief Executive Officer. The Charities Commission website and the NCVO Manual 'The Good Trustee Guide' are invaluable guides.

Best practice has been implemented at Leeds Grand Theatre and Opera House Ltd. West Yorkshire Playhouse have completely reformed its Board to be smaller and more focused on the strategic direction of the company.

7.2 Officers of the relevant services attend as observers of Board meetings and receive all Board papers. Monitoring is carried out twice yearly of any grant over £5K against the grant application and criteria to ensure the organization is delivering as agreed.

7.3 Many of the organisations have Elected Members on their Board as can be seen in Appendix 3. Some have Elected members in a personal capacity, eg., Northern Ballet. Red Ladder, South Leeds Community Radio

7.4 The Council representation on Opera North Board used to be linked to Leeds Grand Theatre. As the latter has worked, with Council support, to become more independent this arrangement is possibly no longer appropriate. The seat has neither been offered or taken up in recent years.

7.5 The Council therefore is making significant grant support to some organisations but has no formal influence on the strategic direction. The only sanction it can take is to withhold the grant. In recognition of the strong recommendation from the Charities Commission for small effective Boards, if Elected Members feel there should be representation on Boards where the city has provided grant aid, then careful consideration should be given to the Board's size to ensure they remain streamlined.

7.6 ***Proposal for Council involvement in governance of grant funded organisations:***

7.6.1 *Organisations which are arms length companies of the Council – Leeds Grand Theatre and Middleton Equestrian Centre – should have a minimum of 3 Councillors on their Board*

7.6.2 *Organisations receiving grants over £500,000 should have 2 Councillors on the Board*

7.6.3 *Organisations receiving grants between £100,000 and £499,000 should have 1 Councillor on the Board*

7.6.4 *Organisations receiving grants between £50,000 and £100,000 should have an officer attend the Board meetings*

7.7 **Role of Councillors on the Board**

It is vital that the company's skills matrix is applied when deciding the Elected Members eligible for the role to ensure they can serve a valuable purpose and have a relevant experience to offer the Board. This will ensure Boards do not have to grow to absorb their attendance. The fundamental role the Elected Member should play however is to act as an advocate for the organisation within the City and ensure that the company understands the City's overall priorities and the cultural vision priorities within that.

## **8.0 The context of Leeds City Council Grants**

8.1 Leeds is not the only grant funding organisation in the City. There are a number of other funding bodies

## **8.2 West Yorkshire Grants**

West Yorkshire Grants was established in 1986. It awards grants to voluntary, ie., not-for-profit organisations in the area. Funding is available for all types of voluntary activity – arts, sport, recreation, environment, etc. Grants are only available to organisations and not to individuals. Funds are awarded by the Grants to Voluntary Bodies Sub Committee which is a sub-committee of the West Yorkshire Joint Services Committee. Appendix 3 identifies the organisations in receipt of grants.

West Yorkshire grants made a 4% cut for 2010/11 across all funded organisations and are being asked to model cuts of 25% - 40% over the next 4 years.

## **8.3 Arts Council**

The Arts Council are a significant funder of the Arts in Leeds which it sees as the cultural centre of the region. Appendix 3 identifies organisations in receipt of grants.

It is facing significant funding reductions and has recently met the City's funded organisations to advise of a possible 10% cut next year while a more fundamental review is undertaken of who it will continue funding in the future.

## **8.4 Sports and Green Space**

Grant funders of sport in the community are:

- the National Governing Bodies of Sport supporting performance sport and development.
- Sports Aid Foundation grant aiding talented individuals.
- Sport England Small Grants Programme helping local community sports project who want to increase or sustain participation
- Sport England themed funding, eg., Women's Sport
- National Lottery Awards for All Programme helping to improve local communities and the lives of people most in need.

## **8.5 In Kind Support from Leeds City Council**

A few companies or events also receive significant in kind support from Leeds City Council.

### **8.5.i Arms Length Organisations**

These, eg., Middleton Equestrian Centre, Middleton Urban Farm and Leeds Grand Theatre receive financial, legal and/or HR advice free from Leeds City Council officers.

### **8.5.ii Funded Support**

To ensure the safe running of the Carnival and related events of Reggae and Carnival Queen, Leeds City Council funds the infrastructure, eg., security, event management and clear up. In the main the work is carried out by Parks and Countryside and the Events Team. £30K Carnival Queen, £105,980 Reggae and £102,440 Carnival is allocated and this included the rent and maintenance of the store. This is in addition to the £50,000 'grant' the organizers are given. There has been a history of overspend, but this will no longer be funded by the council. It is a volatile event with significant challenges.

#### 8.5.iii Unfunded Support

The Irish Festival is held at John Charles Centre for Sport each year and in addition to their grant over the last few years, Sport have funded the direct operational costs of hosting the event, stewarding, security, barriers, etc., to a cost of £38,897 plus indirect costs. Approximately 1,000 people attended the event in 2010. This additional funding will not be available next year.

The Asian Festival (previously known as the Mela) also results in unrecovered support from Parks estimated at £6,569 for labour, plant and materials. Parks also provide management time to Reggae and Carnival of £12,379 which they do not recover from the organizers.

### 9.0 Background Papers

#### 9.1 The Good Trustee Guide and Peter Dyer NCVO Publications

Delegated Decision reports on grants

### 10.0 Recommendations

Scrutiny Board is asked to note the information provided on grants to cultural and sporting organisations in Leeds and to comment accordingly.