



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

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Ward(s)
Voluntary and Community Sector Committee	16 March 2015		All
Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt	

## SUBJECT: **Community Festivals Fund 2015**

### 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 new 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. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 To award grants from the £16,000 Community Festival Fund, for the sums indicated in paragraph 3.4 of this report, to eight applicants for the following community festivals:
  - Bemerton Villages Management Organisation - *Cally Fest* - Sunday 14 June 2015
  - St Lukes Community Centre - *Whitecross Street Party* - Saturday 19 July 2015
  - The Angel Canal Festival Management Group - *Angel Canal Festival* - Sunday 6 September 2015
  - Key Changes - *Islington World Mental Health Day Celebration* - Friday 9 October 2015
  - Oxjam Islington - *Oxjam Islington* - 17 – 18 October 2015
  - Cubitt Gallery, Studios and Education - *Festival of Blackboards* - 17 – 24 October 2015
  - ArchWay with Words - *ArchWay With Words* - Late October (9 days) 2015
  - Rowan Arts - *Islington Exhibits* - October 2015 (month long programme)

### 3. Background

3.1 The Community Festivals Fund budget for 2015/2016 is £16,000.

3.2 To ensure potential applicants were aware of the revised CFF eligibility and selection criteria confirmed in January 2015, the 2015/2016 Community Festivals Fund scheme was promoted via Creative Islington, Voluntary Action Islington, and Islington Council's website. Applicants from the last three years were also notified via letter or email to ensure they were aware of the changes to the funding criteria. 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 18 February 2015.

3.3 The scheme received a total of 15 applications. The total amount requested by organisations in 2015 was £53,258. This is a reduction in the total number of applications received annually (from 2011-2015 the Council has received an average of 25 applications per annum) but an increase in the total funding requested (from an average total request of £25,000 from 2011-2015 to £53,258 in 2015).

3.4 Officers have recommended supporting eight applicants for the following festivals:

Organisation	Festival	Date - 2015	Ward	Amount
Bemerton Villages Management Organisation	Cally Fest	Sunday 14 June	Caledonian	£3,000
St Luke's Community Centre	Whitecross Street Party	Saturday 19 July	Bunhill	£2,500
The Angel Canal Festival Management Group	Angel Canal Festival	Sunday 6 September	St Peter's	£1,500
Key Changes	Islington World Mental Health Day Celebration	Friday 9 October	Bunhill	£1,500
Oxjam Islington	Oxjam Islington	17 – 18 October	St Mary's /Barnsbury	£1,500
Cubitt Gallery, Studios and Education	Festival of Blackboards	17 – 24 October	Various – across Islington	£1,500
ArchWay With Words	ArchWay With Words	Late October (9 days)	Junction	£1,500
Rowan Arts	Islington Exhibits	October - month long programme	Various – across Islington	£3,000
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>£16,000</b>

3.5 Of the 15 applications, officers have recommended that seven are declined as their applications are for smaller community events, primarily of benefit to local neighbourhoods or ward areas (4) or they have not provided sufficient evidence of meeting the eligibility criteria or the council's wider equalities, place-shaping and community development agenda. Details of all applications received are attached at **Appendix A**.

3.3 All applications were assessed by officers against the published eligibility and selection criteria. Full details of the 2015/16 criteria are listed at **Appendix B**.

3.4 Festivals have been recommended for support based on the evidence applicants provided showing they were eligible and met the following selection criteria:

- **Cultural Benefit:** the event will 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:** applicants provided detailed, realistic financial information in their

- application with evidence of previous year's festival success (where applicable)
- **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.
  - **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.
  - **Licensing and Public Protection:** applicants provided evidence of how they would comply with all public protection requirements including securing venue permissions, relevant licenses, insurance and ensuring public health and safety.
- 3.5 Four 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.
- 3.6 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

- 4.1.1 Funding available to support festivals outlined in this report is £16,000 for 2015/16. Revised eligibility and selection criteria for the 2015/16 were adopted to provide greater funding to a smaller number of key strategic festivals in Islington to reduce the amount of grant administration time for both applicants and Council officers, reduce multiple applications to CFF and Local Initiatives Fund for single events, support groups to apply for external funding (with a higher level of Council match funding support) 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 The Community Festivals Fund provides an opportunity for the Council to support eight 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 - 2015/2016 Community Festival Fund - All Applications Received  
Appendix B - Festival Grants 2015/16– Funding Criteria and Guidance

