

Report for: Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure – Cllr Emily Arkell

Item number: 6

Title: Acceptance of grant from the GLA for delivery of London Borough of Culture 2027

Report authorised by : Corporate Director for Culture, Strategy and Communities – **Jess Crowe**

Lead Officer: Director, Culture & Communities – **Kenneth Tharp**

Ward(s) affected: N/A

Report for Key/

Non Key Decision: Non Key Decision

1. Describe the issue under consideration

1.1 This report seeks Cabinet Member approval to accept the Greater London Authority (GLA) grant for delivery of the London Borough of Culture 2027 along with the Liberty Festival, which is the Mayor of London's D/deaf & disabled celebration.

1.2 Acceptance of the grant entails meeting a number of commitments relating to the ambitions and proposals set out in our winning bid in 2024 and refined in consultation with the GLA and others since then.

1.3 These commitments are set out in a Grant Agreement which is currently being finalised through GLA governance and the report also seeks Cabinet Member authority to delegate the final sign-off of the Agreement to the Corporate Director of Culture, Strategy & Communities. The final draft of the Agreement is attached as Appendix 1.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

N/A

3. Recommendations

That the Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure:

3.1 In accordance with Contract Standing Orders (CSOs) 21.01, 2.01(c) and CSO 0.08, approves the acceptance of the grant from the Greater London Authority for delivery of London Borough of Culture and Liberty 2027.

- 3.2 Notes that the total grant sum to be accepted is £2,165,000, broken down as set out in paragraph 6.12 below.
- 3.3 Delegates authority to the Corporate Director of Culture, Strategy & Communities to sign the final Grant Agreement.

4. Reasons for decision

- 4.1 In April 2024, Haringey was awarded the title of London Borough of Culture 2027 by the Mayor of London. Haringey's programme will focus on the theme of Rebel Borough, celebrating Haringey's working-class heritage, strong history of grassroots changemakers and everyday rebels. Throughout the decades Haringey has played an important role in battling discrimination and celebrating equality. London Borough of Culture 2027 and the Liberty Festival are a unique opportunity to showcase the diverse cultures, radical heritage and today's creatives, all of which make Haringey the place it is.
- 4.2 The London-wide award will help us to amplify the voices of our communities and create opportunities for young people to access creative careers and for people from different cultures to make connections and share experiences. All of this will contribute to our 2035 Vision of a borough where everyone can belong and thrive.
- 4.3 The award brings with it a grant of £2,165,000, comprised of funding from the Greater London Authority and Arts Council England. It also enables the Council to apply for and secure additional external funding which will enable us to invest in cultural programmes to a much greater extent than relying solely on our own revenue funding.
- 4.4 The GLA are currently taking the Grant Agreement through their governance processes for sign-off. This process is not yet complete and so authority to enter into the Agreement for Haringey is required to be delegated to the Corporate Director.

5. Alternative options considered

- 5.1 **Refuse the GLA grant** – delivery of London Borough of Culture is not a statutory service and so the Council could turn down the GLA grant and not deliver the programme. However, this would be contrary to the Council's commitment as set out in its recently adopted Arts and Culture Strategy 2024-28 to put Culture at the Heart of Everything We Do, as well as requiring the Council to pull back on the commitments set out in its winning bid to the GLA in 2024, which would be reputationally damaging. Culture and the creative industries are important to Haringey, both economically and for our diverse communities, and the GLA grant is enabling us to leverage further additional external funding and investment into the borough to support our residents and communities. For these reasons, it is not recommended to refuse the grant.

6. Background information

6.1 Having applied successfully for the GLA title award in 2024, Haringey is London Borough of Culture in 2027. A year-long programme will start in May 2027 and run until May 2028.

6.2 The programme is based on six themes or principles:

- **WE ARE REBELS** challenges established ways of working and actively seeks to rebalance power. Culture is positioned as a tool for social justice, with access and wellbeing embedded as core principles. We work with communities, not for them, recognising that trust and agency are built through participation rather than delivery alone.
- **WE ARE VIBRANT** focuses on nurturing and sustaining creative talent, while making pathways into culture clearer and more accessible, particularly for the next generation. This includes supporting local artists to develop, experiment and sustain their practice over time.
- **WE ARE OPEN** ensures that cultural activity feels welcoming, relevant and reflective of Haringey's diversity. Openness is understood as an ongoing practice, prioritising early engagement, transparency and clear communication about how decisions are made.
- **WE MAKE MUSIC** positions music as a defining part of Haringey's cultural identity and external reputation. The borough's musical histories, grassroots scenes and contemporary practices are central to how Haringey is experienced locally and beyond.
- **WE ARE ON AN ADVENTURE** commits to embedding culture and heritage into council strategies, structures and everyday practice. This pillar prioritises care, long term relationships and sustained commitments, recognising that meaningful cultural change happens over time.
- **WE BUILD** focuses on creating and protecting the infrastructure that enables culture to thrive. This includes physical spaces, long term organisations and policy commitments that support artists and communities to live, work and create in the borough.

