

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: Service Director, Place, Regeneration and Culture

TITLE: Cultural Development Funding Round 2 – Acceptance of Grant

REPORT TO:	CABINET
Date of Meeting	18 May 2022
Cabinet Member Portfolio	Regeneration and Culture
Key Decision	Yes
Public or Private	Public

Purpose of report

To gain cabinet approval to accept grant of £3,930,000 from the Cultural Development Fund allocated by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and administered by Arts Council England (ACE) for the project Elsecar: Forging Ahead and to approve the initiation of that project.

Council Plan priority

This funding supports the priorities of the Council Plan 2021-2024, especially those of Growing Barnsley and Sustainable Barnsley. It also directly supports two of the outcomes:

- People have a welcoming, safe and enjoyable town centre and principal towns as destinations for work, shopping, leisure and culture;
- Business start ups and existing local businesses are supported to grow and attract new investment, providing opportunities for all.

Recommendations

That Cabinet agrees:-

- 1.** To accept the funding and approve the initiation of the project
- 2.** To authorise the Executive Director to take all necessary steps, in accordance with the grant conditions, to commence procurements and spend for the delivery of the project, including relating to the project design team and works contracts.
- 3.** To authorise the Executive Director (Place) place to take any necessary steps to enable the capital works to be delivered as part of this funded project, including varying or otherwise dealing with existing contractual and property arrangements.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Cultural Development Fund is a Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) fund administered by Arts Council England (ACE). ACE are responsible for providing pre-application advice, assessment of applications, and the payment and monitoring of grants. All decisions on successful applicants have been made by the Secretary of State for DCMS.
- 1.2 The aim of the fund is to level up through investment in culture. The fund will unlock local growth and productivity, promote economic and social recovery from the impact of Covid-19, and regenerate communities through capital investment in transformative place-based creative and cultural initiatives. This is the second round of the fund and builds on the success of the pilot, which was originally launched as part of the Creative Industries Sector deal in 2018.

This pilot invested in five projects in Grimsby, Plymouth, the Thames Estuary and Wakefield.

- 1.3 The Fund supports places to achieve the following outcomes:
 - Unlock local economic growth and productivity
 - Become more attractive places in which to live, work, visit and invest
 - Strengthen local leadership, partnerships and capability

2. PROPOSAL

- 2.1 Barnsley Museums and the Economic Regeneration team submitted an application to the second round of the Cultural Development Fund for £3,930,000 to deliver a three year programme will: drive cultural connectivity and participation both physically and digitally; boost Barnsley's cultural and creative sectors and employment; forge new local partnerships and drive the connectivity of our cultural eco-system; and establish Elsecar as major driver for the creative and wider economy of Barnsley and our region.
- 2.2 This will be achieved through a co-produced and collaborative cultural engagement programme across Barnsley's six Principal Towns and Elsecar, driven by principles of cultural exchange and development of creative practitioners and cultural leaders, utilising new Local Creative Hubs in our Principal Towns, and investment into buildings and public realm at Elsecar to deliver new: creative workspace, galleries and events spaces.
- 2.3 The project will be transformational, forging a cultural and creative industries hub at Elsecar, at the heart of a programme of cultural & creative activities in local hubs across Barnsley's six Principal Towns (PTs): Goldthorpe, Wombwell, Hoyland, Royston, Cudworth & Penistone.

We address 3 strategic challenges for Barnsley as a place:

- Need to invest in the cultural and heritage assets at Elsecar and cultural spaces in our PTs to realise economic, social, cultural and placemaking potential & contribute to levelling up

- An underdeveloped cultural and creative sector that needs better quality workspace, skills development, partnerships and networking for mutual support and knowledge-sharing
- Low levels of cultural engagement

The project will:

- Transform the cultural potential of Elsecar by transforming buildings, public realm, curation & programming
- Develop Elsecar into a vibrant cultural and creative industries hub connected to local hubs in the PTs, to support SMEs and enable cultural leaders to grow a more connected cultural and creative industries ecology
- Support communities in shaping culture in their localities through an innovative public engagement programme

IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

3.1 Financial and Risk

3.1.1 Consultations have taken place with representatives of the Service Director – Finance (S151 Officer).

3.1.2 Cabinet approval is sought to accept the offer of £3.930m in CDF Grant from DCMS - comprising £3.210m in capital funding (to be released into the Council's Capital Programme) and £0.720m to support revenue activities.

3.1.3 It is proposed that the £0.880m 'match funding' package required to support the bid comprises the following:

Description	Amount £m
Principal Towns Fund - Penistone Town Hall & Paramount	0.520
MHCLG Towns Fund - Culture & Community Hub (Dearne Playhouse)	0.210
Univ. of Sheffield - AHRC Project	0.050
Total 'Match' Funding	0.880

3.1.4 It is important to note that the 'match' funding nominated does not constitute any additional financial 'ask' on the Council.

3.1.5 These funds are already committed to the projects described above and qualify as 'match' on the basis that they will contribute towards the overall objectives of the CDF.

3.1.6 Appendix A summarises the financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

3.1.7 Members are asked to note that a fully costed risk register was developed for the application, and this is attached at Appendix B.

3.2 Legal

Barnsley Council will be obliged to sign the Arts Council England's standard conditions of grant: <https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding/cultural-development-fund-round-two#section-5>.

Any contracts entered into utilising the grant funds will have to replicate those terms as much as possible and comply with any subsidy control in force at the time of those contracts.

3.3 Equality

A full EIA will be undertaken as part of project initiation

3.4 Sustainability



Decision-making wheel completed

- Creation of new businesses and jobs
- Skills development
- Cultural community hubs
- Green construction and low carbon build solutions

3.5 Employee

Two new fixed term roles (FTE grade 8 and grade 9) will be recruited to deliver the programme, sitting within the Culture and Visitor Economy team. These will be subject to separate HR Delegated Report.

3.6 Communications

Communications and Marketing team employees are embedded within the Culture and Visitor Economy and Regeneration Services, providing a dedicated resource to promote this programme of works, in liaison with the team at Arts Council England.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 Relevant Council Officers

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 The alternative approach is to not to accept this funding. This would mean that we could not build on the work done to date to explore the creation of the Barnsley Cultural Network. In addition, the Council will face a shortfall in funding urgent renovation works at Elsecar.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Implementing the project will contribute to the achievement of Council Plan priorities and boost the local economy.

7. GLOSSARY

CDF – Cultural Development Fund

ACE – Arts Council England

DCMS - Department of Culture, Media, and Sport

SME – Small to medium enterprises

8. LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A: Financial Implications

Appendix B: Risk Register

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Bid documentation

If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email governance@barnsley.gov.uk so that appropriate arrangements can be made

10. REPORT SIGN OFF

Financial consultation & sign off	See Appendix A
Legal consultation & sign off	Jason Field, 7 April 2022 07/04/22

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Post: Group Leader – Arts & Heritage
Date: 8 March 2022