

DRAFT

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

**Meeting held in the Civic Hall on
14th February 2011 commencing at 3pm**

Present

Councillor J Procter (Chair)
Councillor B P Atha
Ms Barbara Woroncow (Co-opted member)

Others in Attendance

Ms Catherine Blanshard (CB) - Chief Libraries, Arts and Heritage Officer
Ms Mags McLeary - Principal Arts Officer, Arts & Regeneration
Mr Matthew Simms - Arts and Venues Manager
Richard Mills - Principal Scrutiny Adviser

1.0 Note of the Last Meeting

Action

- 1.1 Members agreed the note of the last meeting of the Working Group held on 18th November 2010.

2.0 Report of the Chief Libraries, Arts and Heritage Officer

- 2.1 Members considered a report of the Chief Officer which gave an outline of the developing position with West Yorkshire Grants, Leeds City Council grant proposals and further detail on other support the Council gives to various organisations.

- 2.2 A copy of a spreadsheet was tabled providing details of the proposed grants to be made to culture and sport related organisations in 2011/12 showing:

- The loss of Arts Council grant 2011/12
- Potential West Yorkshire Grant loss
- Recommended 6 -15% Council reduction
- Overall potential loss to organisations

- 2.3 The Working Group discussed and commented on the report and spreadsheet under the following headings:

- West Yorkshire Grants
- The Arts Council
- Leeds City Council grants
- Council support to the festivals and other organisations other than through grants
- Member involvement in grant funded organisations

3.0 Specific Comments, Proposals and Further Information Requested	Action
3.1 A Member thought that there appeared to be an imbalance in the report between the arts and sport grants and officers responded referring to changes made over the last two years and Liverpool Council which provides a useful model in this regard.	
3.2 A Member expressed the view that whilst grants are about supporting large and small organisations in times of economic constraint emphasis should be on continuing to support those small organisations that would not survive if grants were reduced or stopped altogether.	
3.2 It was suggested that the Council should be placing greater emphasis on encouraging apprenticeships by applying grant conditions whenever possible. Officers responded that this perhaps needed doing more overtly than is currently the practice and agreed to include this in the grant requirements.	CB
3.3 Clarification was sought regarding the Council's payment in 2010/11 of £379,917 to West Yorkshire Grants, how this is calculated and the element that is allocated from this to the Arts Council. The Chief Officer was asked to seek clarification from the Chief officer (Financial Management) and the Assistant Chief Executive (Planning, Policy and Improvement) on this issue and report back to this Working Group.	CB
3.4 That in view of the reduced funds that will be available for grants in 2011/12 it was suggested that applications should be made less complicated and that the Council should actively go out and encourage bids that it could support rather than raising organisations expectations by sending out application forms knowing they had little or no chance of success.	CB
3.5 That organisations should secure funding over at least a three year period rather than the usual 12 months. It was suggested that initially the commitment may have to be for a two year period until available funds become secured. It was agreed that at the next Working Group meeting the Chief Officer bring forward an options paper on 2 to 3 year funding for Council grants.	CB
3.6 Members supported the proposals outlined in paragraph 7.0 of the Chief Officers report concerning the criteria and conditions for Member representation on grant funded organisations.	
3.7 A Member stressed the importance of training which often gets cut to support the core business of organisations in times of economic constraint.	
3.8 That the Working Group meets again once the position of West Yorkshire Grants becomes clearer.	CB/RM