

Impact Assessment

Reduce revenue funding for commissioned Arts Services



12/01/2022

Reference: 2451-4274-4230-7043

Impact Assessments (IA) are a process of assessing how our proposals and decisions might impact upon different types of people and communities and developing proposals in line with relevant legislation.

This is a legal requirement, and ensures the Council considers key legislation, including Equalities, Welsh language, Future Generations, Socio-economic Duty and Risk when developing proposals.

It will also help the Council make the best possible decisions for the people of Powys.

1. Proposal Information

Author name	Lucy Bevan, Arts & Culture Commissioning Officer
Head of service	Nina Davies, Head of Housing and Community Development
Portfolio holder	Rachel Powell, portfolio holder for Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People and Culture and Leisure
Proposal title	Reduce revenue funding for commissioned Arts Services
Description of proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce revenue funding for arts organisation partners including performing arts venues (x 4), art gallery (x 1) and community dance organisation (x1)• Reduce support for Night Out rural community touring scheme.• Reduce arts commissioning budget.

2. Savings and Consultation requirements

Profile of savings delivery

2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026+	Total savings
£62,738	£62,738	£0	£0	£0	£0	£125,476

Further information

Reductions to revenue funding for supported Powys arts organisation partners, including performing arts venues (x 4), art gallery (x 1) and community dance organisation (x1).

This is the third year of planned reductions to this funding support.

Consultation requirements

Consultation required?	No
Justification	Ongoing communication with arts organisations undertaken, includes annual update meetings with Portfolio Holder.

3. Impact on other service areas, geographical areas and data protection

3a. Impact on other service areas

- Finance (Section 151)
- Education
- Schools (Primary Secondary and Special)

3b. Impact on geographical locations

The entire county

3c. Data protection impact assessment

Will the proposal involve processing the personal details of individuals?	No
Is Powys County Council the data controller?	No
Further information	

4. Impact on Vision 2025

4a. The economy

Impact	Potential for reduced access to arts and cultural provision. Potential for reduced educational and employment opportunities locally in the creative industry sector. Potential reduction in the cultural tourism offer in Powys. Risk of losing some or all Arts Council of Wales funding, as it is reliant on Local Authority match funding. The covid pandemic has had a significant impact on arts and culture, it is unknown at this stage as to how long that impact will continue, and what the longer term consequences on arts organisations will be.
Impact rating	Poor

Mitigation	Maximise opportunities for securing additional external funding in support of arts service delivery in partnership with arts sector partners. Optimise the leverage potential of arts commissioning budget in successfully accessing external funding for strategic arts initiatives delivered in partnership with key arts organisations – aiding their financial and operational viability.
Mitigated impact rating	Unknown

4b. Health and care

Impact	Opportunities to participate in and attend arts events and activities may be diminished by reducing offer, reducing social interaction through cultural events and maintaining mental and physical well-being by being actively socially engaged.
Impact rating	Poor
Mitigation	Heighten focus on the contribution of the arts and culture in supporting effectiveness of rural health and care services – arts in health. Partnership working with Powys Teaching Health Board in developing Powys Creative Arts, Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
Mitigated impact rating	Neutral

4c. Learning and skills

Impact	<p>Potentially weakened arts sector, as a consequence of reduced public investment, less able to support learning and skills opportunities for staff, volunteers, freelance practitioners, participants and audiences. Educational programmes, outreach, skills development and training offers may be reduced.</p> <p>Arts event and participatory programming may respond to need for a greater commercial focus leading to less accessible, inclusive and affordable content.</p> <p>Potential for reduced arts & cultural provision including extra curricular / subsidiary learning & skills development accredited programmes e.g. music / orchestra's; Criw Celf visual arts for more able & talented pupils; dance progression etc.</p> <p>Potential reduction of creative industry professionals in Powys providing skills development services</p> <p>Reduced ability to make best use of digital technology learning opportunities through creative industry / arts led initiatives (film; animation; VR & AR, music production; publishing etc.)</p>
Impact rating	Poor
Mitigation	<p>Explore new blended programming incorporating a digital offer. Research opportunities for partnership working with Schools Service, educational charities and establishments.</p> <p>Maintain focus on learning & skills as a priority in arts service delivery and commissioning.</p>
Mitigated impact rating	Neutral

4d. Residents and communities

Impact	<p>Potential reduction in services or potential loss of community arts venues as local community hubs supporting a wide range of community groups, activities, classes, events etc.</p> <p>Professional and community arts venues capacity to deliver cultural programmes and events may be reduced, leading to reduced vibrancy, cultural identity and connected communities.</p> <p>Arts & cultural activities and public arts venues are at the heart of community life contributing to a sense belonging and enabling the engagement of residents in inclusive, participatory endeavours.</p>
Impact rating	Poor

Mitigation	Continue support for community and voluntary arts enterprises to access resources to enable them to respond to and provide for local community requirements. Maximise opportunities for securing additional external funding in support of arts service delivery in partnership with community focused arts sector partners.
Mitigated impact rating	Unknown

