

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

Report to: Cllr Florian Chevoppe-Verdier, Cabinet Member for Public Realm

Date: 23 September 2025

Subject: KINGS CORONATION YOUTH FUND GRANTS 2025/26

Report author: Val Birchall, Assistant Director – Culture Tourism & Sport

Responsible Director: Mark Raisbeck, Director of Public Realm

SUMMARY

The Kings Coronation Youth Fund was established by the Council in April 2023 to mark the accession of King Charles III and to reflect his commitment to supporting young people, especially those with fewer life opportunities. The grant funding awards recommended in this report have been processed through an open access scheme with clear criteria linked to the Council's strategic objectives. All eligible applicants have been recommended for funding. The recommended funding, totalling £429,537, provides support for time-limited opportunities for young people aged 0-25 to participate in arts and sports projects in the period ending December 2026 and does not create ongoing financial commitments for the Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To approve grants set out in Appendix 1, subject to the conditions detailed in Appendix 2, at a total cost of £429,537 to be met from developer contributions allocated to the Kings Coronation Youth Fund.
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Wards Affected: All

Our Values	Summary of how this report aligns to the H&F Corporate Plan and the H&F Values
Building shared prosperity	This report recommends grant funding towards 21 projects delivered by not-for-profit organisations based in the Borough. The Corporate Plan specifically seeks to build a better future for children and young people and the recommendations in this report provide a range of activities to enrich their lives, increase their skills and confidence and improve their health and wellbeing.
Creating a compassionate and inclusive council	The activities proposed address differences in opportunity to participate in culture and sport, experienced by groups of residents with protected

	characteristics, including activities for young people with disabilities and young people from diverse backgrounds.
Doing things with local residents, not to them	Recommendations in the report directly respond to the Cultural Strategy, which originated in the Arts Commission. Proposals for both sports and arts are required to be co-produced with the community, and funded projects include opportunities for young people to take “shadow” roles, building their skills as leaders.
Being ruthlessly financially efficient	Proposals are required to demonstrate match funding, including cash contribution from sources outside the Council.
Taking pride in H&F	Activities will specifically address the objective to increase arts and cultural opportunities for all young people by working with partners
Rising to the challenge of the climate and ecological emergency	The proposals will improve active lifestyles, contributing to improved use of parks and leisure facilities.

Financial Impact

The Council has committed £2.25m in external funding (developer contributions) to The King’s Coronation Youth Fund. Of this, £0.70m has already been awarded to 26 community organisations (Cabinet report 4 September 2023). This report recommends a second round of grant awards to 33 community organisations with a total one-off cost of £429,537 in 2025/26 (as set out in Appendix 1).

The balance of £1.1m will be made available for other projects and subsequent application rounds in 2025/26 and 2026/27.

Kellie Gooch, Head of Finance (Place), 6 August 2025

Verified by James Newman, Assistant Director of Finance (Deputy S.151 Officer), 6 August 2025

Legal Implications

This report recommends that grants are given to the organisations supporting young people in the arts and sports using s106 and CIL Funding. Section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides the power to contribute to the cost of the development and improvement of knowledge, understanding and practice of the arts. The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 provides the power to assist in providing funding for sports and leisure activities.

The giving of grants is regulated by the Council’s Financial Regulations. F36 lists the key controls including the need to check conflicts of interest etc.

Grants of less than £20,000 can be approved by the SLT Member. Grants of more than £20,000 must be approved by the Cabinet Member (FR37).

The decision is a Key Decision.

Angela Hogan, Chief Solicitor (Contracts and Procurement) 4th August 2025

Background Papers Used in Preparing This Report

None

DETAILED ANALYSIS

1. Evidence suggests there are many benefits to participating in leisure and cultural activities. For younger children, early access to a wide range of activities enriches their lives and encourages social skills. For older young people, it could also lead to a lifelong interest or hobby, to further study, a career in the local innovation economy or be the means to improve their wellbeing, confidence and pride.
2. The Council's Kings Coronation Youth Fund grant scheme for funding towards cultural activities for children and young people closed to applications on 16th June 2025 and for sports activities on 23 June 2025. This fund specifically seeks to improve the lives of young people 0-25 living in the Borough, by providing high quality time-limited project opportunities for them in their communities. The intention is to inspire young people, develop their skills and interest, acknowledge their achievements and provide them with clearly identified pathways to take their passions to the next level.
3. Following a period of public roadshows and advice surgeries from officers, applications were received from 33 organisations, of which 12 did not meet the eligibility criteria for the scheme and therefore could not be recommended for funding.
4. A total of £400,000 was available to support cultural projects with awards between £10,000 and £50,000. To be eligible, applicants must be arts organisations based within the Borough as an additional aim of the scheme is to build capacity in the local cultural sector.
5. A total of £200,000 was available to support sports projects with awards between £10,000 and £50,000. A second round for sports projects is planned for the Autumn.
6. Activities must be led by appropriately qualified professionals, paid at recognised rates, be co-designed with H&F residents to ensure they are relevant to local needs, be time-limited and finish by the end of December 2026, deliver defined outcomes and demonstrate genuine partnerships. All applicants must submit policies for safeguarding and equalities, as well as financial procedures, whistleblowing and health and safety policies to the satisfaction of officers.
7. Priority is given to projects which lever in additional funding from other sources, have the potential to embed the local voice in future developments, include clear plans for young people taking part to progress to further opportunities locally, provide paid

opportunities for young people (aged 18+) to work alongside established professionals, and have the potential to be embedded in the locality beyond the lifespan of the programme.

