

Refreshing Leeds' Cultural Investment Programme

Date: 27 July 2022

Report of: Director of City Development

Report to: Executive Board

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

Leeds City Council invests in the development and growth of the city's creative sector through cultural funding programmes – arts@leeds and Leeds Inspired – with key outcomes aligned with the Best City Ambition objectives.

The funding programmes enable creative and cultural opportunities for residents across Leeds and deliver significant value and wider economic benefits to the city by leveraging additional investment. For 2021 funded organisations:

- £15.7m was generated through ticket sales and earned income.
- £2.3m was spent for cultural education and outreach activities.
- 1.7m attended performances and 75,000 took part in creative and cultural activities.
- 840 permanent staff were employed and over 2,000 fixed-term contracts for freelancers enabled 15,204 days of work.
- for every £1 the Council invested, organisations matched this by £29

To help stabilise Leeds' creative sector through the pandemic, the 23 June 2021 Executive Board approved the extension of the arts@leeds funding programme for a fifth year taking the current funding round to 31 March 2023.

During 2021/22, officers commenced a review of the funding programmes seeking to maximise benefits from the schemes and from the Council's investment. As an early outcome of this review, it is proposed that a refreshed funding programme is developed, promoting all Council cultural grants under one umbrella: 'Leeds City Council Cultural Investment Programme'. A key strand of the LEEDS 2023 legacy, this new programme would launch and be open to applications in 2023 with funding commencing from April 2024 to 31 March 2027.

This paper also proposes that, as an interim measure, the Council operates a one-year funding scheme for 2023/24 as a transition between the two funding periods and to capitalise on the profile and opportunities emanating from the LEEDS 2023 Year of Culture.

The transition year (2023/24) would operate within the existing £1.6m budget envelope for arts@leeds. However, for Leeds Inspired, subject to achieving UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) investment, officers would increase the c. £260k budget for Leeds Inspired to enable more creative and engagement opportunities for Leeds residents during the Year of Culture.

Recommendations

Executive Board is asked to:

- a) Approve delivery of a one-year arts@leeds programme for 2023/24, supporting the transition toward a refreshed cultural funding programme.
- b) Delegate authority to Director City Development to approve funding decisions for the one-year programme, 2023/24.
- c) Approve the development of a refreshed three-year Culture Investment Programme for 2024-27. Development and adoption of the Cultural Investment Programme will be subject to open consultation and engagement with the sector prior to seeking Executive Board approval in 2023.

What is this report about?

- 1 On 23 June 2021, Executive Board gave approval to extend the arts@leeds funding programme for a fifth year to help stabilise Leeds' creative sector through the Covid-19 pandemic and to offer the sector a modicum of security through a challenging period. This extended period comes to an end on 31 March 2023.
- 2 This report seeks Executive Board approval for a one-year cultural grants programme for 2023/24. This time would allow for a comprehensive review and refresh of the Council's current cultural funding programmes – arts@leeds and Leeds Inspired.

The review would work to ensure that the Council's cultural investment programmes deliver best practice and that they maximise the benefits of the funding for the city. Following open consultation and sector engagement, officers will produce a detailed proposal for a refreshed Cultural Investment Programme (2024-27) for Executive Board consideration in 2023 and seek approval for the new scheme.

- 3 The **arts@leeds** funding programme currently supports 42 Leeds based cultural, voluntary and community organisations to deliver cultural and creative engagement opportunities for residents across the city. Open only to constituted organisations, the programme usually operates through 3-4year funding rounds providing unrestricted grants for organisations to contribute to the Council's key strategies. Grants currently range from £4,000 per annum to £500,300 per annum.

Four city events are supported through and/or associated with the arts@leeds programme. This includes Leeds Pride and St Patrick's Day Parade. The Culture Programmes budget currently tops up the arts@leeds budget by £20,700 per annum to support these events. As part of the review for 2024-27, we would seek to better integrate these activities within the Cultural Investment Programme.

