

The purpose of Aberdeen City Council is to protect the people and the place of Aberdeen from harm, enabling them to prosper and supporting them in the event of harm happening.

The purpose of an Integrated Impact Assessment is to evidence that Aberdeen City Council are making decisions in an informed way, and that the impact of decisions made is understood and accepted. The legislation that is considered within this assessment are:

- Section 2 [Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics](#)
- Section 3 [Socio-Economic](#)
- Section 4 [Human Rights](#)
- Section 5 [Children and Young People’s Rights](#)

The term ‘policy’ is used throughout this document and applies to policies, proposals, strategies, provision, criteria, functions, practice, budget savings and activities that includes delivery of our services.

1. About the Policy

1.1 Title

Phased removal of Grants to third party organisations, including small grants and gala grants.

1.2 What does this policy seek to achieve?

Funding to be reduced over 3-year period.

£126,000 (2024/25), £126,000 (2025/26) and £126,000 (2026/27)

This proposal will reduce the income to the City’s Cultural Organisations which will in turn profoundly impact on their ability to operate; remove funding available to meet ad hoc funding requests and also reduce funding available to for community events

There is a risk that some organisations may have to cease operations altogether or in the case of the festivals and galas, stop delivering activity in Aberdeen. Organisations supported by this funding include:

Citymoves Dance Agency: The regional dance agency for Northeast Scotland provides classes, workshops and outreach for the public as well as residences and opportunities for professionals. Citymoves also delivers Dancelive, and annual festival of contemporary dance.

Castlegate Arts: Operators of Aberdeen Arts Centre, A community performing arts venue, primarily focussed on supporting volunteer arts and delivery a programme of participatory performing arts workshops.

Peacock Visual Arts: A contemporary art centre, offering gallery/project space alongside printmaking and digital facilities used by renowned international artists and local artists alike. Also deliver Free Press, providing positive destination opportunities for care experienced young people.

The Sound Festival: Dedicated to the development of new music in the Northeast, the organisation’s work has grown from its award-winning festival to encompass year-round artists commissions, education workshops and performances.

Jazz Scotland: Deliver the annual Aberdeen Jazz Festival, including a range of concerts, free events, workshops and community-based events.

Various groups who organise small local community events eg Friends of Duthie Park and community councils.

1.3 Is this a new or existing policy?

New

1.4 Is this report going to a committee?

Yes – as part of 2024 budget report.

1.5 Committee name and date:

Council - 6 March 2024

1.6 Report no and / or Budget proposal number and / or Business Case reference number:

Budget proposals CG1, CR19, CR20

Impacts

This section demonstrates the considerations that have been made in relation to the policy - and that the impact of proposals made is understood and accepted.

2: Equality Act 2010 - Protected Characteristics

Aberdeen City Council wants to ensure everyone is treated fairly. This section identifies the [protected characteristics](#) that the policy potentially affects and records the impact and mitigating steps.

2.1 What impact could this policy have on any of the below groups?

Protected Characteristic	What is the impact?				
	Negative			Neutral	Positive
	High	Medium	Low		
Age		x			
Disability		X			
Gender Reassignment				X	
Marriage and Civil Partnership				X	
Pregnancy and Maternity				X	
Race				X	
Religion or Belief				x	
Sex				x	
Sexual Orientation				X	

2.2 In what way will the policy impact people with these protected characteristics?

Age

The proposal would impact on the older age group demographic and younger age group 0-18 who attend dance, visual, music and performance workshops and activities in Aberdeen. Such as Dance for Parkinson’s, and Project Strive for young men in regeneration areas.

The removal of the budget for Cultural Organisations would lead to certain organisations not being able to continue. Citymoves Dance Agency, Castlegate Arts & Peacock Visual Arts would all be vulnerable. This would impact opportunities for children and young people to participate in free and low-cost activities (Citymoves is one of the few providers of higher dance in the region).

This proposal would also impact on organisations such as the Sound Festival and Jazz Aberdeen and would lead to them offering a reduced programme or no programme in the city. These organisations offer professional programmes for those who wish to develop in the music sector from school to post graduate opportunities.

Disability

This proposal will impact on those people who attend all Cultural programmes as they are accessible to all.

It could also see the loss of programme elements designed with disabled or participants with long-standing conditions such as the Dance for Parkinsons project at Citymoves and Step Forward the inclusive performance group programmed by City Moves Dance Agency. Music 4 U an inclusive music and performance programme at the Castlegate Arts venue would also be affected. Sound Festival have also developed expertise in working with composers who are neurodiverse and in 2021 set up a Neurotribes conference.

