

**Report of Chief Libraries, Arts and Heritage Officer**

**Report to Scrutiny Board**

**Date: 17 May 2011**

**Subject: Update on External Arts Grants to Leeds Organisations**

**Report author: Catherine Blanshard**

**Contact telephone number: 0113 2478330**

---

**Does the report contain information which has been identified as confidential or exempt?**

**Yes** (if exempt, please see the public interest test in section 4)  
Relevant section of the report:  
In accordance with Access to Information Procedure Rule:

**No**, this report does not contain information identified as confidential or exempt.

---

**Is the decision eligible for call-in?**     **Yes**         **No – exempt**         **Not applicable**

---

**Summary of main issues and corporate governance considerations**

1. The Arts Council England has announced their grant funding for 2012-2015 and this report outlines the impact of that in Leeds.
2. West Yorkshire Grants have allocated their 2011/12 grants and the impact of that decision is outlined in the report.

**Recommendations**

1. To note the allocation of grants by external organisations to Leeds organisations.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 To update Scrutiny Board on the recent decisions by major grant making organisations and how they impact on the Arts organisations in Leeds.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 The proposals by the Arts Council and West Yorkshire Grants to change their grant making approach have been raised with Scrutiny Board during the year but it is only in the past two months that the full impact of these proposals have been identified.
- 2.2 Arts Council England made a 6.9% cut to grants for 2011/12 and then invited bids from all interested organisations for 3 year funding. West Yorkshire Grants meanwhile investigated a range of options, finally deciding reductions in line with an impact assessment. While the view is that the grants will cease completely in 2012 the final decision on this has yet to be taken.

## **3 Main issues**

### **3.1 Arts Council Grants**

Table 1 outlines the grants to Leeds based Arts Organisations who will receive Arts Council funding through the National Portfolio scheme. These organisations will not be eligible for Grants for the Arts and so there is still significant budget (but yet to be defined) available for an organisation to seek project specific funding. The Arts Council expect to announce the detail of these schemes shortly.

There have been some casualties who have lost their regular funding:

- Pavilion who received £47,807 in 2011/12
- Pyramid of Arts who received £19,039 in 2011/12
- Skippko who received £27,161 in 2011/12
- Jabadao who received £103,125 in 2011/12
- LMU Gallery & Theatre who received £41,468 in 2011/12
- Lumien Arts Ltd who received £20,739 in 2011/12

### **3.2 West Yorkshire Grants**

Leeds based organisations have traditionally gained relative to organisations based in the other five districts due to their work across the region. Leeds based organisations received in 2010/11 £700,209 out of the total budget spend of £1,077,774 (65%).

The Joint Committee decided to reduce grants in line with impact assessment, this resulted in a reduction of £142,821 across Leeds organisations. This included a total cut to East Street Arts, Theatre Company Blah, Blah, Blah, Yorkshire Dance and Pavilion. The Council raised concern about some of the conclusions raised by the impact

assessment. The Council has also asked for clarity on whether the 2012/13 grants have ceased or whether there will be further debate on this issue.

In 2011/12 the organisations below will receive:

| <b>Organisation</b>                | <b>£</b> |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Citizens Advice Speciality Support | 54,579   |
| Northern Ballet                    | 122,086  |
| Opera North                        | 215,862  |
| West Yorkshire Playhouse           | 71,971   |
| Art Link                           | 6,610    |
| Ascendance Rep                     | 8,640    |
| BTCV                               | 10,415   |
| Dyslexia Action                    | 8,640    |
| Interplay Theatre                  | 6,566    |
| Jabadao                            | 8,640    |
| Sports Aid                         | 4,500    |

### 3.3 Next Steps

The Council has met with the arts organisations receiving large grants and they are keen to move to longer term funding. A further meeting is planned in July to discuss this further. The Council has also met with the Arts Council following their new grant allocations and discussed the potential and advantages of aligning funding periods and monitoring data. This would reduce the burden on organisations and improve the data quality. Smaller organisations and individual artists have also met to discuss their needs.

Discussions have also taken place with the team developing the new vision to ensure that the data received from a new scheme would form a fundamental part of reporting action against the new City priorities. The principle has been agreed but the actual monitoring cannot be defined until the plan is finalised. However the organisations' contribution to the profile of the City and their contribution to the economy are likely to be fundamental and could include measures such as the number of apprenticeships and training opportunities for local people.

Once clarity has been received on West Yorkshire Grants, the Arts Council's new grants for the arts scheme and the city plan, it is proposed to review Leeds City Council's grant process with a view to introducing longer term grant funding, a streamlining in the

application process and monitoring which can become a fundamental part of reporting on cultural activity so that there is a clear link between grants and the impact on the City.

#### **4 Corporate governance considerations**

##### **4.1 Risk management**

4.1.1 Not applicable

##### **4.2 Public Interest Test**

4.2.1 Not applicable

##### **4.3 Forward Plan**

4.3.1 Not applicable

##### **4.4 Scrutiny process: Call-In**

4.4.1 Not applicable

##### **4.5 Constitution and legal matters**

4.5.1 Not applicable

##### **4.6 Financial and resource implications**

4.6.1 As these are external grants the changes do not have an impact on the Council.

##### **4.7 Equality and Diversity and Cohesion and Integration**

4.7.1 Not applicable

##### **4.8 Council policies and City priorities**

4.8.1 Not applicable

##### **4.9 Consultation**

4.9.1 Not applicable

#### **5 Recommendations**

5.1 To note report on changes to grant funding by external organisations

#### **6 Background documents**

6.1 None