6.3 Together, these principles reflect a commitment to ensuring culture delivers lasting benefit for the people who live, work and create in Haringey. They are rooted in themes of community, representation, pride and, crucially, legacy.

6.4 In July 2025 the Council established Haringey Culture Collective, a council-controlled charity tasked with delivering London Borough of Culture 2027 for the community. Whilst independent, the council will retain control over the charity through sole membership and board appointment rights. A series of internal governance structures have been set up to ensure that while delivery sits with the

charity, the Council remains able to maintain oversight as it retains accountability for meeting its commitments under the Grant Agreement.

6.5 Haringey London Borough of Culture will deliver 500+ events from spectacular moments for a London, national and international audience to community events rooted in Haringey and created by residents.

6.6 It will feature two to four large events that will provide media moments alongside 30+ commissions and presentations of medium to smaller scale projects /events encompassing all genres of art that celebrate the diversity, heritage and rebellious DNA of Haringey across all 21 wards.

6.7 Funded activities will include:

- Opening event - May Day – a free family friendly outdoor and indoor spectacular created and devised by SWEAR Studios in partnership with Alexandra Palace.
- Closing event - Haringey Homegrown – a celebration of Haringey’s talent - both global stars and grassroots futures at Spurs Stadium - leading from the finals of a youth football tournament and festival in the grounds, championed by high profile stars.
- Made By Tottenham – a bold cultural event made in collaboration with residents from the Broadwater Farm Estate and fashion collective Sports Banger.

6.8 Two major visual art exhibitions to kick off Windrush celebrations, both featuring significant wrap-around programming:

- War Inna Babylon - a community led exhibition curated by racial advocacy and community organisation, Tottenham Rights in partnership with the Bernie Grant Arts Centre
- Return of the Rudeboy – a photography exhibition celebrating and exploring the significance of the influential style of “Rude Boy” through a Haringey and Jamaican lens.

6.9 Significant other themed programmes are likely to include (subject to feasibility work currently underway):

- Haringey Heritage - unearthing rebel histories and future proofing heritage of Bruce Castle Museum including training of 10 new tour creators and guides with Open City; A Mile in My Shoes by Clare Patey animating 20 oral histories of Haringey rebels; a permanent public sculpture of Crouch End’s Horace Ové by his son Zac Ové; and new commissions in response to personal archives of creatives and change-makers with a connection to the borough.
- Haringey Green Lanes Feast – celebrating the food culture of our borough and communities in partnership with Continental Drifts
- Liberty Festival – Rebel Joy – a radical, witty and bold programme, curated by renowned local disabled artist Bobby Baker and a group of subversive D/deaf,

disabled and neurodivergent artists, comedians, makers and activists across the borough (full details below)

6.10 Alongside the commissioned programme there will be a wide range of projects developed and delivered by local grassroots artists, cultural and other organisations and communities enabling intergenerational cross borough connections and impact. These will be enabled by a significant community grants programme, ensuring the funding reaches right through to the grassroots of our communities and to where it can have most direct impact.

6.11 In addition to ensuring our programme reaches residents and communities from all parts of the borough, there will be a specific Children and Young People focus. This programme will focus on marginalised young people – care leavers, youth justice, isolated and LGBTQI+ youth. Children and youth will be central to a variety of activity across the year including:

- Activities in 63 educational settings and their own Youth Festival
- Participation in governance and performances at all scales
- Family programme, including a new commission by Punchdrunk Enrichment about a pirate radio station
- Training opportunities in partnership with the National Theatre and Bernie Grant Arts Centre.

6.12 The grant of £2,165,000 is made up of several different elements, from both the Greater London Authority and Arts Council England:

- GLA - £1,350,000 towards London Borough of Culture
- GLA - £70,000 towards Liberty R&D programme
- GLA - £75,000 towards Liberty Festival
- GLA - £175,000 towards Youth programme
- ACE - £350,000 towards London Borough of Culture
- ACE - £145,000 towards Liberty Festival

6.13 Haringey Council is also contributing match funding and in kind support, and Haringey Culture Collective is fundraising for further investment from Trusts and Foundations, sponsorship and other sources such as Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy. Haringey Culture Collective has already secured £250,000 additional funding from National Lottery Heritage Fund, £20,000 from Art Fund and £60,000 from Wembley Community Foundation, and has got through to the second stage of a multi-year Esmée Fairbairn funding application.

