



Report of: **Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing**

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Ward(s)
Voluntary and Community Sector Committee	19 January 2015		All
<b>Delete as appropriate</b>		Non-exempt	

## **SUBJECT: Community Festivals Fund: proposals for review**

### **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 promote access, cultural benefit, stronger communities and partnership working. These events range from large borough-wide festivals to small scale neighbourhood parties.
- 1.2 The annual CFF budget is £16,000. Currently, the smallest grant provided through the fund has been £250; the maximum grant provided is £1,000. The fund is oversubscribed and applicants to CFF often apply to other council funding streams such as the Local Initiatives Fund (LIF) and Islington Community Chest. This duplication of funding submissions creates additional work for both applicants and council staff. The volume of applications also requires significant officer time to administer what is a modest CFF budget.
- 1.3 To streamline the CFF funding process and to support a more strategic programme of festivals and events that deliver against the council’s equalities, place-shaping and community development agendas, this paper recommends revising the eligibility and selection criteria for the Community Festivals Fund.
- 1.4 The revised eligibility and selection criteria would see increased investment in a smaller number of key strategic festivals. Organisations would be able to apply for a minimum grant of £1,500 up to a maximum of £4,000 to deliver festivals and events that provide borough-wide benefit and meet the council’s priorities.
- 1.5 In order to ensure continued support for local events of primary benefit to specific neighbourhoods, smaller organisations would be directed to LIF. Applicants seeking funding from CFF would not be eligible to apply to the Local Initiatives Fund for the same event.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To agree the revised funding criteria for the Community Festivals Fund to be used from 2015/2016 (attached at Appendix One).
- 2.2 To approve raising the minimum level of funding provided by the Community Festivals Fund to an individual festival to £1,500, and the maximum to £4,000, for those festivals that meet the fund's new strategic ambitions and provide borough-wide benefit.
- 2.3 To agree to the eligibility criteria that applicants seeking Community Festivals Fund support are not eligible to apply to the Local Initiatives Fund to support the same event and that smaller 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 will be directed to apply to the Local Initiatives Fund.

## 3. Background

- 3.1 The Community Festivals Fund budget is currently £16,000. Funding is used to support a range of community festivals, from small events that engage audiences of around 100 – 500 people and provide benefit to families and groups within a local neighbourhood or specific ward to larger events that attract audiences of up to 8,000-10,000 from across Islington and the surrounding boroughs.
- 3.2 The CFF scheme is oversubscribed, receiving an average of 25 applications per year since 2010/2011 with the majority of these applications receiving part or full funding (of up to £1000). Total annual grant requests have averaged around £24,230 per annum.

Community Festivals Fund	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Number of applications received	25	30	22	25
Total funding requested	£16,957	£40,715	£19,787	£22,280
Number of grants awarded	22	27	21	22
Total fund awarded	£15,250	£17,050	£16,000	£16,000

- 3.3 The majority of larger festivals in Islington apply to CFF and other small grant funds offered by the council including the Local Initiatives Fund and Islington Community Chest (administered by Cripplegate) as the current maximum CFF grant is not sufficient to deliver activities or provide adequate match funding for external funding bids.
- 3.4 To streamline the administration of council funding and reduce the impact on applicants who are currently applying to a range of council funds, revised CFF eligibility and selection criteria are recommended for 2015/2016. Key proposed changes to the fund include:
  - Increasing the minimum CFF grant to £1,500 and maximum to £4,000 for individual events
  - Events must provide borough-wide benefit and meet the council's wider priorities around equalities, community cohesion and place-shaping
  - CFF applicants will not be eligible to seek additional funding support through the council's Local Initiatives Funds. Groups must choose to apply to one fund or the other but will not be eligible for funding from both schemes.
  - Smaller community events that primarily provide benefit to local neighbourhoods or specific ward areas would not be eligible for CFF but encouraged to apply to the Local Initiatives Fund.
- 3.5 In addition to meeting these eligibility criteria, applicants for Community Festivals Fund grants will need to illustrate how their proposed event meets the following selection criteria:
  - **Cultural Benefit:** events deliver high quality, innovative, community focused activities that contribute to Islington's cultural offer
  - **Equality:** festivals 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
  - **Value for Money**

- **Inclusive and accessible:** activities should be open to all the community and accessible and inclusive for Islington's most disadvantaged communities.
- **Match Funding:** applicants have secured funding to match any council contribution to deliver their event
- **Partnership Working:** applicants work with other agencies and organisations that may be able to share costs, facilities, expertise, and access to participants or beneficiaries.
- **Licensing and Public Protection:** applicants comply with all public protection requirements including securing venue permissions, relevant licenses and ensuring public health and safety.

## 4. Implications

### 4.1 Financial implications

4.1.1 The overall funding available to support festivals outlined in this report will be £16,000 during 2015/16 subject to final budget approval in February 2015. Revised eligibility and selection criteria to provide greater funding to a smaller number of key strategic festivals in Islington will reduce the amount of grant administration time required to manage the Community Festivals Fund, stop multiple applications to CFF and Local Initiatives Fund for single events and ensure 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 Equality Impact Assessment

4.4.1 The addition of new Equality funding criteria will help 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 Recommendations included in this paper have been made to streamline the Council's funding processes, prioritise key strategic festivals that provide borough-wide benefit and ensure funding support given also contributes to the Council's wider priorities around equalities, community cohesion and place-shaping.

**Appendices:** Appendix A – Community Festivals Fund 2015/2016 – Criteria and Guidance

**Background papers:** None

**Final report clearance:**

*Janet Burgess*

Signed by: Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing

Date: 5 January 2015

Received by: Head of Democratic Services

Date: 6 January 2015

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# Appendix One – Community Festivals Fund 2015/16 – Criteria and Guidance

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

## 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
- Festival applications must demonstrate how they will provide borough-wide benefit for Islington residents
- 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 cannot seek additional funding support through the council's Local Initiatives Fund. Groups must choose to apply to one fund or the other but will not be eligible for funding from both schemes.

## 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 cultural offer. In line with the council's cultural strategy, "Cultural Matters", 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.

### 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.

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.

- Disabled people
- Black and minority ethnic communities
- Refugees and asylum seekers
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender groups
- Older people
- Young people

Please show in your application which of these groups will attend 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.

### 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. 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.

### 5. 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 applying to the Community Festivals Fund cannot seek additional funding support through the council's Local Initiatives Fund.

### 6. 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.

### 7. 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 obtaining sufficient public liability insurance. You may be able to arrange cover through your existing insurer. Include the cost of 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](mailto: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.