The current arts@leeds portfolio, including funding levels, is attached as Appendix 1

- 4 First established in April 2012, **Leeds Inspired** is a rolling grants programme supporting arts events and projects taking place in Leeds. The programme operates between 6-8 funding rounds across the year offering 'small grants' (usually up to £1,000) and 'main grants' offering up to £10,000 for larger projects. Over the last 10 years, the fund has enabled over 750 arts projects, delivering benefits to a wide range of audiences, artists and communities across the city. Leeds Inspired funding is open to individuals, organisations and the third sector.

Adaptations were made to the scheme during the Covid-19 pandemic (2020-2022) whereby the budget for small and main grants was rebalanced to: 1) increase the frequency of small grant rounds to enable continued creative activities, including moving activity online to reach and engage citizens; 2) increase the upper threshold of small grants to £1,200. The current upper threshold is being maintained, subject to review.

5 The current budgets for the cultural grants programmes were agreed by Full Council in February 2022. The budgets are:

- arts@leeds – £1,616,720

The arts@leeds budget includes £5k for administration and supports the ‘Engagement Programme’, providing sector training, support and networking opportunities.

- Leeds Inspired – £259,680

The Leeds Inspired budget includes website and audience development activities. On grants alone, planned expenditure is currently £209,000 for 2022/23 but this varies from year to year, based on grant awards made. These annual variations operate within the whole Leeds Inspired budget allocation.

6 The proposed one-year funding programme for arts@leeds would operate within the existing budget envelope and will be based on the current funding model.

The programme would open for applications in August 2022 and close in November giving applicants at least 9 weeks in which to submit applications. The criteria will be simplified placing emphasis on Culture Strategy Priority: People, Communities and Place as well as the cross-cutting themes: Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, Environmental Sustainability

A programme of ‘grant surgeries’ and/or webinars will be delivered to provide advice and guidance on making an application to the fund.

A rigorous assessment will be completed on all eligible applications, followed by a decision-making process – including balancing the portfolio and recommendations for funding – prior to formal approval of funding decisions.

The decision-making process would involve the Chief Officer for Culture and Economy and the Head of Culture Programmes. Subsequently, funding recommendations would be subject to approval by the Director City Development.

7 For Leeds Inspired, subject to additional external funding currently being sought, budgets might be increased to enable additional activities and public engagement through 2023/24.

This would increase opportunities during the LEEDS 2023 Year of Culture, particularly for small organisations and independent artists by boosting activity, enabling more artists and small organisations to participate whilst also reaching and engaging Leeds’ communities.

With increased funding, the Leeds Inspired investment criteria would align with the proposal for arts@leeds, as above:

- Culture Strategy Priority: People, Communities and Place
- Cross-cutting themes: Equality, Diversity & Inclusion and Environmental Sustainability

What impact will this proposal have?

- 8 Leeds' national and international cultural profile, borne out of a vibrant creative sector, is vital to the city's economy and the social and mental wellbeing of communities and residents. Cultural grants support the growth and resilience of Leeds' creative businesses, strengthen the visitor economy and enable residents to deliver, take part in and benefit from the city's rich and diverse cultural offer.

Evidence confirms that a strong cultural offer delivers a broad range of positive impacts on people, communities and place including boosting confidence and well-being, promoting heritage and diversity, fostering community cohesion, enhancing learning and improving skills for future employment.

The Council's cultural grants programmes reinforce these benefits, providing creative and cultural opportunities across all 33 wards.

Below are two case study extracts which illustrate the significant social value of creativity and culture and how cultural grants enable creative organisations to play an active role in our communities.

Organisation: Chapel FM

Chapel FM is the first-ever arts centre in East Leeds. Opened in Oct 2014, it won a Pro Yorkshire Award for community benefit. Chapel FM is an arts centre and community radio station offering training, performance and broadcast opportunities for and by its local and wider communities.

Funded by arts@leeds

At the start of the pandemic, arts@leeds funding enabled Chapel FM Arts Centre to shift focus to create a daily 3-hour radio programme broadcast on FM designed to provide local residents with a large variety of local stories, interviews, original music and writing, oral histories, international perspectives, news, humour and practical advice. The programme, *'Keeping a Distance, Staying Close'*, was especially geared toward older residents and those who might not have internet access.

