



Mayor and Cabinet

Report Title: Main Grants and Arts and Culture Grants Programme Allocations 2022-25

Date:	2 nd February 2022
Key decision:	Yes
Class:	Part 1
Ward(s) affected:	All
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1. Purpose and summary of the report

- 1.1. This report seeks agreement for the allocation of the Main Grants and Arts and Culture funding programmes for 2022 – 25.
- 1.2. The two funding programmes were previously both let under a single Main Grants framework which was last fully allocated in 2019 following a full public consultation on the revised framework which was agreed by Mayor and Cabinet on 24th April 2019.
- 1.3. These grants are due to expire at the end of March 2022 and this paper details the process that has been undertaken to re-let the programmes through to March 2025.
- 1.4. On 14th September 2021 Mayor and Cabinet agreed that this funding be split to create a separate Borough of Culture grants programme (now called the Arts and Culture Fund) alongside the Main Grants. The current level of funding to Arts organisations was therefore identified with a pro-rate level allocated to each fund creating budgets of £1,450,308 for Main Grants and £386,000 for Arts and Culture respectively.
- 1.5. The Main Grants budget is supplemented by £623,000 from the Better Care Fund for social prescribing services. The Better Care Fund has to be used on initiatives agreed between the NHS and the Council that benefit health services.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that Mayor and Cabinet agree:

- The recommended funding allocations as set out in Appendix 3 and Section 7 of this report, for the period 1 April 2022 to 31st March 2025
- Retrospective agreement for the awards for Community Fundraisers which were provisionally allocated in November 2021

Timeline of engagement and decision-making

27th May 2021: Launch of consultation via online survey and two engagement events with the voluntary and community sector (VCS)

22nd July 2021: Close of consultation (8 weeks)

14th September 2021: Revised proposals post-consultation to Mayor and Cabinet

23rd September – 18th November 2021: Programme open for applications (8 weeks)

December 2021: Provisional allocation letters sent – notice of change in funding to existing groups

13th Jan 2022: Safer, Stronger, Select Committee - Main grants pre-decision – recommendations for funding

2nd Feb 2022: Mayor and Cabinet – recommended allocations for agreement and hearing of appeals

January 2022: Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel – potential call in

April 2022: New grants begin

3. Policy Context

- 3.1 The Council's strong and resilient framework for prioritising action has served the organisation well in the face of austerity and on-going cuts to local government spending. This continues to mean, that even in the face of the most daunting financial challenges facing the Council and its partners, we continue to work alongside our communities to achieve more than we could by simply working alone.
- 3.2 In addition to the ongoing pressures faced by the Council, the Council's finances have been severely affected by the ongoing pandemic. As such, in the midst of the COVID response the Council began the long, difficult process of identifying cuts of at least £40m for the next three years (to April 2024) with up to £24m to be cut in 2021/22 alone. In this context it was agreed by Mayor and Cabinet that the budget for the Main

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Grants (excluding contribution from the Better Care Fund) be cut by £800,000 (approximately one third) from 1 April 2022.

- 3.3 Lewisham's recovery from coronavirus will be underpinned by the following anchoring principles which will be at the heart of all decision-making, planning and action over the coming months:
- Tackling widening social, economic and health inequalities;
 - Protecting and empowering our most vulnerable residents;
 - Ensuring the Council's continued resilience, stability and sustainability;
 - Enabling residents to make the most of Lewisham the place; and
 - Collaborating and working together with our communities and partnership across the borough.
- 3.4 Lewisham Council's Corporate Strategy, developed in 2018, agreed the following priorities for supporting our residents:
- Open Lewisham
 - Tackling the housing crisis
 - Giving children and young people the best start in life
 - Building an inclusive local economy
 - Delivering and defending: health, social care and support
 - Making Lewisham greener
 - Building safer communities
- 3.5 The Council has also reflected on what has worked well and what hasn't worked so well over the pandemic, learning from it, nurturing and developing the new relationships and community networks that have built up and recognising things that stand in the way of a future where we can all benefit equally from what Lewisham and London has to offer.
- 3.6 This has led to the development of four themes which will focus our efforts on building a future for all residents – we are Lewisham, and this is our future. The themes are based on evidence of what our residents need – from all the rich data gathered and analysed during the pandemic, and residents' experiences in their own words as part of the Voices of Lewisham project. They are:
- An economically sound future
 - A healthy and well future
 - A greener future
 - A future we all have a part in
- 3.7 The delivery of each of these themes will be supported by the activities of our residents through local community action, both formally organised and otherwise.