4e. Evidence

SWOT analysis
Feedback communication from arts organisations
Performance Indicators
Previous business cases / reports

5. Impact on well-being goals including Welsh language and equalities

5a. A prosperous Wales

Impact	Potential reduction of arts provision within Powys may see residents travelling outside of the county to access provision. Risk of reduced educational and employment opportunities locally in the creative industry sector. Potential impact on young people who may choose to move out of county seeking further education, work experience, apprenticeships and employment in more culturally thriving urban centres. Reduction in the cultural tourism offer in Powys.
Impact rating	Poor
Mitigation	Maximise opportunities for securing additional external funding in support of arts service delivery in partnership with arts sector partners.
Mitigated impact rating	Neutral

5b. A resilient Wales

Impact	<p>Any reduction in locally provided services may lead to people travelling longer distances (in or outside the county) to access equivalent provision.</p> <p>Reduced capacity to deliver themed / interpretive arts partnership projects e.g. ARTSCAPE directly responding to themes of Climate Change, Health & Wellbeing, Digital Innovation through the arts.</p> <p>Limitations on utilising outdoor / environmental locations for arts & cultural events addressing social, economic and ecological resilience.</p>
Impact rating	Poor
Mitigation	Use of the arts in highlighting issues of climate change; e.g. current collaboration with Natural Resources Wales on Arts Council of Wales funded ARTscape project (themes: - arts; climate change; wellbeing; digital)
Mitigated impact rating	Neutral

5c. A healthier Wales

Impact	Opportunities to participate in and attend arts events and activities may be diminished, reducing social interaction through cultural events and maintaining mental and physical well-being by being actively socially engaged.
Impact rating	Poor
Mitigation	Partnership working with Powys Teaching Health Board in developing Powys Creative Arts, Health and Wellbeing Strategy and associated Action Plan
Mitigated impact rating	Good

5d. A Wales of cohesive communities

Impact	Professional and community arts venues capacity to deliver cultural programmes and events much reduced, leading to lack of vibrancy, cultural identity and connected communities.
Impact rating	Poor
Mitigation	<p>Provide organisational development, business planning/funding advice, support and information to Powys arts and cultural sector organisations, practitioners, creative enterprises, and businesses.</p> <p>Continue support for and promotion of Night Out Scheme (rural performing arts touring programme).</p>

Mitigated impact rating	Neutral
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5e. A globally responsible Wales

Impact	If arts venues are not sustainable and cannot keep pace with larger urban based theatres and arts provider organisations in meeting customer's needs, then closure may be a consequence. This would mean long travel distances for people to access cultural services with a reliance on car travel due to limited public transport availability particularly in evenings. Accessibility would be very limited for lower income families.
Impact rating	Unknown
Mitigation	Advocate local provision, local procurement of goods and services and sustainability within priority aims and objectives when planning, commissioning and delivering arts services.
Mitigated impact rating	Unknown

5f. A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Using Welsh

Impact	Potential for reduced cultural provision for communities, particularly performing arts events in the Welsh language reducing opportunities for people to socialise, perform and attend activities through the Welsh language and loss of provision for learners to develop skills in learning environments.
Impact rating	Unknown
Mitigation	Ensure the Welsh language is used and promoted in arts programming and commissioning
Mitigated impact rating	Unknown

Promoting Welsh

Impact	Ensure the Welsh language is used and promoted in arts programming and commissioning
Impact rating	Neutral
Mitigation	Not specified

Sports, Art & Recreation

Impact	Potential for reduced opportunities for access to arts and cultural provision and activities for residents and communities.
Impact rating	Poor
Mitigation	Continue promotion and advocacy of arts participatory opportunities within communities.
Mitigated impact rating	Unknown

5g. A more equal Wales

Age

Impact	Children and young people (0 – 25yrs) particularly affected by any reduction in access to high quality arts & cultural provision. Older people, whose social interactions are often through participation in cultural activities and events and at arts venues – less engaged; less mentally stimulated; less physically active. These age groups sometimes do not have the means to access provision at a increased distance from their homes.
Impact rating	Poor
Mitigation	Maximise opportunities for securing additional external funding in support of arts service delivery in partnership with community focused arts sector partners.
Mitigated impact rating	Unknown

Disability

Impact	Access to cultural & social events at accessible venues locally may be reduced. Alternative options may prove to be less accessible due to travel times, cost, mobility and other constraints.
Impact rating	Poor
Mitigation	Maximise opportunities for securing additional external funding in support of arts service delivery in partnership with community focused arts sector partners.
Mitigated impact rating	Unknown

Gender Reassignment

Impact	None
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Marriage or Civil Partnership

Impact	None
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Race

Impact	Potential for a reduction in available opportunities for arts practitioners to be employed, produce and present work and to raise awareness of diversity / showcase talent through the arts.
Impact rating	Unknown
Mitigation	Maximise opportunities for securing additional external funding in support of arts service delivery in partnership with community focused arts sector partners.
Mitigated impact rating	Unknown