Culture FM said: The show, which ran for 12 weeks, created a space for a lively exchange of communication [between] numerous members of our community and gave us the chance to form new relationships with other community organisations whose work we showcased on air. In addition, the British Library has requested that 150 hours of these radio broadcasts about life in Leeds during the Covid pandemic lockdown be placed in their permanent archive where they can be discovered far into the future.

As the follow-up to *'Keeping a Distance, Staying Close'* we embarked on new youth radio show and podcast named *'Red Kite'* designed to be a digital space in which to showcase the stories, voices and creative work of young people from East Leeds and other parts of the city. During August [2020], we produced 12 hours of *'Red Kite'* shows created by more than 30 young broadcasters, musicians, writers, theatre-makers and oral historians and which focused on the idea that young people might be able to see our city and this strange moment in history from unexpected angles and perspectives, exploring the edges and wild spaces (literally outside, in nature) and create an audio archive for the future using curiosity, humour, a sense of history and courage to ask difficult questions.

All of the shows can be accessed here:

<https://www.chapelfm.co.uk/news/2020/07/explore-east-leeds-fms-lockdown-radio-broadcasts/>

<https://www.chapelfm.co.uk/elfm-player/shows/list/red-kite-youth-radio/>

Organisation: Dance Action Zone Leeds (DAZL)

Based in Middleton, DAZL is a dance and health charity which aims to “Reducing Inequalities and tackling inactivity through asset-based community development and dance” in the most deprived community of Leeds and beyond. This is delivered through five strategic strands:

- Participation – Engaging inactive children and young people through dance as physical activity.
- Community Leadership – Engaging and empowering local people/communities.
- Partnerships – Supporting and delivering the wider health/social care agenda.
- Artistic Development & Progression Support – Developing and nurturing new and existing local talent.
- Celebrating Communities & Performance Opportunities – bringing the community together and championing positive achievements.

Organisation funded by arts@leeds and additional activity funded by Leeds Inspired

DAZL said: During [2020-2021] DAZL responded to the communities across Leeds we serve by offering:

- Online Zoom & Facebook LIVE dance sessions
- Family Dance Fitness Program on Vimeo & Active At Home YouTube Activities
- Garden Groovers Social Distancing Doorstep Dance
- School & Community Social Distancing Outdoor Dance Programs
- Food parcels and creative pack for families who can't get online
- Created a dance film series and podcast

The DAZL Garden groovers had the whole street out on their feet, some danced but others clapped, cheered and had a lovely time watching. DAZL delivered these outdoor socially distanced doorstep dance sessions across the city for those who could not get online and to boost community morale. For families living in Lower Super Output Areas DAZL took this touring dance session to their streets. All Social distancing rules applied, and the community responded well to them.

Across March-August 2020, DAZL achieved:

- 206,775 views of their Facebook live classes.
- Delivered 331 online classes.
- Recorded 80 video classes
- Garden Groovers videos have 39,809 views and rising
- Delivered 94 Garden Groovers session & engaged 5,658 people with 2,086 people dancing.
- Delivered an additional 57 Outdoor social distanced dance sessions.
- Delivered 988 food parcels to 203 people weekly across LS10 & LS11 16 weeks which equates to 28,923 individual meals/ portions.

Further information about DAZL can be found here: <http://dazl.org.uk/>

9 A key impact of the proposed one-year cultural grants programme will be greater city-wide cultural engagement by Leeds' creative sector and residents aligned with the LEEDS 2023 Year of Culture. The measure of increased impact will be determined by the outcome of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority's UKSPF submission to Government for Q4 2022/23 and the following 2 years.

The proposal for the one-year cultural investment programmes – arts@leeds and Leeds Inspired – align with the Communities and Places Outcomes within the UKSPF programme, particularly the interventions which seek to:

- Enhance existing cultural, historic & heritage institutions offer
- Support local arts, cultural, heritage & creative activities

10 The one-year funding programme will also:

- Allow for transition between the current and potential future funding schemes
- Enable officers to undertake more work, including open consultation, to develop the new Cultural Investment Programme proposal while enabling the creative sector to play an active role as part of the LEEDS 2023 Year of Culture creating a good foundation for its legacy.
- Capitalise on the LEEDS 2023 Year of Culture – broadening the scope for public and creative sector engagement beyond the core programme by increasing available Leeds Inspired grants.

