

South Lakeland District Council
Cabinet
Wednesday, 9 February 2022
Strategic Cultural Partners Grants Investment

Portfolio: Economy, Culture and Leisure Portfolio Holder
Report from: Director of Customer and Commercial Services
Report Author: Imelda Winters-Lewis – Economy and Culture Specialist
Wards: (All Wards)
Forward Plan: Key Decision included in the Forward Plan as published on 11/1/2022

Links to Council Plan Priorities: Working across boundaries, delivering sustainable regional growth across Morecambe Bay, promoting unique value propositions such as cultural, creative and marine industries, delivering a balanced community and addressing the climate emergency.

1.0 Expected Outcome and Measures of Success

1.1 This report recommends a proposal to continue the allocation of revenue funding identified in the Council's budget to the Council's designated Strategic Cultural Partners contributing to the economic prosperity of South Lakeland, to maximise impact and benefit to communities and effectively continue to deliver Council priorities in the period leading up to the creation and first year of the new Westmorland and Furness authority's operation. This targeted strategic approach will further develop South Lakeland's cultural and creative industries and lever in additional economic and cultural investment into the district.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that Cabinet :-

- (1) Agrees a funding period of two years from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2024 and approves the levels of funding for Strategic Cultural Partner (SCP) organisations to a total of £187,150 per annum in the sums and for the grant period of two years set out in paragraphs 3.3 and 3.4 of this report; and**
- (2) Authorise the Legal Governance and Democracy Lead Specialist in consultation with the Operational Lead Place and Environment Specialist, to finalise the terms of, and put in place, the necessary legal agreements with each SCP organisation for a period of two years from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2024.**

3.0 Background and Proposals

3.1 In 2012 the Council established the designation of 'Strategic Cultural Partners' (SCPs) with the aim of working in partnership with key cultural organisations, events and festivals to continue to build firm foundations for cultural provision in the district. The district wide SCP organisations receive regular revenue funding from the council to

deliver that provision and in return engage with local communities, deliver economic return on investment, produce high quality work, collaborate with others and work in partnership.

The council moved away from an annual open grants programme and established funding agreements with SCP organisations for a defined period to enable a more strategic approach to cultural investment that provided organisations with confidence to plan more effectively whilst at the same time the council would be assured that longer term strategic work and plans could be realised. During this time the council has developed strong productive partnerships with all the SCP organisations.

The council's recognition of the value of public investment in culture that supports the wider ambition and delivery of economic, cultural, social and environmental priorities of the Council has helped to promote South Lakeland as a great place to live work and do business and as a leading rural cultural destination.

- 3.2 The last ten years - where culture, now embedded as part of 'Economy and Culture', continues to be part of the core strategy of the council - has been successful and the council's work with SCPs is recognised as an 'enlightened' and effective approach that has been acknowledged by Arts Council England and replicated by other councils. In this period of time the approach has been refined and further developed with a review of SCP organisations most recently in 2019.

The council's strategic approach to SCP funding has also enabled organisations to lever significant levels of other funding investment for the benefit of the area from the Government Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Arts Council England, National Lottery Heritage, Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership, and significant national trusts and foundations. Some of the SCPs of the council are also National Portfolio Organisations of Arts Council England.

- 3.3 It is proposed to continue the funding commitment to the 12 SCP organisations for the grant periods and in the sums set out in para 3.4 as currently identified in the council's revenue budget to a total sum of £187,150 per annum for a two year period until 31 March 2024. There would be potential and opportunity for the new authority to review the current portfolio of SCP organisations and investment within the first year of its operation.

The table in Paragraph 3.4 below shows all proposed SCP grant funding to the organisations for the period 1 April 2022 - 31 March 2024. A contractual funding agreement would be put in place for the two year period for each SCP organisation detailing the terms and conditions on which the investment would be made.

The proposed funding from 1 April 2022 - 31 March 2024 will support the following organisations to directly deliver outcomes supporting the council's economic, social, cultural and environmental priorities.

3.4 **Proposed Funding recommendations**

The SCP organisation funding and amount proposed per annum over a two year period for 2022-2024 is detailed here:

Kendal Brewery Arts Centre	£67,500
Lakeland Arts	£27,500
Wordsworth Trust	£17,500
Grizedale Arts	£12,500
Kendal Mountain Festival	£10,000

Lakes Arts Festivals (delivering Lakes International Comic Arts Festival)	£10,000
Ruskin Museum	£5,000
Old Laundry Theatre	£5,000
Kendal Torchlight	£4,500
Lake District Summer Music (LDSM)*	£13,050*
Ulverston Community Enterprises (UCE)*	£9,500*
Highlights Rural Touring*	£5,100*

The total amount of funding investment per annum recommended is £187,150.

- 3.5 The funding amounts to the three organisations identified* above are designated 'hub' organisations and the sums includes some council funding to smaller cultural organisations and events and to support partnership working with those organisations. UCE acts as a hub for Ulverston International Music Festival, Printfest, South Cumbria Music Festival and Ulverston Lantern Festival. LDSM acts as a hub for classical music organisations Lakeland Sinfonia Concert Society, Westmorland Orchestra, Westmorland Youth Orchestra and Westmorland Music Trust. Highlights Rural Touring acts as a hub organisation for the Heron Theatre Beetham.

