

# ArtsMatterNI feedback to briefing on the Northern Ireland Budgetary Outlook (2018-20)

We have chosen to construct a response based on issues and concerns relevant to our sector as discussed and informed by ArtsMatterNI campaign supporters. It should be noted that we are not in the main, identifying other areas of public service and seeking to focus on the Arts and Cultural sphere as much as possible.

# Arts Matter NI

#ArtsMatterNI is an arts advocacy group of professionals, participants and volunteers from across Northern Ireland.

We engage our constituency of interest extensively, prepare submissions; recommend actions and support the separate and powerful responses already made by our colleagues across the sector and urge the government to see the value and benefit of the arts and to grow investment in the arts rather than cut it.

We draw on the popular mandate demonstrated about these proposed cuts, with robust supporting evidence and clear public support.

We lobby and encourage government and political leadership - at all its levels - to understand, absorb and acknowledge the strength of feeling and emotions thus expressed by recognising that the arts are integral to society, not a luxury.

### Arts Matter NI introductory statement

The most recent N Ireland Statistics and Research Agency report states that 91% of our population participate in the arts, that's a staggering 1,680,000 local citizens who enjoy the cultural offering in theatres and venues, community spaces and schools, hospitals and homes. From the organisations who choose to locate their businesses here, to the tourists who come in their droves, it is the promise of vibrant, cultural colour that enhances and attracts. But these promises may soon be broken as the sector reels from the third significant cut in as many years to the Annual Funding Programme (AFP) from our principal funder, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ACNI).

This cut is likely to be in the order of 8%. The AFP and the over 100 key organisations that it supports, in turn represent the essential ecology of the arts in Northern Ireland. It is the bedrock upon which the stewardship of the arts locally is built – supporting everything from orchestras and operas, international festivals to community celebrations and workshops for the vulnerable and disabled, embracing creative, commercial and social entrepreneurs and almost every citizen. Historically underfunded for years, it has nonetheless given core support to a diverse, dynamic and multi-disciplined arts sector.

Despite the concerns of the ACNI and its promises of careful management of severely depleted funding, that arm's length body will have little choice but to slice again into the essential ecology that has struggled to enable artists and arts organisations to perform, entertain, facilitate, educate, celebrate, produce and publish for years. For some however, further torturous slashing of their budgets may signal the final blow.

On the basis of an 8% reduction, exchequer investment in the arts here will plummet further. Colleagues elsewhere in Wales and the Republic of Ireland currently receive, per capita per year, £10.03 and £12.79, respectively, where ours' would struggle to even reach £5.

Despite the UK Treasury announcement last year that Northern Ireland would get an additional £650 million over the next three years, of that £120 million toward day to day expenditure, not a penny extra has come to the smallest and most vulnerable budget, the arts sector.

We have all read the headlines of over £1 billion extra coming, with money being made available now. And despite the Confidence and Supply arrangements promising additional monies to assist with areas that the arts serve and support like 'Health Transformation' and 'Mental Health', the arts are to be cut.

And furthermore, despite executive departments in Northern Ireland bidding in the monitoring rounds last October and often successfully finding additional resources to support beleaguered services, the Department for Communities did not – instead it modelled cuts that the Arts Council of Northern Ireland is now indicatively projecting at 8%.

We know there is some £19 million sitting, waiting to be deployed from a Community Finance Fund, coming from monies recovered from dormant bank accounts. Over £350m has been spent elsewhere in UK – not a penny here due in part to the suspension of our Assembly.

Without a change to this newly projected reduced budget, it means what stands for our local administration will provide every citizen, every day with just over **1p** to enable their access to participate in arts and creativity or 0.07% of all DEL Resources.

Put another way, for every £100 spent, just 7p will go to the arts. If this were to rise by just **a penny**, the additional £1.5 m would go a long way to secure 5,500 jobs in a sector that reaches every nook and cranny of the country and touches the lives of 91% of the population.

We reject these cuts and instead ask for additional investment, at the very least, <u>a penny a day extra for</u> <u>everyone</u>, so that creativity and the enabling culture of hope that it provides, can offer residents and visitors with a reflection of the best of ourselves.

We ask for a strategy that consults and adequately projects the true resource needs of the arts and cultural sector be developed.

We urge the new Secretary of State, Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP, to alter these determinations, meet with our representatives and explore ways to support our sector.

