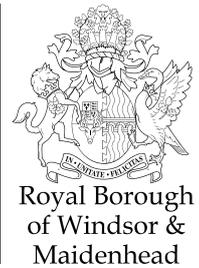


Subject:	Support to Norden Farm Centre for the Arts & Old Court
Reason for briefing note:	To update members on the current situation
Responsible officer(s):	Steph James, Service Lead for Economic Growth
Senior leader sponsor:	Chris Joyce, Head of Infrastructure, Sustainability & Economic Growth
Date:	28/09/21

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SUMMARY

- 1.1 RBWM has supported both Norden Farm and Old Court with annual grants however due to budgetary constraints it was agreed that in 2021/22 both arts centres would receive reduced grants and in 2022/23 grant funding would cease.
- 1.2 An additional pot of £50k was set aside to assist both the arts centres in Maidenhead and Windsor to seek additional funds or appoint consultants to advice on raising additional income. Discussions are on-going with both arts centres.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Both arts centres provide valuable arts, cultural and community benefits to residents and visitors to the borough. Both arts centres have received funding through the Arts Council Cultural Recovery Fund and are both now reopen following the lifting of restrictions.

3 KEY IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 RBWM officers have been holding meetings with Norden Farm and Old Court to discuss their business plan and future operating model since it was confirmed that funding would be reduced and then cut in 2022/23.
- 3.2 Meetings and discussions are currently on-going.

4 DETAILS

- 4.1 The council will continue to work with both art centres to explore options to secure their future viability.

5 RISKS

- 5.1 Without securing additional funding there is a risk that both arts centres could close and there will be no arts provision in the borough for residents.
- 5.2 Within RBWM the arts, entertainment and recreation sector have 4,516 employees (117% above the national average) and the hospitality and tourism sector have 9,437 employees

(35% above the national average). Both sectors have been amongst the most impacted by Covid-19

5.3 Both arts centres also deliver services to borough residents supporting disadvantaged groups in the local community.

6 NEXT STEPS

6.1 Members to receive further update once further discussions have taken place.