

# Cabinet



St Edmundsbury  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Grant Funding 2015/2016: Arts and Sports Revenue Support Grants</b>	
<b>Report No:</b>	<b>CAB/SE/15/007</b>	
<b>Report to and date:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>	10 February 2015
<b>Portfolio holder:</b>	Sarah Stamp Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Heritage <b>Tel:</b> 01284 769360 <b>Email:</b> sarah.stamp@stedsb.gov.uk	
<b>Lead officer:</b>	Liz Watts Director <b>Tel:</b> 01284 757252 <b>Email:</b> liz.watts@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
<b>Purpose of report:</b>	To approve the grant funding levels for key arts and sports facilities for 2015/2016.	
<b>Recommendation:</b>	<p><b>It is <u>RECOMMENDED</u> that Cabinet approves the following levels of funding to be included in the budget for 2015/2016, as detailed in Report No: CAB/SE/15/007:</b></p> <p><b>(1) Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds: £66,250 (a reduction of £5,000);</b></p> <p><b>(2) Smith's Row Art Gallery, Bury St Edmunds: £25,000 (a reduction of £9,485); and</b></p> <p><b>(3) Victory Ground Sports Ground, Bury St Edmunds: £45,250 (a reduction of £2,500).</b></p>	
<b>Key Decision:</b>  (Check the appropriate box and delete all those that <b><u>do not</u></b> apply.)	<p><i>Is this a Key Decision and, if so, under which definition?</i></p> <p>Yes, it is a Key Decision - <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No, it is not a Key Decision - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	
<b>Consultation:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smith's Row Art Gallery, Theatre Royal, Victory Sports Ground, Grant Working Party</li> </ul>	
<b>Alternative option(s):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grant funding could be more or less than that set out in the recommendations.</li> </ul>	

<b>Implications:</b>			
Are there any <b>financial</b> implications? If yes, please give details		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> • Annual savings for the council	
Are there any <b>staffing</b> implications? If yes, please give details		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Are there any <b>ICT</b> implications? If yes, please give details		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Are there any <b>legal and/or policy</b> implications? If yes, please give details		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Are there any <b>equality</b> implications? If yes, please give details		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Risk/opportunity assessment:</b>		<i>(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)</i>	
<b>Risk area</b>	<b>Inherent level of risk</b> (before controls)	<b>Controls</b>	<b>Residual risk</b> (after controls)
Reputational damage to the council if the cuts are too high or too low	Medium	Budget consultation carried out in 2014 confirmed the decisions taken are appropriate	Low
Arts/Sports organisations are no longer sustainable with reduced funding	Medium	Discussions have taken place with all organisations and none have indicated that they would no longer be sustainable.	Low
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>		All wards	
<b>Background papers:</b>		Minute 9 of Grant Working Party meeting: 12 January 2015	
<b>Documents attached:</b>		None	

## **1. Key issues and reasons for recommendation(s)**

### **1.1 Arts Funding**

- 1.1.1 The council has traditionally supported the art gallery (Smith's Row) and the Theatre Royal with grant funding. They each play a different role within our community, and have varying degrees of accessibility amongst our residents. The council has suffered significant funding cuts over the last few years, and as our funding becomes tighter, the requirement to ensure we are getting value for money becomes even more of an imperative.
- 1.1.2 As of 1 April 2015, the Theatre Royal will no longer receive Arts Council England grant funding through its National Portfolio Organisations (NPO) funding stream. This is a significant reduction for the theatre, although they have undertaken considerable work in the last 12 months to prepare themselves for the cut. Recent discussions have taken place with the theatre to see whether there is more joint working that could be undertaken with The Apex, in order to generate further savings and/or increased income for both organisations. This work is ongoing, and in the light of the potential for closer working, it is proposed that a funding cut of £5,000 be made for 2015/2016, resulting in the grant being £66,250.
- 1.1.3 The council met with Smith's Row Art Gallery before Christmas 2014 to raise concerns that its work was not reaching a wide audience or delivering on the council's priorities, and that therefore the level of public funding received had to be reconsidered in light of this situation. A funding cut of £9,485 is proposed for 2015/2016. The proposal beyond 2016, which will be worked up during 2015/2016 is to withdraw all core grant funding from Smith's Row, and use some of the £25,000 to create a visual arts grant fund, which can be allocated on the basis of an organisation's ability to deliver on the council's priorities around economic growth and families and communities, ideally leveraging in significant amounts of external match funding. This fund would be commissioned through an open and competitive tender.

### **1.2 Sports Funding**

- 1.2.1 Victory Ground Sports Hall has now been open for 12 months, and has established a good basis on which to expand its commercial operations. A community use agreement has been put in place, and there is a clearly established way forward for 'Victory Sports Ground Ltd' to secure their financial future through increasing income generated from hires and other community uses.
- 1.2.2 A reduction of £2,500 is proposed for 2015/2016, with a clear understanding that there must be a longer term plan drawn up during the year (with advice from the council's strategic sports partner, Abbeycroft Leisure) in order to reduce the grant down to zero within a limited number of years, as previously agreed by the Cabinet.

## **2. Grant Working Party**

- 2.1 On 12 January 2015, the Grant Working Party considered a verbal report on the above recommendations, which consequently resulted in all three proposals being supported by the Working Party.