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| <b>Item No.</b>                    | <b>Classification:</b><br>Open | <b>Date:</b><br>22 March 2019                 | <b>Decision Taker:</b><br>Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Equalities and Communities |
| <b>Report title:</b>               |                                | Culture Grants 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020  |   |
| <b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b> |                                | All   |   |
| <b>From:</b>                       |                                | Strategic Director of Environment and Leisure |   |

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That the deputy leader and cabinet member for culture, leisure, equalities and communities approve the extension of grant funding of £152,000 to currently commissioned funded arts and cultural organisations for a period of twelve months from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. In March 2017 the cabinet formally approved Creative Southwark: Cultural Strategy 2017 to 2022.
3. The strategy placed Southwark as one of London's most vibrant and innovative locations for cultural activity, attracting many new and emerging artists and cultural organisations that offer high quality opportunities for local people to benefit from culture across a range of disciplines. Many of these organisations operate on limited resources.
4. Creative Southwark: Cultural Strategy 2017 to 2022 aims to:
  - Ensure that Southwark continues to be a borough for cultural excellence.
  - Embed a cross-council and partner approach to culture
  - Ensure that cultural priorities are reflected in emerging plans and strategies, including the Southwark Plan
  - Align the strategy to the Fairer Future Promises.
  - Protect, preserve and grow our cultural venues, spaces and provision
  - Ensure our cultural sector is resilient in the changing financial and political climate
  - Support the economic prosperity of the borough, including the night time economy.
  - Enable all of our diverse community to have access to cultural opportunities
  - Collect, conserve and celebrate our local history for future generations.
5. The council grants programme aims to further diversify the support provided to the sector ensuring its continued vibrancy, as well as playing a role in enabling the leverage of this investment of over £2 million from other funders.
6. In 2018-19 the total culture grants budget was £152,000 with individual organisations receiving between £19,000 and £53,000.

7. Five organisations were awarded grants:
  - South London Gallery
  - CGP London/Bermondsey Artists Group
  - Blue Elephant Theatre
  - Theatre Peckham
  - London Bubble Theatre.
8. A summary of their outcomes representing a wide range of arts and culture activities to residents including performances, exhibitions, workspace, training, schools engagement, and professional development can be seen in Appendix 1.
9. All funded organisations were subject to conditions of grant aid detailing the frequency of payments and monitoring arrangements.
10. In addition to the direct grant funding the council gives support to cultural events and activity from other departments including:
  - Events programmes and commissions
  - Blackfriars Stories via Regeneration
  - Events and exhibitions via the Local Economy Team's High Street Challenge programme.
11. The council also exercises considerable influence on developers and direct investment in cultural infrastructure including:
  - Mountview Academy coming to Peckham
  - Theatre Peckham's refurbished theatre
  - London College of Contemporary Music's new venue Music Box
  - New spaces for Southwark Playhouse
  - Peckham Levels
  - A new venue from Central School of Ballet
  - The use of Wilson Road for creative workspace.

## **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

12. The tripartite council, CCG and Voluntary & Community Sector Strategy aims to achieve better partnership working across sectors to improve outcomes for residents improved commissioning and grant-giving that focuses on outcomes for local people and better use of community assets to build resilient communities through community-led approaches. The VCS strategy is about a new relationship with the VCS and unlocking the social value and assets that exist in communities to create a Southwark that is fairer for all.
13. The role of the cultural sector in future provision is an essential part of delivering and implementing Creative Southwark.
14. With unprecedented cuts in public funding to local government, a schedule of proposed efficiencies, income and savings proposals was agreed by cabinet in February 2019 as part of the Policy and Resources Strategy.