4. Background to the Main Grants Programme

- 4.1 Lewisham Council has funded the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) through a Main Grants programme for over 20 years, in 3-year funding cycles. The programme was last fully let in 2019 following a full consultation on priorities. The Main Grants programme retained the four themes that had been the basis of the programme in 2015. These are:
- *Strong and Cohesive Communities*
 - *Communities that Care*
 - *Access to Advice Services*

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- *Widening Access to Arts and Sports*
- 4.2 The 2019-2021 Main Grants programme allocation totals £2,949,308 per year made up of £2,636,308 core Council funding and £313,000 from the Better Care Fund (BCF).
- 4.3 Due to the impact of COVID and wider financial pressures the Council is having to cut at least £40m from its budget in the next three years (to April 2024) with up to £24m being cut in 2021/22 alone. In this context the budget for the Main Grants will be reduced by £800,000 from 1st April 2022. However, support for voluntary and community sector groups remains a core priority for Lewisham Council which will, in partnership with the NHS, continue to invest £2,459,308 per annum in the sector.
- 4.4 In order to set the priorities for this spend the Council undertook a thorough review of all of the available evidence on the impact of COVID and the needs of the borough during the recovery phase. The review resulted in three new proposed priorities namely:
- **An economically sound future** (specifically Advice Services and Enabling Digital Access for All)
 - **A healthy and well future**
 - **A future we all have a part in**
- 4.5 Overall we proposed to focus on supporting the sector as a whole through strong infrastructure, coordination and fundraising services rather than trying to directly fund everything that is needed in the borough. We proposed to provide some level of project funding but that greater relative weight be given to services that strengthen the sector and allow it to benefit from the wider funding landscape across London and locally with funding available for borough wide and ward based Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) in Lewisham in the coming months. As previously we proposed that the vast majority of the funding will be for services for adults.
- 4.7 Lewisham will be London Borough of Culture in 2022 and we proposed that the best way to protect investment in our cultural services is to align the current level of funding to these organisations (with a proportionate cut) with the Arts & Culture Fund rather than retaining it within the Main Grants programme.
- 4.8 The proposals included:
- Funding under the three broad criteria outlined above
 - Significant grants to partners delivering advice and social prescribing services
 - Three Community Fundraisers hosted by the VCS, with specific focus areas covering equalities, culture and sports, and 'cold spots' - areas of high need and low services coverage in the borough
 - Small partnership grants of £10,000 for organisations willing to work with the Council in the coming years
 - A specific funding pot for the Arts & Culture Fund, administered through the Culture Team as part of the wider legacy for the London Borough of Culture programme
 - An approach to equality and equity that prioritised funding proposals on the basis of those most impacted by Covid, an equalities-focused Community Fundraiser, and a commitment to funding BAME infrastructure support.

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- 4.9 A public consultation to get the views of the voluntary and community sector and residents on the proposals was undertaken between 27th May and 22nd July 2021.
- 4.10 The consultation included an online survey run on the Council's Citizenspace platform, two information sessions with the VCS, and attendance at two service user forums.
- 4.11 A specific roundtable discussion with key VCS organisations was held to identify the needs of BAME led organisations in relation to capacity building support, to inform the funding of BAME infrastructure support.
- 4.12 The Arts and Culture grant programme was subject to a separate consultation, undertaken in this same consultation period.
- 4.13 The results of the two consultations showed overall support of the proposed priorities and approach. Some small but significant changes were made to the proposals and these final recommendations for the priorities, criteria and application process for the new Main Grants programme and Arts and Culture Fund (set out below in Section 5) were agreed at Mayor and Cabinet on 14th September 2021.

5. Funding criteria for Main Grants and Arts and Culture Fund

5.1 The new priorities for the Main Grants programme are:

- **An economically sound future** (specifically Advice Services and Enabling Digital Access for All)
- **A healthy and well future**
- **A future we all have a part in**

5.2 An Economically Sound Future

The two sub-themes for which applications can be made under an Economically Sound Future are Borough-Wide Advice Services and Enabling Digital Access for All.

5.2.1 Borough-Wide Advice Services

Under this sub-theme organisations would be expected to deliver a good quality, borough-wide independent information and advice service.

Our expectation was that a borough-wide advice service:

- Is fully customer-focused and achieves value for money from the resources available;
- Has the capacity to cater for approximately 25,000 enquiries per year;
- Is flexible to the multiple and complex legal advice needs of people who live, work or study in the borough
- Increases choice in the way clients access services – principally by phone and encompassing partner referrals, access and support through digital channels
- Offers support in a range of community languages
- Empowers clients to address their own advice needs through utilising digital technologies

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- Delivers comprehensively and innovatively including face to face outreach as required, so that all geographies and groups are served
- Works collaboratively with key partners to support residents with multiple needs.

5.2.2 Digital Access for All

Organisations wishing to apply for Digital Access for All funding had to deliver one or more of the following:

- Projects offering training on digital skills and support to those most in need
- Innovative projects and schemes that enable communities most in need to become digitally enabled
- Enabling residents to access essential online services
- Enabling residents to play an active role in their community including taking part in online consultations and engagement

5.3 **A Healthy and Well Future**

5.3.1 Coordinated Social Prescribing service

This sets social prescribing as the infrastructure offering coordinated support to residents, and to act as a gateway to the wide range of voluntary and community sector activity in the borough.