2.3 What considerations have been made in reaching the above assessment?

What internal or external data has been considered? What does this data tell us?

The grants to external cultural organisations have been subject to Cultural Funding and Delivery Review, which was approved at Council on the 7th of February. The Review has been undertaken by an independent consultant agency, as part of the process they have been provided with range of data sets from both the Council and external cultural organisations, this includes analysis of audience and participant data, analysis of funding allocations (benefactors, target audiences etc.) The analysis has shown where the gaps and demand in respect to cultural opportunities which has been profiled against City SIMD datazones and audience segmentation maps.

What consultation and engagement and has been undertaken with officers and partner organisations?

To date the consultants have undertaken a review of the current investment and organisations supported and analysed the Council's current approach and rationale for support. Organisations and initiatives subject to the review include APA, Castlegate Arts, Peacock Visual Arts, Citymoves Dance Agency, Sound Festival, Jazz Scotland, SPECTRA Festival, Nuart Aberdeen and the open application project fund, Creative Funding. As part of the process the Review team have conducted consultations with all 'core' funded cultural organisations, Council cultural service managers, Creative Funding recipients, Culture Aberdeen, Visit Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen Inspired, COSLA and national public sector funders. Surveys have also been conducted with around 40 Creative Funding grant recipients.

What consultation and engagement and has been undertaken with people who may be impacted by this policy (e.g., citizens, community groups, or other people/groups)?

Having reviewed the data from the phase 2 budget consultations, it should be noted participants were not given any detail on what the funding supported in terms of outputs or outcomes. Despite this, many of the comment's reference the importance of arts in culture for mental health, well-being and in particular the contribution to young people from education and beyond.

Highlighted comments relating to protected characteristics were:

AGE

- Don't touch that arts & culture budget - especially when it comes to children and young adults' access. It's vital for mental health wellbeing, and for developing citizenship values.

- We do not need to reduce funding for Culture and Sport as this directly helps in the health and mental well-being of people, particularly young children.
- We don't have enough as it is and really important to encourage tourism & students. Also important as a means to support anti-social behaviour, care experienced children and those who have experienced trauma.
- Any reduction in grants or removal of funding is detrimental to the society, the mental wellbeing of citizens especially children/youth and would result in far more serious crime & violence that will cause additional spending.
- Post lock downs and so much closing down in the centre of town -such as public libraries, Belmont Cinema and Bon Accord baths left empty means there is a dearth of community culture. The culture and community of the art gallery and sports spaces is important to the life and sense of community. Therefore, they should be accessed at the present hours of opening. The sense of community is breaking down in the city. The opportunities for families and especially children are dwindling.
- Getting rid of Arts, Culture & Sport will ruin Aberdeen. These are some of the only things that keep people happy in Aberdeen, especially since the high street closed. These things are amazing for keeping young people off the streets, bringing in young professionals, excellent for families, and are accessible to the older generation which is so important.

DISABILITY

- Accessible events and social spaces are very important to people with disabilities.
- If people cannot attend events due to support available, for example guidance for people who are visibly impaired, this will have a negative impact on their overall wellbeing and could mean they rely on other council or public services for assistance and support.
- ...reducing these will disproportionately impact on the poorest in our society and those with less means. That would tend to be single mothers, care experienced people and people from minority ethnic communities.
- I think this would have a major impact on community. There are little things to do in Aberdeen as it is. By doing this you are taking away opportunities for children and young people. They will have no option but to hang about the streets causing trouble if there is nothing to do.
- For people with severe autism, having access to a variety of stimulating activities is really essential for improved learning, stimulation and socialisation with others. This is the case whether it takes the form of performance by others; artistic activities for the individual; or access to sport and exercise for the individual. Any major reduction in funding of these activities would be a huge blow to level 3 autistic people. The arts and sport are not just 'nice to haves', but as stated above, essentials for fulfilling lives for all participants.

2.4 What mitigations can be put in place?

What mitigations are there against any negative impacts (if applicable)?		
CG 1None. CG19 and CG20 – groups who were awarded ad hoc funding in current year could be advised funding will be no longer be available		
With mitigations in place, what is the new overall rating of the negative impact(s)?	High	
	Medium	x
	Low	

3: Socio-Economic Impacts

This section is used to consider the impact of the policy on people who might be **unemployed, single parents, people with lower education or literacy, looked after children**, those with **protected characteristics** as examples.

