

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 14 December 2021

TITLE	Cultural Investment Programme 2023-2027		
Ward(s)	City Wide		
Author: Elise Hurcombe/Jon Finch	Job title: Senior Arts Development Officer / Head of Culture and Creative Industries		
Cabinet lead: Cllr Craig Cheney, Deputy Mayor - Finance, Governance and Performance	Executive Director lead: Stephen Peacock, Executive Director Growth and Regeneration		
Proposal origin: BCC Staff			
Decision maker: Cabinet Member Decision forum: Cabinet			
Purpose of Report: To seek delegated authority to invest £2,544,000 in the second round of Bristol Council's Cultural Investment Programme (CIP) (2023 -27) by inviting artists and cultural organisations, and community projects where arts, events and cultural activities are the focus, to apply to the Cultural Investment Programme (Originator, Imagination or Openness grant streams).			
Evidence Base: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The vision of the Cultural Investment programme is 'to make arts and culture accessible for all'. This proposal seeks commitment to the continuation of this programme for four years 2023-27. In response to the significant economic and societal impacts of Covid 19, the Cultural and Creative Industries plays an important and vital role in delivering the aims of the One City Approach, the One City Plan goals and Bristol City Council Corporate Strategy. The proposal has been informed and shaped by direct engagement with the sector to understand the priority needs required to support recovery from COVID-19, the last four years of Cultural Investment Programme, current policy and strategic context.2. BCC'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, driving an increased and enhanced quality of cultural offer for the citizens of Bristol.3. A wide and diverse range of organisations receive investment through the CIP across Originators, Imagination and Openness. CIP operates a robust and transparent process, assessed against the fund's aims which include advancing diversity and equality, and supporting the delivery of Bristol City Council's Corporate Strategy. (Please see background documents for further information and a map of funded applicants).4. The Cultural sector was one of the most negatively affected by the pandemic in terms of economic output decline. Although the city is on a path to recovery; the aftershocks of COVID 19 still significantly affect the cultural sector resulting in an increased need for support (please see Appendix A).5. The current scale of the Cultural Investment Programme does not have the capacity to solve the post-COVID-19			

crisis facing creative freelancers. CIP does however include grant funds that are accessible to applications from individual artists and freelancers (Originators). Furthermore paid employment for freelancers is generated through the organisations and projects funded across Openness and Imagination funding, this benefitted 3,627 artists/creative practitioners and a further 1,513 event professionals in 2018/19 alone.

6. The Cultural Investment Programme is designed to be both flexible and responsive within a framework that measures impact directly linked to the Corporate Strategy, Cultural Strategy and Culture & Creative Industries service aims. This ensures proportionality, efficiency and a targeted approach to support the City's arts and cultural sector.
7. The aspiration for CIP 23-27 is to achieve the following over the next term:
 - 7.1. Resilience and value for money: ensuring the Cultural Investment Programme is embedded within the wider dynamic grant economy, both cultural and social/economic recovery streams.
 - 7.2. Accessibility: Deliver a more participatory and accessible process that involves the Cultural Sector in the design and implementation of Cultural Investment Programme. To further develop our application procedures and guidance (expanding on Bristol City Councils accessibility requirements and best practice).
 - 7.3. Evaluation: Focus on evidence-based decision making supported by external evaluation; enabling us to build on the baseline data from current Cultural Investment Programme (2017-22). Please see Equalities Impact Assessment action plan for further details (Appendix E).
8. We are aware of the barriers to achieving these targets, which are the current lack of resourcing: officer time, access and external evaluation costs. We will review this in 2022/23 and explore and propose ways to address this both internally and externally over the next four years.
9. Working with external partners and funders across the region is vital and will support the growth of impact of the Cultural Investment Programme.

Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the total budget commitment for the implementation of the Cultural Investment Programme 23-27 of £2,544,000 over four years from April 2023 to April 2027
2. Authorise the Executive Director Growth and Regeneration in consultation with the Deputy Mayor Finance, Governance and Performance to take all steps required to implement the Cultural Investment Programme of £2,544,000 over four years from April 2023 to April 2027 as outlined in this report including awarding funding and entering into grant agreements that are above the key decision threshold of £500k.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

The Cultural Investment Programme will contribute to all 7 themes of the new corporate strategy. 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'. Activity funded through the CIP will demonstrate: reach into priority neighbourhoods, partnerships embedded with community, health and well-being partners, and investment in building a sustainable sector.