11 For the refreshed Cultural Investment Programme for 2024-27, initial benchmarking has been carried out with core cities (Birmingham, Manchester, Sheffield and Bristol) and key stakeholders have been briefed, including Arts Council England. The proposals set out in this paper will give officers more time to develop and test a refreshed programme, including through a process of open consultation. The outcome of this work will be presented to Executive Board for approval in March 2023.

12 The current funding programmes deliver significant value for Council investment and wider economic benefits to the city.

In 2021/22, the Council's arts@leeds investment made a significant contribution in enabling:

- the total income for arts@leeds funded organisations was £50m, of which £15.7m was gained through ticket sales and earned income.
- £2.3m was spent on education and outreach activities.
- The funded portfolio presented their work to 1.7m people and engaged over 75,000 participants.
- arts@leeds funded organisations employed 840 staff members and contracted over 2,000 freelancers enabling 15,204 days of work.

Throughout the programme, arts@leeds has been effective in leveraging additional investment into the city. For every £1 the Council invested, organisations matched this by:

- £30 in 2019/20
- £25 in 2020/21
- £29 in 2021/22

Arts@leeds annual summary reports 2019-22, illustrating economic and cultural performance, are attached as Appendix 2

Leeds Inspired is often the first source of funding that a local artist or organisation applies for and receives. The fund makes a notable contribution to retaining talent in the city¹. As a rolling grants programme, grant awards are effective in keeping pace with the diversity of arts practice in the city.

Further to this, grants are often used to lever match funding from other funding sources e.g. National Lottery funds, Trusts and Foundations, sponsorship and, on occasion, Crowdfunding.

The Leeds Inspired fund which is always oversubscribed and with future demand expected to increase, supports a notable number of projects:

- 79 projects supported in 2019/20
- 82 projects supported in 2020/21
- 76 projects supported in 2021/22

13 Outputs for the one-year programme are expected to be on a par with those reported through the current arts@leeds scheme.

Expected outputs for 2023/24 include:

- the number of sessions delivered
- activity in all wards
- match funding leveraged
- targeted sessions contribution to Culture Strategy Equality and Inclusion goals

14 The outcomes of the decision will deliver significant benefits including:

- Enabling more people across the city to engage with culture during the Year of Culture in 2023.
- Contributing to strengthening sector relationships as part of the LEEDS 2023 legacy.
- Creating opportunities for organisations that are not currently funded to apply and allow the Council to refresh the portfolio.
- Capitalising on Arts Council England policy to relocate London based organisations outside of the capital – giving potential for a richer cultural portfolio in Leeds
- Allowing the Council to prepare for and respond to cultural growth – e.g. British Library North and the National Poetry Centre might be incorporated into a refreshed future portfolio – subject to additional funding.
- Supporting the scope to broaden the portfolio to include existing major cultural organisations, subject to additional funding
- It will better promote Leeds City Council as a cultural funder – including as we seek to promote funding available opportunities led by other Council services – maximising the value of cultural investment and benefits of culture for the Council and the city more widely.

An Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Inclusion Screening Report is attached as Appendix 3

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

¹ Talent retention is key to a city with six higher education institutions, all of which deliver creative subjects. In 2017/18, over 9,400 students were studying creative subjects in Leeds.

15 This proposal supports the Best City Ambitions in the following ways:

- Understanding that place matters, and positive identity, culture, heritage and pride in our communities are vital assets in a sustainable future for the city and its local centres.
- Enabling every community in the city to have safe connected spaces, streets and paths to access a local park or green space, providing somewhere to be active and to play, helping to improve mental and physical health across all ages.
- **Inclusive Growth:** Maximising the economic benefits of culture. Supporting the city's economic recovery from COVID-19 and building longer-term economic resilience.

In addition, it supports the Culture Strategy Delivery Framework priorities including:

- Enabling a thriving and innovative creative sector and
- People Communities and Place.

