

Question: CQ10.04&05

Cabinet – 22 June 2021

Re: Agenda item 10 – Extension of The Cultural Investment Programme

Question submitted by: Councillor Ani Stafford Townsend

Question 1

I am very glad to see how many important organisations are being funded, however I note with concern how many did not receive funding in 20/21 or 21/22. They notably include many organisations that are in deprived wards or engaging with deprived demographics, mostly children. They include The Wardrobe Theatre in Lawrence Hill, Bold Brave Drama in Hartcliffe, Creative Youth Network in my own Central Ward and We The Curious, which is crucially important for inspiring passion in STEM.

Will the cabinet be ensuring these organisations get funding as part of this extension?

Answer:

- There are lots of organisations in the city which we are trying to support, including the ones mentioned, but there is a process for what is an oversubscribed fund.
- There is currently no additional funding on offer to organisations other than the £82,000 allocated for Originators 22/23 as part of the requested Cultural Investment Programme extension.
- In the Originators round this year 146 applications were received; double the number received for the 20/21 round.
- The cabinet would only be able to ensure other organisations get funding if additional funding was identified from the Council's core budget, and a robust fair process as is used for Cultural Investment Programme devised to allocate it.

Question 2

I recognise it's crucial that the larger organisations and venues survive, but funding largely funds the administration of venues & organisations rather than the creative practitioners that create the soul of the venues. This sector has been largely unemployed for 18 months and we are all aware that universal credit is inadequate.

What support will Bristol City Council be bringing forward to support the mostly freelance & self-employed creative people in our city?

Answer:

- Freelance & self-employed creative people can apply to Originators but this is for specific activity and projects in line with CIP vision and aims, rather than core costs or covid recovery support.

- **There is currently no additional funding being brought forward other than the £82,000 allocated for Originators 22/23 as part of the requested CIP extension.**
- **The Culture & Creative Industries team have worked intensively through the WECA cultural compact to help unlock a further £1.3 million recovery support available to cultural organisations including freelancers across South West; where Bristol has a significant population of freelance and self-employed creatives.**