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|  | <p><b>Community Leadership Committee</b></p> <p><b>10 November 2014</b></p>   |
| <p><b>Title</b></p>   | <p><b>Corporate Grants Programme, 2014/15 – East Finchley Arts - approval of award under delegated powers</b></p>   |
| <p><b>Report of</b></p>   | <p>Head of Finance</p>  |
| <p><b>Wards</b></p>   | <p>All</p>  |
| <p><b>Status</b></p>  | <p>Public</p>   |
| <p><b>Enclosures</b></p>  | <p>None</p>   |
| <p><b>Officer Contact Details</b></p>   | <p>Ken Argent, Grants Manager, Finance, Commissioning Group (<a href="mailto:ken.argent@barnet.gov.uk">ken.argent@barnet.gov.uk</a>) (020 8359 2020)<br/>                 Flo Armstrong, Head of Youth &amp; Community Service, Children’s Service (<a href="mailto:flo.armstrong@barnet.gov.uk">flo.armstrong@barnet.gov.uk</a>) (020 8359 7846)</p> |

**Summary**

This report notifies the approval of a grant in support of the 2014 East Finchley Arts Festival under the chief executive’s delegated powers in consultation with the chairman of this committee, having regard to the proximity of the festival (12-21 September 2014) to the date of the last meeting (10 September) to which the application would routinely have been presented.

**Recommendations**

To note the decision to award a grant of £1,000 to East Finchley Arts from the 2014/15 corporate grants programme, subject to the council’s Standard Conditions of Grant Aid.

## **1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED**

- 1.1 Voluntary organisations may apply for a one-year start-up grant of up to £10,000 or a one-off grant of up to £5,000.
- 1.2 East Finchley Arts (EFA) seeks to promote arts and cultural activities in the locality, principally through organisation of an annual arts festival as a showcase for local artists, composers and performers and to give audiences an opportunity to hear professional artists in local venues. It combines, through its artistic programming, local talent, young artists at the beginning of their career and performers of national and international reputation.
- 1.3 The festival attracts audiences of up to 1,000 each year. This year's events, staged mainly at All Saints' Church in N2, comprised live orchestral, chamber and contemporary music; theatre; and shows for children, drawn from a progressively wider catchment area. Concerts, events and a film show in collaboration with Phoenix Cinema commemorated the outbreak of World War One. Local performers included Finchley Children's Music Group, East Finchley Writers and young prize winners at the 2014 North London Music Festival. The BBC Concert and the Haydn Chamber Orchestras, a Balkan band and Pop-Up Opera were amongst artists drawn from a wider platform. There was also an art exhibition featuring work by local and national artists.
- 1.4 EFA seeks to develop interest in the festival amongst young people linked to the offer of subsidised tickets, a strategic objective that has underpinned the award of an annual council grant since 2007. Elements of this year's programme were designed with a young audience in mind, reflecting a closer relationship with schools. The Children's Service endorses the event as complementary to the work of the Youth and Community Team in expanding the range of positive activities for young people.
- 1.5 Awaiting a decision by this committee on this year's grant application would have compromised the budgeting for the festival. A grant of £1,000 (from the former Borough Lottery Fund) was therefore approved under delegated powers after consultation with the chairman. The award, which replicated last year's grant, related to an estimated budgetary shortfall of £1,722 and was aimed once again at helping subsidise the offer of tickets for young people.

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 With significant voluntary input and the need for only a modest subsidy, the festival widens access to the arts, embracing people of all ages and social backgrounds, and is considered to be an effective way of maintaining and building social cohesion and broadening the horizons of young people.

## **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

- 3.1 The new constitution provides for urgent matters to be presented to an Urgency Committee, to be convened with the consent of the leader, an option

that was considered inappropriate in this case having regard to the value of the grant.

#### **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 EFA was notified of the grant award and, in the absence of any special conditions, the approved sum was paid subject to the receipt in due course of a report on, and accounts for, the 2014 festival.

