

**Report of Director of City Development**

**Report to Executive Board**

**Date: July 17th 2017**

**Subject: Grants to arts and cultural organisations**

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input 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

**Summary of main issues**

1. Leeds has a remarkable cultural and creative sector. It is the home to many nationally and internationally recognised companies, a thriving independent sector, a diverse group of festivals and has provided the inspiration for countless artists.
2. The sector delivers multiple economic and social benefits alongside a range of Council priorities including working with communities, supporting economic development, promoting a positive image of the city and making it a better, richer and more diverse place to live, work and visit. It is also the cornerstone of achieving the Best City outcome that people should “enjoy greater access to green spaces, leisure and the arts”. In recognition of the development of a new Culture Strategy for Leeds 2017-2030, and the city’s bid to be European Capital of Culture 2023, both of which are the subject of separate papers to Executive Board, there is an opportunity to consider what support the City Council can offer to organisations to further develop these benefits.
3. Whilst arts organisations continue to diversify their income streams through sponsorship, commissioning and philanthropy they are, in general, not able to deliver the benefits above without some form of public subsidy from local government and/or Arts Council England. Additionally they need to be supported to thrive as we build our case to be European Capital of Culture 2023.
4. Nationally, arts and culture, as part of the wider creative industries sector, plays a vital role in the economy. An independent evidence review by CEBR notes that

“Businesses in the UK arts and culture industry generated an aggregate turnover of £12.4billion....there are five key ways that arts and culture can boost local economies:attracting visitors, creating jobs and developing skills; attracting and retaining businesses; revitalising places, and developing talent”

5. In Leeds there are two specific arts grant funds; arts@leeds and Leeds Inspired. Arts@Leeds provides core revenue support to organisations and Leeds Inspired is a more modest scheme to fund one off projects. The current arts@leeds scheme has been operating for 6 years with organisations benefiting from multi-year funding agreements which allow them to plan their businesses effectively. The current 3-year agreements are in their final year of operation.

Following on from the development and consultation of the new Culture Strategy it is proposed to update and revise the scheme, principally by introducing three tiers to reflect the needs of organisations of different scales and at different stages in their development. The new scheme will also serve to reflect a wider offer of Council support with a programme that includes business support, financial investment, networking opportunities and advocacy.

6. The report will give more information on the proposed new scheme and determine the *overall* level of financial support for the arts in the city. This report does not propose the level of support to individual organisations.
7. The report will furthermore detail proposals for transferring investment into Leeds West Indian Carnival weekend to the Council's events programme, rather than supporting it through arts@leeds funding.

## **Recommendations**

8. Executive Board is recommended to:
  - (i) Approve the establishment of a revised 4-year arts@leeds programme as described in the report;
  - (ii) Subject to the Council's annual budget setting process, to maintain the current total level of investment in the arts@leeds and Leeds Inspired schemes for the period 2018/19 to 2021/22 in support of the City Council's medium term financial plan;
  - (iii) Request a further report is submitted later this financial year to propose the investment levels for individual arts organisations through the arts@leeds scheme;
  - (iv) Agree that funding for Leeds West Indian Carnival and Black Music festival is transferred to the city's annual events programme rather than through arts@leeds grant funding.
  - (v) Note that the Chief Officer, Culture and Sport is responsible for the implementation of these recommendations.

## **1. Purpose of the report**

- 1.1 This report provides background information on the current arts funding delivered by Leeds City Council with a proposal for the scheme moving forward.