The service was expected to provide:

- Access to a range of preventative community-based support
- Capacity to work with approximately 5,000 referrals per year
- Use learning from the pandemic to identify and meet the needs of residents
- Data and intelligence in relation to demand for services, where and how these have been met, changes in need over time;
- Analysis of gaps in services - in terms of communities, issues and geography.

5.3.2 Physical and Mental Health Wellbeing Activities

- Projects and activities that connect people to their local community or community of interest and improve physical and mental health and well-being, using an agreed framework such as Five Ways to Wellbeing.
- All activities funded by the programme must prioritise referrals through the social prescribing service and ensure that monitoring data is returned regularly to enable an overview of the impact of social prescribing.
- Use learning from the pandemic to identify and meet the needs of residents.
- Providing volunteering opportunities to improve people's wellbeing
- Providing opportunities for residents to engage in activities which promote the development of community cohesion and/or communities of special interest to them.
- Initiatives to engage with residents not reached by other services, e.g. Seldom Heard Voices and/or community organisations,
- Initiatives to enable residents to participate in co-design and development of community provision.

5.4 **A Future We All Have a Part In**

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5.4.1 Building Strong Communities – BAME Infrastructure

Black Asian and Minority Ethnic infrastructure support that is tied to, and works alongside, the Community Fundraiser focused on equalities. Based on feedback from the BAME infrastructure roundtable event, the focus of the support was expected to be capacity building for BAME-lead organisations based on collaboration, enabling organisations to identify need, generate ideas for funding, and support to become sustainable.

5.4.2 Volunteer Brokerage

- Promoting volunteering as an opportunity to give back to communities.
- Developing systems for making residents aware of volunteering opportunities in their area.
- Providing a brokerage service for community organisations to access volunteers and matching interested residents with volunteering opportunities.
- Creating easier mechanisms for people seeking to volunteer to find the appropriate opportunity.

5.4.3 Community Directory

Easy access to information about what's available i.e. a Community Directory of VCS services that is:

- Comprehensive and accessible by residents and referral agencies.
- Available online and also offers solutions to enable residents who are not online to access the information.
- Regularly updated.
- Searchable by category, location.
- Enables organisation to update their own details.

5.5 **Small Partnership Grants**

5.5.1 Small partnership grants of £10,000 were available to organisations who could demonstrate commitment to working in partnership with the Council. These funds could enable organisations to attract additional funding, and could support the core activities of organisations. Organisations applying for the partnership funds were asked to commit to:

- Add value in specific areas of the borough or in specific sectors where need is high and infrastructure is needed to meet demand.
- Support consultation with residents
- Coordinate local networks
- Work with the council to develop local engagement
- Act as a critical friend working in constructive dialogue with the council
- Link into appropriate networks for their own service delivery
- Work in partnership with other Council grant recipients and commissioned services, Borough of Culture etc.
- Support the Council in disseminating information to the community

The Council would agree proportionate and reasonable outcomes with successful applicants once grants are awarded.

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As with the general Main Grants, funding would be available for three years starting from April 2022.

5.6 Community Fundraisers

5.6.1 The Community Fundraiser posts are intended to strengthen our VCS and ensure future sustainability and is therefore part of the priority: 'A future we all have a part in'.

5.6.2 VCS organisations were offered the opportunity to apply to host the Community Fundraiser posts. We proposed to fund up to three full time equivalent Community Fundraiser posts with a particular focus on:

- 1x FTE Community Fundraiser with a focus on ethnicity and disabilities, but with an expectation that the hosting organisation should specifically look at addressing sexuality and gender reassignment as part of the brief, along with intersectionality.
- 1 x FTE Community Fundraiser with a focus on geographical cold spots in the borough/areas of high deprivation that do not have other sources of income such as NCIL
- .5 FTE Community Fundraiser with a focus on the arts
- .5 FTE Community Fundraiser with a focus on sports

Hosting organisations were asked to demonstrate:

- Good knowledge of their chosen focus area
- Network of relevant partner organisations
- Track record of successfully identifying funding opportunities and of bid development
- Track record of developing and leading on partnerships
- Capacity to recruit and effectively manage the Fundraiser
- Clear approach to delivering capacity-building activities with other organisations
- Methodology for prioritising the Fundraiser's work programme

5.7 Arts & Culture Fund

The two themes within this funding are Investing in Cultural Infrastructure and Investing in Diversity.

5.7.1 Investing in cultural infrastructure. This priority focusses on delivering support to the arts and culture sector as a whole through strong infrastructure, coordination and fundraising services rather than trying to directly fund everything that is needed in the borough.

5.7.2 Investing in diversity. Applications were expected to demonstrate how they would tackle inequality and barriers to participation in arts and culture, increase and diversify participation, nurture talent and provide progression pathways, including developing outreach links into other settings such as schools

6. Application and Assessment Process

6.1 The programme was launched on 23rd September and closed on 18th November (8 weeks).

6.2 Due to the strategic importance of the community fundraiser posts, and the need for them to be in post as soon as possible, it was agreed to let this part of the programme through a shortened Expression of Interest and Interview process. The

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deadline for interviews was 17th October (3 weeks), with interviews held on 2nd and 3rd November, and awards made by end of November.

