

Cheltenham Borough Council
Social & Community Committee - 8 November 2010
Final review of the Council's Community Investment Grants
(Wellbeing & Culture Division) 2008-2011
Report of the Social and Community Overview & Scrutiny
Committee Community Investment Review Group

Accountable member	Cabinet Member Sport & Culture, Councillor Andrew McKinlay
Accountable officer	Assistant Director Wellbeing & Culture, Sonia Phillips
Accountable scrutiny committee	Social & Community
Ward(s) affected	All
Executive summary	The council's three year funded community investment grants are now in their final year of funding arrangement. The report details the findings and recommendations of the Social & Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee's community investment grant review group which was tasked by the Committee of reviewing the current round of community investment grants awarded by the council's Wellbeing & Culture Division.
Recommendations	<p>1. O&S Committee endorse the findings of the O&S review group as detailed in Section 2 and agree to submit these findings to Cabinet for their consideration.</p> <p>2. O&S endorse the representations made in section 3 of this report for Cabinet to take into consideration when considering future funding arrangements and levels.</p>

Financial implications	<p>Funding at existing levels is currently built into the council's medium term financial strategy for MAD, Youth Council and Cheltenham Festivals.</p> <p>The Everyman Theatre grant funding will be reduced by £5,000 for each of the next 6 years, as part of the loan arrangement approved by Council.</p> <p>Future levels of funding will always be subject to the annual budget setting process and satisfactory performance.</p> <p>Contact officer: Sarah Didcote, sarah.didcote@cheltenham.gov.uk, 01242 264125</p>
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<p>Legal implications</p>	<p>These three community investment grants will expire through lapse of time, so no formal notice needs to be given. However, under the Compact, the service of a notice of termination should be done as a matter of courtesy and good practice, especially if the grants are not to be renewed. If the grants are to be renewed appropriate agreements will be completed based on the community investment grant format, with any relevant amendments needed, for each specific organisation and type of grant (ie to cover any support 'in kind').</p> <p>Contact officer: Nicolas Wheatley, nicolas.wheatley@teWKesbury.gov.uk, 01684 272695</p>
<p>Key risks</p>	<p>The loss or reduction in current funding levels will impact on the level and delivery of services and provisions offered by the organisations and/or their sustainability.</p> <p>The ability to deliver the outcomes in the corporate strategy identified below would be affected if funding is removed/reduced and alternative capacity is not identified.</p>
<p>Corporate and community plan Implications</p>	<p>The three organisations reviewed contribute to the following outcomes and activities in the Corporate Strategy 2010 to 2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthening our Economy <p>We attract more visitors and investors to Cheltenham</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthening our Communities <p>Increasingly continues to attract and involve a broader audience spectrum from varied ethnic and social backgrounds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhancing the provision of arts and culture <p>Arts and culture are used as a means to strengthen communities, the economy and protect and enhance our environment</p>

1. Background

- 1.1 The council's three year funded community investment grants awarded by the Wellbeing & Culture Division are now in the final year of a three year funding agreement (2008-2011) and are therefore subject to the tri-annual review by the Social & Community Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.2 The review process was agreed by the O&S Committee, as detailed in the report dated 1st March 2010. On 7th June 2010 the O&S Committee agreed the membership of the tri-annual review group.
- 1.3 The following table details the final review which were undertaken by the review group and also provides information regarding the level of funding which has been awarded to these organisations by the council.

Organisation	Current 2010-11 funding	Total funding awarded 2008-11
Everyman Theatre	£148,000	£444,000
Cheltenham Festivals	£109,200 (cash grant) £150,000 approx (in kind support)	£327,600 (cash) £450,000 approx (in kind)
MAD Young People's council (GCC)	£15,000	£45,000

- 1.4 Review meetings were held during September and October involving the Councillors Jon Walklett and Jo Teakle and co-optee Karl Hemming. The review group was assisted by appropriate council officers.
- 1.5 To assist the review, the group utilised a performance monitoring pro-forma along with assessments of performance and monitoring information in respect of the first two years of operational delivery, submitted by each of the organisations as a requirement of their grant. The review group held interviews with each of the organisations being funded. Presentations were made by each organisation and questions were raised by the review groups members in response to both the presentation and the submission of the organisation's monitoring and performance information.

2. Summary of key points and issues raised during the review process

2.1 Everyman Theatre

2.1.1 The following achievements and successes were particularly recognised:

- Range and diversity of programme with performances shown over a 45 week period including west end shows, opera and ballet, one night shows, jazz, burlesque and the theatre's own pantomime productions.
- Education and community programme with the engagement of disability groups, older people and young people, through the Youth Theatre and eight youth theatre groups.
- Delivery of business plan targets during period of recession.
- Successful delivery of fundraising strategy – securing capital funds for the delivery of

restoration plans during 2011. Beside essential repairs to maintain the building, the restoration will improve disability access and improve comfort and ambience.

- Income generation, for example selling tickets on behalf of other organisations / functions, joint working and renting out Hewlett Road workshop.

