



Report of the Head of Arts and Events

Libraries, Arts and Heritage Decision Panel

Date: March 2008

Subject: Major Arts Organisations Grant Aid

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In

(Details contained in the report)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report contains recommendations for grant assistance from the arts@leeds budgetary allocation for the following organisations:

The Grand Theatre and Opera House
Leeds International Pianoforte Competition
Northern Ballet Theatre
Opera North
Phoenix Dance Theatre
West Yorkshire Playhouse
Yorkshire Dance Centre

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

1.1 To seek approval for funding levels and attendant terms and conditions for the major arts organisations as listed above.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 Members agreed at Strategic Policy Committee in November 1994 that the award of grants to major arts organisations and the monitoring of performance against targets set by the Council should be reserved to the Strategic Policy Committee.

2.2 Following advice from District Audit, Funding Agreements between Leeds City Council and the major arts organisations were instituted in 1996-7 and were renewed on an annual basis. Monitoring reports were provided to the Strategic Policy Committee each year from 1996-1999. Following modernisation Executive Board received a full report in similar format in April 2000. From 2001-2007 the report was submitted to the Leisure Services/Learning and Leisure Officer Board.

2.3 In line with the final report of the Voluntary Sector Sub-Committee, which was reported to members of the Strategic Policy Committee on 7 December 1998, it was agreed that the organisations considered in this report be included in the Corporate Key List within the current mechanism for grant applications, with Leisure Services (and subsequently the City Development Department) as the lead Department.

3.0 Main Issues

3.1 Summary of applications and recommendations is as follows:

Name	Award 0708	Requested 0809	Recomm- ended 0809	Description
Leeds Grand Theatre and Opera House	£251,280	£214,910	£ 214,910	Receiving theatre providing a home to Opera North and a huge range of notable dance, drama, comedy and music productions - grant reflects prudential borrowing adjustment
Leeds International Pianoforte Competition	£78,030	£100,000	£78,030	Biennial competition of high international standing including year round outreach and recital programme – contingent on submission of full income and expenditure information.
Northern Ballet Theatre	£262,180	£275,000	£262,050	Internationally renowned touring dance company with pioneering learning and access department.
Opera North	£943,250	£1,000,000	£925,060	England's national opera company in the North. Internationally touring but based at LGT with strong education department working in the city – grant reflects prudential borrowing adjustment.
Phoenix Dance Theatre	£85,312	£95,000	£85,310	One of the country's leading contemporary dance companies. Internationally touring with strong education work.
West Yorkshire Playhouse	£853,128	£946,976	£852,710	Internationally renowned repertory theatre with extensive community and education programme.
Yorkshire Dance Centre	£65,000	£70,000	£65,580	National Dance Agency supporting artists and choreographers and engaging local people through workshops and performances.

4.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance

4.1 None

5.0 Legal And Resource Implications

5.1 In line with corporate policy, funding levels are at standstill from the previous year's grants and are as approved by corporate guidance for 2008/09.

6.0 Conclusions

6.1 Officers will be required to monitor the grants in line with the Council's terms and conditions of grant aid.

7.0 Recommendations

7.1 The Chief Libraries, Arts & Heritage Officer is requested to approve levels of funding for 2008/ 2009 as laid out at 3.1.

7.2 Agreements for major organizations are to be formalized in line with the other Clients on the arts@leeds key list. The key list period will begin in 2008-9 to coincide with the Arts Council's RFO timescales.

7.3 Further, that the terms and conditions within the organisations' Funding Agreement should be subject to negotiation regarding the contribution of the organisations to the arts@leeds programme.