



Report of: **Executive Member for Community Development**

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Ward(s)
Voluntary and Community Sector Committee	28 March 2017		All
Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt	

SUBJECT: Community Festivals Fund 2017

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 The Community Festivals Fund (CFF) aims to support organisations based in Islington to deliver high quality, innovative, community focused festivals that are accessible to, and provide benefit for, residents across the borough and promote cultural benefit, stronger communities and partnership working.
- 1.2 The annual CFF budget is £16,000. Under the CFF eligibility and selection criteria (adopted in January 2015) Islington based organisations can apply for a minimum grant of £1,500 and up to a maximum of £4,000 to deliver community festivals and events that provide borough-wide benefit and will deliver against the council's equalities, place-shaping and community development agenda.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 To award grants from the £16,000 Community Festival Fund to six applicants for the following community festivals:
 - All Change on behalf of Word2017 – Word 2017 Festival - 1 to 30 June 2017
 - City YMCA - Whitecross Street Party - Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 July 2017
 - Islington Play Association – The Cally Festival – Sunday 18 June 2017
 - Oxjam Islington – Oxjam Islington Take Over – Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 October 2017
 - The Angel Canal Festival Management Group – Angel Canal Festival 2017 – 4 September 2017
 - ArchWay with Words - ArchWay With Words – 21 to 30 September 2017

3. Background

- 3.1 The Community Festivals Fund budget for 2017/2018 is £16,000.
- 3.2 The 2017/2018 Community Festivals Fund scheme was promoted via Creative Islington, Voluntary Action Islington, GRANTfinder website, and Islington Council's website. Applicants from previous years were notified via email alongside all current VCS grant recipients. 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 Wednesday 22 February 2017 at 12 noon.

- 3.3 The scheme received a total of 14 applications this year which is a decrease on the previous year (15 applications were received in 2015; 17 applications were received in 2016). The total amount requested by organisations in this funding round was £44,508 (total request for 2016 was £55,025). Details of all applications received are attached at **Appendix A**.
- 3.4 This is a reduction in the total number of applications received annually prior to the changes in the funding guidelines (from 2011-2014 inclusive the Council received an average of 25 applications per annum).
- 3.5 All applications were assessed by officers against the published eligibility and selection criteria. Full details of the 2017/18 criteria are listed at **Appendix B**.
- 3.6 Festivals have been recommended for support based on the evidence applicants provided:
 - **Cultural Benefit:** festivals are a key part of Islington's cultural offer. In line with the council's arts strategy 2017-20 - "Inspiring Islington", events will need to deliver high quality, innovative, community focused activities that:
 - maximise access to and participation in arts activities
 - celebrate Islington's diversity
 - improve, animate and interpret the physical environment
 - celebrate and interpret the distinctive characters of local areas
 - **Equality:** festivals should promote community involvement and should encourage people from a range of different backgrounds to participate. Festivals will recognise and value Islington's diverse communities, promote good relationships between people of different backgrounds and lifestyles and contribute to the council's commitment to making Islington a fairer place for people to live where discrimination and inequality are addressed.

These values will be visible in event programming by:

- ensuring that participating artists or components of the festival reflect and are attractive to the diversity of local people, cultures and lifestyles in Islington
 - involving local people to define festival aims and objectives
 - promoting understanding, tolerance and cohesion
- **Value for Money:** applicants provided detailed, realistic financial information clearly itemised (with income matching expenditure) in their application with evidence of previous year's festival success (where applicable).
 - **Well-managed:** festival organizer(s) demonstrated that it will be a well-managed event and that the organisers have considered the impacts and safety of their festival.
 - **Inclusive and accessible:** event activities in the festival programme will be open to all the community and accessible and inclusive for Islington's most disadvantaged communities. Festivals will attract people from across the Islington community to actively take part in the festivals as audiences, participants and/or organizers.
 - **Match Funding:** applicants have secured or applied for an appropriate level of external funding to match any council contribution to deliver their event.
 - **Partnership Working:** applicants illustrated how they would work with other agencies and organisations to share costs, facilities, expertise, and/or access to participants or beneficiaries.

3.7 Officers have recommended supporting six applicants to produce the following festivals:

Organisation	Festival	Date – 2017	Ward	Amount
All Change on behalf of Word2017	Word2017 Festival	1 to 30 June	Various – across Islington	£3,000
City YMCA	Whitecross Street Party	22 and 23 July	Bunhill	£3,500
Islington Play Association	The Cally Festival	18 June	Caledonian	£3,500
Oxjam Islington	Oxjam Islington Take Over	14 and 15 October	St Mary's	£2,000
The Angel Canal Festival Management Group	Angel Canal Festival	3 September	St Peter's	£2,000
ArchWay with Words	ArchWay with Words	31 to 30 September	Junction	£2,000
TOTAL				£16,000

3.8 Out of the remaining eight applications, three applications were ineligible for the fund due to their narrow targeted audience or not offering additional (external) funding.

3.9 Applicants who applied for funding support for smaller community events that will primarily provide benefit to local neighbourhoods or specific ward areas will be encouraged to apply to the Local Initiatives Fund and Islington Community Chest. The Council's Arts Service will provide advice and guidance to applicants where requested to support them to find alternative funding sources.

3.10 As in previous years, 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

4.1.1 Funding available to support festivals outlined in this report is £16,000 for 2017/18. The revised eligibility and selection criteria first introduced in 2015/16 have resulted in the provision of larger grants to a smaller number of key strategic festivals in Islington which has reduced the amount of grant administration time for both applicants and Council officers, reduced multiple applications to CFF and Local Initiatives Fund for single events, supported groups to apply for external funding (through a higher level of Council match funding support) and ensured that grant funding contributes to the Council's wider equalities, community cohesion and place-shaping objectives.

4.2 Legal Implications

4.2.1 There are no legal implications arising from this proposal. Under Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council has the power to give support to organisations in the voluntary and community sector to provide services that are likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of residents within the local authority's area.

4.3 Environmental Implications

4.3.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this proposal.

4.4 Residents Impact Assessment

4.4.1 The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life.

4.4.2 The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding and when considering proposals the VCS Committee will take relevant equalities implications into account. The Community Festivals Fund provides resources for local projects which directly meet the needs of local residents, many of whom are from groups with protected characteristics. It enables some of Islington's poorest communities to access community-based services and activities and allows provision to be developed locally which can reach groups of residents that may not otherwise be supported.

4.4.3 The addition of new Equality funding criteria in 2015/16 has helped to strengthen the selection of organisations who will deliver festivals that meet the needs of local residents and communities across the wider borough.

5 Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

5.1 The Community Festivals Fund provides an opportunity for the Council to support six local organisations to develop and deliver a broad range of events that will provide borough-wide benefit for local residents. Officer recommendations have been made assessing each application against established eligibility and funding criteria and on the quality of the applications.

Appendices: Appendix A - 2017/2018 Community Festival Fund - All Applications Received
Appendix B - Festival Grants 2017/18– Funding Criteria and Guidance

Background papers: None

Final report clearance:

Signed by: Executive Member for Community Development



Date: 9 March 2017

Received by: Head of Democratic Services

Date:

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Appendix A 2017/2018 Community Festival Fund All Applications Received