We urge David Sterling, Head of the NI Civil Service and Leo O'Reilly, Permanent Secretary of Dept for **Communities, to consult with us** and develop strategies to properly invest in the creative future of Northern Ireland.

We urge our politicians to recognise the incredible value for money that the arts provide locally and the spectrum of services and supports offered in each and every constituency here.

We urge all colleagues in the arts to actively support this campaign and lobby and advocate at every

opportunity to see these proposed cuts reversed and long term investment secured.

And we urge the public to support our campaign to provide adequate access for all sections of our community to enjoy the benefits of the arts.

As was stated in recent days at the Arts and Business Awards by Séan McGrath, CEO, Allianz Ireland;

"Arts funding is not a cost but an investment. It cannot be vulnerable to short term thinking and like the long term value it creates, it too must be seen as a fundamental, strategic and 'bullet proofed' investment. We can only hope that sense will prevail and that when the decisions are finally taken, funding is at least at 2017 levels or better still, is increased in line with the value it develops.

In any event, the issue of Arts Funding is not an issue that the arts community should be obliged to fight alone and I encourage the business community to join in and to make their voices of support heard.

I say this because this is something that we in the business community should not remain mute on.

Creativity is often the life blood of our business; creativity leads to strong, inclusive vibrant communities from which we derive our revenue. Creativity generates local cultural identity, which is often spun intrinsically into our products and brands. We are all stakeholders in this...we all benefit from its output so logic and common sense suggests that funding should not be cut, but increased."

We happily applaud this statement from a leading business organisation, his endorsement of our collective effort to secure better, more sustainable investment in our sector."

### **Budget Briefing - response suggestions**

The Budget Briefing suggests that the Department for Communities (the portfolio where arts policy is now accommodated) aims to:

- 1. provide a fair system of financial help to those in need
- 2. tackle disadvantage
- 3. promote social and economic equality and personal development
- 4. tackle poverty and social exclusion;
- 5. provide services to encourage effective child maintenance arrangements;
- 6. provide access to decent, affordable, sustainable homes and housing support services;
- 7. improve the physical, economic, community and social environment of neighbourhoods, towns and cities;
- 8. secure excellence and equality across culture, arts and leisure,
- 9. developing a confident, creative, informed and healthy society;
- 10. help people into employment;
- 11. protect, conserve and enhance our diverse built heritage and support principles of sustainable development, so that it can be enjoyed by future generations;
- 12. promote and protect the interests of children, older people, people with disabilities, and other socially excluded groups; and
- 13. provide social security administration.
- 1. In the face of so-called austerity, the arts are most definitely identifiable as precarious. The sustainability of the enterprise of artists, practitioners, craftspeople, participants and arts organisations, has never been more unsure.
- 2. Without a definitive re-affirmation and protection of the central role the arts can and do play, the uncertainty of the arts precariat will only give way to its demise.
- 3. Therefore in terms of return on investment, there have been scores of analyses, economic models and matrices that all suggest the arts punch well above their weight promoting enhanced economic performance.
- 4. Of course, making savings through actions that increase well-being, socially include and develop community cohesion, promote employability, build new, hitherto unheard-of jobs (particularly within the digital sphere), these all have immediate and lasting economic benefit.
- 5. If the administration of public funds and services, or a prospective Assembly department or more particularly, the Department for Communities wishes to "secure excellence and equality across culture, arts and leisure" then cutting funding to the core arts infrastructure as the essential ecology of the arts in Northern Ireland will only guarantee that such a target will never be achieved.
- 6. The expertise and social capital lost in making such year on year cuts, would mean that the future reestablishment of a coherent, diverse and multi-faceted sector would be nigh on impossible without markedly greater levels of financial investment at a future point.

COUNTRY	EXPENDITURE PER CAPITA
Northern Ireland	c£5.00 (2018/19)
Ireland	c £12.79 (2018/19)
Wales	c £10.00 (2018/19)

- 7. However maintaining momentum and indeed investing to resource ambition and actual need would require an additional investment of 3p per person per week (£2.9m) and facilitate the collective ambition of 107 arts organisations supported by the Annual Funding Programme administrated by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland as evidenced in the total amount of funding for which they applied for 2018-19 (c£13m)
- 8. Annual funding to these core infrastructural organisations forms the bedrock upon which the stewardship of the arts locally is built supporting everything from orchestras and operas, international festivals to community celebrations and workshops for the vulnerable and disabled, embracing creative, commercial and social entrepreneurs and almost every citizen.
- 9. Historically underfunded for years, it has nonetheless given core support to a diverse, dynamic and multi-disciplined arts sector and assist all to have the necessary security to seek additional funding support from an array of trusts, foundations, income streams and other funding mechanisms.