Use this guide to understand more on socio-economic inequalities: [The Fairer Scotland Duty: Guidance for Public Bodies \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

3.1 What impact could this policy have on any of the below groups?

Group	Negative			Neutral	Positive
	High	Medium	Low		
Low income / income poverty – those who cannot afford regular bills, food, clothing payments.		X			
Low and/or no wealth – those who can meet basic living costs but have no savings for unexpected spend or provision for the future		X			
Material deprivation – those who cannot access basic goods and services, unable to repair/replace broken electrical goods, heat their homes or access to leisure or hobbies		X			
Area deprivation – consider where people live and where they work (accessibility and cost of transport)		x			
Socio-economic background – social class, parents' education, employment, income.		X			

3.2 In what way will the policy impact people in these groups?

LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS

Reduction in free access to culture and leisure opportunities in the city centre, particularly impacting low-income households and children in poverty as access would be restricted beyond current opening hours.

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Reduction in free-to-access leisure and culture facilities would have an overall negative impact on the mental health and wellbeing of the city's residents.

An example of impacts would be the removal of the Care Experience programme that is delivered by Peacock Visual Arts. The removal of Project Strive a dance programme in regeneration areas organised by City Moves Dance Agency. It would affect Castlegate Theatre programmed by Castlegate Arts which has many participants are from regeneration areas.

3.3 What considerations have been made in reaching the above assessment?

What internal or external data has been considered? What does this data tell us?

Analysis was undertaken of the supported activities through Cultural Funding **and** Delivery Review as well as the Culture Impact Review, both presented to Council on the 7th of February. The former included analysis of audiences and participants of the cultural organisations as cultural attendance, which indicated attendance to cultural activity in Aberdeen (across all wards) was higher than the national average, which is backed by the finding of the 2021 Household Survey results as well.

What consultation and engagement and has been undertaken with officers and partner organisations?

To date the consultants have undertaken a review of the current investment and organisations supported and analysed the Council's current approach and rationale for support. Organisations and initiatives subject to the review include APA, Castlegate Arts, Peacock Visual Arts, Citymoves Dance Agency, Sound Festival, Jazz Scotland, SPECTRA Festival, Nuart Aberdeen and the open application project fund, Creative Funding. As part of the process the Review team have carried out consultations with all 'core' funded cultural organisations, Council cultural service managers, Creative Funding recipients, Culture Aberdeen, Visit Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen Inspired, COSLA and national public sector funders. Surveys have also been conducted with around 40 Creative Funding grant recipients.

What consultation and engagement and has been undertaken with people who may be impacted by this policy? citizens, community groups, or other people/groups impacted by this policy?

Having reviewed the data from the phase 2 budget consultations there were no clear links socio-economic impacts for people with protected characteristics.

Feedback from targeted engagement included a focus on potential reduction in offer for tourists, as well as impact on mental wellbeing and quality of life for all residents in the city, with particular focus on free access, safe spaces and warm spaces that could be accessed for free and without stigma.

Highlighted comments relating to socio-economic impacts:

LOW INCOME

- If services are cut or additional fees are required for arts, culture and sports this would negatively affect those on fixed incomes and relying on benefits. Feelings of wellbeing, good mental and physical health are linked to access to these events. If people cannot attend events due to support available, for example guidance for people who are visibly impaired, this will have a negative impact on their overall wellbeing and could mean they rely on other council or public services for assistance and support.
- Art galleries and museums are good places for people to go for warmth and comfort without the stigma attached to designated warm spaces, i.e., community centres.
- Arts and culture are extremely important to society and especially to enriching the lives of vulnerable people.
- Again, reducing these will disproportionately impact on the poorest in our society and those with less means. That would tend to be single mothers, care experienced people and people from minority ethnic communities.

HEALTH & WELLBEING

- Arts and culture are important for mental wellbeing and quality of life.
- These are vital resources for all of the community. Places for people to gather and be together which is vital for health. Also, they are part of a provision of warm spaces for people and opportunities for health and leisure. Overall physical and mental health will be reduced by removing these services and the inequality gap will widen as those who can afford to go to private provision will do so and those who cannot afford this will have nothing. Then, their poor health will deteriorate further and for young people this will mean less positive life outcomes.

