

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 24 January 2023

TITLE	Cultural Investment Programme 2023 to 27: update on allocation of Openness and Imagination funding to arts and cultural organisations		
Ward(s)	City-wide		
Author: Patsy Mellor	Job title: Director Management of Place		
Cabinet lead: Mayor Marvin Rees	Executive Director lead: Stephen Peacock, Executive Director Growth and Regeneration		
Proposal origin: BCC Staff			
Decision maker: Cabinet Member Decision forum: Cabinet			
Purpose of Report:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To provide an update to Cabinet on the Cultural Investment Programme (CIP), detailing the way forward for allocating Openness and Imagination funding to Bristol-based arts and cultural organisations for the next year. 2. To seek approval to pause the current assessment and application process for the next round for 2023-2027 and rollover the current investment to those organisations funded by Openness for a further 12 months (April 2023 - March 2024). This is required due to an error in administering the fund outside of the process previously authorised by Cabinet. 3. To re-affirm the robust and independent process as approved by Cabinet in 2017 for assessing bids and awarding grants to allocate new Imagination and Openness grant funding (CIP 23-27 round) including the setting up of an independent board, appointed by the relevant cabinet member. 			
Evidence Base:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bristol City Council distributes public money to support arts and culture using the CIP. It is broken down into three funds which last for different lengths of time: Openness (4 year), Imagination (2 year), and Originators (1 year) with a vision 'to make arts and culture accessible for all'. This paper provides an update on Openness and Imagination funding only as Originators has come to an end. Appendix A1 Cultural Investment Programme Overview 2. The CIP 23-27 approach was reviewed in 2021 in consultation with the sector and citizens to ensure it addresses the financial and social impacts of the pandemic for the cultural sector. Appendix B CIP 23-27 Strategic Approach Consultation Report Final 3. Imagination and Openness funds opened for applications March-June 2022 for the next round; 34 Imagination applications were received requesting a total of £927,040 over two years (Imagination funding available 2023-25: £305,280). Thirty Openness applications were received requesting a total of £2,875,082 over four years (Openness funding available 2023-27: £1,465,344). 4. This report puts forward a proposal to roll over investment in organisations currently funded through Openness (2018-22 round), who also received extension year investment due to covid 22-23) for an additional 12 months (April 2023 – March 2024). Appendix A2 Currently funded Openness organisations 5. As these are organisations who originally applied for Openness investment in 2017, rollover investment will be subject to signing a 12-month extended grant agreement and evidence of passing BCC financial health check. 			

6. The cost of rolling over organisations currently funded under the Openness umbrella for an additional 12 months is £387,750. The 2023/24 planned budget for the Openness programme, subject to Full Council approval of the overall budget, is expected to be £360,114. (This is the amount of Openness grant funding available after access, assessment and evaluation costs are deducted)
7. The £27,636 difference will be recouped from existing annual CIP budget.
8. Organisations currently funded through Imagination will not be rolled over as Imagination is project rather than core funding (Imagination 2020-22 round, received extension year investment in 2022-23 to complete project activity delayed by covid).
9. Imagination investment to be awarded through CIP for 2023-25 will be delayed until June 2023 while the previously agreed assessment and recommendation process is followed. The delay will not see a reduction in final award amounts to organisations. Funding will be allocated until March 2025.
10. Openness investment to be awarded through CIP 2023-27 will be delayed until April 2024 while the assessment and recommendation process is completed. Funding will be allocated from April 2024.
11. CIP 2023-27 assessment of new Imagination and Openness applications is taking place in a context of challenge. The level of the annual investment available through the entire CIP programme has reduced by 40% over the last 5 years (from £1,015,960 in 2017/18 to £635,960 in 2022/23). There is no reduction in the 23/23 budget.
12. Alongside this the aims for CIP 2023-27 (approved by cabinet Dec 2021) have been intentionally aligned to key priorities around diversity, inclusion and equity in the Bristol Council Cultural Strategy, the Corporate Strategy 2022-27 (Good Growth: page 24) and the One City Plan.
13. All current applicants for Openness and Imagination will be notified of final decisions around investment after the independent assessment and recommendation process is completed (including cross-panel councillor briefings).

Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Approves the rollover of investment to current Openness organisations for a further 12 months (April 2023-March 2024) at a cost of £387,750.
2. Approves the approach to finalising recommendations for the allocation of Imagination funding 2023-25 (delayed until June 2023) and Openness funding (delayed until April 2024 – March 2025) in accordance with the process agreed by Cabinet in 2017.
3. Authorises the Executive Director Growth and Regeneration in consultation with the Mayor to take all steps required to award the funding as approved and enter into grant agreements, subject to the budget being approved at Full Council.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

CIP vision aligns 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'. Organisations recommended for funding have demonstrated that they are reaching into priority areas, have embedded community partnerships, health, and wellbeing partners, and are investing into building a sustainable sector. While the vision for CIP remains the same for new investment 2023 onwards, the aims of the Cultural investment Programme 2023-27 (approved by cabinet Dec 2021) have been intentionally aligned to key priorities around diversity, inclusion and equity in the Bristol Council Cultural Strategy, and all 7 themes of the Corporate Strategy 2022-27 (Good Growth: page 24). This current proposal which includes rolling over investment in current Openness grantees and delaying investment in new applicants will delay the full impact of new aims and delivery against new environmental guiding principle until 2024.

City Benefits:

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 an inclusive and sustainable cultural economy. Key priorities for the fund are to support organisations and enterprises that are led by, or benefit, under-represented groups, projects and activities that are delivered by, for and with communities in Bristol City Council's priority areas and organisations that use culture to help improve the health and wellbeing of people of all ages and

backgrounds.

A guiding principle was introduced for CIP 23-27 to help Bristol address the threat of the global climate and ecological emergency. All Cultural Investment Programme grant seekers were asked to demonstrate a commitment to raising awareness of the climate and ecological emergencies and reducing/mitigating the environmental impact of their activities. This current proposal which includes rolling over investment in current Openness grantees and delaying investment in new applicants will delay the full impact of new aims and new environmental guiding principle until 2024.

Consultation Details:

Consultation has taken place on the revised aims and objectives for CIP 23-27 in Autumn 2021.

Details of the consultation are in **Appendix B** – a summary of key changes are stated below.

1. 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.

2. Following the consultation, we implemented the following amendments to the proposal:
 - a. Language: we refined the language used within the aims and objectives based on the feedback received, and clarified the terminology used to help ensure greater accessibility.
 - b. Objectives of the fund: we reviewed the grouping of objectives set against specific aims.

Background Documents:

Previous cabinet papers from 2017, 2019, 2021

<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

<https://democracy.bristol.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=135&MId=8836&Ver=4> 2021 - Item 21

Link to Arts funding page where you will find the Cultural Investment Programme Overview, 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=d31acfceb0114fcd899a9b10a8918999>

Revenue Cost	£1,804,537	Source of Revenue Funding	Culture and Creative Industries
Capital Cost	n/a	Source of Capital Funding	n/a
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 allocation of the Openness grants for 2023-24 only. It will do this by rolling over funding for the organisations currently in receipt of this funding. The total cost of funding these groups for one year is £387,750. This can be funded from the CIP budget allocation proposed for 2023-24.

The decision to roll over the grants from the previous grants programme will mean that the normal grant application and vetting process have not been followed. This creates the risk that grant may be awarded to organisations that do not currently meet the financial criteria for funding.

The Cultural Service needs to ensure that before any grants are awarded all organisations slated to receive Openness

grant funding are reviewed using the standard financial assessment that would have been applicable as part of the grants application and vetting process.

This approval has no new financial implications for the Council, and all costs of implementing this approval will be covered from existing Culture Services Budgets.

Finance Business Partner: Kayode Olagundoye, Interim Finance Business Partner, Growth and Regeneration, 11th January 2023.

2. Legal Advice:

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.

The Council must comply with the requirements of the Public Sector Equality duty when making any decisions. The duty requires Cabinet 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 Cabinet 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 Manager/Solicitor 6 January 2023

3. Implications on IT: I can see no implications on IT in regard to this activity.

IT Team Leader: Alex Simpson – Senior Solution Architect 6 January 2023

4. HR Advice: There are no HR implications evident.

HR Partner: Celia Williams, HR Business Partner G&R 5 January 2023

EDM Sign-off	Stephen Peacock, Executive Director Growth and Regeneration	16 January 2023
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off	Mayor's Office	16 January 2023

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal	YES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A1 Cultural Investment Programme Overview • A2 Currently funded Openness organisations (2018 to present) 	
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	YES
CIP 23-27 Strategic Approach Consultation Report Final	
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