## **2. Background information**

- 2.1 The cultural offer in Leeds is vital to the City's economy and the health and wellbeing of the residents. We want to ensure Leeds is an active and creative city where all cultural organisations feel they have a voice and influence over cultural direction. As stated in the Best Council Plan, *our vision is for Leeds to be the best city in the UK; one that is compassionate with a strong economy, which tackles poverty and reduces the inequalities that still exist. We want Leeds to be a city that is fair and sustainable, ambitious, fun and creative for all.*
- 2.2 Cultural activity supported by Leeds City Council for Leeds residents is supported through a number of different mechanisms in addition to the direct delivery by the Museums and Galleries, and Arts, Events and Venues teams. These mechanisms are not limited to arts@leeds and Leeds Inspired funding but also include, commissioned activity, Community Committee funding, rate relief, prudential borrowing facilities and, in some circumstances, capital funding.
- 2.3 Grant aid from the council enables cultural organisations to support, develop and programme cultural activities in the city. Funding received via grant aid is used to give the public the opportunity to develop a rich and high quality artistic experience as creators, participants and audience members whilst allowing arts organisations to take creative risks. Council support is predicated on the City's priorities which, going forwards, will include those in the proposed new Cultural Strategy. The ambition is to strengthen our links to the arts and culture sector by supporting established and emerging companies both financially and through business support, and developing economic growth both in the sector and across Leeds, through employment and by the encouragement of cultural tourism.
- 2.4 The Arts Development and Leeds Inspired teams work with arts organisations both funded and non-funded to increase opportunities for all Leeds residents and visitors to celebrate the diversity of the city. The current budget for arts@leeds is £1.87m and for Leeds Inspired is £270k
- 2.5 **The current arts@leeds Grant Scheme**
- 2.5.1 Between 2015 -18 arts@leeds invested in 51 organisations. The investment covered a wide range of cultural types including dance, visual arts, opera, theatre, creative writing, dance, music in many forms, craft, design, creative digital, street entertainment, photography, visual arts, circus and more.
- 2.5.2 By continuing to support our creative sector we can ensure a continuation of inward investment. Arts organisations use arts@leeds funding to lever in additional match funding from trusts, sponsors and other grant giving bodies. In 2015-16 our arts@leeds funded organisations levered £51,405,545 match funding, of that

£18,623,870 was support from Arts Council England. For every £1 invested by Leeds City Council £27.49 was brought into the city.

- 2.5.3 In terms of employment, Arts@leeds funding directly supported 532 FTEs in the city based on the monitoring returns from the organisations funded through the current scheme.
- 2.5.4 1,651,124 audience and participants benefited from activity delivered by arts@leeds funded organisations, they delivered 59,520 sessions which included performances, exhibitions, talks, workshops, screenings and artist residencies.
- 2.5.5 In 2015-16, arts@leeds funded organisations were able to offer 30 internships, 29 apprenticeships and 117 work placements for school/FE/HE which equated to 6,462 days paid or unpaid employment.

The funded organisations worked with 3,391 regular volunteers, who contributed 35,936 hours of their time to the delivery of arts activity in the city.

The following two examples are illustrative of community based activity

**Heads Together** provides a range of activities at Chapel FM for children and young people; from Tiny Tempo sessions for under 5s, through after school and holiday activities, to a range of weekly training courses for 11 - 19 year olds that develops skills and competencies over a six month period before progressing to the next level. Heads Together is currently working with 148 disadvantaged young people on a regular basis. During the last year 29 young people gained accreditation through Arts Awards - 8 of these were visually impaired.

**DAZL** set out to improve health & wellbeing through high quality dance and connecting with communities across Leeds. During the year DAZL worked with 4,402 young people. 2,903 inactive young people doing less than 2 hour of structured physical activity per week, 81% were girls. They have empowered 9 local parent volunteers who support the community program with 10 of the DAZL Senior Company achieving Level 1 dance leader's qualification. The DAZL Youth Dance Companies have created dance and health work which engages with communities across Leeds and Yorkshire. DAZL's artistic work focused on Mental Health and LGBT Young People. DAZL took part in 99 events across Leeds with an audience of over 38,000.

## 2.6 Leeds Inspired grants

- 2.6.1 Since 2012 Leeds Inspired (LI) has supported access to art and culture in the city through its rolling grants schemes, commissioned projects and through the hugely popular Leeds Inspired events website [www.leedsinspired.co.uk](http://www.leedsinspired.co.uk) It provides project funding to promote and generate time limited events and activities that encourage public participation and offer arts organisations and artists the opportunity to produce work at a grass roots level.

