

Report to: Greater Manchester Chief Executives

Subject: Closure of the Section 48 AGMA Grants Scheme

Report of: Alison Gordon, Assistant Director, GMCA

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In early 2016, Leaders indicated that they wished to review options to move the Section 48 scheme to the GMCA, such a move being consistent with wider reviews and changes arising since the establishment of the GMCA and subsequent devolution deals. The option favoured was closure of the Section 48 scheme in conjunction with the establishment of a new programme for culture under the GMCA in 2018/19 after year 3 of the current funding cycle of the AGMA scheme closes in 2017/18.

2.0 Section 48 Consultation

- 2.1 Over summer 2017, Greater Manchester's ten local authorities authorised GMCA to consult on the potential closure of the AGMA Section 48 Grants programme, alongside a consultation on its replacement by a new Culture and Social Impact scheme under GMCA.
- 2.2 On 27th October 2017, the Joint GMCA/AGMA Board meeting agreed the report attached, detailing the consultation exercise and its outcome. The Joint GMCA/AGMA Board members recommended Greater Manchester local authority districts should agree to close the Section 48 Grants programme, noting it will be replaced by a new GMCA Culture and Social Impact Fund from April 2018.

3.0 Next Steps

- 3.1 I would be grateful if you could seek the agreement of your Executive to the closure of the AGMA Section 48 grants programme. This will be replaced with a similar GMCA Culture and Social Impact Fund from April 2018.
- 3.2 Please note that if closure is agreed by all (or in the absence of agreement, a majority of) the constituent Councils, that due to the legislative requirements relating to the closure of a scheme established under Section 48 of the 1985 Act, the closure of the scheme would not occur until the end of the financial year AFTER that in which the decision to close the scheme was made.
- 3.3 This means there would be a need for a further year beyond the current AGMA S48 2015/18 funding cycle in which the AGMA Section 48 scheme would remain in existence, in line with the legislative requirements concerning closure of the scheme. However, as the replacement GMCA Culture and Social Impact Fund will be in place from April 2018, it is possible to zero fund the final year of the Section 48 scheme so as to avoid any overlap in provision.