- 6.3 The application process was managed on the recently developed funding portal. The borough-wide NCIL programme was launched and managed through the portal, and learning from this process was utilised to ensure the Main Grants and Arts and Culture Fund application process was as accessible and easy to complete as possible.
- 6.2 The programmes were publicised widely through a press release, Council and partner's websites (including Lewisham Local), by e-mail to our existing funded VCS organisations and by e-mail to wider sector networks, for example faith groups, BAME network, funding partnership, etc. It was also circulated within the Council.
- 6.3 There were four distinct application forms on the funding portal, along with guidance;
1. Expressions of Interest for hosting the Community Fundraiser posts
 2. Specific application forms for £10,000 partnership grants
 3. Specific application forms for grants under the agreed priorities
 4. Specific application forms for the Arts & Culture Fund under the agreed priorities
- 6.4 Two workshops to explain the Community Fundraiser application process were held with the VCS on 30 September and 7 October and were attended by a total of 26 individuals. A further four workshops were held (on 6, 13, 19 and 26 October) to provide guidance on the general Main Grants programme and the arts and culture fund, and these were attended by 112 individuals.
- 6.5 A Main Grants e-mail account was operational throughout for inquiries and requests for additional support. Officers were available to offer one to one sessions for organisations who were unable to attend workshops or had specific questions about their bids.
- 6.6 The assessment process included:
- Initial eligibility checks
 - Two independent assessments by officers based on agreed assessment criteria
 - Agreed score by both officers
 - Moderation by manager
 - Subject matter experts' (internal officers and departments engaged with included Children and Young People's , Adult Social Care, Health, Community Safety, and Digital Access as appropriate)
 - Recommendations of funded projects based on highest scoring applicants along with subject matter experts' comments
 - Panel review of assessments and recommendations to agree final recommendations

7. Applications and Recommended Allocations

7.1 Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for hosting Community Fundraisers

7.1.1 Nine EOIs were submitted. Based on the criteria specified in the guidance, five applicants were shortlisted for interview. Shortlisted applicants were asked to present their service model, and questions included:

- How the work of the Community Fundraiser aligned with the core work of the applying organisation

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- How the applying organisation viewed the balance of fundraising vs. capacity building
- How the applying organisation would work with and engage the VCS in that focus area
- What challenges could they anticipate in hosting Community Fundraisers and how they would address these challenges
- What benefits they could envisage for their organisation in undertaking the work
- How they would prioritise bids
- How they would work with the organisations hosting the other Community Fundraisers and what they anticipated from the partnership
- What outcomes they envisaged from the work
- Who the hosting organisation felt they were accountable to for the work

7.1.2 Further to interviews, the following VCS organisations were awarded the Community Fundraiser posts:

- Age UK Lewisham and Southwark – to host the Community Fundraiser focusing on Cold Spots - £60,000
- Lewisham Local – to host the Community Fundraiser focusing on Equalities - £60,000
- Lewisham Education Arts Network – to host the Community Fundraiser focusing on Arts and Culture - £30,000
- Platform Cricket – to host the Community Fundraiser focusing on Sports - £30,000

7.1.3 While these posts will ensure increased financial health for the Lewisham VCS overall, in the short term it means that only £1,893,308 is available for direct grants.

7.2 Main Grants Applications

7.2.1 The programme received 62 applications in total for main grants. 46 of these were for large grants (generally up to £50,000) and 16 were for small (£10,000) partnership grants.

7.2.2 The total amount bid for was £3,348,364, £1,455,056 in excess of the available funds.

7.2.4 36 of the 62 applications were from organisations currently funded through Main Grants although many of those that didn't apply applied to the Arts and Culture fund.

7.2.5 Existing funded organisations who did not apply for either funding source were:

- Ageing Well
- Lewisham Pensioners Forum (received borough-wide NCIL)
- Lewisham Refugee Welcome (now defunct)
- London Sports Ltd
- Millwall Community Trust (missed deadline)
- Somerville
- 2000 Community Action Centre (NB - submitted a large NCIL bid)

7.2.6 A large number of applications (32 of 46 – 70%) of the applications for larger grants were from existing Main Grants recipients. In contrast, partnership grant applications were more varied, with 75% from non-Main Grants funded organisations.