**Background papers:** None

**Final report clearance:**

*Janet Burgess*

Signed by: Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing

Date: 23 February 2015

Received by: Head of Democratic Services

Date: 2 March 2015

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## Appendix A      2015/2016 Community Festival Fund All Applications Received

Organiser	Name of Festival	Festival Date(s)	Festival Time(s)	Venue	Ward	Audience Expected	Description	Amount Applied For	Recommended Amount
The Angel Canal Festival Management Group	The Angel Canal Festival	Sunday 6 Sep 2015	11am - 5pm	Graham Street, Canal Footpath, adjoining City Road Lock, N1 8JX	St Peter's	8,000 - 9,000	Angel Canal Festival is a 1-day free community 'village fete with boats' that promotes the canal and water space in Islington as a historic, environmental and leisure asset for the wider community. Over 80 stalls for local crafts, community groups and catering for all the family. Enhanced volunteer opportunities with training being provided.	£4,000	£1,500
ArchWay With Words	ArchWay With Words	Late October 2015 (9 consecutive days)	Various	Various in Archway	Junction	1,200	ArchWay With Words is an independent literary festival that has been held in Archway since 2013. ArchWay With Words (AWWW) 2015 will be a 9-day festival providing low cost and free talks, workshops, performances, entertainment and creative, educational and social opportunities for Islington residents. The festival features fiction and non-fiction authors, scientists, historians and biographers; poets, comics, journalists, singers, rappers and musicians. New work from young or emerging artists is also showcased.	£4,000	£1,500
Bemerton Villages Management Organisation	The Cally Festival	Sunday 14th June 2015	12pm – 6pm	Caledonian Road	Caledonian	7000	Cally Fest is an annual large-scale community festival on the Caledonian Road. Taking place over one Sunday it features music stages, performance areas, children activities, sports areas, arts and crafts and a street market. The fifth edition of the festival will be held on Sunday 14 June	£4,000	£3,000
Clerkenwell Festival Group	Clerkenwell Festival	Sunday 30 August 2015	12.30-6pm	Spa Fields	Clerkenwell	500	An annual community festival now in its third year, the Clerkenwell Festival has an expected audience of 500 and has included a 'kids area', dog show, live performances and stalls.	£3,000	£0
Cubitt Gallery, Studios and Education	Festival of Blackboards 2015	17th – 24th October	Variable	Primary Schools across the Borough	Various across Islington	1500 - 2000	The Festival of Blackboards was set up by Cubitt Education in 2011 to explore the power of arts in the lives of children, young people and adults through a range of free public events in Islington exploring the arts, education and social change. The Festival of Blackboards 2015 will be the fourth festival in the borough and will build on 2014 which engaged over 1,500 people.	£4,000	£1,500
Friends of Pooles Park	Pooles Park's Green Garden Festival in assoc. with Open Garden Squares Weekend	Saturday 13 June 2015	12-7pm	Pooles Park Primary School's Garden and Cabin	Finsbury Park	500	Pooles Park's Garden Festival is an annual festival, held in the school's garden and green space. The festival has involved the local community in and around the school to celebrate the natural environment, enjoy local, healthy food and engage in playing and listening to music. Its expected audience is 500 people.	£3,280	£0
House on the Rock	Tufnell Park Fun Day	Saturday 25th July 2015	12-6pm	The Rock Tower	St George's	350	House on the Rock's 'Tufnell Park Fun Day' includes face painting, a bouncy castle, mini games for the younger children, tombola, a raffle draw, hair and beauty treatments and cultural cuisine that will be served on the day.	£4,708	£0

