

CLOSURE OF THE SECTION 48 AGMA GRANTS SCHEME

Report of Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Reform and Governance

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 In December 2016, the Joint GMCA and AGMA Executive Board agreed to undertake a consultation on the formal closure of the Section 48 AGMA Grants programme and the development of a new funding programme for culture under Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA).
- 1.2 Subsequently (June 2017), Stockport's Cabinet considered and approved this proposal from the AGMA Executive Board to begin a consultation on closing the current Section 48 Grants Scheme with a view to its replacement by a new scheme under the GMCA.
- 1.3 Following this consultation, GMCA are now seeking the authorisation of local authority districts to the closure of the AGMA Section 48 grants programme. The report attached (Appendix 1) and recommendation to authorise the closure of the Section 48 Grants scheme will be considered by Cabinet on 19th December.

2. SECTION 48 CONSULTATION

- 2.1 Over Summer 2017, Greater Manchester's ten local authorities authorised GMCA to consult on the potential closure of the AGMA Section 48 Grants programme, alongside a consultation on its replacement by a new Culture and Social Impact scheme under GMCA.
- 2.2 On 27th October 2017, the Joint GMCA/AGMA Board meeting agreed the report attached (Appendix 1), detailing the consultation exercise and its outcome. The Joint GMCA/AGMA Board members recommended Greater Manchester local authority districts should agree to close the Section 48 Grants programme, noting it will be replaced by a new GMCA Culture and Social Impact Fund from April 2018.

3. NEXT STEPS

- 3.1 It should be noted that if closure is agreed by all (or in the absence of agreement, a majority of) the constituent Councils, that due to the legislative requirements relating to the closure of a scheme established under Section 48 of the 1985 Act, the closure of the scheme would not occur until the end of the financial year after that in which the decision to close the scheme was made.
- 3.2 This means there would be a need for a further year beyond the current AGMA S48 2015/18 funding cycle in which the AGMA Section 48 scheme would remain in existence, in line with the legislative requirements concerning

closure of the scheme. However, as the replacement GMCA Culture and Social Impact Fund will be in place from April 2018, it is possible to zero fund the final year of the Section 48 scheme so as to avoid any overlap in provision.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet is asked to:

- i) Note the outcome and mitigating actions of the completed consultation on the proposed closure of the AGMA-run Section 48 grants programme;
- ii) authorise the closure of the Section 48 Grants scheme, noting that it will be replaced by the GMCA Culture and Social Impact Programme.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are none

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Peter Ashworth on Tel: 0161 474 2392 or by email on peter.ashworth@stockport.gov.uk