#### **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

##### **5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

- 5.1.1 The council is committed to promoting civic pride; to facilitating the conditions where an active and diverse community can thrive; and to ensuring that Barnet remains a harmonious and cohesive place in which to live. Extending community involvement in arts and recreational activities is an effective means of promoting social integration; building community cohesion; and generating pride in the borough. Community festivals traditionally involve local people taking responsibility for their community and serve to give opportunities to local residents to celebrate what they have achieved and bring different parts of the community together.

- 5.1.2 The council is seeking to develop new and effective partnerships to deliver high quality public services having regard to the significant reduction in government funding. The voluntary and community sector has a significant role to play in this strategy, especially by increasing choice, accessibility and value for money, leading on innovative solutions and improving customers' perception of public services.

- 5.1.3 A Third Sector Commissioning Framework, approved by the Cabinet Resources Committee in July 2008, sets out guidelines to bring consistency to the council's financial arrangements with the voluntary and community sector and bring procurement from, and grants to, the sector into a single framework consistent with the council's procurement rules.

- 5.1.4 The corporate grants programme offers one-off awards to help voluntary and community groups (a) develop new services and activities and (b) run specific events or meet certain non-recurring items of expenditure.

##### **5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

- 5.2.1 The provision for making start-up and one-off grants in 2014/15 is comprised of funds deriving to the authority from the Edward Harvist Charity; a small annual allocation from the former Borough Lottery Scheme; and a one-off contingency fund.

- 5.2.2 The current position on the funding available in 2014/15, which reflects the sum that is presently allocated to the grants programme from the Edward Harvist Charity, to be supplemented from further payments by the charity, is

as follows:

| <b>Budget item</b>             | <b>Funding available,<br/>2014/15</b> | <b>Approvals to date</b> | <b>Balance remaining</b> |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Edward Harvist<br>Charity      | £44,390                               | £10,200                  | £34,190                  |
| Former Borough<br>Lottery Fund | £15,000                               | £10,000                  | £5,000                   |
| Contingency                    | £45,000                               | 0                        | £45,000                  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                   | <b>£104,390</b>                       | <b>£20,200</b>           | <b>£84,190</b>           |

### **5.3 Legal and Constitutional References**

5.3.1 The council has power to make grants awards under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011.

5.3.2 In accordance with the council's constitution, paragraph 7.2 of Responsibilities for Functions, the parent committee must be informed of any decisions discharged by the chief executive under delegated powers in consultation with the leader of the council or the chairman of the relevant committee where a decision was so urgent that there was insufficient time in which to convene a meeting.

### **5.4 Risk Management**

5.4.1 All grants are made subject to the council's Standard Conditions of Grant Aid, with which applicants are required to signify their compliance by signing a written undertaking. Amongst other things, the conditions cover how awards are spent, allowing council officers a right of access to proof thereof, and requiring notification of any change in an organisation's circumstances which significantly affect its finances, operations or grant entitlement. The council reserves the right to withhold payment of any approved grant, or to demand full or partial repayment, if it appears that an organisation has failed to comply with any of the conditions attached to the award.

### **5.5 Equalities and Diversity**

5.5.1 Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the council and all other organisations exercising public functions must have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by or under the Act;

- advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups;
- foster good relations between people from different groups

The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day business and keep them under review in decision making; the design of policies; and the delivery of services.

5.5.2 Awards from the corporate grants programme fund projects and activities in support of people from all communities and focus on those who may be regarded as vulnerable. In the case of the particular award, the main venue for the festival was fully accessible to people with disabilities and the programme was framed to appeal to a wide cross section of the community.

## 5.6 Consultation and Engagement

5.6.1 The application was assessed in conjunction with the Youth and Community Service, which supported the award.

## 6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 Cabinet Resources Committee, 22 July 2008 (decision item 11): approval of a Third Sector Commissioning Framework.

6.2 Council, 4 March 2014: approval of corporate grants budget for 2014/15.