

East Herts Council

Date: 11th August 2026

Report by: Hilary Marsh

Report title: Published decisions for Arts in East Herts 2026

Ward(s) affected: All

Summary

To seek approval to award £19,503 of grants using funds raised via East Herts Lottery. The grants are awarded to artists to support the running cost of taking part in Arts in East Herts 2026. Arts in East Herts is an annual showcase event run between September and October to encourage people who live, work and play in East Herts to engage with local arts offerings. The Director for Communities is using the delegation in the Constitution 10.13.23 to devise and administer arrangements for distributing grants to improve the health and wellbeing of local people.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DECISION:

That: Director of Communities

£19,503 of East Herts Lottery funds are awarded to:

- 1) & by Donna Reeves £800
- 2) All Sorts Dementia Group CIO £800
- 3) ArtVibe Community £800
- 4) Becky Harley £800
- 5) Bishop's Stortford Arts Society £776
- 6) Bishop's Stortford College £800
- 7) Bishop's Stortford Sinfonia £800
- 8) Bryony Applegate £800
- 9) Buntingford Writers Group £360
- 10) Drawing Voices £794
- 11) Eloise Pilbeam £800
- 12) Hazel Russell £800
- 13) Hertford Art Society £800
- 14) Hertford Regional College £800
- 15) Herts Building Preservation Trust (Much Hadham Forge Museum) £600
- 16) Herts Book Festival £800
- 17) Jade Dawn Designs £800
- 18) Lauren Wilson (on behalf of Ore Projects) £800
- 19) Manic Ceramics £800

- 20) Master Art Workshops £800
- 21) Much Hadham Drama Group £577
- 22) Olha Revina £800
- 23) Parsonage Residents Association £500
- 24) Rubino Wilson £800
- 25) Sarah Hollis £396
- 26) St James Church, High Wych £500
- 27) Standon Sings £450
- 28) Ware & District Photographic Society £150

1.0 Proposal(s)

1.1

- a) That the council awards a total of £19,503 grants to local artists to deliver arts workshops across the district throughout the months of September and October 2026 under the branding of Arts in East Herts 2026.

2.0 Background

2.1

- a) The grant scheme for Arts in East Herts 2026 was live on the council's website from Tuesday 23rd June to 12pm on Monday 20th July 2026 to ensure potential applicants had a month to apply.
- b) The grant scheme was promoted via the council's social media channels and through direct mailing to previous participants of Arts in East Herts
- c) The scoring process was the same format to previous years that benefited artists that were new to Arts in East Herts, and applicants that could reach a larger number of attendees, thus ensuring value for money, whilst encouraging new artists that hadn't taken part before. This approach ensures there are even more artists engaged in this concept, before it is potentially handed over to an arts charity from 2027 onwards
- d) The Executive Member for Communities reviewed a summary of proposed applicants and confirmed agreement on 10th August 2026.

3.0 Reason

- 3.1 All applications align to the aims of Arts in East Herts to provide opportunities for people that live, work and play in the district to engage with various art forms across the district.

4.0 Options

- 4.1 Do not fund these grants and recognise the increased possibility of the council not aligning to its cultural strategy of providing support to enhancing people's health and wellbeing through the arts NOT RECOMMENDED

Fund these grants to ensure Arts in East Herts 2026 can go ahead and ensure continuity of the showcase event for another year. RECOMMENDED

5.0 Risks

- 5.1 As Arts in East Herts is live for a limited timeframe (Sept and Oct '26) the risk of overrunning is minimal; however, the greater risk is all grants awarded not being fully draw down. Any unspent funds can be carried over into financial year 27/28

6.0 Implications/Consultations

6.1

Community Safety

No

Data Protection

Sensitive personal data collected from grant applicants will not be shared with third parties. Data on number of participants attending events will be numerical based and will not contain any personal data on individuals

Equalities

The grant application process was online and available to the general public. The scheme was advertised through council channels such as social media, Network e-newsletter (circa 6500) and through MIB. Where requested a Word version of the grant application form was prepared for an applicant on request.

Environmental Sustainability

No

Financial

The pot of funding available comprises of £10,000 brought forward from financial year 25/26 and included as part of the council's finalised budget on 4th March 2026. A further £10,000 allocation in financial year 2026/27 was included in the council's budget finalised on 4th March 2026

Health and Safety

All artists are instructed to ensure their activities are delivered in a secure and safe setting

Human Resources

No

Human Rights

No

Legal

Successful recipients will receive a grant offer letter up front and funds will only be paid after activities have been delivered and outcome information and supporting evidence of spend (invoice and receipts) have been submitted to the council.

Specific Wards

No

7.0 Background papers, appendices and other relevant material

Contact Member

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