- 2.6.2 Grants recipients are often small organisations with strong links into local communities. The LI Small Grants (up to £1,000) are allocated every two months and enable communities and arts organisations to access support for activities relatively quickly.
- 2.6.3 The LI Main Grants fund (up to £10,000) is open for applications twice a year and has enabled activity to take place with a longer lead in time. This often enables communities and arts organisations to deliver local activities for bigger events. Recipients of LI support will often use it as match funding to apply to other grants schemes, trusts and foundations and lever in additional funding for the city.
- 2.6.4 LI projects often work over a range of different wards to connect communities across geographical boundaries that might not usually meet. Likewise, those LI funded projects that take place within the city centre engage with communities from wards across Leeds. Projects also work with communities that are identified by life experience or shared interest, for example older people; people with disabilities; young musicians. In 2015/16 a budget of £240,000 was allocated to supporting 57 commissioned projects and grants which levered in an additional £214,000 cash match from other sources. 88,107 people engaged in cultural activities as audience members and participants. 1024 participatory events/workshops were delivered in addition to 201 performances, 36 exhibitions and 21 film screenings took place.
- 2.6.5 Leeds Inspired projects may also work over a range of different wards to connect communities across geographical boundaries that might not usually meet.
- 2.6.6 Leeds Inspired funding often joins up the ideas that come from local communities with arts organisations and other providers who can deliver the services they need. As part of its funding assessments Leeds Inspired investigates the strength of community partnerships in the application as well as the artistic integrity of the project.
- 2.6.7 There are no specific proposals to change the arrangements to the Leeds Inspired funding scheme at this point.

## 2.7 **Relationship with Leeds Culture Strategy 2017-2030**

- 2.7.1 The new Culture Strategy is subject of a previous paper to Executive Board this month. arts@leeds and Leeds Inspired grant criteria will reflect the aims and objectives of the strategy and will be a key tool in the delivery of it. The arts@leeds scheme in particular will enable delivery against the following four aims and objectives (should the strategy be adopted).
- Change perceptions and attitudes towards culture and the arts, moving the focus from what they cost to what they create.
  - Value and respect artists and creativity considering both vital to the growth and prosperity of Leeds and ensuring that they are promoted as part of our diverse economy.

- For the culture sector to grow and increase its contribution to Leeds' economy, by placing culture at the heart of the city's narrative
- For established cultural organisations to be resilient, and to create an environment where new cultural organisations can flourish

2.7.2 It is anticipated that organisations in receipt of arts@leeds funding will contribute specific items to the Cultural Strategy Delivery Plan.

2.7.3 Investment in the cultural sector will also enable the tackling of issues identified in the strategy. It will be a tool to deliver the aims and objectives and empower organisations to work with their communities and the people of Leeds.

2.7.4 One of the initial areas of focus for the initial three year period of the Culture Strategy is for Leeds to become a City of Creators. The revised Arts@Leeds scheme will be a direct means of supporting the delivery of this area.

## 2.8 Relationship with European Capital of Culture bid 2023

2.8.1 As part of the city's bid for European Capital of Culture 2023 we need to demonstrate the continuing resilience of our cultural organisations. The application form requires us to answer a number of questions in relation to past, present and future cultural funding by the Council. One of these questions is::

*Describe the culture strategy that is in place in your city at the time of the application, as well as the city's plans to strengthen the capacity of the cultural and creative sectors, including through the development of long term links between these sectors and the economic and social sectors in your city. What are the plans for sustaining the cultural activities beyond the year of the title?*

2.8.2 By sustaining the arts@leeds and Leeds Inspired funding programmes we will ensure that cultural organisations are able to play their part in the bid for Leeds to be European Capital of Culture 2023.

