

Overview of Responses and Recommendations

Budget Proposals 16/17: Arts and Leisure Development		Steve Broughton – Head of Culture and Environmental Protection	19 January 2016 Version 2 (Exec)
Proposal:	To cease the Council's Arts and Leisure Development service.		
Total budget 15/16:	£54,000	Recommended officer saving 16/17:	£54,000 (100%)
Initial proposed saving 16/17:	£54,000 (100%)	Final recommendation to Executive 16/17:	To proceed with this savings proposal, without any modifications.
Nos of responses:	<p>14 responses in total, including one from Tilehurst Parish Council and six from national and local cultural, community and leisure organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts Council England, • Artswork (national arts organisation which champions, leads and facilitates young people's engagement with great art and culture and supports the development of young arts practitioners and leaders). • Creative Junction (social enterprise working with children, young people and families). • Interakt (community theatre and arts organisation working mostly with people with physical and learning disabilities). • Get Berkshire Active (the Berkshire County Sports Partnership). • 101 Outdoor Arts Creation Space (Arts Council and Greenham Common Trust funded arts organisation based at Greenham Common). 		
Key issues raised:	<p>Ceasing this service means that the council will no longer have the capacity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with, and lever in, grants from organisations such as Arts Council England • Build the partnerships between the sectors to deliver arts projects • Provide information, advice and guidance to the council, other organisations and local people about funding and partnership opportunities <p>All of which benefit local people and particularly those who, otherwise, may not be able to access the arts.</p> <p>Arts Council England concerns/view: Withdrawal of the post will impact on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of the arts infrastructure that was hitherto growing in size and influencing the sector by engaging local people in cultural decision making • The reputation of the borough and impact on West Berks as a serious and accessible cultural provider in the SE region <p>Concerns/views from arts organisations. Withdrawal of the service will impact on:</p>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council’s ability to apply for and manage any inward investment and therefore lose potential investment • The recent investment of £20,000 by Artsworld against West Berkshire Council funds enabled young people at the very edge of society to become re-engaged and gain nationally recognised qualifications in Arts Award • The most disadvantaged in the community, a provision that the commercial sector has no incentive to adequately deliver and no track record of successfully doing so 		
Equality issues:	None were drawn out from the responses.		
Suggestions for reducing the impact on service users:	Suggestion	Council response	
	Artsworld: For work with children and young people, Arts Council England have proposed Cultural Education Partnerships. These are partnerships bringing key leaders together to influence work with children and young people and achieve enhanced outcomes. West Berkshire would still need to have staff members available to attend meetings and work with the other partners. Artsworld might be able to help through the Cultural Education Partnership route subject to West Berkshire Council expressing interest in beginning a discussion about this and ensuring senior officer leadership.	This would be dependent on the retention of an office whilst giving up the grant funding element of the saving and as such the saving target would not be met.	
	Get Berkshire Active facilitates a number of networks that bring organisations together to develop projects that promote healthier lifestyles and choices. They have funding available to support the delivery of activities in the district but don’t have the capacity to do the delivery ourselves.	This would be dependent on the retention of an office whilst giving up the grant funding element of the saving and as such the saving target would not be met.	
Alternative options for applying the saving in this area:	Suggestion	Council response	
	None were received.		
Suggestions for how others may help contribute:	Artsworld might be able to help through the Cultural Education Partnership route subject to West Berkshire Council expressing interest in beginning a discussion about this and ensuring senior officer leadership		
	Get Berkshire Active facilitates a number of networks that bring organisations together to develop projects that promote healthier lifestyles and choices. They have funding available to support the delivery of activities in the district but don’t have		

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	the capacity to do the delivery ourselves		
Officer conclusion as a result of the responses:	The responses suggest that the loss of the service will have the greatest impact on the most disadvantaged in the community where the commercial sector has no incentive to adequately deliver and no track record of successfully doing so. Suggestions to provide the service in a different way or reduce the impact continue to rely on a resource from the Council		
Officer recommendation as a result of responses:	Feedback has not uncovered any further issues which would prevent the council from proceeding with this proposal.		

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