Key Changes	Islington World Mental Health Day Celebration	Friday 9 October 2015	10am-8pm	St Luke's Community Centre	Bunhill	500	The Islington World Mental Health Day Celebration to be developed by Key Changes in partnership with the Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust will reflect the theme of World Mental Health Day 2015 which is "Dignity in mental health". Presentations will address relevant and current topics around mental health issues with a diverse range of speakers. Islington organisations such as MIND, Claremont Project, iCope, New Horizons, Stress Project will promote their services as part of the event.	<b>£2,450</b>	<b>£1,500</b>
Life Festival	Life Festival	Saturday 22 August 2015	11am-7pm	Highbury Fields	Highbury East	1000	Life Festival aims to celebrate the 'rich culture represented in London; through the mediums of music, dance, storytelling and food'. The event was held in Caledonian Park in 2014 but includes no mention of Islington based organisations.	<b>£4,000</b>	<b>£0</b>
Little Angel Theatre	SUSPENSE London Puppetry Festival	29 Oct - 8 Nov 2015	Various – depends on programme	Little Angel Theatre, Pleasance Theatre, Rosemary Branch and at least 4 other venues in London	Various across Islington	5000	Every two years Little Angel produces the SUSPENSE festival, showcasing puppetry theatre for adult audiences. The 10 day festival runs across multiple London venues and features the best in current adult puppetry work from both the UK and abroad. This year's October festival will include around 25 companies providing performances, professional master classes, networking events and puppetry workshops.	<b>£4,000</b>	<b>£0</b>
Newington Green Action Group	Jazz on the Green	Sunday 5 July 2015	12.30 to 4.30pm	Newington Green	Mildmay	900-1500	Jazz on the Green is an annual music festival in Newington Green hosted by the Newington Green Action Group for the past 11 years.	<b>£1,820</b>	<b>£0</b>
Oxjam Islington	Oxjam Islington Takeover	Week-end 17-18 Oct 2015	11.30am-3am	Venues, including: Hope & Anchor, The Library, and Old Queens Head	St Mary's Barnsbury	1600	Oxjam Islington will include over 100 acts in over 10 Islington venues and showcase the work of Islington's emerging and unsigned artists while also offering training and live event experience for a number of young people who work on the two day event.	<b>£2,000</b>	<b>£1,500</b>
Reel Islington	Reel Islington Film Festival 2016	26-28 February <b>2016</b> (TBC)	Friday 26 Feb 7pm – Sun 28 Feb 10pm	Resource for Holloway / London Metropolitan Uni, Holloway Road (TBC)	Highbury West	900	The theme for the Reel Islington Film Festival 2016 will be developed after the evaluation of 2015's festival in March. Previous years' themes have been 'We the People' (2012), 'A Place Called England' (2013), and 'Home is Where I Want to Be...' (2014) and 'Ubscapes: City Dreams' (2015). 2016 programme will likely include: shorts; meet the professional talks and workshops; Panel Discussion; Islington short film award.	<b>£4,000</b>	<b>£0</b>
Rowan Arts	Islington Exhibits 2015	October 2015 - month-long programme	Various	Various across Islington	Various across Islington	25,000-35,000	Islington Exhibits has run successfully in Islington since 2010. It aims to reveal hidden venues and give artists and craft persons a space to display their work, while offering an inclusive and accessible annual programme of exhibitions, walks, talks and events across the borough, benefitting people from across Islington and beyond. It also provides a number of funded awards and residencies each year for Islington based artists.	<b>£4,000</b>	<b>£3,000</b>

St Luke's Community Centre	Whitecross Street Party and Exhibition	Saturday 19th July 2015	12pm – 6pm	Whitecross Street, EC1 and surrounding streets	Bunhill	65000	Whitecross Street Party and the Rise of the Non Conformists exhibition has been running in Islington since 2011 and provides an outdoor arts exhibition, street festival and community arts outreach programme. Highlights of the 2015 festival programme will include: a programme of commissioned 'pop-up' street theatre and live performance, 40 artists and 4 artist-facilitated interactive community artworks, a celebrated street market with world street food, high quality arts and crafts and music stages.	<b>£4,000</b>	<b>£2,500</b>
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## Appendix B - Festival Grants 2015/16– Funding 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 must show they have secured external funding for their event and will not be reliant on funding from Islington Council.
- 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 officers to discuss their eligibility to apply to the Local Initiatives Fund.

### 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 seeking Community Festivals Fund support must secure external funding for their event and not be reliant on funding from other council sources.

### **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.