16 Proposed actions align with the Team Leeds approach at the centre of the Best City Ambition:

- By providing investment in Culture, the sector can support the council's **Inclusive Growth** plan, continuing the city's economic recovery from COVID-19 and building longer-term economic resilience.
- **Health and Wellbeing:** Supporting healthy, physically active lifestyles. By enabling this proposal, the Council's cultural funding programmes will contribute to the City's ambition to be a healthy and caring city for everyone. Through the investment we will aim to fund organisations who will deliver cultural activity to those who are most likely to experience poverty, improving their mental and physical health people and supporting them to thrive from early years to later life.
- **Climate Emergency:** Leeds faces a number of challenges when it comes to sustainability in the creative sector, however by working with & investing in organisations such as SAIL we will assist with the city's ambition to become net zero by 2030. We will also engage with the council's sustainability team & Leeds Climate Commission to support and advise on issues including transport and travel, suppliers and contractors, energy, construction and temporary activities, waste management, water usage and management for a variety of different event types.
- Through continued collaboration with IDS, the proposal will drive toward '**digital by default**', ultimately removing the reliance on paper e.g. letters to applicants or paper record storage.
- Issues of equality and diversity, cohesion and integration are fundamental to the investment in the cultural and creative sector. Cultural grants can support activity which can do much to tackle issues of equality and cohesion. Through their programme organisations needed to demonstrate how funding would support them to remove barriers and how they would inspire communities.
- By investing in the sector, we will be inviting organisations and their employees to join Team Leeds so they can play their part in achieving the council's ambitions. As they will support the city to create cultural activity, champion the city nationally and internationally. This will lead to increased engagement, the sharing of ideas and learning enabling collective social and environmental impact, with organisations sharing their resources and assets as we work towards common goals.
- By building on the city's growing reputation as an **International Cultural Centre** – a home of high-quality culture, where great art is created and where artists can live and work.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 17 For this proposal, consultation has been undertaken with other funding bodies and local authorities to benchmark and adhere to best practice. Benchmarking is enabling us to evaluate the current programme and align with the needs of the sector and council.
- 18 The Executive Member for Economy, Culture and Education has been consulted and supports this proposal – for a one-year programme and development toward a refreshed cultural investment programme, as outlined in this paper.
- 19 Consultation and informal briefings have also taken place with external stakeholders including:
- Arts Council England
 - West Yorkshire Combined Authority
 - West Yorkshire local authorities – Wakefield, Calderdale and Kirklees
 - Members of the creative sector
 - Leeds Community Foundation
 - Voluntary Action Leeds
- 20 Open consultation will be undertaken to test the proposed Cultural Investment Programme 2024-17 with the sector and the public. The evaluation of responses will be included in the proposal to Executive Board in March 2023.

What are the resource implications?

- 21 The proposals in this paper are being developed within the existing funding envelope, confirmed by the Full Council budget meeting in February 2022:
- arts@leeds – £1,616,720
The arts@leeds budget includes £5k for administration and supports the ‘Engagement Programme’, providing sector training, support and networking opportunities.
 - Leeds Inspired – £259,680
The Leeds Inspired budget includes website and audience development activities associated with the grants programme.
- 22 As 8. above, to enable greater city-wide engagement, in the LEEDS 2023 Year of Culture, Officers would seek to increase funding for the one-year cultural investment programme 2023/24, supported through external funding with no additional cost to LCC. An application for this additional funding is part of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority’s UKSPF submission to Government for Q4 2022/23 and the following 2 years.
The proposal for the one-year cultural investment programmes – arts@leeds and Leeds Inspired – align with the Communities and Places Outcomes within the UKSPF programme, particularly the interventions which seek to:
- Enhance existing cultural, historic & heritage institutions offer
 - Support local arts, cultural, heritage & creative activities

