

Cabinet (Resources) Panel

16 January 2018

Report title	Arts Council Funding Agreement 2018-2022	
Decision Designation	Amber	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor John Reynolds City Economy	
Key Decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Keren Jones, City Economy	
Originating service	Visitor Economy	
Accountable employee(s)	Marguerite Nugent Tel Email	Manager, Arts and Culture 01902 551998 Marguerite.nugent@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Strategic Executive Board Place Leadership Team	12 December 2017 27 November 2017

Recommendations for action or decision:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is recommended to:

1. Delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for City Economy and the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Strategic Director for Place and Director of Finance to approve the final business plan for the contemporary visual arts and craft programme for submission to the Arts Council and to sign the funding agreement with Arts Council of England National Portfolio 2018-2022.
2. Approve supplementary revenue budgets to reflect the grants once approved.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The Arts and Culture team, within the Visitor Economy Service has been successful in securing £671,020 for the period 2018-2022 to support a programme of contemporary visual arts and crafts. This includes a funding uplift on the previous funding period 2015-2018 of £160,000 for audience development with the Libraries Service.
- 1.2 The final business plan must be agreed and the funding agreement signed on behalf of City of Wolverhampton Council by the 27 February 2018.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 In 2016 the Council was invited to apply to the Arts Council's next investment round, which will cover the period April 2018-March 2022. For the period of 2015-2018 the Council received an Arts Council England grant of £128,000 annually. City of Wolverhampton Council matches this funding with a contribution of £90,000 each year for the programme of contemporary art and craft. This is further enhanced by income from catalogues, ticket sales (exhibitions and events), Craftplay fees and charges, sponsorship and other grants. As an indication in 2016/2017 the total expenditure budget for the programme was £248,000 meaning that the Council's contribution represented 36% of the overall budget.
- 2.2 In addition to our continuing programme the Council was successful in achieving an uplift in funding for audience development work between the Arts and Culture team and the Libraries service. The Libraries Service have agreed to contribute an additional £20,000 annually from their revenue budgets as matched funding for this additional strand of work.
- 2.3 The Cabinet Member for City Economy and the Leader of the Council were briefed on the application in December 2016 and January 2017 respectively. A request was made for the Council to agree to continue to support the programme at the same level of investment up until March 2022. This was agreed and a letter of support was included as part of our funding application to the Arts Council.

3.0 Progress, options, discussion, etc.

- 3.1 Employees have been working with Arts Council staff to develop a detailed business plan. The final draft business plan was submitted on the 15 December 2017. As part of this process officers were required to set out detailed activity, budget and cashflow for 2018-2019 and indicative plans for the remainder of the funding period. In addition officers were required to demonstrate how the organisation will respond to the Creative Case for Diversity and audience development.
- 3.2 The final business plans and funding agreement must be submitted by the 27 February 2018. As part of the funding agreement we are expected to deliver against the Arts Council England strategic priorities. These align with many of City of Wolverhampton's

corporate objectives, particularly those concerned with developing a Stronger Economy and Stronger Communities.

- 3.3 We will contribute to ACE Goal 1 (Excellence is thriving and celebrated in the arts, museums and libraries) by developing a high quality, ambitious programme of activity involving creative practitioners. In addition we will demonstrate how we will use ACE investment to contribute to the creative case for diversity by embedding diversity within our work with audiences, our workforce development and use of creative practitioners. We will ensure that diversity is an essential part of the programme, both in terms of audiences and practitioners.
- 3.4 We will deliver on Goal 2 (Everyone has the opportunity to experience and be inspired by the arts, museums and libraries) by developing an audience strategy which targets specific audience segments, including families and young people. This includes people who we know to be least engaged with the arts. We will challenge preconceptions of what a gallery should be by broadening our offer to include activity not traditionally associated with museums without compromising on quality and excellence. We will create a more community focused approach to the Art Gallery by creating opportunities for community groups to use the building.
- 3.5 We will respond to Goal 5 - Every Child and Young Person has the opportunity to experience the richness of the arts, museums and libraries by developing a learning programme which complements the artistic programme and enables people of all ages to develop new skills.
- 3.6 We will evaluate and collect data in relation to our performance against these outcomes which will align with City of Wolverhampton's own performance monitoring. We will demonstrate how we will lead and manage our proposed programme of work. We will increase the resilience of our organisation through improvement schemes such as the Gallery Improvement Scheme and further rationalisation of our service.
- 3.7 We will evidence regular self- evaluation through our business planning processes. We will further develop our sustainability and explore different income streams to prove that the organisation is financially viable. We will deliver a programme of improvements to the Art Gallery, including new café, fully accessible entrance and re-furnished first floor gallery. The Arts Council are also supporting this project through a Small Capital Grant of £432,000

4.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 4.1 If we do not have a signed funding agreement in place then we will not be awarded the Arts Council funding and therefore will be unable to deliver the outcomes outlined above. Arts Council funding is reliant on investment from City of Wolverhampton in the programme.

5.0 Reasons for decision(s):

5.1 A signed funding agreement is required as a condition of the grant funding from the Arts Council.

6.0 Financial implications

6.1 The final draft business plan was submitted on the 15 December 2017. This set out an agreed Art Council revenue grant requirement totalling £671,020 over the period 2018/19 to 2021/22 with £167,755 available per annum. The business plan also set out 47% match contributions from CWC. This would include annual contributions from both Visitor Economy and Libraries (part of Strategic Organisational Development) existing staff budgets. This is further enhanced by income from catalogues, ticket sales (exhibitions and events), sponsorship and other grants as indicated below:

	2018/19 £000	2019/20 £000	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	Total £000
Arts Council Funding	168	168	168	167	671
CWC Match Contributions: Libraries (Existing Budgets)	19	20	21	22	82
Visitor Economy (Existing Budgets)	88	88	88	88	352
Other Visitor Economy Income & Grants	72	31	31	31	165
Sub Total – Match	179	139	140	141	599
Total	347	307	308	308	1270

6.2 Approval is sought to approve supplementary revenue budgets in accordance with the signed funding agreement. The Arts Council have already provided a conditional offer of £671,020 grant so it is unlikely that there will be significant budget changes to that set out above.

[ES/21122017/Y]

7.0 Legal implications

7.1 The council has the power to enter into grant agreements. Legal Services will review and advise on the terms of the Funding agreement.

(07/122017/Q)

8.0 Equalities implications

8.1 The programme includes a high level of activity aimed at Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) audiences. It is a requirement of the funding agreement to demonstrate how the programme responds to the creative case for diversity.

9.0 Environmental implications

9.1 As part of the funding agreement we are required to contribute data to the Arts Council's monitoring systems for environmental data.

10.0 Human resources implications

10.1 Some employee posts are either partly or fully funded through the Arts Council funding.

10.2 All relevant Human Resources policies and procedures will be followed for post that Council policies and procedures for posts which may terminate following the ending of funding, including access to the redeployment register to give employees who meet the criteria an opportunity to apply for vacancies in advance of internal/external recruitment.

10.3 If there is a requirement to recruit to existing posts or to new posts, there will be adherence to the Councils job evaluation process and the Human Resources recruitment policy and procedure.

11.0 Corporate landlord implications

11.1 There are no Corporate Landlord Implications.

12.0 Schedule of background papers

12.1 There are no background papers