## 2.9 Proposals for changes to arts@leeds scheme

2.9.1 By supporting the cultural and creative sector through this revised scheme we are able to offer flexibility, the opportunity to build meaningful partnerships, keep the range of diverse organisations fresh and dynamic and enable us to clearly demonstrate where the funding is achieving outcomes for the city. The proposals for a three tiered scheme better reflect the range of advice and support offered by the Council to arts organisations.

2.9.2 The three tiered scheme will enable LCC to support the cultural and creative sector at the level appropriate to its needs. It will enable us to support a diverse portfolio of arts and cultural activities with the limited funding in the budget. The programme will provide funding and business support for organisations in the cultural and creative sector that demonstrate a strong commitment to the city and deliver against the council priorities and those of the city's cultural strategy. We want to illustrate the

whole council investment not just an annual financial payment. In turn we will be able to demonstrate to the public how we embed culture into all aspects of the organisation not just the arts sector. The scheme will create flexibility within the scheme to enable resilience and growth.

- 2.9.3 This programme will enable us to demonstrate value for money and as an organisation we will be able to illustrate the actual investment from local authority to the creative sector not just the financial support. This figure would include LCC staff time, training session costs, prudential borrowing, capital support and any rate relief. At the end of each financial year each organisation will receive a statement of investment highlighting and calculating the council support specific to their organisation.
- 2.9.4 Overall the schemes will support appropriate organisations within the city that raise the profile of Leeds, promote sustainability and inclusive economic growth of the cultural sector. This scheme will enable us become a more efficient and enterprising council not just a grant giving body.
- 2.9.5 The scheme would run alongside the 4 year scheme for 'National Portfolio Organisations' run by Arts Council England. Many organisations, but not all, will benefit from both schemes. Individual organisations were notified of their Arts Council 2018-22 funding levels on 27 June 2017 which will help inform the nature of their applications to the City Council. It was excellent news overall for Leeds with Arts Council investment increasing by £1.8m pa to over £21m pa in the city. According to recent analysis the Leeds Central Parliamentary Constituency receives more lottery investment than any other in England, due principally to the presence of Opera North, Northern Ballet, West Yorkshire Playhouse and our own Museums and Galleries Service. This serves to evidence the significant leverage the council's own investment enables. Extending the arts@leeds scheme to 4 years for larger organisations mirrors a change implemented by the Arts Council in order to enable longer term business planning for the organisations involved.
- 2.9.6 The proposed three tiers are described below.

#### **Level 1**

Duration: no time limit – ongoing activity

Financial investment: none

Overview: Ongoing programme open to all artists and organisations planning on delivering cultural work in Leeds, predominantly aimed at new and emerging artists either new to the city or starting their creative journey. Each organisation will be offered several advice sessions supported by the Arts Development team which would cover funding advice, business development, signposting to networks and other organisations and artists. Alongside this programme we would deliver a series of seminars and training as required by the sector.

Application process: To join the programme, artists would be invited to a 1-2-1 arts development session.

#### **Level 2**

Duration: 2 year programme

Financial investment: £4,000 - £30,000

Overview: Open to all Leeds based cultural organisations, this would support and develop small to midscale cultural organisations to survive and thrive. An annual package of cash funding and tailored business development from LCC would be offered to these organisations to enable them to grow.

Application process: biennial application.

### **Level 3**

Duration: 4 year programme

Financial investment: £50,000 - £600,000

Overview: This programme would be open to our larger organisations that are able to deliver on the council priorities, offer a greater contribution to the economy, can develop the city's international culture offer, support the development of the employment & skills for the industry and reach a wider audience. As well as deliver the priorities agreed in the Culture Strategy and contribute towards the city's bid for European Capital of Culture.

Additional request: Due to the level of funding being invested, organisations funded through this scheme will be required to deliver additional activity for LCC which will include; specific activity in targeted locations; deliver a percentage of their work with an international focus, offer explicit support to emerging organisations and implement plans to pay a living wage.

Application process: Applicants would apply every four years. They will submit an application form and business plan.

