



## Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Licencing and Culture Report

Item

<b>Report of</b>	<b>Head of Community Services</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Claire Taylor</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Festival &amp; Events Grant Funding Allocations</b>		
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards		

**This report concerns the decision to approve the allocation of £26,350 of funding to events/organisations which have applied to the Festival Support Grant Fund**

### 1. Decision Required

- 1.1 To allocate the amounts set out in Appendix 1 of this report, totalling £25,350, to those organisations and individuals who have successfully applied for the Council's Festival and Events Grant funding.

### 2. Reasons for Decision(s)

- 2.1 This decision is to clarify the allocation of £25,350 of Festival Support Grant Funding.

### 3. Alternative Options

- 3.1 To not award funding to all or some of the events/ organisations.

### 4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 Grant funding to support Colchester based festivals and events was agreed in the 2017/18 budget.
- 4.2 The scheme opened to applications in November 2016 with a closing date of the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January 2017.
- 4.2. Applications were invited for grants to match fund festivals or events planned in Colchester between April 2017 and the end of March 2018. In total 23 grant applications were received.
- 4.3. Bids totalling in excess of £45K were received and as a result a panel was necessary to consider all the applications and decide on those that best met the criteria and how much grant funding to award.
- 4.4 A set of criteria was used to assess the merit of each application. In addition to basic eligibility criteria, areas considered included: clear links to the Councils Strategic Priorities; if the event/project was open to all to attend/participate in and the potential reach in terms of audience/number of participants; the ability of the organisers to deliver the event; whether organisers could demonstrate the funding would contribute to the development of the event, its longer term sustainability and/or could demonstrate a legacy impact.

- 4.5 The Panel was made up of the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Regeneration, Cllr Tim Young; the Head of Community Services, Lucie Breadman and the Visitor and Cultural Services Manager, Claire Taylor.
- 4.6 Appendix 1 is a list of the applications that have been shortlisted for an award and the amounts agreed, totalling £25350. Awards will be subject to some conditions, specifically delivery of events within agreed timescales and financial checks. See 13.2 for more details.
- 4.7 The shortlisting and award process included a declaration where the Portfolio Holder had an interest, and on this occasion the officers present considered the application without Portfolio Holder input.

## **5. Proposals**

- 5.1 To allocate £25,350 to the applicants detailed in appendix A.

## **6. Strategic Plan References**

- 6.1 Applicants were asked to explain the relevance of their project in relation to the priorities set out in the Council's Strategic Plan. Those successful applications demonstrated this by highlighting key areas such as benefits to the economy; celebrating Colchester's heritage, culture and environment; increasing visitors to the Borough; community cohesion and enabling; improving health and wellbeing.

## **7. Proposals**

- 7.1 To allocate the £25,350 to the organisations/events detailed in appendix one.

## **7. Consultation**

- 7.1 Not required

## **8. Publicity Considerations**

- 8.1 This was a competitive process with eligibility criteria and not all bids have been awarded funding. Twenty three applications were received totalling bids well over double the available funds. Twenty projects will receive at least some funding but those that were not successful will be disappointed at the outcome.
- 8.2 To maximise the number of successful applications some grants are less than the figure requested which again may mean some groups are disappointed.

## **9. Financial Implications**

- 9.1 £25,350 will be allocated from the 2017/18 budget.

## **10. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications**

- 10.1 All successful applicants will be asked to provide confirmation of their policies and compliance with Equality, Diversity and Human Rights as the Council is unable to support activities that do not fully embrace these important laws which we have a public duty to enforce.

## **11. Community Safety Implications**

11.1 None

## **12. Health and Safety Implications**

12.1 None

## **13. Risk Management Implications**

13.1 The Shortlisting process was conducted by a Panel including Officers of the Council and the Portfolio Holder made declarations of interest where applicable, withdrawing from decisions on those applications.

13.2 Conditions will be applied to any offers of funding, and funding will be rescinded in the following circumstances:

- Failure to ensure the event, and any person connected to it, has adequate public liability insurance
- Failure to obtain necessary Disclosure & Barring Service checks
- If the applicant goes into financial administration, bankruptcy or insolvency
- If they do not follow any reasonable instructions or special conditions imposed on the award
- If they do not use the award for the purpose for which it was awarded
- If they change the award-related activity from the application specifications without requesting permission from us first
- If they act illegally or negligently at any time during the funded activity, related to that activity
- If we believe their actions harm the reputation of CBC

## **Background Papers**

None