

Chichester District Council

CABINET

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Pallant House Gallery Funding Update

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Cabinet recommends to Council, that following the withdrawal of Art Council England National Portfolio Funding, the Council continues to support Pallant House Gallery under the current funding arrangements for 2023/24.**

3. Background

- 3.1 In 2016, a formal review of funding for Pallant House Gallery (PHG) was initiated to consider the future of the funding arrangements, under the heading of “Cultural Grants”. Recommendations were presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee in November 2016 and were approved by Cabinet in December 2016.
- 3.2 Annual funding of £130,000 for PHG for the years 2018 to 2022 was committed. The funding agreement is conditional upon the reporting to the satisfaction of the Council (acting reasonably) on annual activity and the Grantee continuing to receive Arts Council England (ACE) funding for the same period.
- 3.3 On 19 January 2021, Council agreed to a one-year extension to the funding agreement until 31 March 2023 in line with an extension of ACE funding. This enabled the gallery to continue to extend their work with the local community and targeted groups for the long recovery from the lockdowns as a result of covid-19.
- 3.4 In July 2022 the Council’s funding was extended by a further year until 31 March 2024 to allow for completion of a joint social and economic impact assessment between CFT, PHG and The Novium Museum. Following the completion of the studies, future funding for the cultural organisations will be reviewed.
- 3.5 PHG received Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) funding from 2019-2023 of £89,119 per annum. Receipt of this funding was a requirement for receiving CDC funding.

- 3.6 They submitted their 2023 – 2026 National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) funding application for 2023-26 in June 2022. On 4 November 2022 PHG were informed that they had not been successful in their application and all NPO funding was to be removed from 1 April 2023.
- 3.7 NPO funding represented 5% of PHG's total income in 2021-2, and PHG is confident that this reduction in funding can be mitigated. However, CDC funding accounts for a further 9% of total income, and so the combined loss of income (£220,000) would threaten the level of service PHG is able to provide to its audiences.

4. Outcomes to be Achieved

- 4.1 To continue to fund PHG for 2023/24. If the funding is not continued it would greatly reduce or cease, PHG's ability to deliver its award-winning community programme. The programme delivers regular and ongoing support to over 200 adults with a range of special needs, in addition to this the gallery also provides social prescribing and works with daycentres, care homes and charities such as Stonepillow and Mind. The loss of funding would also jeopardise its work with schools, colleges, and further education institutions within the Chichester District. Currently, PHG also offers free entry to all children up to 18, students, carers, and jobseekers, and discounts to NHS, emergency services and armed forces, which would be at risk without funding.

In addition, the Gallery is responsible for the care, conservation, storage, display, and interpretation of the internationally significant Hussey Bequest (on permanent loan from CDC) and for the care and upkeep of the interiors of the Grade-1 listed Queen Anne townhouse and surrounding gardens and terraces, which is owned by the District Council.

5. Proposal

- 5.1 Following the withdrawal of ACE NPO funding from 1 April 2023 to recommend to Council that CDC continue to support PHG with £130,000 funding for 2023-24 as previously agreed, whilst the Social and Economic Impact Assessment are undertaken, and the cultural grants are reviewed by the Council in advance of the 2024/25 budget setting process.

6. Alternatives Considered

- 6.1 The Council could in line with ACE, withdrawal it's funding for 2023/24 but this would result in a reduction in budget with very short notice for the Gallery and would have a negative impact on the delivery of services over the following year.
- 6.2 The joint social and economic impact study for The Novium Museum, Chichester Festival Theatre and Pallant House Gallery are due to take place in 2023-24 and the findings of this will feed into the Council's future review of cultural grants in advance of 2024-25.

7. Resource and Legal Implications

- 7.1 The one-year extension of the current £130k funding has already been budgeted for but the funding agreement currently states:

‘This Agreement is conditional upon the Grantee continuing to receive Arts Council England funding for the same period.’

Therefore, if funding is agreed for 2023/24, an amendment to the funding agreement will be required.

- 7.2 A review of the latest annual accounts was undertaken and at the time no concerns were raised about the organisations operations.

8. Consultation

- 8.1 PHG have met with ACE to discuss their withdrawal of funding and the gallery have been encouraged by ACE to apply for transition funding for the period of April – October 2023. They have also provided details of further project funding the gallery could apply for aimed at working with hard-to-reach groups.

9. Community Impact and Corporate Risks

- 9.1 Continued funding will enable the gallery to continue to deliver their work to the local community, identified groups and targeted individuals.
- 9.2 The community programme currently provides support to 200 adults with a range of needs, in addition to delivering through social prescribing. They also work with daycentres, care homes and charities such as Stonepillow and Mind.
- 9.3 Work also takes place with schools, colleges and further education institutions within the Chichester District and offers free entry to all children up to 18, students, carers, and jobseekers, and discounts to NHS, emergency services and armed forces.
- 9.4 In addition, the Gallery is responsible for the care, conservation, storage, display, and interpretation of the Hussey Bequest (on permanent loan from CDC) and for the care and upkeep of the interiors of the Grade-1 listed Queen Anne townhouse and surrounding gardens and terraces, which is owned by the District Council.
- 9.5 Withdrawal of Council funding would have a negative impact on all these areas of work.

10. Other Implications

	Yes	No
Crime and Disorder		X
Climate Change and Biodiversity		X
Human Rights and Equality Impact		X
Safeguarding and Early Help		X
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)		X
Health and Wellbeing	X	

Other (please specify)		

11. Appendices

11.1 None

12. Background Papers

12.1 None