

**Decision Session - Cabinet Member for
Leisure, Culture and Social Inclusion**

July 2012

Report of the Director (Communities, Culture & Public Realm)

**National Centre for Early Music (NCEM) Service Level Funding
Agreement**

Summary

1. This report is brought to the Cabinet Member to seek approval for a three year funding agreement to 31st March 2015 with the National Centre for Early Music (NCEM) to provide and present a programme of world music and provide an Early Music festival for York and the surrounding area.

Background

2. In accordance with best practice recommended by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) we have previously negotiated a three year partnership funding agreements with our significant cultural organisations in York. NCEM have been recipients of a previous agreement which finished in March 2012. This report brings forward the proposal for funding support for 2012 – 2015.

Funding offer

3. At Budget Council in February 2012 a general requirement of a saving of minimum 8% was to be negotiated with our voluntary organisations. In compliance with the York Compact best practice, notice of this change to budget was given to the NCEM. It is proposed that we set the funding level for the NCEM at a standstill level for the first nine months of this year followed by the implementation of the reduction in budget by 8%. It is proposed that we continue this through to 2015 subject to satisfactory annual monitoring. This will then give the organisation:
 - a three year agreement covering the period from 1.4.2012 to 31.3.2015

- a payment of £8,996 this year (representing 9 months of standstill funding plus 3 months with an 8% reduction in funding)
 - From April 2013 an annual payment of £8,446 for the agreed service
4. In return for the grant the NCEM will provide a programme of World music concerts throughout the year bringing to the city a musical diversity not supported by other providers.
 5. The NCEM will also provide an Early Music Festival which will constitute a key part of our City of Festival's provision and be delivered to the standard of a major regional festival.
 6. Alongside this the NCEM will run a varied programme of outreach workshops and activities. They already work in partnership with the York Education Service in the city's music hub and they will be expected to contribute to making York a vibrant and cosmopolitan city.
 7. The service provision and project programmes required of the NCEM are in line with those contained in the preceding agreements.

Consultation

8. The Director of the NCEM has been briefed on the process and prospects of securing a new three year funding agreement.

Options

9. The options available to the Cabinet Member are:

Option 1: Agree to the proposals set out in paragraphs 3 to 7 and detailed in Annex 1.

Option 2: To offer a different level of funding to that proposed in Paragraph 3

Option 3: Suggest further and/or alternative requirements to those set out Paragraphs 4 to 7 and detailed in Annex 1.

Analysis

10. Option 1 is recommended because this provides targeted funding for the delivery of a valued and important range of activities,

projects and programmes for York residents including one of our major regional festivals. The Council's continued support provides leverage for substantial additional funding from other sources (including Arts Council England: Yorkshire), ensures the stability of this organisation over the next three years through forward business planning. Option 2 is not recommended as this may create greater financial uncertainty for the organisation and would also be out of line with others offers being made to the third sector. Option 3 is possible but would need further discussion with the organisation to check their capacity and ability to provide more or different services.

Council Plan

11. The actions set out in the report contribute to the following corporate priorities as set out in the Council Plan 2011-15:

Building stronger communities by:-

- encouraging and enabling residents to engage with the wider community through positive and affirmative artistic opportunities

Putting York on a World Class stage by

- Delivery of an international festival of Early Music which is recognised as one of our major regional festivals and is broadcast worldwide by BBC Radio 3.

Implications

12. Equalities – this funding support enables to promotion of world music concerts across the year.
13. There are no Financial, Legal, Property, Human Resources, Crime and Disorder, or Information Technology implications arising from this report.

Risk Management

14. Failure to continue support the NCEM could result withdrawal of matched funding for an organisation which delivers an exciting original programme of world music to the city, delivers a major regional festival for York and whose outreach activities work with some of the most disadvantaged groups in the city.

Recommendation

15. The Cabinet Member is asked to approve Option 1 – to offer the NCEM a three year funding agreement as set out in Paragraphs 3 to 7 for the provision of programme of arts activities, including creating music, media and the arts for disabled people and young people in York and the surrounding area.

Reason: To increase the wellbeing and quality of life of disabled residents through arts and creative activities within the community.

Contact Details

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	Report Approved		Date
Specialist Implications Officer(s): N/A			
Wards Affected:			All ✓
For further information please contact the author of the report			

Background Papers:

Annex 1 – Service Level Agreement

See www.ncem.org.uk for information about the organisation