

<b>Grants Determination (Cabinet)</b>  <b>Sub-Committee</b>  Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2019	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Debbie Jones, Corporate Director, Children's and Culture.	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Event Fund Annual Report - 2018-19</b>	

<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>Cabinet Member for Culture and Youth</b>
<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Alison Denning
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No, no decision required
<b>Forward Plan Notice Published</b>	
<b>Reason for Key Decision</b>	
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	<b>One Tower Hamlets</b>

### Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of Event Fund applications received and awards made for the financial year 2018-19.

Following on from feedback received, we have changed the format to just 2 reports.

This report relates to the first report, (Event Fund Report – Applications and Awards 2018-19), presented on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019, which detailed the applications received and the awards made for the entire year from April 2018 to March 2019. It also included an overview of the wards that were expected to be covered and the beneficiaries that it should reach based on the applications. There was no post event monitoring and evaluation information included for events that had taken place.

This, the second report, (Event Fund Annual Report – 2018-19) includes the evaluation and monitoring that has been received for the year and the monitoring and evaluation information.

### Background

The Event Fund is a unique small grant fund specifically to support community arts events which has been operating successfully for a number of years. The fund works on a rolling programme and previously operated to a monthly grants deadline. With the introduction of reporting to the Grants Determination Sub Committee and Commissioners the monthly deadlines became unworkable and it has been operating to quarterly deadlines since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017.

The Event Fund is designed to encourage participation from the local community across the borough. to support small scale local events, high quality public events

and festivals which have arts content.

(Although there is a new Tower Hamlets Plan and One Tower Hamlets is no longer an entity, this Report will refer to the Community Plan and One Tower Hamlets as the applicants are asked to demonstrate how they will meet the priorities from the plan and One TH principles as they were in place at the time).

The events should demonstrate that they are accessible to, and of benefit to the community and promote the One Tower Hamlets principles across the borough, which are:

- Tackling Inequality
- Strengthening Community Cohesion and,
- Building Community Leadership

The fund is part of the Council's revenue budget and is intended to support the delivery of the Council's Community Plan priorities and contribute to its four themes:

**A Great Place to Live**

**A Fair and Prosperous Community**

**A Safe and Cohesive Community**

**A Healthy and Supportive Community**

The projects are expected to demonstrate:

**Administration and management of events**

- An engaging programme of events through a combination of directly delivered events and events which are delivered in partnership with other groups or community organisations.

**A robust process for collaborating with community groups or organisations**

- Evidence they have a strong approach to partnership working with local organisations across the borough and robust partnership processes in place.

**A strong understanding of equality, including:**

- Understanding of the council's commitment to equality through the Community Plan and ideally, also some understanding of the council's commitment across the protected characteristics as detailed in the Single Equality Framework.
- A proposal that outlines what issues or topics will be addressed through the events, why these have been selected and how they help the council to achieve the One Tower Hamlets principles.

**Mayor's Priorities:**

The Event Fund contributes towards the following strands of the Mayor's key priorities:

- Creating Jobs and supporting the growth of the Local Economy;
- Young People and Schools;

- Older People and Health;
- Community Safety and Community Cohesion;
- Environment and Public Realm; and
- Arts, Heritage, Leisure and Culture.

The application forms used for the Event Fund Grant ask people to show how they will meet the Council's Community Plan themes and Mayor's priorities. The level of detail depends on the size of the event and the size of the grant. Special small grants of £250 were offered for people to come together and organise street parties and community gatherings to commemorate the life and contribution of Jo Cox as part of the Big Lunch / Great Get Together. For these small grants the emphasis is less on arts, and more on demonstrating community cohesion and accessibility.

### **Recommendations:**

The Grants Determination Cabinet Sub-Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the report.

### **1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

- 1.1 No decisions are required, this is for information only

### **2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 There are no alternative options

### **3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT**

#### **Event Fund Annual Report - 2018-19.**

- 3.1 This report gives an overview of all of the applications received for the financial year 2018-19. A total of 60 applications were received and 43 received funding with an overall budget of £52,500.
- 3.2 Applications were all assessed by three officers independently of each other. Applications were initially checked for eligibility. If not eligible they were rejected and not assessed. If eligible, applications were scored across a number of areas:
  1. Track record of delivery of the organisation – applicants need to demonstrate past events and previous grants awarded and general level of activity in the borough and previous experience of delivering similar events and activities.
  2. Event details – the Event Fund only supports events which have arts content, however for the grants of £500 or less, the overall community benefit is taken into consideration
  3. Benefit – we assess how it will involve the community including but not only the following: is there any skills development for local people, are there

progression routes as a result of participating, is it taking place in areas where there is little arts activity, are they organisations not previously engaged in the Event Fund process, will the project tackling social isolation, is there a particular section of the community who will benefit e.g. elderly, young people, people with disabilities, mental health, women etc.