15. In 2017-18 the council managed significant savings to the culture and events service totalling £430,000:
- Review the arts and events staff structure and arts grants (£205,000)
  - Introduce a self-financing events service and increased income from events hires (£225,000 additional income).
16. Southwark Council is a significant advocate and supporter of the arts and cultural industries, both through direct funding such as the culture grants and through our regeneration schemes and employment and skills support, and we want this to continue. Unlike many local authorities we still provide culture grant funding to key organisations, recognising their unique role for our communities.
17. To help us meet these targets the council has:
- Reviewed its culture grants programme
  - Reorganised the staff team
  - Introduced a small number of large commercial events to generate income.
18. The 2019-20 grant allocation would be:

| <b>Organisation</b>      | <b>Proposed grant 2018-19</b> | <b>Proposed grant 2019-20</b> | <b>Reduction (£)</b> | <b>Reduction (%)</b> |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Bermondsey Artists Group | 21,500.00                     | 21,500.00                     | 0                    | 0%                   |
| Blue Elephant Theatre    | 19,500.00                     | 19,500.00                     | 0                    | 0%                   |
| London Bubble Theatre    | 28,000.00                     | 28,000.00                     | 0                    | 0%                   |
| South London Gallery     | 51,500.00                     | 51,500.00                     | 0                    | 0%                   |
| Theatre Peckham          | 31,500.00                     | 31,500.00                     | 0                    | 0%                   |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>152,000</b>                | <b>152,000</b>                | <b>0</b>             |                      |

19. Continuation of their programmes will support for delivery of the cultural strategy whilst a review of the commissioning of culture and festival grants take place.
20. Each organisation was written to in February 2019 to notify them of a review of the grants and proposed grant allocation.
21. We will work with funded bodies by encouraging them to access the workshops run by Community Southwark and Arts Council England that seek to provide information on funding sources, business planning etc.
22. The grants will provide a level of security for Arts Council England's National Portfolio Organisations (Theatre Peckham, CGP London/Bermondsey Artists Group and South London Gallery) who secured five year funding from April 2018.

23. Some grants have previously supported council premises rent. It is expected that this will be the same for 2019-20 and we will have ensured that all rent payments are covered by the grants.

| <b>Organisation</b>      | <b>Council rent</b> |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Bermondsey Artists Group | 16,000.00           |
| Blue Elephant Theatre    | 8,000.00            |
| London Bubble Theatre    | 28,000.00           |
| Theatre Peckham          | 3,250.00            |

24. The council will continue the mutually beneficial working relationships seeking to make best use of existing resources whilst working closely with the sector to support any bids for additional funding to further enhance the programme.
25. A broad range of universal and targeted activities are currently provided within the existing programme with a significant number of young people and residents engaged on a regular basis. It is important that these participants are able to access continuous provision to support constructive leisure time, social and creative development.
26. In addition, these services provide accredited training and skills to young people, engage socially excluded groups including those with mental health issues and isolated elderly residents, provide volunteer opportunities, engage with thousands of school children and families, and provide work for hundreds of artists and performers.
27. To date the regularly funded organisations are achieving well on agreed outcomes and the details of quarter 1, 2 & 3 performance figures can be seen in Appendix 2.
28. All currently funded organisations have been visited recently by monitoring officers. The providers are committed to continuing to build relationships with the council and to taking an active role in the development and delivery of an outcome focussed model of delivery to meet the council's priorities.

### **Contract management and monitoring**

29. All commissioned provision will be monitored closely over the coming year to ensure that the intended outcomes are achieved.

### **Community impact statement**

30. The council's cultural strategy was approved in March 2017 and clearly set out the need for sustainable investment and development of cultural provision within Southwark.
31. The process by which organisations have been recommended to receive funding is transparent and focused on delivering the most beneficial impact to the wider cultural sector.
32. The award process specifically seeks clarification around target users, participants, audience and the community areas in which they will be delivered

in order to identify where there may be an overlap of provision or where alternative activities are being targeted at similar audiences. This provides opportunity to minimise the impact on audiences and protected equalities groups wherever possible. All of the groups receiving funding have clearly developed and target audiences for their activities.

