
To: Economy & Jobs Policy Board

On: 18 November 2015

Report by: Director of Development and Housing Services

Heading: Culture, Heritage and Events Fund

1. Summary

- 1.1. This report outlines a proposal to establish a fund of £500,000 from existing regeneration funds to support the development of culture, events or projects in the area, contributing to the cultural and social regeneration of Renfrewshire.
 - 1.2. The fund will be available to organisations and individuals, including community groups and professional artists who wish to create or develop a cultural or heritage event or project, specifically inspired by the vision and aims of Paisley 2021, leading up to and including the 2021 Year of Culture.
 - 1.3. The criteria and guidelines for the fund are currently being developed and will be further informed by the assessment criteria for the UK City of Culture 2021 when the criteria for the competition are published by DCMS.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Board are asked to:
 - i. Approve the establishment of the Culture, Heritage and Events Fund.
 - ii. Agree the sum of £500,000 from existing regeneration funds to be made available to support the programme.
 - iii. Note that recommendations on funding awards from the fund will be made by a sub group of the Paisley 2021 Partnership Board, and will be subject to the approval of the appropriate Council Board.
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3. Background

- 3.1. Renfrewshire Council, at its meeting on 25 June 2015 agreed that the Council would prepare and submit a bid to become UK City of Culture in 2021. One of the main elements of that bid will be the wide and varied engagement of the community through events or projects across all areas of culture.
- 3.2. It is proposed to set up a fund of £500,000 available to allow community groups/clubs/associations, professional artists and individuals to apply for funding to support the development of new or grow current events or programmes which aim to raise ambition, participation and the quality of cultural programming, locally and nationally which will contribute to the wider cultural and social regeneration of the area as well as support the UK City of Culture bid for Paisley in 2021.
- 3.3. The culture and heritage events and projects fund would support local people and organisations to plan or develop a project or host an event in the Paisley area. It will also support the professional arts sector to respond to the aims and objectives of the Paisley 2021 bid. The Council will commit to support local organisations or individuals applying for funding by running free advice surgeries to aid applicants in applying for funding, developing projects, marketing events and importantly evaluating success.
- 3.4. The key objectives of the fund are to:
 - Increase the number of people taking part in creative activity in Renfrewshire
 - Increase opportunities for young people to develop their creative ambition
 - Stimulate the local economy
 - Realise the potential contribution creativity can make to education, social inclusion and quality of life
 - Strengthen and broaden the network of people developing exciting cultural and creative projects and events in Renfrewshire
 - Increase the number of people visiting Renfrewshire
 - Raise the profile of Renfrewshire throughout the UK

Applicants will require to highlight which objectives their event or project will aim to achieve.

- 3.5. It is important that applicants to the fund will be able to demonstrate the following:
 - A strong focus on trying something new, developing capacity and learning from the experience
 - High quality content, delivery and production values
 - A contribution to greater connectivity in Renfrewshire; working in partnership and collaboration with other cultural, sporting or community organisations

- Imaginative use of existing physical assets, landscape, townscape or buildings
- Increased access and participation of local citizens and visitors
- Trying out something new and different, developing creative direction
- Building capacity through training, skills, opportunities
- A clear budget that shows full costs and any additional funding and financial sources

3.6. Funding decisions will be made based on:

- Best strategic fit with the fund objectives, themes and criteria
- Value for money and leverage of additional funding and/or resources
- Event viability, quality of programme, management, marketing and promotion
- Public benefit/audience
- Legacy opportunities

3.7. It would be proposed that the submission of applications be invited three times per year on:

- 1st December
- 1st March
- 1st August

and will be considered in three categories

- Funding up to £1000
- Funding from £1000 to £10000
- Funding £10000 and over

A degree of flexibility will be required on the phasing of funding. This will be phased in line with strategic milestones for the Paisley 2021 UK City of Culture bid, currently being developed by the Bid Director.

3.8. Decision making process:

Applications will be considered by a sub group of the Paisley 2021 Partnership Board, who will make recommendations on funding awards subject to the approval of the appropriate Council Board.

3.9 Guidance will be issued to applicants to outline the application process, help, advice available and the criteria for submissions. This is currently being developed by the UK City of Culture Project Director.

Implications of this report

1. Financial Implications

As detailed in the report, the proposals would commit up to £500,000 of resources to support the programme leading to and including 2021 City of Culture year. Draw down of funding to support the awards will be met from existing regeneration resources already approved by the Council.

2. HR and Organisational Development Implications

None.

3. Community Plan/Council Plan Implications

Children and Young People	- The fund will provide the opportunity for the development of new cultural events and projects for young people or by young people.
Community Care, Health and Well-being	- Increased availability of activity programmes will impact on the health and wellbeing of communities.
Empowering our Communities	- The fund provides the opportunity for communities to develop new initiatives which will encourage local people to participate increasing awareness and identity.
Jobs and the Economy	- Many of these programmes may involve paid work or work experience
Safer and Stronger	- New local community programmes provided at a local level will make our communities more attractive to live and work raising people's pride in their communities.

4. Legal Implications

None.

5. Property/Assets Implications

None.

6. Information Technology Implications

None.

7. Equality and Human Rights Implications

The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because for example it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the

mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

8. Health and Safety Implications

None.

9. Procurement Implications

None.

10. Risk Implications

None.

11. Privacy Impact

None.

List of Background Papers

None

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