

BUDGET & PERFORMANCE

Arts Investments 17th December 2019

Report of Director of Economic Growth & Regeneration

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is to provide information for Budget and Performance Panel to review the Council's arts Service Level Agreements and their performance.

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

(1) Budget and Performance Committee notes the contents of this report

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Budget and Performance Panel requested information to consider a review of arts investments via Service Level Agreements (SLA's) for the management and governance of grants from the Council. This report sets out the current level of investment by the Council, the management arrangements in place for monitoring SLA's and a summary of the latest monitoring information.

2.0 Background

1.1 The Council has supported arts and culture in the district in various ways in recent years playing a strong role in terms of support, development, investment, promotion and delivery. As part of this, investments have been made via Service Level agreements to support the activities of a number of arts organisations.

1.2 The Council's current investments are as follows:

Dukes £163,000
Litfest £10,700
More Music £11,900
Ludus Dance £24,800

1.3 Monitoring of all of the Service Level Agreements with the Dukes, Ludus, Litfest and More Music takes place in a number of ways:

- A six monthly health check is undertaken with Litfest, Ludus Dance and More Music that allows for a midyear discussion on progress, any issues that may have arisen and expectations for the remainder of the year.
- A quarterly monitoring meeting is undertaken with The Dukes that allows more regular discussion on information supplied by them as part of a quarterly activity report and financial statement.
- A senior officer is also invited to attend The Dukes Board of Trustees meetings and is

in receipt of Board papers and reports.

- An end of year report is provided by all the above arts organisations that details actual performance and provides an evaluation of activities, programme highlights, new developments, audiences, economic and social impact, partnerships, engagement and a summary of finances.
- End of year draft accounts are provided, followed by end of year audited accounts.

The Council works closely with arts organisations to address any issues that arise as part of the monitoring arrangements in place.

- 1.4 It's worth noting that a framework for the Council's investment and use of resources to support arts and culture has recently been agreed. The Cultural Investment Framework sets out parameters that take account of the Council Plan, which has been widely consulted upon.

2.0 Details

- 2.1 The latest monitoring information is from the 2018/19 end of year activity reports submitted by Litfest, Ludus Dance, More Music and The Dukes. This information includes output targets and actual achievements for such things as number of artists and volunteers engaged, audience and participation numbers, new products or commissions, number of people employed and number of sessions delivered for education, training or taking part. The arts organisations also provide examples of projects and activities undertaken during the year and more general information such as staff changes, business planning, marketing, challenges that have been addressed and lessons learned (see Appendix 1).

- 2.2 Audited accounts have been requested and are normally all available by January following year end the previous April. These will be made available once received. A basic financial summary is provided as part of the end of year report and has been included in this report, however this information has not been verified and will differ from the financial details in audited accounts (see Appendix 2).

- 2.3 Further information is available if Budget and Performance Panel identifies further lines of enquiry.

3.0 Details of Consultation

- 3.1 Regularly meetings take place with these arts organisations of which some are specifically to monitor service level agreements.

4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 A thorough monitoring process is in place and detailed information is provided by the arts organisations that the Council supports. From this information officers determine if Council's Investment has achieved the aims and objectives set out in the Service Level Agreements.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing):

Arts investments contribute directly to economic and social outcomes.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Council arts investments are managed via Service Level Agreements.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council requires a range of deliverables in respect of its arts investments and these are expected to represent value for money as well as contributing to outcomes that relate to Council priorities.

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS, such as Human Resources, Information Services, Property, Open Spaces

Resource implications relate primarily to officer support. However, the level of support required varies considerably from time to time.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

Whilst the Council has a long history of supporting the Arts it is expected that the forth coming Arts Framework document will provide a mechanism for assessing requests for new and continuing financial support against a series of criteria.

Members may wish to consider when noting the report if the targets and outputs reflected in the 2018/19 SLA's remain appropriate and are sufficiently stretching to form the basis of future monitoring.

DEPUTY MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Deputy Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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