

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 05 April 2022

TITLE	Museum Estate and Development Fund (MEND)		
Ward(s)	Central		
Author: Jon Finch	Job title: Head of Culture & Creative Industries		
Cabinet lead: Cllr Cheney, Cabinet Member for City Economy, Finance and Performance	Executive Director lead: Stephen Peacock, Executive Director Growth and Regeneration		
Proposal origin: BCC Staff			
Decision maker: Cabinet Member Decision forum: Cabinet			
Purpose of Report:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To seek agreement to accept a capital grant in the sum of £754,850 following a successful application to the Museum Estate and Development Fund (MEND). This breaks down into £679,365 from DCMS (90%) and £75,485 match funded from The Bristol Museums Development Trust (10%). The award will be used to undertake vital infrastructure work and start to tackle the backlog of urgent maintenance solely at Bristol Museum and Art Gallery (BMAG) based on a project plan prepared as part of the application process. 			
Evidence Base:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> This is the inaugural year of MEND, an open access capital fund targeted at non-national accredited museums and local authorities to apply for funding to undertake vital infrastructure and urgent maintenance. The fund is administered by the Department of Culture Media & Sport (DCMS) and supported by Arts Council England (ACE) with professional advice provided by Historic England (HE). It comes under the Cultural Investment Fund strand. Also allows successful sites to improve their core infrastructure by tackling maintenance budgets and reducing the immediate risk to buildings, visitors, staff and collections. The total budget for MEND is £18.8 million for 2021/22 and is a competitive fund. Fifty museums were invited to apply for the second round of the fund. BMAG is an accredited museum in the ACE Museum Scheme and has collections designated as being of national and international significance. Urgent work is now necessary in many areas at BMAG as major issues are becoming clear. This includes work to replace the roof of the Natural History area on the ground floor. Replacement windows are needed in various areas for weather proofing and maintenance of air conditioning. Repairing or replacing the condemned and failing boilers with an improved efficiency performance is needed. By protecting the fabric and longevity of the structure will allow BMAG to continue to act as a community and civic focal point for the city. A short Expression of Interest (EOI) was submitted in July 2021 briefly outlining the critical issues and plans to repair to support an application for £1.1million. In early August 2021 the Culture team was notified the project was one of 50 shortlisted from c.230 submitted and invited to submit a full application by 18th October 2021. Permission was granted by Cabinet member for Finance, Governance and Culture to submit the second-round application in October 2021. The final decision was received in March 2022 after a four-month assessment process by ACE and then DCMS. A project team was convened to undertake at pace the significant preparatory work necessary to prepare a 45,000-character bid to include reference to governance, planning & management of the activities, and financial viability. The team worked in collaboration with BCC's strategic partner to provide evidence and draft mandatory documents to satisfy the obligations of the application process. In addition to funding significant repair and maintenance issues, the aims and objectives of the fund include an opportunity to improve the building's environmental sustainability and energy efficiency as part of the project proposal and improving physical access to provide independent access for people with disability and welcome users with diverse needs. The EOI included works to upgrade heating, boilers and electrical circuits. Also simple improvements to install appropriate handrails around the front hall which were recommended following an independent Access Audit in 2020 as 			

disabled visitors are underrepresented within the visitor figures.

11. This work provides the ability to continue to deliver income generating activity including café, retail, corporate function, and temporary exhibition gallery, without endangering the building and collections.
12. All of this work is necessary to keep the building open so it can continue to engage the community in reinterpreting collections, preserving listed building and accessing internationally recognised collections.
13. The bid included a minimum of 10% partnership match funding from other sources. In this case, potentially in the region of £100,000. The bid was presented to The Bristol Museums Development Trust and based on the details the board unanimously agreed to provide the 10% match funding which is the element of the necessary partnership funding in full.
14. In late February DCMS confirmed that BMAG had been awarded the total sum of £754,850. This breaks down into £679,365 from DCMS (90%) and the equivalent matched sum of £75,485 from The Bristol Museums Development Trust (10%). This sum has been accepted in principle pending approval by the mayor and Cabinet.

Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Authorise 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.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

1. Equality & Inclusion - work to ensure that everyone in Bristol feels they belong, has a voice and an equal opportunity to succeed and thrive
2. Environmental sustainability – work to ensure building stock is more efficient with reduction in utility bills

City Benefits:

1. External investment into the building stock of BCC, reducing the burden on the Bristol Council taxpayer.
2. A reduction in the carbon footprint produced by operating the building with overall environmental benefit and more cost efficiency/savings on utility bills.
3. Improved access facilities for the disabled.
4. Improved visitor experience (upper picture galleries can be very hot and airless in summer) and also improved conditions for preserving collections ensuring the collection assets are maintained for the benefit of future generations.
5. Improved safety and working conditions for staff moving around the building

Consultation Details:

1. Museums for Everyone has conducted an independent access audit
2. Regular visitor surveys and H&S Incident Forms have highlighted high temperatures in upper galleries at times.
3. Bristol Energy team have looked a decarbonisation options for the site. Hurtwood Ltd, specialists in air management in cultural venues, have advised on means to improve air handling on site.
4. Executive Director for Growth and Regeneration has been briefed (07/09/21) and given authority to proceed
5. Cabinet member for Finance, Governance and Culture in September 2021

Background Documents:

- Expression of Interest notification from Arts Council England July 2021
- Notification from Arts Council England of award March 2022

Revenue Cost	£	Source of Revenue Funding	<i>Insert specific service budget</i>
Capital Cost	£754,850	Source of Capital Funding	<i>MEND Fund and Bristol Museums Development Trust</i>
One off cost <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/>	Income generation proposal <input type="checkbox"/>

Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:

1. **Finance Advice:** The report seeks Cabinet approval to accept the award of a capital grant to a maximum of £679,365 subject to the application for the grant being success.
2. The grant has match funding requirement of 10% which if the full amount applied for is awarded would be £75,485. This match funding will be provided by the Bristol Museums Development Trust there will be no contribution from the

<p>council.</p> <p>3. Once the grant is received and formally accepted, the funds will be incorporated within the council's capital programme where it will be monitored and governed within the council's financial regulations relating to capital works.</p> <p>4. The approval still requires officers to follow the decision pathway and compliant routes to procure the necessary goods and services, with contract awards over £500k still requiring Cabinet approval.</p> <p>5. The award amount is less than the anticipated cost of the project, as a result, the project will be value engineered to ensure final costs are kept within the funding envelope.</p>		
Finance Business Partner: Kayode Olagundoye, Interim Finance Business Partner, Growth & Regeneration 7 February 2022		
2. Legal Advice: The acceptance of bids for grant funding raises no particular legal issues. If successful, the procurement process must be conducted in line with the 2015 Procurement Regulations and the Council's own procurement rules. Legal services will advise and assist officers with regard to the conduct of the procurement process and the resulting contractual arrangements.		
Legal Team Leader: Husinara Jones, Team Leader/Solicitor 14 March 2022		
3. Implications on IT: I can see no implications on IT in regards to this activity.		
IT Team Leader: Gavin Arbuckle, Head of Service Improvement and Performance 23 December 2021		
4. HR Advice: There are no HR implications evident		
HR Partner: Celia Williams, HR Business Partner Growth & Regeneration 12 January 2021		
EDM Sign-off	John Smith, Director Economy of Place	21 December 2021
Cabinet Member sign-off	Cllr Craig Cheney, Cabinet Member for City Economy, Finance and Performance	12 January 2022
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off	Mayor's office	7 th March 2022

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal Expression of Interest Notification from Arts Council England to proceed with full application dated 30/07/21	YES
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	NO
Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny	NO
Appendix D – Risk assessment	NO
Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal	YES
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal	NO
Appendix G – Financial Advice	NO
Appendix H – Legal Advice	NO
Appendix I – Exempt Information	NO
Appendix J – HR advice	NO
Appendix K – ICT	NO