#### **2.9.7 Applying for funding**

It is proposed to launch the application process in August and for it to be open for 8 weeks, during this period the Arts Development team will host 1-2-1 surgeries, these will be open to any arts organisations interested in applying to the scheme (tier one is a rolling scheme that does not require application or a surgery during this period).

#### **2.9.8 Applicants will be asked to complete an application form and a diagnostic report of their organisation and business needs. Level three applicants will also have to submit a business plan outlining their programme of activity for the city linked to the council priorities.**

Following an eligibility check, applications for funding will be assessed against the published criteria by officers (specifically by the Arts Development Manager and the Head of Arts, Events and Venues). Recommendations will then be presented to Portfolio Holder and Chief Officer, Culture and Sport at which point it is likely there will be more good applications than funding available. At that point 'balancing criteria' will be considered which will include equalities implications, geographical spread and appropriate split of funding between levels 2 and 3.

Final recommendations will then be presented to Executive Board in February 2018.

#### **2.10 Annual events programme**

##### **2.10.1 At the point of agreeing the scope of the funding for the 2015-18 arts@leeds scheme two organisations (Leeds Pride and Leeds St Patrick's Day Parade) were**



transferred from the scheme into the Council's Events programme. This change was made on the basis that both events required extensive operational support from the Council's Events and Highways teams in order for them to progress. The establishment of a city-wide Strategic Safety Advisory Group also allowed a more consistent and comprehensive approach to event management. It is proposed for this scheme that the same approach is taken with Leeds West Indian Carnival and Black Music festival which take place on the August Bank Holiday Weekend, and to similarly embed the event/s as part of the Council's events programme.

2.10.2 Currently the majority of Council investment into the weekend , which is funded through an arts@leeds from City Development, is spent by the Council's Parks team which acts as event manager and provides all the infrastructure for event delivery. Only a smaller proportion of the grant is passed to the Carnival Committee and Black Health Initiative (which manages the Black Music Festival). This model means that, in effect, the Council is paying the majority of the grant to itself.

2.10.3 Furthermore, in recent years 'Carnival Weekend ' has seen a significant development in its scope and size, not least through the celebrations in relation to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Leeds Carnival in 2017. The context of the increased focus on event safety and changes in threat levels at a national level it is important that a co-ordinated approach between key agencies and expenditure on safety in particular is maintained for these Leeds based events. It is therefore proposed that the funding transfers to form part of the annual events programme alongside the appropriate budgets and the funding level is reviewed in the light of the demands of the event and in the context of the Council's normal budget setting process.

### **3 Main Issues**

3.1 As with any proposed changes, issues need to be highlighted and addressed to enable the transformation to begin and to be successful.

3.2 For this report we have identified the following issues, and respond below to how they will be mitigated or addressed.:

- Oversubscribed scheme (more requests for funding than budget available)
- Reduction in budget in future years (due to wider LCC budget constraints)
- Managing expectations (whether financial or capacity)
- Historical funding (organisations expecting to maintain historic levels of funding)
- Organisation capacity (being able to deliver what has been agreed)
- Limited reporting on actual support to creative sector (We currently do not calculate the value of advice and business support)

3.3 Oversubscribed scheme – This is an issue affects all public funding pots and not specific to arts@Leeds. We will work with both funded and unsuccessful organisations to support the delivery of their work. Unsuccessful applicants to level 2 will be invited to join the level 1 programme. We will also signpost organisations to other sources of potential support including Arts Council England.