4. Partnerships – organisations should show that they have support either financially or in kind through being actively engaged with delivery partners who could be a mixture of volunteers, community organisations, local businesses etc. This is not mandatory for grants under £500.
5. Innovation – applicants are asked to demonstrate a level of innovation through their approach to planning, programming and how they are bringing new audiences to the arts. This is not mandatory for under £500.
6. Accessibility & marketing – applicants are required to demonstrate how they will reach the community across the borough, how they will actively endeavour to engage with communities and new audiences, how they will promote their activities and any barriers to participation such as entry fees or inaccessible venues.
7. How they are meeting one or more of the community plan themes – as the application forms and guidelines were produced before the change to the Community Plan, applicants were asked to show how they would contribute to one or more of the themes.
8. Value for money. We take into consideration the total cash budget, number of beneficiaries, overall project costs and any in kind support.

These areas form 8 sections on the assessment form for grants from £501 - £2500 and 6 sections on the assessment form for grants up to £500.

Each section attracts a maximum score of 5 where 1= very poor and 5 = Excellent, with the overall application receiving a maximum score of 40 by each assessor for grants of £501 - £2500 and 30 for grants up to £500. The three assessors' scores are then added together to give a maximum score of 120 or 90 respectively.

Applications not scoring sufficiently during the assessment process were not recommended to receive funding. (The minimum score of 3 out of 5 for each section was recommended by the Commissioners with an absolute minimum of 3 for the question of benefit, in order to be considered for funding.) The ultimate decision on successful awards and amounts was made by the Divisional Director, Sports, Leisure, Culture & Youth on a quarterly basis once applications had been assessed and scored by officers.

For full details of the Guidelines and Criteria, please see Appendix A.

Applications not receiving funding were unsuccessful for a number of reasons such as:

1. Closed event – e.g. Taking place in a school or not open to the general public
2. Lack of match funding (support in kind or cash)
3. High costs for number of beneficiaries
4. High ticket prices (on some occasions applications were awarded funding with ticket prices, but they usually had free content for people who found the ticket price a barrier to participation)
5. Benefit to TH residents not sufficiently demonstrated,
6. Lack of plan demonstrating how wider community will be targeted.
7. Insufficient information on the application form or not completed correctly
8. Late applications post deadline.

3.3 Quarter 1 - £8,700 was awarded.  
 A total of 13 applications were received.  
 A total of 5 applications were awarded funding.  
 A total of 8 applications were declined funding.

Big Lunch / Royal Wedding / Great Get Together - £1,500 was awarded.  
 (included in Quarter 1 figure of £8,700)  
 A total of 6 applications were received  
 A total of 6 applications were awarded funding  
 A total of 0 applications were declined funding

Quarter 2 - £16,000 was awarded  
 A total of 12 applications were received  
 A total of 9 applications were awarded funding  
 A total of 3 applications were declined funding.

Quarter 3 - £18,050 was awarded  
 A total of 21 applications were received  
 A total of 17 applications were awarded funding (including 7 for Black History Month Events)  
 A total of 4 applications were declined funding

Quarter 4 - £8,750 was awarded  
 A total of 8 applications were received  
 A total of 6 applications were awarded funding  
 A total of 2 applications were declined funding.

£1000 was allocated from the budget for workshops for each quarterly deadline.

Quarter	Total Award	Number of applications	Number awarded	Number declined
1	£8,700	13	5	8
2	£16,000	12	9	3
3	£18,050	21	17	4
4	£8,750	8	6	2
Workshops	£1,000			
<b>Total</b>	<b>£52,500</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>18</b>

A full list of the applications received can be seen in Appendix B.

