

Report of the Assistant Director (Lifelong Learning & Culture)

Service Level Agreements With The Not For Profit Sector: 2009/10

Summary

1. This report seeks approval to purchase Lifelong Learning and Culture programmes through Service Level Agreements.

Background

2. Service Level Agreements (SLAs) are grants used to purchase a specific activity or programme that will meet the needs of target customer groups. The purchasing priorities and criteria for SLAs are attached at Annex 1.
3. SLAs fall under the category of grants. The scheme of delegation is as follows:
 - Delegated authority for Chief Officers to approve grants of up to £5k
 - Delegated authority for the Executive Member to approve grants of more than £5k and up to £50k
 - The Executive to approve grants of more than £50k
4. This paper therefore asks the Executive Member to approve grants between £5,001 and £50,000. (There are only two grants of over £50k: to the Theatre Royal and to the York Museums Trust, and these are reported to the Executive. Six monthly performance reports on these grants are considered by this EMAP.)
5. All organisations that receive a Service Level Agreement work in partnership with the Council in the delivery of their services to provide programme that has been actively developed through discussion with the Council over time. Through this partnership working officers are able to ensure that the services commissioned are delivered satisfactorily. Furthermore, as a minimum, organisations are asked to complete a monitoring form describing how the funded programme was carried out and the outcomes achieved. All the monitoring forms are kept on file should Members wish to view them.

Consultation

6. The Council has entered into 'The York Compact' agreement with the Voluntary Sector. Under the Code of Practice on Funding section of the Compact it has

been agreed that, where appropriate, the Council will enter into 3 year funding agreements.

7. A funding booklet is produced centrally and made widely available. It sets out all sources of funding available across the Council and the process for applying. Organisations are invited to submit ideas for new programmes. The Council's funding priorities are also discussed with relevant partnerships, notably York@Large and Active York.

The Process for 2009/10

8. The following applications have been received for new three year SLA funding agreements of over £5k starting in 2009/10:

Organisation	Requested 2009/10	Received 2008/09	Proposed 2009/10
Accessible Arts and Media*	10,753	10,460	10,670
National Centre for Early Music †	9,000	9,000	9,180
Friends of St Nicholas Fields	28,000	25,590	26,100

* A merger of Cube Media and Accessible Arts which previously had separate SLAs

† A merger of York Early Music Foundation and York Early Music Festival which previously had separate SLAs

Options

9. The following response is recommended to these applications:
 - **Accessible Arts and Media:** The funding will secure programmes providing affordable access and creative opportunities in sound, media and video targeting groups with special needs. These are important programmes for our priority groups that the Council does not have the skills to provide itself. The funding will also ensure stability for the organisation through the capital refurbishment programme at the Melbourne Centre.

The award is consistent with funding in the current year uplifted by the council's inflation rate increase which, at 2.0%, is slightly lower than the Retail Price Index.
 - **National Centre for Early Music (NCEM):** The funding will support the development of the music and education programme at the National Centre for Early Music including the annual Early Music Festivals. Our grant has been key in securing additional investment in NCEM from the Arts Council England and a further 3 year SLA would allow them to continue to provide a wide variety of events and a world music programme that the Council does not otherwise have the resources to provide.

The award is consistent with funding in the current year uplifted by the council's inflation rate increase which, at 2.0%, is slightly lower than the Retail Price Index.

- Friends of St Nicholas Fields: An SLA is proposed to operate, conserve and develop St Nicholas Fields on behalf of the Council. Without this SLA the land would have to be managed by the Council. Such an arrangement would be more expensive and fail to reap the benefits of voluntary action that the Friends provide.

Implications

10. **Financial:** The application of inflation uplifts to the grants is subject to the budget being available and cannot be guaranteed in future years of the 3 year funding agreement.
11. There are no human resources, equalities, legal, crime and disorder, or information technology implications arising from the report.

Corporate Priorities

12. SLAs are given to meet the key priorities as detailed in Annex 1.

Risk Management

13. All SLAs are monitored by the relevant officer to ensure compliance with the Council's requirements.

Recommendations

14. The Executive Member is asked to approve the proposed three year Service Level Agreement awards to Accessible Arts and Media, National Centre for Early Music and the Friends of St Nicholas Fields.

Reason: To provide programme that contributes to meeting the Council's objectives.

Contact Details

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Report Approved Date 9.3.09.

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Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

1. Service Level Agreement Criteria
2. Detailed Service Level Agreement Profiles for SLAs of > £5k

Background Papers

SLA application and monitoring files held by the author.

Reports/emap/#SA0910