

**MEETING: 31/01/2019**

**Ref: 14712**

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Older Londoners**

**English National Ballet**

**Adv: Claran Rafferty  
Base: Kensington & Chelsea  
Benefit: Tower Hamlets;  
Hounslow**

**Amount requested: £129,797**

**Amount recommended: £130,000**

**The Applicant**

English National Ballet (ENB), established in 1950, will be well known to everyone and is a registered charity and company. Its mission is to take world-class ballet to the widest possible audience and, as a charity, it takes seriously its public benefit responsibility through, for example, its pricing policy and its community programmes. Tamara Rojo CBE is the current Artistic Director.

**The Application**

This application is for funds to support ENB's community programme, specifically to engage older people in two boroughs (Tower Hamlets and Hounslow) in dance. The majority of the charity's community programme is focused on engaging older people, using participation in dance to achieve proven health and wellbeing outcomes (they currently run a "Dance for Parkinson's project for example - <https://www.ballet.org.uk/project/dance-for-parkinsons/> ). This project will target two boroughs where ENB has an established footprint and links with local agencies, to help it reach those who are isolated and who would benefit most from a supportive and professionally delivered programme.

**The Recommendation**

ENB has an excellent track record in engaging wider communities, particularly older people, in dance and related activity – to improve health and wellbeing and to reduce isolation and increase social networks and contacts. Skills learned in improved balance and coordination also help older people avoid falls. This proposal is to build on pilot projects delivered in 2017 and will provide year-round programmes in Tower Hamlets and in Hounslow, where the charity has had a long-standing presence. It will use existing contacts with community organisations and partners in those boroughs to engage participants. The charity has a commitment to providing high-quality programmes. A grant is advised:

***£130,000 over three years (£42,000; £44,000; £44,000) for the costs of providing older people's dance programmes in Tower Hamlets and Hounslow.***

**Funding History**

None

**Background and detail of proposal**

In 2019 ENB will be moving from its current home in Kensington Gore to purpose-built premises in the City Island development in Canning Town. The new facility will have a dedicated studio for its community projects, which will be a fantastic resource and which will ensure that those engaged in the charity's community programmes will have access to the best possible facilities and resources.

Previous work with older people – such as the Dance for Parkinson's project – have been academically evaluated and demonstrate the positive impact that such interventions can have, on both physical and mental health. In the third year of this project, should you support it, ENB will hold a symposium for other professionals in the dance and health sectors, to share learning on the practicalities and benefits of engaging older people in dance. The organisation has a commitment to continuous learning in its projects, to ensure that they can deliver the best possible experience and outcomes for participants.

### **Financial Information**

The organisation has a very unusual reserves policy in that it considers its policy in terms of unrestricted funds (ie including fixed assets) rather than *free* unrestricted reserves. (This approach is not in keeping with the SORP which has been pointed out to them.) That being so this explains the significant differences in the table below in relation to the free reserves held against their stated policy level which, currently, is to hold £2.5m in unrestricted funds.

The sale of their current premises (Markova House) prior to the move into their new premises in East London in early 2019 has impacted the operational finances of the charity and resulted in the negative free reserves position shown in the table below. Works on the new premises have been undertaken only when the necessary funds have been raised or pledged, although this has required careful cash-flow management, underpinned by a £1.5m short-term bank loan which will be repaid in February. The current transition period has also led to the negative free reserves positions as shown in the table – however the charity will eventually return to a position of positive free reserves, particularly when the c.£3.5m funds from the sale of the old premises are received in late January/early February 2019.

The charity has been carefully and cautiously managing this major transition period and your officers are reassured by the steps taken, all of which should see the organisation return to a better financial position in the near future.

<b>Year end as at 31 March</b>			
	<b>Audited Accounts</b>	<b>Audited Accounts</b>	<b>Budget 2019</b>
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Income &amp; expenditure:</b>			
Income	16,831,000	17,824,000	20,834,000
- % of Income confirmed as at 30/11/18	n/a	100%	41%
Expenditure	(16,721,000)	(16,296,000)	(17,508,000)
<b>Total surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>110,000</b>	<b>1,528,000</b>	<b>3,326,000</b>
<b>Split between:</b>			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	(285,000)	1,758,000	3,743,000
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	395,000	(230,000)	(417,000)
	<b>110,000</b>	<b>1,528,000</b>	<b>3,326,000</b>
<b>Cost of Raising Funds</b>	<b>882,000</b>	<b>1,056,000</b>	<b>999,000</b>
- % of Income	5.2%	5.9%	4.8%
Operating expenditure	16,721,000	16,296,000	17,508,000
<b>Free unrestricted reserves:</b>			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	808,000	(253,000)	(670,000)
No of months of operating expenditure	0.6	-0.2	-0.5
Reserves policy target	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
No of months of operating expenditure	1.8	1.8	1.7
Free reserves over/(under) target	(1,692,000)	(2,753,000)	(3,170,000)

