

North East Locality Committee

5.00pm, Tuesday, 4 September 2018

Local Events Fund

Item number	8.4
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	12, 13, 14, 17
Council Commitments	

Executive Summary

As part of the Council's budget for 2017/18, Finance and Resources Committee approved a one off fund of £60,000 to support cultural event development across the city. A Local Events Fund of £15,000 was established in each locality, with projects applying for funds through an agreed application process.

This report provides an update on the success of the process in the North East Locality.

Local Events Fund

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 To note the success of the Local Events Fund process in the North East Locality.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Finance and Resources Committee at the Meeting on 23 March 2017 allocated £60,000 to establish a Local Events Fund in each locality as a pilot scheme. The fund was intended to stimulate and support artistic and cultural activity to benefit audiences and artists living within each locality. One of the key aims of the initiative was to involve those who might not traditionally have the chance to participate in arts and cultural events, and applications were encouraged from the “Small Areas” as identified in the North East Locality Improvement Plan.
- 2.2 An application process was established and a Funding Panel was set up in the North East Locality to distribute a total fund of £15,000 to successful applicants.

3. Main report

Local Events Fund

- 3.1 Local community groups, arts/creative organisations and partnerships were invited to submit applications during December 2017 for proposals of between £2,500 and £10,000. Administration for the Fund was delivered by the central Cultural Team and the creation of the Funding Panel and selection process undertaken by the Locality team.
- 3.2 Successful applications were required to meet the following criteria:
- To take place within the North East Locality;
 - To demonstrate creative and diverse use of spaces- indoor or outdoor;
 - To reflect Locality Improvement Plan aims;
 - To support either a one off event or a programme of activity;
 - To demonstrate a strong concept/ idea and quality project management; and
 - To demonstrate co-operation and partnership working.

Funding Panel

- 3.3 A Funding Panel of nine members was brought together at the beginning of 2018, chaired by the Lifelong Learning Service Manager, which included local councillors, officers, community and third sector (EVOC) representatives from across the locality.
- 3.4 Twenty eight applications were received in the North East Locality totalling £137,861.48. This compared against other localities as follows:
- North West – 10 applications totalling £51,204.80;
 - South West – 4 applications totalling £19,114.00; and
 - South East – 12 applications totalling £61,931.00.
- 3.5 Funding Panel members scored the applications received against a range of funding criteria, prior to holding a one off meeting to assess the applications. All proposals were discussed at the meeting and the unanimous decision was reached to grant awards to four successful projects. Two projects were fully funded and two projects received partial funding awards.

Successful Projects

- 3.6 Multi-Cultural Family Base - awarded £2,855 (full funding awarded) to develop and deliver a “Time for Togetherness” which will use music and dance to help create greater community cohesion by bringing together, in a relaxed social setting, families from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Project Update: The project has delivered two family ceilidhs with 30-35 families attending and six musical workshops for children, both in partnership with Tinderbox Orchestra. A final event is planned to take place during October half term school holidays. A range of outcomes have been achieved including:- the involvement of families who are new new migrants, refugees or asylum seekers who would not traditionally take part in cultural events within the community; the formation of cross cultural friendships; the discovery of new abilities for both parents and children participating; local musicians having the opportunity to showcase their talents; positive impact on social isolation.
- 3.7 Out of the Blue - awarded £2,750 (full funding awarded) to engage with groups and individuals on the planned Meantime Use project through the delivery of an event which would gather local input into the nature and frequency of future events for the project. The event will feed into the work of the more formal steering group and will reach beyond gathering the views and input from those traditionally engaged. The aim of this event is to introduce the new Leith Walk Meanwhile Use site and project to those who would not generally participate in arts activity or put themselves forward for a steering group. The event will be planned by the steering group and will likely involve music, food, visual arts, crafts and gardening/landscaping activities. Project Update: Delivery of the project has been delayed until the Meanwhile Use site has been handed over to Out of the Blue. Plans for the event are continuing and a future progress update will be provided.