10. Total Arts Funding versus Total Annual Funding

Graph above shows that the "headroom" for additional projects beyond the Annual Funding component has reduced markedly over the last 2 decades. Further cuts jeopardise as demonstrated in the graph below, will only reduce the ability to provide additional support and novel funding initiatives further. We have

reached a point where the sector struggles to sustain its core operational capacities and where the funding available struggles to meet need and PFG targets.



Figure 1. Systematic Reductions in Exchequer Funding

#### Six Successive Years of Cuts

Government investment in the Arts has fallen by 30% in cash terms over the last six years, from £14.1m to £9.8m, figure 1, closer to 40% when inflation is taken into account. The consequences of a further reduction is that the Arts Council will not be able to meet existing commitments and it will severely hamper efforts to maintain support to artists and organisations throughout Northern Ireland. Reducing an already fragile Arts budget would have a devastating impact on our cultural infrastructure.

The relative small scale of the Arts budget means that any reduction will be felt more keenly by the frontline service providers. The funding situation for the Arts is worsened by two additional factors. Firstly, the sector has already had to absorb a sizeable reduction in its annual budget with reductions over the past six years. Secondly, the shortage of Exchequer funds has created increased reliance on National Lottery funds to support Arts organisations, at a time when this income source is in decline on account of falling sales of Lottery tickets (figure 2.).



Figure 2. Forecasted Reduction in Lottery Income

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- 11. This critical mass of arts organisations, offers an escalator for individuals and communities, artists, makers and performers, to find way to develop their participation and practice. It offers platforms for volunteers, apprentices and facilitators. It also supports an armature of arts ability that supports new projects from diverse communities to access the necessary skills to support new artistic enterprises.
- 12. The arts have a crucial role in the support of social dialogue and positive imaging and interventions across a range of policy areas supporting initiatives like Together: Building a United Community and the Racial Equality Strategy.
- 13. Alongside, often collaborating with and complementing, is a host of arts and community organisations who all depend on public funding to leverage projects and funding support.
- 14. The financial headroom so to speak that Exchequer funding from the Department offers, provides additional funding opportunities for these groups though National Lottery Arts funding.
- 15. However, given the dramatic downturn in monies coming from the Lottery to support good causes, any cut to Exchequer will have an impact on Lottery funds as well.
- 16. We believe no other sector can correctly claim to have such a wide range of outcomes and intended impact as the arts.
- 17. The arts have the unique ability to creatively and flexibly engage across physical and political barriers, real and imagined, across policies, geographies and histories; across abilities, genders, sexualities and all ages, ethnicities and traditions, in every possible setting, physical and digital.
- 18. No other sector can offer such diversity of engagement and outcome and at the same time, promoting a profoundly nuanced layering of social and community cohesion and raising and supporting the creative ambition of the most marginalised in our community.
- 19. And, <u>at the very same time</u>, promote the profile and global standing of Northern Ireland to a global artistic community and support our tourism offering at home and abroad.

#### VFM

- 20. In terms of values for money, the arts in this context deliver more target outcomes per £1 investment than any other sector.
- 21. Bear in mind that under the ALB cuts scenario of 8%, at 1p per head of population per day, the arts are working across all Department for Communities target areas and many targets within other departmental portfolios, including Health, Infrastructure, Education, Justice, Environment and Rural Affairs.
- 22. The challenge for DFC, is to adequately resource the principal funding of this arts infrastructure, so that all additional outcomes form all other areas departmental portfolios can be achieved.
- 23. The public funding of the arts is by extension the promotion of equality; to facilitate access and the right to participate in the cultural life of the community. By access, we mean much more than physical location, ease of attendance or the price of a ticket.
- 24. The fundamental issue is that the potential of the arts should be enjoyed by all and not only by those with the material resources, educational advantage or family tradition.

25. So beyond having physical access to art locally in our towns, cities and rural areas, we require access to be expertly and sensitively facilitated at crucial points in our lives; within formal and informal education; within our workplaces, care settings, health settings; within our public services; on our broadcasters; at all stages of our educational curriculum; and throughout our economy.

