

Culture, Arts & Heritage Grant Scheme	8th March 2016
To: Leisure and Development Committee For Information	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy & Engaged Communities
Outcome	Council will work to develop and promote stable and cohesive communities across the Borough
Lead Officer	Julie Welsh - Head of Community & Culture Margaret Edgar –Cultural Services Manager
Cost: (If applicable)	n/a – for information

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update in relation to the progress of a Culture, Arts & Heritage Small Grant Programme for the 2016-17 period.

Background

In November 2015, Council approved a grant funding policy and funding programmes for 2016-17 which included a Culture, Arts & Heritage Grant programme. Through this programme, it is proposed that funding would be available to formally constituted “not for profit groups” for events, projects and activities which support the cultural strategy objectives and which develop arts and heritage locally and make them more accessible.

Within the Cultural Services budget, an indicative budget of £20,000 has been allocated to this new grants programme. However, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ACNI) has also approached Council with a proposal which provides the opportunity to make additional funding available for arts activities in the Borough.

ACNI has had a longstanding relationship with the local councils for many years supporting the development of capital projects, providing support to artists and arts organisations in the area, and funding programmes which have been aimed at delivering benefits to local communities. To strengthen the partnership with the councils following the Review of Public Administration, ACNI will establish a Local Government Challenge Fund for each council area whereby it is proposing to delegate part of ACNI’s lottery funds to local councils to distribute to local arts organisations/activities. There is a proviso that it is matched and is additional to the current levels of funding provided by each council.

Council is therefore currently waiting on information from ACNI detailing the specific terms and conditions of the offer and these are required to inform council’s proposed culture, arts & heritage grants programme. It has however indicated flexibility regarding how the fund is deployed recognising that need and local circumstance vary across each council area.

Subject to council approval and to terms and conditions being agreed with ACNI, additional funds may therefore be available for the Culture, Arts & Heritage Grant Programme. Should confirmation regarding terms and conditions be available within the forthcoming weeks, staff would be in the position to launch the programme in early April, including information/animation workshops for potential applicant groups. It is anticipated that

assessment of applications would take place in May, followed by a report to Leisure & Development in June. These timescales are, however, subject to match funding being confirmed.