



## Changes to the Culture and Communities Grants affecting Forest Forge Theatre Company

Accountable officer: Nicola Horsey

Email address: [jessica.brown2@hants.gov.uk](mailto:jessica.brown2@hants.gov.uk)

Department: Culture, Communities and Business Services

Date of assessment: 18/12/2018

### Description of current service/policy

The Recreation and Heritage Investment Fund supports Hampshire's strategic cultural and recreational organisations delivering high-quality programmes of regional/national significance. It is an annual fund; organisations must apply each year.

Forest Forge provides touring and participatory theatre for 30,000 residents across Hampshire with a focus on the New Forest.

In 2018/19 it was awarded £40,850, 21% of budget, and advised the maximum award available in 2019/20 would be £34,696.

Geographical impact: New Forest

### Description of proposed change

Over the next three years the Council will need to reduce its budget by a further £80 million having already reduced it by £480 million since 2008. For the services within the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage's portfolio the Medium Term Financial Strategy approved by the County Council in September confirmed this will mean a further 13% reduction in departmental cash limits.

It is therefore proposed to change the way grants operate from 2020/21, moving away from annual revenue grants to one-off project grants which help organisations transform their operation and become self-supporting in the future. The organisation would be able to apply to this funding.

# Impacts of the proposed change

This impact assessment covers Service users

## Engagement and consultation

Has engagement or consultation been carried out? Yes

The Company has been informed of the future changes to the Grants scheme in September 2018, via a letter from the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage. A subsequent visit by the Executive Member took place in November 2018, where future changes to the Grants Scheme were discussed.

<b>Statutory considerations</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
<b>Age:</b> Low	There is a risk that due to reduced funding the organisation may reduce its targeted programmes for children and young people and/or older people, including people with dementia.	
<b>Disability:</b> Low	There is a risk that due to reduced funding the organisation may reduce its targeted programmes for people with mental health issues, adults with learning disabilities and/or additional needs and people with dementia.	
<b>Sexual orientation:</b> Neutral		
<b>Race:</b> Low	There is a risk that due to reduced funding the organisation may reduce its targeted programmes for Romany Traveller communities.	

<b>Religion and belief:</b> Neutral		
<b>Gender reassignment:</b> Neutral		
<b>Gender:</b> Neutral		
<b>Marriage and civil partnership:</b> Neutral		
<b>Pregnancy and maternity:</b> Neutral		
<b>Other policy considerations</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
<b>Poverty:</b> Neutral		
<b>Rurality:</b> Low	There is a risk that due to reduced funding the organisation may reduce its targeted programmes for rural communities.	

## Any other information

The organisation's programmes are to the benefit of residents across Hampshire, although it has a particular focus in the New Forest. The organisation also receives grant funding from New Forest District Council (approx £30,000) and from Ringwood and other Town Councils (approx £10,000) as well as from various trusts and foundations.

It has three months running costs in free reserves and employs four members of staff.

The Recreation and Heritage Investment Fund award is equivalent to over 20% of annual expenditure.