8. The applications recommended in this report create a portfolio of funded projects with a balance of age groups, geography, accessibility and types of activity.
9. Conditions are attached to awards as required to provide assurance of good quality planning and delivery and to enable effective monitoring. Conditions on awards are set out in Appendix 2.

Proposals and Analysis of Options

10. The Council does not deliver arts activities directly; the primary mechanism is through funding to third parties. This scheme has been developed in order to commission activities which deliver against the agreed cultural strategy, using an open access and transparent process which compares proposals against published criteria.
11. For sports and physical activity, the scheme supports local providers and creates opportunities address the needs of groups who are currently less physically active. It will provide paid opportunities for shadow sports leaders (aged 18+) to work alongside experienced professionals. Criteria for the remaining round of sports projects will reflect the outcome of further work on the Active Wellbeing strategy and will enable some of the applicants who were ineligible for the current round to reapply.
12. Officers have assessed applications and these assessments, including the recommended awards and conditions of grant aid, have been reviewed by a panel of senior officers from Children's Services, Culture and Economic Development. Alternatives to the recommendations in this report would be to award grants to different organisations, to award different amounts or to attach different conditions or not to award grants. These options introduce risks to the integrity, transparency and fairness of the process and therefore are not recommended.

Reasons for Decision

13. To support provision of cultural and sporting activities for children and young people which contributes to the Corporate Plan objective of Making H&F a Great Place to Live, Work and Thrive. Specifically, the activities will deliver cultural programmes in support of the Cultural Strategy, bringing together our world class culture, creativity, and community arts, reflecting our diverse heritage, and animating our high streets, parks and public buildings. The sporting activities will support improvements in young people's wellbeing, linked to the Health & Wellbeing strategy. Successful applications will deliver sessions for disabled children and target teenagers, particularly young women, addressing the needs of groups who are currently less physically active.

Equality Implications

14. An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed (Appendix 3). There are no adverse differential impacts identified; activities have been commissioned to address inequalities as set out in the funding prospectus. The Kings Coronation Youth Fund grant scheme is an open access process with clear criteria. Applicants have been supported to develop high quality proposals through roadshows and advice surgeries, to ensure a wide range of proposals which meet the needs of young people from a variety of backgrounds and address inequality of provision. Several of the proposals recommended are specialist provision for young people with disabilities. Recommendations ensure a spread across the Borough's geography and communities, and participants who will benefit from activities range from early years to 25 year-olds.

Analysis of impacts on equality will be included in the evaluation of the scheme and used to inform future rounds.

Yvonne Okiyo, Strategic Lead for Equality Diversity & Inclusion, 07 August 2025

Risk Management Implications

15. The programme is being funded from developer contributions and any future programmes will be dependent on on-going contributions (the Council generates significant such contributions and these are expected to continue). The programme included a clear assessment framework and proposed awards were reviewed by a senior group of officers. As such, there are no procurement risks and as these are grant awards (subject to conditions), it is not expected that any challenges will arise.

Jules Binney, Risk and Assurance Manager, 5th August 2025

Climate and Ecological Emergency Implications

16. The activities recommended for grant funding include activities for children and young people 0-25 which encourage increased physical activity which is consistent with our objectives of increasing active travel and of utilising our green and public spaces more effectively as local public assets.

Charlotte Slaven, Head of Climate Strategy & Engagement, 6th August 2025.

Commercial

17. The organisations which are eligible for the scheme must demonstrate a trading history, must be based in the Borough and must include delivery of arts within their constitutional objectives. The recommendations in this report support 21 local not-for-profit organisations by providing funding towards delivery of projects which they have developed in partnership with local residents.

Consultation

18. The principles underlying these recommendations form part of the delivery of the Cultural Strategy which was adopted by the Council in October 2023, following a period of co-production and consultation. The funding of cultural activities for children and young people through grants which aim to address unequal access to provision for certain groups, and the inclusion of a requirement for publicly facing activities to take place during a Borough-wide festival of young people's culture in 2026 are central to the plans of the Where Culture Connects compact, which is the Council's principal stakeholder partnership for culture.
19. For the sports grants, consultation has taken place during the development phase of the Active Wellbeing strategy (which is currently being finalised into an action plan). Consultation responses have focussed on key target groups currently not taking part in any form of activity, since residents who are inactive have the greatest potential wellbeing gains from becoming even minimally active. Although the applications received were spread across the whole Borough, the grants recommended will result in an increase of sessions in the North in particular, as this is where activity levels are lowest.

LIST OF APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – recommended awards
Appendix 2 – recommended conditions
Appendix 3 – Equality Impact Assessment