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- 7.2.7 In total, 23 of the 46 applications for non-partnership grants are recommended for funding.
- 7.2.8 There were a large number of very good applications to the Main Grants programme. Key considerations in recommending projects to be funded were investing in a good spread of projects across the priorities, and continuing our commitment to as many of our vulnerable communities as possible. As a result, prioritising projects was very challenging and a number of worthwhile projects were not able to be funded in this round.
- 7.2.9 In the first instance, the assessment identified the highest scoring applications. Beyond this, projects recommended for funding were based on spread across the priorities, protected characteristics and vulnerable communities supported, and projects that could support people across the health and social care spectrum.
- 7.2.10 Due to the fact that the number of good applications significantly exceeded the level of funding available, the majority of recommended projects have been allocated less than they requested.
- 7.2.11 The recommended allocations are based on an assessment of scale of activity, the unique nature of the service, and a general comparison of like-for-like activity. The projects for Digital Inclusion and BAME infrastructure for example have recommended allocations of £60,000 as they are both projects about creating infrastructure and are looking to work across the borough, and both are partnership bids. Mencap, Wheels for Wellbeing, Bellingham Community Project and Stanstead Lodge have all been recommended allocations of £25,000 due to their similarity in terms of scale and activity.
- 7.2.12 The allocations by size of grants are set out below:

Size of Recommended Grants	Organisations/Projects	Amount applied for
£650,000	Citizens Advice Lewisham (lead partner bid for Advice Lewisham Partnership) – A borough-wide Advice service	£700,000
£440,000	Age UK Lewisham & Southwark – a coordinated social prescribing service	£530,000
£60,000	Catbytes/Lewisham Local - Digital Inclusion	£76,980.20
	Kinaara/Lewisham Local - BAME Infrastructure	£72,810
£50,000	Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network - core activities	£71,219
	Voluntary Services Lewisham core activities	£50,000

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£45,000	Lewisham Speaking Up -Advocacy and support for people with learning disabilities	£50,000
	Metro Charity - One to one support for LGBTQ residents and associated activities at Mulberry	£55,257
£40,000	Voluntary Services Lewisham – Community Transport	£50,000
	Lewisham Local – Community Directory	£51,982
£30,000	Sydenham Gardens – garden based projects for people with mental health support needs & dementia	£40,267.72
	Lewisham Local - Volunteer brokerage	£57,204.20
£25,000	Mencap - Core activities	£26,500
	Wheels for wellbeing – cycling for physically disabled residents	£42,000
	Bellingham Community project – health/well-being of Bellingham residents	£29,000
	Stanstead Lodge – community hub for older and disabled residents	£50,000
£20,000	Goodgym – volunteer runners support the lonely and isolated	£25,300
	Platform Cricket - Sports opportunities for marginalised communities	£57,150
	Age Exchange – supporting people with dementia and careers	£32,000
	London Thunder - Basketball provision primarily attracting BAME YP	£50,000
	Ackroyd Community Association	£20,960
£15,000	St. Lukes Downham – working with & supporting local residents	£30,083
£10,000 –	Lewisham Churches Care	£10,000

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Partnership Grants	South East London Lawn Tennis	£10,000
	Blind Aid	£10,000
	Buddies for All	£10,000
	Lewisham Irish Community Centre	£10,000
	Lee Green Lives	£10,000
	Goldsmiths Community Centre	£10,000
	Therapy 4 Healing	£10,000
	Deptford Methodist Mission	£30,000
	Coco Collective	£22,140
	The Grove Centre	£13,870
	AFC CIC	£15,000
Saxon Crown	£35,000	
£4,500	Lewisham African Initiative Development BAME older/vulnerable people digital access & support	£4,839.50

7.2.13 Again, due to the number of good applications in relation to the level of funding available , and in recognition of the value of working in partnership, five applications that did not score as highly are recommended for partnership grants. Thirteen partnership grants are recommended; of these seven are to existing grant funded organisations.

7.2.14 The total recommended allocation is £2,069,500. This leaves an unallocated balance of £3,808

7.2.15 Organisations not recommended for funding are set out below:

Name of Organisation	Amount applied for	Amount recommended
Contact a Family	£50,000	0

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Beelotus	£50,000	0
Active Communities Network	£45,000	0
The Mason Foundation	£34,156	0
Arts Network	£30,000	0
Hawkeye Empire	£194,381	0
Sydenham Arts	£26,474.50	0
Streetlight UK	£39,114	0
Heart n Soul	£50,000	0 (recommended £30,000 funding through Arts and Culture fund)
Blueprint for All	£50,000	0
RAP Association CIC	£50,000	0
Climate Action Lewisham	£23,594	0
Thames Reach Charity	£50,000	0
V22 Communities	£33,200	0
Teatro Vivo	£10,000	0
You Glow CIC	£10,000	0
Inspiring Your Imagination	£10,000	0
Elimu	£10,000	0

7.2.16 The recommended/not recommended groups are set out below against the agreed priorities for the 2022-25 programme.

THEME 1: An Economically Sound Future

Sub-theme a) A borough-wide Advice service

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<i>Recommended for Funding</i>		
Name of Organisation	Amount applied for	Amount recommended
Citizens Advice Lewisham (lead partner Advice Lewisham Partnership)	£700,00	£650,000
<i>Not recommended for Funding</i>		
Name of Organisation	Amount applied for	Amount recommended
Thames Reach Charity	£50,000	0

