



Scottish Arts Council

CFO name: Edinburgh Festival Fringe (EFF)	Reference number: (GMS):G200801097
Lead officer's recommendation	
<p>Edinburgh Festival Fringe (EFF) (as part of the Summer Edinburgh Festivals) has a significant national and international reputation. Its audiences and numbers of performers have increased incrementally over the past five years and are large. The success of the Fringe in a sense is contributing to its current challenges which have resulted in the Board undertaking an internal management review. Additionally the Thundering Hooves Report will consider the levels of competition EFF and the Edinburgh festivals face and make recommendations on how to meet these challenges. Many of these areas concern the city and country's infrastructure and are outwith the remit of EFF, though EFF is significantly affected by them. Unfortunately neither of these reports are finalised which makes it difficult to judge the impact their recommendations could have on EFF.</p> <p>Under standstill or optimum funding I would propose that the relationship between EFF and Scottish Arts Council changes. I do not think that core funding (especially when considering the very low level of funding provided and the small contribution this makes to EFF's income) is the most appropriate way forward. EFF has the potential to deliver specifically on Scottish Arts Council International policy area and I would propose that this area of work be supported by Scottish Arts Council.</p> <p>Given the significant economic impact EFF has on Edinburgh I would suggest that the appropriate bodies for dealing with the challenges EFF has from competition and inadequate infrastructure should be met by non-arts focussed bodies e.g. City of Edinburgh Council, Visit Scotland, Scottish Executive.</p>	
Assessment:	Med
Areas of concern: Implementation (or not) of Thundering Hooves report; international competition; future financial stability; infrastructure (NB Some of these areas are beyond EFF's control but could have a significant impact on it.)	
Development issues: international and national promoter liaison; (possibly) outcomes of Thundering Hooves report; Board development; implementation of EFF's internal management review; addressing projected 2005 year end deficit.	
Lead Officer: Jaine Lumsden	Date: 30/11/2005
Print name:	

Decision and authorisation			
CFO name: Edinburgh Festival Fringe		Reference number (GMS): G20081097	
Stage 2: Head of Department recommendation within the context of the sector ecosystem			
Category for support	Essential		
<p>The officer's rating is medium, and this reflects the uncertainty relating to the Thundering Hooves report and the Fringe's own internal review. This does not reflect the achievement of the organisation, which is uniquely significant. While the organisation is patently essential to the performing arts in Scotland, the issue is whether Scottish Arts Council core findings appropriate, given the small level of funding currently awarded. Core Funding status places a disproportionate administrative burden on both Scottish Arts Council and the Fringe. Subject to the outcomes of both reports referred to above, Scottish Arts Council should re-consider its relationship with the Fringe.</p>			
Decision authorised: Head of Department David Taylor Print name:		Date 1 December 2005	

Stage 3: Head of Department recommendation within the context of the Corporate Synthesised scenario			
CFO name: Edinburgh Festival Fringe		Reference number (GMS): G200801097	
Category for support		Flexible (Projects)	
<p>While the Festival Fringe is a nationally and internationally significant organisation, the financial allocation from Scottish Arts Council to this organisation in relation to its overall turnover is minimal, and so the demands made on the Fringe, and Scottish Arts Council, as a consequence of it being a CFO, or Foundation organisation are disproportionate. It is therefore recommended that it be considered for project funding and that the scope for this be explored between Scottish Arts Council officers and the Fringe.</p>			
Recommendation authorised: Head of Department Print name: David Taylor		Date 14 February 2006	

Stage 4: Group Heads			
Recommendation and authorisation			
CFO name: Edinburgh Festival Fringe		Reference number (GMS): G200801097	
Category for support		Flexible	
<p>Agree with the recommendation for flexible funding status and that the scope for project funding be explored between Scottish Arts Council officers and the Fringe.</p>			
<p>Decision authorised:</p> <p>Group Head Date 14.02.06 Print name: Jim Tough</p>			

Stage 5: Creative Arts / Performing Arts Committee			
Recommendation and authorisation			
CFO name: Edinburgh Festival Fringe		Reference number (GMS): G200801097	
Category for support		Flexible	
<p>Agreed as per Manager/Group Heads recommendations.</p>			
<p>Committee Chair Date 06 February 2006 Print name: Jennifer Waterton</p>			

Stage 6: Council			
Decision			
CFO name: Edinburgh Festival Fringe		Reference number (GMS): G200801097	
Category for support		Flexible (Project)	
Approved flexible (project) funding as per Managers/Group Heads and Committee recommendations			
Chairman Print name: Richard Holloway		Date 28 February 2006	

End of Assessment