City Benefits:

The Cultural Investment Programme (CIP) is the mechanism for investing in the development of Bristol's cultural organisations, festivals and events, and artists and the citizens they work with. Operating the CIP is an important means by which the council builds relationships across the sector, and with key stakeholders and funds, to understand and support the needs of the city and its citizens. With a vision to make culture accessible for all, the CIP is underpinned by the council's priorities for inclusivity and growing a green and sustainable cultural economy.

In an increasingly young and diverse city it is a priority for CIP to support and invest in organisations and enterprises that are led by, or benefit, under-represented groups, helping cultivate more diversity in the cultural sector. Over the next five years our aspiration is to take a more participatory approach to decision making about cultural investment, involving more people in decisions to help maximise the reach and impact of CIP. This will be dependent on additional resourcing.

Consultation Details:

1. Details of the consultation are in **Appendix B** – a summary of key changes are stated below.
2. Details of consultation as follows:
 - Sector wide surveys [including currently funded organisations]: 43 respondents
 - Meetings with current recipients of Openness and Imagination funding. 6 meetings
 - 2 Online focus groups: 40 attendees
 - 1 In person focus group: 15 attendees.
3. Following the consultation, we will implement the following amendments to the proposal:
 - a. Language: we will refine the language used within the aims and objectives based on the feedback received, and clarify the terminology used to help ensure greater accessibility. For example, considering the use of the word ‘equity’ over ‘equality’.
 - b. Objectives of the fund: we will reconsider the grouping of objectives set against specific aims.
 - c. Further consultation: We will seek to schedule additional public consultation sessions on the additional themes raised in the report, most notably the accessibility of the fund.

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

<https://democracy.bristol.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=135&Mid=8831> - 2020 – Item 10

Link to Arts funding page where you will find the Cultural Investment Programme prospectus and guidance notes and previously funded and currently funded applicants:

<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=d31acfce0114fcd899a9b10a8918999>

Revenue Cost	£2,544,000	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:

Finance Advice: This report seeks Cabinet approval for the council’s Cultural Investment Programme (CIP) for the next 4 years (from 2022/23 to 2026/27). This can be funded from the current budget set aside for CIP. The planned grants programme matches the budget funding available and no additional funding is required to meet the proposed grants programme outlined in the report.

As part of Next years’ Service planning, all Services have been asked to identify 5% efficiencies which is expected to help towards providing a balanced budget for 2022/23. The Culture Service will be expected to make it’s efficiencies

contribution and that may result in the CIP budget for 2022/23 being slightly less than state above (unless alternative efficiency options are put forward).

Finance Business Partner: Kayode Olagundoye, Interim Finance Business Partner, 1st November 2021.

2. Legal Advice:

Procurement

Provided these are genuine grants and not contracts for services, they will not give rise to procurement issues under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. Client officers will need to seek legal assistance to ensure the arrangements are grant agreements.

Equalities

The Council must comply with the requirements of the Public Sector Equality duty when making any decisions. The duty requires the decision maker to consider the need to promote equality for persons with “protected characteristics” and to have due regard to the need to i) eliminate discrimination, harassment, and victimisation; ii) advance equality of opportunity; and iii) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it.

In order to do this the decision maker must have sufficient information about the effects of the proposed decision on the aims of the Duty. 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 a policy.

Legal Team Leader: Husinara Jones, Team Leader/Solicitor 2 December 2021

3. Implications on IT: No anticipated impact on IT/Digital Services

IT Team Leader: Simon Oliver, Director Digital Transformation 6 October 2021

4. HR Advice: No HR implications are evident

HR Partner: Celia Williams, HR Business Partner 2 November 2021

EDM Sign-off	Stephen Peacock, Executive Director Growth and Regeneration	13 October 2021
Cabinet Member sign-off	Councillor Craig Cheney Deputy Mayor - Finance, Governance and Performance	21 October 2021
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off	Mayor's Office	15 November 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	NO
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