

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**SPORT LEISURE AND CULTURE  
CABINET MEMBER**

**WATERSIDE ARTISTS CO-OPERATIVE**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 To consider an application for funding from the Waterside Artists' Co-operative for £5,000.
- 1.2 Arts Development has received an application for funding from the Waterside Artists' Co-operative in support of the Ropewalk Contemporary Art and Craft.
- 1.3 This application needs to be considered against the Arts Development Grant criteria and available funds.
- 1.4 This application meets the criteria for funding within the Key Arts Organisation Grant Scheme. There is sufficient funding available to provide for the level of grant requested.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The Waterside Artists' Co-operative is the voluntary sector group that manages the Ropewalk Contemporary Art and Craft in Barton-upon-Humber.
- 2.2 The Ropewalk Contemporary Art and Craft comprises of two galleries, a craft shop and twelve artist studios. The Ropewalk is crucial to the opportunities that artists have in being able to work in North Lincolnshire. The Ropewalk offers subsidised studio rents as well as opportunities to exhibit and to deliver education workshops to schools and other groups.
- 2.3 Ropewalk Contemporary Art and Craft is one of two Art Council Regional Funded Organisations (RFO) in North Lincolnshire. An RFO has a three-year funding agreement with the Arts Council. In January 2008 the Arts Council agreed to increase the Ropewalk's funding from £20,000 to £40,000 per year as part of their Regional Funded Organisation Review.
- 2.4 This uplift in funding was on condition that North Lincolnshire Council would also continue to support the Ropewalk.

### **3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 To approve the grant of £5,000 for Waterside Artists' Co-operative.
- 3.2 To approve a lesser grant for Waterside Artists' Co-operative.
- 3.3 To reject the application and provide no grant funding for Waterside Artists' Co-operative.

### **4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

- 4.1 The application received meets all the revised criteria in our grant aid scheme for assistance. There are sufficient funds in the Key Arts Organisation Grant Scheme to provide the amount recommended.
- 4.2 To approve the grant of £5,000 would mean that their planned programme of exhibitions and workshops could take place as proposed.
- 4.3 Support of this application will make a positive contribution towards delivering on the shared ambitions in the Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement by contributing to the Shared Ambition SI 3/4 *Improve well being by promoting participation in leisure and cultural activities*, and National Indicators NI 110 (*Young Peoples engagement in positive activities*) and NI 11 (*Engagement in the Arts*).
- 4.4 Offering grant support at a reduced level would jeopardise the funding the Ropewalk receives from the Arts Council.

### **5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)**

#### 5.1 Financial

- 5.1.1 The budget for Key Arts Organisations Grant for 2009/10 is £10,000. There is £9,250 remaining for 2009/10 to support voluntary sector art groups.

#### 5.2 Staffing, Property and IT

- 5.2.1 There are no implications for staffing, property or IT.

### **6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)**

- 6.1 Ropewalk has a comprehensive education programme working with schools across North Lincolnshire and beyond, including those with special or additional needs. They also work with a range of partners offering art workshops for young people out of school time as diversionary activity, as part of their 'extended school' programme.

6.2 There are no statutory, environmental or section 17 implications.

## 7. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION**

7.1 The aim of the Key Art Organisation Grant Scheme is to allow a closer working relationship to develop between North Lincolnshire Council's Arts Development and the arts voluntary sector. It is a condition of funding that the Arts Manager attends quarterly meetings with the Waterside Artists' Co-operative and works with them in their development. The recommended level of funding support reflects this process of consultation.

## 8. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.2 To offer £5,000 in support to Waterside Artists' Co-operative.

SERVICE DIRECTOR ASSET MANAGEMENT AND CULTURE

Hewson House  
Station Road  
BRIGG  
North Lincolnshire  
DN20 8XJ

Author: Lisa Moran  
Date: 20 May 2009

**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report :** Key Art Organisation Grant Scheme Criteria