



Report of: **Executive Member for Tenants, Residents and Communities**

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Ward(s)
Voluntary and Community Sector Committee	18 April 2013	B2	All

Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt
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SUBJECT: Community Festivals Fund Awards 2013/14

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 Community Festivals are a key part of the borough's cultural offer. The Community Festivals Fund Scheme aims to support organisations based in Islington with the opportunity to engage local residents in a broad range of events that promote access, cultural benefit, stronger communities and partnership working. Grants of up to £1,000 are available through the Community Festivals Fund.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 To award Community Festivals Fund grants to the following 21 applicants:

- Angel Canal Festival
- Archway Town Centre Group
- BVMO / Team Cally
- Caxton House Community Centre
- Claremont Project
- Cubitt
- Holloway Neighbourhood Group
- Islington Arts Factory
- Islington Exhibits
- Key Changes (Islington Music Forum)
- Kings Cross Church
- Little Angel Theatre
- Manor Gardens Welfare Trust
- New River Baptist Church
- Newington Green Action Group
- St Luke's Parochial Trust
- Peel Institute

- Reel Islington
- Rowan Arts
- St. Mary's Church
- Yaram Arts

2.2 That the entire budget of £16,000 is allocated to the summer events programme and firework element of the programme be withdrawn.

3. Background

3.1 The Community Festival Fund budget for 2013/14 is £16,000. In previous years approximately £13,000 has been allocated for community festivals and £3,000 for community fireworks displays. The demand on the Fireworks element of the fund was limited in 2012-13 when only one application for the fireworks tranche were received. The Council's Greenspace Service has also limited the use of fireworks in parks. The main festival element of the fund has as usual been oversubscribed and it is recommended that the entire budget be allocated to the summer events programme and firework element of the programme be withdrawn.

3.2 The Community Festival Fund scheme for 2013/14 was publicised on VAI e-news, Creative Islington's website and on the Islington Council website. Application forms and criteria/guidance notes could be downloaded from the Islington Council website or were sent to applicants on request. The deadline for applications was 19th March 2013.

3.3 The scheme was oversubscribed receiving 22 applications from a broad range of organisations supporting a wide range of events. The total funds requested by applicants totalled £19,787. Set out at Appendix A are details of all the organisations that submitted applications.

3.4 Applications have been assessed by Officers against the five published funding criteria:

- 1) Cultural Benefit
 - maximise access to and participation in arts activities
 - reduce inequalities in Islington
 - enhance and improve the quality of life and wellbeing of Islington's residents
 - develop skills and learning opportunities for young people
 - improve community cohesion and civic pride
 - celebrate Islington's diversity
 - improve, animate and interpret the physical environment
 - celebrate and interpret the distinctive characters of local areas
 - contribute to Islington's Cultural Olympiad Programme
- 2) Value for Money
- 3) Regeneration and Sustainability
- 4) Stronger Communities
- 5) Match Funding
- 6) Partnership Working
- 7) Licensing and Public Protection

In addition all applications were assessed to ensure that they met the published eligibility criteria:

- Funding is restricted to voluntary, community and faith organisations based in Islington
- Organisations can only apply for funding for one festival in this grant round
- Each festival will be eligible for one award. Where a number of organisations are contributing different elements of a festival, they should work together to submit one application.
- The following are not eligible for funding: events of a political nature; events promoting a religious doctrine; fundraising events; profit-making organisations; individuals.

- 3.5 Of the 22 applications received, one was ineligible as the applicant was not based in Islington. A total of 10 applicants are recommended to receive the full amount of grant requested and 11 applicants are recommended to receive more than 50% of the amount of grant requested. Officers from the Arts Development Service will continue to support the 10 organisations to look for additional funding for those festivals that have been recommended for part funding.
- 3.6 It is proposed that Officers from the Chief Executive's Office work with the council's media office to prepare a press release announcing the events. Organisations will be required to submit information about their events on the council's events diary. Wherever possible, the Arts and Cultural Development Manager will help event organisers to develop their marketing materials and press and publicity information.
- 3.7 As in previous years, where possible an Officer will visit each festival to monitor the success of the event. Organisations awarded funding will be required to complete a short self-evaluation form and to submit supporting evidence for all expenditure.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial implications:

There are no financial implications arising from the proposals.

4.2 Legal Implications:

The Council has power to give support to organisations for the provision of support services for the voluntary and community sector under the well being power in section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000. The well being power provides the Council with power to do anything which it considers is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of the whole or part of its area or all or any of the persons resident or present in that area.

4.3 Environmental Implications:

There are no environmental implications arising from this proposal.

4.4 Equality Impact Assessment:

The organisations identified meet the needs and priorities of a wide range of Islington's community and help to improve equality within the borough.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

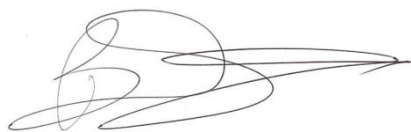
- 5.1 The Community Festivals Fund provides an opportunity for the Council to support 21 local organisations to develop and deliver a broad range of events for local residents. It is important that the process is clear and transparent.

Appendices – Appendix A – list of organisations recommended

Background papers: None

Final report clearance:

Signed by:



Executive Member for Tenants, Residents and
Communities

8 April 2013

Received by:

Head of Democratic Services

Date

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