

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee Cabinet

Date of Committee 26 May 2005

Report Title Arts Service Key Clients

Summary Recommendations for Partnership Agreements with, and funding for, key arts deliverers in the county.

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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? No.

Background papers

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-

Details to be specified

- Other Committees
- Local Member(s) Not applicable
- Other Elected Members Councillor J Burton, Councillor Mrs J Dill-Russell, Councillor J Haynes
- Cabinet Member
- Chief Executive
- Legal Ian Marriott - agreed
- Finance Paul Walsh, Financial Services Manager - approved
- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police

Other Bodies/Individuals

FINAL DECISION YES

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

Further consideration by this Committee

To Council

To Cabinet

To an O & S Committee

To an Area Committee

Further Consultation

Agenda No

Cabinet - 26 May 2005

Arts Service Key Clients

Report of the Director, Libraries, Heritage & Trading Standards

Recommendation

That Cabinet accepts the recommended allocation of funds to Arts Key Clients as stated in paragraph 4.

1 Key Clients Background

Arts Service Key Clients are professional arts organisations which:

- Make a considerable contribution to the arts infrastructure in Warwickshire
- Work across more than one District or Borough area in Warwickshire
- Implement a satisfactory Equal Opportunities policy with regard to employees and service users.

Cabinet approval was given in 2002 to develop Partnership Agreements with 3 Key Clients to replace the grant application process and set out agreed outcome and Performance Indicators alongside District and Borough partners. Agreements were therefore developed for 2002/03 with Warwick Arts Society, Live & Local and Motionhouse Dance Theatre. Having received project funding, via the Arts Projects Grant scheme for some years, Playbox Theatre approached the County Council regarding Key Client status and funding in Spring 2002. It was agreed that Playbox Theatre would enter into a partnership agreement for 2003/04.

Due to budgetary pressures on the Arts Service budget in 2004/05 (principally due to: inflationary increases affecting the core costs of running the arts team and a cut of the £25,000 small arts grants programme in 2003/04 all four Key Arts Clients were subject to a reduction in their funding from the County Council.

2 Arts Funding Context

The context within which the County Arts Service has been operating over the past two years has changed considerably, notably:

- The re-organisation of West Midlands Arts as part of a new national body – Arts Council England. This has particularly affected funding programmes and the way in which the Arts Council works in partnership and funds local authorities.
- Reduction of the budget available to the County Arts Service to support arts organisations and priority development work.

In light of the changing operating context for the County Arts Service and the achievement of many of the current policy objectives, it was agreed by Learning O&S in October 2004 to undertake a full evaluation of both the current Policy and its associated priorities for action. This will provide the County Arts Service and its key partners with a basis for revised priorities for action over the next few years to put before elected members.

The evaluation process will, following a process of consultation, formulate priorities for action for 2005 onwards and to consider the role of the Arts Service in achieving these. This will also involve reviewing the most effective use of resources available to the Arts Service, with particular regard to;

- quantifying the actual and potential resources available,
- the criteria for focusing and prioritising resources,
- the nature and range of partnerships that will support these.

It is possible that the outcome of the evaluation process will affect resources allocated to Key Arts Clients from 2006/07 onwards. It is therefore recommended that a report concerning future strategy is referred to Cabinet in advance of next year's allocation.

3 Applications

Live and Local is the touring scheme for Warwickshire, Solihull, Staffordshire and Derbyshire. They help small venues including village halls and community centres to promote professional performances locally, providing access for local communities to arts activities. Proposed activity for this year, also supported by District and Borough Councils and Arts Council funding will lead to a target of 65 performances in Warwickshire plus 3 promoter meetings to support local voluntary promoters. The company will also be hosting the National Rural Touring Forum's annual conference in Moreton Morrell this summer.

A grant of **£13,000** is recommended for Live & Local.

Warwick Arts Society is the promoter of:

- Leamington Festival (May)
- International String Quartet Series

- Early Music Series
- Warwick Festival (June)
- Concerts in Warwickshire Churches

The company runs an education programme that plans to bring professional groups to work in schools with the assistance of Trust funding.

Warwick Arts Society also administers the Stratford English Music Festival and run the Warwick Events Group to support cultural tourism in the town centre.

A grant of **£4,000** is recommended for Warwick Arts Society.

Motionhouse Dance Theatre is one of the only national touring dance companies based outside London. County Council funding is to support participatory activity and performances in Warwickshire. Proposed activity for this year, also supported by District and Borough Councils includes:

- Performance of 'Perfect' at Bedworth Civic Hall
- Workshops and performance in Schools in Rugby and Nuneaton & Bedworth
- Half Term projects in Stratford and Warwick Districts
- Participatory projects in Stratford, Warwick, Nuneaton & Bedworth and North Warwickshire areas.

The company also offer mentoring and Continuing Professional Development places for practitioners, dancers and students from their base in Leamington Spa.

A grant of **£5,500** is recommended for Motionhouse

Playbox Theatre provide training and performing opportunities for young people aged 2 to 25 years in acting, voice, improvisation, movement, music theatre and physical theatre. Classes take place in Stratford, Kenilworth and Leamington as well as their main venue The Dream Factory in Warwick.

A grant of **£2,400** is recommended for Playbox Theatre.

4 Summary of Recommendations

- 4.1 It is recommended that Partnership Agreements for 2005/06 are finalised with the 4 arts organisations plus relevant District and Borough Councils. It is recommended that funding as follows be allocated as part of those agreements:

Live & Local £13,000

Warwick Arts Society £4,000

Motionhouse Dance Theatre £5,500

Playbox Theatre £2,400

- 4.2 That a report concerning future strategy is referred to Cabinet in advance of next year's allocation.

NOEL HUNTER
Director, Libraries, Heritage and Trading Standards

Shire Hall
Warwick
4 May 2005