



To: Executive Councillor for Arts and Recreation
Report by: Head of Arts and Recreation
Relevant scrutiny committee: Community Services Scrutiny Committee 17/3/11
Wards affected: All

LEISURE GRANT PRIORITIES 2012-14 Key Decision

1. Executive summary

This report sets out proposals to review Leisure Grants from 2012/13 to align grant priorities to the arts and sports strategies.

2. Recommendations

The Executive Councillor is recommended:

- 2.1 To approve the review of Leisure Grants to voluntary and community organisations required to align priorities to the Arts Strategy 2010-14 and the Sports Strategy 2009-13.
- 2.2 To note that following consultation with current grant recipients, proposals for Leisure Grant priorities 2012-14 will be brought back to this committee in July.

3. Background

3.1 Leisure Grant Priorities 2011-12

The current priorities have remained unchanged for many years and were based on the City Council's previous Medium Term Objective to maintain a healthy, safe and enjoyable city for all, with thriving and viable neighbourhoods by:

- Supporting a flourishing and diverse voluntary and not-for-profit sector
- Ensuring Cambridge residents can access a range of sports, arts, recreational and community facilities and activities

3.1.1 The priorities are:

- Activities which increase formal and informal access for all city residents to cultural and leisure activities. Priority is given to services which benefit children and young people, people with disabilities, and those whose opportunities are restricted by low income or discrimination
- Area Committee Grants

3.1.2 The 2011/12 budget is divided into two:

- Leisure Activity Grants £273,970 (94%)
- Area Committee Grants £17,500 (6%)
- Total budget: £291,470

3.2 Future Priorities 2012-14

The following strategic priorities will influence the development of leisure grant priorities for 2012-14.

3.2.1 Arts and Recreation Priorities

The Portfolio Plan identifies 4 key themes summarising the overall Arts & Recreation priorities (which are relevant to the review of leisure grants:

- Access – for all to the city’s arts and recreation provision
- Engage – local communities in shaping provision
- Enhance – the City’s identity (sense of place) and reputation through the use of arts and recreation
- Protect – the environment

3.2.2 Sports Strategy 2009-13

There are 4 key priorities resulting from the Sports Strategy 2009-2013:

- Supporting community sport infrastructure
- Improving the health of the community
- Targeted Participation
- Reducing anti-social behaviour

3.2.3 Arts Strategy 2011- 14

There are 4 key priorities resulting from the Arts Strategy 2011-14:

- Access to art for all
- Engage and enable local communities
- Enhance the city’s reputation & identity
- Protect the environment

3.3 Draft Leisure Grant Priorities 2012-14

We will consolidate the above themes into succinct priorities for consultation and outline other potential topics for consultation, such as marketing, process and links to new area committee arrangements etc.

The draft priorities for consultation will be circulated to the Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service, elected members and a wide range of voluntary and community organisations currently funded by the Council.

3.3.1 Feedback will be sought by a number of methods and will include a web based survey, and meetings with umbrella organisations. The consultation will take place between March and June and will include:

- New thematic priorities
- The allocation of funds to the revised priorities
- Any adjustments to criteria or process

3.3.2 Criteria

We need to explore how to assess applications against new priorities and what criteria we will use for monitoring and evaluation. Areas to be considered include:

- Funding for Area Committees to support local decision making aligned with area priorities
- Funding for London 2012
- Longer-term funding agreements
- Maximum limits for one off project grants and for individual organisations
- Level of match funding required

3.3.3 The current method of awarding grants has resulted in some groups receiving funding from the Council over a sustained period of time, so any changes to priorities and processes will need to be carefully assessed, communicated and implemented in phases to support groups to manage the changes and protect services as far as possible.

3.3.4 There will be a need for flexibility to support those groups who may face changes to their funding structure. This will be managed by a phased introduction, exit strategies for those affected and support to secure alternative funding linked to our partnerships with the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation and the Cambridge Council for Voluntary Support and other funders.

3.3.5 Leisure grants currently include several Discretionary Rate Relief (DRR) awards. There is a notice period of 12 months from the beginning of a financial year to amend or terminate such agreements. This commits us to the current level of funding for 2011/12 for DRR for current beneficiaries unless they cease to operate from the premises for which the award has been granted and changes for 2012/13 will need timely communication.

3.4 Cambridgeshire Compact

The Council endorsed the Compact in 2007. The Compact aims to:

- Improve and develop the relationships between the sectors
- Establish a framework for joint working
- Enable the agreement of codes of good practice in areas such as funding/commissioning, consultation, volunteering, community groups, and equality and diversity

3.4.1 Of particular importance to this report the Compact has the following three undertakings for statutory organisations:

- Develop a long-term policy and strategy for support and investment in voluntary and community sector activity in Cambridgeshire including Compact compliance
- Consultation periods are for 12 weeks wherever possible
- Work towards a situation in which statutory contracts and service agreements are a minimum of three years duration and where a minimum of 12 weeks notice is given in respect of decisions to change or terminate a grant or contract condition (or less by mutual agreement)

4. Implications

4.1 Financial Implications

- The funding amounts is dependent on 2012/13 budget approval
- Any revisions to individual awards will be undertaken with support

4.2 Staffing Implications

None

4.3 Equal Opportunities Implications

- Equality impact assessments were undertaken on the strategies and a further assessment will be undertaken on the developed priorities
- A condition of grant aid is the effective implementation of equal opportunities policy and practice

4.4 Environmental Implications

- All applicants are required to have environmental/green policies

5. Background papers

These background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- Sports Strategy 2009-13
- Arts Strategy 2011- 14
- Compact

6. Appendices

None

7. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

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