

23 December 2022

Detailed implementation plans should be published for the Arts and Heritage Strategies

Comptroller and Auditor General issues latest report

Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG), Lynn Pamment, has today, 23 December 2022 published a report on **Grants to Arts, Heritage and Culture Organisations**.

The report focusses on the effectiveness of the plans and processes in place to implement and monitor delivery of the new Arts and Heritage Strategies. It also considers the adequacy of Government arrangements to award grants to and to oversee arts, heritage and cultural organisations. In 2022 grants to four arts, heritage and cultural organisations totalled £7.5 million, the comparative figure in 2020 was £4.8 million.

Lynn Pamment found that the Government has expressed a clear commitment to arts, heritage and culture through investing 1% of Governmental net revenue spend from 2022. Detailed strategies for both arts and heritage were launched in 2022.

The C&AG notes that both strategies are ambitious but found that detailed, costed implementation plans have not yet been developed to support either strategy.

While Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) have been developed for both arts and heritage, they require review. The KPIs should be measurable and should inform a judgment on the added value delivered by both sectors following the additional Government investment.

The C&G found that appraisal processes for the award of grants have not been revised to reflect the new strategies and the greater expectations that should arise from additional funding.

Fiscal Stimulus Fund bids for refurbishment of the Opera House and Arts Centre were approved in 2021 when it was evident that meeting the deadline for spending the grants would be challenging. The C&AG notes that ultimately both failed to meet the deadline.

Capital investment of £5.7 million has been agreed for Elizabeth Castle from 2022. The C&AG found that the business case for this demonstrates good practice.

Lynn Pamment said:

“The Arts and Heritage Strategies were prepared after the additional Government investment in the sectors was agreed and allocated for 2022. Without detailed, costed and prioritised implementation plans, it is not possible to demonstrate that the ambitious strategies are deliverable.

The Government should agree stretched targets with Arm’s Length Bodies which are in receipt of additional grant funding that demonstrate delivery of key aspects of the Arts and Heritage Strategies.

A clear plan is required to deliver the identified refurbishment needs at the Opera House and Arts Centre. Roles and responsibilities for future maintenance at the Opera House must be determined and agreed.”

The report *Grants to Arts, Heritage and Culture Organisations* can be found at: <https://www.jerseyauditoffice.je>

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- The Office of Comptroller and Auditor General is known as the ‘Jersey Audit Office’.
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