

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 22 June 2021

TITLE	Extension of The Cultural Investment Programme		
Ward(s)	City Wide Impact		
Author: Elise Hurcombe	Job title: Senior Arts Development Officer		
Cabinet lead: Cllr Craig Cheney	Executive Director lead: Stephen Peacock		
Proposal origin: BCC Staff			
Decision maker: Cabinet Member Decision forum: Cabinet			
Purpose of Report: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To approve the extension of the current round of Cultural Investment Programme (CIP) for an additional year to 31 March 2023 (current agreements due to end 31 March 2022). This will extend the period for currently funded organisations, through Openness and Imagination, enabling them to stabilise and rebuild from the impact of Covid 19. It aligns with the Arts Council England 1 year extension offered to all National Portfolio Organisations (NPO), in 2020. This will include the 22/23 Originators round open to applicants from across the city for activities making arts and culture accessible for all. Total: £636,000.			
Evidence Base: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Council continues to invest in culture and support organisations and creatives through a strategic 5 year commitment: ‘we will be a leading cultural city, making culture and sport accessible to all’. (Appendix A.1 Cultural Investment Programme approved Cabinet 2017, Appendix B Consultation, minutes, notes 2017)2. The Covid-19 emergency has had an unprecedented impact on the cultural sector; one of the worst affected sectors in terms of economic output decline. For the 29 organisations currently funded the pandemic has forced them to close their doors or cease activity for the foreseeable future, to date postponing an estimated 75% of programming, furlough staff and project income losses of 75 – 90% for 2020/21. As the city begins to re-open all organisations are revising pre-Covid business models which may be unviable without significant adaption to pandemic and social distancing restrictions. By awarding an extension of funding for one year, this will alleviate some of these risks and pressures and allow organisations valuable time to adapt and plan for recovery and resilience-building. (Appendix A.2 Covid impact survey April 20)3. The Council’s investment has an essential added value as evidence of the city’s support for its cultural sector to other strategic funders. Pre-Covid in 2018/19 investment through Openness and Imagination totalling £754,000 supported funded organisations to leverage a further estimated £4 million in Arts Council and National Lottery Heritage funding alone, and help catalyse a combined turnover for these organisations of over £22 million.4. The organisations funded through Imagination and Openness represent a wide and diverse portfolio, selected through a robust, fair, transparent process, against the fund’s aims which include advancing diversity and equality, and supporting the delivery of Bristol City Council’s Corporate Strategy.			

5. The Council's support of organisations through CIP enables them to reach resident and visiting audiences of c. 1,430,762 people, generate paid employment for an estimated 5,140 artists/creative practitioners and event professionals. Employment in this sector is already significantly negatively impacted by the pandemic. For example the Festivals and Event (Appendix E Equality Impact Assessment Form)
6. We have reviewed the impact of proceeding without an extension: this will mean an application process summer 2021, requiring organisations to provide 2 year and 4 year business plans, at the same time as applicants are re-opening their spaces, bringing key staff back from furlough, rationalising and re-activating in the still unpredictable context of Covid-19 restrictions.
7. This proposal aligns CIP funding with Art Council England's decision and timeline extending NPO funding for a further year until March 2023.
8. An extension of the funding will also give BCC 6 months to review the CIP to ensure the next 4 year plan addresses sector needs, and is aligned with city strategic priorities outlined in One City Plan and Economic Recovery Strategy. The review will learn from and continue a new participatory, deliberative approach piloted in 2020 to review the Originators Fund with a diverse, representative focus group.
9. An extension of the Openness and Imagination funding would be straightforward to administer. Any offer of funding would be subject to the Council being able to maintain available funds for its arts and culture funding throughout the Grant Period.

Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:

1. Approve the extension of Cultural Investment Programme until 31st March 2023.
2. Authorise the Executive Director Growth and Regeneration to take all steps required to implement the extension.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

1. Guidance and fund criteria for all strands of CIP are aligned to the Corporate vision 'In which everyone benefits from the city's success and no-one is left behind' and strategic 5 year commitment: 'we will be a leading cultural city, making culture and sport accessible to all'. Applications assessed against Imagination and Openness criteria and put forward for funding demonstrate reach into priority neighbourhoods, embedded partnerships with community, health and well-being partners, and score highly for building a sustainable sector which will be less dependent on BCC funding in the future.

