

**Title of meeting:** Culture, Leisure and Economic Development Decision

**Date of meeting:** 17 March 2023

**Subject:** Revenue Funding Grants 2023 - 2024

**Report by:** Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services

**Wards affected:** All

**Key decision:** No

**Full Council decision:** No

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**1. Purpose of report**

1.1 To seek approval for the proposed funding levels for the Revenue Grant payments to cultural organisations for the financial year 2023/24.

**2. Recommendations**

**2.1 That the Revenue Grant payments as outlined are agreed for the financial year 2023/24.**

**3. Background**

3.1. A core level of revenue funding has been provided to a number of cultural organisations as an essential part of the wider cultural offer across the city. In all instances the core level of funding as proposed in this report is then used by the organisations as seed corn funding to leverage in funding from other sources to support the on-going running costs of the organisations.

3.2. All revenue grant payments are supported by a detailed Service Level Agreement reporting against which has to be provided prior to the release of any payments. The payments are also provided to the organisations in two equal instalments pending receipt of the reporting information.

3.3. The information required ranges from updated business plans and audited accounts through to a range of operational policies and evidence of insurance policies. The Service Level Agreement also stipulates specific requirements depending on the nature and function of the organisation and requires them to respond to newly adopted council policies such as the PCC Social Value policy and the Reduction in carbon emissions.

3.4. The proposed revenue grant contributions for 2023/24 are as follows:

| <b>Organisation</b>                    | <b>Purpose of the Revenue Grant</b>   | <b>Proposed Grant for 2023/24</b> |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| Aspex Visual Arts Trust                | To support the work of Aspex as the primary contemporary visual arts space in Portsmouth  | £16,900                           |
| Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra         | To enable the orchestra to have Portsmouth as a key concert centre with high quality concerts and outreach programmes           | £25,000                           |
| City of Portsmouth Preserved Transport | To provide specialist storage and maintenance for specific historic vehicles from Portsmouth's Museums collection               | £8,680                            |
| Peter Ashley Activity Centres          | To support the development of the outreach programme and delivery of activities   | £3,000                            |
| Kings Theatre                          | To support the programme of work at the Kings Theatre including the development of education and outreach programmes            | £48,000                           |
| New Theatre Royal                      | To support the programme of work at the New Theatre Royal including the of education and outreach programmes                    | £77,000                           |
| Ports Fest                             | To support the work of the Ports Fest annual festival event in late June/early July 2023  | £3,000                            |
| Portsmouth Creates                     | To support this facilitating cultural organisation in the delivery of their work with individual creatives and bespoke projects | £50,000                           |
| Portsmouth Guildhall                   | To support the ongoing delivery of the key actions outlined in the detailed funding agreement and business plan                 | £177,000                          |
| Portsmouth Pride                       | To support the delivery of the Portsmouth Pride event   | £10,000*                          |

3.5 Please note the allocation towards Portsmouth Pride has already been secured from an agreed sum within Communities and Central Services and will not be funded from within Culture, Leisure & Economic development budgets. It is listed here in order to ensure that the principals of the application of a Service Level Agreement model and split payment are agreed.

3.6 During 2022 organisations had an opportunity to bid for the next round of National Portfolio Status funding from Arts Council England. Despite being identified as a 'Priority Place' by Arts Council England only two of the organisations we provide

funding two were successful in their applications, Aspex Visual Arts Trust and the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. This matter has been taken up directly with the Arts Council.

**4. Reasons for recommendations**

4.1. The provision of revenue funding to cultural organisations has a long history in Portsmouth and both officers and members have gone to considerable lengths to protect the revenue funding through the periods of budget reductions. The continued provision of this funding both acknowledges the strategic importance of these organisations but also the role this funding provides in attempting to leverage in financial support from other bodies such as Arts Council England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

**5. Integrated impact assessment**

5.1. Integrated Impact Assessment attached at Appendix A

**6. Legal implications**

6.1 The Council has a specific statutory power under Section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972 to make contributions (which would include grant funding) towards the pursuit of arts, entertainment and cultural objectives and may also rely on the general power of competence for local authorities in the Localism Act 2011, section 1.

**7. Director of Finance's comments**

7.1 The grants noted in this report will be met from the 2023/24 revenue budget.

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Signed by:  
**Stephen Baily**  
**Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services**

**Appendices:**

Appendix A- Integrated Impact Assessment

**Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972**

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

| Title of document | Location |
|-------------------|----------|
|                   |          |

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by ..... on .....

.....  
Signed by:  
**Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Economic Development**