

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND LEISURE SERVICES
SUBJECT:	RESILIENT COLLECTIONS – ARTS CONNECT FUNDING
DATE OF DECISION:	18 SEPTEMBER 2012
REPORT OF:	SENIOR MANAGER, LEISURE AND CULTURE
STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY:	
Not applicable.	

BRIEF SUMMARY:

Southampton is the lead of a consortium bid to Arts Council England (ACE) for up to £250,000 for a project entitled resilient collections and seeks authority to spend the funding if successful. Additional finance from the council will not be required to fund the project. ACE's decision is expected to be announced mid September.

The project consists of three strands

Combining collections – a) options appraisal for site of an arts and heritage collections store and b) activity plan to a level suitable for an HLF bid. The collections store would for arts and heritage collections of Hampshire County Council, Winchester City Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council. The premises would replace all of Southampton's non Civic Centre storage premises used by Arts and Heritage c.£85,000

Shared digital innovation – digitisation of film, audit of raising of Mary Rose archive, and equipment and software to do this (major partners for this are Mary Rose Trust and National Motoring Museum Trust Beaulieu) Will also explore new methods of digital data storage e.g. cloud technologies c.£145,000

Audit of smaller museums within the Hampshire region and their digital preservation needs £15,000

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Having complied with Rule 15 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules, and subject to the ACE confirming a grant award of £250,000:

- (i) approval is given to direct those funds to the projects outlined in this report on behalf of the consortium group;
- (ii) To delegate authority to the Senior Manager, Leisure and Culture, to do anything necessary to give effect to the recommendations contained in this report.
- (iii) To add £250,000 to the 2012/13 revenue budget of the Housing and Leisure Portfolio funded from the Arts Council England (ACE) grant.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. This report is presented as a general exception item in accordance with Rule 15 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules of Part 4 of the Council's Constitution. Amendments to Regulations 5(2) and 9(2), 2012 require 28 days notice to be given to all Key Decisions comes into effect on 10th September 2012. It has not been possible to meet the requirement of 28 days notice.

2. The project offers considerable benefits ;
 - a further step to providing a more cost effective, improved standard and regional approach for the Arts and Heritage collection
 - increase the consortium's competence with the technology involved and secure local equipment to deliver further digitisation - it will also explore the benefits and risks of alternative digital storage options such as cloud technology
3. The project will be completely funded by ACE with some officer support, as an in kind contribution, to manage the project .

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED:

4. None; this is a consortium bid – if unsuccessful alternative funding sources will be investigated.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out):

5. Strand 1 of this project; a great deal of work has already been undertaken to determine the feasibility of establishing and sharing a collection store with Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council and Winchester City Council Arts and Heritage services. Externally funded studies on suitable sites and partner requirements have identified Chilcomb as one of a small number of potential sites. This strand will assess the suitability of the site and investigate associated planning issues. It will also create an activity plan for a Heritage Lottery Fund application to secure high proportion of the finances to build a joint collection store. If this succeeds, it would not affect the ownership of any artefacts, which would remain the property of the individual councils involved.
6. Strand 2 of this project; digitisation offers huge potential benefits to the arts and heritage sector and this strand will test the technology and provide suitable equipment which will remain after the project providing lower with lower cost digitisation facilities for all partners

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Capital/Revenue:

7. The funding is for the work on the three strands, and is available only until the end of March. There is no partner financial contribution required although officer support as project lead will be provided by Southampton and project management by Hampshire County Council.
8. If the bid is successful then the details of funding need to be established – however it is anticipated that payment will be made in advance with any unused funds repaid. All projects will be closely monitored to ensure both financial and project objectives are adhered to, should any issues occur this would result in a project re-design process to bring back to budget. (in full discussion with ACE)
9. There will be no ongoing project revenue costs beyond 2014/15 falling to the Council.

Property/Other:

10. No immediate property implications- but should the joint store be created SCC would vacate all freehold and leasehold collection stores it currently used in 3-4 years.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

11. The Council is able to apply for Arts Council England funding and direct any resulting funds to the projects identified in this report by virtue of Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011. The exercise of this power is subject to any pre and post commencement restrictions or prohibitions, none of which have been identified at this stage.
12. Monies received as a result of a successful bid for funding will need to be dealt with in accordance with the Financial Procedure Rules.

Other Legal Implications:

13. Southampton City Council will enter into a funding agreement with ACE if the funding application is successful, and will ensure there are adequate formal arrangements in place to govern the operation of the consortium of Councils going forward.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS:

14. None.

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KEY DECISION? Yes

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	all
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1.	None.
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Documents In Members' Rooms:

1.	None.
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Integrated Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) to be carried out.	Yes/No
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Other Background Documents

Integrated Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s) Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)

1.	None	
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