



To: Executive Councillor for Arts and Recreation  
Report by: Head of Arts and Recreation  
Relevant scrutiny committee: Community Services Scrutiny Committee 13/10/11  
Wards affected: All

## **LEISURE GRANT PRIORITIES 2012-14 Key Decision**

### **1. Executive summary**

This report recommends Leisure Grant Priorities for 2012-14 aligning them to the arts and sports strategies and changes to the funding arrangements and criteria following consultation with voluntary and community organisations including current grant recipients.

### **2. Recommendations**

The Executive Councillor is recommended:

- 2.1 To approve the proposed Leisure Grant Priorities as detailed in 4.2 of this report.
- 2.2 To approve the proposed funding arrangements and eligibility criteria as detailed in 4.3 and 4.4 of this report

### **3. Background**

3.1 A report to this committee in March 2011 approved:

- The review of Leisure Grants to voluntary and community organisations to align priorities to the arts and sports strategies
- To bring back proposals to this committee

3.2 Current Leisure Grant Priorities

The current priorities, which have remained unchanged since 2006 , 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

These 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

3.3 The 2011/12 budget of £291,470 is divided into two:

- Leisure Activity Grants £273,970 (94%)
- Area Committee Grants £17,500 (6%)

### 3.4 Arts and Recreation

There are 4 key themes summarising the overall Arts & Recreation priorities detailed in the Portfolio Plan which reflect the approved arts and sports strategies and are relevant to the review of leisure grants:

- Access – for all to the city's leisure
- Engage – local communities in leisure
- Enhance – the city's identity (sense of place) and reputation through the use of leisure
- Protect – the environment

### 3.5 Review

The need has arisen to consolidate the above themes into succinct priorities to enable the grants to continue to support the council's strategic objectives. Following approval to review the grants by this committee in March 2011 draft grant priorities, funding arrangements and eligibility criteria were produced for consultation.

### 3.6 Cambridgeshire Compact

The Council endorsed the Compact in 2007, its main aim to improve and develop the relationships between the statutory and voluntary sectors. 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. Leisure Grant Priorities 2012-14**

### **4.1 Consultation**

A 12-week consultation was carried out between May – August on:

- New thematic priorities
- The allocation of funds to the revised priorities
- Amendments to the eligibility criteria

The consultation documents were circulated to current grant recipients, the Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service, Members and Officers and were put on the Council's website.

4.1.1 Feedback was sought by both written and face-to-face methods. An arts event was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June to enable organisations to come together, hear presentations about the proposed priorities and funding arrangements and discuss issues. 46 organisations and stakeholders attended this event. There were 12 written responses to the consultation.

4.1.2 In general the feedback was positive with respondents supportive of the priorities, funding arrangements and criteria changes.

4.1.3 The issues emerging from the consultation were as follows:

- Support for types of agreement but needs clear definition
- Clarification on the overlap and processes for the different funds available
- Concern that tapering grants would affect the long-term viability of museums/ building assets and core costs
- Concern that grants could become too project focussed
- Help with how to demonstrate environmental efficiency and community consultation
- Request to see quality assurance in grant funding
- Support for further guidance and non-financial organisational support from the Council

4.1.4 Actions taken following the consultation

- Officers have met and considered all of the points raised

- Feedback will be sent to all respondents and current grant recipients
- FAQs and information sheets will be produced to ensure consistency and clarity
- Guidance notes and training sessions will be provided to help groups with community consultation and environmental criteria and evidence
- Each group will be allocated designated officers to support them through the grants process and leisure strategies
- Further work will be undertaken to review and develop area committee grants

## 4.2 Priorities

The following Leisure Grant priorities are proposed for 2012-14:

Ref	Priority Description
	<b>L1 Improve access to leisure activities</b> A targeted approach to improving access to arts and sports for city residents who currently have restricted access, particularly including:
<b>L1.1</b>	▪ Minority ethnic groups
<b>L1.2</b>	▪ People with disabilities
<b>L1.3</b>	▪ People on low incomes
<b>L1.4</b>	▪ Children, young people and older people at risk of exclusion from leisure opportunities
	<b>L2 Enhance the City's cultural offer</b> Arts and sports activities that enhance Cambridge's cultural offer by doing some or all of the following:
<b>L2.1</b>	▪ Celebrating Cambridge's cultural identity or local traditions
<b>L2.2</b>	▪ Benefiting the local economy
<b>L2.3</b>	▪ Reflecting the city's creative reputation through being new, innovative, and ambitious
<b>L2.4</b>	▪ Promoting environmental sustainability
<b>L2.5</b>	▪ Celebrating the London 2012 Olympic Games and supporting the aims of the City's Olympic Action Plan (available from <a href="http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/olympics">www.cambridge.gov.uk/olympics</a> )
	<b>L3 Encourage and support local neighbourhood arts and sports activities that enhance current provision and are for the benefit of local residents</b>
	These grants will be awarded via the Council's Area Committees, North, South, East and West Central and are not available by application via the main grants round.

## 4.3 Funding arrangements

4.3.1 The following funding arrangements are proposed for 2012-14:

## **A. Three Year Grant Agreements**

- Funding for ongoing arts & sports activity that meets the Council's leisure priorities 1 and 2 which would be tapered over the three years.
- These agreements would usually be available for organisations that had been in receipt of an annual leisure grant for two consecutive years.
- Payment in years two and three would be subject to an annual review and the funding being available.

Approximately 80% of the leisure grants budget would be allocated to three year grant agreements initially and it is anticipated this may reduce over time.

The proposal is to work on the detail of assessment, tapering, impact and implementation from April 2012 and begin discussions with organisations to inform their applications for grants in the autumn 2012 and then to come into actual effect from April 2013.

## **B. One Year Project Grants**

- One-off project grants for arts & sports activity meeting the Council's leisure priorities for the benefit of local residents city-wide.

Approximately 10% of the leisure grants budget would be allocated to one year project grants initially and it is anticipated this may increase over time.

## **C. Area Committee Grants**

- One-off project grants for arts & sports activity meeting the Council's leisure priorities for the benefit of local residents in the wards designated by area committees.

Approximately 10% of the leisure grants budget would be allocated to area committee grants in 2012-13 and it is anticipated this may increase over time.

4.3.2 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.

4.3.3 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.

#### 4.4 Eligibility Criteria

It is proposed to introduce the following additional eligibility criteria as a light touch in 2012-13 to enable us to offer understanding and support to organisations and in full by 2013-14.

- Adopt, implement and monitor a policy to protect the environment and demonstrate how they are routinely making an effort to decrease their carbon footprint, ensure greater energy efficiency, reduce waste and increase levels of recycling where appropriate
- Be able to demonstrate any grant awarded is a contribution to the project and not sole funding by evidence of other income such as fundraising, charges, partnership working, donations etc
- Organisations will be asked to demonstrate consultation with local people, evidence that the activity is not provided by anyone else, or if it is, explain why it is still needed.

### 5. Implications

#### (a) **Financial Implications**

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

#### (b) **Staffing Implications - None**

#### (c) **Equal Opportunities Implications**

- Equality impact assessments were undertaken on the arts and sports strategies.
- An equalities impact assessment was carried out on the draft proposals for the review of leisure grants prior to consultation. The initial assessment found a gap in targeting older people in relation to improving access to leisure activities. The final document for consultation was amended accordingly.
- The assessment will be reviewed during the implementation phase.

- A condition of grant aid is the effective implementation of equal opportunities policy and practice

(d) **Environmental Implications**

- All applicants are required to have environmental/green policies and revised eligibility criteria will enhance organisation accountability to evidence good practice.
- Climate change rating: +L - low positive impact

(e) **Consultation**

Detailed in 4.1 of this report

(f) **Community Safety - None**

## 6. Background papers

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

- Sports Strategy 2009-13
- Arts Strategy 2011- 14
- Compact
- Community Services Scrutiny Committee March 2011
- Consultation document and feedback
- Equalities Impact Assessment

## 7. Appendices

None

## 8. Inspection of papers

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

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