

## Freedom of Information – Response – 27543

Please can you furnish me with the following information held by Suffolk County Council.

1. How the 100k pot for the Arts in Suffolk ( replacing core funding) has been spent?
2. How many bids were submitted?
- 3 How many were approved?

Suffolk County Council (SCC) does not hold this information as we have been unable to identify a '100k pot for the Arts in Suffolk. If you can provide us with more details relating to what you are referring to, we would be more than happy to revisit this part of the request.

4. How the £500k 2025 Culture Project Fund was allocated?

Medium and large [grants awarded](#) are published on the SCC website [here](#). List of small grants awarded is as follows:

<b>Culture Project Fund - Small Grants 2026-27</b>	
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Awarded</b>
East Anglia Transport Museum	£1,500
The Sutton Hoo Ship Company	£1,500
Brandon Heritage Centre	£660
Alice Stallard	£1,500
Reuben van Tankeren	£1,500
Bury St Edmunds Literature Festival	£1,500
Lucy Keany	£1,500
Great War Huts	£845
East Suffolk Community Folk Orchestra	1,500
Kinetica Dance Collective (KDC)	£1,500
Roly Poly	£1,500
Landguard Fort	£1,500
Tony Bone	1,250
Status Creative CIC	£1,500
Sarah Garrod	£1,500
Halesworth to Southwold Narrow Gauge Railway	£800
The Artful Leopard	£1,500
Ben Macpherson	£1,500
Woodbridge Museum	£1,500
Haverhill Local History Museum	£1,000
East Anglia Traditional Art Centre	£1,500
Young Artists in Suffolk	£1,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>£30,055</b>

5. Who submitted bids?

Suffolk County Council (SCC) can confirm that this information is held however, it is being withheld under s.43 Commercial Interests, of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA.)

s.43 provides an exemption where disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person or organisation. The Information Commissioner's Officer (ICO) explains that a commercial interest relates to an organisation's ability to participate competitively in a commercial activity and recognises that public authorities may hold commercially sensitive information generated through bidding, tendering and grant assessment processes.

Disclosing the identities of organisations that submitted unsuccessful bids would be likely to prejudice their commercial interests as public disclosure could reveal details about organisations funding strategies, future business plans, areas of work and aspirations for development funding, which could be used by competitors when pursuing similar funding opportunities or deter other organisations from providing them with funding.

s.43 is a qualified exemption and whilst demonstrating the harm that would likely occur should this information be released, we also must consider the public interest test before the exemption can be engaged.

Factors in favour of release:

- Enables public scrutiny of the application and assessment process.
- Assists understanding of the level of interest in the funding programme.

Factors in favour of withholding:

- Protects the commercial interests of organisations that chose to apply for funding but were unsuccessful.
- Prevents potential competitive disadvantage arising from disclosure of participation in a funding process.
- Encourages organisations to engage openly with future funding opportunities without concern that their unsuccessful applications and funding ambitions will be publicly disclosed.
- SCC has released the names of the successful applicants and funding amounts which provides transparency around the spending of public funds and reduces the public interest in disclosing the identities of unsuccessful applicants whose commercial interest could be adversely affected by disclosure.

With these factors in mind SCC considers that the public interest in protecting the commercial interests of unsuccessful applicants outweighs the public interest in disclosure and therefore we will be withholding the organisations names.

*6. Which Companies were approved?*

*7. How much was allocated to each approved submission?*

Please see response to Q4.