#### **Resource Scenarios**

Do you agree with the proposed basis for protection of some departmental budgets or do you have an alternative suggestion? Do you have a preference for a particular scenario? What are the merits of each scenario? What are the disadvantages of each scenario? Are there centrally held items that should be stopped, reduced or increased?

Implications of budget scenarios

Figure 6.2: DfC Scenarios

#### Scenarios 1 2 3:

**DFC Funding Scenarios** 

Scenario	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2018-19	2019-20			
	£m	£m	£m	%	%			
1	914.7	895	865	<mark>-2.20%</mark>	<mark>-5.40%</mark>			
2	914.7	898	865	<mark>-1.80%</mark>	<mark>-5.40%</mark>			
3	914.7	890	835	<mark>-2.70%</mark>	<mark>-8.70%</mark>			

Correspondence from the Permanent Secretary of DfC in December 2017 sets out the Exchequer funding implications for the Arts Council, as shown in Table 2.

Scenario	2017-18 baseline (£m)	2018-19 (£m)	2019-20 (£m)	% Reduction 2018-19	% Reduction 2019-20
1	9.8	9.5	9.0	-4%	-8%
2	9.8	9.5	9.0	-4%	-8%
3	9.8	9.2	8.7	-7%	-12%

Table 2. ACNI Budget Scenarios

- 26. Re Table 2 above, we in the sector are concerned to learn that somewhat out of step with departmental scenarios, that this indicative budget has already been identified and passed on to the principal funder, The Arts Council of Northern Ireland.
- 27. We are very concerned as a sector that contrary to views that have been shared, the position regarding monies from DFC may have already been decided prior to this budgetary process.
- 28. Arts Matter NI urges that these issues identified by the administration as challenges to maintaining commitments, are mitigated and in fact, additional resources are found to properly invest in these core departmental targets.

- The budget reduction would be passed on to DfC's Arm's Length Bodies and Local Councils. In this scenario the Department would find it difficult to meet commitments in relation to breaking cycles of deprivation, reducing antisocial behaviour and increasing civic participation. Challenges would include:
- maintaining participation in cultural, arts and leisure activities, impacting on the more disadvantaged in society;
- providing opportunities for improving community cohesion and tackling social exclusion and reducing wider social impacts through a fall in volunteer capacity;
- maintaining educational opportunities for those from disadvantaged backgrounds and neglecting community cohesion at local levels;
- sustaining the fabric of social and cultural life and preventing NI from becoming a less attractive place to live in and a less attractive destination for inward investors and tourists;
- addressing pressures in the Housing programme;
- maintaining necessary support to local government and some councils;
- managing security, business continuity, Health and Safety and Estate risks;
- managing any negative impact of reduced regeneration in towns and city centres, and to enable them to attract longer term investment.

### Strategic not Piecemeal

- 29. The Arts and Cultural Sector in Northern Ireland supports the ambition and the outworking of the majority of these departmental aims and targets (and not just those within DFC but also across the gamut of policy areas) through programmes, productions and engagement.
- 30. The areas stipulated have also been supported by organisations and commissioning agencies.

The target areas above have been the subject of a range of activity, including and supporting, this is not a specific list;

- theatre and applied community projects assisting welfare and benefit claimants,
- those seeking housing,
- asylum,
- care,
- educational support,
- disability support,
- across all Section 75 groups;
- high quality public art work and street celebration, arts and spectacle that augment and enhance civic and community regeneration efforts,
- enabling Community Plans from Councils, across rural and urban districts, to explore, promote and implement a range of crucial citizen-focused engagements;
- supporting and enhancing the evening economy in towns and cities, crucial to our tourist offering and to attract FDI.
- 31. For this region to ever hope to become a well-spring for creativity and offer support for opportunities locally, nationally and internationally, we must protect the necessary resources to do so.
- 32. Instead of piecemeal, disproportionately deep cuts, we require a comprehensive policy platform that our society can look to, reflecting our ambition not only for the arts themselves but for our communities and our future.