33. The process is such that the awards being made are likely to deliver the most beneficial impact whilst wherever possible maintaining provision to protected groups.

### **Resource implication**

34. The total budget available for Culture grants programme in 2019-20 is £152,000 in line with the council's budget setting process.
35. All grant funded organisations were made aware of in February 2019 of grant allocation process that future funding is not assured and is dependent on the council's budget setting process.
36. Staff and any other grant monitoring costs connected with this proposal will be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

### **SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS**

#### **Director of Law and Democracy**

37. This report seeks approval of the extension of grant funding totalling £152,000 to the arts and cultural organisations listed under paragraph 18 and in the report appendices for the 12-month period commencing on 1 April 2019.
38. Under the provisions of Part 3D of the council's constitution the decision to approve the recommendations set out in this report is reserved to the cabinet member for culture, leisure, equalities and communities.
39. The Cabinet Member will be aware of the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. At each stage, in exercising its function (and in its decision making processes) the council must have due regard to the need to:
  - Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation or other prohibited conduct;
  - Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it;
  - Foster good relations between person who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it.

The relevant protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership are protected in relation to (a) only.

40. The community impact statement set out within paragraphs 30 to 33 advises that the process by which organisations have been recommended for funding allocation had been established and managed with a view to ensuring transparency and safeguarding the interests of individuals and groups having

protected characteristics under the Act. The report notes that the council has consulted the recipient organisations in relation to its review of the grants programme and its funding proposals for the coming year.

41. The conditions of grant funding which regulate the existing commissioned arts and cultural activities will continue to apply during the 12-month extension of the agreements between the council and the recipient organisations.

#### **Strategic Director of Finance and Governance**

42. The report seeks the deputy leader and cabinet member for culture, leisure, equalities and communities approve the extension of grant funding of £152,000 to currently commissioned funded arts and cultural organisations for a period of twelve months from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.
43. The strategic director of finance and governance notes that the costs can be contained within existing resources as mentioned under the financial implications. It is expected that continued monitoring will take place with all grant recipients to ensure conditions of grant are met.
44. Staffing, subsequent grant monitoring and any other costs connected with this proposal to be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

| <b>Background Papers</b>  | <b>Held At</b>                     | <b>Contact</b>               |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Creative Southwark: Cultural Strategy 2017 to 2022  | 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH | Paul Cowell<br>020 7525 2472 |
| <b>Link (please copy and paste in your browser):</b><br><a href="http://www.southwark.gov.uk/events-culture-and-heritage/creative-southwark/about-creative-southwark/cultural-strategy">http://www.southwark.gov.uk/events-culture-and-heritage/creative-southwark/about-creative-southwark/cultural-strategy</a> |                                    |                              |

#### **APPENDICES**

| <b>No</b>  | <b>Title</b>                                 |
|------------|--|
| Appendix 1 | 2018-19 Arts Grants Awardees                 |
| Appendix 2 | 2018-19 Arts Grants Q1&2 performance figures |

## AUDIT TRAIL

|   |   |                          |
|---|---|--------------------------|
| <b>Lead Officer</b>   | Aileen Cahill, Head of Culture          |                          |
| <b>Report Author</b>  | Paul Cowell, Culture and Events Manager |                          |
| <b>Version</b>  | Final                                   |                          |
| <b>Dated</b>  | 20 February 2019                        |                          |
| <b>Key Decision?</b>  | Yes                                     |                          |
| <b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b> |   |                          |
| <b>Officer Title</b>  | <b>Comments Sought</b>                  | <b>Comments included</b> |
| Director of Law and Democracy   | Yes                                     | Yes                      |
| Strategic Director of Finance and Governance                            | Yes                                     | Yes                      |
| <b>Cabinet Member</b>   | Yes                                     | Yes                      |
| <b>Date final report sent to the Constitutional Team</b>                | 20 March 2019                           |                          |