3.4 Although there were 43 grant awards, a total of 89 events were scheduled to happen during the year however two events were cancelled:

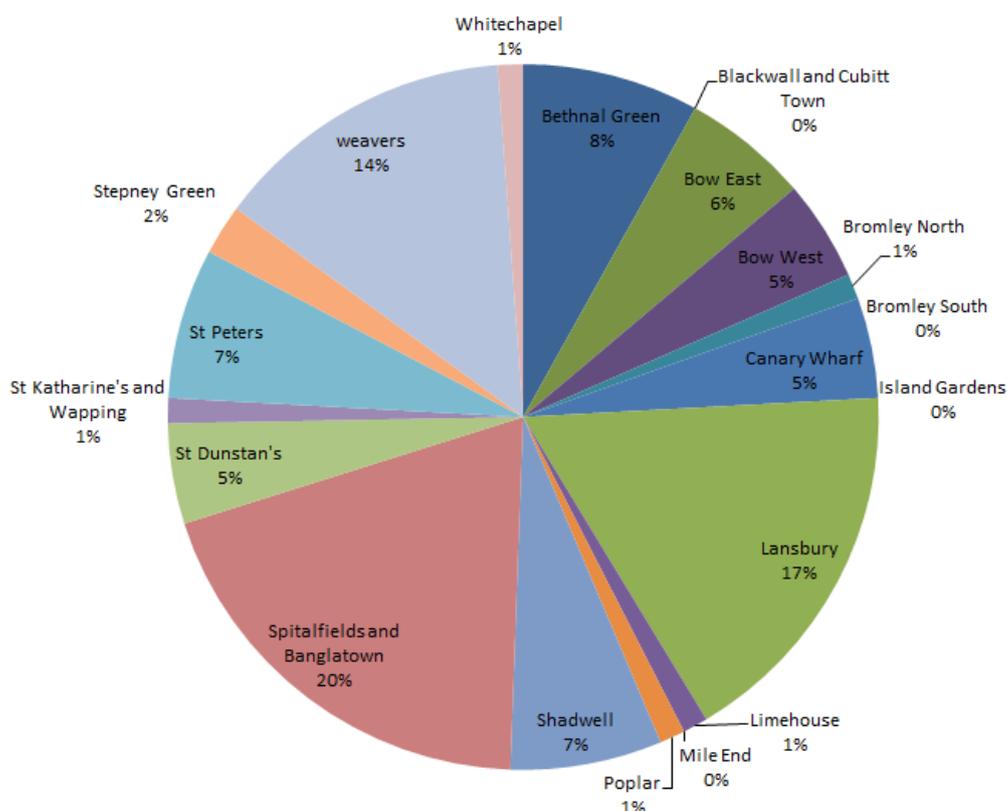
3.4.1 Wellington Estate TRA - Big Lunch did not go ahead due to lack of sufficient additional funds and resources to deliver.

3.4.2 Ardent Theatre Company - Capital Project did not go ahead due to other funding sources not coming through.

3.5 Outreach - We have continued to try and encourage applications for events to be organised in under-represented wards in the borough and specifically encouraged applications for events in the eastern and southern wards of the borough. To this end, workshops were held with THCVS in the areas where we identified low take up of the award, however we still did not make any awards for events in Blackwall and Cubitt Town, Bromley South, Island Gardens or Mile End Wards this year. We also had a low number of applications and awards for activities in Poplar, Whitechapel, St Katharine's and Wapping, Limehouse and Bromley North. This is likely to be partly due to the lack of venues in these areas. Furthermore we did not receive an application for Women's History Month which normally has a number of events which cover a lot of the borough.

The majority of events happen in wards where there are existing venues such as Lansbury, Spitalfields and Banglatown and Weavers and to a lesser extent St Peter's and Bethnal Green.

**Wards 2018-19**



For the full list of venues and wards projected see Appendix C.

### 3.6 Overview of projects:

The Event Fund supported a wide range of events, activities and projects in 2018 – 2019. These included a broad range of themes including: projects for young people in digital arts production; events celebrating the Royal Wedding; May Day complete with maypole dancing; film festivals (including LGBTQ content); Bengali arts; intercultural events fusing eastern and western music styles, a photographic project involving homeless people and showcasing their talent in a calendar; immersive theatre; intergenerational music projects; volunteering opportunities; sport and fitness; performing opportunities; photography workshops and exhibitions; events participating in Black History Month; mental health; exhibition and workshops raising awareness of environmental issues; dance, performances of Sherlock Holmes for children.