- 3.8 The Citadel Arts Group - awarded £4,895 (partial funding awarded) to deliver a "Drama at the Dockers!" event to explore Leith in the 1950's. A book of memories on this period of social change will be created through memory collection from local older people in Leith. The book will be compiled to allow older people to see their community celebrated and their memories valued, preserved and shared with Leith school pupils. The book will be launched with pupil involvement, and some of the stories used to inspire a play scripted by one of the older writer's team at The Citadel. Project Update: A programme of sessions with older people have been delivered in Gordon Court Sheltered Housing, and along with other memories gathered from other local older people have been compiled into a book which is currently being designed for print. Stories have been shared with pupils from Abbeyhill Primary School and their responses recorded to share back with the older people. Three play scripts have been developed by the older writer's team and presented as performed readings both in a workshop setting and at the Leith Festival. A shorter play is also under development to take into schools and older people's centres this year.
- 3.9 Upward Mobility and Gig Buddies- awarded £4,500 (partial funding awarded) to develop a project which will produce and deliver four music gigs which would include those with additional support needs playing alongside and as part of emerging and established bands. People with additional support needs and their friends and families would be actively encouraged to attend the gigs along with people who do not have additional needs. Project Update: Two music events have taken place to date including: an Open Mic night at the Elbe Room in Leith where 10 acts entertained a packed audience of 30 people; a music gig at Portobello Town Hall where three bands to an audience of 60 people. Three further events are planned to take place throughout the coming months with one focussed on supporting greater involvement of disabled musicians on the live music scene.

Feedback on the Process

- 3.10 While some of the projects are still to take place, initial feedback which has been gathered from participants including those who served on the Funding Panel has been positive. Suggestions for improvement if the scheme was to be delivered in the future include:
- an increase to the amount of funding available for grassroots cultural events;
 - management of the fund and funding application process to be undertaken at a local level to maximise local awareness and access to the funding available; and
 - address the perception that the same recipients benefit from funding opportunities.
- 3.11 Each of the four funded projects will submit a report once their activity has taken place. A list of all of the funding applications which were received is attached at Appendix 1.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 The success of the funded events will be assessed by the most appropriate measures for each individual project, including number of spectators, number of local participants, sustained physical activity by residents and partnership funding.
- 4.2 The programme contributes to the delivery of the Events Strategy and the following Culture Plan objectives:
 - 4.2.1 Support greater partnership working in the cultural and creative sectors and maximise resources available to help them thrive all year round
- 4.3 The activities contribute to the delivery of outcomes and priorities in the North East Locality Improvement Plan.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 The Local Cultural Fund for the North East Locality amounted to £15,000 which was contained within the Events budget for 2017/18. Four grants were awarded leaving no balance of funds.
- 5.2 Future recommendations for spend to develop this approach further are included in the Investment in Communities and Localities Budget Report at item x on the agenda for the North East Locality Committee Meeting.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 None.

7. Equalities impact

- 7.1 Activity supported through these funds contributes to the delivery of the Equality Act 2010 general duties of advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations.

8. Sustainability impact

- 8.1 Activity supported through these funds has the potential to impact positively on sustainability.

9. Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 Relevant partners and event producers were engaged in the development and delivery of the project.
- 9.2 The development of the North East Locality Improvement Plan (LIP) was a collaborative process involving the community and partners, with the priorities set

having been informed by extensive public engagement. The successfully funded projects all met priorities identified in the LIP.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 [Approved 2017-18 - 2020-21 Revenue Budget and 2017-18 - 2021-22 Capital Investment Programme - plans for supplementary investment report](#) – Finance and Resources Committee, 23 March 2017
- 10.2 [Festival and Events Core Programme 2018-19](#) – Culture and Communities Committee, 20 March 2018

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11. Appendices

Appendix 1. List of all applications received for the Local Event Fund.

Appendix 1

Project Title	Funding request	Funding allocated	
Photos to Life	£5,800		N/A
Room for Art	£3,100		N/A
Young People: Make some noise!	£5,923.92		N/A
Art Walk Party 2018	£10,000		N/A
Drama at the Dockers!	£6,796	Part	£4,895
A Wall is a Screen: Leith	£3,200		N/A
The Lock In	£9,290		N/A
Shoplifter<>Shapeshifter	£5,855		N/A
Edinburgh Diwali 2018 for Youth in Scotland	£6,000		N/A
Nine Days Festival – Navratri	£1,000		N/A
Eid 2017 – To celebrate Ramadan	£2,500		N/A
Rock ‘N’ Roll Edinburgh	£5,800		N/A
Opening Weekend 2018	£3,920		N/A
Summer Celebration	£3,000		N/A
Local Community Groups Round Up Archery Competitions	£3,000		N/A
Making Memories	£6,340		N/A
The Edinburgh Mela 2018: Kids Zone	£5,000		N/A
Community Woodland Events	£6,690		N/A
Craigmillar Tapestry	£9,171.56		N/A
Eid in the Park	£2,500		N/A
Time for Togetherness	£2,855	Full	£2,855
Flower Buds	£2,500		N/A
Meanwhile at the Leith Hub	£2,750	Full	£2,750
Strange Town	£4,428		N/A
Syn Festival Edinburgh 2018	£4,565		N/A
Jam Piece 2018	£6,520		N/A
North East Edinburgh: Real Gigs in Real Venues	£6,000	Part	£4,500
My Life	£3,357		N/A
Total Funding Requested	£137,861.48		£15,000