Organisation	Name of Festival	Ward (event)	Description	Applied for	Recommended Amount
All Change on behalf of World2017 Festival	Word2017	Borough-wide	Now in its 6th year, Word is a month-long borough-wide festival, a flagship project for the borough delivering many aspects of the Islington Reads policy. It will see a programme of over 30 events a focus on 1. Older adults with dementia (65 years and over) and their families 2. Young people with mental health difficulties 3. Children (especially early years – 1- 5 years) and their families.	£4,000.00	£3,000
City YMCA	Whitecross Street Festival	Bunhill	The festival sets a tone for Whitecross Street all year round with an art exhibition creating a unique and distinctive style to the street that is becoming synonymous to the area. The lively street art party and exhibition will be choreographed and curated with the help of graffiti artist Teddy Baden.	£4,000.00	£3,500
Islington Play Association	The Cally Festival	Caledonian	The 2017 Cally Festival is now into its 7th year as an annual large-scale community event in "The Cally" – a distinctive place with a strong sense of community, many challenges but with a sense of renewed optimism. It will feature 3 music stages, performance areas, children's activities, sports areas, arts and crafts and a street market.	£4,000.00	£3,500
Oxjam Islington	Oxjam Islington Takeover	St Mary's/Barnsbury	A showcase of Islington's emerging and unsigned artists; including training and live experience for the young people of Islington. With 100 acts over 10 venues, volunteers are tasked with working as a team, to ensure each venue runs smoothly. Venues are themed; rock, Indie, Jazz, Funk, etc.	£2,500.00	£2,000
Angel Canal Festival Management Group	Angel Canal Festival	St Peter's	The Angel Canal Festival is a one-day, free, community Festival which started 31yrs ago not only to celebrate the successful campaign to save the City Rd Basin, but to promote the canal as an historic, local, community, environmental and leisure asset, close to the heart of the city.	£2,700.00	£2,000
ArchWay With Words	ArchWay With Words	Borough-wide	ArchWay With Words is now entering its 5th year. This large-scale festival provides low cost or free presentations, performances and entertainments, and creative, educational and social opportunities which enrich the lives of individuals, reward practitioners and create opportunities for social cohesion.	£4,000.00	£2,000

Caxton House	Hillrise Summer Festival	Hillrise	An annual festival (now in its 3rd year) for all Islington residents featuring arts, nature, food and a range of activities for all ages.	£2,000.00	£0
Key Changes	Islington World Mental Health Day Celebration 2017	Bunhill	The celebration of the global World Mental Health Day will build on previous years' events with a programme of daytime workshops, panel discussions and presentations, art exhibition, marketplace of stalls from local mental health provider organisations, and a concert showcasing music and entertainment from Islington's diverse mental health community.	£2,880.00	£0
Manor Gardens Welfare Trust	Summer Wellbeing Festival	Finsbury Park	To promote a sense of wellbeing in Islington residents using art and music and in particular signpost them to places and activities where they can continue to improve their wellbeing.	£3,175.00	£0
Charteris Neighbourhood Tenant Cooperative (CNTC)	Charteris Cooperative Summer Festival	Finsbury Park	The Charteris Co-op Summer Festival is the return of an annual historic event but also particularly to celebrate CNTC as the oldest housing co-operative in the country.	£3,074.10	£0
Sunnyside Community Gardens	Sunnyside 40th Anniversary	Hillrise	The festival will celebrate the 40th anniversary of Sunnyside as a public green space for Islington residents. It will take place over two days and will include activities for the whole community including families with younger children, older people and people with disabilities.	£3,579.00	£0
Steeping Stone4 (SS4)	Communities pulling together	Caledonian	The festival celebrates different cultures from different community groups in Islington, showcasing different activities each week.	£1,827.00	£0
Clerkenwell Festival	Clerkenwell Festival	Clerkenwell	Local festival run by people from the community and local charities, and which comprises two music stages, dog show, kids area, stalls, sporting activities and other activities.	£3,943.00	£0
Islington Chinese Association	EAST MEETS WEST – celebrating cultural diversity in Islington	Tollington	Celebration of the different aspects of Chinese culture in food, art and music. It will provide an open day where participants, in particular, children, are welcome to enjoy music, lion dance performance and workshop, taichi and chigong demonstration and workshop, Chinese cooking demonstration, calligraphy workshop, painting workshop...etc	£2,830.00	£0
			Total request	£44,508.10	£16,000

Appendix B

Community Festivals Grants Fund 2017 – Funding Criteria and Guidance Notes

Community Festivals Fund grants will be awarded in amounts from £1,500 to a maximum of £4,000.

A. Eligibility Criteria

- Funding is restricted to voluntary, community and faith organisations based in Islington.
- Organisations can only apply for funding for one festival in the annual 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; events viewed as offensive or defamatory; profit-making organisations; individuals.
- Community Festivals Fund applicants must show they have secured external funding for their event and will not be solely reliant on funding from Islington Council.
- Festival applications must demonstrate how they will provide borough-wide benefit for Islington residents.
- Small community events primarily of benefit to local neighbourhoods or specific ward areas will no longer be eligible to apply to the Community Festivals Fund but can contact LocalInitiativesFund@islington.gov.uk to discuss eligibility to apply for Local Initiatives Funding.