THEME 1: An Economically Sound Future

Sub-theme b) Digital Inclusion for All

<i>Recommended for Funding</i>		
Name of Organisation	Amount applied for	Amount recommended
Catbytes CIC/Lewisham Local partnership application	£76,980.20	£60,000
Lewisham African Initiative Development	£4,839.50	£4,500
<i>Not recommended for Funding</i>		
Name of Organisation	Amount applied for	Amount recommended
V22 Communities	£33,200	£0

THEME 2: A Healthy and Well Future

Sub-theme a) A coordinated social prescribing service

<i>Recommended for Funding</i>		
Name of Organisation	Amount applied for	Amount recommended

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Age UK Lewisham and Southwark	£530,579	£440,000
<i>Not recommended for Funding - None</i>		

THEME 2: A Healthy and Well Future

Sub-theme b) Connecting People to local community or communities of interest

<i>Recommended for Funding</i>		
Name of Organisation	Amount applied for	Amount recommended
Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network	£71,219	£50,000
Platform Cricket	£57,150	£20,000
Voluntary Services Lewisham – Community Transport	£50,000	£40,000
Voluntary Services Lewisham – Core Activity	£50,000	£50,000
<i>Not recommended for Funding - None</i>		

THEME 2: A Healthy and Well Future

Sub-theme c) Physical and Mental Health and Wellbeing Activities

<i>Recommended for Funding</i>		
Name of Organisation	Amount applied for	Amount recommended
St. Luke's Downham	£30,083	£15,000
Lewisham Speaking Up	£50,000	£45,000
Sydenham Garden	£40,267.72	£30,000
Lewisham Mencap	£26,500	£25,000

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Wheels for Wellbeing	£42,000	£25,000
Goodgym	£25,300	£20,000
Metro Charity	£55,257	£45,000
Bellingham Community Project	£29,000	£25,000
Age Exchange	£32,000	£20,000
Stanstead Lodge	£50,000	£25,000
London Thunder	£50,000	£20,000
Ackroyd Community Association	£20,960	£20,000
<i>Not recommended for Funding</i>		
Name of Organisation	Amount applied for	Amount recommended
Contact a Family	£50,000	0
Beelotus	£50,000	0
Active Communities Network	£45,000	0
The Mason Foundation	£34,156	0
Arts Network	£30,000	0
Hawkeye Empire	£194,381	0
Sydenham Arts	£26,474.50	0
Streetlight UK	£39,114	0
Goldsmiths Community Association	£32,586.98	0
Voluntary Services Lewisham – Practical Support Scheme	£50,000	0

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Lewisham Local – Time banking	£40,644.45	0
Heart n Soul	£50,000	0 (funded £30,000 through Arts and Culture Grants)
Therapy for Healing	£50,000	0
Deptford Methodist Mission	£30,000	0 (recommended for Partnership Grant)
Coco Collective	£22,140	0 (recommended for Partnership Grant)
The Grove Centre	£13,870	0 (recommended for Partnership Grant)
AFC CIC	£15,000	0 (recommended for Partnership Grant)
Saxon Crown	£35,000	0 (recommended for Partnership Grant)

THEME 3: A future we all have a part in

Sub-theme a) Building Strong Communities – BAME Infrastructure

<i>Recommended for Funding</i>		
Name of Organisation	Amount applied for	Amount recommended
Kinaara/Lewisham Local partnership	£72,810	£60,000
<i>Not recommended for Funding</i>		
Name of Organisation	Amount applied for	Amount recommended
Blueprint for All	£50,000	0
RAP Association CIC	£50,000	0

THEME 3: A future we all have a part in

Sub-theme b) Volunteer Brokerage

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<i>Recommended for Funding</i>		
Name of Organisation	Amount applied for	Amount recommended
Lewisham Local	£57,204.20	£30,000
<i>Not recommended for Funding</i>		
Name of Organisation	Amount applied for	Amount recommended
Climate Action Lewisham	£23,594	0

THEME 3: A future we all have a part in

Sub-theme c) Community Directory

<i>Recommended for Funding</i>		
Name of Organisation	Amount applied for	Amount recommended
Lewisham Local	£50,982	£40,000
<i>Not recommended for Funding - None</i>		

Partnership Grants

<i>Recommended for Funding</i>		
Name of Organisation	Amount applied for	Amount recommended
Lewisham Churches Care	N/A	£10,000
South East London Lawn Tennis	N/A	£10,000
Blind Aid	N/A	£10,000
Buddies for All	N/A	£10,000
Lewisham Irish Community Centre	N/A	£10,000
Lee Green Lives	N/A	£10,000
Goldsmiths Community	N/A	£10,000

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Centre		
Therapy 4 Healing	N/A	£10,000
<i>The following organisations applied for larger grants but both because of the lack of funds and because we recognise their partnership potential, we are recommending these organisations for partnership grants</i>		
Name of Organisation	Amount applied for	Amount recommended
Deptford Methodist Mission	£30,000	£10,000
Coco Collective	£22,140	£10,000
The Grove Centre	£13,870	£10,000
AFC CIC	£15,000	£10,000
Saxon Crown	£35,000	£10,000
<i>Not recommended for Funding</i>		
Name of Organisation	Amount applied for	Amount recommended
Metro Charity	N/A	0
Lewisham Speaking Up	N/A	0
Teatro Vivo	N/A	0
VSL	N/A	0
You Glow CIC	N/A	0
Inspiring Your Imagination	N/A	0
Elimu	N/A	0

7.3 Arts & Culture Fund Applications

7.3.1 Twenty-two applications were received in total. One of these was under the investing in cultural infrastructure theme, twenty-one were under the investing in diversity theme.