Religion or Belief

Impact	None
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Sex

Impact	The arts and cultural sector traditionally employs a high number of women in administration, director, managerial, marketing, creative, producer, artist and performing roles as well as Board members. Loss of jobs and opportunities in this sector may be disproportionately disadvantageous to women.
Impact rating	Unknown
Mitigation	Not specified

Sexual Orientation

Impact	None
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Pregnancy and Maternity

Impact	None
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Socio-economic Duty

Impact	<p>Potential for reduced access to arts and culture for those unable to afford to travel to larger towns or cities to engage in the arts.</p> <p>People on low incomes or those out of work benefit from participating in free and inclusive arts activities, undertaking volunteering / work experience placements and skills development, there may be reduced opportunities to do so.</p>
Impact rating	Poor
Mitigation	Maximise opportunities for securing additional external funding in support of arts service delivery in partnership with community focused arts sector partners.
Mitigated impact rating	Unknown

5h. Evidence

<p>SWOT analysis</p> <p>Performance Indicator Data</p>
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6. Impact on key guiding principles & workforce

6a. Sustainable development principles

Long-term

Impact	Access to cultural and social events at accessible venues locally may be reduced. Alternative options may be less accessible due to travel times, cost, mobility and other constraints. Reduction in grant funding support may have longer term detrimental impact on the supported arts organisations.
Impact rating	Poor

Mitigation	Maximise opportunities for securing additional external funding in support of arts service delivery in partnership with arts sector partners. Optimise the leverage potential of arts commissioning budget in successfully accessing external funding for strategic arts initiatives delivered in partnership with key arts organisations – aiding their financial and operational viability.
Mitigated impact rating	Unknown

Collaboration

Impact	Potential loss or reduction in collaborative opportunities, damage to established partnership arrangements.
Impact rating	Neutral
Mitigation	Maximise opportunities for securing additional external funding in support of arts service delivery in partnership with arts sector partners. Optimise the leverage potential of arts commissioning budget in successfully accessing external funding for strategic arts initiatives delivered in partnership with key arts organisations – aiding their financial and operational viability.
Mitigated impact rating	Neutral

Involvement (including Communication and Engagement)

Impact	The arts are by their very nature inclusive and welcoming to all, often providing a forum in which to mix diverse population groups in shared activities. Hard to reach groups and those with whom it is difficult to engage are often attracted to creative and non-competitive pastimes. Loss of such engagement opportunities risks less involvement from communities.
Impact rating	Unknown
Mitigation	Ongoing regular meetings and communication with Powys arts organisations.
Mitigated impact rating	Neutral

Prevention

Impact	It is widely accepted that participation and involvement in arts and cultural activities increases mental and physical health and well-being; reduces social isolation and loneliness; improves community integration - it is important that this contribution is recognised by the authority in the decision making process. Any reduction or loss of access to arts and cultural activities, facilities, events and community venues may impact negatively on this benefit and potentially increase demand on other services.
Impact rating	Poor
Mitigation	Not specified

Integration

Impact	Potential for a negative contributing factor to overall achievement of well-being goals, particularly mental health; social isolation / loneliness and community engagement.
Impact rating	Unknown
Mitigation	Not specified

6b. Impact on the workforce

Impact	None
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6c. Impact on payroll

Impact	None
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6d. Welsh language impact on staff

Impact	None
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6e. Impact on apprenticeships

Impact	None
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6f. Evidence

SWOT Analysis
Performance Indicator Data

7. Likelihood and risks

Risk 2

Description	Arts and cultural provision in Powys is reduced or removed in some areas. Loss of local education and employment opportunities in the sector.				
Likelihood score	3	Impact score	2	Risk rating	6.0
Mitigation	Maximise opportunities for securing additional external funding in support of arts service delivery in partnership with arts sector partners. Optimise the leverage potential of remaining arts commissioning budget.				
Residual likelihood score	2	Residual impact score	2	Residual risk rating	4.0

Risk 2

Description	Public opposition to reduction in funding support for theatre, gallery and arts organisations.				
Likelihood score	3	Impact score	1	Risk rating	3.0
Mitigation	Ongoing communication with arts organisations around Powys.				
Residual likelihood score	3	Residual impact score	1	Residual risk rating	3.0

8. Overall summary and judgement

Outline assessment

Reductions in funding for the supported performing arts venues and professional arts organisations in Powys, may result in a decrease in the provision and breadth of activities and events. The ongoing covid-19 pandemic is having a significant impact on arts organisations and the long term impacts are unknown at this stage. A reduction in funding may hinder the ability to continue delivering valued community arts and cultural provision, diminishing the breadth, quality and benefits of cultural services available to the communities of Powys.

Cabinet reference

9. Additional evidence

10. Ongoing monitoring arrangements and governance

Monitoring arrangements

Quarterly monitoring of arts provision and activities.

Review date	31/12/2022
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