2.1.2 Identified challenges and suggested ideas of improvement for action/improvement:

- Consideration of increasing the use of environmentally/ecofriendly materials within the restoration scheme, and the improvement of environmental efficiencies of the building once it is restored.
- To further consider the engagement of the voluntary sector to add value to the Everyman Theatre's operation/customer experience.
- Further development and maximisation of links with University of Gloucestershire.
- Ensure improvement of the Everyman's prominence and profile within the town as a key cultural venue through improved signage etc, incorporated into the Civic Pride Initiative.
- Improved collaboration/joint working with fellow arts and culture providers within Cheltenham.

2.2 Cheltenham Festivals

2.2.1 The following achievements and successes were particularly recognised:

- Business growth, particularly in areas of sponsorship and ticket sales of literature and science festivals. Cheltenham Festivals are to be congratulated on much increased attendance, particularly at the literature festival, at a time of recession.
- Community engagement and development of the education and outreach programme with work in schools and new initiatives for gifted or talented children and in disadvantaged communities.
- Organisational and business development as a result of LABGI funding, which will provide a stronger base from which to reduce reliance on the public sector.
- Media profile, positive relationships and level of press coverage.
- Engagement of volunteers and interns.

2.2.2 Identified challenges and suggested ideas of improvement for action/improvement:

- Concerns regarding the sustainability of the music and jazz festivals and the need for the music festival, particularly, to appeal to a wider and more diverse audience particularly young people.
- Sustained growth of Literature Festival which is wholly dependant on extending the Festival into Montpellier Gardens. Concerns of whether the Festival will reach saturation point and to what extent future ticket sales forecast are achievable.
- Impact on the community engagement/education and outreach programmes as a result of grant reduction from Arts Council and other public sector funding including CBC.
- Fiesta in the Park, a very successful community event, could provide an opportunity to

promote the Festivals to a wider audience.

2.3 MAD Young People's Council

2.3.1 The following achievements and successes were particularly recognised:

- Growth in number of representatives elected onto MAD, geographic spread and diversity of representatives since commissioned through GCC (8 to 14).
- Growth of organisations represented on MAD with the sustained representation from schools and new representation from voluntary organisations (scouts / guides / youth clubs and colleges).
- MAD is considered to be a model of good practice by GCC in commissioning terms and one which they would wish to replicate across county.
- Engagement with other agencies and organisations (including UK Youth parliament, Police, Health & Emergency Services, CBC Intergrated transport and Cheltenham Library) in order to deliver against 4 themes, such as litter (community litter pick) and recycling, promoting better transport for young people, advertising places for young people to go and anti-social behaviour (developing relationships with the police).

2.3.2 Identified challenges and suggested ideas of improvement for action/improvement:

- One cannot underestimate the impact that the future uncertainty of public sector spending to both GCC youth service and CBC is having on MAD. This is the single biggest issue and challenge facing the youth service and in turn the sustainability of this service. Approaching private businesses regarding sponsorship was muted but it was recognised that there were possible pitfalls with this approach.
- Should GCC not be in a position to continue to commission MAD there is a question of who would be best placed to fulfill this role.
- It was felt that improvements could be made to raise the profile of MAD through neighbourhood regeneration partnerships, communications / relationship with schools and the benefit of a more localised presence.

3. Reasons for recommendations

3.1.1 The O&S review group were impressed with the commitment, development and success that all organisations demonstrated. The group was satisfied that all organisations had met the conditions of the council's investment grant and were assessed as having met the review evaluation criteria with notable achievements as listed in Section 2.

3.1.2 In recognition of the current uncertainty surrounding the council's financial position, and in order to be consistent with the CIG review group of the Community Services Division, the group were not in a position to make specific recommendations regarding the future funding levels, which will be made by Cabinet for due consideration when the council's financial position is more clear.

4. Consultation and feedback

4.1 As set out within section 2.

5. Performance management –monitoring and review

- 5.1 Each of the community investment grants recipients undergo quarterly and annual reviews in conjunction with officers from the Wellbeing & Culture Division, whereby they report performance information against a monitoring matrix. The matrix is the tool for evidencing the levels and outputs of the organisation's service delivery with meetings held with the organisation to discuss performance information presented.

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Appendices	1. Risk Assessment
Background information	O&S report 15 th October 2007 – final review of the council's 2005-2008 conditional offers of grant O&S report March 2010 – Final review of the council's three years community investment grants (2008-2011) O&S report 7 th June – Review of Community Investment Grants – election of representatives.

The risk				Original risk score (impact x likelihood)			Managing risk				
Risk ref.	Risk description	Risk Owner	Date raised	I	L	Score	Control	Action	Deadline	Responsible officer	Transferred to risk register
	If the grants are reduced in value or ceased then this will impact on the level and delivery of services offered by the organisations and/or the sustainability of the organisations. This may result in reducing the ability to deliver the outcomes as set out with the Corporate Strategy	SP	20/10/10	3	5	15	Transfer to 3 rd party	Organisations continue to explore alternative funding streams	Ongoing	Organisations	No
	If the grants are reduced or ceased, this will impact on the organisations ability to lever other public sector grants and funds/trust funds	SP	20/10/10	3	5	15	Accept	Reductions from other public sector bodies have already taken effect regardless of CBC's decision to sustain or reduce it's grant	Ongoing	Organisation	No