4.0 Consultation

- 4.1 Discussions and consultation has taken place with the Operational Lead Specialist for Place and Environment, Finance Lead Specialist and the Portfolio Holder for Economy Culture and Leisure regarding the proposed SCPs grants investment. The Portfolio Holder and Operational Lead Places and Environment as the responsible budget holder, support the levels of funding for all the SCPs for the two year period stated. Some consultation has taken place with SCPs.

5.0 Alternative Options

- 5.1 End funding support for SCP organisations or make alternative allocations. This is not recommended because the council has reviewed SCP investment and adopted a strategic approach to investment in culture in the district that supports the social, economic, cultural and sustainability priorities of the council and levers in significant investment levels of other funding investment for the benefit of South Lakeland. The council's funding enables the delivery of nationally recognised cultural programmes, arts, events, festivals, and projects.
- 5.2 Two year agreements provide organisations with confidence in the revenue stream from the Council for a defined period and enables them to plan more effectively, whilst at the same time, the Council would be assured that value for money was being provided through monitoring of the agreements and SCP relationship management.

6.0 Implications

Financial, Resources and Procurement

- 6.1 The total proposed allocated funding for SCP organisations is £187,150. £157,150 is currently accommodated within the Economy and Culture budget 'Arts Strategy Grants and Contributions to Voluntary Organisations' revenue budget for 2022/23 along with £30,000 to come from the associate reserve. The projected revenue budget for 2023/24 within the Economy and Culture Budget for 'Arts Strategy Grants and Contributions to Voluntary Organisations' is £187,150.

- 6.2 This funding investment includes the expected first year of the new Westmorland and Furness unitary authority. Protocols are being prepared to manage spending commitments beyond 31 March 2023 to enable the continuation of projects and services. The projected spend is within forecasted budgets.

Human Resources

- 6.3 No additional staffing implications as this would be business as usual.

Legal

- 6.4 Officers will liaise with the Legal Governance and Democracy Specialists regarding the necessary Subsidy Control compliance. Officers will liaise with Legal and seek advice in the preparation of appropriate terms and conditions of the relevant funding agreements with each SCP organisation. This will include consideration of Subsidy Control rules and appropriate drafting of the funding agreement and offer letters so as to comply with the relevant legislation.

7.0 Health and Sustainability Impact Assessment

- 7.1 Have you completed a Health and Sustainability Impact Assessment? No

- 7.2 If you have not completed an Impact Assessment, please explain your reasons:

It is not necessary because the measures are believed to have a neutral impact save for the Economy and Culture impacts and Communities where it has a positive impact. Other 'Climate Change' sustainability impacts are to be identified at the end of the funding agreements for 2022/23 following consultation with the SCP organisations once the initial full year of the agreement is completed.

- 7.3 Summary of Health and Sustainability Impacts

		Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Environment and Health	Greenhouse gases emissions		x		
	Air Quality		x		
	Biodiversity		x		
	Impacts of Climate Change		x		
	Reduced or zero requirement for energy, building space, materials or travel		x		
	Active Travel		x		
Economy and Culture	Inclusive and sustainable development	x			
	Jobs and levels of pay	x			
	Healthier high streets	x			
	Culture, creativity and heritage	x			
Housing and Communities	Standard of housing		x		
	Access to housing		x		

	Crime		x		
	Social connectedness	x			

Equality and Diversity

7.4 Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis? No

7.5 If you have not completed an Impact Analysis, please explain your reasons:

The continuing support through funding for various organisations is not believed to have an impact upon Equality and Diversity. The SCP organisations have their own Equality and Diversity policies in place.

7.6 Summary of Equality and Diversity impacts

Please indicate: P = Positive impact; 0 = Neutral; N = Negative; Enter "X"					
Age	P		0	x	N
Disability	P		0	x	N
Gender reassignment (transgender)	P		0	x	N
Marriage & civil partnership	P		0	x	N
Pregnancy & maternity	P		0	x	N
Race/ethnicity	P		0	x	N
Religion or belief	P		0	x	N
Sex/gender	P		0	x	N
Sexual orientation	P		0	x	N
Armed forces families	P		0	x	N
Rurality	P		0	x	N
Socio-economic disadvantage	P		0	x	N

Risk Management	Consequence	Controls required
SLDC grant funding is spent inappropriately, i.e. not on activities supporting the Council Plan Priorities.	Council Plan Priorities are not met. Reputational damage.	Appropriate funding agreements to be entered into with SCP organisations including appropriate monitoring processes.
Risk of non-compliance with Subsidy Control.	Council is under a legal obligation to comply with subsidy control rules.	Take appropriate Legal advice in relation to subsidy control.

Contact Officers

Imelda Winters Lewis – Economy and Culture Specialist

Tel:01539 793169

Email:i.winterslewis@southlakeland.gov.uk

Background Documents Available

Name of Background document	Where it is available
None	None

Tracking Information

Signed off by	Date sent	Date Signed off
Section 151 Officer	20/1/22	31/01/2022
Monitoring Officer	20/1/22	31/01/2022
CMT	24/1/22	26/01/22

Circulated to	Date sent
Lead Specialist	20/1/22
Human Resources Lead Specialist	N/A
Communications Team	N/A
Leader	26/1/22
Committee Chairman	N/A
Portfolio Holder	20/1/22
Ward Councillor(s)	N/A
Committee	N/A
Executive (Cabinet)	26/1/22
Council	N/A