- 23 Existing arts@leeds funding recipients are aware that the current funding round is coming to an end and there is a proposal to launch a new scheme this summer. Following Executive Board approval, larger arts organisations (arts@leeds Investment Organisations) will be provided with an indicative planning figure based on current funding levels.
- 24 The greatest challenge will be to organisations currently receiving £4,000 / annum. In the current economic climate, it is possible that the return on investment might reduce compared to previous years. Opportunity would be taken to consider budget balancing across Leeds Inspired and arts@leeds if additional investment is achieved through the UKSPF programme.
- 25 A more detailed eligibility process will be undertaken, drawing from experience gained when applying Additional Restriction Grants in 2021. This will help to reduce the workload pressure for assessing officers.
- 26 To further manage the workload implications for staff, the one-year programme will be streamlined e.g. focusing the criteria on People, Communities and Place as well as the cross-cutting themes of the Culture Strategy Delivery Framework. Officers would seek to make the application process proportionate to the level of funding available to organisations e.g. a lighter touch process for organisations requesting funding up to £10,000.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 27 Key risks to the Council are managed through a grant agreement and officer monitoring. As a funded organisation, the Council reserves the right to observe Board meetings. Officers also attend funded activity, where possible. For large organisations, the Council will maintain the right to nominate one elected member to sit on their Board.
- 28 Some additional measures will be introduced to better manage the financial risk to the Council's cultural investments. This includes:
- As part of the grant assessment process, officers will undertake credit checks to assess the financial stability of an organisation.
 - Annual risk monitoring will be introduced to grant management for funded organisations with risk ratings and assessment to be shared with the organisation concerned.
- 29 To help mitigate the risk to future reduction in the grants budget, as standard, all grant agreements include a clause stating: *'The Recipient agrees and accepts that payments of the Grant can only be made to the extent that the Funder has available funds. The Funder shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that available funding is in place to fulfil its obligations under this Agreement'*.
- For this reason, the Full Council annual budget setting process will be closely observed by officers. Funded organisations will be notified of any risk or proposed change to the funds available.
- 30 Further work will be undertaken by officers to assess the risks to the Cultural Investment Programme 2024-27. The outcomes will be included in the report to Executive Board in March 2023.

What are the legal implications?

- 31 Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 (the general powers of competence) gives the Council the power to provide the grants outlined in this report and to enter into the necessary grant

agreements with the recipients. The Director of City Development has delegated authority to enter into these arrangements.

- 32 These powers are subject to the limitation that the Council needs to comply with the rules on subsidy control. Subsidy control is currently governed by the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA), but this is due to be overridden by the Subsidy Control Act 2022 which is expected to come into effective force in autumn this year. For the purposes of subsidy control, a subsidy is any financial assistance given from public resources which confers an economic advantage to one or more enterprises, benefitting them over other enterprises, and which is capable of distorting competition. Under the TCA the test for distortion of competition includes the specific potential to have an impact on UK-EU competition, but under the Subsidy Control Act 2022 that potential impact on competition can be wholly within the UK.
- 33 It is very likely that one or more of the grants which will be arts@leeds fund or the Leeds Inspired fund will be a subsidy for Subsidy Control purposes. Under the TCA and the Subsidy Control Act 2022 a subsidy is permitted provided it is either compliant with a number of specified subsidy control Principles, or it meets the criteria for a specified exemption. If a subsidy is provided which does not comply with the Principles or is outside scope for an exemption then the recipient of the subsidy may be required by the rules to repay the subsidy.
- 34 All applications for funding from the arts@leeds or Leeds Inspired funds will be subject to an individual assessment of whether a subsidy applies and, if so, whether the subsidy can be permitted under the subsidy control rules. The Government is currently consulting on Guidance for the subsidy control rules, which aims to provide a framework for designing and awarding subsidies in a way which is consistent with the Subsidy Control Act 2022 whilst minimising any negative impacts to competition and investment, as well as promoting the effective and efficient use of public funds. Officers assessing the funding applications will be expected to remain abreast of this guidance.
- 35 All applicants for funding will be made aware of any potential Subsidy Control implications and recommended to seek their own advice if appropriate. All applicants will be required to submit a written application for funding and all funding will be administered through a grant agreement between the Council and the recipient, which will set out the terms of the funding and reiterate that any unlawful subsidy will have to be repaid. For most applications where a subsidy might apply, it is anticipated that the Minimal Financial Assistance exemption will apply (this permits subsidies below a specified financial threshold to be made to a single enterprise within any 3-year period).
- 36 Both the TCA and the Subsidy Control Act 2022 impose transparency requirements on public authorities providing subsidies. These require any subsidy or subsidy scheme over a specific threshold (varies depending upon justification, but usually anything above £100,000) to be published on a database managed by BEIS. The Culture and Economy Service will ensure that any individual awards above the relevant thresholds are uploaded to the BEIS database. While the arts@leeds fund and Leeds Inspired fund have been set up to achieve the same public policy purpose, it is considered that at this stage criteria for applying for grants under the funds is not specific enough that they amount to being “subsidy schemes” therefore details of the funds themselves will not be published to the BEIS website.
- 37 In addition to subsidy control the Council has a duty to conduct the administration of public funds with reasonable skill, care and caution and with due regard to the interests of the Council Tax and Business Rates payers of Leeds. All necessary due diligence is being and will be

