

Title of Report: Update on Cultural Grant Aid Programmes	Officer Presenting: Head of Culture Author: Festival and Events Manager
---	--

1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations

- 1.1 To secure member approval for adjustments to the allocation of Culture Grant Aid programmes from underspend in Headline Events Fund 2020/2021 to be reallocated to an overspend in Community Festival Funding 2020/2021 in light of the current coronavirus crisis.

2 Background

- 2.1 Members will recall previous reports to this committee in June approving the adjustments to the allocation of Cultural Grant Aid programmes.
- 2.2 The Headline Events Fund programme incorporates strategic cultural and sporting events of significant scale and has replaced the previously named Tier 2 events fund.
- 2.3 The Community Festivals Fund is designed to allow local festivals to apply for up to £5,000 to support community festivals that attract up to 500 attendees. Community festivals that can attract more than 500 attendees can apply for up to £10,000 of support. The total budget available for this fund was circa £116,200. This total consists of a potential contribution of £30,200 from the Department of Communities (based on the 2019/20 contribution) and £86,000 from the Festival and Events budget.
- 2.4 To allow for the current crisis members approved in June the allocation of the full funding to those successful organisations that were able to deliver fully within the terms of the letter of offer issued.
- 2.5 Alternatively if applicants were not in a position to deliver the event as originally planned a revised application could be submitted for delivery of their event with a focus on a digital delivery however keeping within the main principles of the fund, in particular quality programming and marketing profile and value.

- 2.6 Given the restrictions to large scale public events it was recommended that a maximum of 75% of the award be allocated for any alternative digital based proposal.
- 2.7 If the organisation was unable to provide an alternative and suitable proposal, members approved the draw down a 25% as a sustainability fund.

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 Over the last number of months, recipients have declared their intentions and after analysing the figures the Headline Events Fund will see an estimated total of £133,700 to be claimed from the total original £240,000 rates budget. This will see a saving of just over £100,000. From the 13 applicants, 5 indicated they are proceeding as planned, 4 have submitted alternative proposals for 75% and 2 indicated they would be drawing down 25% sustainability funding. One indicated that they would not be making any drawdowns.
- 3.2 The Department of Communities informed us in July that they would not be contributing to the Community Festival fund this year which was estimated to be around £30,400. After communicating with the various recipients of the CFF it is estimated that around £93,000 is due to be claimed through the various options presented to them. This would leave a shortfall of £7,000 as the DCSDC rates budget for this fund is £86,000. Of the 18 recipients, 8 planned to go ahead with their original application, 5 have submitted revised proposals and 2 have applicant for the sustainability payment. There has been no response from 3 recipients after several attempts to contact them

4 Financial, Equality, Legal, HR, Improvement, Rural Needs and other Implications

- 4.1 Given the outline of potential claims across both the Headline Events Fund (£133,700) and the Community Festival Fund (£93,000) above there would be a potential saving of over £100,000 in the Headline Event fund and a shortfall of £7,000 in the CFF.
- 4.2 Members are asked now to approve the reallocation of £7,000 shortfall in CFF from the Headline Events Fund as there is sufficient savings in this funding pot.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 To approve the proposed award allocation outlined in this report from Headline Events 2020/21 to Community Festival Funding 2020/21.

Background Papers

None.