

Executive Decision Report

<p>Decision maker and date of Leadership Team meeting or (in the case of individual Lead Member decisions) the earliest date the decision will be taken</p>	<p>Leadership Team – 26 February 2018 Forward Plan reference: 05203/18/K/A Leadership Team Portfolio: Leader of the Council, and Lead Member for Communities,</p>	 <p>THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA</p>
<p>Report title</p>	<p>FUNDING FOR NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL 2018</p>	
<p>Reporting officer</p>	<p>SUE HARRIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENT, LEISURE AND RESIDENT SERVICES</p>	
<p>Key decision</p>	<p>Yes</p>	
<p>Access to information classification</p>	<p><i>PART A - Public</i> <i>PART B - Exempt</i></p>	

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. Notting Hill Carnival is a major event in London and the biggest street Carnival in Europe, and attracts thousands of visitors. It is a multicultural event and one of the most consistent and visible cultural contributions made by London's Caribbean community. The event is led by the Carnival community, with financial and logistical support provided by the two local authorities, police, and the Mayor of London.
- 1.2. The council is a committed supporter of Carnival, both in terms of finance and the importance to our communities, so we provide grants and operational support to the Notting Hill Carnival, as well as the carnival arts. As part of this, the council awards a grant of £100K annually to support planning and event management. It's expected that the grant recipient will engage the wider Carnival community in planning and delivery, and liaise with the local authorities and statutory agencies.
- 1.3. The council invited expressions of interest from within the Carnival community and following a transparent process, Carnival Village Trust (CVT) emerged with a viable proposal with the infrastructure, capabilities and year round community presence to fulfil this vital leadership role. It is also clear that they already have support within the local community. Accordingly, this report recommends that the £100K grant is awarded to CVT on the basis that they continue to work with the communities involved so that carnival remains a community-led event.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. That the Leadership Team approves the council to award funding of £100,000 to Carnival Village Trust to plan and coordinate the event management of Notting Hill Carnival 2018, engaging the wider Carnival community in planning and delivery, and liaising with the local authorities and statutory agencies.
- 2.2. That the Leadership Team delegates approval to the Chief Solicitor to enter into a grant agreement between the Council and Carnival Village Trust for the award of the grant.

3. REASONS FOR DECISION

- 3.1. 2017 was the final year of the three-year funding agreement between the council and the organisers of Notting Hill Carnival during this period, London Notting Hill Carnival Enterprises Trust (known as LNH CET). There are a number of public agencies, including the council, who support and fund elements of Notting Hill Carnival. Following the post-event debriefs and feedback from the wider Carnival community, the public agencies confirmed they needed to see real improvements for a safer Carnival next year. A new funding agreement now needs to be put in place for 2018, setting out the funding requirements and statutory agencies' expectations for the organisers to deliver a safer, spectacular, Carnival. It was also agreed by statutory partners that for Carnival 2018, all arenas and organisations within the wider Carnival family should have a greater involvement and responsibility for planning.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1. The council has provided financial support to the organisers of Notting Hill Carnival for several years. Funding of £100,000 is available from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea to support the organisers of Notting Hill Carnival 2018 to deliver a safer and spectacular Carnival. The Notting Hill Carnival funding requirements were published for reasons of transparency, and have been developed in response to:
- The recent residents survey on Notting Hill Carnival (which ran from 30 October – 26 November 2017)
 - Community feedback meetings including Reclaim Our Carnival meeting on 25 September 2017 and the public meeting on 30 October 2017
 - Agency Hot Debrief on 8 September 2017
 - Operational Safety Planning Group debrief on 4 October 2017
 - Strategic Partners Group Workshop on 13 October 2017
 - Debrief meetings from the 2017 event
 - Recommendations from the Movement Strategies crowd management report 2016 and 2017.
- 4.2. The funding agreement for 2018 will require the organisers to be accountable to the wider Carnival community and statutory agencies and to engage the wider Carnival community to develop and deliver detailed plans for the Notting Hill Carnival 2018.
- 4.3. Following the post event debriefs and feedback from the wider Carnival community, the public agencies confirmed they needed to see real improvements for a safer Carnival next year. Concerns were raised about the operation, activity and performance of LNH CET in relation to Notting Hill Carnival 2017, in particular:
- Shortcomings in LNH CET's communication to the wider Carnival community.
 - Information issued to the operational group very late in the planning process, with some crucial details being left to just the day before.
 - Deadlines for information were missed, with poor communications to bands.
 - Distribution of passes was chaotic, due to poor communication from LNH CET to members/bands.
 - There was an inability to contact key LNH CET members in advance and over the weekend
- 4.4. At the meeting of the Strategic Partners (Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, Greater London Authority, Westminster City Council, RBKC and Metropolitan Police Service) on 20th December, at which members of the LNH CET Board were present, LNH CET were provided with the opportunity to respond to SPG's concerns following the 2017 Carnival. Following the meeting on 20th December, the Strategic Partners Group (SPG) remained concerned and it was agreed by statutory partners that for Carnival 2018, all arenas and organisations within the wider Carnival family should have a greater involvement and responsibility for planning.