- 33. For every nation, the quicksilver of our economic renewal will be found in the Creative Economy, where nurturing the ignition and origination of creative ideas is absolutely crucial.
- 34. Any diminution of funding here, informed only by making relatively small cost savings of £1m or £2m within a departmental budget of many billions, will be compounded in the loss of future opportunities, and in so doing, without reflecting on the longer term socio- economic impacts, condemn our arts community and wider society, particularly the most marginalised, to considerably less opportunity than any neighbouring state or devolved administration.
- 35. In Scotland, the arts have been placed within a loner term strategy
  - a. "to ensure our diverse and evolving cultural heritage thrives ... to raise the profile of Scotland at home and abroad and attract increasing numbers of visitors, students and businesses. Our work is predicated on the belief that culture sits at the heart of our quality of life and wellbeing, empowering, enriching and shaping our communities, and creating the right environment and welcome for people to visit, work and study."
- 36. The Scottish government determined to counter the drop in Lottery funding by investing an additional 21% in their arts budget to Creative Scotland and in so doing, recognised the value that the arts bring.
- 37. The Scottish government instead has committed to: develop a Culture Strategy for Scotland that will enable everyone to have the opportunity to take part in, or contribute to, cultural life in Scotland. The strategy is being developed with individuals, artists, organisations and communities across the country and will support the long-term development of culture in Scotland and show how important it is to our future;
- 38. commit provision for Creative Scotland over the next three years so that they can maintain support for the Regular Funding programme in the face of a significant decline in Lottery receipts
- 39. We here require such a strategic policy platform and the necessary supporting investment.

# Centrally Held Budgets (should respond to policy)

- 40. The future well-being of our society in terms of social cohesion, promoting equality, tackling exclusion and social deprivation can be supported alongside a flourishing creative industry sector with a sustainable arts infrastructure that can inspire our educators, our business leaders, visitors, investors, artists, young and old, rich and poor, gay and straight, the worried-well and those challenged by serious illness.
- 41. If we invest, intellectually, politically and financially in our creative capacity, Northern Ireland can be a place that understands the power of the arts in and of themselves and that also has figured out how to translate that power into having meaningful, deep, resonating impact across our whole community.
- 42. Whilst the Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ALB principally charged with supporting the arts) has indicated that it is modelling cuts at 8%, the reality from the Budgetary Scenarios is that this is disproportionately greater than the overall reduction in funding across the department.
- 43. Arts Matter NI fails to understand the logic of recouping additional percentages from the smallest and most competed for budget, when, for example, some other budget areas could be minimally reconfigured by significantly smaller proportions and yield much more in cost savings.
- 44. Rather, Arts Matter NI believe, on behalf of the 91% who enjoy participation, 5,500 arts employees directly (and potentially 30,000 more in the wider Creative Economy here), that further investment in

arts and creativity will pay dividends to our future economy and the highly expert skill sets that success will require.

- 45. In knowledge-based societies, innovation is a key engine of economic growth, and arts education is increasingly considered as a means to foster the skills and attitudes that innovation requires, beyond and above artistic skills and cultural sensitivity. (OECD Art for Art's Sake The Impact of Arts Education (Winner, Goldstein and Vincent-Lancrin, 2013)
- 46. Indeed, OECD (2010), The OECD Innovation Strategy. Getting a Head Start on Tomorrow and OECD (2012), Better Skills, Better Jobs, Better Lives: A Strategic Approach to Skills Policies, both point to the arts having a role in developing a necessary creative faculty within innovation-based societies.
- 47. At present, whilst London sees growth of 18% in the most recent government report on the UK Creative Economy, N Ireland has seen a loss of 11% of jobs in this area.
- 48. We urge the Department to rethink its budget reduction that would be passed on to DfC's Arms Length Bodies (ALBs) (subject to decisions on policy review as set out in Chapter 4).
- 49. We oppose the administration's thinking that some of the ALBs would find it extremely difficult to operate within such reduced budgets and may have to cease operations.
- 50. The sector has and most likely will again, defend the Arms' Length Principle as the most equitable and independent means to distribute public funds.
- 51. Furthermore, the mechanisms for supporting the arts and indeed all publicly beneficial services, should be driven by policy and well-informed, fully-consulted strategic deliberation and assessment not by cutting and then waiting to see who will or won't survive.
- 52. Again, we reiterate, if, we invest more and recognise the value in our creative capacity, Northern Ireland can be a place that understands the power of the arts in and of themselves that is at the heart of our creative community and we can expertly translate that power into having meaningful, deep, resonating impact across our whole community.
- 53. We also draw attention to the reduction in Lottery Funding of the Arts as a result of a decline in Lottery sales. Reductions of monies, 5% year on year, will have a compounding effect on any mooted cuts, reducing grant aid to hosts of projects and creative opportunities and further destabilising the arts sector. This must be factored into our strategic thinking rather than just magnify the challenges for our society to maintain national or international ambitions for the arts.
- 54. #ArtsMatterNI believes that the Arts, and the sector which delivers creatively engaged activity, is a central component of what makes our emerging Northern Irish society, welcoming, vibrant and outward looking and should be valued, championed and invested in.
- 55. The economic and social benefits, from jobs, to reducing social exclusion, from innovative ways of working to combatting racism and sectarianism, are substantial and evidence based, the benefits to health and well-being while, at times, harder to quantify are nevertheless well documented. The reduction of outcomes attributed to the arts with OBA, does not represent the nuance and profundity of supported outcomes produced by this sector.