Examples of events and feedback:

#### **Stepney City Farm – May Day Celebration**

*“...One local resident commented: “It seems to have been a real focal point for the local area – all of my neighbours were coming, and I’ve bumped into people I know from all over the place today!”*



#### **Café Art UK – My London.**

*“Through representing our artists through a series of images, we changed the perception of what it is to be homeless. We feel the arts are one of the only ways you can communicate this in such a direct and successful way.”*



#### **Dash Arts – The Squat**

*“Wonderful event! Someone stopped me on the street and invited us in (me+2x 3 year olds. Warm hospitality, very welcoming of my children. This is how kids develop an appreciation of the arts.”*

*“Unbelievable to have stumbled upon this! Coming back tomorrow. Looking forward to seeing some acts / performance in addition to discussion (which was also great)”*



#### **Approach Gardens – Big Lunch**

*“The get together was a huge success because we had a good mix of people, more diverse than previous years. A very happy atmosphere throughout the day; the feedback was wonderful”*



### **Pollyanna Training Theatre – Wapping Great Christmas Fair**

*“Young and old met and enjoyed activities, people met neighbours they hadn’t even realised they had, those of different faiths celebrated the festive season.”*

*“...many families and individuals haven’t attended our events prior to this. We had a number of families from the Bengali community who stayed for much of the day and enjoyed and took part in the celebrations”.*



### **Mukul and the Ghetto Tigers – Maanushet Gaan (Song of Humanity)**

*‘Hope to see more of this programme in near future possibly nearer to the Christmas time’. ‘Last night enjoyed beautifully presented devotional and spiritual music of Kazi Nazrul Islam our National Poet by an excellent group of musicians’.*

*‘Loved the poetry recitation and was amazed to see such a well organised programme with excellent choreography throughout’. ‘Excellent work by entire performers and people behind the scene. Director and the producer were excellent and the theme of this programme was put together so well for this already very fractured and disintegrated society’.*



### **Teviot Partnership – Langdon Park Festival**

*“The performances encouraged young people to showcase their singing or dancing skills. Families and friends came along to support the young person.*

*Adding the dance element to the tea tent encouraged participation. It gave the elders a sense of ownership and somewhere to belong.*

*We had many people from the local area perform on stage. This helped the participants to take leadership, build confidence, prepare themselves and develop their talent, whether it was spoken words, singing or dancing. It helped evolve their potential career and self-discipline skills.*

*The volunteering opportunities helped our volunteers gain experience and develop their skills. Some were based on different stalls such as the registration tent, bingo, food stall etc. This helped them to use their initiative, engage with residents, help organise their activity and much more.”*



### **Lon Art – Black Heroes Month**

*“- Families had a local and educational plan to attend to, during the weekend of half term.*

*- Parents and children worked together in the art workshops, creating ceramics, collages and postcards.*

*- They listened to the art facilitators and the stories of powerful black females to inspire their artwork.*

*- BAME parents had the opportunity to engage with their children in activities based on leading black role models.”*