B. Selection Criteria

Applicants for Community Festival Fund grants will need to show that the proposed event meets all of the following funding criteria:

1. Cultural Benefit

Festivals are a key part of Islington's arts and cultural offer. In line with the council's arts strategy 2017-20, "Inspiring Islington", events will need to deliver high quality, innovative, community focused activities that:

- maximise access to and participation in arts activities
- celebrate Islington's diversity
- improve, animate and interpret the physical environment
- promote community cohesion and a sense of place

2. Equality

Festivals should promote community involvement and should encourage people from a range of different backgrounds to participate. Festivals will recognise and value Islington's diverse communities, promote good relationships between people of different backgrounds and lifestyles and contribute to the council's commitment to making Islington a fairer place for people to live where discrimination and inequality are addressed.

These values will be visible in event programming by:

- ensuring that participating artists or components of the festival reflect and are attractive to the diversity of local people, cultures and lifestyles in Islington

- involving local people to define festival aims and objectives
- promoting understanding, tolerance and cohesion

3. Value for Money

Islington Council is committed to providing value for money in all its services. Event costs should be realistic and clearly itemised with income matching expenditure. If you have organised festivals in previous years you should provide evidence of their success (e.g. press cuttings, photographs and any evaluation reports).

4. Well-managed

The festival organizer(s) would need to demonstrate that it is a well-managed event and that the organisers have considered the impacts and safety of their festival.

5. Inclusive and accessible

Activities should be open to all the community and accessible and inclusive for Islington's most disadvantaged communities. Applications from organisations that are based in areas of high deprivation will be particularly welcomed. Proposals should demonstrate a commitment to using environmentally friendly policies and practices.

We are particularly keen that festivals will attract people from the following groups (who can often feel excluded from these events) as well as people from across the Islington community, to actively take part in the festivals as audiences, participants and/or organizers: *[NB: detailed list updated]*

- Disabled people
- Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee communities
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender groups
- Older people
- Young people
- Children

Please show in your application which of these groups will participate in your event and how you will encourage them to attend. All festivals must be open and accessible to the general public and provide benefit across Islington not just to the organisation's own members.

6. Match Funding

Applicants are advised to seek funding from more than one source. This may include contributions from your own organisation, charities, trusts, business sponsorship, other local grant schemes, Arts Council England or the Heritage Lottery Fund. Applicants seeking Community Festivals Fund support must secure external funding for their event and not be solely reliant on funding from other council sources.

7. Partnership Working

Applicants are encouraged to work with other agencies and organisations that may be able to share costs, facilities, expertise, and access to or encourage the involvement of participants or beneficiaries.

Licensing and Public Protection

Applicants will need to comply with the following public protection requirements. We recognise that some organisations will need guidance to obtain some of these requirements and will be happy to help you with this.

- **Venue Permissions:** You will need to obtain written permission from the owner of the space you are using, whether you choose a school, a community centre, an estate or other open space, and attach a copy to your application.
- **Public Liability Insurance:** Funding will be conditional on you obtaining sufficient public liability insurance. You may be able to arrange cover through your existing insurer. You must include the cost of insurance premiums in your budget.
- **Entertainment Licensing:** If you are putting on any form of entertainment, such as live or recorded music, film or video, disco, bands, or live performance, you will need to apply for an entertainment licence. Applications for a licence need to be received at least 28 days in advance of the event. For all enquiries about this contact the Council's Licensing Team on licensing@islington.gov.uk or telephone 0207 527 3031.
- **First Aid:** You will need to arrange First Aid cover for your event. If you do not already have a trained first aider, a representative from your organisation must complete training or you will need to hire first aid support for the festival.
- **Islington logo:** Organisations must include an acknowledgement of the support from the London Borough of Islington by displaying the Islington logo on all festival publicity. This will be sent to you separately, together with guidance on its use, once the grant is awarded.

C. How to submit your application

Please email your completed application form to angeles.gordo@islington.gov.uk by **noon** on **Wednesday 22 February 2017**.

(Or post it to Angeles Gordo, Arts Service, Partnerships Place and Culture, Room G11, Town Hall, Upper Street, Islington, N1 2UD - Phone: 020 7527 543)