7.3.2 The total amount bid for was £684,351. This is £298,351 in excess of funding available.

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7.3.3 All of the twelve currently funded organisations applied for funding. Ten of these are recommended for further funding.

7.3.4 Two currently funded organisations are not recommended for funding. These are:

- Tramshed (previously Greenwich and Lewisham Young People's Theatre)
- Trinity Laban

7.3.5 One new organisation is recommended for funding – the Migration Museum.

7.3.6. Organisations recommended for funding:

Organisations	Recommended Grants	Amount applied for
Deptford X	£20,000	£25,000
Entelechy Arts	£30,000	£30,000
Irie!	£30,000	£30,000
Lewisham Education Arts Network	£30,000	£35,000
Lewisham Youth T	£30,000	£30,000
Midi Music	£30,000	£38,200
Migration Museum	£7,250	£30,000
Second Wave	£28,750	£28,750
Heart n Soul	£30,000	£50,000
Montage Theatre Arts	£1,000	£1,000
The Albany	£150,000	£150,000

8. Scrutiny and Appeals Process

8.1 All applicants were written to by 17th December 2021 informing them of the recommendations, i.e. whether they were recommended for funding and if so what the recommended funding was.

8.2 All existing main grants recipients were sent e-mail notification of their grants coming to an end on 31st March by e-mail on October 4th 2021. Grant recipients were asked to confirm receipt of end of grant notification, and a further notification was sent on 21st October 2021.

8.3 As part of the main grants process organisations are given the opportunity to appeal against officers recommendations. Organisations were given until 3rd January to write

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to the council disputing their funding recommendation with the appeals considered at a special meeting of Mayor and Cabinet on Monday January 17th 2022 where organisations also had the opportunity to present their case in person.

- 8.4 One formal appeal was received from Hawkeye Empire Ltd.
- 8.5 As there was only 1 organisation making an appeal, it was agreed that the special meeting of Mayor and Cabinet scheduled for 17th January 2022 could be cancelled and the appeal could be heard at the regular meeting of Mayor and Cabinet on 2nd February 2022.
- 8.6 In addition to this process the recommendations were considered at the Safer, Stronger Select Committee on 13th January. The Committee was supportive of the recommendations.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

- 9.1 In response to calls to increase the rigour of the Main Grants monitoring and evaluation approach, we commission a specialist organisation, *Shared Intelligence*, to develop a specific framework based on the range of services who receive funding through the programme.
- 9.2 Shared Intelligence initially worked with the Council and health partners to identify the key short, medium and long-term outcomes we want from the main grants programme, taking into account the different themes and sub-themes in the programme.
- 9.3 Based on this, they developed an overarching Theory of Change, capturing draft outputs, outcomes and impact against the key themes and sub-themes in one overarching Theory of Change framework.
- 9.4 An initial workshop was held with funded organisations on 8th December 2021 to update on work undertaken so far, introduce the Theory of Change for the new grants programme, and get initial views and thoughts to inform the process.
- 9.5 Two further workshops (one face to face, and one virtual) will be held with new grant funded organisations on 25th January and 1st February 2022 to further develop, refine and agree the Theory of Change, key performance indicators and the monitoring and evaluation data that needs to be collected.
- 9.6 Alongside this, and based on this work, the consultants will develop a dashboard with key data that captures regular information on the work of the VCS and their impact.
- 9.7 Shared Intelligence will produce a report capturing all the work undertaken along with a dashboard of key indicators to provide a regular update on performance of the funded VCS.

10. Financial implications

- 10.1 The current available 21-22 budget for the Main Grants Programme is £2,636,308 plus an additional £313,000 of agreed Better Care Funding (BCF) which specifically supports the grant paid to Age UK Lewisham and Southwark in respect of SAIL (Safe and Independent Living).
- 10.2 As part of the councils Medium Term Financial Strategy a revenue saving of £800,000 (ref B-06 Cuts to Main Grant Programme) has been agreed for the 22-23 financial year onwards. The new Main Grants Programme is due to run for three years from April 2022-March 2025 and the annual cost will need be to be contained within the revised general

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fund budget of £1,836,308 plus the £623,000 of funding agreed from the Better Care Fund (BCF) for 22/23 and future years. The total available funding for the whole Grant Programme is therefore £2,459,308.

