

## **DRAFT**

### **Grants to Culture and Sport Related Organisations Working Group for Scrutiny Board (City Development)**

**Meeting held in the Civic Hall on  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2010 commencing at 3pm**

#### **Present:**

Councillor J Procter (Chair)  
Councillor J Elliott  
Councillor B Atha

#### **Others in Attendance**

Ms Catherine Blanshard – Chief Libraries, Arts and Heritage Officer  
Ms Mags McLeary – Principal Arts Officer, Arts & Regeneration  
Richard Mills – Principal Scrutiny Adviser  
Kelly Crosby – Scrutiny Support Unit

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

- 1.1 Members considered a report of the Chief Officer which provided further information and clarification to the report submitted to the Scrutiny Board (City Development) on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2010.
- 1.2 The Working Group discussed and commented on this further report under the following headings:
- Principles for grant making
  - Who grant funds these organisations
  - Benefits to the city of the grant funding

### **2.0 Main Issues Identified**

- 2.1 Members discussed the West Yorkshire Grants. They were pleased to see that Leeds organisations received over £150,000 more than the Council put into the pot showing that the regional role of the organisations based in Leeds is recognised.
- 2.2 Members agreed that this matter should be kept under review  
In terms of both the payments the Council makes to West Yorkshire Grants, the total grants organisation in Leeds receive back from this body and the contributions that are made by other Councils to West Yorkshire Grants. The Chief Officer agreed to provide further information to the Working Group on the contributions currently made by other Councils in the City Region to West Yorkshire Grants.

2.3 Members were concerned as to how elected Member representation is determined from this Council and other Councils to organisations and services where grants are provided. The Council makes grants to a wide range of cultural and sport related organisations and Member representation on these organisations was varied. Members want a review about how this is done and when it is applied. Members want to ensure that there is greater involvement and Member representation on the Boards and Committees of organisations that currently receive a grant from the Council. Reference was made to the role of the Member Management Committee in this regard and the fact that they were to consider a report on this issue relating to all Council grants on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2010 including how the Member Management Committee might receive feedback on the work of those organisations. The Chair agreed to raise this with the Chair of the Member Management Committee.

2.4 Members referred to and commented on a number of issues including:

1. The fact that some organisations that are grant aided by the Council have officer representation on their respective Board meetings but they are not allowed to speak.
2. The non-attendance by an officer at a recent Northern Ballet meeting.
3. That organisations often do not appreciate that in addition to grant funding they often receive indirect funding by way of free rent, lighting and heating or other services being paid for by the Council which is often disregarded when funding is discussed and comparisons made between one organisation and another.
4. The concern that organisations who receive regular grant funding from the Council have no incentive or need to identify alternative sources of financing. Consideration should be given where appropriate to reducing funding over a period of years.
5. The recognition that organisations do need to secure funding over at least a three year period.
6. That there does not appear to be a process and procedure in place that enables Members to be able to make judgements about the amounts of grant to be made available to the various organisations. A significant aspect to the grants process is that it is historic based rather than looking at current needs and the actual benefits to the city. As a result a few organisations receive large grants at the expense of many smaller organisations.
7. That scrutiny often takes place after a grant has been made not before.
8. The suggestion that consideration should be given to provide a core source of funding to organisations with a bidding system for extra money if it is needed.

2.5 The Chief Officer was asked to provide a breakdown of the unfunded support of £12,379 identified under the Reggae and Carnival organisation in appendix 1, a detailed breakdown of the funded elements of the Carnival Queen, Reggae and Carnival set out in appendix 1 and any information available on the charges which the organisers made to attend the various events in 2010 which was not shared with the Council despite it funding the majority of the events.