

WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF DECISION

SUBJECT: WESTMINSTER CULTURAL FUND

Notice is hereby given that Cabinet Member for Young People, Learning and Leisure , Cabinet Member for Young People, Learning and Leisure, has made the following executive decision on the above mentioned subject for the reasons set out below.

(A dedicated cultural fund to support the delivery of the Cultural Strategy and enable more effective and meaningful partnerships with the cultural sector.)

Summary of Decision

Recommendations

It is proposed that existing unallocated MyWestminster Funds totalling £1.873m are used to fund cultural initiatives over the next four years.

The fund would support the delivery of Fairer Westminster ambitions to widen opportunities for participation in culture, improve the wellbeing of our residents and enhance the local visitor offer. It would underpin the council's work to animate the city in partnership with cultural and community stakeholders by funding content and promoting it effectively to residents, businesses, and visitors to widen access and increase participation.

The table and project descriptions below detail an indicative range of activities a dedicated cultural budget would support.

Project	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total expenditure
<i>Extension of Culture post (PCPO) (inc on-costs/headroom)</i>	-	-	-	£85,000	£85,000
<i>Extension of City Lions programme</i>	-	-	-	£250,000	£250,000
<i>Commissioning budget</i>	£125,000	£125,000	£125,000	£125,000	£500,000
<i>Inside Out funding</i>	-	£100,000	£100,000	£100,000	£300,000
<i>Culture and Community Grants Programme</i>	£150,000	£150,000	£150,000	£150,000	£600,000
<i>Exhibition Road Cultural Group membership</i>	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£40,000
<i>Public art: heritage trails, walking tours</i>	£10,000	10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£40,000

<i>and digital commissions</i>					
Local Cultural Education Partnership development	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£40,000
Open House participation	£4,500	£4,500	£4,500	£4,500	£18,000
OVERALL TOTAL	£309,500	£409,500	£409,500	£744,500	£1,873,000

Reasons for Decision

By investing in collaborations with arts and community partners the council can enable opportunities to extend free cultural opportunities into public spaces and community settings to enable access and engagement for the economically deprived, as well as schoolchildren, 16-25s, over 65s, ethnic minority groups, and those experiencing disabilities and social isolation.

A new dedicated culture budget will enable the delivery of the council's cultural objectives towards a Fairer Westminster, nurturing the wellbeing of local residents while enabling both the visitor economy and local cultural organisations to thrive.

**Stuart Love, Chief Executive,
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Implementation Date: 19 October 2022

Reference: YPLL-01