

## EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD SHEET

**Name of Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Neil Harden

**Portfolio:** Residents & Regulatory Services

**Date of Report:** 02/04/2014

### **Arts Funding Levels and Arts Commissioning**

#### **Recommendations made and reasons:**

1. To award Tring Arts Trust a grant (in line with its three 3 year Strategic Partner status) of £23,360 for the 2014/15 financial year.
2. To award Berkhamsted Arts Trust a grant of £7,170 for the 2014/15 financial year.

#### **Background**

The Council has recently reviewed its approach to grants. The newly established Community Grant has very robust criteria, process and associated paperwork (which is all available online).

**Berkhamsted Arts Trust** has historically been funded via an annual grant at a level of £7,170 per year. The annual grant process will cease on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015. Budget allocated to existing recipients will be included within the broader Community Grant approach which offers all community groups and applicable organisations the opportunity to apply for up to £5,000 (and in exceptional circumstances £10,000) for projects in the local area that fulfil the grant criteria. Annual grant funding will not be available in future financial years. All annual grant recipients (including Berkhamsted Arts Trust) will be encouraged to apply for a Community Grant, should they wish to. There will be no guarantees for funding: all applicants will be dealt with fairly and competitively.

**Tring Arts Trust** is currently funded through the Strategic Partner Programme, through which the trust have a three year partner status with the Council. This status expires on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015. Existing funding levels are £23,630 per year. The Council will be considering commissioning an Arts Project from 1 April 2015.

#### **Financial Analysis**

- The money is available in 2014/15 budget year

#### **Officers / Councillors / Ward Councillors / Stakeholders Consulted:**

Steven Baker, Assistant Director, Chief Executive's Department

Matthew Rawdon, Group Manager People

Natalie Webb, Community Partnerships Team Leader

Cllr Andrew Williams

Cllr Neil Harden

#### **Monitoring Officer/Chief Financial Officer Comments:**

Monitoring Officer: - No further comments

Deputy Section 151 Officer: No further comments

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**Implications:**

**Risk:** failure to approve the recommendations in this report will result in a reduction in financial support of the arts community in Dacorum. This could have a negative impact on the delivery of arts in Dacorum. There is also a reputational consequence to the Council.

**Value for Money:** the Council has the opportunity to maximise value for money by commissioning (through an open and transparent process) an Arts Project for Dacorum.

**Options Considered and reasons for rejection:**

To continue Tring Arts Trust Strategic Partner status: This is rejected because the Strategic Partner Programme is not a robust or appropriate way of managing an Arts organisation.

To continue providing annual grants: This is rejected because the new Community Grant process is a more robust and fair way of awarding grants to community groups and organisations.

To not fund any arts organisations/projects: This is rejected because there will be a significant detrimental impact on the local arts community and on local residents.

**Portfolio Holders Signature:**

**Date:**

**Details of any interests declared and any dispensations given by the Standards Committee:****For Member Support Officer use only**

Date Decision Record Sheet received from portfolio holder: 28/05/14

Date Decision Published: 29/05/14

Decision No: PH/022/14

Date of Expiry of Call-In Period: 05/06/14

Date any Call-In received or decision implemented: