



**Leeds**  
CITY COUNCIL

Originator: R L Mills

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## Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

### Executive Board

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2011

### Subject: Grants to Culture and Sport Related Organisations

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#### Electoral Wards Affected: All

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Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

#### Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity ☐

Community Cohesion ☐

Narrowing the Gap ☐

Eligible for Call In

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Not Eligible for Call In

(Details contained in the report)

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the approval of the Executive Board to recommendations made by the former Scrutiny Board (City Development) concerning grants to culture and sport related organisations. The Scrutiny Board considered a report of the Chief Libraries, Arts and Heritage Officer on the impact of the announcements made by the Arts Council England of their grant funding for 2012-2015 and West Yorkshire Grants allocation for 2011/12 and subsequent decisions.
2. The Executive Board is asked to consider where there is a difference of opinion between Scrutiny and the Director/Executive Member, or where recommendations are directed specifically at Executive Board, to pronounce on these matters.

## **1.0 Background Information**

- 1.1 The former Scrutiny Board (City Development) on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2011 considered the attached report of the Chief Libraries, Arts and Heritage Officer on changes by the Arts Council and West Yorkshire Grants to their grant making approach.

## **2.0 Main Issues**

- 2.1 Members of the Scrutiny Board stated that grants provided by Leeds City Council through West Yorkshire Grants are critical for the survival of many cultural organisations. In acknowledging the view that West Yorkshire Grants may cease giving grants completely in 2012 as is suggested in the Chief Libraries, Arts and Heritage Officer's report, the Scrutiny Board supported the view that money currently given to West Yorkshire Grants by the Council should be ring fenced to continue to support the arts and culture in the city.
- 2.2 The Scrutiny Board wanted to ensure that all benefits in kind from the Council to support organisations (for example reduced or peppercorn rents and free use of facilities) were identified and reflected in the grant making and assessing process.
- 2.3 Finally, the Scrutiny Board thought the grants process for culture and sport related organisations was complicated and that few people understood the process and allocation of these grants. Some Members also thought that there was a disparity of grant aid between similar organisations that needed to be addressed. As a consequence Members felt that there should be a comprehensive review of all grants to ensure openness and transparency.

## **3.0 Acting Director's Comments to the Board's Recommendations**

- 3.1 City Development has considered the recommendations of the former Scrutiny Board (City Development). It is working to implement these recommendations and has integrated them into a broader report later on the Executive Board agenda – 3 Year Grant Funding for Culture.

In summary the proposed actions against these recommendations are:

### **Recommendation 1**

That in view of the grants provided by Leeds City Council through West Yorkshire Grants being critical for the survival of many cultural organisations, that the money currently given to West Yorkshire Grants by the Council be retained and ring fenced to continue to support the arts and culture.

### **Response**

**Agreed :** Once we have a final decision from West Yorkshire Grants to cease funding Culture the fund currently paid to them by Leeds City Council will be incorporated into the Grants for Culture budget so there is only one funding stream.

### **Recommendation 2**

That the true value of the Council's support to all organisations should be stated and reflected in the grant making and assessing process.

## **Response**

**Agreed :** Bidding organisations will be asked at application stage to list all other funding sources. During the assessment process their statement will be checked against Council records to identify any other spend the Council makes on behalf of the organisation, eg., premises. The assessors would then be aware of all the funding streams an organisation receives.

## **Recommendation 3**

That a comprehensive review of all grants should take place to ensure transparency and openness and that specific consideration should be also given to the disparity between similar organisations.

## **Response**

**Agreed :** The report – 3 Year Grants for Culture contains new proposals for grants for Culture and the assessment process to be used to ensure a robust and transparent process.

### **3.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance**

3.1 There are no specific Council policy and governance implications from this report.

### **4.0 Legal And Resource Implications**

4.1 There are no specific legal or resource implications from this report.

### **5.0 Recommendations**

5.1 That the Executive Board consider the recommendations of the former Scrutiny Board (City Development)

- That in view of the grants provided by Leeds City Council through West Yorkshire Grants being critical for the survival of many cultural organisations, that the money currently given to West Yorkshire Grants by the Council be retained and ring fenced to continue to support the arts and culture.
- That the true value of the Council's support to all organisations should be stated and reflected in the grant making and assessing process.
- That a comprehensive review of all grants should take place to ensure transparency and openness and that specific consideration should be also given to the disparity between similar organisations.

### **2.0 Background Papers**

2.1 Report of the Chief Libraries, Arts and Heritage Officer