3.4 What mitigations can be put in place?

What mitigations are there against any negative impacts (if applicable)?		
None		
With mitigations in place, what is the new overall rating of the negative impact(s)?	High	
	Medium	X
	Low	
	Negative Impact Removed	

4: Human Rights Impacts

The Human Rights Act 1998 sets out the fundamental rights and freedoms that everyone in the UK is entitled to. It incorporates the rights set out in the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) into domestic British law. The Human Rights Act came into force in the UK in October 2000

The Act sets out our human rights in a series of 'Articles'. Each Article deals with a different right.

Use this guide to understand more about [Human Rights](#).

4.1 What impact could this policy have on Human Rights?

Human Rights Article	Negative	Neutral	Positive
Article 6: Right to a fair trial		X	
Article 7: No punishment without law		X	
Article 8: Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence		X	
Article 9: Freedom of thought, belief and religion		X	
Article 10: Freedom of expression		X	
Article 11: Freedom of assembly and association		X	
Article 12: Right to marry and start a family		X	
Article 14: Protection from discrimination in respect of these rights and freedoms		X	
Article 1 of Protocol 1: Right to peaceful enjoyment of your property		X	
Article 2 of Protocol 1: Right to education		x	
Article 3 of Protocol 1: Right to participate in free elections		X	

4.2 In what way will the policy impact Human Rights?

It should be noted Citymoves Dance Agency has run the SQA accredited Higher Dance qualification for almost a decade, maintaining a 100% pass rate and is the main Higher Dance hub for the City and wider region. If Citymoves were unable to continue this would mean the reduction in higher dance in Aberdeen and create barriers to education.

Having reviewed the data from the phase 2 budget consultations there were no clear links to Human Rights.

Feedback from targeted engagement focused on impact on access to education, ability to gather in social settings especially for people with no religion who may otherwise struggle to maintain community ties.

Highlighted comments relating to Human Rights impacts were:

- Arts and culture are extremely important to society and especially to enriching the lives of vulnerable people.
- These are vital resources for all of the community. Places for people to gather and be together which is vital for health. Also, they are part of a provision of warm spaces for people and opportunities for health and leisure. Overall physical and mental health will be reduced by removing these services and the inequality gap will widen as those who can afford to go to private provision will do so and those who cannot afford this will have nothing. Then, their poor health will deteriorate further and for young people this will mean less positive life outcomes.
- I think this would have a major impact on community. There are little things to do in Aberdeen as it is. By doing this you are taking away opportunities for children and young people. They will have no option but to hang about the streets causing trouble if there is nothing to do.
- ... having access to a variety of stimulating activities is really essential for improved learning, stimulation and socialisation with others.

4.3 What mitigations can be put in place?

What mitigations are there against any negative impacts (if applicable)?		
None		
If mitigations are in place, does this remove the negative impact?	No – negative impact remains	x
	Yes – negative impact reduced	
	Yes - negative impact removed	

5: Children and Young People’s Rights Impacts

The United Nations Convention has 54 articles that cover all aspects of a child’s life and set out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all children everywhere are entitled to. It also explains how adults and governments must work together to make sure all children can enjoy all their rights.

Children’s rights apply to every child/young person under the age of 18 and to adults still eligible to receive a “children’s service” (e.g., care leavers aged 18 – 25 years old).

The Conventions are also known as the “General Principles”, and they help to interpret all the other articles and play a fundamental role in realising all the rights in the Convention for all children. They are:

1. Non-discrimination (Article 2)
2. Best interest of the child (Article 3)
3. Right to life survival and development (Article 6)
4. Right to be heard (Article 12)

You can [read the full UN Convention \(pdf\)](#), or [just a summary \(pdf\)](#), to find out more about the rights that are included.

5.1 What impact could this policy have on the rights of Children and Young People?

UNCRC and Optional Protocols	Negative	Neutral	Positive
-------------------------------------	-----------------	----------------	-----------------

