



# Committee Report

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**PURPOSE:** Final Decision Report

**KEY OR NON-KEY DECISION:** Non-key decision

**COMMITTEE:** Strategy and Resources Committee

**DATE:** 16 September 2024

**TITLE:** Arts Council England MEND 1 (Museum Estate Development Fund) funding

**Ward(s):** Central Ward

**Officer presenting the report:** Linda Coode **Job title:** Head of Collections and Archives

**Committee Chair:** Cllr Tony Dyer

**Executive Director lead:** John Smith: Executive Director for Growth & Regeneration

**Proposal origin:** BCC Staff

**Purpose of Report:**

To note an officer decision taken to approve an additional £150,000 to complete MEND R1 building works at Bristol Museum and Art Gallery.

**Evidence Base:**

1. Owned and operated by Bristol City Council, Bristol Museum and Art Gallery (BMAG) is an accredited museum housing 2.5 million objects across a broad range of subjects including 3 individually designated collections. Built in 1905, it is Grade II\* listed.
2. Protecting the fabric and longevity of the structure will allow BMAG to continue as a community and civic focal point for Bristol. The aim is to make our building more accessible for everyone and engage the community in preserving this listed building and reinterpreting and accessing collections.
3. A report was taken to Cabinet on 5 April 2022 which authorised the Executive Director for Growth and Regeneration, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for City Economy, Finance and Performance to accept and spend (including procuring and awarding contracts) the total awarded sum of £754,850 from the Museum Estate and Development Fund (MEND) and Bristol Museum Development Trust over three years from April 2022.

4. Funding was received from Arts Council England (ACE) Museum Estate Development Fund (MEND) Round 1 for a package of work which includes 4 parts: Boiler replacement (completed last winter) Natural History Office Roof, Switchgear Replacement and Conservation laboratories windows replacement. Additionally, Fine art store damp proofing (funded by BCC capital programme) was also included in the recent tender package for procurement purposes. Works funded by MEND R1 were identified as priorities in a Condition Survey carried out in 2021.
5. Bristol Museum and Art Gallery is in receipt of £679,365 from ACE MEND R1 for works to the building; 10% match funding has been received from Bristol Museums Development Trust. The deadline for work to be completed using this funding is March 2025. The lowest of the tenders received for this work was £841,994.65. Due to the higher tender return, it was necessary to identify a further £150,000 of funding in order to award the contract and commence the works.
6. The deadline for completion of these works is prior to end March 2025 (the grant deadline) otherwise the funding will be lost.
7. The Corporate Landlord identified £150,000 in their Health and Safety budget which could be used to fund completion of the project. In addition, the museum identified reserves of £50,000 which have been allocated for a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) project to grow income.
8. Given the overall spend in relation to this project is over the key decision threshold, the additional spend required a further Committee decision.
9. However, due to the urgency to award the contract and commence works an officer decision was taken on 12 August 2024 to approve the expenditure of an additional £150,000 to complete MEND R1 building works to be funded from the Corporate Landlord Health and Safety budget and museum reserves to enable the MEND R1 project to be completed before the deadline of March 2025.

#### **Officer Recommendations:**

That the Committee for Strategy and Resources

1. Notes the officer decision taken on 12 August 2024 of additional expenditure of £150,000 to complete MEND R1 building works as outlined in this report.

#### **Corporate Strategy alignment:**

Bristol museums are committed to supporting the strategic priorities of the Council:

**Development and delivery:** deliver a quality public museum service by maintaining and improving BMAG which houses the city's museum and art collections. These are resources available to individuals, community groups and partners, which support a quality education service for children and young people – and provide a base for many vibrant events and thought-provoking temporary exhibitions.

**Environmental Sustainability:** the MEND work improves the ongoing environmental impact of the building and supports transition work to decarbonise the city. By investing in the building, we are safeguarding

unique collections which show the impact of climate change over millions of years.

Equality and Inclusion: by protecting the building, we are protecting our collections which are available to all and help us as a city come to terms with our often-uncomfortable heritage gained from the legacies of the transatlantic trafficking of enslaved Africans.

Resilience – the MEND project uses external funding to maintain the building and allow us on-going access to the collections it houses, allowing us to learn from our past and plan for a resilient future.

**City Benefits:** The MEND project has given external financial investment into the maintenance of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery which houses much of the city’s museum and art collections. This building is the centre of the museum service which delivers transformational and engaging experiences for local people and visitors by delivering events, education and exhibitions. These vary from the joyful celebrations of Lunar New Year to confronting the legacies of Empire with local communities.

The building works will improve the environmental impact of the building for the city and will allow staff to concentrate their efforts on improving the site for its visitors, rather than spending time dealing with the on-going difficulties caused by leaky roofs.

**Consultation Details:** There has been limited consultation due to this being a financial report to ensure completion of an externally-funded building maintenance project within the timescales of the grant (completion is necessary by March 2025).

**Background Documents:**

[Officer Decision Notice, Arts Council England MEND 1 \(Museum Estate Development Fund\) funding, approved 12 August 2024.](#)

<b>Revenue Cost</b>	<b>£150,000</b>	<b>Source of Revenue Funding</b>	Corporate landlord H&S budget (£100k) and museum reserves (£50k)
<b>Capital Cost</b>	<b>£790,757</b>	<b>Source of Capital Funding</b>	Arts Council England MEND 1 and Bristol Museums Development Trust
<b>One off cost</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Ongoing cost</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Saving Proposal</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>If yes - existing or new saving?</b> Choose an item. <b>OR Income generation proposal</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	

**1. Finance Advice:** This report notes the decision taken to provide an additional £150k in funding from the Council’s Health and Safety budget to complete the works on the stores in the Bristol Museum and Art Gallery (BMAG). The decision to provide additional funding had to be made quickly to enable the dampproofing work to take place in the five week period when the works currently stored in the stores were moved and was agreed by the Executive Director for Growth and Regeneration and the Section 151 Officer.

As the report states, the project was originally funded with a £679k grant from Arts Council England to be matched with £75k from the Bristol Museums Development Trust (BMDT) to make a total budget of £754k. However, cost growth since 2022 has meant the project is now estimated to cost £991k with the additional £237k being met through drawing £150k funding from Health and Safety, £50k from reserves allocated to a commercial project to grow income and a further £36k from the BMDT. The team have been asked to confirm that similar cost growth will not affect the latest bid for further Arts Council England funding.

**Finance Business Partner:** Ben Hegarty, Finance Business Partner Growth and Regeneration, 29 August 2024

**2. Legal Advice:** There are no specific legal implications arising from this report which is for noting.

**Legal Team Leader:** Husinara Jones, Team Manager/Solicitor 29 August 2024

**3. Implications on IT:** I can see no implications on IT regarding this activity.

**IT Team Leader:** Alex Simpson – Lead Enterprise Architect 29 August 2024

**4. HR Advice:** This request for funding focusses specifically on the continuation of the building works. Other than arrangements for staff access to the building as identified in the EQIA there are no other HR implications.

**HR Partner:** Niki Rodgers, G&R HR Consultancy Manager (on behalf of Celia Williams, G&R HR Business Partner) 29 August 2024

## APPENDICES

<b>Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix B – Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Appendix C – Environmental Impact Assessment</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix D – Decision Risk Assessment</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix E – Exempt Information</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix F – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix G – Options appraisal matrix</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix H – Business case / financial analysis</b>	<b>NO</b>