- 3.4 Reduction in budget – Whilst successful organisations will have indicative 2 or 4 year funding allocations, all contracts will include a clause that will come into effect if the council's budgetary position alters significantly.
- 3.5 Managing expectations - To manage expectations and to support organisations through this new scheme we will offer surgeries during August and September. Organisations will be discouraged from presenting unrealistic requests.
- 3.6 Historical funding levels – A small number of organisations that have received arts funding from arts@leeds may not fit the criteria of the new scheme. To manage expectations and to support organisations apply for the scheme we will offer surgeries during August and September.
- 3.7 Organisation capacity (being able to deliver what has been agreed) – Each organisation will be supported throughout the process and individual contracts with a tailored programme will be agreed upon with specific KPIs in relation to the amount of funding and work delivered to the public.
- 3.8 Limited reporting on actual support to cultural and creative sector: At the end of each financial year each organisation will receive a statement of investment highlighting and calculating the council support specific to their organisation. This will enable us to demonstrate the genuine investment from the council to the creative sector not just the financial support. This figure would include cash support, (arts@leeds and other LCC grants) LCC staff time, training sessions, prudential borrowing, rate relief and any capital investment.

## **4 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

- 4.1.1 Throughout 2015-17 officers have regularly consulted with current grant holders and have made alterations to processes such as monitoring where possible in response to feedback.
- 4.1.2 Officers have also met with non-funded arts organisations, cultural organisations, Arts Council England, other local authorities, Voluntary Action Leeds and will continue to do so.
- 4.1.3 Throughout the programme officers will support organisations through consultation, engagement and a tailored business support programme

### **4.2 Equality and Diversity /Cohesion and Integration**

- 4.2.1 Issues of equality and diversity, cohesion and integration are fundamental to the investment in the cultural and creative sector.
- 4.2.2 All applicants will need to demonstrate how funding will support them to remove barriers and how they will inspire communities. They will also supply data on their

target audiences. This has been used to identify how well the proposed allocations support everyone in the city.

4.2.3 By supporting a diverse range of activities, organisations and art forms the Council can enable all residents the opportunity to engage with a wide choice of arts and the cultural activity. The assessment of applications will require considerations of geographical spread and diversity of the programme.

4.2.4 An Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening form has been completed and is attached as an appendix.

### **4.3 Council policies and Best Council Plan**

4.3.1 The cultural sector in Leeds is important to the economic strength of the city through employment, commissioning and inward investment such as audience secondary spend. This supports the ambition for a strong economy and a compassionate city and in particular the Best Council outcome for people to 'enjoy greater access to green spaces, leisure and the arts'.

4.3.2 Culture Strategy for Leeds 2017-2030 – If approved, the revisions to the Arts@Leeds grants will be one of the first responses to the aims, objectives and priorities set out in the new Culture Strategy and will be delivered in line with the values set out in that document.

4.3.3 Inclusive Growth - By working with our colleagues in Employment and Skills as well as the commercial sector we will aim to support the creative sector to create more and better jobs. We want to put our creative employers at the centre of the skills system and work with our education providers to address the skills shortage and ensure all our funded organisations are implementing plans to pay a living wage. To enable use to increase graduate retention we will agree targets with our Level 3 organisations to offer a number of paid internships and placements across the sector.

4.3.4 Arts & Health (Health & Wellbeing) - experiencing arts and culture can create a sense of wellbeing and transform the quality of life for individuals and communities. What is less well known is that every day the arts are having a significant impact on people's health in hospitals, health centres, GP practices and other healthcare settings within and throughout our communities. Through the culture programme we will ensure that provision will be given to develop creative activities to address this challenge.

#### **4.3.5 Resilient Communities**

As highlighted in the Best Council Plan Leeds is one of the fastest growing and diverse cities with people of different ages and from different backgrounds, cultures and beliefs. Through the arts@leeds programme participating organisations will be included in the multi-agency approach for the city's priority neighbourhoods, maximising our collective impact. As illustrated in the Culture Strategy there is a sense of division and difference, by working with organisations through the strategy values we aim to address issues such as xenophobia.

#### 4.3.6 Child Friendly City

The funding will work alongside the Child Friendly team to bring everyone together to make Leeds a child friendly city – a place where children are valued, supported, enjoy growing up, and look forward to a bright future. (The funding does not fund work in schools, it does support out-of-school activity).

