

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE:	<b>Education, Culture and Sport</b>
DATE:	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> June 2011</b>
DIRECTOR:	<b>Annette Bruton</b>
TITLE OF REPORT:	<b>Deferred Cultural Grants - 2011/12</b>
REPORT NUMBER:	<b>ECS/11/030</b>

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To present to Elected Members recommendations for Cultural Grants for the financial year 2011/12. These recommendations relate to applications which were previously deferred or deemed ineligible.

### **2. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

That the Committee approves:

- I. The allocation of cultural grants to the total value of £160,171 as presented in Appendix 1.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

A total of £385,543 is available within the 2011/12 budget to support the Cultural Grants programme. Applicants were invited to be considered for grants of up to 50% of the costs of their projects, showing either match funding or an in kind contribution.

Eighty external applications have been received, requesting funds of £755,354.24. Following approval of recommendations at the March 24<sup>th</sup> 2011 Education Culture and Sport committee, grants to the value of £225,287.26 were confirmed. This leaves a total of £160,255.74 remaining for this financial year.

Applications were considered in the context of cultural provision across Aberdeen and, where possible, against cross-cutting support streams provided by Aberdeen City Council, in order to avoid potential duplication of funding.

By providing up to a maximum of 50% of the project funding, the Council's proportionate level of exposure is reduced and is designed to encourage partners to carefully examine the opportunities for a range of alternative funding streams, consider the further development of self sustainability within their projects and look to facilitate partnership working in the delivery of cultural opportunities for the community.

#### **4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT**

There is a requirement for all successful applicants to illustrate how their projects connect to one or more of the local outcomes in the Single Outcome Agreement. The Cultural and Active Aberdeen Forums for Aberdeen City lead on the three Local Outcomes lying under National Outcome 13 'We take pride in a strong and inclusive national identity' with local outcome

The projects proposed also directly relate to strands of the following Local Outcomes:

Outcome 2, 'Aberdeen will have high quality employment opportunities for its citizens',

Outcome 3, 'People of all ages take an active part in their own learning to achieve their full potential' and 'Learning and training is appropriate and accessible to learner's needs.

Both local outcomes for National Outcome 4, 'Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens'.

Outcome 7. 'Improve the quality of life in our most deprived areas.'

Outcome 12, 'Aberdeen is widely recognised as a City with high quality natural assets, biodiversity, architecture and heritage which instill civic pride in its citizens.'

Outcome 15, 'Our public services are consistently high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs.'

Guidance for Community Planning partnerships, from the Scottish Government entitled 'Culture Delivers' states: 'Cultural provision and infrastructure is part of the drive for best value. High quality should be promoted, continually seeking to improve its impact on communities and taking account of local aspirations and needs. Cultural activity can also help other sectors and services deliver in ways more closely matched to peoples wishes, and can assist in engaging citizens with civic life'.

#### **5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

Other key issues relate to:

- Cultural organisations in the City not being able to continue to operate should Council funding not be granted.
- On occasion external funds will not be brought to the City if matching funds are not made available by the City Council.
- Funds not being used by organisations for the purposes for which they were granted.

These risks have and will be continue to be managed through a robust assessment of each application and through systems to monitor and review funded activities throughout the year.

There are no additional Legal, Resource, Personnel, Property, Equipment, Environmental or health and safety implications arising from this report at this time.

## **6. REPORT**

### **6.1 Grants to Cultural Organisations**

A table is attached as Appendix 1 which presents all the applications and the recommendations of the Cultural Grants Selection Panel for funding. The criteria for which the selection panel made the attached recommendations for the dispersal of funds included:

- Links to the Single Outcome Agreement
- Links to 'Vibrant Aberdeen' – The Cultural Strategy for Aberdeen
- 50% match funding (in kind or financial contribution)
- Evidence of beneficial partnership working
- Where relevant, a report back on the use of last years funding.

### **6.2 Ineligible Applications**

Several of the applications received in February 2011 did not meet the stated terms and conditions and were deemed ineligible. This included applications from previous grant recipients who failed to report back on the use of previous grants and applications which had no match funding pending or secured. Furthermore, applications were received for a Category C (Over £10,000) grant without the required meeting between the applicant and officers being arranged.

Following the March 24<sup>th</sup> committee, where appropriate, ineligible applicants were provided with the opportunity to revise their application and resubmit.

### **6.3 Deferred Applications**

For the majority of the Category C (Over £10,000) applications received, recommendations were not brought forward to the 24<sup>th</sup> of March 2011 committee for consideration. The information included within these particular applications was insufficient and there was a requirement to speak in detail with each organisation prior to bringing a recommendation forward to the Committee.

Given the increasingly complex issues around funding for cultural organisations, officers felt that, in order to bring before the Committee recommendations which ensure best value, these further discussions were required. Officers have subsequently worked with applicants to gain the necessary additional information and clarity required to put forward the recommendations contained as Appendix 1 of this report.

While no application has received a full recommendation, the partial recommendations cover specific aspects and are of a similar level to previous

funding awards. Some applicants may also have the opportunity to apply for specific training or projects through both the Cultural Training Programme and the Public Art Fund.

## **7. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS**

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## **8. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

'Cultural Grants' – Education, Culture & Sport Committee, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2011

**Appendix 1 – Deferred Cultural Grant Recommendations 2011/12**

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Grant Requested</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
Aberdeen Arts Centre	Programme of Participatory Arts	£114,500	£39,000
Act 2 Youth Group	Summer Drama Project	£4,350	£2300
APA	Youth & Community Programme	£28,000	£15,900
Creative Cultures Scotland	Programme	£20,000	£15,000
Cultural Enterprise Office	Delivery of services	£16,000	£4,721
Jazz Scotland	Year round jazz concerts, Aberdeen Jazz Festival	£20,000	£11,250
Peacock Visual Arts	Artistic Programme	£15,000	£10,000
Royal Scottish National Orchestra	Integrated programme of music hall concerts & community outreach & educational services	£20,000	£10,000
Scottish Culture & Traditions	Core Activities	£40,000	£20,000
Scottish Ballet	Dancing Parallel	£32,647.	£0 (Referred to Sports grants)

Sense Scotland	Connect	£18,696	£0
Station House Media Unit	shmuSOUND	£22,370	£10,000
University of Aberdeen	Flagship Cultural Programme	£25,000	£22,000
Vocoustics Promotions	On-going series of live music events & performances	£1,000	£0

**Totals**

<b>Total Grants Requested</b>	<b>£377,563</b>
<b>Total Grant Recommendation</b>	<b>£160,171</b>
<b>Remaining Budget</b>	<b>£84</b>