City Benefits:

The development of Bristol's Cultural Futures and the alignment of our internal processes and policies linked to Culture are all about increasing access to arts and culture and delivering on the corporate priorities.

1. We have ensured that health and wellbeing are seen as a key output of our cultural provision and are encouraging our partners to address these through the strategy, our policies and our funding decisions. The Cultural Investment Programme is linked to the savings proposals outlined in the MTFP (from 2017 cabinet paper). The cultural investment programme has a priority to increase equality and celebrate diversity. Equalities officers are part of the assessment panel. We also have seen more applications from broader diverse groups than in previous years and more applications, this is due to how we have shared the opportunity and held open launch sessions and within that 121 advice sessions.

Consultation Details:

1. We have consulted with Arts, culture, festival and events sector throughout the pandemic March 20 - March 21 through forum and network events and 121 meetings. We have also worked closely with a sector and city-wide focus group on reviewing the Originators strand of the Cultural Investment Programme against sector needs and city priorities. This proposal is a response to the impact we see throughout the sector.

Background Documents: Previous cabinet papers from 2017 and Previous papers form cabinet papers from 2019<https://democracy.bristol.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=2560&Ver=4> 2017 – Item 15<https://democracy.bristol.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=3691&Ver=4> 2019 – Item 13**Link to Arts funding page where you will find the Cultural Investment Programme prospectus and guidance notes:**<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/museums-parks-sports-culture/arts-and-culture-funding>

Previously funded organisations map:

<https://bcc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=d31acfceb0114fcd899a9b10a8918999>

Revenue Cost	£636,000	Source of Revenue Funding	Culture and Creative Industries
Capital Cost	£	Source of Capital Funding	
One off cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing cost <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/>	Income generation proposal <input type="checkbox"/>

Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:**1. Finance Advice:**

This report seeks to extend the Cultural Investment Programme (CIP) into 22/23, maintaining the 21/22 budget level of £636k.

The 21/22 budget will form the baseline for the detailed budget for 22/23, and the 5 year Medium Term Financial Plan for 21/22 – 25/26, approved by full council in February '21 assumed the funding for the CIP is held at 21/22 levels with no reduction. Therefore the extension of the programme for 1 year is consistent with current budget assumptions. The one year extension will not create a revenue cost pressure.

Finance Business Partner: Mike Pilcher, Finance Business Partner, Growth and Regeneration 04/05/21

2. Legal Advice: The proposal is to extend the current programme and seek funding for this. No other changes are proposed. As previously advised provided funding under this scheme is in the form of genuine grants (and not contracts for services) they will not give rise to procurement issues under procurement regulations.

Previous comments (in the 2020 report) regarding the Council equalities obligations, (including being conscious of its public sector equality duty) continue to apply. The Equalities Impact Assessment is designed to assist with compliance with this duty. Its purpose is to assess whether there are any barriers in place that may prevent people with a protected characteristic using a service or benefiting from the policy.

Legal Team Leader: Eric Andrews; Team Leader, Legal Services, 16 April 2021**3. Implications on IT:** No anticipated impact on IT Services**IT Team Leader:** Simon Oliver 7th April 2021**4. HR Advice:** There are no HR implications evident**HR Partner:** Celia Williams 26th April 2021.

EDM Sign-off	Stephen Peacock	14 th April 2021
Cabinet Member sign-off	Cllr Craig Cheney	17 th May 2021
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off	Mayor's Office	24 th May 2021

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal	YES
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	YES

Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny	NO
Appendix D – Risk assessment	YES
Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal	YES
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal	YES
Appendix G – Financial Advice	NO
Appendix H – Legal Advice	NO
Appendix I – Exempt Information	NO
Appendix J – HR advice	NO
Appendix K – ICT	NO
Appendix L – Procurement	NO