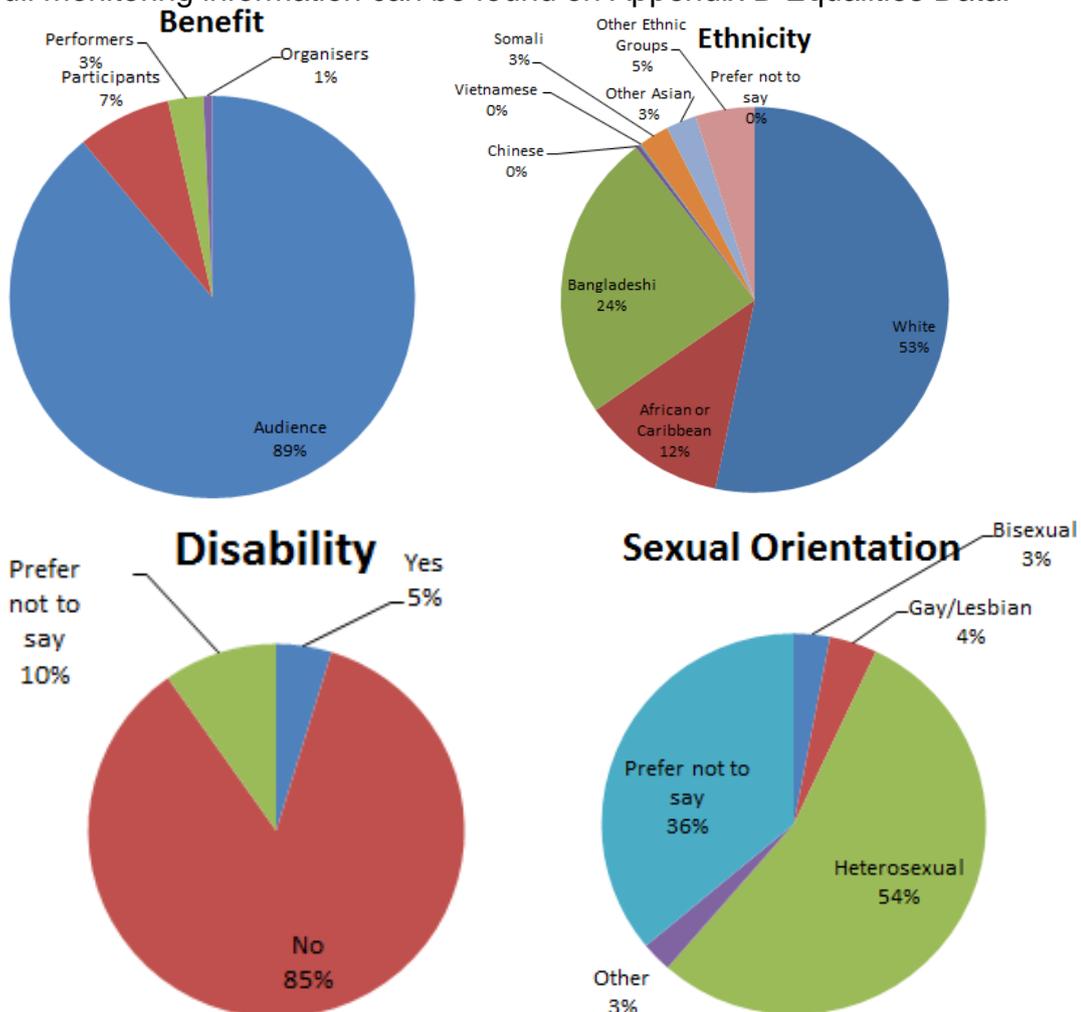


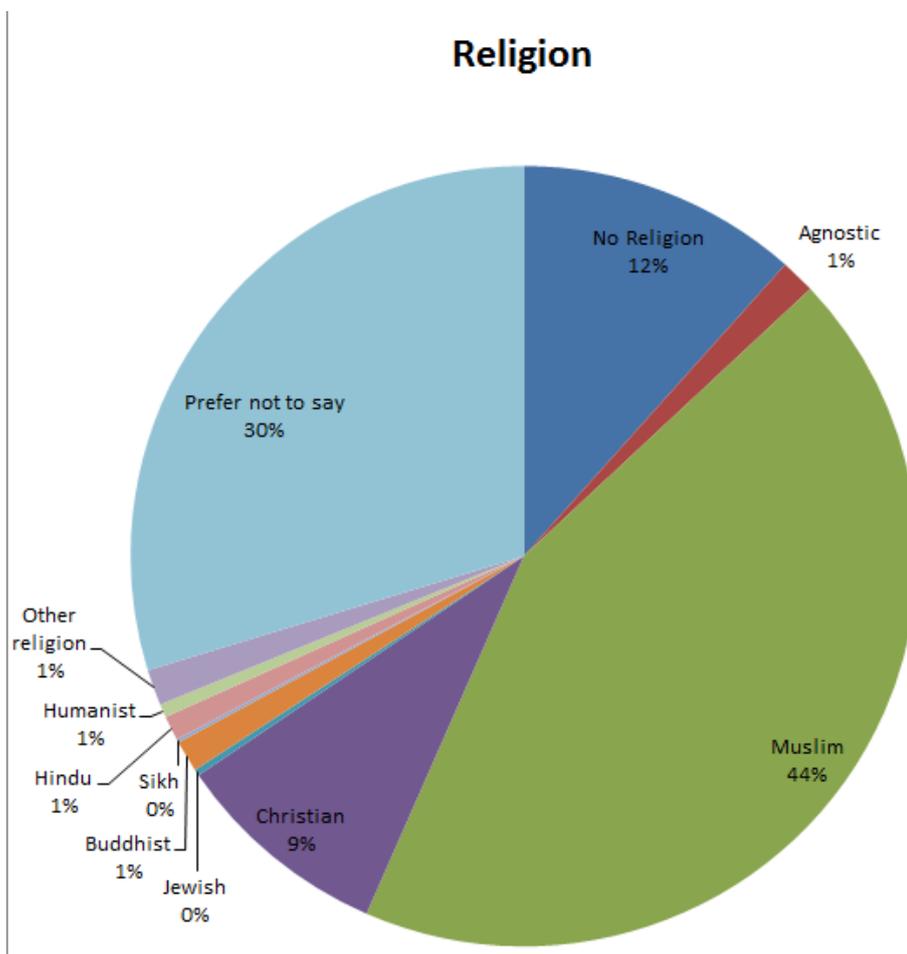
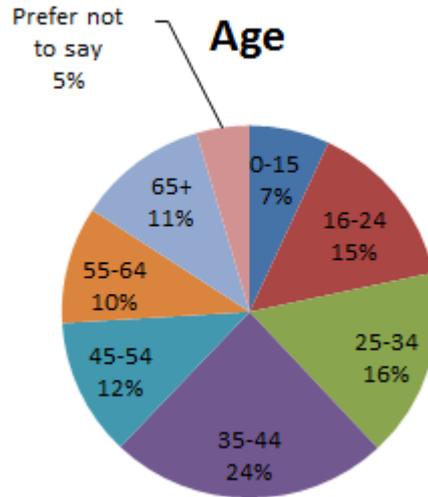
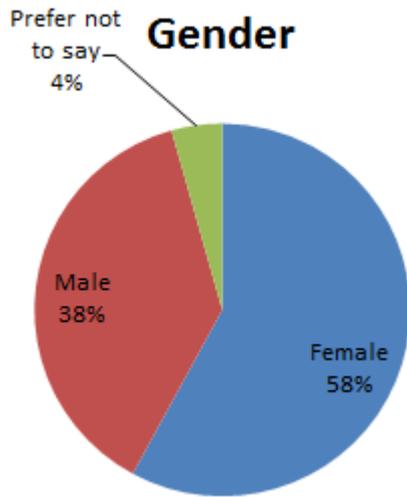
## 4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

### Monitoring & evaluation

- 4.1 Organisations are expected to have a system in place to measure the outputs and outcomes through the protected characteristics as set out in the Public Sector Equality Duty where relevant and appropriate. They are also required to submit numbers of participants, audience, organisers and performers. There can be some confusion between the difference between audience and participants.
- 4.2 Monitoring and Evaluation information has to be submitted post event in order to receive their second grant payment. Each successful applicant is given a monitoring and evaluation form to complete post event and a sample monitoring sheet to use to gather the information.
- 4.3 Of the 41 events that went ahead, 5 awardees had not submitted their evaluation and monitoring by the time this report was written. The monitoring and evaluation information is therefore based on a total of 36 funded events (87 individual events) and 45,875 beneficiaries.

Full monitoring information can be found on Appendix D Equalities Data.





## 5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:

- Best Value Implications,
- Consultations,
- Environmental (including air quality),
- Risk Management,
- Crime Reduction,
- Safeguarding.

5.2 None of the above implications are relevant to this report.

## **6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

6.1 This report complies with the requirement to provide updates to the Grants Determination Sub-committee on payments awarded from the Events Fund. The total amount available for the community arts events in 2018-19 was £52,000

6.2 60 applications were submitted for funding and 43 of these were successful. The full grant of £52,500 was awarded in 2018-19 as detailed in the table in paragraph 3.3.

6.3 There are no known financial implications for this grant funding.

## **7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES**

7.1 On the whole the grant funding has achieved the purposes for which it was given as detailed in this report. Therefore, it may be considered that this is a significant factor in demonstrating that the Council has achieved Best Value as regards the use of the funds.

7.2 The report is otherwise noting in nature and there Are no other significant legal implications

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## **Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents**

### **Linked Report**

none

### **Appendices**

- Appendix A: Guidelines And Criteria
- Appendix B: Event Fund Applications and Awards 2018-2019
- Appendix C: Venues and Wards
- Appendix D: Equalities Data

**Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012**

- NONE.

**Officer contact details for documents:**

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