- 10.3 The Council core general fund grant budget of £1,836,308 has been split to create a separate Arts and Culture grants programme supporting the Borough of Culture Programme which will sit alongside the Main Grant Programme. The funding for Main Grant Programme will then be supplemented by Better Care Funding (BCF) of £623k for 22/23 onwards to give total funding of £2,073,308 for Main Grants. The funding for the Arts and Culture Programme supporting Borough of Culture delivery and legacy will be a general fund budget of £386,000.
- 10.4 The approval of the recommended grant funding will allow for the full achievement of the general fund revenue saving of £800,000 (ref B-06 Cuts to Main Grant Programme) for 22/23 and future years.

11. Legal implications

- 11.1 Under S1 of the Localism Act 2011 the Council has a general power of competence to do anything which an individual may do unless it is expressly prohibited.
- 11.2 The giving of grants to voluntary organisations is a discretionary power which must be exercised reasonably, taking into account all relevant considerations and ignoring irrelevant considerations.
- 11.3 Decisions on making a grant or giving assistance to a voluntary organisation require the approval of Mayor and Cabinet where the level of a grant is over £10,000 (Mayoral Scheme of Delegation section Q). Those decisions will be key decisions (Constitution Article 16(c)(xiii)). As such it is for Mayor and Cabinet to approve the recommendations with regards to the revised process for allocating grants in relation to the Main Grants Programme.
- 11.4 The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) contains a public sector equality duty (the quality duty or the duty). It covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

In summary, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
 - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 11.5 The duty continues to be a “have regard duty”, and the weight to be attached to it is a matter for the Mayor, bearing in mind the issues of relevance and proportionality. It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or foster good relations.
- 11.6 The Equality and Human Rights Commission has issued Technical Guidance on the Public Sector Equality Duty and statutory guidance entitled Practice”. The Council must

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have regard to the statutory code in so far as it relates to the duty and attention is drawn to Chapter 11 which deals particularly with the equality duty. The Technical Guidance also covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty. This includes steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The guidance does not have statutory force but nonetheless regard should be had to it, as failure to do so without compelling reason would be of evidential value. The statutory code and the technical guidance can be found at:

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legal-and-policy/equality-act/equality-act-codes-of-practice-and-technical-guidance/>

11.7 The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has previously issued five guides for public authorities in England giving advice on the equality duty:

- The essential guide to the public sector equality duty
- Meeting the equality duty in policy and decision-making
- Engagement and the equality duty
- Equality objectives and the equality duty
- Equality information and the equality duty

11.8 The essential guide provides an overview of the equality duty requirements including the general equality duty, the specific duties and who they apply to. It covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty including steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The other four documents provide more detailed guidance on key areas and advice on good practice. Further information and resources are available at

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/advice-and-guidance/public-sector-equality-duty/guidance-on-the-equality-duty/>

12. Equalities implications

12.1 A full Equalities Analysis Assessment for Main Grants and the Arts and Culture Grants programmes are attached as Appendix 1 and 2 respectively.

13. Climate change and environmental implications

13.1 London Borough of Culture has provided the opportunity for the arts and culture sector to take a lead in addressing the climate emergency, highlighting the issues in an engaging way and bringing residents together to develop a solutions based approach. A greener future is one of the strategic themes of the proposed programme of future funding for art and culture, thereby resourcing this continued role over the coming three years.

13.2 London Borough of Culture has also highlighted the role of art and culture in partnering with the Council to address strategic objectives. During this time important relationships have been developed between voluntary organisations and the Council's Climate Emergency Team which will continue to bear fruit as a result of the proposed funding programme.

13.3 As part of London Borough of Culture a sustainable events plan has been developed as a means of encouraging organisations to consider environmental issues in their planning. Funding applicants will be expected to sign up to this plan and describe how they will contribute to a sustainable future.

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14. Crime and disorder implications

- 14.1 A significant number of the recommended projects, particularly those funded through the Arts and Culture Fund such as Second Wave, will be undertaking activities that will support the reduction of crime and disorder.

15. Health and wellbeing implications

- 15.1 Many of the activities proposed projects in the new grants programme address the health and well-being of Lewisham residents and one of the criteria is specifically to improve residents physical and mental health and well being. Additionally, the the new programme proposes social prescribing and voluntary sector services as a specific coordinated approach to supporting physical and mental health and wellbeing.

16. Background papers

- 16.1 Appendix 1 – Equalities Analysis Assessment Main Grants Programme
16.2 Appendix 2 – Equalities Analysis Assessment Arts and Culture Grant Programme
16.3 Appendix 3 – Full list of recommended projects, Main Grants Programme and Arts and Culture Fund
16.4 Appendix 4 – Main Grants Programme Consultation

Glossary

Term	Definition
Main Grants programme	A funding programme operated by Lewisham Council, providing support to a range of voluntary and community organisations working with vulnerable residents and contributing to the borough's key priorities
Voluntary and Community Sector	Independent not-for-profit organisations, often registered with the Charity Commission, working towards social objectives

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