6.14 Haringey's programme has a number of key objectives, both for the year itself in terms of numbers participating, opportunities created for young people and audiences reached, but also for a post-2027 legacy. Outcomes include:

- Accessibility in every way - putting lived experience and accessibility at the heart of planning, delivery and curation leading to a legacy of accessibility, health and

wellbeing for audiences, artists and volunteers and increased LGBTQ+ representation and visibility throughout the borough.

- Creative pathways - increased skills and experience generated in the borough and a greater understanding of the breadth of creative roles available with clear routes to opportunities
- Cohesion - a council who listen, that are nurturing and supportive of its existing and emerging creative talent and a diaspora of communities who feel reflected in the cultural offerings of Haringey
- Coherence - a joined-up council supportive of its cultural aims and ambitions, that recognises the cultural value of the borough while increasing visitors and investment
- Increased opportunities - more paid opportunities to make, create and deliver culture
- Artists staying in the borough - ensure Haringey remains a place where artists feel supported and understood and who can live and work and thrive here
- More infrastructure - increase of cultural spaces driven by a shared ambition between the council and the creative industries and individuals
- Haringey Hosts - create and maintain a vibrant, representative community of volunteers ready to support borough-wide activity (including 2028 EUROS tournament)

7. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Head of Legal and Governance & Monitoring Officer, Equalities)

7.1 Finance

Acceptance of this £2,165,000 grant from the Greater London Authority (including £495,000 from Arts Council England) is necessary for the Council to deliver the London Borough of Culture and Liberty 2027 programme. The grant also enables us to leverage further additional external funding and investment into the borough to support our residents and communities.

7.2 Procurement

Strategic Procurement have been consulted in the preparation of this report. It is noted that the recommendation in section 3 of this report concerns the receipt of a grant. CSO 21.01 permits that the Cabinet may approve the receipt of a grant valued at £500,000 or more. Strategic Procurement have no objections to the recommendations of this report.

7.3 Legal

7.3.1 The Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) was consulted in the preparation of the report.

7.3.2 Pursuant to the provisions of the Council's Contract Standing Order (CSO) 21.01, Cabinet has authority to approve the receipt of a grant where the value of the

grant is £500,000 or more and as such the recommendation in paragraph 3.1 of the report is in line with the Council's CSO.

- 7.3.3 Further to paragraph 7.3.2 above and pursuant to the provisions of the Council's CSO 0.08, a decision reserved for cabinet may be taken by a Cabinet Member with the agreement of the Leader and as such the recommendations in paragraph 3 of the report seeking approval from Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure is in line with the Council's CSO so long as the Cabinet Member is taking the decisions with the agreement of the Leader
- 7.3.4 The recommendation in paragraph 3.3 of the report to delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Culture, Strategy & Communities to sign the final Grant Agreement is in line with the provisions of Part 4 Section F paragraph 1.3(a) of the Council's Constitution and also in line with law. Cabinet has power under the Local Government Act 2000 to delegate the discharge of any of its functions to an officer (S.9E (Discharge of Functions)).
- 7.3.5 The Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) see no legal reasons preventing the approval of the recommendations in the report.

7.4 Equality

The council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share protected characteristics and people who do not
- Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.

The three parts of the duty apply to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty.

Although it is not enforced in legislation as a protected characteristic, Haringey Council treats socioeconomic status as a local protected characteristic.

The obligations of the Equality Duty are strongly reflected in the principles, themes, objectives and programmes planned for Haringey's London Borough of Culture and Liberty Festival 2027.

The programme's target groups include:

- Black Caribbean heritage and Black British
- Turkish / Kurdish

- Latin-American
- LGBTQ+
- Young People
- D/deaf and Disabled (in particular though not solely through Liberty)

The Heritage element of the programme will celebrate Haringey's historic and continuing commitment to promoting and fighting for equality and people's rights across all protected characteristics. The focus on opening up opportunities in the creative sector to disadvantaged Haringey young people enables the Council to tackle challenges and inequities associated with socio-economic status. Overall, the programme's emphasis on community and bringing groups together to share and celebrate diverse cultures will contribute to improved community cohesion and realisation of the Borough Vision 2035: a borough where everyone can belong and thrive.

Acceptance of the GLA grant to enable the Council to deliver our London Borough of Culture and Liberty programme will make a significant contribution towards the Council meeting and going considerably beyond its duties towards groups with protected characteristics under the Equality Act.

8. Use of Appendices

Appendix 1 contains the final draft of the GLA Grant Agreement, which is not anticipated to change materially as it progresses through internal GLA governance.

9. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

N/A