# Income Generation/Review of Policies

# What are your views on household charges and whether they should be higher in order to provide more funding for public services such as health?

It should be noted that we are not in the main, identifying other areas of public service and seeking to focus on the Arts and Cultural sphere as much as possible.

DFP have outlined a number of ways in which income could be generated these include:

- Increase the regional rate above the cost of inflation
- Increase charging for dental services
- Introduce Health Trust Car parking charges
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- Introduce staff car parking charges for NI Civil Service.
- Develop new controlled parking zones
- Increase Housing Executive rents in line with average Housing Association rents
- Reduce access to Concessionary fares on public transport for the over 60s
- Introduction of charging or means testing for home to school transport
- Increase in higher education fees.
- Introduction of prescription charges
- Charging for domiciliary care and day care
- Removal of Educational Maintenance Allowance
- Reduction in teacher training intakes
- Reduce level or remove altogether industrial de-rating for manufacturing companies
- Reduce/remove small business rates relief
- 56. ArtsMatterNI has drawn attention to additional monies and mechanisms that could be accessed to support the arts locally in the past and advocates a range of potential mechanisms:
- 57. Link investment to a perhaps 10 year strategy to see arts investment reach current EU median per capita level (1.54% of public expenditure and 0.56% of GDP) or over same period reach neighbouring states (£11.40, ie approx. 275% rise over 10 years, equals 12% per annum increase)
- 58. Bring forward innovative tax incentive proposals to benefit creative economy Tax free earnings up to £40k for all creative professionals or projects
- 59. Extend Tax Relief and Exemptions beyond creative industries of TV Film and Animation into all intrinsic and applied arts activity in N Ireland
- 60. Configure and deploy monies from dormant bank account scheme, as Community Investment in the Arts accessing 50% of the current pot of £19.2M
- 61. VAT exempt all arts and creative activities through more inclusive registering scheme.
- 62. Bring forward Percentage Art Scheme, and levy all and all capital regeneration projects to support arts development
- 63. Give Councils additional tax incentives to invest more rate-payers money into local arts and cultural activity.

# Given current pressures, are there services which are currently being provided for free or subsidised that should attract a charge?

- 64. We encourage policy development that recognises the ability and opportunity that the arts and culture sector can play in promoting social and economic goals through local engagement, attracting tourists, the development of talent and innovation, supporting education and skills development, improving health and wellbeing, contributing to the local and national economy, attracting investment, tourists and talent, and delivering a host of other supporting services across a diverse range of needs and interests.
- 65. All appropriate and necessary investment should be predicated on a strategy that should seek to ensure our diverse and often contested cultural heritage is explore and celebrated;
- 66. to raise the profile of the arts and cultural sector at home and abroad
- 67. to attract increasing numbers of visitors, students and businesses
- 68. to ensure that culture and arts sit at the heart of our communities, our collective quality of life and our promotion of wellbeing: empowering the generations, enabling our communities and enriching our lives;
- 69. to create and supportive creative haven, capable of attracting talent and reflecting the best of ourselves to the world.

*Do you believe we should be charged the same for services as in other parts of the UK?* **We direct you to earlier responses** 

What existing policies do you think should be reviewed in order to provide more funding for public services such as health?

We direct you to earlier responses

Arts Matter here – empowering the generations, enabling our communities and enriching our lives.



Stop the cuts,

Find the money,

Fund the arts