carried out in respect of the proposals outlined in this report so as to ensure that the fiduciary duties of the Council are complied with.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

38 A detailed options appraisal was undertaken prior to making the proposals outlined in this paper. The options appraised were:

- a. Business as usual – Launch the next round of arts@leeds grant scheme in 2022 based on the existing model for funding in 2023-2027
- b. Extend the arts@leeds grant scheme by an additional year (year 6)
- c. Create a 1-year scheme to ensure continuity of investment whilst allowing time to review and refresh the funding programme for 2024-27
- d. Do nothing, stop cultural investment

While options a) and b) presented some benefits, the preferred option c) offered a range of opportunities including allowing time to ensure that the cultural investment programme delivered best practice, that it capitalises on LEEDS 2023 Year of Culture for the benefit of the sector, the city and the Council.

How will success be measured?

39 As a one-year programme, we will undertake evaluation of the whole year against the Culture Strategy Delivery Framework priorities (as above).

Organisations will be required to complete a monitoring report at 6months and at 12months providing qualitative and quantitative data in relation to numbers of people engaging, geographical spread (including by ward), arts practice as well as social and economic data.

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

40 An indicative timeline for the one-year grant scheme is provided below. This relates to the arts@leeds funding programme. The schedule will be considered alongside the Leeds Inspired funding rounds and availability of relevant staff through the key stages 1-5, as below.

Indicative Date	Actions
4 July – 5 August 22	Design application questions, guidelines & assessment methodology Test application forms technology Create FAQs and additional documents Prepare for launch & create presentation
4 July – 5 August 22	Prepare communications plan - announcement of 1 year scheme Publicise upcoming scheme (incl. launch date)
2 August 22	Culture Programmes - assessors briefing
1 August – 2 September 22	Work with procurement & legal services on funding agreements
Tuesday 16 August 22	Grant application window opens

18 August to 28 October 22	Grant surgeries for potential applicants
Wednesday 12 October	Deadline for applications
w/c 17 October 22	Stage 1 – Eligibility checks (Companies House & FAME) Ineligible applicants notified
24 October – 25 November 22	Stage 2 – Assessment of applications (5 weeks)
28 November – 9 December 22	Stage 3 – Decision making: Assessment panels
12 December – 21 December 22	Stage 4 – Decision making: Funding recommendations (A report will be produced providing an outline of applications received, setting out the outcomes of the eligibility and assessment processes and providing recommendations for funding)
9 January – 27 January 23	Stage 5 – Funding approvals
6 February – 17 February 23	Funding notifications and public announcement
14 February 23	Issue grant agreements
1 April 23	Funding commences
30 June 2024	Evaluation report submitted

41 For the one-year programme, the Head of Culture Programmes will have oversight and responsibility for implementation and reporting to the Executive Member for Economy, Culture and Education, Director of City Development and the Chief Officer Culture & Economy.

Managers for the current arts@leeds programme and Leeds Inspired will maintain responsibility for effective delivery of both schemes, ensuring that the schedule of actions is undertaken. Monitoring of grants and associated reporting also falls to these officers.

42 The workplan to review the existing funding programmes will be reviewed and confirmed. This will be led by the Head of Culture Programmes in consultation with the Chief Officer Culture & Economy.

Appendices

43 Appendix 1 – Current arts@leeds funded portfolio

44 Appendix 2 – arts@leeds annual reports 2019-22

45 Appendix 3 – EDCI Screening report

Background papers

46 None.