#### 4.3.7 Breakthrough Projects

- Making Leeds the best place to grow old in - Leeds has now been classified as an Age Friendly City by the World Health Organisation. Arts activity can assist in changing attitudes towards ageing; allowing ageing to be seen as a positive experience and emphasising the contribution that older people make to society as artists, participants and audience members.
- World class events and a vibrant city centre – By supporting the creative sector through the scheme officers will be able to foster creativity and the development of new work and opportunities for world class events and activity to be delivered in Leeds.
- More jobs, better jobs – working with Employment & Skills, the commercial sector, the universities and our larger organisations we will help address this by training, seminars for graduates, peer mentoring and support.

### 4.4 Resources and value for money

4.4.1 The current arts@leeds programme provides strong evidence on the return of investment, and this will continue to be monitored through the new scheme.

4.4.2 When reviewing the allocation of grants the number of people that would be employed, including volunteers, the level of engagement and the number and quality of the artistic initiatives will be considered.

#### 4.4.3 Dispersion of funding

It is proposed that the funding limit should be set at minimum £4,000 and maximum £600,000. The application limits recommended will enable smaller organisations the opportunity to apply for additional funds to grow and develop their organisation. The maximum level is in place as we manage expectations of the larger organisations as they become more resilient and move to be less reliant on local authority funding.

4.4.4 As part of the application process and the funding available we will work with organisations to manage their expectations of the funding they apply for and in turn are awarded. We are expecting applications from new organisations as well as uplift request from current clients. We have allocated surgery time to meet with all prospective applicants to guide them through the process and offer advice and support where needed.

4.4.5 As stated we propose a 3 tier scheme. The application and monitoring process will be based on the level of funding awarded.

## **4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

- 4.5.1 All organisations will be assessed for any financial or legal risks before entering the programme and will be required to sign a funding agreement and submit their governance arrangements, their banking details and a register of interests to ensure probity.
- 4.5.2 In providing funding or other assistance to organisations, the Council will need to ensure that it complies with the European Commission's rules as to the provision of State aid in so far as those rules apply to the organisations and projects concerned.

## **4.6 Risk Management**

- 4.6.1 Risks will be managed through the application process, the funding agreement, the annual monitoring, attending board meetings and events to ensure the company is spending the Council's funds appropriately. Checks will be in place and money will be requested to be returned if the organisation is deemed to be using it inappropriately.
- 4.6.2 Inevitably in a competitive grants programme the authority will need to manage the disappointment of some applicants. This is achieved by ensuring a robust application and assessment process and high quality communications.

## **5 Conclusions**

- 5.1 The proposed continuation of investment for arts organisations will result in the empowerment of cultural organisations to deliver creative and artistic work for resident of Leeds. This proposal supports Leeds bid for European Capital of Culture and is an action from the Culture Strategy for Leeds 2017-2030. By enabling this activity we will contribute to the City's ambition to become a healthier place to live and a more creative and entrepreneurial place to work. It will aid efforts to cement community cohesion and support Leeds to be a compassionate city.
- 5.2 By facilitating the investment for the creative sector Leeds will build on its reputation as a city of high quality culture, where great art is created and strengthen its reputation as a cultural destination where artists want to live and work.

## **6 Recommendations**

- 6.1 Executive Board is recommended to:

(i) Approve the establishment of a revised 4-year arts@leeds programme as described in the report;

(ii) Subject to the Council's annual budget setting process, to maintain the current total level of investment in the arts@leeds and Leeds Inspired schemes for the period 2018/19 to 2021/22 in support of the City Council's medium term financial plan;

(iii) Request a further report is submitted later this financial year to propose the investment levels for individual arts organisations through the arts@leeds scheme;

(iv) Approve funding for Leeds West Indian Carnival and Black Music festival is transferred to the city's annual events programme: rather than through arts@leeds grant funding.

(v) Note that the Chief Officer, Culture and Sport is responsible for the implementation of these recommendations.

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

7.1 None.

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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.