

Individual Executive Decision Notice

Report title	Acceptance of Arts & Culture Grants
Decision designation	GREEN
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Deputy Leader: Inclusive City Economy Portfolio
Wards affected	(All Wards);
Accountable Director	Richard Lawrence, Director of Regeneration
Originating service	Arts & Culture
Accountable employee	Author name: Marguerite Nugent Position: Manager Arts & Culture Tel: 01902 551998 Email: Marguerite.nugent@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Directorate Leadership Team

Summary

The Arts & Culture Service regularly applies for external funding to support project and partnership funding. The purpose of this paper is to agree, on behalf of the Council that the Arts & Culture Service accepts and manages this funding in line with corporate financial regulations

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

That the Cabinet Member for City Economy, in consultation with the Director of Regeneration.

1. Approve the creation of supplementary revenue budgets relating to grant funding of £65,500 from Arts Connect Partnership Investment Fund to support the work of the Wolverhampton Local Education Partnership.
2. Approve the creation of supplementary revenue budget relating to grant funding of £65,000 from the Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund to support the decolonising and anti-racism work.

This report is PUBLIC
[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED/]

Signature

Name of Cabinet Member

Date: 20 Nov 21

Signature

Name of Director: Richard Lawrence

Date: 19/11/2021

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Partnership funding is made available by Arts Connect, an Arts Council England bridge organisation, to support the work of Local Cultural Education Partnerships established in cities across the West Midlands. Cultural Education partnerships were established in 2015 following the launch of the Cultural Education Challenge to create strong networks of organisations delivering education to children. The Arts & Culture Service, on behalf of the Wolverhampton LCEP applied for funding, in August 2021, to the Arts Connect Partnership Investment Fund to support further development of the LCEP to create a more sustainable model. The project will run initially from September 2021-April 2023 with potential for future investment beyond that.
- 1.2 The Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund exists to support museums to use their collections to work more meaningfully with local communities to interpret and display material and to learn from this process. The Arts & Culture Service submitted an application to the fund in June 2021 for £65,000 on the theme of 'Living with Difference'. The purpose of the project is to work with our diverse communities to develop programming ideas and to co-curate exhibitions and events, to improve community cohesion and learn more about our collections through interaction with local residents. The project will begin in November 2022 and will be completed by October 2023.

2.0 Progress.

- 2.1 Section 151 approval has been granted prior to the Arts Connect Partnership Investment application being submitted. Confirmation that the bid was successful was received in September 2021, with Section 151 approval being granted to accept the funding in October.
- 2.2 Section 151 approval was granted prior to the Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund application being submitted. Confirmation that the bid was successful was received in July 2021, with Section 151 approval being granted to accept the funding in October.

3.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 3.1 The Cultural Education Partnership could continue to be a network of organisations as opposed to a delivery body. However, the impact of the work would then be less widely felt within the city. Alternative funders are not an option as Arts Connect hold the partnership investment funding for the LCEPs on behalf of Arts Council
- 3.2 The Arts & Culture Service would be able to continue to develop the decolonising and anti-racism work with funding from alternative funding bodies. However, this would take longer to develop, and funding is not guaranteed.

4.0 Reasons for decision(s)

- 4.1 Partnership Investment will allow the Wolverhampton LCEP to develop strategically and deliver more for the young people in our city. If the Partnership Investment Funding is not

accepted, then there is a risk that the Wolverhampton Cultural Education Partnership will be unable to develop into a more sustainable model and even cease to exist as membership is likely to reduce.

- 4.2 Esmée Fairbairn funding will allow the Arts & Culture Services to reach out to our local communities and engage them more fully with the work of the service. The work targets a key audience that the service is aiming to attract and which are currently under-represented. If the Esmée Fairbairn funding is not accepted then the Arts & Culture Service's decolonising work will continue but progress will be much slower and impact will not be felt until further into the future.

5.0 Financial implications

- 5.1 The total bid for Arts Connect Partnership Investment was for £131,000 with 50% match funding coming from a combination of Children's Services revenue budgets, sponsorship, membership subscription and Communities Renewal Fund. If the funds are unspent there is a risk of clawback of the grant but the risk of this is low due to the mechanisms in place for project delivery. Funding will be drawn down as match funding is achieved and therefore the full £65,500 will only be drawn down if all the match is achieved. £15,000 has currently been confirmed as match funding from Children's Services with additional match being expected as opposed to confirmed at this stage.
- 5.2 The bid for the Esmée Fairbairn funding was for £65,000 towards a total project cost of £80,000, with match funding of £15,000 coming from Arts & Culture revenue budgets. If the funds are unspent there is a risk of clawback of the grant but the risk of this is low due to the mechanisms in place for project delivery.
- 5.3 The service has read and understood the terms of the respective grants and are aware of their obligations to report the outcomes and outputs to the funding body as required.

[VS/29102021/P]

6.0 Legal implications

- 6.1 A funding agreement will be drawn up between Arts Connect and Wolverhampton City Council. A copy of a sample funding agreement from Arts Connect is included as Appendix 1.
- 6.2 To accept the Esmée Fairbairn grant the Council will need to accept the standard terms and conditions of the grant. These are included as Appendix 2

[TC/28102021/E]]

7.0 Equalities implications

- 7.1 The Arts Connect Partnership Investment funding will allow the LCEP to deliver more activity to children in the city, especially to those from Black and Asian communities and disadvantaged backgrounds.

7.2 The Esmee Fairbairn funding will specifically target people of Black and Asian backgrounds currently under-represented in the Art Gallery audiences. The project will recruit a curator from a Black or Asian background and will therefore contribute to diversifying the cultural sector.

8.0 All other Implications

8.1 The Arts Connect Partnership Investment includes funding to extend the co-ordinator post. This will be managed by Newhampton Arts Centre, who are one of the LCEP partners. They will be responsible for managing the contract with the Co-ordinator as a continuation of the current arrangement.

8.2 The Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund project will include the recruitment of a Grade 6 Project Officer on a fixed term contract on City of Wolverhampton Council's terms of employment.

8.3 All activities taking place as part of the project will be delivered following Covid-19 guidelines and taking into account advice from the Council's Health & Safety team.

9.0 Appendices

9.1 Appendices should be labelled and referred to numerically (i.e. Appendix 1) not alphabetically (e.g. Appendix A). Delete the appendices section if you do not have any.

9.2 Appendix 1: Draft Partnership Agreement from Arts Connect

9.3 Appendix 2: Terms and Conditions Esmee Fairbairn Collections Fund Grant.