Article 1: definition of the child		X	
Article 2: non-discrimination		X	
Article 3: best interests of the child		X	
Article 4: implementation of the convention		X	
Article 5: parental guidance and a child's evolving capacities		X	
Article 6: life, survival and development		X	
Article 7: birth registration, name, nationality, care		X	
Article 8: protection and preservation of identity		X	
Article 9: separation from parents		X	
Article 10: family reunification		X	
Article 11: abduction and non-return of children		X	
Article 12: respect for the views of the child		X	
Article 13: freedom of expression		X	
Article 14: freedom of thought, belief and religion		X	
Article 15: freedom of association		X	
Article 16: right to privacy		X	
Article 17: access to information from the media		X	
Article 18: parental responsibilities and state assistance		X	
Article 19: protection from violence, abuse and neglect		X	
Article 20: children unable to live with their family		X	
Article 21: adoption		X	
Article 22: refugee children		X	
Article 23: children with a disability		X	
Article 24: health and health services		X	
Article 25: review of treatment in care		X	
Article 26: social security		X	
Article 27: adequate standard of living		X	
Article 28: right to education		X	
Article 29: goals of education		X	
Article 30: children from minority or indigenous groups		X	
Article 31: leisure, play and culture	X		
Article 32: child labour		X	
Article 33: drug abuse		X	
Article 34: sexual exploitation		X	
Article 35: abduction, sale and trafficking		X	
Article 36: other forms of exploitation		X	
Article 37: inhumane treatment and detention		X	
Article 38: war and armed conflicts		X	
Article 39: recovery from trauma and reintegration		X	
Article 40: juvenile justice		X	
Article 41: respect for higher national standards		X	
Article 42: knowledge of rights		X	
Optional Protocol on a Communications Procedure			

5.2 In what way will the policy impact the rights of Children and Young People?

Having reviewed the data from the phase 2 budget consultations there were no clear links to the rights of Children and Young People.

Feedback from targeted engagement focused on impact on wider access to education, ability to gather in social settings especially for young people.

Highlighted comments relating to Children and Young People were:

- Again, reducing these will disproportionately impact on the poorest in our society and those with less means. That would tend to be single mothers, care experienced people and people from minority ethnic communities.
- I think this would have a major impact on community. There are little things to do in Aberdeen as it is. By doing this you are taking away opportunities for children and young people. They will have no option but to hang about the streets causing trouble if there is nothing to do.

5.3 What mitigations can be put in place?

What mitigations are there against any negative impacts (if applicable)?

None

If mitigations are in place, does this remove the negative impact?

No – negative impact remains

x

Yes – negative impact reduced

Yes - negative impact removed

6: Sign Off

Any further positive or negative impacts on individuals or groups that have been considered?

EXTERNAL ORGANISATION STAFF

Reduction in funding to the organisations will result in potential closure of venues and staff redundancies (up to 36 jobs in total). The former will have a knock-on effect for the organisations that work in partnership with these venues, including the likes of GREC, CFINE, Cornerstone and numerous schools and community groups.

VISITOR ECONOMY/ CITY CENTRE RECOVERY

No consultation has been undertaken with these groups, a reduction in cultural offer will have an impact on the city's attractiveness as a destination which in turn lead to reduced visits, impacting the wider economy (accommodation and hospitality providers) who are facing significant economic challenges in the current climate, with an employee base disproportionately high in respect to protected characteristics. The importance of cultural activity as a driver to city centre economy cannot be underestimated, several city centre businesses reported record breaking turnover as a result of Spectra festival of light, several businesses attributing it as essential to stay afloat.

<https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/aberdeen-aberdeenshire/6359023/spectra-aberdeen-businesses-aberdeen-city-centre/>

There are no reasonable adjustments that would mitigate the reduced funding to these organisations at this time, several of the organisations are in the process of applying for Creative Scotland Multi Year funding and any reduction in Council support would likely lead to lower leverage ability.

Organisations have all explored alternative charges and fees option but are unable to increase further at this time due charitable purpose, impact to grant funding requirements or audience downturns.

Organisations may be signposted to alternative funding such as UKSPF, but this funding is currently over subscribed for 2025 and no announcement has been made to state it is secure for 2025/26 onwards.

Overall summary of changes made as a result of impact assessment.

None

Outline of how impact of policy will be monitored.

Organisations are subject to quarterly reviews and annual KPI monitoring. The Council approved the establishment of a new Cultural Investment Framework for 2025/26 and the impacted organisations will need to provide impact information as part of a new application process. This will help identify reductions in participants, activities, or match funding as a result of this policy.

Based on analysis of the affected organisations current cashflow it is predicted some of these charities will not be able to continue to trade solvently and will enter administration before the end of 2025 without significant intervention or income generation to change course.

If there are any remaining negative impacts after mitigation, what is the justification for why this policy should proceed.

As there are no mitigations in place the negative impacts will remain.

Assessment Author	Mark Bremner
Date	25/02/2024
Chief Officer	Julie Wood
Date	26/02/2024