5. PROPOSAL AND ISSUES

- 5.1. Ideally, the Carnival 2018 planning period should have started in mid-September 2017 to avoid the missing of grant deadlines and emergency release of any monies. This process was delayed as RBKC has made every effort to bring all public bodies and community leaders to the table to ensure a joint approach. Expressions of interest were originally requested by 19th January to enable the grant recipient to provide the draft event plan for consideration by the OSPG on 14 February. However, following representation from the community, the process was extended to give more time.
- 5.2. This funding agreement is for one year, 2018. The process for awarding funding for 2019 and beyond will need to commence in 2018 to provide the Carnival community with the necessary lead in times for event planning.

6. EVALUATION OF THE PROPOSALS

- 6.1. Two proposals were received and evaluated against 11 criteria and given a score. These criteria are included as an appendix.

7. OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS

7.1. Option 1: Do not offer a grant to Carnival Village Trust to support Notting Hill Carnival 2018 (NOT RECOMMENDED).

The council's funding to support Notting Hill Carnival 2018 was opened to the wider carnival community via a fair and transparent process. If the council decided not to award its grant to support Carnival 2018, there is an increased risk that the event is not delivered in a safe way and would imply a withdrawal of the council's support for this high profile, community event.

7.2. Option 2: Offer a one year grant of £100,000 to Carnival Village Trust to support Notting Hill Carnival 2018. (RECOMMENDED)

CVT provided an expression of interest, which scored highly in the areas of governance, operations and a fit for purpose structure. It demonstrated the infrastructure, capabilities and community presence to fulfil this vital leadership role for Carnival 2018. Feedback from partners, including the Metropolitan Police, were supportive of this recommendation. However, CVT should consider looking at a broad range of ways for the community to engage in the planning and delivery process. This can be achieved through the involvement of community leaders in Carnival planning and encouraging their input and engagement.

The funding agreement will need to stipulate the development of a community engagement plan and vision for Carnival. This will be with and by the local and carnival communities with the support of the council's Community Engagement Team.

Community involvement is fundamental to this process. With the agreement of CVT and community groups, they could be involved as follows-

- a) The creation of a Community Carnival Working Group to co-design the carnival engagement strategy, in conjunction with CVT and RBKC, to ensure the wider community's voice is heard and involved in the process.
- b) The working group could consider how it could achieve community stewards and Grenfell commemoration at Carnival.

c) The working group could also be involved in the ongoing review of carnival planning and community activity.

8. CONSULTATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 8.1. After Carnival 2017, a number of consultation meetings were held to inform the council's decision to open its funding to the wider carnival community and the development of the funding requirements. As the event organisers, LNH CET chaired a meeting with residents on 12th June 2017 (pre-Carnival) and held a post Carnival residents meeting on 30th October at the Tabernacle. At this meeting, concerns were raised about the responsibility and control of Carnival, shortcomings in the Trust's communication to the wider Carnival community and the financial transparency of Carnival. In addition, officers attended a meeting of Reclaim Our Carnival (ROC) at the end of September 2017, where some of the attendees raised similar concerns regarding the current LNH CET, financial transparency of Carnival, the strategic direction of Carnival and the involvement of the public agencies.
- 8.2. The feedback from these meetings shaped the funding requirements for the recipient of the council's grant to support Notting Hill Carnival 2018.
- 8.3. A survey of Carnivalists and local residents was also undertaken, the high level results of which were reported to Public Realm Scrutiny Committee on 18 December. The full report is attached as an appendix.
- 8.4. As part of the evaluation process, members of the local and Carnival community were invited to provide feedback on the bids received. A list of those invited to comment is attached as an appendix. Comments were received from the organisations below and have been used to inform this decision:
- The Metropolitan Police Service
 - UK Centre for Carnival Arts
 - Arts Council England
 - Members of Public Realm Scrutiny Committee
 - Association of Calypsonians
 - British Association of Static Sound Systems
 - Reclaim Our Carnival
 - Carnival Arts and Masquerade Foundation
 - British Association of Steelpans
 - Caribbean Music Association
- 8.5. Notting Hill Carnival is a multicultural event and one of the most consistent and culturally significant events for London's Caribbean community. The event is led by the Carnival community and further and continuing engagement with the local community – both Carnivalists and residents - will be led by CVT, with the support of the council and other public agencies, as detailed in section 7.2 above.

9. HUMAN RESOURCES AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. There are no human resources implications.
- 9.2. There are no specific implications for equalities.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Award funding of £100,000 to Carnival Village Trust to support Notting Hill Carnival.

- 10.1. The Council has the power to award grants under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011. The awarding of this grant is a key decision as identified in Part 2, Article 7, 7.10(b) of the Constitution as it is over £100,000 and will have a significant impact on the community. This decision is therefore one that should be taken by the Leadership Team. The Council should ensure that the grant complies with the State Aid rules. Legal Services will be available to assist with finalising the grant agreement.
- 10.2. *Legal comments provided by Kar-Yee Chan, Principal Solicitor, Shared Legal Services, 0208 753 2772*

11. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1. A budget exists for the £100,000 grant payment for Notting Hill Carnival.
- 11.2. Comments completed by Mark Jones – Director of Finance & Resources ELRS. Telephone 0208 753 6700.

Donna Pentelow
Head of Culture and Special Projects

Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) – Background papers used in the preparation of this report

1. Funding arrangements for Notting Hill Carnival 2018.
2. Evaluation Criteria
3. Residents Survey for Notting Hill Carnival 2017
4. List of community groups, carnival groups and stakeholders invited to comment

Cleared by Finance

MJ

Cleared by Legal Services

K-YC

Cleared by Communications and Community Engagement

NT & MC