

Sport England and Arts Council England Improvement Contracts

Purpose of report

For information

Summary

Sport England and Arts Council England commission the LGA to deliver a number of improvement events and projects. In 2018/19, the scope and value of these projects has increased significantly, with an impact on staff capacity.

Recommendation

To note activity

Action

Officers to deliver as directed

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Sport England and Arts Council England Improvement Contracts

Background

1. The LGA has established and strong relationships with both Arts Council England and Sport England. The principal focus of our interaction with both bodies is via the provision of Leadership Essentials - training sessions for portfolio holders on how to champion culture and sport in their areas - which the LGA is commissioned to deliver.
2. In 2017/18, the Sport England Contract was worth £69, 960 excluding VAT. This delivered three leadership essentials events for portfolio holders, one pilot leadership essentials event for officers, and one regional event in Greater Manchester (subsequently postponed until 2018/19).
3. In 2017/18, the Arts Council England Contract was worth £44, 840 and delivered two leadership essentials events for portfolio holders, and three cultural peer challenges in Epping, Doncaster and Warwick councils.

Increased contracts

4. In 2018/19, Sport England have proposed a two-year agreement worth £271, 728.
5. This will deliver:
 - 5.1. Five leadership essentials events for councillors (average 2/3 per year)
 - 5.2. Six leadership events for senior strategic officers (average 3 per year)
 - 5.3. Four regional events for councillors and/or senior strategic officers (average 2 per year)
 - 5.4. Four masterclasses for senior strategic officers over the two years.
6. Discussions with Arts Council England are ongoing, but to date they have confirmed their intention to commission us to deliver:
 - 6.1. Two leadership essentials events for portfolio holders
 - 6.2. Three cultural peer challenges
 - 6.3. Ten library peer challenges
 - 6.4. A councillor handbook on museums services
7. The value of this activity is £149, 860.

Implications for Wales

8. The WLGA does not commission us to work on wider improvement issues. This service is provided directly by WLGA.

Financial Implications

9. The increase in value of the contracts commissioned by ACE and Sport England is a positive recognition of the work that the LGA does with its members. However, the increased workload places a pressure on what is a small team within the LGA.
10. To ensure that we are able to deliver this work, we have been allocated 50% of a national graduate trainee's time. This will free up the CTS Adviser, Siraz Natha, to focus on delivery of the improvement programmes.

Next steps

11. Delivery of the contracts has begun, with the first Sports leadership essentials event for portfolio holders, and one for officers, having already taken place. The leadership essentials for officers has been significantly oversubscribed, with 90 applications received for the first 40 places made available.
12. Plans are underway to hold the first regional event for portfolio holders in the 10 Greater Manchester councils, in late January. The event will focus on introducing portfolio holders to systems change in a physical activity context, and the role of a councillor's leadership in achieving that.
13. 18 councillors are currently booked onto the Culture leadership essentials events in December and January. The Museums handbook is out for tender at the moment, with the contract planned for award on 4 October.